

(1) More Mi-25s...

India started the delivery of lethal military equipment to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces late in December 2015.

The Afghan Air Force received 3 of the 4 Mi-25 gunship helicopters late in the month of December which coincided with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Afghanistan.

The Indian sources have said India is preparing the fourth gunship helicopter for the delivery to the Afghan armed forces and hope that the delivery will be done in the near future.

"The fourth helicopter is yet to be transferred. It needs spares before it can be made fully operational and the spares have to come from Russia," diplomatic sources told The Hindu local newspaper.

The sources further added that efforts were on to fix the issue. "There was an issue with the spares. It is being sorted out. It should be delivered very soon," a senior defence official said without specifying a timeframe.

The four helicopters were taken from the inventory of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Air Force station in Pathankot. The IAF operates Russian-built Mi-25 and Mi-35 attack helicopters which are to be phased out very soon. (KP)

(2) Sancharak ...

been killed and 10 others wounded. During the clashes nearly 30 Taliban were killed and 40 others wounded. Taliban militants have recently intensified their attacks in several parts of the country but they have suffered heavy casualties.

Taliban insurgents suffered a heavy casualty toll in the Khwaja Ghar battle against security forces - who are driving the insurgents back from the district, local officials said.

The Khwaja Ghar attack took place at about 3am local time Monday after dozens of Taliban insurgents attacked the district and took control of it for a few hours.

However, by mid-morning, security forces were able to re-take control of the district - after hours of heavy clashes, a spokesman for the provincial governor, Sonatullah Timor, said in a statement. (ToloneWS)

(3) Kunduz PC ...

to help them in critical conditions, but they left the voters to face the flames of war.

Meanwhile, a provincial council member, Safullah Amiri, confirmed they have been in Kabul for the last five days.

"We came here to share people's problems face to face with ministers so they pay serious attention to Kunduz province," he said.

A Pajhwok correspondent in Kunduz said only security guards could be seen in the provincial council office.

However, Mohammad Yousuf Ayubi, the provincial council head, who is in Kabul, said all the council members were not in Kabul.

He said two members of the council had gone to Saudi Arabia for the performance of Hajj while another two others were stuck in Imam Sahib district of Kunduz due to clashes.

"I came here for my medical treatment, I may turn back to Kunduz tomorrow," he said. (Pajhwok)

(4) Iran Ready...

the stable capacity of export 400 thousand barrels of oil products per day which represents a remarkable record in the present circumstances.

"Building pipelines for transferring oil products to Afghanistan will gain economic justification only if the volume of oil exports experiences a significant growth," said NIORDC managing director.

Kazemi also pointed to the arrival of a large number of oil tankers in southern Iranian terminals for shipping oil products concluding "upon further negotiations, Iran is also willing to establish a joint oil refinery complex inside Afghanistan."

The readiness comes after Kabul and Tehran have agreed to create a transit-oriented green custom path in a bid to facilities Afghan traders to transit goods in the shortest possible time in Afghanistan via Chabahar port. The agreement was reached during a meeting held between Director General of Afghanistan Customs Department Ahmad Reshad Popal and the Head of Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration (IRICA) Masoud Karbasian in Tehran.

Chabahar port city will be turn as an exports and imports hub for Afghanistan after the implementation of the deal. During meeting, Karbasian said "as two ancient countries, Iran and Afghanistan enjoy common cultures and languages and development of Afghanistan would mark an honor for Iran since expansions of bilateral relations will create deeper ties between the two states".

"India-Afghanistan-Iran path marks one of the best transit corridors and the visit of Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah to Chabahar indicates its importance to the neighboring country," he said, while urging the Afghan side to remove obstacles at Mahirud border markets. He further went on to enumerate major axes for expansion of customs ties between the two parties including provision of draft for a new customs agreement, electronic exchange of customs data as well as creation of joint border gates. "More facilities need to be provided with further collaboration between customs of the two sides," Reshad Popal said, adding that the meeting was to focus to create excellent trade and transit ties with the Iran. (Agencies)

(5) US Cautiously...

terrorism and accept Afghanistan's constitution, including its protections for women and minorities.

