

**(1) President Inaugurates...**

with implementation of the 220kv project in the province. The ministers of commerce, urban development and industries also signed the map for the industrial park building in Gardez. According to the ministers' information, the industrial park would be built in 492 acres of land with capacity for 237 big and small factories.

"It is my hope to see industrial development, pine nuts processing and other developments in Paktia, this progress is possible with access to electricity, you waited more than anyone and it is the time your demands are met," he said.

Ghani said the gains so far achieved in the country had resulted from sacrifices of the Afghan forces and the martyred Afghan soldiers should be remembered in every development program.

The president also stressed on improve livelihood of teachers. The ministers and IDLG head also signed the map for the township of martyrs, teachers and government officers in Gardez city.

Local officials said the township was planned on 640 acres of land that would have 2,411 plots and 27 blocks.

President Ghani while inaugurating the Paktia police headquarters building, said, "The services of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) would start in a few weeks, the pine nuts of great Paktia would get fame in the whole of the world. These programs had to be suspended for four months and totally changed into covering all Afghanistan." Ghani also promised reconstruction of BalaHisar (a historic castle), school buildings and some other projects in coming months. "Paktia is home of civilization and BalaHisar is the sign of this civilization, we would start work on it in six months," he said. The president is expected to stay in Paktia province on Monday and meet with tribal elders, Islamic scholars, women, youth and local officials. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Pakistan PM's...**

defense committee.

According to a source, Afghan officials will reiterate their call to Pakistan to contribute effectively and honestly in the fight against terrorism, and to convince the Taliban to enter into dialogue with the Afghan government.

"Pakistan must be made to stop meddling in Afghanistan's internal affairs and help Afghanistan in peace and stability," said MP Sayed Ali Kazimi.

"Government must not be deceived by Pakistan, because Pakistan pursues its own goals," said MP Habiba Danish

Experts say that it is better for both Afghanistan and Pakistan to avoid the policy of confrontation and instead mend their ties. This comes ahead of a planned conference of religious scholars from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia. The meeting, which was expected to be held in Jakarta by the end of last month, aimed to discuss ways to forge peace in Afghanistan.

In what was seen as a goodwill gesture, Ghani, after assuming office as president, travelled to Pakistan in a move to bring the Taliban to the peace table. However, efforts failed an instead the Taliban has continued to carry out a series of deadly attacks in various parts of the country including in Kabul that have killed hundreds of people.

Officials have long believed some of these attacks have been planned in Pakistan. Afghanistan has also accused

Pakistan of providing safe havens to Taliban leaders and to the Haqqani network.

Two weeks ago Pakistan's National Security Adviser Nasser Khan Janjua also visited Kabul for talks with Ghani. (Tolo news)

**(3) IEC Formally...**

the nearest voter registration centre with their NICs, said Sayyad, adding vote could be polled at the same spot where the registration took place.

He added those lacking Tazkera should refer to the Population Registration Department and get their NIC.

Sayyad said polling stations could not be designated in 23 districts due to high security risks but security forces had assured of paving ground for their opening.

The IEC head did not announce a date for voter registration but said candidates have to provide a list of possible voters in their favour.

He said the IEC had assured the people of Afghanistan that the next polls would be held transparently despite multiple challenges such as insecurity. (Pajhwok)

**(4) UN Welcomes...**

of all Afghans in the electoral process, not merely the elections themselves, is critical."

In December 2017, donors pledged to fund up to 90 percent of the US\$28.4 million USD voter registration budget, in addition to pledging ongoing assistance to the IEC and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC). "The United Nations and the broader international community remain committed to supporting an Afghan-owned elections process," said the UN envoy. (Tolo news)

**(5) Despite Challenges...**

41 qualified and talented journalists in civil and nine others in military, he said.

But deputy Presidential Spokesman Shah Hussain Mustafavi rejected the government's influence on journalists and accused NAI of releasing baseless information. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Taliban Should...**

receive the most benefit of it.

This comes as the youths in southern Helmand province launched a sit-in in response to the growing violence in Afghanistan.

The participants of the sit-in have called on the government and the Taliban group to reach to an agreement for a ceasefire and start negotiations for peace process.

