

(1) No Specific...

peace process should lay down arms, stop insurgency activities, respect the Afghan constitution and reach to an agreement with the government. (KP)

(2) Abdullah Reaffirm...

scarcity, migration, forced displacement and persecution.

The incidences of natural and man-made disasters have also increased, resulting in greater human losses and mass displacements both within the impacted nation-states and beyond.

Abdullah called for an enhanced unified vision to deliberate on the way humanitarian interventions were planned and aid delivered to ensure sustainable access to basic services.

"Afghanistan, until recently, was exemplary in terms of suffering and resilience. Our people have suffered for more than three decades from imposed conflicts. Our brave armed forces and innocent civilians have borne the brunt of it."

The CEO promised alleviating human suffering by employing different plans and strategies through political reforms and good governance, as well as the peace process.

He also referred to the core initiatives that underpinned the Afghan government's agenda aimed at reducing human suffering and restoring economic opportunities.

- Enhancing an effective partnership with humanitarian agencies, local community, academics and public actors for planning and delivering on collective conflict prevention and resolution strategies;

- Supporting cooperation with the international community on how to prevent crises and build resilience and manage complex aid relationships;

- Convening periodic, inclusive national dialogue platforms with civil society, youth, women's groups and others to ensure concerns and disputes are addressed;

- Working with the donor community to build a multi-year approach to funding disasters risk reduction priorities;

- Agreeing with donors on a rapid response funding model so that funds can be pre-positioned for use rather than have to be gathered and allocated once a crisis has happened;

- Taking specific actions to comprehensively reduce risk, vulnerability and fragility as well as integrating refugees and IDPs into our national development plans, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (Pajhwok)

(3) Ghani Issues ...

in six months.

A thermal power factory should also be built in Eshpeshta area of Bamyan and a 500kV transmission line should be built from Eshpeshta to Arghande. The decree states that the Ministry of Finance must arrange the funding for the project and should present to the parliament through the government as part of 1395 national budget review.

The procurement work of 500kV transmission line from north to south will resume as per the findings of the commission and in consideration with the execution of the technical and procurement work of the transmission line in the past two and half year. (KP)

(4) Modi to ...

e 80,000 hectares of farmland, belonging to 50,000 families. "It (Salma Dam) is needed and will provide facilities to our people in Herat province," said Ahmad Farhad Khademi, Chesht-e-Sharif district chief. However, it's not only Herat residents who will benefit from the dam but people in other areas will also in time feel the results.

"If we manage to extend the power line till Ghor province, we will be able to provide electricity (generated by Salma Dam) to a number of districts there as well," said Abdul Basir Azimi, spokesman for the Ministry of Energy and Water.

"The implementation of devel-

opment projects is a solution; it is a way that can support security and can bring welfare to the people," said Abdul Rauf Enami, secretary of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament).

\$300 million USD, funded by India, was spent on the construction of Salma Dam over the past one decade.

The dam was originally constructed in 1976 on the Hari river basin, but was badly damaged during the civil war in Afghanistan.

The reconstruction of the dam was first initiated by an Indian company in 1988, but the project was left incomplete for a significant period of time due to the ongoing instability caused by the civil war.

In 2006, India committed to funding the completion of the Salma Dam. (Tolonews)

(5) Chabahar Deal ...

Iran, India and Afghanistan on Monday signed an agreement on establishment of an international corridor between the three countries - known as Chabahar agreement.

The agreement was signed in Tehran in the presence of heads of state of the three countries. (IRNA)

(6) Vohra Meets...

congratulated the students for their selection for ICCR Scholarships and urged them to do well in their academic programmes and acquire the necessary skills to serve the Afghan nation so as to make both their families and country proud.

Ambassador also advised the students to make opportune use of their free/spare time to make themselves proficient in computer/IT and other modern technologies as India has much to offer to the eager young generation of Afghans

A number of other batches of ICCR scholarship students are currently in the process of completing various formalities to join their courses in universities such as Osmania University, Pune University, Delhi University, Punjab University, and Gujarat University etc.

