

**(1) Peace in...**

Afghanistan. Pakistan's Ambassador Syed Ibrar Husainsaid that his country was fully supportive of the Afghan peace drive. He agreed the neighbours, faced with common challenges, should jointly work to deal with the problems. "Pakistan and Afghanistan are friendly and brotherly countries. Pakistanis helped the Afghan brethren during the jihad against the Soviets," acknowledged former president Sibghatullah Mujaddedi. "May Allah bring (Gulbadin) Hikmatyar back to the political arena; he had gone to mountains without any reason. But now he has to return because it is his own country," Mujaddedi remarked. (Pajhwok)

**(2) JCMB ...**

Ashraf Ghani, will be attended by Afghans and their international partners, including aid-giving countries, a statement from the ministry said. The government's preparations for the upcoming NATO conferences and expectations of foreign countries will be discussed. Ways of implementing the promises held out by the government and a framework for accountability will be the main points of discussion. Set up in 2006 under a resolution of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the independent body has held several meetings so far on different issues like joint polices, mutual accountability and close coordination.

Eradication of administrative corruption is one of the mutually agreed goals of the Afghan government and the international community, but people and civil society organisations claim Kabul has failed to address the issue. President Ghani, however, has announced that his administration is determined to eliminate corruption and enforce reforms in different sectors during the current year. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Serious Anti...**

seriously fight against terrorism and corruption for the sake of security and stability in the country, he said adding reforms in judiciary organs should take place and the corrupt people should be punished. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Turkey Pledges ...**

deep and strategic relations between Kabul and Ankara as well as the international allies of the two nations in the format of the Resolute Support (RS) mission. He said Turkey continues fight against terrorism in its soil and in the region, hailing Afghanistan for remaining in the frontline to combat the menace of terrorism.

Meanwhile, President Ghani emphasized on historic and deep relations between the two countries and said the main foundation of the army in Afghanistan has been laid in consideration with Turkish army's experience. Ghani hailed Turkey for remaining committed in support of Afghanistan in different sectors including security in the framework of NATO, ISAF and Resolute Support.

The two sides also discussed the WARSAW summit on Afghanistan and President Ghani thanked the Turkish president's efforts in attracting more support to Afghanistan from the international community. (KP)

**(5) If Not ...**

the capital of the province, told Pajhwok Afghan News the government had been promising them land plots from the past 13 years. However, nothing has been done so far.

While giving teachers few privileges, the government had ignored them, he complained. "Senior officials continually promise us housing facility, but they have taken no practical steps. It is regrettable that teachers in the province continue to be ignored," he added. Sabir Stanikzai, a teacher at the Katab Khel High School in Mohammad Agha district, also blasted the government for breaking the promises it had held out to them. In addition to the housing problem, teach-

ers also faced serious economic problems, he said.

"We request education officials to build townships for teachers in all districts of the province to enable us to discharge our duty with undivided concentration," he said.

Syed Majeed, a teacher at Kolanagar High School in Pul-i-Alam, warned: "We have talked to other teachers. If the government doesn't allot us land plots, all of us will quit our jobs."

Education department spokesman Mohammad Shapoor Arab confirmed the teachers' problems. "They have been assured umpteen times of land plots over 13 years, but the commitment hasn't been honoured yet."

"Whenever our department planned to take practical measures to provide the housing facility for teachers, governors and district chiefs of the time interfered and created problems," the spokesman alleged. But the department plans to build townships for educators in Khoshi, Mohammad Agha, Charkh and Kharwar districts during the current year.

Salim Saleh, the governor's spokesman, promised concrete steps to provide the required facilities. He also confirmed the townships would be built in four districts this year.

According to the education department, 3,300 teachers are currently serving across the province. A total of 305 educational institutes are currently operational in Logar but half of them are still without buildings. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Govt. Terms ...**

troops in Afghanistan. He added that security forces stand ready to protect their country.

"The deals that Afghanistan signed with the United States and NATO form the base for the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan. The troops have been effective in the fight against terrorist as well as strengthening Afghan forces.

However, U.S. politicians will decide over the number of their troops in the future. We, ourselves, are ready to defend our country," Hashemi said.

A number of security analysts meanwhile believe that the U.S. troops should suppress militants in Afghanistan.

