

**(1) Provincial ...**

done in a transparent way and (directorates) will be accountable for the public financial management system," said deputy minister of finance Shafiq Ahmad Qarizada.

Abdul Sattar Murad, the minister of economy, also attended the meeting and said giving more authority to local governments and institutions, especially in budgeting and planning matters, will help provinces reach their goals of growth and balanced development.

"Growth and balanced development is one of the priorities and goals of government. This won't be acquired unless government offers good services, establishes a good financial and planning system and specifies the roles of central and local officials," he said.

"In the past we tried different plans such as the provincial five-year strategic plan, but due to a lack of budget the plan was not implemented," said Abdul Moqtader, the director of policy and planning for the Independent Directorate of Local Governance.

Meanwhile a number of parliament members criticized government over what they said was a decrease in planning and budget spend by local authorities over the past two years.

"Two to three years ago local governments were involved in planning and budgeting and then their authorities were decreased and the decisions were taken by central government. I urge the ministers of economy, finance, the National Procurement Commission and the government to reinstate authorities to local government," said the head of the Wolesi Jirga's Finance Commission, Amir Khan Yaar.

According to the ministries of economy and finance, a provincial budgeting approach over development projects will be planned by local government officials in consultation with the people.

Also local government will have more authority to spend the budget, the ministries said. (Tolnews)

**(2) Indian PM,...**

on Monday visited Pakistan where he met civilian and military leaders, stressing "the need to confront terrorism in all its forms"

Earlier, he also visited Afghanistan to review efforts at stabilising Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(3) 13 IS ...**

on Thursday evening. A security official on Tuesday told Pajhwok Afghan News that 96 IS fighters, including 13 commanders, had been killed in the attack.

The source said the commanders had links with India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The official said Daesh commanders killed in the attack were identified as following:

Commander Shahid Omar Afridi, a former Pakistani Taliban member.

Commander Wilcon, brother of former Daesh leader Hafiz Sayed.

Mumtaz, a retired Pakistani military officer.

Abobakr Orakzai, Daesh operation unit commander.

Sheikh Waqas, a former member of Lashkar-e-Taiba of Pakistan and a resident of Orakzai agency.

Daesh commanders Mohammad and Allah Gupta were from India.

Yasir Khorasani was from Afghanistan, Emran Orakzai and Aftab Punjabi from Pakistan, Hamzah Orakzai, Hamid Kunari and Haji Saad Kunari were other Daesh commanders killed in the strike,

He said 13 Indian Daesh militants were also among those killed in the attack. Before the attack, local residents were evacuated from the area, he added.

The official said the bomb could cause casualties in a 1.8 mile radius and could deafen a person in a 2.5 miles radius.

About the reason the area was attacked, the official said important Daesh hideouts existed in the cave complex where the rebels from other parts of the world would also come and meet.

He said Daesh fighters used to sneak from the area to other

parts of Afghanistan.

The official said he could not comment about the impact of the attack on Daesh militants, but was sure it would definitely leave a long-term impact on the outfit.

Around 1,700 to 2,000 Daesh militants have been killed in Afghanistan so far and around 1,000 to 1,200 of the rebels still exist here, the source said.

However, a Daesh-run radio in Nangarhar province announced yesterday that none of its fighters had been killed in the Moab attack. (Pajhwok)

**(4) World Bank's...**

into developing countries to help support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives.

"World Bank has insured a number of companies through MIGA in Afghanistan, but there is little awareness about the services at the moment and there is a need to promote awareness in order to provide better opportunities of investors in Afghanistan," said Abdul Qadir Bahman, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) CEO.

However, business owners have said that the World Bank needs to help speed up efforts regarding this service.

Officials from Industry Owners Association said that at the moment there is no guarantee of investment protection in the country and investors are exposed to huge threats.

"Taking into account that besides existing problems, necessary requirements must be provided in this sector so companies have a source of guarantee for investments otherwise there will be no more investments in the country," said Sakhi Dad Paiman, head of the Industry Owners Association.

According to the ACCI, MIGA in Afghanistan has insured three big companies against losses incurred in a change in political system and trade problems. (Tolnews)

**(5) President ...**

to the country. My struggle in the election was to prevent instability; otherwise we would have witnessed a civil war," he said.