"These end conditions are a means to protect the significant gains made by Afghanistan over the last 14 years," the spokesperson said when asked about reports that OIC would host a conference on Afghan reconciliation. (Pajhwok)

(6) Govt. Yet...

master's degree in human rights. I was appointed by the president as caretaker of this department after my predecessor resigned from the post. Several months ago, the position was re-announced by the independent administrative reforms commission," said Meeran.

Based on the political agreement signed between President Ashraf Ghani and his Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, the appointments in government are supposed to be undertaken in consensus between the two leaders.

"Unfortunately, ethnic and personal relations have led to a stand-off in this respect and this has expanded the gap between government and the people," said university lecturer Hikmatullah Shahbaz.

But, government insists that the appointments of government officials are carried out on the basis of qualification, and not relations.

"In case the job seekers fulfill the necessary criteria, then a decision is taken about him, in the civil service sector, the administrative reform commission puts the job up for competition, if the candidate completes the required eligibility, then he is hired," said Sayed Zafar Hashemi, deputy presidential spokesman.

The statement comes as the Afghan government prepares for the Brussels Summit, a summit scheduled for October and which is set to evaluate the performance of the Afghan government across all sectors.

Brussels Summit will determine international assistance to Afghanistan for the next four years. (ToloneWS)

(7) Education ...

Differences of view based on education Among uneducated people, almost all believe that men are superior leaders. However, this is opposite among educated individuals, especially among educated women. Three times more educated women, compare to uneducated women, do not believe in the superiority of men as leaders. The research shows three in every 10 educated women and one in every 10 uneducated women deny the sole leadership competency for men. The number of educated men who believe that leadership affairs shall rest with them is slightly higher than uneducated men. The research data suggest the concept that leadership shall be with men is lower among educated people. Shahla Farid, Law lecturer at Kabul University, said public awareness about women's rights increased with education in a community. Awareness of women's rights also leads to an enhanced leadership role for them, she added. During the past 14 years when education was promoted in Afghanistan, people realised that women also had leadership qualities, she said, adding only a small number of educated women with low confidence supported men's leadership because they faced disgrace at the hands of men and deprived from decision making discussions historically. (Pajhwok)

(8) Conflict Leaves...

the Afghan National Army had established bases in schools in Nad Ali. However, he did not say if schools in Garamser and Nawa are turned into bastions.

The education director said he had shared the problem with provincial government officials, but no one could visit the troubled districts due to insecurities.

Garamser education officer Mohammad Bashir also said many schools in the district had been damaged in the latest conflict. He said the schools suf-

fering damages were located in Safar, Lakri, Zanzeer, Kochni Darwishan, Jagrum, Kodalo Drab and Kharoti areas.

He said local residents had stolen equipment and documents of the schools. Bashir said the Taliban had promised protection of schools and they apparently had created no problem.

"Several other schools have also been damaged, but teachers and other workers cannot visit the schools to inquire after their situation," said Bashir, who put the number of students in Garamser district at 16,000 in 39 schools with a dozen having no building.

Nad Ali district chief Mohammad Gul Hashmi confirmed damages to schools in the district and said military forces had dug trenches in a number of schools.

"I am trying to get ousted the military personnel from schools, but there is a war ongoing and this cannot be done quickly," said Hashmi, who had shared the issue with security officials. The official accused Taliban militants of destroying documents and textbooks in most of schools. (Pajhwok)

(9) AISS Releases...

and efforts were made to collect and reflex points and views about Constitutional amendment from ordinary people, experts and interest groups.

The study focused on three fundamental issues: public awareness on current constitution, constitution assessment, and amendatory-adjustment points of view with regards to the Constitution.

Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah and former national security advisor Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta delivered their speeches on Constitution amendment discourse necessity. (Pajhwok)

(10) Medicines...

had been formed with President Ashraf Ghani's directives for better management and organisation of the medicine market and to address concerns about corruption in the pharmaceutical sector and supply of poor quality medicine.

