

(1) Terrorism Globally ..

defenders from across Afghanistan.

"It was an opportunity to celebrate the brave work they do and learn from their experiences and consider how better we might support them in future," said British Ambassador to Afghanistan Dominic Jerney.

The British Embassy worked closely with the Afghan government and civil society to support human rights and the work of many brave people protecting human rights of others, he said.

On 10 December 1948, Afghanistan, the UK and 46 other countries came together to set out the rights to which all human beings are entitled, he added. (Pajhwok)

(2) Ghani Asks ...

day, people reciting Quran and holding prayers and holding gathering and delivering speeches regarding Muhammad and giving alms to the poor people. (Tolonews)

(3) Afghanistan Agrees...

said it was agreed at the meeting that the small statue called 'Shahmama' would be repaired by using the original material and a recreation park would be established in the area between the two statues.

The Taliban during their regime dynamited the two Buddhist statues --- Salsal 55 metres and Shahmami 37 metres --- shocking the world.

The Bamyán governor said a decision how to repair the statue would be taken at another meeting scheduled to take place in Japan in October next year.

He said previous meetings on rehabilitation of the statues had failed to reach a decision and the latest decision had a great importance for Afghanistan. Tahir Zaheer said the statue's fixing would attract tourists to Bamyán. (Pajhwok)

(4) UNAMA Commends.

on Thursday in Kabul, leading human rights defenders described how Afghanistan's armed conflict had made their work more challenging, but all the more essential, the statement said.

By defending the rights of others, the activists affirmed that the loss of anyone's rights diminished the humanity of everyone. The work of human rights defenders had become ever more crucial amid ongoing human rights abuses and violence across Afghanistan. These abuses could occur during armed conflict, but also in the workplace and in the home. "Afghanistan's human rights defenders embodied this year's theme, which is to Stand up for Someone's Rights Today," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

"These women and men are true champions, and we need more brave individuals like them to protect human rights the world over. It is totally unacceptable that the risks they face are increasing with the intensification of the armed conflict," said Yamamoto. "More must be done by the parties to the conflict to ensure their protection."

UNAMA would continue to seek through its "good offices" assurances that all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan respected and worked with human rights defenders. The UN also closely monitored human rights violations against vulnerable groups, including women, children and disabled citizens, as well as their defenders.

UNAMA backed the call of human rights organizations from across Afghanistan for the necessary space to be ensured for human rights defenders to conduct their work in standing up for the rights of all Afghans.

Peace, reconciliation, truth-seeking, accountability and justice are key to Afghanistan's future, stressed Afghan human rights defenders at the Kabul event on Thursday.

The UN was observing Human Rights Day around the world and in Afghanistan today by recognizing human rights achievements made since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN after the trauma of the Second World War.

This marked the beginning of a worldwide recognition of the need to promote and protect the human rights of all people. Human rights defenders are at the forefront of this ongoing effort. (Pajhwok)

(5) Parliament Orders...

increased based on interpretations. When ministers are dismissed, they cannot continue as acting even for one day," he said.

One month ago MPs dismissed seven ministers over under-spending of their development budget after a vote of no confidence.

Government however referred the matter to the Supreme Court to interpret article 92 of the constitution - which relates to the dismissal of ministers by parliament.

But the Supreme Court has not yet ruled and the ministers have continued to work, albeit in an acting minister capacity.

"Government is waiting for the Supreme Court to share the interpretation of article 92 of the constitution. Any interpretation that is released by the court is valid for government," said Jawed Faisal, the CEO's deputy spokesman.

According to law, a minister cannot work as an acting minister for more than two months. "The interpretation that government expects to hear from the court is more a political interpretation than a legal interpretation," said Ainuddin, deputy of Afghanistan's Lawyer Union (ALU). (Tolonews)

(6) Health Contracts ...

with non-governmental organizations were against the procurement procedure.

The president extended the contracts of the organizations for another six months, the statement said.

The president said he would assess health services of 27 national and international organizations with governors of the provinces concerned through video conferences.

He directed public health minister to closely review the implementation of the projects and share his findings with him.

