

(1) Foreign Militants...

have been underway in Baghlan over the past few days. Today, I have come to the province to monitor the operations. Unfortunately, the weather was bad in the past couple of days and today it is still rainy and snowing; however, security forces continue their offensives," he said.

The Deputy Chief of Army Staff assured people that the operations will continue until the complete elimination of militants.

Baghlan council deems Murad's trip as effective, but said that the pace of the operation is slow.

Besmillah Batash, a member of Baghlan provincial council, said Murad's trip to the province will strengthen Afghan forces. "However, the pace of the offensive in the province is slow. We urge Murad to intensify the operations," he added.

He said that power pylons should be re-installed soon. Afghan security forces launched large-scale military operations against militants in Dand-e-Ghori and Dand-e-Shahbuddin areas of Baghlan province last week.

The Taliban on the first day of the operation blew up a power pylon in Baghlan province and stopped electricity supply from Tajikistan to Kabul. (Tolonews)

(2) Pakistan, Afghan ...

Lieutenant General Mohammad Sharif Yaftali held talks with Pakistani counterparts in Peshawar and discussed cooperation, focusing on border coordination.

The visit of Afghan National Army delegation is follow up of the Pakistan Army Chief General Raheel Sharif's visit to Afghanistan last month in which it was decided that Corps Commanders from respective sides will hold meetings for better border management.

The delegates discussed matters pertaining to mutual interest and security arrangements at Pak-Afghan border, a statement from the army's Inter-Services Public Relations said.

Both militaries have also established a hotline to exchange views on security matters in line with decisions taken during the Army Chief's visit. (Xinhua)

(3) Ghani Issues ...

government source gives information to journalists, the Taliban reject it, or do not show any reaction, or decline to say something and when journalists publish the report, then the Taliban react and say that it is biased or is incorrect," said Naweed Ahmad Barkzai, a journalist.

He added in most cases journalists are being threatened and even killed.

Ahmad Farid, another journalist, is not optimistic about the decree and said that government should take practical steps.

Around two weeks ago, a suicide bomber attacked a bus carrying staff members of TOLO TV, killing seven staffers, wounded more than 20 others.

In a second incident, unidentified gunmen shot dead Mohammad Zubair Khaksar, a journalist in eastern Nangarhar province on Friday night. (Tolonews)

(4) Calls for...

reform process.

"The members of the selection committee are quite concerned about the issue. The president had pledged to issue another decree in the near future, unfortunately implementing reforms in the election law seems to be out of the working agenda of leaders of national unity government," deputy head of selection committee Mohammad Naeem Ayoubzadah said.

"As long as the electoral reform process is delayed, con-

cerns of the people and international community will increase and the issue could raise more questions," the head of the electoral reform commission Shah Sultan Akifi said.

Although the presidential palace so far has not commented on it, president Ashraf Ghani's second VP Sarwar Danish has said that the president is looking to issue another decree by considering a number of changes in bid to implement necessary reforms on the election laws which will also help the selection committee to start its job with some changes.

Monitoring groups warn that consistent delays could undermine the timeframe for holding the nation's parliamentary and district council elections. (Tolonews)

(5) Dand-E-Ghori...

enemy and it certified the existence of the enemy in Baghlan."

"Government must launch an investigation into the matter and prosecute those who played a role in signing the accord," another member Mohammad Zarif said.

Led by the minister of borders and tribal affairs Gulab Mangal, a government delegation visited Baghlan six months ago and signed the MoU with the Taliban which many believe was against a presidential order. The deal agreed Afghan security forces would not launch operations in Dand-e-Ghori.

"The enemy recruited fighters here and trained them. Taliban infiltrated from Dand-e-Ghori to Kunduz and other areas," Baghlan MP Muhaudin Mahdi said.

Amid a surge in Taliban's insurgency in Baghlan, the Afghan security forces however have launched a military campaign against the insurgents in Dand-e-Ghori and Dand-e-Shahbuddin areas in an attempt to eliminate the Taliban fighters and clear the area of the militants.

