

(1) President Ghani....

would be done by Afghanistan only. He said his stance on peace talks towards Pakistan was now very clear.

According to him, he has upheld his end of the bargain over the past ten months and that after coming in to power he met with Pakistan's leadership and held two-dimensional talks. He said key had been achieving peace with Pakistan and secondly peace with the Taliban.

However, Ghani said that at the time Pakistan President Nawaz Sharif said the enemies of Afghanistan are the enemies of Pakistan – “now the time has come for him to prove it”, he said.

“We have earned the support of the region in our stance against insurgents and the peace process. We are not vanishing, we are integrating,” he said.

He said Pakistan has to bring the Taliban to the talks tables and secondly stop harboring the insurgents – this includes barring them access to hospitals and other necessary services, he added.

He said Pakistan needs to have the same policy definition in regard to terrorism for Afghanistan, as it has for itself.

The focal area however for Ghani is that he wants action to be taken against those responsible for the deadly attacks these past few days against Kabul. He said action taken should be clear.

He said Afghanistan is not just asking Pakistan to bring the Taliban to the peace talks tables – instead Afghanistan wants Pakistan to take action against those who are launching attacks against Afghanistan.

“Terrorists were defeated in the battle ground, so they are targeting the public and the cities,” he said. “Terrorism is a vast and a widespread concern.”

“The blood of our people and the national interests of Afghanistan lay the basis of our relation.”

“Our righteousness has been proven and everyone knows we made all sincere efforts for peace,” he stated.

He said that Pakistan's decisions in the upcoming weeks will have a direct impact on Afghanistan's relations with them

Ghani's speech was delivered at a press conference at the Presidential Palace in the battle-weary capital of Kabul, which has faced a barrage of attacks against it over the past four days.

On Friday, three separate bombings claimed the lives of over 50 people, and injured over 400. The Taliban claimed responsibility for two of the three attacks. (Tolonews)

(2) Abdullah Questions ...

of the NUG, I don't have any words or sentences that proves there is cooperation by Pakistan with us,” Abdullah said.

“They said that Afghanistan's enemy is Pakistan's enemy. Which kind of enemy is this that they allow to commit crimes here and then hold meetings there,” he asked.

“There are traitors in this nation which are living in the situation which has been created for them by the Afghan security forces. People of Afghanistan are living here and are defending crimes in this country,” he said adding that we have to act against them.

He said that all matters relating to peace needs to be reassessed. “Our good will towards the Taliban – and those who are supporting them – should not be considered as a sign of our weakness,” the Chief Executive said.

Mohammad Natiqi, one of the government's representatives in the first round of peace talks in Murree, Pakistan, also questioned the sincerity of Pakistan towards the peace process, and said “unfortunately Pakistan is not sincere in helping Afghanistan. And the Taliban are using peace talks as a toy”.

Afghan officials believe that the holding of meetings by the Taliban to appoint their new leader is not acceptable, and that the Taliban's war has no legitimacy in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(3) China Ready....

government for continued economic, political and security assistance with Afghanistan. He said Chinese role was vital for regional stability and progress.

He said Kabul considered Beijing as a close friend and its assistance with Afghanistan would be of immense importance. (Pajhwok)

(4) Iran to Print

continue our cooperation with Afghan universities and offer them

the available resources we have.”

A gathering was held on Sunday at the MoHE to celebrate the new project, and was attended by Minister of Higher Education Farida Momand, university professors and representatives from various Afghan cultural and scientific institutions.

“I am grateful for the move taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran in this respect and this will improve the educational situation in universities across the country,” Minister Momand said.

Many Afghan universities face shortages of books and other teaching materials. Very few standardized versions of great Afghan authors exist in schools around the country.

Deputy Minister Mohammad Osman Baburi touched on why Afghan printers could not meet the country's publishing demands on their own. “Over the past several years, major work has been done in the book publication sector inside the country. But problems still exist in this sector that need to be addressed,” he said.

Relations between Iran and Afghanistan - in terms of security, economic development and culture - have expanded since the establishment of the national unity government. Iranian diplomats see the new program as evidence of Tehran's commitment to supporting Afghanistan's prosperity.

“Science doesn't recognize borders, and a country that hesitates to expand its scientific and cultural relations poses harm to itself,” Iranian cultural envoy to Kabul Sayed Mohammad Reza Jahan Shahi said. (Tolonews)

(5) Monitoring Groups....

According Behroz, one of the biggest ongoing obstacles to anti-corruption efforts is the fact that so many government institutions remain in the hands of acting officials.

In particular, the Attorney General's Office is said to have stalled on investigating and prosecuting a number of key corruption cases. “It is really a concerning issue, the Attorney General's Office has a crucial role in combating corruption, but it has been almost ten months and it is still governed by an acting chief,” he said.

