

(1) Procurement...

and more effectively in implementing development projects and service delivery to the public would improve. The process of recruitment, for these positions, is implemented by a committee including representatives of ministries, government institutions and IARCSC. The process is monitored by civil society and media. (Pajhwok)

(2) US Declines ...

children," she said. She added: "Let's not lose focus that the Taliban are behind many of those attacks, the increase in civilian casualties. That undermines the Afghan population and also the Afghan government, so let's not lose focus."

The spokesperson said the Trump administration was still conducting a review of its Afghan policy. There were a lot of various options on the table, with the US government considering its Afghan policy, she said. (Pajhwok)

(3) First Four UH-60 ...

to approve the budget for the Afghan forces Blackhawk program.

In his statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier in March this year, Gen. Votel informed regarding the significant capability gaps in Afghan Air Force and said "The DoD-request of \$814.5M for FY17 for the first year of our plan to recapitalize the Afghan fleet provides funding to procure 53 UH-60s, with refurbishment and modification of the first 18; 30 additional armed MD-530F helicopters; 6 additional A-29 attack aircraft; and five AC-208s."

He also added that the requested FY2017 Afghan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) budget, including the 23 additional funds for the first year of this proposed aviation initiative, went to Congress on 10 Nov 2016. (KP)

(4) Ready for...

Afghanistan with automobile services. Abdullah said Afghanistan was ready to cooperate with Belarus in economic and industrial areas. Belarus and Afghanistan are expected to sign agreements in areas of economy, commerce and legislation.

With a much smaller population and higher GDP, the Belarusian experience and technologies could immensely benefit Afghanistan.

In 2017, MTZ plans to ship more than half a thousand units of equipment to Afghanistan, which was delivered 20,000 tractors from Belarus in the past six decades. (Pajhwok)

(5) Presidential Probe...

general's office says it had not issued the arrest warrant for Mohmand. Mohmand's arrest sparked a strong outcry by his supporters which led to President Ashraf Ghani ordering a probe into the situation.

"The documents have been sent to the address of Balkh police headquarters not Kabul police headquarters, if the officials had taken a decision in Kabul, they would do the same work, but I don't understand why they did not take action, therefore they let Balkh police headquarters and Balkh attorney general deal with the issue," said Munir Farhad, Balkh governor's spokesman.

"This person (Mohmand) was being monitored by one of our attorneys from last year in connection with a case, the suspect appeared for investigation and the investigation team got the necessary information needed, however the attorney general has not issued any kind of arrest warrant for him, said AGO spokesman Jamshid Rasuli. Meanwhile elders from Mohmand's tribe have gathered in Kabul over the arrest.

"Unfortunately one of the guards of Asif Mohmand were killed in the incident and four others were wounded, we have also wounded persons among the security forces, this was a bitter event and we strongly condemn the incident," said Mohammad Yaqoub Mohmand, head of the Mohmand tribal council.

In addition, a member of the Afghan parliament has alleged that he was transporting a patient to hospital when armed men associated with Mohmand attacked him as a result of which one of his guards was killed and nine others were wounded.

"The media is fully aware of the agitators, evidence shows that these individuals have no base and address and were sent on the basis of a plan and conspiracy to destabilize our peaceful city, we will not allow them to do so and will hold them accountable for each drop of blood shed by our soldiers," said Asadullah Sharifi, an MP.

Mohmand was accused of forging signatures on documents of government officials by the Afghan legal and judicial institutions. But Mohmand has accused Noor of being involved in corruption. (Tolonews)

(6) Samar Invites

organizations support for the relatives

of victims were among main objectives of the program.

The statement said the program was aimed at making the government more responsive to war victims and bringing war criminals to justice and creating national and international mechanisms for their trial.

In addition, the statement said, another mechanism to help civilians avoid losses was being worked out, which included an outreach to the conflicting parties.

Samar said protection and promotion of human rights was government's main responsibility.

She believed the Afghan government could protect human rights if it introduced an effective mechanism under which rights of people were protected and perpetrators of violent incidents punished.

According to Samar, 5,000 civilians have been killed in the first five months of 2017 in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(7) Consultation Held....

and the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), with the technical support of the International Trade Centre (ITC).

The consultation in Herat follows the first NES stakeholders' consultation held in Kabul on 20-21 February and in Mazar-e-Sharif on 18 May.