A written agreement on the unity government formation existed and the president reserved no right to fire him, the ex-advisor maintained, asking Ghani to revoke his orders and tell the people that his decision was wrong. Earlier, the Presidential Palace said Massoud had been sacked under Article 64, Clause 13 of the Constitution. What prompted Ghani to remove Massoud, who has lately been critical of the government, remains unclear.

Massoud was first vice president from 2004 to 2009 in the first elected government of Hamid Karzai. He ran with then foreign minister Dr. Zalmay Rassoul in the 2014 presidential election, but endorsed Ghani in the second round of the vote. (Pajhwok)

**(6) China to ...**

Minister Nawaz Sharif and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Indonesian President Joko Widodo are coming too, all generally good partners of China.

"One Belt, One Road is to date the most important public good China has given to the world, first proposed by China but for all countries to enjoy," Wang said. (Reuters)

**(7) 335 Acres...**

of opium poppy in Chaparhar, 100 acres of land were cleared in Ghani Khel, and 125 acres of land were cleared in Khogyani district.

The local officials are saying that the campaign is jointly being conducted by the Afghan police, Afghan army, and the Afghan intelligence operatives and the eradication will continue until all areas are fully cleared of opium.

This comes as the local officials said earlier this month that at least one hundred and eighty hectares of land have been cleared of poppy cultivated in Bati Kot district.

The eradication campaign is being launched amid concerns that there has been a sharp rise in

opium cultivation, production and smuggling across the country during the recent months.

According to the last survey report, there has been a 43 per cent rise in opium cultivation in Afghanistan.

The survey jointly conducted by the Afghan authorities and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, around 201,000 acres of land were cultivated with opium in 2016. (KP)

**(8) Child Brides...**

government's initiative to curb the trend in the country, calling on Afghan families to implement the programs regarding the issue.

"That the girls have access to education to safe quality education and the benefits are widely felt, educated girls develop the skills and the knowledge they need to live a healthy fulfilling life, they can earn an income, they can educate their own children, they can contribute to the state and to the peace and stability, community and country," said Dr. Bennet Ndyanabangi, UNFPA representative.

"If the program is implemented, then we can control violence against women and children in the country," said Spozhmai Wardak, deputy minister of women's affairs.

Based on data from the national statistics organization, more than 17 percent of girls in Afghanistan between the age of 15 and 19 and more than 62 percent of girls between the age of 20 and 24 are married.

International organizations have said that more than 700 million women across the world have been married off at a young age, which comprises nearly ten percent of all the women in the world. (Tolnews)

**(9) Zerok District ...**

Another resident of the area, who wished to go unnamed, said: "My wife was taken ill during pregnancy. But we have no clinic and the main road is insecure. I was forced to take her to a hospital in another province but she lost her life on the way."

Zerok residents asked the officials concerned to resolve their health-related issues as soon as possible and accord priority to the development of the district. Public Health Director Dr. Wali Gul acknowledged that not only Zerok residents, but people of other remote areas were faced with similar problems.

However, he promised the two clinics in Zerok that would be equipped with professional doctors in the near future. A plan to reduce mother mortality rate has also been drawn up.

Zarok is one of remote districts of Paktika and most of its areas are under Taliban control. Paktika is a province that has not even a single female doctor. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Noor Reacts...**

to power.

Noor further added that Abdullah should clarify his stance as well as he should explain on how he is going to defend from the rights of the people.

The Office of the President, ARC Palace, on Monday night confirmed the dismissal of Ahmad Zia Massoud, the senior presidential adviser for good governance and reforms.

A spokesman for the Presidential Palace said the decision was taken since no major steps were taken to ensure good governance and reforms.

Mr. Massoud took oath as the special envoy to President Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai for reform and good governance earlier in October 2014, weeks after the formation of the government of national unity.

He was a close ally of Ghani during the election process after endorsing his team during the second round of election. (KP)

**(11) Massoud's ...**

Such a move, whether it is taken by the president or anyone else, will pave the ground for political instability and even for an escalating civil war [in Afghanistan], Massoud said.

"Reshuffling and appointments in the government institutions, either in lower or higher levels, is a normal process. I do not think that this will lead to a major controversy. These are the individuals who think that the world will change if they do not remain," university lecturer

Faizullah Jalal said.

Meanwhile, a number of members of the Meshrano Jirga, the Upper House of Parliament, on Tuesday criticized the move by the president and called for 'clarification' on the issue.

