

(1) ADB Lends...

independent power producer (IPP). Afghanistan ranks in the bottom 5% in terms of per capita electricity usage, with only 30% of the country's population connected to the grid in 2015.

In terms of the energy mix, solar power accounts for only about 1% or 3 MW of the country's total installed generation capacity.

This is despite Afghanistan having about 220,000 MW of solar power generation potential. The government aims to develop the country's renewable energy generation.

The 15.1 MW Kandahar solar power project will generate about 27.5 GWh of electricity annually and avoid 8,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

It will also help boost the share of renewable energy in the country's total installed power generation capacity up to 5,000 MW by 2032. (Pajhwok)

(2) Russia, Afghanistan...

them to be continued.

"The Afghan people are in favor of expanding relations with Russia. Our efforts to restore peace and stability in our country will ensure that no country in the world, especially our neighbors, will be exposed to any threats from Afghanistan. Only a peaceful and stable Afghanistan can make the dreams of peace and stability in the region a reality," he said. The Taliban want all obstacles on the way toward peace in Afghanistan to be eliminated, Baradar, who is in Russia for the first time, said to the gathering. Russia and Afghanistan have centuries-long history. Being neighbors, the two countries have close ties in different areas, he added.

He said during the war with the Soviet Union "people from both sides suffered".

"We suggest that history has taught us all a good thing, that all parties should take into account each other's interests and these interests should not violate each other's political interests.

"We will not allow anyone to use our country against anyone. At the same time, we will not allow other states to attack and use our state so that what has happened before will not happen again," Baradar said.

Russia and Afghanistan established diplomatic relations in 1919. Russia, was the first country in the world to recognize Afghanistan as an independent state. (AA)

(3) Afghan Govt...

Council of Presidential Candidates on Sunday accused Ghani of "bullying and violating the laws of the country".

They said that recent appointments and dismissals in the government indicate that Ghani had no respect for the laws. (Tolo news)

(4) AGO Asks Ahmadzai...

The presidential palace rejected the allegations, saying Mr. Ahmadzai asked to be re-appointed as an advisor to the President after he failed to win a seat at the Afghan parliamentary elections.

According to Ghani's office, Ahmadzai made the allegations after his request was rejected.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah has called for an independent investigation into allegations of sexual abuse of women by Ghani's office.

Ahmadzai claims that he has credible pieces of evidence and documents to prove his claims.

According to Ahmadzai, he has leveled the allegations based on credible pieces of evidence and documents. (ATN)

(5) MTN named most...

development by supporting health and education initiatives and national development priorities. We are also working hard to deliver the best customer experience in voice, data, digital and financial services so that consumers across our footprint continue to choose us as their most admired and preferred brand.

(6) 'Two Out of Five...

The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan is preventing children from reaching their potential. Our survey finds that 15% of Afghanistan's children have been forcibly displaced as a result of the conflict. Many have had their education disrupted or their schools taken over by armed groups or used for military purposes. The report said that education is key to Afghanistan's future, and while there have been significant expansions in access to education for Afghan children—especially girls—since 2001, the past year has seen a rise in targeted attacks

on schools, teachers, and students.

According to a report co-authored by Save the Children, in the first five months of 2018, the government recorded 870 attacks on schools, threats or intimidation against students, education staff or facilities, or fighting by armed forces and groups in the vicinity of school grounds. Approximately 1,000 schools are currently damaged, destroyed, occupied by non-state armed groups or Afghan and international forces, or closed because of conflict. (Tolo news)

(7) India to Provide...

within the framework of balanced development strategy since 2005, Bahman said.

Critics said the government's failure to implement development projects in the villages has led to a sharp increase in settlement from the village to the urban areas.

"Over the past several years, no programs in Afghanistan was implemented based on economic principles. Instead, all implemented plans have increased social gaps and they have undermined balanced development process," said economic analyst Qais Mohammadi. (Tolo news)

(8) New Customs...

by that time, the protestors said, adding they would previously clear several loaded vehicles with just one form.