"Not only in Dand-e-Ghori, the security forces will continue their operation against them in all areas including Dand-e-Ghori and Dand-e-Shahbuddin," Sediqi Sediqqi, spokesman for the ministry of interior said.

This comes months after a similar accord had been signed with the Taliban in Musa Qala district of Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, a deal which later led to numerous challenges for Afghan troops. (Tolonews)

(6) 44 Militants ...

and defused several roadside bombs and landmines, said the statement that provides daily operational updates.

The statement also confirmed the loss of three army personnel over the same period. Afghan security forces have pressed on clearing the militants in restive provinces.

The Taliban responds by bombing and armed attacks. On Saturday, four security force members, including a district police chief, were killed after a roadside bomb struck a security force convoy in Sirkanio district of eastern Kunar province. (Xinhua)

(7) Martyrs' Kin...

into the establishment of an independent authority for tackling the affairs of martyrs' families and the disabled. They will be offered government jobs on merit as well representation in the Meshrano Jirga (upper house of parliament).

Ghani pledged to enhance facilities the special people and relatives of martyrs, including a three percent quota for them in government jobs. They have already been given quotas in scholarships and Haj.

According to the statement, the president said the government would take the required measures to facilitate the medical treatment of the

disabled inside and outside the country. (Pajhwok)

(8) Riza Gul ...

for medical treatment, but when they transferred her to the Airport, civil society activists transferred her to a private hospital without informing the health ministry.

"We coordinated Riza Gul's trip to Kabul and sent an ambulance to receive her. But civil society activists transferred the patient from the airport. Later on we came to know the hospital where they admitted her," Dr. Mohammad Sherzad, an advisor to ministry of health said on Sunday.

Riza Gul has appealed to the relevant Afghan officials to make sure she gets treatment abroad.

"I feel a lot of pain, they told me they would treat me in Turkey, but so far nothing has been done," she said.

"I left my family and came to Kabul to take Riza Gul to Turkey to recover. It is now several days that we stay here, but I am sure that it is impossible to treat her here and need to send her to Turkey," Riza Gul's relative Abdullah Khan said.

As Riza Gul's concerns grow, local doctors have said they have sketched out a medical plan to conduct her surgery free of charge.

Riza Gullane, 25, is from Ghor-mach district of Faryab province. Her husband chopped off her nose with a knife two weeks ago. He is still on the run. (Tolonews)

(9) Women Gain...

my strengths, trust my abilities, and take part in the development of Afghanistan."

Different project management trainings are held for the interns during the internship period to develop not only their engineering capacity, but their financial, administrative and management skills. Interns are given practical knowledge through software training, labs, shadowing activities, personal instruction from professional engineers, and site visits. Through these hands-on activities they gain the skills and knowledge to compete for jobs when they graduate.

The United States Agency for International Development created the Afghanistan Engineering Support Program to provide architectural and engineering services, as well as training to Afghan government ministry staff and technicians working in the energy, transportation, water, sanitation, and communication sectors. (Wadsam)

(10) Qatar to Help...

during the recent years and claimed title of the South Asia Football Federation (SAFF) championship two years ago. The Afghanistan football finished second during the 2015 SAFF championship and the establishment of the first standard football academy is expected to further boost the performance of the Afghanistan football team in the upcoming championships. (KP)

(11) Tree Plantation...

procedure set by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).

Up to 20,000 seedlings set aside for greenery and ornamental of public places and recreational parks will be handed over to Lashkargah municipality, he said. (Pajhwok)

(12) BF Assisted ...

for the past 13 years, a foundation which could cover more than a million citizens. Bayat Foundation has not only assisted foods for the needy families but has built dozens of schools, Hospitals, clinics in different provinces. (ATN)

(13) \$1m Terminal...

said another terminal would also be constructed in Surkh Diwal area on the Torkham highway for containers and

the terminal would have all facilities.

"We also plan to build a terminal at Jalalabad bus stand in Kabul. These terminals will increase our income and streamline traffic," the minister said.