Since 2002, more than 7000 Afghan students have benefitted under the ICCR Scholarship scheme and another 1000 scholars shall be granted ICCR scholarships during the academic year 2016-17. Due to tremendous interest amongst Afghan National and the quality education provided in Indian Universities, there is great interest amongst Afghan students to avail the ICCR Scholarship and which has consistently seen 100% utilization of the annual 1000 Scholarship slots. India remains committed to strengthen human resources of Afghanistan through various Government of India programmes including ICCR Scholarship Scheme and Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. (PR)

(7) India Mulling...

He also pointed towards the construction of the Afghan Parliament Building by India and said such projects will further boost bilateral ties between the two nations.

Afghanistan received three of the four Mi-25 gunship helicopters from India late in the month of December last year and days before the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kabul.

The decision for the delivery of Mi-25 gunship helicopters was concluded during the recent visit of Afghan National Security Adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar to New Delhi.

India has remained one of the key donors for the reconstruction of Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.

Since 2002, the Government of India has committed USD 2 billion dollars to the socio-economic rebuilding of the Afghan state and society in accordance with the development priorities of the Government and the people of Afghanistan. (KP)

(8) Operation ...

September 30, 2015 at the re-

quest of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Ceasefire took effect in Syria on February 27, 2016. Russia withdrew the main part of its forces from Syria in mid-March but its air task force continued delivering strikes against terrorists. (TASS)

(9) Unlike US, Iran...

southeastern Chabahar Port. "We always appreciate the hospitality of the Iranian people and Your Excellency's positive view of Afghanistan and we hope that the Tehran negotiations will prepare the ground for increasingly broader relations."

Mr. Ashraf Ghani added: "In the coming weeks, an expert meeting will be held to discuss issues related to the two countries' use of border rivers and we hope that this issue will be settled within a proper framework." (FNA)

(10) Soldiers...

also under siege by the Taliban. "We were surrounded in Surkh Kotal area for ten days, the government didn't help use. Lots of troops had come to the area, but they couldn't reach us. We had run out of weapons and hadn't eaten for ten days, finely we ourselves took action and rescued ourselves," said Lutfullah, a local policeman.

Gholam Sakhi, who along with his father and brother fought against the Taliban for ten days, said that he lost his father in the fighting.

"My father died at 10:00 am the government didn't help us and we were compelled to bury his dead body on the hill. When the Taliban captured our village, they took the dead body of my father out of the grave and opened fire on it. They also set our houses on fire," he said.

Although they have been through extreme hardships these past ten days, they still have high morale to defend the country and countrymen. (Tolonews)

(11) ANA Defuses ...

Devices (IEDs) to target security forces but the lethal weapons also inflicted casualties on civilians, according to military officials.

On Thursday, 13 civilians were killed after a vehicle touched off an IED in northern Baghlan province. (Xinhua)

(12) Lorry Drivers ...

while carrying a load of frozen chips.

Twelve Afghans were discovered hidden in his lorry. Basildon Crown Court heard Mr McLaughlin, from Limavady, Londonderry, and Mr McGlinchey, of Coalisland, County Tyrone, were part of a "large and organised" operation smuggling immigrants from the continent to the UK on legitimate crossings.

Prosecuting, Michael Goodwin told the jury: "We are going to invite you to conclude that both defendants were a necessary cog in the wheel that made this smuggling operation work and that each knew what was going on and that there is no innocent explanation for their movements, actions, telephone calls and meetings."

Jurors were told the two men are facing a retrial, and the pair deny conspiring to facilitate illegal entry into the UK between 1 June and 5 September 2014.

Mr Murphy was cleared of the same charge during a trial last year, while a Kurdish man, Taha Sharif, was found guilty. A fifth man, known only as "Kurd Eng", remains at large. (BBC)

(13) Mansoor's ...

have removed the leader of an organization that has continued to plot against and unleash attacks on American and Coalition forces, to wage war against the Afghan people, and align itself with extremist groups like al Qa'ida," he added.

The Afghan government said Mullah Mansoor sought refuge in the stranger's soil and was repeatedly committing deception, concealing facts, killing innocent people and terrorizing people as well as smuggling

drugs and preventing Afghanistan to gain development by emphasizing on continued war in the country.