The Taliban group has so far rejected to participate in form of peace direct talks with the Afghan government and has insisted that the group will only hold talks with the United States. (KP)

**(7) Noor Accused...**

given a role in elections and that necessary amendments were brought to the Afghan constitution.

During the stalemate after he was ousted as governor, Noor told supporters: "We did not reach a conclusion regarding the issues such as electoral reforms, the share of political parties in parliament, rolling out of electronic identity cards, the amendment to the constitution and changing the centralized political system to a parliamentary system."

At the time, Noor also called on the public to be ready for mass civil protests.

"We stand as powerful as Hindukush mountains; we are as strong as Pamir mountains," said Noor.

Noor also warned at the time

that he would not step down until his demands and the demands of Jamiat-e-Islami party of Afghanistan were met by government in Kabul.

"If our demands were not met, then you should stop thinking about Balkh," said Noor during a gathering, referring to Ghani.

"If you (president Ghani) remain as president until the end, I will also remain as governor, we will not accept the word and order of the rootless tyrants of ARG and Jamiat will also not backtrack from its candidate, Jamiat is no longer interested in retreating," Noor had said.

Noor agreed to step aside after three months of tension. But sources in Jamiat's leadership council said that Noor and the Presidential Palace had reached an agreement regarding his replacement, and that of the position of Balkh police commander, several ministries and embassies. (Tolo news)

**(8) NPC Approves...**

procurement contract for 14 types of grains for the office of administrative affairs.

The NPC approved a contract for construction of a retaining wall for the administrative complex related to the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

The NPC meeting also approved two more contracts for construction of a building for the 209th Shaheen Military Corps and constructing the Paktia police headquarters building. The meeting also discussed balance in airlifting hajj pilgrims between Ariana and Kamir Air airlines

The meeting also rejected construction work on Shaheed venue in the 15th police district of capital Kabul and directed to the Ministry of Public Works to study the project again.

Second Vice-President Mohammad Sarwar Danish, Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, finance, Justice, and economy ministers and members of the National Procurement Committee attended the meeting. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Rare Kabul...**

the city in 1504. It was largely destroyed in the 1990s but was restored with the help of the Agha Khan Foundation in 2008.

The garden remains a popular picnic spot with Kabul families but the artistic riches of the Mughal court have disappeared from the city, with not a single original painting from the period known to be left in Afghanistan. Barry said he had formed the determination to bring not just humanitarian aid to Afghanistan but to help restore some of the cultural heritage lost to the country through years of war.

"In this garden, we will bring back the magnificent paintings which so influenced world civilization, back to the Afghans, right here in this historical environment," he said.

Over the centuries, all of the originals have been dispersed outside Afghanistan and while their removal undoubtedly saved many precious art works from destruction, their loss has deprived Afghans of a central pillar of their cultural heritage.

Using state-of-the-art printing techniques, dozens of miniatures have been reproduced on metal and put on display, showing a fabled world of poets, rulers, hunters and scenes of court life and making clear the considerable interplay that existed between European and Mughal art. "Many of these disappeared from Afghanistan over 500 years ago, and even then only Shahs (kings) and Wazirs (ministers) and maybe senior scholars had

an opportunity to see them," said Thomas Barfield, President of the American Institute of Afghan Studies, which oversaw the organization of the exhibition.

"People may remember poetry but they cannot see the art." (Reuters)

**(10) Helmand's Nawa...**

religious scholars.

"There is no political or government figures in our tent and we also don't want security for our movement," he added.

On the other hand, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah also supported and commended the peace movement by Helmadis.

In a statement from his office Abdullah said: "I thank the movement by the respected Helmandis who are pushing for the most important and fundamental demand of the Afghan people." (Pajhwok)

**(11) Cancer Cases...**

of the people think this disease is incurable while 50 percent of cancer cases can be treated," the Head of Kabul Medical University Shir Agha Zarif said.

According to the World Health Organization fact sheet, cancer is the second leading cause of death globally, and was responsible for 8.8 million deaths in 2015. (ATN)

**(12) 34 Detained...**

CJTF said in statement.