"One day they come together and create a coalition based on which they outline their personal interests; while another day, when things are not moving forward according to their demands, they try to harm each other," said Mohammad Rahim Hassanyar, a senator from Ghazni.

"I want to ask the president what responsibilities did he assign to Ahmad Zia Massoud and how much authority did he give him [Massoud] that he failed to accomplish? This must be clarified," said Faisal Sami, a senator from Baghlan.

President Ashraf Ghani fired Massoud on Monday night, without giving any details. (Tolnews)

**(12) Pakistan ...**

based in the rugged and mountainous border areas, but the exact location of the border has long been disputed by Kabul.

The general said the border management plan is part of Pakistan's efforts to eliminate terrorism from the region and help internationally-backed efforts to stabilize Afghanistan.

Ghafoor spoke shortly after a meeting between visiting U.S. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster and Pakistani army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

"He [McMaster] acknowledges Pakistan's efforts in war against terrorism. He hailed our contributions and whatever discussions took place both sides were of the view that Pak-Afghan border management is very essential to control the terrorism," General Ghafoor said while sharing details of the discussions.

General Ghafoor dismissed Afghan criticism of the fencing plan, saying the activity is being performed well inside Pakistani territory and "no one has the right to raise any objection." Afghan authorities have never accepted the marked border known as the Durand Line. Afghan officials also have said the fencing plan will add to the problems of families in the region who live on either side of the border.

McMaster visited Pakistan on Monday a day after holding talks with leaders in Afghanistan. He met with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and top Foreign Ministry officials before holding talks with the country's military chief. (VoA)

**(13) Afghan Duo ...**

and Wridhiman Sahain in the following over.

Speaking to IPL's Bhuvneshwar Kumar after the match, Nabi said: "I was a bit under pressure playing my first game.

"Obviously playing in one the biggest stages is bound to put you under pressure. I am glad I got a chance to bat and bowl in my very first game.

"My first over was forgettable though, being hit for a six. I just wanted to bowl wicket to wicket and make sure that I tie down the runs. But I am glad I could come back and pick a crucial wicket for the team.

"I hope to better my performance if I get a chance in the coming games," he said.

Meanwhile, Rashid, known as the man with a golden arm, went for runs not before picking two wickets at a crucial juncture of the game.

Speaking about the pressure while fielding in the last, nail-biting moments, of the match, Nabi said: "My heart was racing. It was a tight contest and to add to it there were two wides in the last over which made the target even closer.

"Manan Vohra was brilliant and almost won it single-handedly," he said.

Rashid meanwhile said: "I did get under the pump once I went for runs but I had self-belief that I will come back stronger in the next few overs.

"I know I have been hit for runs on deliveries that I bowled too loose. I wanted to bowl to the wicket and according to the plan. It did go haywire but I will try to better my performance in the next game," he said.

"Every time I come to bowl, I try

to outthink the batsman. If I feel that the batsman is expecting a leg-break, I bowl a googly and try to outfox them. I think that is the reason I have been getting wickets. Dot balls are very important in T20s and help you get wickets. I try to curb the runs, get dots and then go for the wickets."

For Sunrisers, who now have three wins out of three at home this season, Bhuvneshwar Kumar was the wrecker-in-chief in Monday's match, while the two Afghan lads picked up three wickets between them.

Kumar, who got Man of the Match, said: "There wasn't much pressure on me because I have bowled under such situations in the past. I was mentally prepared to bowl the second last over and I had a clear plan when I ran to bowl."

He said: "Sunrisers are known for their bowling strength and defending low totals. Tonight was just an example of the same and it was a complete team effort."

Sunrisers are set to play Delhi Daredevils in their next match on Wednesday night. The match will be broadcast live on Lemar from 7pm.

To view Rashid and Nabi's wickets click here. (Tolnews)

**(14) 10 Kapisa...**

Raqi, the capital of Kapisa. A source, meanwhile, revealed that some security officials accused of corruption.

Provincial council head Husain Sajni confirmed the arrest of 10 officials by a delegation that came from Kabul. However, there have been no comments so far from the governor's house. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Afghan Forces ...**

institutions once the investigations are over.

Both the Taliban insurgents and loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are actively operating in a number of the remote districts of Ghor province.