A major trading hub, Herat province plays a significant economic role in Afghanistan. It hosts a number of traditional and emerging industries, including sectors prioritized in the NES, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, dried fruits and nuts, marble and saffron.

Between August and September 2017, further consultations will be held in Kandahar and Jalalabad, culminating in a second national consultation in Kabul. The provincial NES consultations are crucial in making sure that stakeholders beyond the capital are included in the design of the strategy. These consultations are complemented with factory visits to assess supply-side issues in prioritized sectors.

The NES has strong support from both the government and the private sector, as it provides national and international development partners with an appropriate implementation plan for trade-related operations. Resource mobilization efforts will be developed in line with the strategy's plan of action.

"The project aims to strengthen the country's trade capacity so as to capitalize on the recent accession of the country to the World Trade Organization' and will contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of Afghanistan within the region," said Humayoon Rasaw, Afghanistan's Minister of Commerce and Industry. Atiqullah Nusrat, Chief Executive Officer of the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "This event is an essential breakthrough in capturing, advocating and addressing the challenges, opportunities, and aspirations of the private sector in the Herat region. This will contribute to render the National Export Strategy of Afghanistan even more relevant, inclusive and realistic'.

The NES initiative falls under the auspices of the 'Advancing Afghanistan Trade' project, funded by the European Union, which aims to assist Afghanistan in improving the conditions to use trade as a lever for enhanced regional cooperation, economic and human development, and poverty reduction.

The Advancing Afghan Trade project is a project funded by the EU and is being implemented by ITC under the leadership of the MoCI.

The International Trade Centre is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. ITC assists small and medium-sized enterprises in developing and transition economies to become more competitive in global markets, thereby contributing to sustainable economic development within the frameworks of the Aid-for-Trade agenda and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. (Wadsam)

(8) Militants ...

period, negative thoughts come to their minds."

"When a young man faces economic issues and is jobless, he starts thinking about joining the insurgents to earn money and support his family," he added.

A 20-year-old resident of Darz Ab district, Abdul Raziq, said Daesh and Taliban militants used to search for unemployed young men in the district to recruit them.

He added militants mainly looked for teenage boys because their brains could be easily washed. Provincial officials also confirm militants take advantage of problems the youth face.

Darz Ab district chief Baz Mohammad Dawar acknowledged unemployment forced the youth into joining militants.

Teenage boys 'traditionally' worked to earn money and support their families in the district, he said, citing abject pov-

erty behind the youth's joining of the Afghan army, militants or migration to Iran and Pakistan.

Youth Affairs Director Mohammad Faizi also said unemployment was a huge challenge while most of the government posts were given to individuals against political connections and references.

He added mass migration of youth put Afghanistan's future in danger and had a negative impact on military recruitment.

Faizi also said currently no development project was underway in Jawzjan to generate work opportunities for people, asking the government to address the unemployment issue of the youth.

In addition, young girls also complained about unemployment and poverty. Zahra Rashid, a civil society activist, said like boys, girls in Jawzjan were also unable to find jobs. "Girls have extra talent.

A huge number of women have become doctors, engineers and politicians."

She said women as human resources and their thoughts about development should be used and they should be provided opportunities to share their experiences in different fields.

Deputy governor Abdul Rahman Mahmoodi said: "We are aware of the issues our youth are facing. We are trying to provide work opportunities to the youth and will miss no chance in doing so," he said.

He assured that soon jobs would be created and in this regard multiple options were being explored.

Afghanistan is among the countries where youth make the majority. (Pajhwok)

(9) Above 200,000 ...

and that the government had failed to deliver on its repeated promises to control the situation. "If this situation continues, children will soon start using drugs or will be lured by the enemy."

The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled had recently said that currently eight million children were vulnerable in the country.

Of them 2.7 million children were laborers, 300,000 drug addicts, 60,000 orphans, and 190,000 disabled, the ministry had said, adding the rest also faced numerous issues. However, the labor ministry said strategies and policies were being executed to resolve problems the children faced. (Pajhwok)

(10) Mirzawlang....

insurgents on Wednesday morning when the security forces retreated to the western part of the area, he said. Pajhwok tried to contact other officials comment, but failed.

Mirzawlang was overrun by the militants on August 4 when 50 civilians were reportedly killed. However, the area was recaptured by the Afghan forces on Aug 14.

