

**(1) Joint Committee...**

Representatives from the ministries of mines, interior, defense, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and National Security Council (NSC) were members of the committee.

The committee would introduce a mechanism through which security and safety of natural resources could be ensured.

Nehan added the creation of a 300-member strong unit for protection of mines had been suggested by the committee, which would ensure security of azure and coalmines.

She also talked about her recent trip to Uzbekistan and participation in the oil and gas conference. Nehan said issues relating to investment in oil and gas areas were discussed with Uzbek officials.

She said Afghanistan had prepared a mechanism to attract investment in mining sector and the plan would be shared with Uzbek officials to prepare ground for signing of contracts. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Abdullah...**

government employees.

Back in 2013, Afghanistan defeated India in the final match of South Asia Football championship. Afghanistan then ranked 139th in the FIFA ranking and 21st in the Asian ranking. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Former US Navy's...**

White House.

Seven of Slabinski's teammates were present at the White House ceremony on Thursday.

"You waged a fierce fight against the enemy and these really have become the enemies of America and the enemies of all civilization," Trump said. "Through your actions, you demonstrated there is no love more pure and no courage more great than the love and courage that burns in the hearts of American patriots. We are free because warriors like you are willing to give their sweat, their blood, and if they have to their lives for our great nation." (Pajhwok)

**(4) Most US Efforts...**

report says the effort proved ineffective in stabilization because the military focused on the most dangerous districts first, where poor security made it hard to move on to the building phase.

US civilian agencies were compelled to conduct their stabilization programs in dangerous areas not ready for rebuilding, and once coalition troops and civilians left those districts the stabilization ended.

Some efforts to introduce increased Afghan government control also produced unintended consequences, according to the report, because they created more opportunities for corruption.

By 2008, the security situation in much of the country had deteriorated and insurgent attacks began to mount.

The report focuses most of its attention on a period beginning in 2009, when the incoming Obama administration attempted to reverse the decline, and when the US spent the bulk of the \$4.7 billion that has been dedicated to stabilization since 2002.

According to the report, the US military and State Department were continually racing against this clock, which said that in 2011 US "surge" troops would start to leave the country, and in 2014 the Afghan government would take security control of the entire country.

In 2009 and 2010, the Obama administration committed more than 50,000 troops to clear the most dangerous areas of the country, and hundreds of civilians followed to rebuild the war-torn areas. The surge was limited to 18 months.

"In the hope of compensating for a lack of time," the report says,

the US threw more money at the problem, increasing spending in the most dangerous areas. The large sums of money spent "in search of quick gains often exacerbated conflicts, enabled corruption and bolstered support for insurgents."

Without consistent security progress in any district, locals were not convinced the coalition could protect them if they turned against the insurgents, according to the report. And without confidence in the government, they were too afraid to serve in the local government and military.

In general, the report finds that the US government "greatly overestimated its ability to build and reform" Afghan government institutions and did not tailor the programs to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(5) CSTC-A Pledges...**

in the Afghan National Army Trust Fund in NATO Headquarters, Brussels, on behalf of the government and Oversight Coordination Board (OCB), a statement from the Ministry of Finance said.

It said Hakimi and Fontes discussed government's part in financing and equipping security and defense forces of the country. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Dostum-Arg...**

According to Farahmand, the first vice president is inching closer to an agreement with the Presidential Palace, adding that some matters of concern have yet to be resolved.

"Relations seem to be improving recently, but issues have not been resolved, an exact date for his return has not been finalized," said Farahmand.

"The Presidential Palace must reach a conclusion that keeping Dostum away is in fact cracking one of the main pillars of government," added Farahmand.

The Presidential Palace has not commented on the issue.

(Tolo news)

**(7) Watermelon...**

investor in Farah.

They said watermelon prices are fair in the country's markets but added that the fruit has not been exported abroad so far.

"The fruit is not exported to Pakistan due to many reasons. We hope to resume the exports," said Nejat Haidari, head of the union. "Watermelon production is good in Farah this year and the prices are also good, but we hope that we can export our products out of Afghanistan so that we can have good income from our business this year," said Atta Mohammad Mohammadi, a fruit businessman.