It also added that the supporters of Mullah Mansoor were sparing no efforts in committing atrocities against the noble and Muslim people of Afghanistan. (KP)

(14) Taliban Shadow ...

"No official has been killed or wounded in Helmand," he said. Helmand, the region that supplies the largest share of Afghanistan's opium crop, has seen months of bitter fighting and much of the province is under Taliban control but government forces have launched an offensive to retake lost ground. (Rueters)

(15) Taliban Safe...

and invite those who are leaning towards peace and perhaps prevented from," he added.

"Speculation is difficult. But it has created an opportunity, a sense if hope that the sanctuaries that were provided to the Taliban are no longer safe and they would be eliminated -- no matter where they are. And that is a very important step for Afghanistan," he observed.

Afghanistan had extended the hand of piece once again to all those Taliban who might want to take this opportunity and join the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, the diplomat explained.

The ambassador promised the Afghan government would not make compromise on the constitution during the peace process. Kabul's stance had been clear right from the beginning, he insisted.

Mohib said the peace process was aimed to provide an opportunity for those who might have legitimate grievances and willingness to talk. The government would be open to negotiate peace with them, but not at the expense of the progress Afghanistan had made, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(16) Erdogan...

nology, and while Ahmet Arslan has been named as the transport, Maritime and Communication minister, replacing the newly-appointed prime minister Yildirim. (Xinhua)

(17) U.S.-Backed ...

of al-Raqqa. The SDF are engaged in heavy battles against the IS under heavy airstrikes from the U.S.-led anti-terror coalition, said the UK-based watchdog group.

The Observatory, which says it depends on a wide network of activists on ground, said the offensive aims at its initial stage to strip the IS from a triangle connecting Tal Abyad, with the Division 17 and Ain Issa.

It added that the offensive in its initial stage does not include pushing deeper into al-Raqqa. General Joseph Votel, head of U.S. Centcom, secretly visited northern Syria on Friday for 11 hours, during which he met with commanders of the SDF and other U.S.-backed rebel groups, including the Liwa Thuwar al-Raqqa. (Xinhua)

(18) EU Releases...

offices in the hotspots to assist with processing asylum applications.

The press release also called on the European Union (EU) member states to quickly make available the necessary staff to help EASO deliver the planned support and give a boost to the EU relocation scheme.

Apart from the AMIF, which supports Greek national efforts to improve reception capacities, integrate migrants at local and regional levels and increase the effectiveness of return programs, there is also the Internal Security Fund (ISF) within the framework of EU financial support to Greece in handling the refugee crisis, which supports national efforts to achieve a uniform and high level of control of the external borders and to fight cross-border organized crime. (Xinhua)

(19) China to ...

support; emergency rescue;

engineering rescue; emergency monitoring and radiation protection; decontamination; medical aid.

Addressing the meeting, Xu Dazhe, head of the SASTIND, called for upgrading the nuclear emergency strategy.

During the 2011-2015 period, China issued a white paper on nuclear emergencies and came up with 50 nuclear safety rules, regulations and legal documents, while setting up eight technical support centers, 25 rescue units and three training bases.

Other progress included development of a national nuclear emergency monitoring network and improved rescue procedure.

Over the next five years, capabilities will be improved and a suitable national nuclear emergency system will be completed, according to the meeting. (Xinhua)

(20) UN Envoy ...

the new "Education Cannot Wait" fund launched at the summit, which he believed could be the only chance to save a generation lost to war, forced labor and violence.

He stressed this is "a lost generation we must help urgently" as the refugee needs in the world are not temporary, but the education of young people have been neglected for too long.

"The fund is being hailed as a 'game changer' targeting the needs of 30 million displaced children, largest number since 1945," he added.

According to the UN data, 75 million children and youths have seen their education severely disrupted because of conflicts, natural disasters and other crises. (Xinhua)

(21) World Leaders...

prevention, humanitarian financing, assistance to the vulnerable and ways to reduce the need for aid, at four round-table meetings.

The UN-backed summit, the first of its kind in the world body's history, brought together some 5,200 participants, including 65 heads of state and government and representatives from the public and private sectors.

