

### (1) On 1st Anniversary,

the first anniversary of JCMG' in Kabul, said this year 49 cases of violence towards media persons had been recorded.

According to him, JCMG was able to address 36 cases of the cases through mediation. He didn't go into details, saying nine of the cases were under investigation.

However, he said the committee in addition to these cases had inspected about 726 cases of violence towards reporters happened during the past 15 years and had sent 35 cases to the attorney general's office (AGO).

He said the AGO had completed work on 23 cases and the rest were under consideration.

Dashti touted achievements by of committee in ensuring journalists' safety in Kabul and provinces, holding conferences every second month, fundraising campaigns for supporting reporters financially, exempting media outlets from taxes and the Access to Information Law.

Second vice president Sarwar Danish also spoke on the occasion, lauding the performance of the committee. He said the 'heavy shadow of extremism and obscurantism' had created hurdles for Afghanistan media.

He said insurgents, irresponsible armed groups, and strongmen at times had caused problems and forced media outlets into self-censorship.

Danish termed the development of freedom of expression and the increase in media outlets over the past 16 years a huge 'gain' for Afghanistan. He asked media outlets to support the government in preventing corruption through preparing and publishing investigative reports in this regard.

Mohammad Farid Hamidi, the Attorney General, who was also present at the gathering, said the cases of violence on journalists were being seriously scrutinized at the AGO. He also asked the press to expose graft cases by publishing investigative reports, promising AGO's full support to media in this regard.

Many investigative reports have been produced by media outlets, but the government doesn't pay heed to most of such reports.

The Second VP also said the process of issuing computerized ID cards would be initiated next week and soon problems in the electoral commissions would be overcome.

Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon, the European Union (EU) Head of Delegation to Afghanistan, on his part dubbed the freedom of expression in Afghanistan as a major achievement, emphasizing it should be seriously backed.

He asked the Afghan government to work more towards ensuring security and safety of journalists.

He promised the EU would continue its assistances for development of freedom of expression in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Noor's Tirade

In a Tweet, Amarullah Saleh, former spymaster, said he strongly supported Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah during the 2014 presidential election for reasons which "are still there."

Saleh, who remained head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), tweeted that he supported Abdullah in 2014 election "for reasons of history, shared political views and solid attachment to the soil."

He said they supported the CEO for his ability to connect with people at grassroots and represent anti-Talban and terror interest. "Those reasons are there. We are with him."

He alleged certain rivals from the competing team, in close collusion with former president Hamid Karzai government, turned to fraud in the 2014 election which ended without clear conclusion.

He said the creation of the national unity government was based on an agreement between the two rival camps in the election as the only solution to save the country.

Saleh wrote the general understanding within the country and the international community was that the unity government must complete its legal period and during this period, no party could deny the role of the other party.

He said the government had been trying to undermine the executive branch since its establishment, ignoring the fact that undermining the structure undermines the legitimacy of the government and reduces its effectiveness under these critical conditions. Meanwhile, Adib Fahim, the son of former vice president Qasim Fahim, said Abdullah was the leader mujahideen and represented millions of compatriots in the government.

Abdullah was scheduled to respond today to the statements of Atta Mo-

hammad Noor, but was postponed indefinitely.

On the other hand, Ismail Khan, a former minister and member of the Jami-at party, expressed his support for Noor. (Pajhwok)

### (3) MoD Accuses

the armed opponents, we worked with the ministry of defense and national directorate of security to find such clues, but we did not," said Bar-mak.

But on Saturday, Zamir Kabulov, Russia's special presidential envoy for Afghanistan said that Moscow is worried about an increasing foothold of Daesh militants in northern Afghan provinces bordering Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

"Russia was among the first to sound the alarm in connection with the emergence of Daesh in Afghanistan ... Daesh has significantly increased its power in the country recently. According to our estimates, the number of militants exceeds 10,000 and continues to grow, particularly due to new fighters arriving from Syria and Iraq," Kabulov said.