Other corruption watchdogs, such as the People's Anti-Corruption Movement, have indicated their dissatisfaction with the way the national unity government has handled good governance issues. “The war on corruption is no longer at the top of the agenda,” movement member Umid Sharifi told TOLONews.

A corruption case involving six former top officials of the Ministry of Urban Development is one of the high-profile cases currently waiting to be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Legal expert Nasrullah Stanikzai echoed the assertions that the present state of the Attorney General's Office is disadvantageous for anti-corruption efforts. “The existence of caretakers in the Attorney General's office and other law enforcement organs can undermine the process of implementing justice,” he told TOLONews. “At the same time, it undermines the war on corruption and the rule of law.” (Tolonews)

(6) Mullah Mansour

he is quoted by The Express Tribune as saying.

He has also said that Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour was leading the Taliban for years and the death of Mullah Omar was kept secret in order to avoid problems. (KP)

(7) 71 Rebels

governor. He said police chief, military commander of 201st Selab Military Corps, director National Directorate of Security (NDS), commander of the 301st Border Zone and other officials attended the meeting.

He said ongoing offensive, security situations in districts, cities and arrangements for the 96th independent day had been discussed in details.

Police Chief Fazal Ahmad Sherzad praised ANA commanders and said due to better coordination things were progressing well and the ongoing offensives would yield positive outcome.

NDS director briefed the meeting about the current security situation of the province and said that security officials rendered huge scarifies to maintain law and order.

Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi praised security forces for launching offensive against terrorists in difficult time. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghanistan Caught ...

different electronic, print and on-line media outlets is set to begin tomorrow (Sunday), the in charge of the event said on Saturday.

Azizullah Barakzai told Pajhwok Afghan News different media outlets would display their pieces to demonstrate performance and inform visitors about their achievements.

It merits mention that the exhibition is being sponsored by Pajhwok Afghan News, Paywast, Oqaab and The Killid Group in collaboration the Ministry of Information and Culture. The exhibition will be opened for common people. (Pajhwok)

(9) MAIL

bring seismic changes in the standardizing and processing of fruits,” Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Asadullah Zamir said. “It prevents fruits from spoiling and plays a vital role in the development of agriculture in the country.”

Minister Zamir has promised seven more centers to be established in the near future, which is welcome news for a number of MPs in Parliament, who have pressured MAIL to focus more on supporting Afghanistan's fruit and produce in industry.

MP Irfanullah Irfan said he hopes Parliament will have more oversight over the project. “We want to have full control and assessment on the progress of such projects in hope of preventing the wastage of investments,” he said on Monday.

One of the new centers has been established in Mir Bachakot district of Kabul, and has the capacity to store and process up to seven tons of fruits at a time. The center is equipped with standard fruit dryer machines, which rely on solar power. It can dry seven tons of fruit in 24 hours. (Tolonews)

(10) Protesters Want ...

was as a result of airstrike by foreign forces, not a bomb blast. He claimed when foreign forces wanted to bomb an area, first they severed the local communications network, which was what happened in Shah Shaheed locality as well.

He urged the president to thoroughly investigate and find out what caused the explosion.

He said the government wanted to pay 100,000 afghanis for the families who lost a member or relative and 50,000 afghanis for wounded, but they refused since they did not want to sell the blood of their relatives.

Naqibullah, another protester, alleged that some security officials were aware of the attack and thought it was the Presidential Palace that was the target. He slammed security officials for not preventing the incident despite knowing it would occur.

The protesters warned to continue their demonstrations if the government did not thoroughly investigate the incident. (Pajhwok)

(11) Iran Condemns....

Afghan Health Ministry Wahidullah Mayar said that 15 people were killed and 400 civilians were wounded in the Friday bomb blast in Kabul.

Mayar said all the 400 were civilians and most sustained minor injuries from flying glass.

However, he was unable to say whether the security forces had sustained any casualties. Mayar said that the 400 people treated at Kabul hospitals were all civilians.

Afghan security forces confirmed that they had recorded injuries among their members but they would not give numbers.

The full impact of the Friday attack was clearly evident as daylight broke however.

Scores of homes and buildings were destroyed in the blast, and rubble lay strewn across the streets of Shah Shaheed.

The incident, which took place just after 1a.m. local time, occurred in a densely populated area on the outskirts of the city. (FNA)

(12) Dostum Wearing

Naqibullah Faiq said that Dostum was seen in military uniform on a military tank in Almar district today.

“Dostum took control of the command and started operation during mid last night and captured several areas from militants,” he said.

Faiq said that Mirshadi area which was the center of militants where the rebels' governor also resided was captured during an operation by Afghan forces led by Dostum.

