

### (1) MoE Terms...

of media in Afghanistan. The government to date has done nothing to create a relationship between the activities of media and social activities of the government," said Pariz Kawah, another journalist.

According to the literacy department of the MoE, nearly 10 million people in Afghanistan are illiterate. (ToloneWS)

### (2) NPC Saves ....

approving 725 contracts worth 136 billion afghanis. The minister claimed 14 billion afghanis that could be wasted were saved in the contracts.

He said the commission conducted 46 weekly meetings and three emergency meetings, in which 66 contracts worth 5.6 million afghanis had been rejected and 108 contracts sent for a review. He said contracts with 47 companies were scrapped due to poor quality work and other issues. Hakimi said these efforts and tight scrutiny brought 40 percent of contracts up to the standard and work on the remaining contracts was underway.

He said: "No government authority can reject a project under the pretext of non-availability of funds."

Justice Minister Abdul Basir Anwar said the scrutinized contracts had been reformed and most legal issues resolved.

He said more accuracy and transparency needed approval of laws relating NPC by the parliament. (Pajhwok)

### (3) India Provides ...

installment of \$1 million in August 2015.

"With the assistance, about 214 Afghan children, covering the age group from as young as 4 months to 18/19, have been treated at various hospitals in India," the statement added.

India - the largest regional provider of humanitarian aid and reconstruction aid to Afghanistan - also lends financial, technical and training support to the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health in Kabul. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Obama Acknowledges.

or when we have made mistakes even with best of intentions," the president argued.

The Obama administration was vehemently denounced in October 2015 when an AC-130 gunship struck a hospital in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province. The trauma centre was run by Doctors Without Borders. The number of civilian fatalities resulting from drone attacks over the years is yet to be known, but the Bureau of Investigative Journalism estimates that close to 1,000 people have been killed in Pakistan alone. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Circles within...

forces for several years.

The statement comes a day after some Afghan political figures accused the party of trying to score political points in the talks in the shape of ministries, a claim dismissed as baseless by Amin Karim, a top negotiator for Hizb-e-Islami on Saturday. He said that the allegations were part of the war propaganda against the group to damage the peace process. Hizb-e-Islami negotiators have stressed that it has entered a peace dialogue in line with the law and without setting preconditions in a bid to seal a peace agreement and to motivate the Taliban factions to enter similar dialogue.

Preliminary talks with Hizb-e-Islami were apparently instigated seventeen months ago, however this is the first time that the party has entered face-to-face talks with the Afghan government.

In the past the Hizb-e-Islami and the Afghan government reached an agreement on a number of issues, but on Saturday, Karim, said that there have been some changes in the document signed with the government a month before.

"Specific elements inside the government consider political power as a war trophy. They are creating obstacles before the peace process and a stable Afghanistan," said Karim. He however said that they consider President Ashraf Ghani as the main side of the talks.

While the Hizb-e-Islami rejects rumors over the demands of the party for ministries, there has been speculation that the party has asked for some ministries to be allotted to Hizb-e-Islami.

"I consider these bitter comments as a collection of propaganda to disrupt the peace process. I reject that the Hizb-e-Islami has demanded the positions of ministries and is eyeing specific ministries and I consider them as war propaganda against peace," he added. It seems that still government and Hizb-e-Islami are disagreeing over a number of issues.

"There are differences in opinions. I hope that these differences will change from armed conflicts to political differences," said Esmail Qasem-yar, a High Peace Council member.

"I assure you that a large number of the Mujahideen fighting in the Taliban's lines are main affiliates of Hizb-e-Islami. They are waiting for the deal between government and Hizb-e-Islami so as to take a specific and more accurate decision about them joining the peace process," Karimi added.

The complete drawdown of foreign troops from Afghanistan has been one of the key demands of Hizb-e-Islami in the past, but what response the government will give to the demand remains uncertain. (ToloneWS)

### (6) German FM ...

the visiting German minister as saying that recent terrorist attacks had highlighted the need for all-out cooperation among nations in the international war on terrorism and extremism.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdydalyev suggested the creation of the Afghanistan Studies Centre at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek. The most serious security threats to Central Asia emanated from Afghanistan, he claimed.

