

**(1) Tillerson ...**

invasion by rockets, mortars and explosives-laden vehicles. A recent visit to Kabul by U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was greeted by a rocket attack on the city's main airport. Speaking at a brief news conference after his meeting with Ghani and Abdullah, Tillerson said he would be flying to Pakistan on Tuesday to reinforce the Trump administration's demand that Islamabad move against the Taliban and other extremists based inside its borders or face the consequences.

"We have made some very specific requests of Pakistan in order for them to take action to undermine the support the Taliban receives and other terrorist organizations receive," he said.

U.S. policy toward Islamabad "will be based upon whether they take action that we feel is necessary to move the process forward for both creating opportunity for reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan but also ensuring a stable future for Pakistan," he continued.

Tillerson said he would then travel to India to discuss a request that it expand its economic and development assistance to Afghanistan. (Reuters)

**(2) Tillerson, Ghani ...**

President Ashraf Ghani will also visit India the day the US dignitary reaches Delhi. Washington's bid to make India a key player in its Afghan strategy was highlighted by Defence Secretary James Mattis during his visit last month.

The secretary of state will meet Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. Meanwhile, India Foreign Ministry also said in a statement that President Ashraf Ghani would arrive India on 24th October today, and he would first meet with foreign affairs minister Sushma Sawarj. While refusing to send troops to Afghanistan, India is ready to work with the US on strengthening the security situation in Afghanistan through information sharing and training of security personnel. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Top Russian, ...**

a situation that warranted negotiations with the Taliban who were ready to shun violence. (Pajhwok)

**(4) US, Afghanistan ...**

At this stage, it is also unclear who will be paying the \$52 million to the GoA - that is, will it be one or more of the USG, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, contractors or others. Once formal notice of Cabinet approval is issued, those contractors and subcontractors that wish to have tax exemptions confirmed on pre-2015 revenues need to apply to the MoF in accordance with the new streamlined procedures.

Even after tax exemptions are confirmed, both contractors and subcontractors should still have tax related obligations on their pre-2015 revenues. Broadly, these obligations are as follows

Obligation to withhold and remit 10% or 15% from rental payments. If housed entirely within a base, then there would be no rental withholding. If not, the withholding obligation would apply.

Obligation to withhold and remit 2% from payments to properly licensed local national suppliers and 7% from payments to foreign suppliers (who are not exempt from income tax) and 7% from payments to local national suppliers who are not properly licensed. This only applies to payments made after March 21, 2009.

Obligation to withhold and remit up to 20% from salary and wage payments to local national employees. (Payment to local employees under USG Department of Defense contracts prior to 2015 should also be exempt from the obligation to withhold but unfortunately the MoF does not always recognise this exemption). Obligation to file tax forms/returns. Obligation to pay penalties. There are penalties for late withholding and remittance and late filing of tax forms. Penalties for late withholding and remittance are capped at 10% of the amount that should have been remitted plus 0.1% pre-day from the date that the money should have been remitted (10th day after the end of the month in which the payment was made) to the date of actual remittance. There is also a penalty of approximately \$2 per day for late filing of each form.

A minimum contractors and subcontractors shall be required to apply to have their tax exemptions confirmed and shall also have a range of withholding, remittance and filing obligations

on their pre-2015 revenues.

Going forward, contractors and subcontractors should be aiming to achieve full compliance whilst lawfully minimizing risk and liability. However, before making any decisions, given the complexity of the situation, they should consult with qualified advisors. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Zakhelwal to ...**

would talk with Pakistani officials and would ask them to reduce or eliminate the duty on Afghan goods. A statement from the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul said Islamabad had increased import duty on 430 items. The surge in custom duty from 20 to 50 percent is levied on fruits, electronic items, vegetable, flour, cars and luxury items.

"The government of Pakistan has freshly levied Regulatory Duty on about 301 new tariff lines products and also raised rates on already existing 430 items being imported from all over the world. The regulatory duty imposed is between 20-50% on different items including wheat, sugar, vegetables, fruits, electronics, cars and many other luxury items. The new regulatory duty will come into effect from 17th October 2017," the statement said.