Turbat area of Almar district which

was under Taliban's control for the last three years was also clear of militants, he said, adding that Dostum was also accompanied by his two sons Yar Mohammad and Batoor who had received military education.

Dostum also distributed food items among residents of the villages cleared of rebels, he added. (Pajhwok)

(13) Protesters Demand...

away three people including a child with them.

Amini added: “On Sunday when the news broke that the Taliban had killed the district chief's uncle, Abdul Khalid the district chief himself killed Khan Mohammad, 21, one of the abducted ones.”

He said one of the children was released on Sunday but the other one, eight years old, has been killed.

Mohammad Ibrahim, 75, Khan Mohammad's father, who was also among the protesters, said: “My son was neither a Taliban fighter nor member of any armed group. But he was working on the fields as farmer.”

“Everyone who was present at the funeral saw that the district chief took away my son, and based on accurate information, he himself killed my son,” he continued.

He urged the government to immediately sack the district chief and prosecute him. (Pajhwok)

(14) Five Dead,....

personnel were at the scene within minutes of the blast and have cordoned off the area.

Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack and confirmed their target was vehicles carrying foreigners. (Tolonews)

(15) 4 Million Jobs....

We should create platforms for the growth of young men and women's talents,” he remarked.

Jahani said apart from positive aspects of development, youth's population density could also create a crisis. Unemployment, illiteracy, diseases like AIDS and long-term wars are the factors endangering lives of youth.

Economy Minister Abdul Sattar Murad confirmed Afghanistan had a strong youth population and investment in the force could result in a bright future. But he warned they – if not assisted with employment, education and empowerment – had the potential to push society into a crisis.

He said Afghanistan's population was one of the youngest in the world with 41.6 percent of its citizens below 15 years of age. This, he warned, was not only a vulnerable age but could also be a burden on the country economically.

Of the 7.2 million workforces in the country, Murad said, only 19 percent had permanent jobs, while 81 percent having vulnerable employment. In the world, 80 percent of the workforce is employed by the private sector and 20 percent by the government.

But in Afghanistan, where 40 percent of the people are employed in the agriculture sector the minister explained, the situation was reverse. (Pajhwok)

(16) Pakistan Takes

by the Prime Minister of Pakistan during his visit to Kabul on 12 May 2015, Pakistan considers enemies of Afghanistan as its own enemies and has been extending its fullest cooperation to Afghanistan in combating terrorism, The Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

The statement further added that Pakistan remains committed to supporting and facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. (PR)

(17) Drug

matter with public health officials who cited the lack of rehabilitation centres to treat the individuals amid increased drug smuggling to the city.

However, he said police had blocked all smuggling routes and it was a second time this week that police confiscated drugs.

He said police on Monday seized 28 kilograms of hashish and 200 grams of heroin and arrested the traffickers.

About insurgent activities, the police chief said the rebels area had no courage to face security forces in any area.

He said last night four insurgents were killed after they attacked a security post in the Khulam district. The security forces escaped unhurt in the assault, he added.

He said insurgents had possible presence in parts of Chamtal, Char

Bolak and Dawlatabad districts. (Pajhwok)

(18) Helmand to....

10 acres of land in Bolan area of Lashkargah, the provincial capital. It would have the capacity to store 500 metric tonnes of fruits and vegetables, he added.

The cold storage facility would need \$1.5 million which would be provided by the Ministry of Counter-narcotics, the director said.

He said the proposed market for agriculture products would enable farmers to sell their harvests against reasonable prices.

“In summer besides other crops, basil has been grown on 21,000 hectares of land and the harvests will be sold for good rates in the market.”

He said the grape orchards and greenhouses would be constructed in Lashkargah and four districts and handed over to farmers.

The dairy farm will be set up on 168.5 acres of land in the Bolan area. “Facilities for cows, sheep and hens will be provided at the farm,” Qalam said.

He said the designs of all these projects had been completed and submitted to the provincial government. He hoped the projects would be launched soon and completed by the end of this solar year that ends on March 21.

The agriculture director said such projects had not been executed during the past 13 years in Helmand. (Pajhwok)

(19) Khost Residents....

positive step and it should be expanded to remote areas to bring tangible progress in the province.

He said streams, small dams, culverts, roads and other projects were executed under the NSP programme in the far-flung areas of the province.

Eng. Mohammad Usman Mahidi, director Rural Rehabilitation department, said they planned to extend the NSP programme following its success and public satisfaction.

He said only this year 663 development projects had been completed in the Sabri, Bak, Trizae, Musakhel, Nader Shah Kot, Gurbaz and Tanio districts at a cost of 400 million Afghanis. (Pajhwok)

(20) A Hope....

no budget or designated programme and accurate data available about cancer patients at federal and provincial levels.