"Daesh is gathering strength in Afghanistan, Taliban has a presence, and based on Pakistan's plan, other militant groups are emerging one after another, as such there is a need for the presence of NATO in Afghanistan. However, NATO should focus on militants' safe havens in Pakistan," said Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, the former Deputy Minister of Interior.

The United States and NATO's support for Afghan security forces is considered critical.

"International cooperation, particularly the United States' military support for Afghanistan helps the legitimate government of Afghanistan to move forward," said Baz Mohammad Anwari, a university lecturer. (Tolonews)

**(7) Pakistan, ....**

under the Taliban's control or their movements have been effectively restricted.

Islamabad says the steps are part of a major anti-terrorism military-led campaign underway near the Afghan border and elsewhere in Pakistan.

"We are engaged in operations against the terrorists without any discrimination. Terrorism is a common enemy and we need cooperation and collaboration to fight this menace and not confrontation. Accusation and blame game will strengthen the hands of terrorists and miscreants," the Pakistani spokesman asserted.

He also responded to this week's remarks by Afghan deputy foreign minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai in which he questioned Pakistan's commitment to promoting an Afghan peace and political reconciliation process.

Peace talk issue Zakaria said that a four-nation panel, consisting of diplomats from Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States, has been making "serious efforts" for arranging early direct talks between the Afghan government

and the Taliban. "In the larger interest of Afghanistan, we believe that the focus should be to convene early peace talks and no one should doubt Pakistan's sincerity. Peace and stability in Afghanistan is in Pakistan's interest. Our stakes in peace in Afghanistan are much bigger than any other country," he noted.

An initial meeting between Afghan government and Taliban negotiators was expected to take place in Pakistan in the first week of March.

But the insurgent group in a last-minute announcement refused to attend and instead vowed to intensify hostilities in the coming warmer Afghan months.

Leaders in Kabul insist Islamabad assured them through the four-nation panel it would take action against insurgent Taliban commanders present on its soil if they refused to come to the table for talks and quit violence.

"But it seems the assurances that we were given by Pakistan have not yet been delivered or have not yet been met," Karzai said on Monday, who is also the chief peace negotiator of the Afghan government.

Pakistan and Afghanistan, under pressure from the U.S. and China, have in recent months jointly worked to fight terrorism and cooperate in ending the Afghan conflict.

In recent weeks, Pakistani officials have also blamed fugitive militants hiding on the Afghan side of the border for deadly attacks in Pakistan and have demanded Kabul take action against them.

The return of the war of words between the two countries, critics say, is likely to strain bilateral ties, which are already marred by years of mistrust and suspicion. (VoA)

**(8) 1,300 New ...**

jungles would also be established over 100 acres of land in rain-fed areas on the outskirts of Taloqan, he said. He added 25 percent of the cost would be met by owners.

A resident of the Khayatan area of Taloqan, who has set up an orchard on 2.5 acres of land with the help of MAIL and NGOs, said people were not familiar with gardening eight years ago. "But now everyone knows how to plant, prune and graft." (Pajhwok)

**(9) Noor Responds...**

comments said: "According to our information about the list of 500 individuals, no balance has been considered among different ethnic groups regarding key government posts."

He said the non-serious attitude of the Balkh government against individuals who brought down pictures of Gen. Dostum showed power had been centralized in Balkh. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Tribes Should...**

president in the near future. The draft suggested that all illegal armed groups should be disbanded, elders given role in peace talks, people not involved in the war should be appointed as members of the new jirga, the peace jirga should have international support and the government should facilitate peace talks with militants.

The draft also suggested that Taliban leaders should be removed from the UN blacklist and the militants allowed to open a political office in Kabul and security of officials should be maintained. (Pajhwok)

**(11) NUG Failing...**

peace in the country," said Nasrullah Falak, a member of the organization.

They raised concerns over the silence of government against corrupt people.

"Government sits quietly over the prosecution of corrupt people, we ask our government, international community and institutions that have valid documents about the corrupt people to see they are prosecuted," Ayar added.

Securing vulnerable parts of the country, achieving peace, tackling corruption seriously and creating jobs for the people are the National Unity Government's priorities, the organization said. (Tolonews)

**(12) Pakistan Never...**

of Afghanistan had been trying to reach their aims by killing Haqmal, but they could not reach their goals because there were many brave officers like him, he said.