He alleged helicopters "without identifying insignia" are transferring fighters and delivering "Western [military] equipment" to the Afghan branch of the terrorist group.

"Those who are making comments in the international level, they never say something without evidence," said MP Ali Akbar Qasemi.

"Nationals of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Chechens are among those limited fighters who are serving in the Daesh networks in areas of Faryab and Darzab district of Jawzjan," said Helaluddin Helal, deputy head of the intelligence department of the ministry of defense. (Tolonews)

### (4) US Marines

and met him in the province and assured him of the US's long-term commitment to Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a number of Helmand residents have welcomed the deployment of US Marines to the province and said it would improve the security situation.

"Without the US forces, the Afghan forces cannot take down the insurgents. We need them to equip and reinforce our troops," Majid Akhundzada, a member of Helmand provincial council said.

US Marines were previously based in Kandahar and Helmand between 2010 and 2014. At the time they numbered about 30,000.

In addition to carrying out operations against insurgents at the time, the Marines also trained Afghan security forces and backed them on the battlefields. (Tolonews)

### (5) Construction of

Kovind stressed that the Indian side attaches great importance to the TAPI project, as well as other infrastructure projects that are designed to accelerate the economic integration of Afghanistan and contribute to the prosperity of the countries of the entire region.

The TAPI pipeline will run from Galkynysh - the largest gas field in Turkmenistan - through the Afghan cities of Herat and Kandahar, and finally reach the Fazilka settlement located near the India-Pakistan border.

Annual capacity of the gas pipeline will be 33 billion cubic meters.

Turkmenistan started constructing its TAPI section in December 2015 and the construction is expected to take three years. The total length of the TAPI pipeline will be 1,814 kilometers. A 214-kilometer section of the pipeline will run through Turkmenistan, a 774-kilometer section will run through Afghanistan and an 826-kilometer section will run through Pakistan. (Trend)

### (6) New Contract

and the new contract was inked today with another Russian company Project Design Agency.

Usmani said the previous company's work had been slow despite warning from the ministry and the firm also lacked needed technical force, their administration was weak and had little experience in construction of dams.

He said today's contract was signed after the Procurement Commission had approved the deal.

The Machalgho Dam is being constructed on 67 square kilometers area to store five million cubic waters. The dam will have the capacity to irrigate 2,353 hectares land and produce 800 kilowatts of electricity.

In addition, 21 kilometres of canals, 12 buildings, two power-substation and two kilometers of road are part of the project.

Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah and Russian Ambassador to Afghanistan Alexander Mantystskiy

were present at the contract signing ceremony.

Abdullah asked the construction company to complete the dam project in the given time and ensure high quality of work.

Project Design Company Head Bogdan Lriachun assured completion of the project ahead of the deadline and maintaining high quality of construction. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Thermal Power

liters of fuel in six hours, in order to produce 250-300 megawatts of electricity.

Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, an energy supplying company, uses the plant in emergency situations and in winter.

"In the first step, the Tarakhil thermal power system will be switched on and the capital's electricity shortage problem will be solved and in case the problem is not solved then we will also turn on the thermal power plant of the northwest of the capital," said Khowja Muzafar Siddiqi, Tarakhil thermal power plant manager.

According to the officials the power plant is fully computerized.

Whenever any problems occur at the plant the alarm activates, and the plant engineer will receive a message on his computer that will indicate what the problem is.

"The technology that has been used in this plant is not used in other plants, here the technology is very advanced, and all the security and management issues has been considered in this plant," said Samim Ahmad the Tarakhil thermal power plant technical manager.

Officials at Da Breshna Sherkat said that in order to decrease electricity shortages in Kabul the plant must be active.

Although, it is said that every kilowatt electricity from the thermal plant is about 40 Afghansis.

"We run the plant from 4:30 p.m till 2:30 am because this time is the busiest time and every night we inject 250-300 megawatts of electricity to the Kabul electricity network," said Ahmad Wais an official from the plant.

