

(1) Afghanistan Welcomes...

we are ready to provide the necessary facilities to Afghan traders at the port," Spokesman of the Transport and Aviation Ministry Hekmatullah Qawanj told Ariana News.

According to the estimation of Afghanistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industries, currently, more than \$150 million have been invested in transport and forming factories in Chabahar port by 60 Afghan traders.

"Some of the investments which have been made on the port are very important for all of the three countries," said Tawfiq Dawari, deputy head of ACCI. "When the port excluded [from Iran sanctions], Afghanistan will have trade relations with these countries and it will have an impact on the exports as well as paving ground for more investment,"

Chabahar port is providing Afghanistan with vital direct sea access, which the country hopes will improve its trade prospects. Crucially, exporting goods to countries such as India will allow Afghanistan to reduce its dependence on Pakistan. (ATN)

(2) Global Power Politics...

in the face of the worrisome and growing presence of Daesh in Afghanistan," he said.

He said the two countries have operationalized the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity.

"It lays down the blueprint for extensive engagements in all areas of common interests," he said.

Qureshi blamed India for a recent breakdown in their relations, adding that "India prefers politics over peace".

"To divert the world's attention from its brutalities, India frequently violates the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Kashmir. Despite numerous violations, Pakistan has acted with restraint but if India does venture across the Line of Control or acts upon its doctrine of limited war against Pakistan, it will evoke a strong and matching response," he added.

Qureshi's comments came after India accused Pakistan of giving sanctuaries to "terrorists".

"In our case, terrorism is bred not in some faraway land, but across our border to the west," Swaraj said. "Our neighbor's expertise is not restricted to spawning grounds for terrorism, it is also an expert in trying to mask malevolence with verbal duplicity."

Qureshi and Swaraj were supposed to meet at the UN this week, but the day after the meeting was announced, India called it off after an Indian border guard was killed in the disputed region of Kashmir. (Tolo news)

(3) Taliban can't...

"Each nation has its own objectives, and then there are NATO objectives. So you get a lot of different answers when you speak to the troops. But it all comes down to protecting the citizens at home."

The events that triggered military actions in Afghanistan occurred 17 years ago, he recalled. Dome of the coalition soldiers in Afghanistan were a year old when Al-Qaeda killed 3,000 people in America.

They have no direct memories of the planes crashing into the World Trade Center in New York, or an aircraft slamming into the Pentagon, according to Miller.

Al-Qaeda had safe haven in Tal-

iban-ruled Afghanistan in 2001. The Taliban government protected Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants as they planned the 9/11 attacks.

NATO invoked Article 5 of the Washington Treaty for the only time in its history, as the nations of the alliance came to the aid of America. Article 5 states that an attack on one member nation is an attack on all.

Over the past 17 years, more than 1,100 NATO and coalition troops have lost their lives combating terrorism in Afghanistan. And this is not just an American conflict or problem.

Ungoverned or loosely governed areas in the country attract terror groups, using the money raised from taxing areas they occupy.

The Taliban and others, he alleged, used money from illegal activities such as the drug trade to finance their attacks. They use these safe havens to train new terrorists.

Miller, who took charge as NATO commander in Afghanistan on Sept. 2, reminded coalition troops they were making their own countries safer and protecting their fellow citizens. (Pajhwok)

(4) Khost Director...

failed to implement this Islamic requisite, we ask the central government to bring reforms in this department and appoint qualified people," he said.

Khost Ulema Council head, Shah Mohammad, said that most of Khost Islamic scholars were satisfied with the performance of the Hajj and Islamic affairs department of the province.

"We are satisfied with the current Hajj and Islamic affairs director because he sent us to the Hajj, I think the ministry sends him to offer pilgrimage every year, he does not do it with his personal will," he said.

Meanwhile, Khost governor's spokesman, Talib Mangal, said except the director, all other officials of the Hajj and Islamic Affairs department had to pass a test before traveling to Saudi Arabia for Hajj.

"The Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs takes an exam from a number of Islamic scholars before tasking them with training other pilgrims to perform Hajj," he said.