Meanwhile, the former defence minister, Bismillah Mohammad, said Haqmal's death was a big loss for the country.

"Although Haqmal is not among us, there are thousands of other brave Afghans who will not let the servants of ISI reach their goals," he said.

Taliban should know that war is the only solution for issues, but they should join peace process because Afghans are thirsty for peace, he said. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Pakistan Asked...**

It quoted Landikotal Assistant Political Agent Rahimullah Khan Mehsud as saying Afghan National Army officials Colonel Nisar and Major Syed Amin as well as civilian officials came to Pakistan to attend the talks.

The meeting, which lasted two and a half hours, discussed several issues of bilateral interest, including security arrangements and cross-border movement of people. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Work on ...**

firms would implement the project while the government would closely monitor the construction activities of the road, he said adding 300 villages would be connected with Grishk and Nad Ali districts and also the provincial capital, Lashkargah.

During the project launch ceremony, the commander of 505th police zone, Gen. Esmatullah Daulatzai, who is also acting governor of Helmand, said they would properly keep the security of the road construction scheme.

People say that out of 31 kilometre long road, one kilometre area is in government control while the rest of the area is with Taliban fighters.

Head of Nad Ali district council, Mohammad Nabi Olfat, said the implementing companies should reach an agreement with Taliban before commencing work on the road. (Pajhwok)

**(15) 10.75-Km ...**

a representative of the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Ministry, Abdul Ghafar, said. Kunar governor Wahidullah Kalimzai thanked people of the valley for helping the contractor to construct the road in the restive area.

He asked the people of the area not to let militants carry out disruptive activities in the area. (Pajhwok)

**(16) IS Fighters ...**

movements of the group were also seen in Nawa district. Taliban have been in control of the district over the past 14 years.

Ghazni governor Mohammad Aman Hamim did not comment on the presence of Daesh, but said they haven't received any report whether Daesh recruits people in the province. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Court Holds...**

attackers enter the airport. Six of the accused owned food and other items shops inside the airport, the attorney said, adding all of the accused had confessed to their crimes and helping the attackers to enter the airport.

But the accused and their lawyers rejected the attorney's claims and said they had been tortured and forced into confessing. Shabir Ahmad Qayumi, one of the defense lawyers of the accused, said that the cases of the accused had been filled based on their confessions, but there were evidence proving their crimes.

He said the airport gate was protected by several security organs, including the Afghan National Army (ANA), police and border police, but holding one person among them responsible made no sense.

Kandahar urban court chief Abdul Halim Muslim also said the cases of the accused had many shortcomings. He said members of the military council including the governor, provincial police chief, National Directorate of Security (NDS) chief, the 205th Atal Military Corps commander and some other security officials

should participate in the trial.

Muslim said all mistakes in the cases should be resolved and the military council members should participate in the next hearing.

A Wolesi Jirga delegation, which previously traveled to investigate the airport attack, said the attackers had used the illegally built shops inside the airport to successfully achieve their goal. (Pajhwok)

**(18)21 Crime ....**

moneychangers, victims of armed robberies, recently staged a protest rally in front of the governor's house and asked the government to investigate their cases.

However, Rozi said five people, including the guard of the moneychangers' market and the owner of the market had been arrested.

Feroz Ahmad, a resident of Herat city, said police used to release criminals after detaining them for a few days. (Pajhwok)

**(19)Alcoholic...**

did not provide exact number of the wine bottles, but Syed Mehdi Kazami, the spokesman for the Directorate of Counter-narcotics Department at the Interior Ministry, said 19 bottles of wine had been recovered from the container. (Pajhwok)

**(20)8-Year-Old...**

the basis of their complaint.

Women Affairs Director Khadija Yaqeen, slamming forced and nonage marriages as violence against females, said her department had shared the cases of Zaman's both daughters with police and asked them to take strict action against the perpetrators.

While expressing concern over the increased incidents of violence against women, Yaqeen said lack of awareness about women's rights in far-flung areas was the main reason behind a surge in human rights violations.

Meanwhile, Baghlan's deputy police chief Abdul Rashid Bashir said the individuals involved in the marriage of the eight years old had been identified and would be brought to justice.

Civil society members expressed concerns over the forced marriages and violence against women, asking the government not to let tribal elders ram their uncanny decisions down the throat of helpless minors.