He identified the threats as terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and weapons smuggling. The proposed research centre would provide information about the situation in Afghanistan to all OSCE states, he said.

"I think the proposed initiative will be one concrete contribution to the strengthening of our cooperation and will find the support of all members of the organisation," Abdydalyev believed. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Abducted...

operation in the province, Herat police spokesman Abdul Rauf Ahmadi, wrote on his Facebook wall without further details.

He had earlier told Pajhwok Afghan News the deminers were kidnapped on Friday by fighters loyal to Mullah Haidar and Mullah Tofan in Gulran district.

Earlier, Jilani Farhad, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News it was unclear who was behind the kidnappings.

Halo Trust, a non-profit organisation that clears landmines in war-torn communities around the world, has not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

### (8) UNHCR ....

deal. However, neither side is fully ready, with officials scrambling to be able to make at least a symbolic start as new arrivals rise.

Over 51,000 refugees are currently in Greece, the UNHCR said.

"We are urging the parties to the recent EU and Turkey agreement on refugees and migrants to ensure that all safeguards are in place before any returns begin. This is in light of continued serious gaps in both countries," UNHCR spokeswoman Melissa Fleming told a Geneva news briefing.

The agency, which says nine in 10 of refugees arriving on rickety boats are fleeing for their lives, has voiced concerns that Turkey may deport refugees en masse to Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq where they could face persecution or violence.

Meanwhile, conditions on the islands of Lesbos and Samos - where three people were stabbed in rioting on Thursday night - and at the Athens port of Piraeus and Idomeni at the border with Macedonia are worsening, she said.

"The risk of panic and injury in these sites and others is real," Fleming said. The EU must provide greater support, as promised, to boost Greece's creaking asylum system, she said. (ToloneWS)

### (9) Social Media...

technologies to forge the text of the decrees issued by the Presidential Palace and use the open environment of social media for its publish and promotion.

Calling such steps as amoral and illegal, the Palace said the publication of such topics disrupts the minds of the people, warning that forgery is a violation of law and will accompany prosecution.

The Palace also called on social media users to immediately remove the forged decrees and clarify people regarding the forgery of the documents, insisting that those who have received wrong information that has led to their anxiety, have the right to be briefed and apologized.

There has been a significant advancement in access to internet since 2002 facilitating the youths of the country to have access to internet and social media. The youths, civil and rights activists and politicians see the potential for social media to become a major fo-

rum for public engagement.

Facebook and Twitter are the two most popular social media networks in Afghanistan where majority of the youths have subscribed. (KP)

### (10) Pakistan,....

the event. Addressing the participants, Afghan Foreign Minister said that both Pakistan and Afghanistan had been facing the challenge of terrorism and they required to jointly fight the menace. He stated that both countries were bonded by geography, culture, religion and history and it was essential to further promote and strengthen bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of the two neighbouring countries. He felicitated the Government of Pakistan on behalf of the people and Government of Afghanistan on its National Day Reception. The Minister condemned the suicide attack that recently took place in Lahore, resulting in loss of innocent human lives. He also expressed his gratitude to the government of Pakistan for hosting Afghan refugees for long time.

Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador to Afghanistan, Syed Abrar Hussain, said that it was highly imperative to build a multi-pronged and dynamic Pak-Afghan relationship which is befitting to the traditions and values of the two sides. He said that Pakistan wanted to promote cooperation with Afghanistan. "Peace and stability in Afghanistan would ensure peace and stability in Pakistan, the region and the world" he added. The Ambassador lauded the immense progress made by Afghanistan in the past 14 years, saying it has started to emerge as a stable democracy, is continuing to develop a resilient security force, and is visualizing a reformative economic agenda as goals for the Transformation Decade. The Ambassador went on to say that the vision of Pakistani leadership hinged on close and cooperative relations with Afghanistan for which Pakistan had made serious efforts especially since the National Unity Government (NUG) took charge in Afghanistan in September 2014. He informed the participants that Pakistan had made abundantly clear that peaceful, stable and economically developed Afghanistan was in its vital national interest. Syed Abrar Hussain stated that Pakistan and Afghanistan faced many challenges which can be overcome by forging a multi-faceted cooperative relationship by the two sides. He also underlined the need for taking joint efforts to fight terrorism, poverty, hunger and disease. At the end, he thanked all participants for attending the Reception. (PR)

from the Zarger plant in Lebap province is among Ashgabat's initiatives to boost cooperation with regional countries, according to the report. A contract for installing the power generation system at the plant has been awarded to the Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems (MHPs), which will supply three sets of M701 DA gas turbine and generator to the plant. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Afghanistan to...

members, local elders and lawmakers. He said the delegation, during its investigation, learnt that 634 posts at the education department were being headed by acting officials who enjoyed the backing of powerful individuals.

Their family and other relations also played a key role in allowing them to remain on these posts in acting capacity, he said. Mahrin said eligible individuals coming through transparent means were not allowed to occupy these positions and those with strong reference and relations were preferred and hired. The advisor said the process of appointing 642 teachers, which had been halted by the former governor, was re-launched after hurdles in the process were removed. Mahrin said: "In the past, teachers were hired on contract basis, who were not qualified, but this year bachelor's degree holders and qualified teachers would be hired in schools." He said they had evidence showing the orders of the education minister had been discarded by school directors and principles keeping personal interests supreme.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Sharif Mubariz, head of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) in Badakhshan, said discharging duty by acting officials had a negative impact on the performance of the education department's administration. He alleged the education department's human resource section had no proper understanding with IARCSC and therefore acting officials continued to work on key posts. But Lotfullah, the human resource

### (12) Graft, ...

officer at the Badakhshan education department, said the removal of acting officials was a time-consuming process. He added officials did not accept their transfer unless they accepted the area where they were being stationed.

Syed Mohammad Shamsher, an employee of the education department, said he had been on the post for the past two years. He got 70 marks in a competitive test for promotion and his colleague who got 60 marks was able to get the promotion. He said he had been a victim of injustice.

The investigative delegation submitting its report to the Education Ministry hoped some reshuffle might take place in the Badakhshan education department to end the ongoing mismanagement. (Pajhwok)

Afghan student, Ghayasuddin said, calling such exhibitions as a good exposure to international culture. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Afghan ...

had promised to build schools in border areas to prevent children from attending Pakistani schools, but their promises were yet to be honoured. "We are happy that our children are learning. Pakistan has provided this facility to our children while our own government just makes promises and do nothing in practical," he said. He said students attending Pakistani schools were learning all about Pakistan and they sang the national anthem of that country.

Hashim Khan, a tribal elder, also said they had shared the issue with Afghan officials but nothing could be practically done. "All education materials in schools across the border are in Pashto language, the curriculum is Pakistani. Pakistani officials who attend important meetings at these schools promise Afghan children of providing them all education facilities," he said. A number of other residents of the district held similar views. Barmal district education officer, Mohammad Hanif, confirmed more than 600 local children were attending Pakistani schools.

"I have already shared the issue with the education department. I opened schools in border areas for our children, but the education department did not deploy teachers there," he said. He said children from Barmal district attending Pakistani schools were learning Pakistan education curriculum and wore their special uniform. Provincial education director, Kochai Zazai, also confirmed the issue and said they had provided all education facilities to Barmal children, but the children voluntarily chose Pakistani schools.

He asked security organs to prevent Barmal children from attending Pakistani schools. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Hundreds of...

clashes came to an end. To a question, Hazim ruled out corruption in the anti-polio campaign because the process was being monitored by the government, the Taliban and health workers. He acknowledged the conflict had somehow affected the anti-polio struggle.