Majrooh said an initial survey by the Public Health Ministry showed 95 percent of medicine consumed in Afghanistan were imported from Pakistan, Iran, China, Turkey, India, the United Arab Emirates and some European countries. Of the medicine, 40 to 55 percent entered Afghanistan illegally and through smuggling.

The official said \$650 million were annually spent on purchasing medicines in Afghanistan, including \$180 million by the government. (Pajhwok)

(11) Anti-Corruption ...

person's post or position.

"There is a perception among the people that the government itself is a cause for corruption. In Afghanistan, institutions are involved in corruption with certain individuals in the leadership of the system," said political analyst Ahmad Rishad Khatibi.

Hamidi termed the establishment of the anti-corruption justice center a milestone at a national level in fighting corruption.

"We will combat corruption in Afghanistan in the right manner to prevent corruption from becoming a political discussion. We are quite sensitive in this respect to avoid harm being done to the dignity and rights of the people of Afghanistan," said Hamidi.

In a recent move, President Ashraf Ghani issued an order appointing Mohammad Irfani as general director of the attorney general's office, Sher Ali as the special prosecutor for investigations and Zahira as head attorney of the Supreme Court for the anti-corruption justice center. (ToloneWS)

(12) Majority ...

Islam and the Constitution.

Objective The AISS said the study's major objective was to assess the public level of awareness on the Constitution's content and major provisions and getting the reforming and adjusting views and recommendations for possible amendment of the Constitution.

Ten provinces including Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyan, Ghazni, Ghor, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz and Nangarhar were chosen due to their political and social importance in four main zones.

Main findings The majority of the interviewees believe that guaranteeing equal rights in any level for all citizens should be the main priority in the Constitution.

Some of them think the result of distribution of power based on ethnicity is that the least populated groups become effectively second-class citizens and they cannot make their way through the main power circles and would not be counted in decision making on the basis of civil rights and capacity.

In the study, strengthening local democracy and reforming the administrative system were reasonable demands of the experts and majority of interviewees.

According to the suggestions, all senior officials of a local government should be elected.

More than half (51%) of interviewees (respondents) believe the system should be changed from presidential to a combination of chancellor (president and chancellor, 23%) and parliamentary (28%).

Around a third of respondents believe that the constitution was clear enough about the local governance. However, practically it has not been granted the necessary authority which is mentioned in the Constitution.

But some experts believe the government is too centralized (even if the constitution is implemented completely), therefore they insist on strengthening local democracy through elections for choosing high official positions of local government and granting more authority to local government institutions.

Finally, a small number of the respondent believes that Afghanistan needs a strong centralized government.

Around one third of respondents stated that the president authorities are too much and more than necessary, which according to some experts is the reason of the ethnic context for power. (Pajhwok)

(13) Single-Seat ...

The alternatives are multi-member districts, or the election of a body by the whole electorate voting as one constituency.

"There is no exact figure about the population; borders between villages and districts so far have not been finalized; local lawbreakers still have a grip on localities; there is the possibility that we continue to fail to implement electoral transparency," said Naem Ayoubzada, head of the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA).

However, Jan Dad Spinghar, head of the Afghanistan Civil Society Election Network (ACSEN) was upbeat about the decision.

"On the basis of article 83, it can ensure transparency and help us to prevent the previous experience during the elections in Ghazni province," he said.

The single-member constituency plan has also drawn strong reaction from the Afghan political elite and opposition forces.

"I don't think it is necessary or practical; they (government leaders) by making the move want to show the people or the world that they have not come (this far) without gains and that they are resolute in bringing reforms; it is just a deceptive move and they want to hide the issue of fraud, therefore they come and discuss these issues," said head of Jabha-e-Naween party Anwarul Haq Ahadi.

Nevertheless, Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the national unity government, has described the move as a step toward holding the country's parliamentary poll.

"Significant progress was made regarding the election law, yesterday's decision opens the way for election reforms," said Abdullah.