The security forces and local residents on Tuesday recovered 39 bodies from two mass graves in the area. The individuals were killed by the militants during clashes on August 4. (Pajhwok)

(11) 30 Boycotting ...

According to Aziz Gharwal, ACB Media manager, Mashal fired some top technical official and brought his own people who don't know what cricket is.

Gharwal added further, "Mashal is using ACB as his campaign office for his own publicity and yet to work on Infrastructure plans which are most needed for ICC Full membership."

Only recently, Afghanistan, along with Ireland, has been confirmed as a full member of the International Cricket Council after a unanimous vote at the ICC Full Council meeting. This move has breathed life into the country's cricketer aspirations. According to reports, Afghanistan may as well be on course to playing their first ever test match, against Zimbabwe early next year. (Pajhwok)

(12) Dawi and His...

formalities, inflicting a loss of \$3 million on the government.

He claimed Dawi had borrowed \$16.1 million from the Kabul Bank in the names of 17 different companies by forging documents between 2006 and 2007. Besides failing to return the debt, his owes, Dawi also did not pay \$19 million interest to the bank.

Atiq added Dawi and his deputy had defrauded Afghan Global and Maihan Petroleum firms of millions.

But Najla Rahil, defence lawyer for Dawi, rejected the prosecutor's claims and said his client was a victim of a conspiracy. She called allegations the leveled against Dawi unconstitutional.

The Kabul Bank case had been closed, with the convict having agreed with the special court to clear his dues, she argued, explaining the Aryana Airlines case was still being heard by a commercial court.

After hearing arguments from both sides, judicial delegation of the primary court of ACJC announced its decision. Dawi and his deputy Mohammad Asghar Ghayasi each was sentenced to

nine years and nine months in jail and fined \$38 million.

Former deputy head of ACAA, Raz Mohammad Elmi, was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$3,000 for dereliction of duty. Another ACAA official, Abdur Razzaq Zalali, jailed for five years and fined 3,000 for misusing his authority.

Two other officers of the ACAA were sentenced to six months in prison. Sher Aqa Munib, leading the judicial delegation, said the verdict was not final and the convicts could appeal it within 20 days.

Abdul Ghafar Dawi was arrested on March 4 on charges of getting contracts from the government fraudulently and not returning loans worth millions of dollars. (Pajhwok)

(13) MoD was not ...

knowledge, education to become a general, minister, prime minister, president; and we will vote for him," he said.

Yar Mohammad Dostum is an Army officer and according to Jawzjan officials, he was appointed to the post after a decision by the provincial security committee last week.

Yar Mohammad's pictures have been posted on social media. Some people have congratulated him over his appointment while others link the issue to tension inside government.

The Defense Ministry also said the issue is related to the Ministry of Interior. However, the Interior Ministry says it does not deal with garrisons.

Local officials however have a different statement in this respect.

"The garrison was formed from the merging of the public order and the special guards unit of the first vice president and Yar Mohammad Khan was appointed to lead it," said Rahmatullah Turkestan, the police chief of Jawzjan. Yar Mohammad has studied in military and before this he was praised by President Ashraf Ghani.

The Sheberghan Garrison was established six months ago to tackle crime. (Tolonews)

(14) Tagab District...

witnessed the effectiveness of the operation," said Mohammad Suhrah Rasouly Badakhshan's police headquarter's director of counter narcotics.

Army officials in Badakhshan said that they are preparing to clear other parts of Badakhshan.

"We suppressed the enemies and we will not let the enemies succeed and we will fight bravely against the enemy," said Seddiqullah an army officer in Badakhshan.

Although, the residents and district local officials welcomed the clearing of Tagab district they said that Taliban's operations are located in neighboring Wardoj district.

"We thank all the security institutions who conducted the operation and they really did well and we urge the government to establish bases here," said Noor Ahmad Shah Zaeem district governor for Tagab.

"Tagab district will be remain affected until Yamgan district is cleared," said Sultan Mohammad Aworang, a former MP.

"The Taliban are undoubtedly strange forces and they torched residents houses and assaulted residents and they are killing innocent civilians," said Nasratullah a resident.

Tagab district has now been cleared of insurgents for the second time. (Tolonews)

(15) Mamozaï Wants ...

situation has lately improved. Government official claimed an effective strategy had been devised for thwarting enemy attacks. Governor Abdul Jabbar Naemi said after the creation of new military bases and check-posts, the security situation had improved.