This comes after Kabul residents said last week that prices of watermelon and other fruit have increased high in the city markets. (Tolo news)

**(8) Cabinet Minister...**

action. If a minister is accused of corruption or any other legal problem, government can refer him to the legal and judicial institutions," said parliament's internal security deputy chief Abdul Hai Akhundzada.

Meanwhile MP Farhad Majidi has accused President Ashraf Ghani of repression and warned that such action could spark retaliation by the Afghan people.

"This is repression. Laws of Afghanistan have not authorized the president to impose restrictions on Afghan citizens," said Majidi.

"He is not a devoted minister, therefore Mr. Ghani is resorting to hostile actions," said political analyst Asif Ashna.

A while back, there were rumors that the Presidential Palace had prevented Osmani from attending the inauguration of the TAPI gas pipeline project. However, government rejected the rumors. (Tolo news)

**(9) Pak Ambassador...**

the Pakistani Ambassador said.

"So yes, we have influence, but limited influence. You cannot expect Pakistan to guarantee that they will listen to us - they may not listen to us. And also within the regional environment there are now also other countries with which Taliban have good contacts, their leadership especially," he added.

This comes as the Afghan and US officials have long been insisting that the Taliban receives support from Russia and Iran apart from Pakistan.

Following a coordinated Taliban attack on Farah city, the Afghan defense minister said on Saturday that the recent violence in Farah province has links with the management of the water resources, apparently pointing towards Iran's concerns regarding the management of waer resources flowing from Afghanistan.

The US Department of Defense or Pentagon officials had earlier said that they are not ruling out the involvement of Iran in a major offensive carried out by the Taliban militants in western Farah city of Afghanistan.

"I don't think you can ever rule out how much Iran interferes throughout this region. Iran remains the most destabilizing factor in the Middle East. So no, I don't think you can ever rule out their mischief," a spokesperson for Pentagon Dana White said. (KP)

**(10) Foreign Forces...**

Why government and US forces do not target the Taliban in Wardooj (district)? Why they conducted the airstrike here?" asked Mirullah, a resident of Faizabad. Badakhshan Provincial Council said foreign forces also conducted airstrikes in Kishm district to target militants.

"The Resolute Support aircrafts bombarded both Faizabad City and Kishm district's center. One bomb landed close to Jolghar (area) which is near the provincial police headquarters and other landed close to center of Kishm district. No doubt, it created fear among residents of Faizabad City and Kishm district. It shows that there was no coordination," Abdullah Naji Nazari, member of Badakhshan Provincial Council, told TOLONews.

Meanwhile, Badakhshan governor Ahmad Faisal Begzad said the Resolute Support officials have said the airstrike was carried out 'mistakenly'.

"The foreign forces should support our security forces but what happened yesterday (Thursday) was a mistake which has been admitted by them (foreign forces) in which they dropped bombs in the outskirts of Faizabad City and the outskirts of Kishm district's center," he told TOLONews.

"We asked them (foreign forces) to be accurate in their operations," he added. (Tolo news)

**(11) Ghani Underlines...**

educational institutes should be fair and free of prejudice. Girls should be provided with more opportunities for higher education, he added.

He acknowledged the issue of housing was indeed important for teachers and more work would be done in this regard. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Taliban Insurgents...**

but all it started with the arrest of their self-proclaimed education officer.

Abdul Jabar, a resident of Tarko locality, said: "My two children have been home since the closure of schools."

He added the Taliban militants closed schools over the past two weeks in areas under their control and also threatened government servants against performing duty.

But the governor's spokesman Sanatullah Timor said they could

not release the Taliban education director.

He said clearing operations would be conducted in areas under Taliban to enable students to attend classes.

The Taliban have not yet commented about the closure of schools. (Pajhwok)

**(13) 1 Inmate Killed...**

night at around 10:00 on airport squared.

Deputy administration head of the Kehlm district was killed during the attack while one prisoner got injured who had been shifted to the hospital and was in better condition, he said.

According to the residents that attack was carried out by an armed group and no militant group was involved in the incident.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Above 2000...**

women as important and wished more such help.

Provincial agricultural and livestock officials assured such programs would continue in future as well. (Pajhwok)

**Putin Meets Chinese Vice President on Ties**

ST. PETERSBURG - Russian President Vladimir Putin met here Thursday with Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan, and they agreed to further boost bilateral cooperation for the benefit of both countries and the whole world.