Sardar Mohammad, a resident of Nawzad district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that vaccination took place in their area, but he did not if all the areas were being covered. He said the Taliban were not creating problems for polio vaccinators in Nawzad. The Taliban currently rule the town.

Last year, a positive polio case surfaced in Garamsir district. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Helmand

result of carelessness, and that women and children were among those killed and wounded. The crash took place Friday amid celebrations of the Persian new year, which began March 21 and is followed by 13 days of festivities, including family visits and picnics.

Traffic accidents are common across Afghanistan, where roads are poorly maintained and drivers routinely ignore traffic regulations. (AP)

### (16) Road Accident ...

Pajhwok Afghan News. The road between Asmar district and Nuristan province had also been closed by a rockslide in Dabbarwara area of Kunar, where 18 metres wide debris fell on the road, he said. Clearing equipment has been dispatched to the scene and action would be soon initiated to clear the road for traffic, he added.

A resident of Narrai district, Shir Zaman, said the highway remained blocked due to the land-sliding over the past two days. The road closure had landed local people in serious trouble, he said, asking the authorities concerned to clear the roads.

### (17) Landslides...

and hundreds of families were obliged to leave their houses because of floods. He asked welfare societies to help the victims. Uruzgan disasters department head, Asmatullah Fayz, said one person was drowned and another was missing in Gizab district in floods. Another two persons were killed as the roof of their home fell on Friday night in Darafshan locality of the capital, Fayz said. He said the death toll could increase if the rains continued.

### (18) Joblessness....

It has been raining heavily in central capital Kabul and several other provinces over the past few days, landing local residents in deep trouble. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Use of Pakistani...

of officials and in some government projects it paves the ground for further use of the currency in Nangarhar markets," said Noor Agha Zwak, a political analyst in Nangarhar.

Meanwhile, another political analyst in Nangarhar, Matiullah Ahmadzai, said: "Most of the residents and businessmen are trying to prevent the use of Pakistani rupees in Nangarhar markets."

### (20) At Least 3...

Nangarhar Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi however said the problem is countrywide and that it should be tackled. "This is not an issue just in Nangarhar; I think it is a national issue. A way should be found to push people to use Afghan currency in their daily business transactions, not Pakistani Rupees," he said.

### (21) 4 Kidnappers...

A number of analysts in economic affairs meanwhile said the use of foreign currencies, particularly Pakistani Rupees, in parts of the country has had a negative impact on the value of the Afghani in local markets. (ToloneWS)

### (22) 52 IS Militants ...

and areas on the outskirts of the provincial capital and shifted them to unknown locations," Mashraqiwal added. He did not provide details about the identities of the detainees, saying they were under investigation. About two weeks back, the father of the Chief Justice was kidnapped from Jalalabad and transferred to an unknown location. But he was rescued during an operation.

Haji Yasin, a shopkeeper in Jalalabad, said people were concerned about the increasing kidnapping cases. "We close shops in the afternoon and go home. Businessmen also worry about their children." Provincial council secretary Zabihullah Zmarai confirmed the rising kidnapping incidents and said the police strength was insufficient to counter crime. He said they had shared the issue with the government but the officials concerned had done nothing to address it. He demanded a special strategy to thwart kidnap cases. (Pajhwok)

(Pajhwok)

### (18) Joblessness....

Mohammad Zahir Azimi, said he was unaware if the jobless youth had joined the Taliban. He said the government was working to provide jobs to people.

"There is no doubt that the graph of joblessness has increased, but the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is trying to provide jobs to people, particularly to the educated ones," he said.

Zarhgon Mulzim, editor in chief of Kunduz Gazette and a civil society activist, said the youth were asset of a country, who could lead a state in future, but the Afghan government had ignored them.

"In the current sensitive situation, the government should have effective plans for preventing the youth from migrating to foreign countries by resolving the joblessness problem," he said.

Wahidullah Rahmani, a resident of Kunduz City, the provincial capital, said the ongoing conflict would continue until people were provided with job opportunities.

