

(1) We're in...

in order to conceal their failure, they carry out suicide attacks in cities among civilians," he added. "We are currently in a critical condition, but on the right track and (we) have the backing of the Afghan people."

President Ghani also expressed optimism that major economic projects like Salma Dam in Herat province would be activated in the next six months.

He also expressed gratitude to the people and government of Sweden for their commitments and assistance to the Afghan people in different sectors.

The outgoing Swedish ambassador expressed satisfaction with his duty in Kabul and hoped to utilize his experience for Afghanistan's future as well. (Pajhwok)

(2) Pakistan to ...

Balkhi said more than three million Afghan refugees lived in Pakistan out of which 1.7 million lived legally while more than one million did not have legal documents.

He said a bilateral and trilateral agreement was also signed with Pakistan's government and UNHCR.

"We presented our policy regarding refugees' repatriation which was accepted. Until their return, we will provide them with different facilities. Pakistan has promised not to harass or forcefully repatriate them until then," Balkhi added. According to him, Pakistan also promised to extend the stay permit of 1.5 million refugees that expired in next four months to another two years.

"In the trilateral meetings, it was agreed to find a legal framework for extending of those permits that expire on December 2015 '31," Balkhi said, adding that registration process for refugees without documents would start in 21 areas in Pakistan.

He said a -100 persons delegation would also be sent from ministry of refugees to identify the people without documents.

Abdul Qadir Baloch, Pakistan minister for border affairs, said his country would honor its promises to extend the permit documents and take steps in order to register those without documents.

Maya Ameratunga, UNHCR's special representative for Afghanistan, said: "We welcome the new strategy by both governments who have committed to find solution to refugees' problems." (Pajhwok)

(3) Death Toll at 10...

In addition, 60 people were injured - of which five were women and five were children.

NATO has however, confirmed that three killed were foreign contract workers. No details regarding their nationalities have as yet been released.

The powerful explosion rocked Kabul city and caused extensive damage to nearby buildings and cars in the eastern parts of the city in the Macroyan 4 area.

It is believed the target was a foreign forces convoy. Security forces immediately cordoned off the area and according to eyewitnesses foreign forces were also at the scene.

Officials say most of the victims are civilians. The incident reportedly occurred during afternoon rush hour as city workers and government officials made their way home. (Tolonews)

(4) Electoral Reform...

were eligible to vote, but 21 million voting cards had been distributed. He

agreed the problem needed to be addressed. Electoral reforms are a major point of the agreement on the unity government.

Some people suggested the number of polling stations should be decreases, including surge in women seats in Wolesi Jirga if possible. It would be better if election process was conducted on different days in different zones and the election commissions should be held accountable.

Support to corrupt individuals in the past one decade had caused election process unprecedented damage, he believed, adding that some people suggested that a mixed system of election should be introduced.

Akefi said insecurity was the biggest threat to transparent elections. "If there is no security, fraud could not be controlled," he explained.

Meshrano Jirga Chairman Mohammad Alam Ezediyar, meanwhile, said ERC should have commitment to bringing reforms and transparency to the electoral system.

He made clear the election process could not be conducted in a transparent as long as a political will remained absent. Ezediyar stressed the distribution of computerised identity cards to ensure transparency in the election process. (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghan Govt...

and series of allegations by Afghan intelligence agency NDS suggested that the bonhomie had been lost.

The envoy said Ghani, notwithstanding his outburst, remains committed to continuing with his project for improving relations with Islamabad as well as resuming the reconciliation talks.

The Afghan president, he said, was trying to develop unanimity within his National Unity Government on the process for improving ties with Pakistan.

Amb Mellibin explained that though the truck bomb attack in Kabul was a triggering event behind Ghani's media statement against Pakistan, he was already under pressure in Kabul over his overtures to Pakistan while Taliban violence continued unabated. Encouraging the two countries to carry on with their rapprochement, he warned that any break in the process could be exploited by non-state actors to aggravate the situation.

He said Pakistan's role in the reconciliation process would remain important, if it were to continue.

He said Pakistan could help by continuing its good offices and putting pressure and inspiring Taliban to continue their peace talks with the Afghan government. He urged Islamabad to take steps to strengthen forces that favoured improvement in bilateral ties as well as reconciliation process. (Pajhwok)

(6) Musa Qala ...

coordinated attacks and the government should dispatch troops to control the situation. Only few soldiers had been left in the district who had neither taken food nor slept well enough, he added.

An official wishing anonymity said Taliban mounted attack on Afghan National Army (ANA) on Friday night in the district center and inflicted heavy casualties on soldiers. Abdul Majid Akhunzada, provincial council member, confirmed Taliban attack and said that 80 to 100 ANA soldiers were in the center and 25 of them had reached safe to district center.

