

(1) Senators...

Twelve recruits died and at least 38 were injured.

"Currently people in Afghanistan have really drowned in blood, they are complaining about unemployment and the economic situation of people is very bad and the insecurity is increasing day by day," said Gulalai Akbari, a senator.

"I offer my condolences to the people of Afghanistan, because they lost those who are fighting to defend their country and we are witness that they even sacrificed their lives," Anarkali Honaryar, another senator said.

The senators said that government will lose its credibility if it does not work to improve people's lives.

"The government should bow down to the people's demands. The situation will continue to deteriorate with the passage of everyday [unless government does something about it]," said Lutfullah Baba, a senator.

"It is the slogan of the government to bring about reforms, but unfortunately they [leaders of the NUG] are working for their personal interests," said Farhad Sakhi, the second deputy speaker of the Meshrano Jirga.

"Those who lost their lives to defend their country are martyrs and their sacrifices should be honored," said Mohammad Alam Eazdyar, another senator.

The senators called on leaders of the NUG to put their differences aside and to pull Afghanistan out of its current crisis. (Tolonews)

(2) Govt. Set ...

provinces after open competition. The recruitment process for the rest of the positions is underway," the education minister told the house.

He said 100 vacant positions of directors and managers would be announced for competition soon. He said most staff were needed in remote and restive districts and these vacancies remained vacant. He said the only way to resolve the issues was to increase by 30 to 50 percent salaries of teachers serving in remote parts of the country.

Meanwhile, public health minister Ferozuddin Feroz said there were 2094 vacant posts at the ministry and they had recently recruited nearly 1500 individuals with help of IARCSC through open competition. He said the rest of the remaining 320 posts were located in restive areas and no one was ready to perform duty in those areas despite being offered high salaries. (Pajhwok)

(3) Rula Ghani ...

is at the forefront of empowering women across Asia. In Afghanistan, this entails a focus on girls' and women's education as the key to strengthening their participation in social, political and economic life.

Rula Ghani was selected as one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2015. "She has vowed to improve living standards for Afghan women and initiated a national conversation about violence against women," the statement said.

Dedicated to fostering an environment in which all citizens could achieve their potential and take part in the country's development, she is active with Aschiana, a local organisation that helps educate street children. (Pajhwok)

(4) MoPH Holds...

These experiences may constitute a violation of a woman's basic human rights, and a dishonor to the trust women place in caregivers and the health system.

Dr. Ahmad Jan Naim, Deputy Minister of Public Health, opened the workshop by emphasizing that advancing respectful care "is a priority for the Ministry of Public Health in efforts to increase facility birth and the delivery of quality services, as well as to ensure respect of women's rights." Greg Adams, USAID's Director of the Office of Health and Nutrition, said the agency was committed to improving maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes. He said USAID would continue to support the Ministry of Public Health in building on the progress to date and accelerating efforts to promote Respectful Maternity Care approaches within existing services for women, newborns, and children. The implementation of the Re-

spectful Maternity Care package will be supported by the MoPH in collaboration with the USAID-funded HEMAYAT project along with multiple partners. (Pajhwok)

(5) USAID...

fabrication, carpentry, digital printing, geoscience services." On behalf of USAID, Sayed Hamid Hasami, ABADE Regional Manager-North, expressed his appreciation to the Afghan small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that had successfully completed investment partnerships with the ABADE public private alliance program.

The program promotes sustained business growth and jobs creation by mitigating the risks of investment. Under the program, SME partners define their growth plans and commit their resources to implement it.

ABADE complements their plans by contributing new capital equipment and providing technical assistance to help incorporate this into the businesses' activity.

"ABADE provides vital support to the private sector in Balkh province. This program helps us become self-sufficient, creates more job opportunities, and families are happy as they see their income increase," said Engineer Sher Ahmad Sepahizada, Regional Office Director of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

"We have always offered our support to ABADE and are always ready to join hands with them for more development".

ABADE is a \$105 million project that runs from October 2012 to April 2017. Up to now, it has developed more than 280 public-private alliances with Afghan SMEs with a combined value of over USD 260 million, resulting in increased sales and employment opportunities for Afghan businesses. (Pajhwok)

(6) Civilians ...

and condemned it in its strongest term.

Previously on April 6, a suicide bomber blew himself up in Kandahar city, the capital of southern Kandahar province killing himself and a civilian and injured another civilian, according to provincial police spokesman Zia Durani.