He said several Afghan youth after higher education could not find jobs and had joined the Taliban militants in rural areas.

Rahmani, who got a government job after suffering from several problems, said joblessness forced people into joining militants. He asked the government to help people and provide them with jobs and prevent them from swelling militant ranks. (Pajhwok)

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### (22) 52 IS Militants ...

the troops' lines and the IS militants in downtown Heet, the source said. Meanwhile, teams of explosive experts are defusing dozens of roadside bombs and booby-trapped ve-

hicles and buildings planted earlier by IS militants on the roads leading to central the town, the source added. Also in the province, U.S.-led coalition warplanes bombarded IS positions in the areas of Albu Bali, AlbuShihab and AlbuShejil in east of the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, leaving at least 35 IS militants killed and destroying four of their vehicles, the source said. (Xinhua)

### (23) Greece Set...

per day and "Lesvos" will transfer a total of 100 persons per day (50 refugees and 50 security officers).

Under the deal which was ratified by Greece's parliament on Friday evening, Athens, Ankara and European partners will be cooperating in order to curb the massive refugee influx into Europe via the Aegean.

More than a million people have landed on Greek shores since January 2015. (Xinhua)

### (24) Syrian Army ....

on dismantling booby-traps the IS terror militants had planted to thwart the progress of the Syrian forces toward that city.

Qaryatain is the last stronghold of the IS near the mountainous region of Qalamoun, north of Damascus and close to the Lebanese borders. (Xinhua)

### (25) Syrian ...

concerning the negotiations process." Assad has said he thinks the Geneva talks can produce a new Syrian government that includes opposition, independents and loyalists, but has explicitly rejected the idea of a transitional authority.

Russia and the United States disagree on Assad's future but have jointly pressed the Syrian government and the opposition to attend the indirect peace talks in Geneva, which are being mediated by a United Nations envoy.

"We are not afraid of the U.S.-Russian rapprochement," Hijab said. "But we fear the secrecy, the lack of clarity and lack of transparency. (Reuters)

### (26) DPRK ...

its fourth nuclear test on Jan. 6. On March 7, South Korea and the United States kicked off their joint annual war games "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle." The "Key Resolve" exercise ended last month, but the "Foal Eagle" field training exercise is scheduled to last till April 30.

Pyongyang has repeatedly denounced the U.S.-South Korea military exercises as a dress rehearsal for northward invasion. (Xinhua)

### (27) Turkish Coast...

coast. The men, women and children were seen sitting in a white tent, shielding their faces, with dozens of orange life jackets piled outside.

Disagreement over how to deal with hundreds of thousands of migrants from Syria and elsewhere threatens to tear the 28-nation EU apart, making the deal with Turkey critical to resolving the crisis.

Turkey agreed last month to take back all migrants and refugees who crossed informally into Greece after March 20 in exchange for financial aid, visa-free travel for Turks and accelerated accelerated bloc-membership talks.

Thousands of migrants are still attempting the dangerous sea crossing, although arrivals have slowed. More than 1,900 people have reached Greece so far this week despite poor weather conditions, and a total of 5,622 have registered since March 20. (Reuters)

### (28) Syria Cease...

a Britain-based monitoring group told The Associated Press.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said fighting continued throughout the day Saturday close to the village of Tel al-Ais, which overlooks the main road connecting Aleppo with the capital, Damascus.

The coordinated rebel and Nusra Front offensive follows weeks of air raids on opposition-held areas despite a "cessation of hostilities" that came into effect late February.

The truce agreement, the first of its kind in Syria's five year war, excludes the Nusra Front and the Islamic State group. But the Nusra Front is embedded with other groups throughout the country. The government has taken advantage of this ambiguity to strike and besiege opposition-held areas across Syria. (AP)

### (29) Iran Nuclear ...

16, all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran by the European Union, the Security Council and the US were lifted. Iran, in return, has put some limitations on its nuclear activities. (PressTV)