Da Breshna however needs \$20 million USD a year in subsidies from the Ministry of Finance to run the plant twelve hours in a day. (Tolonews)

### (8) Qatari Investors

included a zoo, a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts and a township for refugees.

Several school buildings, a runway and a terminal at the provincial airport and a fire brigade centre would be built by the Qatari investors, he added.

However, he did not disclose the cost of the projects. According the civil society activist, the Qatari traders have built several mosques in Farah city. (Pajhwok)

### (9) 'Terrorist Safe

safe havens to terrorist groups on its soil.

He reiterated word for word US President Donald Trump's warning that Pakistan must stop offering cross-border safe havens to Taliban factions and armed militant groups fighting US troops and their Afghan allies, AFP reported.

"Pakistan has much to gain from partnering with the United States, and Pakistan has much to lose by continuing to harbor criminals and terrorists," Pence said. "President Trump has put Pakistan on notice."

As he thanked the US troops for their service, the vice president told them that they have put the Taliban on the run.

"The American people deserve to know that with the courage of everyone gathered here, we're making real progress in this fight for freedom in Afghanistan," Pence said.

The US vice president's visit comes just months after Trump unveiled his new strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia.

He said the new US strategy on Afghanistan and South Asia is a good opportunity towards a peaceful and stable Afghanistan and region. He stressed on the implementation of the strategy. (Tolonews)

### (10) 20 Nangarhar

The union provided a list of individuals who had been kidnapped and then released, but there was no information about the volume of the ransom money paid to the kidnappers.

The list shows Dr. Syed Noor Ali Shah was kidnapped from Jalalabad, the provincial capital. The help of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) had been sought in securing the release of Dr. Shah, but he was released against ransom money.

Dr. Nazar Gul Arab was kidnapped from Samakhel locality of Behsud district, Dr. Samiullah's brother was

kidnapped from Jalalabad City and released in return for money.

Dr. Mohammad Ayub Shinwari's brother was kidnapped from Jalalabad and was killed by kidnappers after the ransom money was denied.

The son of another doctor, who was not named, had been kidnapped and released for money.

The six specialist doctors migrated from Nangarhar due to growing insecurity and threat of abducting. The union identified two of the departing doctors as Mohammad Ayub Shinwari and Abdul Qadir Fazli.

Dr. Emal Hassanzai, head of the Union, said he had many times shared the issue with security officials, but no effective step could be taken to address the issue. He said doctors in Jalalabad daily faced threats and asked for money.

Dr. Naser Kamawal, a member of the Provincial Council, acknowledged doctors in Jalalabad faced security threats. He warned most doctors would leave the province if their security issue was not addressed.

Governor Gulab Mangal said the government was responsible for security of all people and asked public cooperation in this regard.

"I want the people to cooperate with government in ensuring security and law and order. Besides individual security, the government is working to ensure people's social security which can happen when everyone respects the law and coordinates with the government," he said.

Mangal doubted the list provided by the doctors' union and said no information had been shared with the government in this regard.

Few weeks earlier, doctors in Nangarhar went on strike to protest the growing insecurity and threats to them and called off their strike after concerned authorities assured them support. (Pajhwok)

### (11) 4 of a Family Found

Fareed, owner of the hotel, said the family had been living in the hotel for the past two days and had no identity cards, but they said they were residents of Pashtunkot district.

"The couple did not order dinner last night and in the morning when our servants knocked at their door to ask for something, they found them dead." (Pajhwok)

### (12) Balkh Girl 'Jumps

in the limits of the 1st police district of Mazar-i-Sharif City.

Durrani said the floor was exclusively dedicated to English and computer classes, from where she had jumped off.

The motive behind the extreme step was yet to be ascertained, but police were investigating, he said. (Pajhwok)

## Political Crisis Widens Gap Between Govt And People

KABUL - Increasing tensions and uncertainty on the political front in Afghanistan has pushed ordinary members of the public away and widened the gap between government and the people.

Instead of taking an interest in politics, the public appears to have turned its back on the ongoing dramas and focus instead on their lives and businesses.