Earlier, Khan Jan Alokzai, deputy head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, had told reporters in Kabul that Pakistan increased its custom duties on around 700 types of imported goods after the neighboring country's revenues declined.

Fresh and dried fruits, carpets, vegetable, herbal, coal, precious and semi-precious stones are among goods exported to Pakistan from Afghanistan. All these items come under the new Pakistani policy.

Pakistan earlier charged 8,000 rupees as import tax on per tonne of grapes but increased it to 28,000 rupees and on pomegranates from 8,000 rupees to 21,000 rupees, Alokzai said.

He said Pakistan had recently provided some facilities to Afghan traders along the Durand Line. He said Pakistani businessmen imported 133,000 tonnes of fresh fruits from Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(6) MoD Welcomes...**

bombs on Taliban and Daesh militants.

The top US commander in Afghanistan General John Nicholson meanwhile has said based on the new US strategy for Afghanistan, not only will the pressure be increased on insurgents, but the countries that support them will also come under serious pressure.

"As you heard in that policy announcement by president Trump, the United States, as president Trump said no partnership can survive when one of the partners is sending people to attack the other; and this he was referring to Pakistan. so not only will pressure be applied to the enemy on the battlefield in Afghanistan, but there will also be pressure applied to those who are supporting the enemy from outside the country," said Nicholson.

Government critics meanwhile said Afghan security forces should not continue to be on the defensive, but should carry out offensive operations to kill Taliban insurgents, and other insurgent groups.

"A defensive position is not good - it gets soldiers killed," former military officer Mohsin Mukhtar said.

"Pressure should be increased on Pakistan to convince the Taliban to sit at the peace talks table," head of parliament's internal security commission Mirdad Nijrabi said.

"Any move taken against insurgents by the Americans, should be done in cooperation with the Afghan government," MP Sayed Ali Kazimi said. The CIA's move comes on the heels of a spate of deadly attacks around the country, especially in the cities, which have killed over 200 civilians and military personnel. (Tolonews)

**(7) Ghani Bans ...**

and Spin Boldak borders and many transport their goods on through the borders into other Central Asian countries.

"The Afghanistan and Pakistan Trade Agreement (APTA) has expired. Before this Pakistan did now allow Afghan trucks to enter its territory. So we do the same and after this Pakistani trucks will be unloaded at borders and Afghan trucks will carry the goods to Hairatan and Shir Khan ports," transport ministry spokesman Hekmatullah Qawanch said.

Meanwhile a number of transport company officials said government should implement the decree as soon as possible. They said until now Pakistani refused to allow Afghan trucks to cross the border but the Pakistani

trucks could come into Afghanistan. "By this move lots of people will get job opportunities and the transit companies will also get work. Currently there is no work for transit companies and the drivers are at home," a director of a transport company Abdul Ghafoor Norzai said.

"Pakistani trucks go to every part of our country, but our trucks are not allowed to enter Pakistan. We want government to do the same to Pakistan and also help us to be allowed to enter neighboring countries," Abdul Rauf, the head of a transport company said.

The ministry also said they will sign transit agreements with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan soon and based on the new agreements, Afghan trucks will be allowed to enter the three countries. (Tolonews)

**(8) Samiul Haq ...**

At the two-hour talks, matters related to peace in Afghanistan came up for discussion. Zakhilwal urged the JUI-S head to play his role in restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

In a statement after the meeting, Haq said peace in Afghanistan was the need of the hour. Stability in the neighbouring country was also in Pakistan's interest, he added.

"Western powers don't want to resolve the Afghan problem and they have been hindering restoration of peace. They have created a war-like situation and for the whole Ummah," he alleged.

Muslim countries, especially Pakistan, should join hands with Afghanistan to restore peace in the region, the noted religious scholar opined.

Zakhilwal assured Haq they were ready to knock at every door for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. He also referred to his recent meeting with army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Afghanistan and Pakistan, both Islamic countries, should try to overcome their trust deficit, according to Haq, who vowed help bring the two countries closer. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Statement by Tadamichi.**

The UN family in Afghanistan is made up of more than 20 specialized entities striving to improve life for ordinary Afghans in critical areas from better health care, education for all and job creation through to equal rights for women, improved agriculture and safeguarding the environment.