A local elder on condition of anonymity said that

ANA soldiers had attacked Taliban gathering and killed 20 militants including a commander few days ago. Taliban stormed ANA base as a revenge on militants gathering by Afghan security forces.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmad claimed killing 31 ANA soldiers and arresting 16 others. He said that huge arms cache and vehicles had been seized.

The 215 Maiwand Military Corps rejected Taliban's claim by saying that ANA commander was present and monitored all the fight in the district. (Pajhwok)

(7) Tajikistan, ...

and Turkmenistan back strongest support of international community to Afghanistan that will be beneficial for entire region.

This comes after Afghanistan's First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum sought to cut diplomatic relations with Pakistan.

Dostum said that Pakistan has not been honest in his promises to fight terrorism equally. (KP)

(8) Pakistan Forms...

there to maintain security and not to check immigration. "It seems the FIA is not mandated to curb terrorism in the country," he observed, asking if the government was sensitive to checking the areas where terrorists entered the country.

Describing the situation as alarming, the court said that the FIA did not have enough budget to deal with the challenge. "We have been informed many times the government is serious in fighting terrorism... But it has emerged that prima facie there is a gap between efforts and objective reality," the court order said.

Containers laden with dollars would be seized at Chaman and Torkham borders if proper checks were conducted, the apex court believed, saying people were desperate to leave Pakistan and thus risked their lives. The FIA had done nothing to prosecute human smugglers, it regretted.

Due to the poor monitoring system, Justice Faez Isa, remarked anyone could illegally cross the border, where immigration laws were not strictly enforced. If the situation persisted, then the war on terror would not succeed, he argued. (Pajhwok)

(9) Operations in ...

Furthermore, the MoD forces conducted 225 air operations during the past 48 hours.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) officials also warned to target the insurgents in all over the country.

"We launch operation against the insurgents whenever we receive any information about their presence and activities," said Najibullah Danish, a deputy spokesman for interior ministry said.

These statements come as the first Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum is in Faryab for nearly three weeks to clear the northwestern province from Taliban.

A Pakistani military general among scores of Taliban and foreign militants have reportedly been eliminated in Faryab. (Tolonews)

(10) Dozens of ...

told Pajhwok Afghan News they chose Balkh and Charbolak districts because the two areas had recently been the scene of insecurity and violence.

He said they tried to teach the youth graffiti art and so they commit actions that directly impacted the society.

He said 60 youth had learnt

the graffiti art and were participating in the campaign to promote awareness about corruption and violence against women.

He said 30 youth each in Balkh and Charbolak districts were taking part in the campaign which would continue for some time.

This afternoon, Baryalai, said the art works in Balkh and Charbolak districts were showcased for public.

He said the graffiti images had been drawn on 72 walls in the two districts with messages about peace, corruption, social justice and violence against women.

A resident of Charbolak district, Najibullah, who is taking part in the campaign, said it was for the first time he came across the graffiti art and was happy to learn it.

He said he was part of the -30 member group who had so far painted 36 graffiti images on walls.

He said the images not only beautified the area but also forced passersby to stop, see and think over them. (Pajhwok)

(11) Local Police...

Jabar Haqbin. Haqbin said the military forces have also started searching houses and will soon clear the insurgents from the district.

The Taliban has not yet commented on the incident.

Before this, the security forces launched a military operation in the district to clear the insurgents in which more than 10 Taliban insurgents have been killed.

The operation was moving forward slowly because the insurgents have placed roadside mines in the area, according to the officials. (Tolonews)

(12) Kunduz Residents...

conference was organized by the New Line organization and Afghan Civil Society Election Network (ACSEN) aimed at collecting suggestions of people from all walks of life.

Hamidullah Baloch, director of Independent Election Commission (IEC), said that holding such conferences would help bring better amendments to the election law and counter threats and violation in the election process.

He said the participants stressed the IEC should provide immovable polling system which was more efficient system in the world. A number of people stressed on transparency in the election process.

Fazlullah Yaqubi one of the participants, told Pajhwok Afghan News he suggested three issues including immediate distribution of computerized ID cards, transparency in election and recruitment of professional individuals in the election commissions.

He stressed the commissions should not face shortage of employees during their work because shortage of employees could lead election process to face problems.

Syed Rahim, a resident of Chahar Dara district, said the polls system should be changed and the election law amended. He said the election commissions should be provided with database system.

The previous presidential and provincial election processes were faced problems by some powerful individuals, warlords, relatives of candidates, insecurity and fraud, he said, adding that Kunduz people want a transparent and free elections free from interference by warlords.