"Large military bases had been established in different areas; in some places search operations are underway. A military offensive is being conducted in parts of the province. As a result, the situation has returned to normal," Naemi said.

Militants had recently launch attacks in Laghman and capture some areas, fueling concerns among the people. (Pajhwok)

(16) Jobless Ghazni

"Most of them are school graduates, but those who are illiterate, we arrange one-hour literacy course for them," he added.

Rahimi said the graduates were also given relevant and necessary equipment to start their work. The persons who learned the professional skills were currently doing their own business.

According to Rahimi, each course period costs 3.2 million afghanis provided by the provincial labor and social affairs department.

Aisha, who recently attended tailoring course in the department, said: "I joined the course in the hope to solve my family's financial problems, a woman in

our neighborhood is a tailor, she sews a dress for 400 afs, so I also decided to learn tailoring."

She said her daily travelling cost was paid by the department and the course was going well.

Nasrullah, a resident of Ghazni city, said he also received box making training and currently owned a shop in the city.

He graduated from the six-month training last year and the department gave him necessary equipment. Nasrullah said he had been able to mitigate his family's financial constraints.

Deputy governor Wali Arif Wahidi praised the labor and social affairs department for imparting professional skills to people and called for doubling the number of trainees from 100 to 200 in each period. (Pajhwok)

(17) HIA Harshly ...

of the ISIS group in Iraq and Syria are far more different than the ones operating in Afghanistan.

The latest statement by Hezb-e-Islami criticizing the Iran-pro media outlets comes as numerous reports have emerged in the past suggesting the ongoing efforts by certain elements in Iran to counter the growing threats posed by the terror group in Afghanistan to the region by supporting the Taliban insurgency.

Similar allegations have also been attributed to the circles being supported or having direct links with the Russia as concerns are on the rise among the officials in Moscow who are fearing that the terror group will eventually penetrate to the Central Asian states. (KP)

Militants lay siege to 3 Jawzjan's districts

SHIBERGHAN - Militants have laid siege to the centers of three districts -- Aqcha, Mardyan and Khaniqa-- in northern Jawzjan province, the governor said on Wednesday.

Governor Lutfullah Azizi told reporters here that the three districts would fall to militants if security reinforcements did not arrive in 24 hours.

He alleged 50 villages these districts were captured by militants recently due to negligence by the authorities concerned.

When asked why he addressed the media when the situation turned so terrible, the governor said military officials frequently assured him of launching an operation against insurgents soon but the situation worsened because the pledges were not materialized.

Azizi said around 5,000 families from Aqcha, Khan Aqha and Murdyan districts had started fleeing homes to seek refuge elsewhere.

Police chief Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Turkistani said some areas in the three districts easily fell to Taliban after local uprising members could not be supplied weapons and money.

He said local uprising groups had families and they needed to be supported. He some uprising members had left for Iran and others Pakistan for work after not receiving salaries and other assistance for months.

Brig. Gen. Amanullah Mubin, the 209th Shaheen Military Corps commander, said the Taliban had been prevented from advancing in Aqcha district. He said security forces present in the Aqcha district had full support of the military corps and all necessary equipment had been provided to them. (Pajhwok)

Moraa University Pledges Incentives for Orphan Girls

KABUL - The women's only university said it would offer higher education opportunities to girls from the 70 orphanages around the country.

Thumbnail Afghanistan's Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoL-SAMD) and Moraa Educational Complex (MEC), Afghanistan's first ever female university, signed an agreement that the institution would provide learning opportunities to orphan girls from 70 orphanages from across the country.

Acting minister of labor, social affairs, martyrs and disabled, Faizullah Zaki, said on Wednesday at the signing ceremony that female students from at least 70 orphanages across the country will be able to pursue their higher education at the university. He said that in the first phase 19 students from these orphanages will be enrolled in Moraa.

"Moraa university is one of the best places for higher education, in the first stage we are trying to enroll 19 girls who are willing to pursue their higher education," said Zaki. Meanwhile, Moraa officials have said that the university will consider special learning opportunities for female students from orphanages. "We are trying to pave the way for girls from the orphanages, all necessary arrangements have been made in this respect," said Azizullah Amir, a Moraa university official. (Tolonews)