Similarly, a suicide bomber riding motorbike detonated his explosive device next to a school in Sia Gird district of the eastern Parwan province on April 5, killing himself and six innocent civilians, according to district governor Mohammad Sayyed Seddiqi.

The official in talks with Xinhua asserted that 26 more civilians sustained injuries in the deadly incident.

Civilians in Afghanistan usually bear the brunt of war as report of UNAMA (UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) released in February said that militancy and conflicts had claimed 3,545 lives of civilians and injured 7,457 others in 2015. (Xinhua)

(7) Analysts Blame ...

The Taliban to the negotiation tables.

"We should not lose hope. We hope that the peace talks will yield results and the Taliban will come to the negotiation tables," said Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar, the HPC's advisor on international affairs.

Representatives of Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and United States have held four meetings and drew up a roadmap for direct peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. The militant group however rejected the quadrilateral meetings and refused to join the peace process that was scheduled for early March. (Tolonews)

(8) NUG Leaders ...

Meanwhile, Mohammad Natiqi, a member of the commission for monitoring the political agreement, said the NUG is committed to implementing its commitments mentioned in the agreement.

"There is no delay in implementing the political agreement, bringing reforms in electoral bodies and holding the Loya Jirga [Grand Assembly]. Government is committed to addressing its commitments mentioned in the agreement," he added.

After signing the agreement, the NUG leaders agreed to bring reforms to electoral bodies, hold parliamentary elections as well as a Loya Jirga. However, some experts have said they believe that little has been done by gov-

ernment to fulfill their promises. (Tolonews)

(9) Turkey ...

people were killed and dozens injured on Monday afternoon when a suicide bomber rammed his bomb-laden motorcycle into a bus carrying military personnel in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, local officials have said. (AA)

(10) Kunar University ...

that facility or any other means of subsistence.

"I can't afford going back home every day or rent a room in the city. If not assisted, I may not complete my education," said the resident of Narang district, which is 15 to 20 kilometres from Asadabad, the provincial capital.

But according to the university's policy, students living at a minimum distance of 35km from the university are eligible for hostel facility.

Bahar Ali, a student of the education and training faculty, said he was from Khogyani district of neighbouring Nangarhar province. He said he had filled out the form to apply for hostel and hoped he would be granted a room.

He said the hostel should be provided with facilities like electricity, clean drinking water, the internet and others.

Fourth year student at the Computer Science faculty, Attiqullah, said the big problem on the campus was insufficient supply of electricity.

He said the university was supplied electricity for a few hours a day and most of the time the power remained suspended.

Ustad Mir Ahmad Hamid, the university chancellor, said they had provided hostel facility to 1,000 students. He said there were more students who needed hostel, but the university could not accommodate them.

Hamid said students who were unable to be granted rooms in the hostel were monthly given 1,848 afghanis per month in return.

The chancellor said the Ministry of Higher Education had introduced 1401 new students for admission through the university entrance test for the new academic year. He said the fresh students included 50 girl students.

He said the university had no exclusive hostel facility for girls, but the girls could use the building of a department as hostel.

Higher Education Minister Farida Momand, while inaugurating the hostel for boys on the campus, had promised the construction of a hostel for girls in the Syed Jamaluddin Afghan University. (Pajhwok)

(11) WB Projects ...

from 1.9 percent in 2016 to 2.9 percent in 2017," the report said, adding fiscal vulnerabilities remained high and would require a large revenue effort and sustained levels of aid.

Future prospects hinged critically on improvements in security tapping into new sources of economic growth and creating an enabling environment for the private sector to invest, the Bank said.

The report said the region's economic performance prospects remained strong due limited exposure to global turbulence, coupled with increasing investment activity.

However, there are also signs of fading tailwinds. Capital flows to the region have declined and remittances from oil exporting countries have started to weaken. Fuel and food prices remain low but are unlikely to keep falling. As a result overall output growth is slower than previously anticipated and inflation has recently been creeping up, it said. (Pajhwok)

(12) In Kandahar, ...

started begging. He spends the day seeking alms.

Clad in tattered clothes, the barefoot boy told Pajhwok Afghan News: "My father was killed in an explosion. My mother and I recently started begging for survival."

He said they had never imagined falling on such bad time as long as his father was alive. However, they ran into a host of problems after Naeem's father passed away. "I started going to school two years ago, when my father worked as a labourer to feed our family. But my school days were numbered. With my father's death, all my dreams were shattered," he added. He lived for some time

with his uncle, but was soon told to fend for himself. "My mother, two sisters and I now live in a ruined house in Kandahar City.

