

(1) Iran to Help...

production and trafficking, and called for extensive international cooperation to eradicate the phenomenon.

The Iranian president stressed the importance of the promotion of Tehran-Kabul economic ties.

He added that the inauguration of the Port of Chabahar in Southeastern Iran in the near future and connection of Iran-Afghan railway networks together and later to the International North-South Transport Corridor will enhance trade ties among the regional countries.

The North-South corridor is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode network of ship, rail, and road route which connects India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe. (FNA)

(2) Ghani Assigns ...

President Ghani has meanwhile assigned Ministry of Interior to reveal all the facts and the steps taken against the issue in a press conference, the statement said.

According to the statement, the interior ministry has been assigned to cooperate with the Attorney General's Office in this respect. (Tolonews)

(3) Trump Defends...

winning before. They were letting you play even. We want to let you win," Trump said, referencing the Obama administration.

This comes three months after Trump outlined a revised vision for the US war in Afghanistan, pledging to end a strategy of nation building and instead focus on a policy aimed more pressure on the militant groups including the Taliban.

On the basis of the new strategy, Trump also pledged to increase the number of US troops in Afghanistan to fight the Taliban. "Our troops will fight to win," Trump said. "From now on, victory will have a clear definition: attacking our enemies, obliterating ISIS, crushing al-Qaeda, preventing the Taliban from taking over the country, and stopping mass terror attacks against Americans before they emerge." He said while announcing the new war strategy.

In the new war strategy, Trump also criticized Pakistan role in the fight against terrorism.

"Third and finally, I concluded that the security threats we face in Afghanistan and the broader region are immense. Today, 20 U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations are active in Afghanistan and Pakistan -- the highest concentration in any region anywhere in the world," he said.

"For its part, Pakistan often gives safe haven to agents of chaos, violence, and terror. The threat is worse because Pakistan and India are two nuclear-armed states whose tense relations threaten to spiral into conflict. And that could happen," he said.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, America's interests are clear: We must stop the resurgence of safe havens that enable terrorists to threaten America, and we must prevent nuclear weapons and materials from coming into the hands of terrorists and being used against us, or anywhere in the world for that matter.

But Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Thursday said the Afghan government sees no significant change in Pakistan's policy towards insurgents, even after US President Donald Trump announced his new strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia.

No change has occurred in Pakistan's policy towards the insurgents and instead relations between Kabul and Islamabad have further deteriorated, MoFA deputy spokesman Sibghat Ahmadi said on Thursday.

"Unfortunately, no change has occurred and no results were achieved, our relations with Pakistan are getting worse each day and ties are deteriorating," said Ahmadi. (Tolonews)

(4) Kabul Sees ...

Islamabad have further deteriorated, MoFA deputy spokesman Sibghat Ahmadi said on Thursday.

This comes ahead of US Defense Secretary James Mattis' visit to Islamabad in December where he will hold discussions with Pakistani officials on the issue of insurgent safe havens and sanctuaries in the country.

In August Trump unveiled his new war strategy that encompasses Afghanistan and South Asia. In the new strategy, the US leader strongly criticized Pakistan for its controversial role in the campaign

against terrorism and accused Islamabad of harboring militant groups that continue to wage war against Afghanistan.

Although Trump adopted a harsh tone towards Pakistan in the new strategy, Kabul has stated that there has been no visible change in Pakistan's anti-terror policy nor has it taken solid action against militants.

"Unfortunately, no change has occurred and no results were achieved, our relations with Pakistan are getting worse each day and ties are deteriorating," said Ahmadi.

"Taliban and Daesh militants who are the slaves of Pakistani military attacked Dangan and Chapadarah (in Kunar province) with the support of Pakistani forces," said Kunar police chief Juma Gul Hemat.

"There is a need to mount strong pressure on Pakistan, in that case, it will have no option," said former deputy minister of interior Mirza Mohammad Yarmand.

"Pakistan constitutes a part of US's greater strategy and there is no benefit for us in the face of its objectives," said military analyst Gharzai Khawkhogai.