Such contracts with non-governmental organizations would be signed based on their performance in future, Ghani added.

The statement said World Bank representative Shubham Chaudhuri confirmed the president's statement and said the performance of non-governmental organizations should be accurately assessed after their projects were implemented.

The public health minister assured the meeting that he had launched work on eradication of corruption in his ministry.

He assured if any public health officer was found guilty of corruption, he or she would be brought to justice.

The purpose of the BPHS is to ensure that all primary health care facilities deliver a standardized package of basic services. (Pajhwok)

(7) 2,300 US ...

The 16th Combat Aviation Brigade, 7th Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington will deploy about 800 soldiers this winter to support Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the Army said. In addition, the Army announced a third deployment Thursday of 3,000 soldiers from the 3rd Armored Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, to deploy to Kuwait this winter.

The 1st Brigade's assignment is a routine deployment in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the U.S. mission to train Afghan forces and conduct counterterrorism operations against terrorists including al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

The unit, outfitted with Stryker troop-carrying vehicles, will fo-

cus on 'advise and assist' missions to strengthen the ailing Afghan security forces near the city of Bagram in the northeast portion of the country, Payne said.

Bagram Air Field, the largest U.S. military installation in Afghanistan, was the site of a Nov. 12 suicide bomb attack inside the perimeter. It killed two soldiers, Sgt. John W. Perry and Pfc. Tyler R. Iubelt. A third soldier, Sgt. 1st Class Allan E. Brown, died this week from wounds sustained in the blast. Soldiers with the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade will help their Afghan counterparts, who are pushed to their limits in air medevac operations in the fight against the Taliban, al-Qaida and the Islamic State group.

In one week in August, medevac flights across the country recovered 125 dead Afghan troops and 280 wounded, the Washington Post reported. By comparison, the worst month for U.S. forces in Afghanistan was in August 2011, when 71 troops were killed.

There are now 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The number will drop to 8,400 by Jan. 20.

Operation Enduring Freedom, launched in 2001 to dislodge al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan, was reflagged to Operation Freedom's Sentinel in 2014 to reflect the new role for U.S. troops. NATO agreed to extend operations there beyond 2016, the U.S.-led coalition said in May.

The 3rd Armored Brigade will stay combat-ready in Kuwait, as operations continue against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. (Agencies)

(8) HPC Urges ...

sides should understand that no one was historically loser in peace, HPC added.

All legitimate demands of both sides should be shared in face to face in intra-Afghan talks and both sides should end violence and war in the country, the peace body concluded. (Pajhwok)

(9) Baghlan Police...

equipped than the enemy but we aren't," said Juma Gul Mubariz, a local police commander.

They said the lack of heavy weapons, food and no reinforcements when under siege are their main challenges.

This comes after Gulbahari on Saturday said more than 20 soldiers and officers had deserted their posts in Dahan-e-Ghori district of northern Baghlan province taking their weapons with them.

He said the soldiers were from the national and local police forces.

Baghlan provincial council said the soldiers should be intercepted before being arrested or recruited by the Taliban.

A number of analysts said the gap between soldiers and government is to the benefit of armed anti-government groups.

They said if their problems are addressed, they will return to their check posts. (Tolonews)

last 10 months, 743 Afghans have been sent out of Norway. Afghanistan has had almost 800,000 returned refugees this year. The country has also around 1.3 million internally displaced people.

Barakzai calls for better dialogue with the police's department of immigration and the immigration authorities regarding the deportation.

Vidar Brein Karlsen, Listhaug's secretary, responded by saying that he was not informed about any inquiries from the Afghanistan ambassador.

"In the case of return, Norway relates to the tripartite agreement signed between Norway, Afghanistan and UNHCR in 2005. The agreement was renegotiated in 2011 and is still applicable," Karlsen told Aftenposten. (Xinhua)

(11) Paktika Residents...

Mohammad Rasoul Adil, a representative of the governor's

house, urged local residents to help make the vaccination drive a success. He also urged polio workers to ensure that not a single child was missed out.