The new measure would impeded the process of goods clearance according to Mujeedur Rehman, a local custom clearing agent, who said a delegation was in touch with custom officials.

If the issue was not resolved, they would go on an indefinite strike from Tuesday, suspending trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan, he warned.

On the other hand, Assistant Collector of Customs Asma Javed claimed the new directives were in line with the Web-based One Custom (Weboc) system of clearing merchandise at the border.

She was quoted as saying by Dawn that the new directives would facilitate the procedure of goods examination. She called the move 'part and parcel' of the Weboc system, seeking transparency in the procedure.

"The protest by traders and custom clearing agents has no legal justification as a thorough examination and actual declaration of all sorts of goods is an integral part of our computerised system," she insisted. (Pajhwok)

(9) Over 110...

Mohammad Nazir, one of the aid recipients, said they had left everything at their original residence. He thanked the donors for the assistance. (Pajhwok)

(10) The EU and the...

taking relations forward. The Dialogue provided an opportunity to discuss in particular the implementation of the new Strategy in areas such as regional cooperation in Central Asia, security and the promotion of Euro-Asian connectivity.

Participants welcomed the launching of a new phase of the EU's Border Management in Central Asia (BOMCA) project, which will include Afghanistan. They discussed enhanced cooperation in the prevention of violent extremism and counterterrorism as well as the fight against illicit drugs trafficking, following up in particular on the Conference on Countering Terrorism and its Financing through Illicit Drugs and Trafficking and Organised Crime, which took place on 3-4 April 2019 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan). The meeting also provided an opportunity to look into ways to step up cooperation on new security challenges such as hybrid threats.

The representatives of the EU, Central Asia and Afghanistan exchanged views on future cooperation aimed at ensuring that Euro-Asian connectivity develops in a sustainable, open and rules-based way.

The Dialogue also provided an opportunity for an in-depth exchange of views on regional developments. Following up on the Council Conclusions on Afghanistan adopted on 8 April 2019, the EU reaffirmed its strong commitment to contribute to peace in the country.

The meeting was hosted and chaired by Ambassador Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service. (Monitoring Desk)

(11) Ulema Want...

attacks on Islamic scholars.

He said, "The aim of the ongoing conflict is yet to be known and its benefits others but Afghans are its victims."

At the end of their meeting, the scholars issued a resolution letter that asked the warring parties to end to the current war in the country as it was in the interest of Islam. (Pajhwok)

(12) Former Supports...

President Ashraf Ghani must step down because he is not a legitimate President anymore.

"According to the NUG agreement, the term of Ghani's government has ended and we must not refer to the Constitution because it was not formed based on the Constitution," said Milad Yousufi, a university lecturer.

Meanwhile, Saimeen Hassanzada, writer and a critic of Ghani's government said that the government has no will for organizing a transparent election.

She further said that if the government remains in power the other electoral candidates will not have the same opportunities for competition.

Recently, the Supreme Court extended the tenure of President Ghani until the re-election of a new president.

The move was followed by widespread criticize among political parties and presidential candidates. (ATN)

(13) Some MPs Oppose...

province, said, "We cannot suspend sessions for lawmakers who had gone to perform Hajj, people's eyes are on us, we should first solve our differences so we are able to address our people's problems." (Pajhwok)

(14) India PM to Host...

one-sided intervention in the currency market.

India and the United States have developed close political and security ties but Trump has repeatedly called out India for its high tariffs and both sides are working to resolve a trade dispute.

The U.S. plans to withdraw trade privileges that allow preferential duty-free imports of up to \$5.6 billion a year from India. That followed India's adoption of new rules on e-commerce that have reined in how U.S. companies such as Amazon.com and Walmart Inc can do business in the country. (Reuters)

(15) US May Suspend...

Turkey has ordered 100 units of the F-35 and continues to insist that the stealth fighters must be delivered, especially since Ankara invested \$1.25 billion into the trillion-dollar program, producing parts of the fuselage, landing gear, and cockpit displays for the jets.