Afghanistan has criticized Pakistan for its lack of counter-terrorism efforts - especially after the recent Quadrilateral Co-ordination Group meeting between representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, the US and China.

At the meetings, all parties called on Pakistan to support Afghanistan in its fight against militants. But MoFA says that these talks have had no effect on the peace process. (Tolonews)

(5) 11 Cabinet ...

"According to the decision of the house panel heads, a top government official will introduce the 11 Cabinet nominees to the lower house on Saturday."

Currently 14 ministries are being headed by acting ministers. Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and the higher education minister have been disqualified by the parliament, but they continue to perform their job as acting ministers.

The minister of information and culture, Abdul Bari Jehani, has resigned and last week the president sacked acting education minister Asadullah Balkhi, replacing him with Ibrahim Shinwari.

Under the relevant law, an acting head of department cannot continue in office beyond two months. (Pajhwok)

(6) Direct Talks ...

on the need for establishing peace," the HPC chief said.

Dr. Mohammad Akram Khpalwak, HPC secretary and the president's special representative on political affairs, and other members of the council also attended the event.

The HPC delegation also met the Indonesian president, vice-president and Ulema Council members during the trip. (Pajhwok)

(7) Indonesia to...

during a meeting with a High Peace Council (HPC) delegation from Afghanistan.

A statement from the HPC said the delegation led by Chairman Karim Khalili met Kalla on Wednesday. The VP said Afghanistan and Indonesia had suffered a lot of problems.

"We and the people of Afghanistan are Muslim brothers. We would share our experiences, particularly in the area of peace, with the Afghan people," Kalla said.

He promised organising an ulema conference with the cooperation of OIC to put an end to the Afghanistan conflict.

Khalili said the HPC had been tirelessly struggling to achieve peace and signing an agreement with the Gubadin Hekmatyar-led Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan was an example.

He said Pakistan's role in forging regional consensus was important. "We believe the solution for Afghanistan is political, not military," Khalili remarked.

Mohammad Akram Khpalwak, HPC secretary and the president's special advisor on political affairs, said the council being a national organisation included people from all ethnic groups.

He asked the Indonesian government to use its influence in supporting the peace process and cooperate with Afghanistan on conflict resolution. (Pajhwok)

(8) Government...

Abdulrahimzai, spokesman for Ministry of Finance.

Earlier this year, the Wolesi Jirga, Lower House of Parliament, decided to increase

the tobacco tax by 100 percent. However, the decision was rejected by Meshrano Jirga, Upper House of Parliament.

"First, it was not in the interest of the country and second, as I mentioned, there was no decree from president (Ashraf Ghani) or there was no letter from Ministry of Finance. It was the personal demand of a number of lawmakers to increase the cigarette tax; therefore, it was rejected by senators," said Faisal Sami, deputy secretary of Meshrano Jirga.

According to Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, part of the imported cigarettes is sent to other countries in the region.

"If the tariff increases by 100 percent, it will have many damages. First, it will grab employment from the people, second, it will pave the ground for smuggling and third, it will decrease government's revenue from cigarette imports," said Siyam Psarlai, spokesman for Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Figures from Central Statistics Office show that Afghanistan imports cigarettes from 10 countries, part of which is exported to Central Asian nations. (Tolonews)

(9) President Orders ...

and technical processes.

The decree has set a deadline of 45 days for the full review of the township.

The Aino Mina township has been built by former president Hamid Karzai's brother Mahmoud Karzai.

The township is considered as a leading example of reconstruction and development in Afghanistan.

It has been constructed on 4,000 hectares of land and is home for more than 4,000 families. (Tolonews)

(10) Kabul, NATO...

as stability in the region and asked for further cooperation and coordination of European, neighboring and regional countries. (Pajhwok)

(11) Internecine Rifts...

differences within Daesh.

There was no information about the identity of beheaded rebels. (Pajhwok)

(12) Acid Attack ...