The ISIS loyalists killed over 30 civilians after abducting them in this province last year and abducted 6 more civilians few days later.

According to the officials, the ISIS loyalists executed the civilians to avenge the killing of their commanders who was killed during a gun battle in this province. (KP)

**(16) 67 Militants ...**

that 60 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were also destroyed.

According to MoD, the senior Taliban leader wounded during the Helmand operations has been identified as Mullah Shahwali.

The Ministry of Defense also added that 9 insurgents were killed and 11 others were wounded during a separate operation conducted in Khakriz district of Kandahar.

At least 11 Taliban insurgents were killed during a separate operation conducted in southern Uruzgan province, MoD added. The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the reports so far. (KP)

**(17) Qarabagh ...**

had always tried to secure the district.

He feared the Qarabagh district would once again become insecure if the presidential order was enforced.

But the district chief rejected assertion of the protestors as baseless, saying the security personnel were transferred following people's complaints and insecurity in the district. (Pajhwok)

**(18) Taliban Stone ...**

the Sunday's stoning. "I was present there. First the Taliban collected our cell phones and then a senior Taliban leader ordered the coupe to be stoned. People present there stoned them until they died."

Efforts at seeking comments from the Taliban did not succeed.

Ab Bazak is located 25km south of Kabul in Mohammad Agha district, which is under Taliban's control. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Taliban Leader...**

regarding the report so far. Nuristan is among the relatively volatile provinces in eastern

Afghanistan where anti-government armed militants are actively operating in a number of its remote districts and often carry out insurgency activities.

Insurgents belonging to Taliban group as well as foreign militants are operating in this province which is located along the Durand Line bordering the tribal regions of Pakistan. (KP)

**(20) Afghan Forces ...**

of leading the group's insurgency in northern Baghlan province was killed during clashes with the Afghan security forces last year.

The death of commander Uzbek followed after the group launched major attacks on Afghan security forces in this province and other key northern provinces since the start of last year.

Taliban launched a coordinated attack on the strategic Kunduz city earlier last year year with an aim to recapture the control of the city but the attack was repulsed by the Afghan forces. (KP)

**(21) Kunduz...**

sides. We have been displaced and schools shut. If the operation continues like this, results can't be achieved in a year."

But ND Director Col. Safar Mohammad said Mullah Sardar, Faiz Mohammad and Panjshiri villages on the outskirts of Kunduz City had been cleared of militants. The operation was still ongoing, he added. (Pajhwok)

**(22) White House...**

week, Trump also said China hasn't been manipulating its currency for months, a sharp reversal from his campaign rhetoric.

Many economists have argued that the Chinese currency, RMB, has been at equilibrium level in recent years. Brad Setser, an expert with Council on Foreign Relations, expected that the RMB exchange rate would remain stable at current level with China's current account surplus and its efforts to deal with capital outflows. (Xinhua)

**(23) 10th Asia...**

economy has played a vital role in Vietnam's poverty reducing, new rural construction and environment protecting activities, said Think.

Being held in Vietnam for the first time under the theme of "Vision toward 2020: Enhancing further cooperation between governments and cooperatives," the conference provides chances for countries to discuss key issues including food security and sustainable agriculture development, participation in the global value chain and economic integration, among others. (Xinhua)

**(24) U.S.-Allied ...**

people and important tribal figures of Raqqa city to find out their opinions on how to govern it", the SDF said in a statement.

Spokesman Talal Selo said the SDF would "provide all the support" and had already turned over some towns around Raqqa city to the council after driving out Islamic State militants. (Reuters)

**(25) EU-China...**

Councillor Yang Jiechi on April 19, in order to lay the groundwork for the 19th EU-China Summit in Brussels scheduled for June.

"The European Union and China share the view of a global order based on multilateralism and on the UN system: our cooperation has never been so important, in a moment when multilateral global governance is put in question from many sides," Mogherini said.

She underscored that a greater engagement from China in world affairs can "open so many opportunities, on so many issues of common interest," noting that a Chinese special envoy attended the international conference on supporting the future of Syria and the region earlier this month, and praising China's crucial role in the Afghanistan peace process. (Xinhua)

**(26) EBRD's Return ...**

human rights groups in 2003 at an event organised by Finance Minister Rustam Azimov and the EBRD to attract foreign investment into Uzbekistan. (Agencies)