Mir Wali, whose three-year-old son was administered polio drops, said now all people knew benefits of polio vaccine and everyone wanted their children to be given the drops. (Pajhwok)

(12) Mawlawi's Anti-...

but they have not taken any action. We hope that he is dealt with according to the law. His speech bothered all Takhar women, even women around the world," she said.

Civil society activists also warned if Samad is not brought to justice, they will embark on demonstrations.

"If government does not take action in this regard, we are ready to take to the streets to restore our reputation," said Khaida Khilwat, a member of Takhar's Youth Parliament.

Noor Mohammad Hakimi, Takhar provincial police chief however said police cannot arrest anyone until an official complaint has been made against them.

"I also heard his remarks about women, but unless a complaint has been made against him, we cannot arrest him. Anytime the women officially register a complaint against him, we are ready to implement the law," he said.

TOLONews tried to get comment from the Takhar governor but were unable to reach him.

Samad last week said women are the most shameless people in the world and at the time said he did not regret saying this. (Tolonews)

(13) Eshchi's Family...

Temor Rashid, Eshchi's nephew.

"Government should stop such oppression and such acts should not be repeated in Jawzjan province," said Mohammad Murad, another of Eshchi's nephews.

Dostum's office rejected the claims and said Eshchi was arrested after being accused of cooperating with the Taliban. Eshchi's family called the allegations baseless. (Tolonews)

(14) Ali Wahidi...

northern suburbs, a region which has been hit hard by job losses in manufacturing.

Deputy principal Tim Kloeden said in his seven years at the school he had seen a turnaround from an era when students did not contemplate going on to university.

"Kids are now much more ambitious, they are asking a lot more questions and they are, I guess, really striving for bigger dreams."

"Last year we had 24 kids get into university, this year 30 have put in their preferences so I expect it to get bigger again."

Mr Kloeden credited students such as the Wahidi family members with helping change the school's culture and expectations.

"People like Ali, where they've come from a background like Afghanistan, the self-discipline that they bring, I reckon that's rubbed off on a lot of the kids," he said.

"They understand how to get to a goal and they understand hard work." (Monitoring Desk)

(15) Girls' School ...

said the building would have 10 rooms and would cost 18 million afghanis in total.

He said the building would resolve many problems currently being faced by the school girls. Abdul Jalil, a resident of Ahmadabad area, told Pajhwok Afghan News all residents of the village were thankful to the government over construction of the school building.

Another resident, Mohammad Zaman, said Argun was the most populated and relatively peaceful town of Paktika. He said the government should pay more attention to the district particularly to the health sector. (Pajhwok)

(16) Firewood, ...

the price of a liter of diesel stood at 46afs and the same quantity of petrol at 47afs, the same prices as of last week's.

In food items, the prices of sugar increased and flour decreased during the week.

Food Traders Union head, Fazal Rahman, said the price of 49 kilograms of Pakistani sugar increased from 2,380afs to 2,400afs, while the price of the same quantity of Kazakh flour dipped from 1,230afs to 1,210afs.

He said 16 liter of Shaista ghee cost 1,100afs and 24.5kg of Pakistani rice 1,550afs, the same prices as of last week's.

Haji Rahmatullah, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Madina green tea cost 240afs and the same amount of African black tea 260afs.

But a retailer in Taimani area, Ahmad Sharif, sold a 49kg bag of Kazakh flour for 1,300afs, a 59-kg sack of sugar for 2,500afs and a 24.5-kg bag of rice for 1,850afs.

He sold a 16-liter tin of Shahista ghee for 1,250afs, a kilo of Madina green tea for 280afs and the same quantity of African black tea for 290afs -- higher than wholesale prices.

Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area of Kabul, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold was 2,250 afghanis and the same amount of Russian variety 1,750 afghanis.

Ahmad Shah, a moneychanger in Saray Shahzada, said the buying rate of one US dollar stood at 66.60afs, while 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 612afs.

Last week's exchange value of the dollar stood at 66.65afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 617afs. (Pajhwok)

(17) Kunaris ...

said: "We back and support the presidential stance against Pakistan."

He said Pakistan was playing double game as it killed clerics, tribal elders, academics and trained anti-Afghan terrorists on its soil and on the other hand it announced reconstruction aid for Afghanistan.