, an official in-charge at the Herat Zonal Hospital, told Pajhwok Afghan News that early in the morning the two sisters were on their way to attend a course when they were attacked by unidentified individuals in Girdai Parak area of Herat city. (Pajhwok)

(13) Once a Victim, Lawyer ...

twice in compromising position with a boy and once trying to molest a six year old girl during funeral ceremony of Bushra's two brothers who died in a car accident.

"It was beyond my imagination that her husband could continue with his deeds in this hour while I was grieving for my brothers." "I had two options, either commit suicide or raise my voice against injustice, I chose the latter."

She finally divorced from her husband with mediation of a local jirga (council) in 2011. Bushra said she relied on God and preferred separation from her husband and now she felt strong fighting against un-Islamic and inhuman acts.

Born in Mazar-i-Sharif, Bushra completed her law degree with the intent of helping the voiceless of the society.

She said she was encouraged by her story published in Pajhwok and now she had accelerated her efforts at restoring human rights, particularly of those who faced human trafficking or prostitution.

In a recent interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Bushra said, "Publishing of my life story by Pajhwok empowered me to struggle more for those who face similar problems once I faced. As a victim myself, I can feel the pains of those who are victims of human trafficking and I defend their rights."

"Unfortunately it is a shame in Afghanistan if someone puts an end to an unwanted marital life, women who seek divorce from their husbands are dealt with contempt in the society, but I think living one day with dignity is better than years of oppression," she said.

Bushra said positive reaction to the Pajhwok Afghan News report about her story encouraged her and she was able to secure high marks in a test held by the Afghanistan Defense Lawyers Association for 150 law graduates in Balkh province five months ago.

She obtained license from Afghanistan Defense Lawyers Association of defense lawyer and currently she works with a

legal consultative association in Balkh province.

Bushra said seeing defense lawyers struggling and arguing to defend the rights of clients strengthens her resolve to rescue those in trouble.

"I received 15 cases and most of them were related to family violence in the past five months," she added.

She said she was working on the cases and she felt good in her job. She had so far helped address two cases --- one of elopement and another about violence involving a husband.

On the other hand, Bushra's clients appreciated her efforts. Manija, 22, was forcibly engaged to a man about five years ago and she had asked Bushra for help cancel her engagement. She said Bushra was kind and honest.

"Her clients share their problems with comfort because Bushra is a kind woman," Manija said, adding Bushra distinguished from other defense lawyers due to her constant working in official and unofficial times for her clients.

"She contacts her clients and informs them about progress in their cases, she added.

The founder of the legal-consultative association, who wished to go unnamed, said that Bushra was a hard worker lawyer who had been able to process many cases since her duty began five months ago.

"I am proud of Bushra as a colleague because her unique character causes more families to refer their cases to this association," he said. (Pajhwok)

(14) 7 Dead, 14 Wounded ...

the hours-long clash, saying both the sides used heavy and light weapons.

Noor Rahman, one of the residents, said: "Many police suffered casualties after the Taliban came closer to the posts, in the morning more police arrived and they removed the dead and wounded."

The Taliban claimed inflicting heavy casualties on government forces in Rabat where a base of the forces was attacked. Their spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said 24 security personnel had been killed and their three armored vehicles and one pick up vehicle destroyed in the assault.

The Taliban have previously attacked security posts in the same area twice before the last night attack in about one month. Separately, three suspected Taliban were killed in a blast caused by their own explosives in Khashk area of Ghazni City, the provincial capital, last night.

The provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Zaman, said the rebels were emplacing an improvised explosive device on the highway in Khashk area when it went off, causing the casualties. (Pajhwok)

(15) Young Men...

She said: "Economic problems and ignorance are the two main reasons behind high dowry. Most of the families are poor and want to marry their daughter against high dowry and majority of the people were unaware of the fact that high dowry was against the teaching of Islam."

Women Affairs Director Nasrin Oriakhel said most of the time the girls married against high dowry faced with family violence and they are treated unfairly.

"After the marriage the bride faced with violence and often told that you had been married against huge amount of money, a fact many men and women faced after marriage," said Oriakhel.