A government official, who wished to go unnamed, said Mualvi Izharuddin took charge as the Khost Hajj and Islamic Affairs department after the fall of Taliban regime during then new government under former president, Hamid Karzai.

According to a presidential order, departmental posts should be reintroduced once after each five years, but Khost Hajj and Islamic Affairs department is among 15 other government organs in the province that are headed by one person for more than seven years.

Pajhwok contacted the provincial council head and members for comment on the issue, but they said they could not comment because they had no information about it. (Pajhwok)

(5) Rashid Khan...

In the bowlers' list, Rashid has retained his No.2 spot, while 17-year-old spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman has moved up 15 places to take the eighth place after finishing with seven wickets in the Asia Cup. Nabi, meanwhile has gained two slots to reach the 15th position. (Pajhwok)

(6) Herat Hosts...

held too, and next year, the Afghanistan-Turkish Relations

Symposium will be held," said Ali Arghon Chinar, head of TIKA in Herat.

Officials said 200 other documents of a similar nature will be brought to Herat and all will be documented in a book in Farsi.

"These are the documents that can be used to write on Afghanistan-Turkey relations. These are important historical documents," said Jawed Zarghan, head of Culture and Art of the Ministry of Information and Culture in Herat. "From Ahmad Shah Abdali's letter to Mustafa III to other documents exchanged between the two countries during the government of King Amanullah."

Herat activists said such events give a different perception to Afghans on Afghanistan-Turkey ties during the course of history. "The exhibition shows a long-standing relationship between the two countries and it can be effective for those who want to explore the historical and cultural relations between the two countries," said Abdul Majid Mirzai, an activist from Herat.

A calligraphy exhibition of Afghan and Turkish artists in Istanbul and the Afghanistan-Turkey symposium in Turkey are the cultural events of the TIKA agency in the past year. (Tolo news)

(7) 41 Polling...

candidates including 22 women from Balkh will compete in the elections.

The election campaign of parliamentary elections candidates in Balkh is ongoing similar to the campaigns in Kabul as contenders have installed banners and their photos in different parts of Mazar-e-Sharif city since the start of the process on Friday midnight.

Balkh residents welcomed the campaigns and called on government forces to maintain security of elections to prevent any possible security incident.

The residents urged the election commission to hold a fair and transparent election.

"First, security should be maintained so people can vote. And second, a transparent and fair election should be held," said Mohammad Nabi, a Balkh resident.

"People will widely participate in the elections. One request that we have from our candidates is that they should respect order in the province," said Safdar, a Balkh resident.

The residents said they remain worried about security threats in a number of Balkh districts including Chahar Bolak, Chamtal, Dawlat Abad, Shulgara and Shortepa, though Balkh police said they have the preparations for maintaining security.

Gen. Mohammad Akram Sami, Balkh police chief, said they will keep polling centers open to help the people vote for their favorite candidates by using their right of voting.

"Polling centers will be remain opened and people can safely go there and vote," said Sami.

Sami said the Balkh police are implementing proper measures to candidates' safety.

He asked candidates to hold their campaign gatherings in collaboration with police in order to prevent any security incident. (Tolo news)

(8) Women Can...

of people in the elections vital to change in the nation's destiny.

Shehr Bano, an independent Wolesi Jirga runner, told Pajhwok lack of awareness, inde-

pendence and a conservative society dominated by men were the main obstacles to Bamyan's women taking part in the electoral process.

Ali Shah Misbah, head of the provincial Independent Election Commission, acknowledged the participation of men in the parliamentary election process was lower than in the presidential poll, but women's involvement had increased.

In the 2014 presidential election, he recalled, about 174,000 people took part -- 42 percent of them women. However, 167,000 people -- 50 percent of them women -- have registered as voters for the upcoming elections.

About 188 polling centres had been set up in the 2014 election. This time around, 220 polling centres will be established, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(9) Khogyani Residents...

militants have not commented regarding the report so far.

This comes as the security situation in some remote districts of Nangarhar has deteriorated during the recent years as the Taliban, ISIS, and other terror groups are attempting to expand their activities in this province. (KP)

(10) 33 crime suspects...

police unit in the province during his visit here.