ACSEN head Dr. Mohammad Haroon said that based on

their assessment, most of the participants demanded amendments in election law and formation of election commissions.

The participants were divided into eight groups and each of them had provided their own suggestions regarding reforms in the election system, he said, adding that suggestions would be shared with Kabul election commission officials.

The Electoral Reforms Commission (ERC) is scheduled to share their suggestions about the reforms for the election system with the president.

Shah Sultan Akefi, head of the panel, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had collected views and suggestions from more than 1,500 people regarding elections reforms from all seven zones of the country.

These people, he said, were members of civil society, political parties and legal experts. He did not go into detail, but hoped the suggestions could pave the way for parliamentary elections.

According to Akefi, 90 percent of the people whose views and suggestions have been obtained said those accused of electoral fraud should be prosecuted. (Pajhwok)

(13) Pak-Afghan...

remove their grievances and misconceptions," she remarked.

In addition, she said that "It is a -5day conference which is important to achieve the goal of bringing people of the two countries closer."

Mukhtar Wafae, one of the participants, said such programmes would bridge gulf between people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said that it was the best platform to convey Afghans message to Pakistani politicians and government through media.

Ghafar Nazari, another Afghan participant, said Pakistan and Afghanistan had several similarities which could reduce violence if highlighted. He said that government policies were always based on people's perceptions therefore people should positively play their due role.

The second conference is being held at a time when bilateral relations between Kabul and Islamabad have nose-dived in the wake of series of attacks that rocked parts of Kabul two weeks back. (Pajhwok)

(14) More Uplift ...

building, however, the construction of this building would facilitate students.

Elsewhere, the gravelling a road has been completed in the Charburjak district of Nimroz province, the rural rehabilitation director said.

According to Eng. Farid Azim, the gravelling of seven kilometres of road had been completed at a cost of 32 million afghanis funded by the WB.

Mohammad Arif, a local elder, praised the step and accused officials for ignoring the district in terms of development.

Simultaneously, the construction of 12 social centers had been executed in 12 villages of the district.

According to Azim, the social centers had been completed at a cost of 10 million afghanis of the WB.

In addition, officials inaugurated construction work of a clinic in the district which would be completed by the year end. (Pajhwok)

(15) 14 Militants ...

wounded in roadside landmine blast in Ghorak district, he added.

M e a n w h i l e , Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for Maidan Wardak governor, said three insurgents were killed and as many wounded during joint security forces operation on Friday night in Jaghto district.

Three rebels were seriously wounded in the offensive in Syed Abad district, he said, adding that a Taliban fighter was arrested when he was planting a roadside bomb.

A civilian was killed in a rocket launcher attack fired by rebels while another was shot dead by militants on Friday, the governor spokesman said.

Taliban militants claimed inflicting heavy casualties on security forces in the provinces. (Pajhwok)

(16) Thousands...

policy toward Afghanistan. The demonstrators also issued a statement in support of the first vice-president's call for severing relations with Pakistan. Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum spent the past three weeks in Faryab province, where he blamed Pakistani generals for leading the fight there.

Kinjar Kargar, addressing the rally, warned: "Pakistani generals should understand that Afghanistan has valiant youth and military officers who would defend their country to the last drop of their blood."

Last week Gen. Dostum claimed a Pakistani general had died in Faryab clashes, and today security officials said four insurgents, including two Uzbekistani nationals and a Pakistani citizen, were killed in Qaisar district clashes.

Pakistan has repeatedly denied interference in Afghanistan's internal matters, assuring support for the peace process. (Pajhwok)

(17) New Hostel ...

had been approved for Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province.

But Nangarhar University's engineering faculty teacher Syed Jalal said corruption had been committed in the hotel building's construction. "In the map, there are roads in front of the buildings, a central heating system and fire extinguisher cylinders and other facilities, but none of them can be seen."

But officials and the construction company insisted all the works had been done accordance with the map. (Pajhwok)

(18) taliban ...

to beat the security forces and they have lost their powers in the area." Taliban insurgents had closed the Ghormach and Qaisar highway more than a year ago but after military operations it's now open. (Tolonews)

(19) Bomb Blast...

ban militants. Taliban spokesman had not commented on the report by the time it was filed. Urozgan is among the comparatively restive provinces of Afghanistan with militants operating in its remote areas. (KP)

(20) U.S. Pledges ...

ganda broadcasts. The DPRK warned that unless South Korea stops propaganda broadcasts in frontline areas before 5 p.m. Saturday (0800 GMT), it will take military actions. South Korea threatened stern retaliation against any further provocations. (Xinhua)

(21) Sharif Directs ...

Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Syed Tariq Fatemi and other high-ranking officials. (Agencies)