We are re-doubling our efforts to ensure our work helps communities most in need and drives sustainable development in accordance with Afghan priorities. The challenges may at times appear enormous, but we are supporting Afghans achieve tangible progress and some great things.

Let me give you just a glimpse into the work we have accomplished in this last year alone: we helped conduct polio campaigns reaching 9.9 million children; we created mobile health teams to provide maternal and child health services for 1.2 million children nationwide; we have fed over 3.5 million vulnerable Afghans by distributing food or providing vouchers.

We have helped establish more than 2,000 community-based education centres and continued to support several thousand existing centres reaching around 170,000 children, almost half of them girls; we have supported the Government to develop and publish the National Education Strategic Plan; and assisted the return of almost half a million Afghans from Iran and Pakistan.

The UN has backed 2,300 women and children survivors of violence in women protection and family guidance centers; provided the first anti-corruption training to Anti-Corruption Justice Center officials on anti-corruption; and we have brought together 167 aid agencies to reach the people most in need of aid.

This is just a snap-shot of some of our work with Afghanistan, the majority of it is implemented by Afghans in response to Afghan priorities.

We have been honoured to work with Afghan communities over the last year just as we have over the past 70 years. I can assure you, that the UN intends to stay the course with the Afghan people for peace to be established and for the country to flourish. (PR)

**(10) Partnering to I...**

doctor, Sayed Massoom Nabizada, is the director of Dr. Adam's Clinic in the ninth district of Kandahar city, the capital of Kandahar Province. Along with 17 colleagues, Dr. Nabizada provides daily health care services in the clinic from 8 am to 4 pm, seven days a week. The clinic serves a local population of 32,000 people, offering general check-ups, gynecology

and obstetrics services, laboratory facilities, vaccination, malnutrition treatment, and a pharmacy. An average of 200 patients visit the clinic every day.

Dr. Adam's Clinic is among a group of health centers that has come under the supervision of the Bu Ali Rehabilitation and Aid Network (BARAN) since July 1, 2015. BARAN provides health care services and monitoring oversight for 51 health centers in the 17 districts of Kandahar Province. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that works in Kandahar to provide a basic package of health services, contracted by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) under the System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) Program. The services are implemented through a performance-based partnership agreement between MoPH and BARAN.

SEHAT aims to expand the scope, quality, and coverage of health services provided to the population, particularly for the poor and is supported by the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank Group's fund for the poorest countries, and the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), in partnership with multiple donors. (PR)

**(11) Vienna Migration ...**

from Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Nigeria, Norway, the EU Commission, European External Action Service and the European Investment Bank. Together with more than 300 participants including political decision makers, government experts, academia, media and civil society they will explore a key question that should enable safe and orderly migration: How should partnerships on migration work in the future?

ICMPD will present five Migration Partnership Priorities developed on basis of its long-standing experience in the migration field. These priorities cover a range of topics, from crisis responsiveness to refugee autonomy, responsibility sharing and pathways to protection, the regional dimensions of migration and displacement, pathways for legal migration, perspectives for the young and educated in countries of origin and more intelligent policies on return. "The relationship between countries of origin and countries of destination of migrants should not be based on simple deal-making. Substantial partnerships that cater for both immediate and long-term needs are what we have to achieve," says Director General Spindelegger.

The conference will also highlight opportunities for the private sector to contribute to policies that promote safe, regular and orderly migration. Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank, will provide a keynote address examining the role of the private sector in the field of migration.

"The Vienna Migration Conference discusses pressing migration issues from a European perspective and from the perspective of our many partners from outside Europe. While we acknowledge areas where progress has been made, it is also necessary to identify areas where gaps persist and questions remain open," said Director General Spindelegger.