This however comes amid an ongoing campaign by government and political experts who constantly call for greater participation by members of the public in the political affairs of the country.

Abdul Baqi, 28, is a resident of Kabul who said he is no longer interested in what is happening on the political front and is instead focusing on his business.

He said all he is concerned about is insecurity, which threatens businesses. "Businesses will do better if there is security; whenever there is a suicide attack, issues increase and businesses are affected," he said.

Another local businessman, Mawlad Paiman, said: "The country operates in crisis (mode) and businesses are affected. It means that investors and private sector then become unwilling to invest when there is political tension."

"In a democratic system or in systems where there is belief in democracy, it is the people who have the first and final word," said local writer Yasin Negah.

In the meantime, there are some people who want politicians to stand united and work together for a better future for the people.

The EU Head of Delegation to Afghanistan Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon has said that all the responsible authorities are obliged to work together for the prosperity of the people.

"It is not good news for the people of Afghanistan; I am sure they wish that all individuals were in a position of responsibility," he said. (Tolonews)

## 38 uplift projects being implemented in 9 provinces: MRRD

KABUL - The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) on Sunday announced it would execute 38 new projects worth 426 million afghans in nine provinces of the country.

Contracts for the projects were signed between MRRD Minister Mujiburahman Karimi and a number of villages Community Development Councils (CDC) in Kabul on Sunday.

Karimi said the 38 projects in irrigation sector would be implemented under the ministry's National Solidarity Program (NSP).

He said the projects would cost a total amount of 426 million afgs and would be implemented in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Daikundi, Ghor, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Kunar and Panjshir provinces.

He said the projects would take six months to complete and would benefit as many as 102,000 individuals.

The MRRD said 90 percent costs of the projects were being provided by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the remaining 10 percent by local people. Karimi, while asking the CDCs to pay heed to the quality of projects, said the MRRD would monitor work of the CDCs.

Ashrafullah, Khairabad Council head in Behsud district of eastern Nangarhar province, said the council had signed the contract of constructing a boundary wall in Khairabad village. "The project would benefit about 500 families and save 500 acres of land from flooding."

Malak Khalid Khan, the Radish Village CDC head in Dara-i-Pech district of eastern Kunar province, said he was awarded the contract of building a retaining wall in their village.

"Our council is committed to implementing the project while observing quality and meeting the terms of the contract." (Pajhwok)

## Private radio station set on fire in Ghor

FEROZKOH - Unidentified attackers have set on fire a private radio station in western Ghor province, an official said on Sunday.

Syed Maroof Syedi, manager of the Sarhadi Radio Station, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident took place at on Saturday night.

He said all devices and equipment, including the broadcast building, were torched. The manager urged the government to bring the attackers to justice.

An eyewitness, who declined to be named, said he saw flames on the roof of the radio station before a blast occurred and a motorcyclist fled the area.

Abdul Qadir Ghafoori, the national journalists' union head, expressed concern at journalists' insecurity, and slammed the assault as a criminal act. He said perpetrators of such acts did believe in the freedom of expression.

The union strongly condemned the incident and urged security organs to arrest the criminals and bring them to justice. However, provincial security officials did not comment on the attack.

Sarhadi Radio was established in 1392 solar year in Ferozkoh, the provincial capital, and became popular across the province in a short time.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack (Pajhwok)

## Would-be suicide bomber held in Laghman

MEHTARLAM Officials in eastern Laghman province on Sunday claimed thwarting bloody attack by arresting a would-be suicide bomber before he could reach the target.

Sarhadi Zwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News a would-be suicide bomber was apprehended in Gatal area on the outskirts of Mehtarlam, the provincial capital, on Sunday evening based on a tip-off.

The bomber disguised as a woman wanted to flee the area but he was arrested by security forces during a special operation, he added.

The target of bomber was a security forces' facility in Mehtarlam but the attempt was foiled and a huge devastation and loss of precious lives thwarted, according to Zwak. (Pajhwok)