Insisting that a good NATO partner should only purchase US-approved weaponry, Washington announced a halt in delivery of equipment related to the F-35 to Turkey in late March. Last week, Ankara said that it was preparing for potential US sanctions which Washington has been threatening to impose under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

Lockheed Martin ceremonially transferred the first two F-35 fighters to Turkey in June last year, and two more this April, but the planes still haven't left US soil. Ankara had hoped to deploy the jets, which are still at Luke AFB, to Malatya air base in Turkey by November. (RT)

(16) More Satellites...

to "billions of economically disadvantaged people" was "the greater good" and insisted his satellites would have "0% impact on advancements in astronomy." Astronomers, he suggested, could simply move their telescopes into space if they had a problem seeing. While Musk also pledged to investigate reducing the reflectivity of SpaceX's satellites, visual pollution isn't the only problem; satellites' "side emissions" – the radio frequencies that don't make it down to earth – also stymie astronomers who use electromagnetic waves to study celestial objects like black holes.

Keel wishes Musk – and his competitors – would think of these things before filling earth's orbit with their products. "It's not just safeguarding our professional interests but, as far as possible, protecting the night sky for humanity," he said. (RT)

(17) Obeying Washington...

"Basically, Brussels simply reported to the big brother that 'an adjustment of NATO documents was made according to your instructions and considerations'," said Khodarenok, noting that "there is nothing new there."

According to the analyst, there is no grounds to claim that a new NATO strategy will translate into a new nuclear

arms race. All efforts of the NATO military-industrial complex will be focused on developing either the new weapons of war or the means of countering them, and nuclear weapons will be far from the most important in that regard.

"Of course, the modernization of strategic nuclear forces in the US, Britain and France will be carried out according to the plans already outlined, but it would be wrong to say that the West will focus all of its resources and brainpower on this," Khodarenok told RT.

Western military researchers will most likely concentrate on catching up to Russia and China in developing weapons such as lasers and hypersonic missiles, or the countermeasures to them – which presently do not exist and the big question is whether they ever will.

Looking at potential NATO military action against any of the alliance's hypothetical adversaries – Russia, China, Iran and North Korea – Khodarenok believes some kind of action against Iran seems most probable. However, it is unlikely to involve NATO as a whole, but rather a coalition involving the US and one or two alliance member states, along the lines of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. (RT)

(18) UK PM Candidate...

to the cost of EU membership, expressly stating, endorsing or inferring that the cost of EU membership was 350 million pounds (\$442 million) per week," the application against Johnson said.

The 350 million figure was a central and controversial part of the pro-Leave campaign's "Take back control" message, famously emblazoned across a campaign bus. Opponents argued that it was deliberately misleading and it became symbolic of the divisions caused by the referendum.

In her written ruling, District Judge Margot Coleman said the allegations were not proven and she had made no finding of fact, but said Johnson should face trial.

"Having considered all the relevant factors I am satisfied that this is a proper case to issue the summons as requested for the three offences as drafted," Coleman said.

"This means the proposed defendant will be required to attend this court for a preliminary hearing, and the case will then be sent to the Crown Court for trial."

Johnson's spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

In submissions to the court, Johnson's lawyers said the application was a stunt, brought for purely political purposes.

"It is submitted that the facts alleged by the applicant do not come close to establishing a qualifying breach of duty," his lawyer argued. "None of the acts complained of took place in the course of Mr Johnson's direct parliamentary or mayoral duties, but in the course of political campaigning." (Reuters)

(19) Cuba/US Scientific...

Three Cuban biomedical fellows who were selected in 2018 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science to study in the U.S. have been forced to remain in Cuba because of the difficulty to travel. The U.S Embassy in Havana took most of its staff out of Cuba after mysterious health incidents affected U.S. diplomats, forcing Cubans to travel to third countries to apply for a visa. Julia MacKenzie, senior director of International affairs for the AAAS, said that was too big an obstacle for the Cuban scientists.