Nangarhar governor Salim Khan Kunduzi said the new projects would not only improve traffic but would also provide jobs to many. He said passengers travelling between Afghanistan and Pakistan faced many problems due to lack of such facilities. Nangarhar provincial council deputy head Dr. Lal Mohammad Durrani told reporters that corruption was still rife in the transport sector at Torkham dry port where money was taken from even poor cart owners. (Pajhwok)

(14) Religious...

recognition of their office in Qatar, lifting of sanctions on their leaders and release of their prisoners.

Maulana Mufti Mehmood Zakiri, chief of the council, which gave the ruling, read out the fatwa on phone after presiding a meeting of hundreds of clerics to discuss the issue of Afghan peace process.

Nato will keep about 12,000 troops in Afghanistan until 2016, alliance head Jens Stoltenberg had said last year. Quadrilateral meeting: Islamabad to identify 'reconcilable' Afghan Taliban

"Islam instructs its followers that 'Jihad' is compulsory unless the invaders are expelled from an Islamic country. Peace is forbidden with the invaders and their supporters in such a situation," the decree added.

"Any peace with the Americans in their presence in Afghanistan will not be a peace but will amount to surrender."

It was pointed out in the fatwa that the "invaders are taking responsibility of the peace talks at a time when they are a party to the conflict and in fact their invasion caused the armed conflict.

"Such peace process has no Islamic validity in Islamic Sharia."

It demanded that "the United States withdraw its forces, accept its defeat publicly, and pay compensation for killing Afghans and destroying their properties. Then an independent Afghanistan will maintain relations with the US." (Monitoring Desk)

(15) Cricket Fans...

his two brothers Aftab Alam and Karim Sadiq are in the national team.

Another Facebook user, Jamal Ahamd, also said that family members of Nawroz Mangal, Asghar Stanikzai, Dawlat Ahmadzai, Raees Ahmadzai and Noor Ali Zadran are in different cricket teams of the country.

However, Afghan Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive Nasimullah Danish said they did not interfere in the selection of players because there was an independent selection committee responsible for selecting players.

He said it was not only in Afghanistan that relatives of players and board officials were in the national teams, but it was common worldwide.

He said India has more than a billion populations, but there were some players who were brothers in the national team.

He said Steve Waugh and Mark Waugh were brothers in the Australian team, Umar Akmal, Kamran Akmal and Adnan Akmal were brothers in the Pakistani team, he said as an example.

On Saturday, the Afghanistan-A team defeated Zimbabwe when Nasir Jamal, a brother of Raees Ahmadzai, performed well, Danish said. Besides other achievements, he said, the under-19 cricket team beat Zimbabwe last month and got the cup.

Danish asked people not to harm cricket for personnel differences with anyone because cricket teams had brought many laurels home.

His family members were selected due to their own talent, the head of the private cricket academy in Jalalabad and former national team player, Hastigul Abid, said.

"There are some other talented players in our family, but we could not promote them due to such criticism," he said, adding similar examples were available in many teams of the world. (Pajhwok)

(16) A War Victim...

eyes, the troubled woman told Pajhwok Afghan News she had been begging to feed her two children. Some people made illegal demands against money, something bothered her the most.

She said people used abusive language when she encountered them during begging. Shugofa said she had tried to kill her children and commit suicide, but her neighbors had frustrated her attempts. With her two children sitting around her each 10 and 12-year old, she said their entire efforts evolved around food and did not know if they would find some tomorrow or not.

Shugofa in a shaky voice and tears coming out of her eyes said one of her sons polished people's shoes and the other sold plastic tools in the market.

Younus, 12, said he studied up to 4th class in Sar-i-Pul and left the area due to fighting and insecurity.

Younus has no option but to work as a child labourer to support his mother because there is no elder in the family to support them. He carried wooden box and roams around in the city, asking people to polish their shoes so he could charge 10 or 20 afghanis.

Shugofa said she and her children earned 80 to 100 afghanis per day and it was nothing but a hand to mouth existence.