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development is a key player in the migration field. The organisation has 15 member states and carries out activities throughout the world, including Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. The Vienna-based organisation has a mission in Brussels and duty stations in other 18 countries. Founded in 1993, ICMPD serves as a support mechanism for informal consultations and provides expertise in multilateral cooperation on migration issues. The principles of partnership and balancing of interests are the foundation of the organisation. (Agencies)

**(12) Afghan Government ...**

construction of the new embassy compound in Tashkent Uzbekistan. The other contracts approved during the meeting include rehabilitation of Turkmen Canal in Imam Sahib district of Kunduz, procurement of needed equipment for Kabul municipality, procurement of construction material to be used along the road from Baraki area to Sara-e-Shamali in Kabul, procurement of 2 communication equipment for the ministry of interior. The meeting also approved contracts for the procurement of 240 security cameras along with 59 spares for the ministry of defense and procurement of 12 fire extinguishing equipment for the ministry of defense. (KP)

**(13) Afghan, Iraqi ...**

Fayaz and spoke about Afghan pilgrims' problems. She called for resolving the pilgrims' issues.

Fayaz said the ground had been paved for 35,000 Afghan pilgrims to visit Najaf and Karbala. Effort were ongoing to provide them more facilities, said the report.

The Afghan delegation also met the Karbala governor and discussed the pilgrims' transportation from Kabul to Karbala. The Iraqi officials assured cooperation in this regard.

Both sides also agreed on granting Iraq visas to Afghan pilgrims in Kabul. Earlier, due to security problems, the Iraqi embassy was closed and the pilgrims had to receive Iraq visas on neighboring countries.

The Afghan delegation includes the deputy ministers of information and culture and foreign affairs, deputy head of civil aviation, representatives of the second vice-president, ministry of hajj and National Directorate for Security.

Several cooperation agreements were signed in different fields with Iraq. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Afghanistan's Karate**

Championships," said DPES adding that "Afghanistan finished in second place overall after winning seven gold and two bronze medals."

"Kazakhstan finished first and Russia third," the department said.

The championships were held from Friday to Sunday and 14 European and Asian countries took part. (Tolonews)

**(15) NDS Arrests ..**

bombers into Kabul city.

The man is also believed to have been involved in explosions, bombings, and kidnappings of Afghan businessmen and foreigners.

Bashir reportedly had sanctuaries in Logar and Maidan Wardak provides. (Tolonews)

**(16) Four Police ...**

stationed in Wakhan and Ashkasham districts chased the animals.

"Twenty of wild animals, including the Marco Polo deer, wild goat, lion, bear and leopard, are seen in the national park of Badakhshan, particularly in Pamir.

"I can say around 500 to 600 Marco Polo deer and some 5,000 mountain goats live in Pamir Mountains, The number of these animals is growing," he added.

Environment Protection Director Ghulam Nabi Sarfaraz claimed very atypical wild animals lived in the Pamir Mountains of Badakhshan.

He said a joint team of Afghan and US researchers had found some of the rarest species of lark in Wakhan district. The bird cannot be found in any part of the world except Thailand.

"Detection of this bird gives us hope that we may find more rare animals in mountainous areas of Badakhshan," Sarfaraz said.

About the types of wildlife in Badakhshan, he said no comprehensive research had been conducted on identifying animals in the province but efforts were underway in this regard. A provincial council member, Talabuddin Qaderi, said deer was still hunted in Wakhan and Pamir mountains. However, the practice has now declined to some extent.

He said the animals were hunted at night by the border guards stationed in Wakhan district. However, he said Tajikistanis hunted the deer in the winter when the routes to Pamir Mountains were blocked by snow.

But border commander Col. Amanullah Nasim said: "Not only do we guard frontiers, but also protect wild animals. Our personnel found hunting animals are fired and referred to courts."

He rejected claims that border forces were involved in hunting animals and said no one had so far presented any evidence to prove such allegations. (Pajhwok)

**(17) 27 Militants ...**

Mohammad, the police chief of Maidan district, who was leading the operation, said he fully equipped police forces of Ghorak district and created more security posts for the protection of the area.

He said 14 more militants were killed during the clearing operation in Ghorak.

Taliban did not comment yet on Ghorak operation but said people suffered casualties in Naw Bahar district of Zabul were civilians. (Pajhwok)

**(18) Ex-Wardak Police...**

head of planning and Mohammad Fahim, former accountant of Maidan Wardak Police headquarters.

They were all sentenced to three years in jail over corruption, fraud and misuse of authority.