In their meeting, Wang conveyed to Putin Chinese President Xi Jinping's sincere greetings and best wishes, saying that Xi attaches great importance to China-Russia ties and cherishes his friendship with Putin.

The Chinese president, added Wang, looks forward to meeting Putin again to jointly chart the future course of bilateral relations as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is scheduled to hold this year's summit in June in China.

The heads of state of the two countries have made painstaking efforts for and injected robust energy into bilateral cooperation, continuously steering the China-Russia relationship forward, said Wang.

He pointed out that the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination is of great significance not only to the two countries themselves but to the world at large.

The two neighbors, he said, respect each other, trust each other, cooperate on the basis of equality, and enjoy mutual understanding and support on major international affairs.

In so doing, they have set a model of major-country relations in the current world and made great contribution to safeguarding global strategic stability and building a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind, added Wang.

The Chinese vice president stressed that it is a choice both of history and of the people that China and Russia steadfastly pursue development paths that suit their respective national realities. Now the Chinese people, under Xi's leadership, is vigorously pushing forward the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, said Wang, adding that China's development is making rapid and remarkable progress.

Meanwhile, the Chinese side firmly believes that under Putin's leadership, Russia will grow stronger and more prosperous, said the vice president.

China, he added, resolutely supports Russia's development, and stands ready to carry out strategic and long-term cooperation with Russia, lift the level and quality of bilateral practical cooperation more swiftly, and achieve deeper

integration of interest, so as to bring more benefits to the two nations.

Putin, for his part, asked Wang to convey his sincere greetings and best wishes to the Chinese president, saying he is confident that Xi will lead the Chinese people to new achievements in China's development.

The Russian leader added that he is looking forward to visiting China and meeting Xi again.

Russia-China ties have kept developing at a high level, he said, noting that political mutual trust is deepening, bilateral practical cooperation is strengthening, the structure of economic and trade relations is witnessing sizable improvement, cooperation on large projects are speeding up, and exchanges and cooperation in people-to-people areas and at local levels are gathering steam. (Xinhua)

**IAEA Report Proves Iran's Adherence to Nuke Deal: Official**

TEHRAN - The latest report by the UN nuclear watchdog is another indication of Iran's adherence to 2015 nuclear deal, Iran's Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Reza Najafi said, according to Tasnim news agency's Friday report.

The IAEA's new report, the 11th one since the implementation day of nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), once again confirms that Iran's nuclear measures and activities are fully in compliance with the JCPOA, Najafi was quoted as saying.

The recent text of the IAEA report is similar to the previous reports and the only changes relate to technical figures, like a planned increase in the stockpile of heavy water and the enriched uranium, he said.

A confidential report of IAEA on Thursday showed Tehran is still complying with the historic nuclear deal after the United States' withdrawal from the deal.

The report said the IAEA is monitoring Iran's nuclear plan under the JCPOA. There is no sign in the report that Iran is violating the deal, which freezes its atomic plan. (Xinhua)

**Senate Delegation Briefed on Pakistan-Canada Bilateral Relations**

ISLAMABAD - High Commissioner of Pakistan to Ottawa Tariq Azim Khan briefed the visiting delegation of Senate on the current status of Pakistan-Canada bilateral relations and efforts being made to enhance bilateral relations between the two countries.

A delegation from Senate led by Deputy Chairman Mr. Saleem-Mandviwalla is currently visiting Ottawa, Canada, at the invitation of Forum of Federations met with the High Commissioner Tariq Azim Khan. Senator Muhammad JavedAbbasi and Senator Aurangzeb Khan also accompanied the Deputy Chairman Senate, said a message received here on Friday.

Tariq Azim Khan informed that the Mission is working with the Canadian officials to facilitate visa issuance to Pakistani traders and international students. He also briefed the delegation on Pakistani-Canadian diaspora and the important role the community is playing in promoting better understanding of Pakistan in their adopted homeland.

The Deputy Chairman and the accompanying senators exchanged views on enhancing bilateral relations and promoting soft image of the country in Canada. (Monitoring Desk)