She said her husband was killed in Sheram locality of Sari-i-Pul, a place which had been under the Taliban and other militants and most of the victims there were innocent civilians.

The Taliban took away Shugofa's husband with them from their home in Sheram.

According to her, it was summer when Taliban knocked at their door and took away her husband. She asked local officials and residents to search for her husband before his body was found after one week.

She claimed the Taliban had tried to tie her knot with one of their fighters but local elders asked the Taliban not to further harass the widow.

Then she traveled to Shiberghan to rescue herself from the Taliban, but she still fears the militants may find her one day.

Shugofa said she inherited property from her husband but could not dare to go to the area where Taliban are looking for her. (Pajhwok)

(17) Police Rescue ...

days, said that the kidnapers had beaten him and asked for ransom from his family.

"The kidnapers were beating me and were putting pressure on my family to pay them ransom. Fortunately, I was rescued without paying any money," he said. (Tolonews)

(18) NDS Member...

died and another wounded on Saturday afternoon when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in Soor village on the outskirts of Farah City, a member of the provincial council, Dadullah Qani said.

A soldier, Attaullah was killed and another Abdul Tahir sustained injuries in the blast, an NDS officer who wished to be unnamed, said. The injured was taken to Fa-

rah Civil Hospital, the source added. (Pajhwok)

(19) German ...

back criminal refugees who arrived via non-EU countries. "That can then mean that such refugees are not deported to their home countries - if civil war is raging there, for example - but rather to the country via which they came into the EU," said Altmaier, who is also Merkel's chief of staff. (Reuters)

(20) Cameron Meets ...

Britons would vote to leave the EU by a small margin.

Tusk's visit comes after Cameron held a hastily-arranged meeting with European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker on Friday to try to resolve the British leader's main concern -- reducing the number of EU migrants coming to Britain.

Tusk arrived in London on Sunday afternoon accompanied by his full negotiation team, an EU source told AFP. "I don't expect Tusk to offer future treaty change on free movement" of people, the source said.

Cameron wants to be able to use an "emergency brake" to curb the amount of benefits payments which migrants can claim. (AFP)

(21) NATO Warns...

Russia. "There were no violations of Turkish airspace by planes of the Russian air group in the Syrian Arab Republic," Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov told reporters. (Xinhua)

(22) UN Envoy ...

to join a major international efforts to broke peace talks for the country, but the uncertainty of the just-started UN-mediated intra-Syrian talks still remain.

The opposition spokesperson Salem el-Meslet told reporters Sunday that if they don't see the necessary good will from the government side, they will not go into talks and will leave Geneva. He said the opposition will discuss with UN Special Envoy for Syria their preconditions, including lifting the sieges, stopping the shelling and releasing detainees. (Xinhua)

(23) Security Forces...

clearing operation in Sajariyah district as the IS militants heavily planted bombs in the buildings while a few IS militants still carrying out sporadic attacks against the troops using the ruined buildings as hideouts, al-Mahallawi said.

The foiled suicide attempt was the latest in a series of IS attacks on positions of security forces and allied Sunni tribal fighters, who captured most of Ramadi from the extremist group on Dec. 28.

The Iraqi national flag was raised on the government complex in downtown Ramadi, but sporadic battles continued with IS militants in the eastern part of the city and in the open areas north of it. (Xinhua)

(24) AU to Intensify...

during its meeting Friday resolved to redouble efforts towards cessation of conflicts and terrorism in Africa. Chergui said the AU member states were united in their resolve to support peace keeping initiatives and the fight against violent extremism.

He revealed that leaders from the eastern African region pledged to deploy the East African Standby Force to Burundi to assist in disarming armed groups alongside protection of civilians. "President Museveni of Uganda is spearheading dialogue to end the political crisis in Burundi. AU has supported inclusive dialogue to restore peace in the country," Chergui told reporters, adding efforts to restore stability in the great lakes region, South Sudan and Libya have been intensified. (Xinhua)