Tribal elder Abdul Latif said Pakistan was hostile towards Afghanistan in friendship. "We strongly support the president's foreign policy and we call it in the interest of Afghanistan."

Governor Waheedullah Kalimzai also thanked the people for supporting President Ghani. (Pajhwok)

(18) 70km Portion ...

district municipalities, local councils and residents and damaged portions of the road were also being repaired and blacktopped.

He said he was trying to get launched full reconstruction work on the road.

Local residents say the road is in a dilapidated condition and critical patients often die on the way to hospital. The road's bad condition has also resulted in increased prices of essential daily-use items.

A driver on the Yangi Qala-Taloqan portion of the road, Painda, said he covered the distance in five hours due to the road's rundown condition.

"This is not a road but only cracks, potholes and water pools. I have to ask passengers to disembark at many places and have to cross deep cracks at many other places. The distance is coverable in two hours, but it takes us five hours."

A resident of Yangi Qala district, Abdul Qayum, said the road's condition had a bad impact on transport fares.

"Sometime it becomes hard to find a taxi. When there is raining or snowfall, a taxi driver will refuse to go with you against even 700 afghanis to Taloqan because of mud condition. If we reach Taloqan, we cannot return home the same day."

He said the road's condition had a negative impact on people's economy as they could not reach the market easily with their products.

A member of the provincial council, Mohammad Qasim, said the road had not been reconstructed during the past 10 years, affecting hundreds of thousands of people.

"The government has not listened to people's voice living across the Kokcha river in the past one decade. We have conveyed their problems to the provincial government which is yet to respond. Now the road is being graveled, it would help ease traffic movement on the road to some extent."

Ten years ago, contract for construction of 176km of road from Taloqan city until Chah Ab and Yangi Qala districts was signed with a construction company.

The company has constructed the road until Khwaja Ghar district and work on the remaining part is yet to be launched. Local officials say contracts for the remaining parts of the road are ready and would be processed next year. (Pajhwok)

(19) Obama Orders...

the U.S. intelligence community have already determined was directed at the "highest levels" of the Russian government. (Schultz notably said Thursday that the U.S. intelligence community has "high confidence" in that conclusion. (AP)

(20) Trump Calls...

CIA was behind the reports that indicated Moscow wanted him in the White House. "I think the Democrats are putting it out," he said in the interview.

Two leading Republican voices on foreign policy in the U.S. Senate, John McCain and Lindsey Graham, joined two Democratic senators on Sunday in expressing concern over the reports on Russian interference and saying that cannot become a partisan issue.

"For years, foreign adversaries have directed cyber attacks at America's physical, economic, and military infrastructure, while stealing our intellectual property. Now our democratic institutions have been targeted," the senators, including Democrats Chuck Schumer and Jack Reed, said in a statement. (Reuters)

(21) Syria, Russian...

Palmyra hospital in the northwestern outskirts of the city, after capturing the Amiriyyeh suburb in the northern part. (Xinhua)

(22) British FM's...

told reporters at a joint news conference with Johnson in Riyadh. "If you look at the actual video of what was said, it was not as implied in the press," Jubeir said.

The British minister was on an official visit to the kingdom, during which he met King Salman.

The Guardian report came on Thursday, a day after British Prime Minister Theresa May attended a summit with the leaders of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states in Bahrain. (AFP)

(23) Italy's FM...

named foreign minister in Oct. 2014, and he had been a member of previous governments since mid-2000s.

If given the mandate, Gentiloni would start consultations with other political forces in order to form a new cabinet. (Xinhua)

(24) PTI Wants ...

government as no institution was working effectively. He said the government's ministers kept crying themselves hoarse on television 14 times a day trying to rescue the prime minister from the corruption scandal. (Monitoring Desk)

(25) Turkmenistan...

UK's Gaffney, Cline & Associates, reserves of the Galkynysh, together with reserves of the Yashlar field, are estimated at 26.2 trillion cubic meters of gas and reaches 27.4 trillion cubic meters - together with reserves of the reopened Garakel field. (Trend)