Activist Mohammad Usman said civil social organisations had launched an investigation into the unlawful nikah and kidnapping of the girls. (Pajhwok)

**(21)7 Rebels ...**

vehicle was damaged in a roadside bomb explosion and Taliban later set afire the vehicle. Taliban has so far issued no comment regarding the operation. (Pajhwok)

**(22)Prisoner ...**

of the world are brothers. I was impressed with such words of Clinton, so I decided to make a statue of my favourite politician in order to support peace, human values and rights and freedom of expression. I am hopeful for the victory of the politician to bring peace and security in Afghanistan," he said.

Hillary Clinton had condemned Donald Trump's call to bar Muslims from entering the United States during the presidential race, saying such remarks against American Muslims hurts us at home and they are not only "offensive" but "dangerous" too.

Hawida wanted to make the complete statue of Clinton, but due to limited facilities for him, he only could create the sculptural bust of her from plaster and clay. (Pajhwok)

**(23)Troops...**

area with IEDs. "They [the Taliban] have littered the previous road, which is asphalted, with mines. To reduce casualties we are using another route which is unpaved and is one kilometers away from the main road," said Mohammad Rahim Kohistani, a commander of the Afghanistan National Civil Order Police

(ANCOF).

Abdul Hadi Tarin, the deputy commander of 215th Maiwand military corps said that foreign militants, wearing masks, are taking part in the Taliban's attacks on Afghanistan security forces.

Officials at the 215th Maiwand military corps said that their convoys have managed to reach Sangin district without any casualties on two occasions.

Security troops in the area meanwhile said that military convoys reached Sangin district but with much difficulty. They said that after their arrival in Sangin they left the area to the Taliban, due to their strength and the troops' lack of weapons and personnel.

"We are here to ensure safety of the people of Helmand province, but the problem is that we don't have enough equipment," said one of the soldiers in the area.

Reports have emerged that the battles have become less intense in the area, because it is poppy harvesting time.

But locals say the war will intensify after the poppies have been harvested. (Tolonews)

**(24)7 Rebels, ...**

Herat province. Four other rebels and a child were injured in the detonation, the statement added. (Pajhwok)

**(25)Australia Signs ...**

and Ukraine on nuclear-related activities, including nuclear safeguards, security, safety and science," Bishop said. Australia currently has 24 Nuclear Cooperation Agreements allowing export of uranium to 43 countries and regions.

Australia holds almost a third of the world's uranium resources but supplies around 10 percent of global production. In 2014-15 Australia exported more than 5,500 tons of uranium, generating more than half a billion dollars in export income. (Xinhua)

**(26)Norway, U.S....**

projects through bilateral cooperation with the authorities in Ukraine, international initiatives, and in trilateral cooperation with Ukraine and Sweden. (Xinhua)

**(27)US Navy ...**

Outgoing Austal chief executive Andrew Bellamy said in a statement he was pleased the U.S. Navy has confidence in the "high quality vessels" given the delays in the progress in the LCS building program which caused a margin earnings downgrade in December.

"We are working hard to increase production efficiencies and reduce costs as the program matures," Bellamy said.

Austal has already delivered three LCS to the U.S. Navy and, at present, has seven others under construction at its Alabama state shipyard.

The company's shares closed 1 Australian cent (0.77 U.S. cents) or 0.64 percent higher to 1.58 Australian dollars (1.21 U.S. dollars) in a market that was heavily sold on Friday. (Xinhua)

**(28)Trapped ...**

11 security forces late Thursday night southeast of the city of Mosul, which is controlled by IS. Early Thursday morning, Iraqi forces re-launched an offensive on Hit under cover of heavy U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, said the counterterrorism chief, Sabah al-Numan. Over the past week the coalition launched 17 airstrikes in and around Hit, according to Pentagon statements.

The town lies along an IS supply line linking the extremist group's fighters in Iraq and those in neighboring Syria. Iraqi commanders have said that retaking the town would be key to building on their momentum after retaking the Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi earlier this year and linking up government forces to the west and the north of Baghdad in preparation for an eventual push on Mosul. (AP)

**(29)France Asks...**

and heard witness testimony of mass graves. France has asked China, the Security Council president for April, to schedule a vote on the draft resolution on Friday. (Reuters)