The anti-narcotics police also seized more than 138 kilograms of heroin, 458 kilograms of opium, 541 kilograms of hashish and 188 litres of alcoholic drinks. Additionally, 5,000 afghanis, 3,980 US dollars, 16,000 Pakistani rupees, 50,000 Indian rupees, 616,000 Iranian toman, 38 mobile phone sets and 11 vehicles were seized from the detainees.

A statement from the task force said nine of the suspects wanted to smuggle illicit drugs to India but they were arrested at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in the capital.

Cases against the detainees have been referred to the CJTF prosecution office for further investigation, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Taliban Orde...**

wrath and avoid schools," he said.

Mohammad Shapoor Arab, Logar education department spokesman, also said that the Taliban ordered shut all schools in Charkh district. "We are trying to resolve this problem through negotiations," he said.

On the other hand, Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, said they were not involved in closing of Charkh schools.

According to the provincial education department, there are 30 schools in Charkh imparting education to 11,000 students including 2,200 of them girls.

Currently 320 educational centers are active in Logar, attended by 150,000 pupils. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Meshrano Jirga...**

tired of the war."

He urged residents of other provinces to support the movement in Helmand and stand for peace in their areas.

Mohammad Alam Izedyar, first deputy speaker, supported the peace movement of Helmand youths which included women as well and termed their protest a rejection of the war. He stressed the movement should be extended to others provinces too.

Nisar Ahmad Haris, another senator, accused the Taliban of rejecting the peace offer and said: "Rejecting the peace offer or giving a negative response in fact is rejecting the tents for peace."

He also urged other provinces residents to support such movements across the country and join the Helmand tent of peace.

Senator Zalmi Zabulai said: "As long as the countrymen do not work for peace, foreigners would never bring it to us."

He also supported the protest movement in Helmand and agreed to send a delegation to the tent.

A number of others senators expressed similar thoughts about the tent and strongly agreed to send a delegation to Helmand.

Senate chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar supported the Helmand movement and termed it 'a well start.'

"In order to formerly support the Helmand youth's campaign for peace, we would send a delegation on behalf of the Meshrano Jirga to make decision based on a majority vote," he said. (Pajhwok)

**(15) 121 Civilians...**

comment on the suicide bombing in Helmand. The government has not yet released any information.

Sixteen civilians were killed and over 50 others injured in a car-bomb attack near a wrestling ground in Helmand. The participants were coming back from the event to offer Maghrib prayers.

Sixty people, mostly women and children, were martyred and wounded in landmine explosions. Another 50 civilian casualties resulted from mortar shells hitting homes.

Night raids conducted by government forces in some areas also caused civilian casualties. Eight civilians were killed and six others injured in nighttime raids by security forces in the Chaparhar district of Nangarhar province. Some helicopters struck farmers in one of the strikes.

In neighbouring Kunar province, one person was killed and two others were injured in artillery shelling by Pakistani forces.

The first month of the ongoing year, in which 600 civilian casualties occurred, was the deadliest. In February, 160 civilians were killed and injured.

CPAG once again called upon all parties to the conflict to stop killing civilians. It also asked the government to think about the education of children who had lost family heads to terrorist attacks. (Pajhwok)

**(16) 8 Rebels, 4...**

Military Corps said the clearing operation was conducted in Mirawab Raghak locality on Friday. The operation codenamed "Kokcha-18" is part of the nationwide "Grand Nasrat offensive." The dead included a deputy commander of Chinese militants named Mustafa, another Chinese national and Tajikistani. (Pajhwok)

**(17) ISIS Militants...**

The anti-government armed militant and terrorist groups including ISIS loyalists have not commented regarding the report so far.

This comes as counter-terrorism operations are underway against the terror group in certain provinces of the country in the North and in the East.

But fewer reports emerge regarding the operations of the ISIS militants in Ghazni province although Taliban and militants affiliated with the other groups are active in this province as well as the other neighboring provinces in the South.

Earlier, reports had emerged suggesting that the ISIS loyalists are attempting to expand their foothold in Ghazni province with the first signs of the activities of the group noted in Andar district. (KP)