The interior minister had acknowledged the increase in crimes in Mazar-i-Sharif and its nearby districts and said security forces were not unconcerned about the situation. (Pajhwok)

(11) MD-530F Warriors...

including coordinated attacks against the government and security forces.

However, the military officials are saying that the counter-terrorism operations are underway in the restive districts of the province to suppress the anti-government armed militants. (KP)

Iran Sentences Three to Death in Drive against Economic Crimes

DUBAI - Special courts set up in a drive against financial crime have sentenced three people to death in Iran, state television reported on Sunday, as the country faces renewed U.S. sanctions and a public outcry against profiteering and corruption.

A judiciary official also warned truck drivers holding a nationwide strike over pay and high prices of "harsh penalties" if they continue their protests, state media said.

The special Islamic revolutionary courts were set up last month to try suspects quickly after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called for "swift and just" legal action to confront an "economic war" by foreign enemies.

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, quoted by state TV, said the courts handed down out death sentences to three defendants after convicting them of "spreading corruption on earth", a capital offence under Iran's Islamic laws.

Mohseni Ejei did not name the three but said the sentences would have to be upheld by the supreme court before being carried out, the TV reported.

Iranian officials have accused arch-foes the United States and Israel, as well as regional rival Saudi Arabia and government opponents living in exile of fomenting unrest and waging an economic war to destabilize Iran. Mohseni Ejei said 32 other de-

endants were sentenced to jail terms of up to 20 years for economic crimes, the official news agency IRNA reported.

In May the United States pulled out of a 2015 deal between world powers and Tehran under which international sanctions on Iran were lifted in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

Washington has reimposed a number of sanctions on Iran, and it is planning to impose heavier sanctions in November aimed at the Islamic Republic's oil sector. The rial currency has lost about 70 percent of its value since April under the threat of revived U.S. sanctions, with heavy demand for dollars among ordinary Iranians trying to protect their savings. (Reuters)

Statue of Bruce Lee Permanently Installed in Los Angeles Chinatown

LOS ANGELES - A newly installed pedestal for commemorative statue honoring Bruce Lee, the legendary Chinese American icon, was unveiled on Friday at the Central Plaza in Los Angeles Chinatown.

The 7-foot bronze statue is the only one officially recognized by the Lee family. It was temporarily installed in 2013, pending a permanent spot in Chinatown.

"The Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation's unveiling of the Bruce Lee Statue will be a towering site to admire, especially when it's the only one in the USA," said Kevin de Leon, senator of the State of California, at the ceremony.

"The bronze icon along with the community is elevated with the celebration of New Chinatown's 80th anniversary. This momentous event will memorialize the tradition, culture and history of the neighborhood," the senator added.

"I am glad to see my father's statue installed in the permanent home in Chinatown 45 years after his passing," said Shannon Lee, Bruce Lee's daughter and Chairwoman of the Bruce Lee Foundation. "Although he was born in San Francisco, my father had a deeper connection with Los Angeles Chinatown."

Bruce Lee was a key figure in making Chinese Kung Fu popular throughout the world. Lee made his name in Hollywood after his appearance in the TV series titled The Green Hornet in 1966, and began to teach martial arts in the United States in the 1960s. (Xinhua)

UAE's Abu Dhabi Ports Receives Ship-To-Shore Cranes from China's COSCO Shipping

DUBAI - Abu Dhabi Ports announced on Sunday the delivery of the first shipments of Automated Rail Mounted Gantry Crane (ARMG) and ship-to-shore quay cranes (STS) to Khalifa Port.

Shipped from Shanghai, the ten state-of-the-art ARMG Cranes and four STS Cranes are the initial batches of equipment to be installed at COSCO Shipping Abu Dhabi Terminal, United Arab Emirates (UAE) state news agency WAM reported.

The second container terminal is under construction at Khalifa Port due for completion at the end of this year in Abu Dhabi, the capital and biggest sheikhdom of the UAE.

With remote control monitoring, the cranes will have the capacity to swiftly transfer shipments, further boosting the capacity of Khalifa Port. (Xinhua)