Najma, the resident of Ahmadrakel district and student of Law Faculty at Paktia University, said due to high dowry young men and women could not get married at proper time, their youth is wasted, often deprived of producing children and suffered from the negative impact of it for the entire life.

She said: "The time of marriage is defined and Islam had explained it if the man or woman is not married at the proper time their parents would be responsible because it is possible that the delay in the marriage may force them to commit sin.

Abdullah, the resident of Paktia, said he spent years in Saudi Arabia to earn money for the marriage. He said he was in Saudi Arabia when during his marriage. "This is very bad culture, youth like us spent most of their youth in foreign. Some had reached the eldest age without getting marriage," he said.

Women have asked their elders and ulema to take measures against high dowry

and set minimum range for the dowry. (Pajhwok)

(16) Female Officers...

Somaiya said, as she addressed those gathered for the ceremony and her fellow graduates. "Afghan National Army Officer Academy represents all of Afghanistan, because we have people here from all regions, tribes and ethnicities. They are here united together against the enemies of Afghanistan."

The Resolute Support deputy commander Lieutenant General Richard Cripwell speaking at the graduation ceremony said the new officers

should be proud of themselves and this day because they are about to join the army to serve the nation.

"This should be an extremely proud day for you and your family and your friends as gaining a commission to the Afghan National Army is a significant achievement that warrants all of our respect and pride," Cripwell said. "I want to remind you that you will never stop learning. You are the promise and the future of this great country. Much will be asked of you and you will be required to make at times very difficult decisions."

Lecturers from the military academy said at least 100 female officers are under trainings at the university and that 23 other female officers were graduated in March.

"In addition to this, there are a group of girls, 73 girls, in Turkey and they are receiving trainings there," Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said.

The curriculum at Marshal Fahim National Defense University is based on the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst model.

This academy was founded in 2013. (Tolonews)

(17) 5 of A Taliban...

and Alasai districts and other nearby areas.

He said the airstrike killed Malik's and his brother's wives and three children.

With the advent of winter, security forces have begun conducting nighttime raids backed by air support in insecure areas of Kapisa province. (Pajhwok)

(18) US, Afghan ...

Bahramcha, a remote, divided village on the border with Pakistan, which serves as a main center for shipping drugs from Afghanistan. The general described Bahramcha as the biggest narcotics market in Asia.

He confirmed an unspecified number of Taliban militants and drug traffickers were killed but did not share any exact figures. Sources, however, told VOA the death toll stood at 44.

Bahramcha is one of the villages on the largely porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The region is notorious for facilitating the movement of local and foreign militants in both directions.

Taliban insurgents and their leaders also use the area to get medical aid in alleged sanctuaries on Pakistani soil, say Afghan officials. U.S. Army General John Nicholson told reporters earlier this week the counternarcotics campaign began Sunday when strikes destroyed seven Taliban drug labs in another part of Helmand, an opium-poppo producing region and Afghanistan's largest province.

Villagers in Pakistan could also see destroyed mud houses and a vehicle on the Afghan side of the border where the overnight airstrikes took place.

Spokespeople for the Afghan Taliban, however, in statements sent to media Wednesday, rejected as propaganda accusations the insurgent group is running drug producing labs and factories in Helmand or elsewhere in Afghanistan.

They said the air raids hit civilian homes and those killed were civilians with no link to the Taliban. General Nicholson said Monday the U.S. military has for the first time engaged F-22 fighter jets in the newly launched war on Afghan drugs.

It is also the first time, he said, the U.S. military is using new authority, granted by U.S. President Donald Trump in August, to curb terrorists and their revenue streams in Afghanistan. The United States has spent \$8.6 billion on narcotics eradication in Afghanistan since 2002, but critics say there was record-breaking poppy production in 2017. The United Nations announced last week that narcotics production almost doubled this year in Afghanistan to around 9,000 tons, with a 63 percent increase in cultivation areas compared with 2016. The Taliban has expanded its control or influence to more than 40 percent of Afghan territory since international combat forces withdrew from Afghanistan in 2014. (VoA)