In reference to the new plan, Haroon Chakhansuri, spokesman for the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, said the plan will be sent to the president for final approval.

"At the cabinet meeting last night, the draft election law came under discussion - all the cabinet members presented their views and the plan was approved in principle; views and recommendations of them were included and the plan will now will be prepared for presidential approval," said Chakhansuri.

Elements reportedly incorporated into the new plan are apparently a 25 percent seat reservation for women in provincial and district councils, the allocation of one seat for Hindus and Sikhs and the issue of possible electoral fraud. (ToloneWS)

(14) Task Team ...

Gulzar, a presidential advisor for tribal affairs. "The question is whether you are trying to tackle the issue of Dahna-e-Ghori from an ethnic perspective or a military standpoint; if you deal with it from a military viewpoint, then it was necessary that it should have been dealt with from a military profile by the probe team, but not by a presidential advisor for tribal affairs," said Sher Mohammad Jahesh, a civil society activist. (ToloneWS)

(15) Taliban being ...

"We have a voice recording from Mullah Salaam, Taliban's key commander in Kunduz, as he presents his report of Kunduz battle to the Quetta Shura. In this voice recording, he says that they are not capable of fighting the Afghan

security forces and that there is no option for them except to retreat," he added.

He stated: "We launched our offensive attacks yesterday [Monday]. We have also started military operations to target Taliban's hideouts in different areas. So far the Taliban has not resisted against the government forces."

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry said it has deployed a special unit of police to safeguard areas that are cleared of Taliban in Kunduz.

Head of police operations at the Ministry of Interior, Gen. Nematullah Haidar, said: "Police force members are keeping (safe) areas that are cleared of the Taliban. We have established security check posts in different areas to ensure security there."

The 808 Spinzar Zone police meanwhile urged Kunduz residents to cooperate with security personnel during their operations in the province.

"We are in an offensive mode now and we are trying to completely eliminate all the Taliban fighters," said Sher Aziz Kamawal, commander of the police zone.

The remarks by Murad come at a time that according to reports, Taliban has taken control of Qala-e-Zal and Dasht-e-Archi districts in the province - in addition to ongoing clashes in other parts of Kunduz - including Khanabad, Aliabad and Imam Sahib districts. (ToloneWS)

(16) 100 US ...

leadership team with a focused train, advise and assist mission," Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook said.

Addressing a news briefing, the Defense Department spokesman said about the deployment: "This will not be a permanent presence." ABC News quoted him as saying 80 percent of the province was under the control of insurgents. (Pajhwok)

(17) Women Rally ...

protesters warned if their legitimate demand was not considered, they would set themselves alight.

A participant of the demonstration, Gulalai told Pajhwok Afghan News her land had been grabbed by tribal elders over the past few years in Behsud district, but there was no one to help her reclaim her land.

"Over the past two years, we had been complaining first to the former Behsud district chief, Israrullah, and then to the new one, Mohammad Sidiq Dawlatzai, but they did nothing."

She said the current and the former district chiefs were themselves involved in land usurpation because instead of preventing their land from being usurped, they arrested her son them and destroyed their home.

Another protestor Salma said her land could be recovered from its illegal occupant despite orders from the Supreme Court, Nangarhar government and the provincial council. (Pajhwok)

(18) Military Operation...

Meanwhile, Hamid Shirzai, ToloneWS' reporter, who is currently stationed in bordering Baghlan province, as he is unable to get in to Kunduz, said clashes are still ongoing in Angeerbagh, Zarkharid and some other areas of Kunduz.

The insurgents increased attacks early Saturday after they stormed Khanabad district of the province and took control of it for several hours. But security forces were able to re-take control later in the day.

Kunduz city is still under siege. Insurgents are locked in battles with security forces on the outskirts of the city and residents are not able to get in or out. (ToloneWS)

(19) Parwan's Women...

him and they can produce up to 1,000 bottles of different edibles in a week. But only 500 bottles are sold. However, he sold 3,500 bottles at the exhibition. Sumaya Niazi, another participant who displayed women and children's wear and different types of curtains, said four women were working with her. They could sew two suits and two curtains a day.