Talking to News Lens Pakistan, Dr Ghazanfar, an oncologist at the INMOL Cancer Hospital, said allied hospitals in Quetta and Peshawar have a majority of Afghan patients. Cancer disease, like other parts of the world, is steadily rearing its ugly head in Pakistan where every year roughly 80,000 people lose their lives to the disease.

Ghazanfar said the number of cancer patients is steadily increasing and treatment is becoming more expensive. Most of the patients come from poor strata of society and they can't bear the cost of treatment.

He said INMOL hospital receives patients from all parts of the country. We admit all patients irrespective of the stage of disease and their financial position.

We don't have any data available but most of male Afghan patients we come across suffer from GI malignancy. Female Afghan patients have a high ratio of breast and cervical cancers.”

About the high ratio of GI malignancy among male Afghans, he said it has mostly to do with their lifestyle. They excessively drink herbal tea (qahwa) and use naswar (snuff), a major cause of mouth cancer. Plus they see doctors only in case of extreme emergency.

Replying to a question, he said there is no specific study or evidence available to establish a link between the decades-old war in Afghanistan and growing cancer among Afghans. We don't have any study or research to establish that link. (Pajhwok)

(21) UN Security....

victims of these heinous acts and to the government of Afghanistan, the statement said and wished the injured a speedy recovery and underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of these deplorable acts to justice.

Reaffirming the need to combat by all means, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the UN Security Council reminded countries that they must ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international hu-

man rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

The members of the Security Council reiterated that no violent or terrorist acts can reverse the path towards Afghan-led peace, democracy and stability in Afghanistan, which is supported by the people and the government of Afghanistan and by the international community. (Pajhwok)

(22) Badakhshan Depart-

Acting Governor Shah Wali Adib told the inauguration ceremony that the new building would help the officials concerned effectively carry out their public awareness programs about the preservation of natural environment.

Frank Paul, the German Ministry of Economic Development official, said the construction of the building was a good step toward developing the environment protection sector and congratulated the people of Badakhshan.

“Germany would continue to support to the government and the people of Afghanistan,” Paul said. Elsewhere, construction work on a five-kilometer road and 16 bridges began in Nimroz province.

Governor Eng. Mohammad Sami told Pajhwok Afghan News the Japanese-funded project cost nine million afghanis. The road would result in improved transportation for local residents, he said. (Pajhwok)

(23) NEPA....

opening ceremony, Dr. Shah Wali Adib, acting governor of Badakhshan, said: “The new NEPA facilities will help the civil servants increase environmental awareness in the population so people will keep it clean and safe for future generations.”

“Badakhshan is the ideal province for supporting NEPA. Up to this day, wildlife – especially in the Wakhan Corridor and the Hindu Kush Range – has managed to escape much of the recent conflict. This has led to occurrences of at least eight species of large mammals in Wakhan, including snow leopards, Marco Polo sheep, brown bears, and wolves,” he added.

Dr. Frank Pohl, BMZ Development Commissioner for Badakhshan and Takhar, congratulated that “the provincial government on their decision to provide this infrastructure and assume their responsibility to protect the province's unique natural resources. In the future, Germany remains willing to cooperate and contribute to the considerable efforts made by the Afghan government to reach out to the Afghan people and improve their living conditions.”

The new NEPA administrative building was built in line with the design standards set by NEPA in Kabul. It consists of 11 offices, a conference hall, a meeting room, sanitary rooms, and a solar power system.

The civil servants will use their new building to improve their activities and facilitate better environmental services to the population. NEPA is responsible for environmental protection, including conversation of wildlife and prevention of deforestation. (Pajhwok)

(24) Iraq Speaker....

speaker and political leaders. View galleryIraqi parliament speaker Salim al-Juburi answers questions…

Iraqi parliament speaker Salim al-Juburi answers questions during an interview with AFP in Baghdad, ...

Juburi also called for MPs who are absent more than a third of the time to be removed.

Absent MPs are a perennial problem for the Iraqi legislature, which even failed to reach a quorum for an emergency session called in response to a sweeping offensive by jihadists in June 2014. (AFP)

(25) Germany....

doubts whether Greece could reduce its mountainous debt to a controllable level without a temporary exit from the euro zone. A recent poll also found 71 percent of German people believed that Greece could not avert a bankruptcy even with the third bailout.

According to IWH's study, however, Germany would come out ahead even if Greece didn't repay a single cent. (Xinhua)

(26) Tajikistan....

Uzbekistan to autonomous regime in December 2009, Tajikistan has automatically left out of the United Power System of central Asia. (AKIpress)