The same problem affects the group Medical Education Cooperation With Cuba, a nonprofit known as Medicc based in Oakland, California, that promotes U.S.-Cuba health collaboration.

The group in the past has invited a group of Cuban eye doctors to Chicago, and four nurses from the William Soler children's heart center in Havana traveled to universities in Georgia and Maryland to exchange experiences about the care of children with congenital heart problems.

"We can no longer do that," said Gail Reed, Medicc's director of cooperation and executive editor of Medicc Review, which publishes research from Cuba and other developing countries.

Cuban officials said last week that more than 200 professors and researchers were denied visas to attend the annual conference of the Latin American Studies Association in Boston this month. Cuba said only 24 were allowed to travel to the conference, one of the hemisphere's largest academic meetings on Latin American affairs.

The association, in turn, said it would

not meet in the United States for the foreseeable future, due partly to the difficulty that foreign academics have had in traveling to meetings in the U.S. It also blamed the Trump administration's hostile attitude toward immigrants.

The United States has enforced a trade embargo against Cuba since the early 1960s. However, U.S. President Barack Obama started a more open relationship with the island in 2014, leading to soaring numbers of American trips for cultural and educational exchanges.

The Trump administration has reversed course. (AP)

(20) Scientists Accuse...

political - control over the network of research institutions," said the governing body of the Academy's research network which is funded by the government but manages itself.

The proposed set-up of a new National Scientific Policy Council to run the networks "potentially poses a threat to the academic freedom and freedom of research" guaranteed in the Hungarian Constitution, the statement said.

Staff would mount a protest on Sunday, it added without going into more details. Scientists and rights groups have campaigned against earlier calls by government for an overhaul of the system.

The new Council - chaired by Innovation and Technology Minister Laszlo Palkovics - would set out areas of research that would receive funding, said website Index.hu, citing the government's proposal.

His ministry said on Tuesday the current system was inefficient and the aim of the plans was to push more funding and research into "patents and inventions serving the Hungarian economy".

The European Commission said on Tuesday it would monitor the developments in Hungary's public research system and urged authorities "to refrain from any decision restricting scientific and academic freedom." (Reuters)

(21) Nigerian President...

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo was also sworn into office.

Buhari was re-elected with 56 percent of the vote in Africa's most-populous nation -- and top oil producer -- after a delayed poll that angered voters.

His rival, Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who came second with 41 percent of the vote, has along with other opposition leaders launched an ongoing legal challenge to the victory.

They allege irregularities in the vote and have called it a "sham" result.

Buhari, a former army general who led a tough military government in the 1980s, campaigned on a promise to make the country safer.

He begins a final four-year term beset with numerous challenges.

Nigeria is struggling from multiple conflicts, including an Islamist insurgency in the northeast of the country.

His time in power has also been dogged by questions about his medical fitness. He has spent several months abroad for treatment for an unspecified condition.

Buhari has touted himself as a "converted democrat" to persuade those with misgivings that his military past was history.

But in office he has struggled to shake off claims of authoritarianism -- particularly in his fight against corruption which critics say has been one-sided against perceived political opponents. (AFP)

(22) Global Partners Seek...

operating in different fields, which shows that America's policy falls within a strategy adopted by the U.S. administration to suppress Chinese companies."

British business magnate Alan Michael Sugar, chairman of Amshold Group, said "there is no security issue with China" and hailed Huawei as "great engineers" in his tweet on April 28. "It's not about security," he said. "It's about business. Huawei competitors in USA (are) trying to block them from the market."

Cambridge University professor Alan Barrell told Xinhua in a recent interview that in telecommunications, the real argument is not about whether Huawei technology will employ "bugs" dangerous to Western interests, which has been denied by Huawei repeatedly, but about the "Shenzhen company's superiority in 5G and other technologies, and the fear that the United States has now become No. 2 or even 3 in this key area of technology development." (Xinhua)