However, she added they should sew three suits and one curtain due to lower demand. But Niazi expressed pleasure over increased sales at the exhibition. Participants asked the officials concerned to make a permanent arrangement for artisans.

Abdul Wakil Hamidpur, head of the handicraft industry at the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Department, said one aim of the exhibition was to find market for the products. (Pajhwok)

(20) 24 Daesh, ...

where journalists cannot venture to cover security incidents. Telephone services remain suspended in the embattled towns.

None of the militant groups has so far commented on the operations. However, Taliban claimed in a report on their website that 10 Afghan security personnel had joined the movement.

(Pajhwok)

(21) RAPL 2016 ...

RAPL's two groups (A and B) for the 2016 Championship Tournament were determined by the draw show which was broadcast on the 11th of August in Kabul.

The opening ceremony as well as all matches will be broadcast LIVE on TOLO TV, Lemar TV and simulcast on Arman FM, Arakozia FM as well as online via the RAPL Official YouTube Channel and website.

57% of Afghans in country (at least 18.6 million viewers) as well as Afghans around the world (via YouTube) watched the 2015 championship match between De Spinghar Bazan and Shaheen Asmayee (KAL - 2015 survey).

"In the past four seasons we have witnessed the presence of new players in the national teams of different age-ranges from Roshan Afghanistan Premier League (RAPL). We could select Afghan players who have the membership of national team from the premier league. The league facilitates the selection of players for national team. We also could select elite players from Roshan Afghanistan Premier League for national teams of 19 years, 21 years, and 23 years. The performance of these players is remarkable in national teams." Mr. Keramuddin Karim, President of AFF. (KP)

(22) US Soldier ...

statement said, adding that an investigation is being conducted to determine the exact circumstances of the event.

US Department of Defense Policy is to withhold the identity of the service member pending next-of-kin notification, the press release added. (ToloneWS)

(23) No Progress...

"Durkhanai said, adding that the situation was extremely bad in Nawa. Obaidullah, a driver who arrived in Lashkargah from Kandahar said he went through Gereskh: "The Taliban is searching people then they allow them through. The conditions of the road is very bad," he said.

He has called on government to re-open the main Helmand-Kandahar highway.

Nadir, who also uses the highway, has added his voice to the appeal.

"The government should open the road. We use it to take our sick relatives for treatment and the road we now have to use is very bad and a healthy person can become ill," he said. (ToloneWS)

(24) Afghan Families...

high rent, we demand of the Afghan government and UNHCR to give us the rights being given to other Afghan returning families," Gul said.

On behalf of other returning families, Jannat Gul also urged the Pakistani government to compensate them for businesses, vehicles and belongings they left behind in Miranshah.

"We spent 30 years in Miranshah where we left behind houses full of household items. Our goods in markets were confiscated by Pakistani forces who closed shops. In Khost, we have only received one bag of flour per family from UNHCR."

Pakistan some time ago announced the conclusion of the operation against hardline elements in north Waziristan, asking the displaced families to return to their homes.

The Pakistani government has promised assistance with the returning families in rebuilding their houses and that is why Afghan families who lived there before the operation have the same demand from the Pakistani government. Another returnee from Waziristan, Amir Jan, said he had the right to be given the more than \$300 UNHCR gives to all Afghan families returning from Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

(25) SDGS Can ...

world. "That's a good example of innovative thinking that well goes beyond the national borders and contributes to global sustainable growth," she said. (Xinhua)

(26) Growth through

joint efforts from both. This particularly makes it necessary to reform the existing international financial and economic system at a time when a long-time stagnation is predicted for developed economies, with the growth rate this or the next year revised down by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the United States, Germany, Japan and Britain - all the vital parts of the global economy. (Xinhua)

(27) AU Mission ...

is one of our key deliverables," Wanyoto said. Somalia is scheduled to hold a limited franchise election, in which ordinary citizens do not participate. (Xinhua)