It aimed at initiating a complete revamp of the current global humanitarian system, which has been in place for decades and is struggling to meet the needs of around 125 million people worldwide.

"We are here to shape a different future," Ban told a grand opening ceremony at Istanbul Congress Center. "Today, we declare: We are one humanity with a shared responsibility."

At the ensuing roundtable discussion, the UN chief pressed world leaders to show political will of a scale and scope not seen in recent years in order to save succeeding generations from "the scourge of war."

"Preventing and peacefully resolving conflict is the biggest difference the international community could make to reduce the overwhelming humanitarian need," he said. (Xinhua)

(22) France Ready...

community should push for the peace process to resume.

An preparatory conference for foreign ministers is expected on June 3 in Paris without Israeli or Palestinian representatives.

Later in the fall, an international peace conference is expected to take place with the attendance of Israeli and Palestinians, with the eventual aim of restarting peace talks between both parties.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday rejected the French initiative for an international conference to relaunch Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, but told visiting French Prime Minister that he is willing to meet Abbas in person for peace. (Xinhua)

(23) UK Expats ...

five judges and the Supreme Court's deputy president.

"We do have considerable sympathy for the situation in which the applicants find themselves. We understand that this is something that concerns them

deeply, but we cannot discern a legal basis for challenging this statute."

While it was not clear how many people the ruling would affect, some 130,000 British citizens living abroad have applied to register to vote in the referendum since March, according to the Electoral Commission. (AFP)

Iraqi Security Forces Fight IS Militants, Free Villages Near Fallujah

BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces on Tuesday freed several villages as clashes with Islamic State (IS) militants continued for the second day around the city of Fallujah as part of an offensive aimed at liberating the IS main stronghold in Iraq's western province of Anbar, a security source said. Security forces, together with Shiite and Sunni paramilitary units, known as Hashd Shaabi, freed the villages of Albu Hadid, al-Jaghaifa, al-Yousifi and Lehaib in east of the IS-held city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital, after fierce clashes with the extremist militants, a security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The troops also drove out the IS militants from their positions and freed the villages of Albu Uoda, al-Abbasi, Albu Khanfar in north of Fallujah, the source said.

Meanwhile, two suicide bombers detonated their explosive packed trucks near an army convoy near the militant-seized town of Saqlawiyah, in north of Fallujah, destroying four military vehicles and killing ten soldiers and wounding nine others, the source said.

The twin suicide bomb attacks were followed by attack of dozens of IS militants on the nearby security positions, but air strikes by U.S.-led coalition warplanes foiled the attack after killing 25 IS militants and destroying seven of their vehicles, the source added. Separately, an Iraqi army helicopter gunship destroyed an explosive-laden car and killed its suicide bomber in Rashad area in east of the town of Garma, some 10 km northeast of Fallujah, before reaching the positions of the security forces, he said.

On Monday morning, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the launch of the offensive to claim Fallujah, during a time in which the country is struggling in a chaos to reshuffle the cabinet. (Xinhua)

7 Soldiers Killed, 9 Injured in E. Ukraine

KIEV - At least seven Ukrainian soldiers were killed and nine were injured in the past 24 hours in eastern Ukraine, government military spokesman Olexandr Motuzanyk said here Tuesday.

"Ukrainian forces have suffered extremely heavy losses in all three directions of the confrontation," Motuzanyk told reporters, accusing independence-seeking militants of violating the country's ceasefire 47 times in the past day. Most casualties were the result of rebel attacks, but there were also mine-related deaths, Motuzanyk said.

Meanwhile, Olexandr Turchy-nov, the head of the country's Security and Defense Council, said that the army's loss in the last 24 hours were the highest over the past year.

The militants have not commented on their casualty toll in the last day, but the rebel-run DAN news agency said two civilians were wounded by shelling in the restive area.

More than 9,300 people have been killed and almost 22,000 others wounded in fighting in eastern Ukraine that started in April 2014.

Last September, the confronting sides declared a cease-fire in the region and have not carried out major offensive operations against each other since, but sporadic clashes persisted. (Xinhua)