"I beg all day long, making 60 afghanis with which I buy food," said the boy, whose mother washes clothes and dishes for neighbours. When she has no work, she also goes begging with her son.

"I know begging is not good. Some people abuse us, but we have no other option," remarked Naeem, who regretted many children like him were robbed of their innocence by poverty.

Niamatullah, 9, is another child, who begs along with his little sister on streets. His father, a drug addict, is a drag on his family: He and his sister have to feed him and other family members.

"Many a night, we don't go home and sleep in front of shops," he said.

A resident of Kandahar City, Haji Syed Mohammad, groups of small beggars could be seen in every square of the provincial capital, imploring people for alms.

Begging undermined a child's personality and harmed his/her future, he said, asking the government to work for addressing the issue of joblessness and preventing skiving.

Provincial Labour and Social Affairs Director Nazar Ali Qate confirmed the number of begging women and children was rising. He said they could not conduct a survey to ascertain the number of beggars or help them due to a shortage of workers and lack of resources. He linked begging to insecurity and joblessness.

"With the job market shrinking after foreign soldiers' pullout, people are really in bad shape," Qate said, adding many families had moved from districts to Kandahar City due to insecurity.

Support from the US-led international community and the Afghan government was central to resolving the serious problem, he believed. (Pajhwok)

(13) Khataba ...

standing on home's roof. They also sported beards. Then they came down to the courtyard and entered rooms."

"First my eldest son Mohammad Daud came out and was shot dead and then my second son came out, he was also gunned down."

After this, the crying women came out to the courtyard and they all were shot one and after another by the Americans, leaving a pool of blood behind.

The American forces kept standing in the open the family's guests until morning at a time when the entire area was covered with snow, the 85-year-old said.

Sharab Khan said the foreign troops searched their home, but found nothing, but took away 4.7 million Pakistani rupees from their home while leaving.

Since the incident, he said, government officials had many times promised assistance, but they did not keep their promises.

"The American forces later returned 1.5 million rupees and the Afghan government gave us 600,000 afghanis in aid. But later no one turned up to help us."

Sharab Khan said the American forces had acknowledged their involvement in the raid and had apologized. "The American troops many times came to my home and then provided us food assistance."

He said it was his entire family's demand and wish to see the killers of his two sons, a daughter and two daughters-in-law tried and punished for their deeds.

The grey-bearded man said he was responsible to support families of his slain sons, who left behind eight children. To meet financial needs, Sharab Khan buys and sells household animals.

In breaking voice, Sharab Khan said: "If (President) Obama had offered me kingship of the whole world, I would not have given him any of sons. The lives of my sons and family members went in vain. I wish they were not innocent." He said his sons were not with the Taliban, but with the government and a ranger pick-up vehicle was parked in front of their house when the raid took place. This reporter tried to talk to another member of the family, but no one appeared for an interview. Paktia police chief Brig. Gen. Qadir Gul Zadran told Pajhwok Afghan News the deadly raid took place some years back in Khataba village.

"At the time, I was not here. It is government's responsibility to

assist such families."

Zadran said he would again share the family's problems with government officials and foreigners in order to provide them assistance. (Pajhwok)

(14) Hundreds...

they had issued several notices to the Afghans to leave Pakistan and vacate houses.

The drive would continue till all houses owned by the Afghans were razed, warned the official, as the affected families deplored what they called abrupt action. Their requests for an extension in the deadline were ignored.

A total of 318 households, including 826 individuals, were residing in a Bacha Maina. Some of the expelled families shifted to the border town of Landikotal instead of being deported to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(15) Cases...

also complained about a lack of space.

Provincial Attorney Abdul Rashid Abid acknowledged cases of some prisoners could be investigated to establish their crimes. He said some innocent people were among the prisoners and pledged to probe their cases soon.

He said earlier prisoners were tortured in the jail but now the issue had been resolved. He said some women prisoners would be released soon in compliance with a presidential decree.

Mohammad Mael Abidi, in charge of the Ghazni jail, said jail officials behaved in a decent manner with prisoners. He said security of the prison had been improved.

Last year, insurgents stormed the prison and freed 326 inmates. But prison officials claimed most of the fleeing prisoners had been recaptured. (Pajhwok)

(16) Woman, 5...

Elm Khan Valley. Their corpses have been taken to the police headquarters.

Separately, two more fighters collecting Ushr, (10th part of harvest) were killed by security forces in the same district, Akbar said. Two Kalashnikovs and as many motorbikes were seized by security forces, he added.

Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. TorkyalaiAbdyan, claimed arresting two individuals with a pistol. He accused the detainees of planning attack security forces in the 2nd district police of Farah City.

Abdyanisaid Sergeant Eid Saleh, a member of the special police unit who was captured by the Taliban during an operation in Shah Mubarak area of Pushtrod district last summer, had been released.

The release took place following efforts of police operatives and mediation from local elders, he added. (Pajhwok)

(17) Police Arrest...

Baazi in Afghanistan which continues in parts of the country despite the act has been outlawed by the government.

According to documentary, the young boys are normally recruited by influential individuals, taking advantage of their poverty and other social issues the young boys face, including the enormous amount of money needed for the marriage.

The documentary findings shows the boys are receiving the cost of their wedding from their owners after they reach the age adolescence.

One of the men who has been allegedly arrested says the boys should be about 12, 13, or 15 years old to be recruited as a Bacha - a term usually used to call the children recruited for dancing and other sexual abuse.

He said the business owners "support" their boys until their "sell-by-date" expires, at about 25. "When a boy is older, we make their life better. We buy the bacha clothes, pay for their wedding when they're no longer wanted. We feed them well, we prepare all their food for them. We do everything!" he says in all honesty.

The documentary also reveals the sexual abuse the young children are subjected to, including painful sexual offense at the hands of their owners. "At first, I didn't know much about it, I thought it was just a game," he told RT, adding that "sex can hurt badly too, but money is important," said one of the boys who was first offered to become a bach in the age of 12. (KP)

(18) Chor Student ...

condition, he said.

He said it remained unclear whether the students had been poisoned by food or something else because 500 other students ate the same food, but none of them fell ill. Akbari said 10 people, including the hostel cook and other workers, had been detained and police were investigating the incident. (Pajhwok)

(19) Plot to Attack ...

planned to attack the Kabul airport with the weapons seized. One suspect was detained in connection with the weapons. However, the NDS did not name the detainee. (Pajhwok)

(20) OIC Vows...

world will achieve the targets of the action plan with a spirit of unity and solidarity," Cavusoglu said.

At the meeting of foreign ministers, Shoukry handed over the OIC presidency to his Turkish counterpart.

The 13th OIC summit is expected to draw more than 50 heads of state or government, including Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. (Xinhua)

(21) Obama Needs...

international diplomacy and cooperation between people," should know better when it comes to the consequences of war and the preciousness of peace.

It is widely recognized that conflicts can only be solved through peaceful political and diplomatic means, which has been verified once and again in history with the settlement of the Iran nuclear issue as the latest example, while the Iraqi mess proved again that force is not the answer. (Xinhua)

(22) Freedoms...

request is being considered "very carefully" and reiterated that Germany will reach a conclusion within days.

She said it is in the interests of both Turkey and the European Union to find a "political solution" to the migrant issue - "but that is all completely independent of the fact that fundamental rights in Germany including ... the freedom of speech, opinion and academia are valid and completely uncoupled from this."

Boehmermann read the poem on ZDF television two weeks ago to illustrate what he said wouldn't be allowed in Germany, contrasting it with another channel's earlier satirical song that also poked fun at Erdogan. (AP)

(23) G7 Should...

is a blatant attempt at interference in a situation which is none of their direct concern, exposing the G7 bloc's transition from observer of the situation to meddling mischief-maker.

It is hard to ignore increased activity by certain nations with only the most tenuous right to be considered "local." Many of these activities can hardly be considered acts of outright pacifism.

The U.S. is reportedly planning to send vessels to "patrol" the South China Sea again, to ensure "freedom of navigation." Earlier this month, a Japanese submarine, a vessel with no legitimate function beyond "self-defense," showed up at a port in the Philippines for the first time in 15 years. (Xinhua)

(24) Italy's Foreign ...

He has since won the support of key institutions that control Libya's wealth and also appears to have the backing of at least some militias. But he has not received the endorsement of the country's internationally recognised parliament, while the head of a rival Tripoli-based administration has refused to recognise his authority. (AFP)

(25) Russia ...

After receiving the first batch of the systems, Iran is abandoning its claim to Russia from the International Court of Arbitration, according to Rogozin.

Russia and Iran inked the contract for the S-300 systems in 2007, which amounted to about 900 million U.S. dollars. The contract was suspended in 2010 by Russia in connection with UN sanctions. The contract between Moscow and Tehran came into force in April 2015, after the sanctions against Iran were lifted. (Xinhua)