

### (1) Security Now ...

been launched and said investors and traders needed government's support in reviving factories and making investments.

The governor claimed a historic improvement had been achieved in the security of the province.

The provincial council chief, Haji Syeda Jan Khakrezwal, urged the president to complete the half-constructed Hazrat Omar Farooq mosque in Kandahar City and intensify construction work on the 16.5 km road between Kandahar city and the airport.

Kandahar chamber of commerce and industry chief Haji Nasrullah Zaheer said first of all the issue of electricity should be resolved, saying only 65 of 200 factories in Kandahar were operational due to power shortage.

He said traders were ready to revive textile factories which had previously employed 15,000 people but now they had been closed.

Women's affairs director Ruqia Achakzai thanked the president and the first lady for their efforts that led to the establishment of a fund for women.

She called for timely investigation into cases of women prisoners and the construction of an exclusive market for women's handicrafts.

Speaking on youth behalf, civil society activist Gul Ahmad Kamin said the TAPI gas pipeline project had a huge importance for Kandahar and hurdles in the way of its implementation should be removed. Besides other demands, he said the education sector should be strengthened and businessmen provided more facilities.

In response, President Ghani said he was happy that security had become a secondary issue in Kandahar and 90 percent people present at the gathering talked about other aspects of life. He particularly thanked the security forces for improving security in Kandahar with people's support. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Cancer Claims...

disease killed eight million people of the total 14 million infected on the global level.

The disease could be controlled by increased cooperation on measures that halted cancer from spreading, awareness about factors and early treatment.

Feroz encouraged the private sector to invest in establishing well-equipped cancer hospitals.

His ministry had initiated efforts in cooperation with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to create special centers where cancer could be diagnosed.

He said a special cancer unit was recently inaugurated at the Jamhuriat Hospital but was yet to be furnished with latest equipment. (Pajhwok)

### (3) 'Foreign Forces...

of foreign forces about their participation in Helmand fighting, but alone the Afghan security forces may not be able to deal with the conflict," he said.

The public representative said the Taliban had mounted pressure on the security forces who also lacked coordination among them.

Abdul Majid Akhunzada, deputy head of the provincial council, said the involvement of foreign forces was directly needed to control the violence. He, however, said joint operations of Afghan and foreign forces should be concentrated and precised to avoid civilian casualties, a sensitive issue in Afghanistan. He said security forces should learn from their previous experiences.

Governor Mirza Khan Rahimi also acknowledged foreign forces' role was vital much needed offensives against insurgents.

He also said the presence of foreigners in Helmand would help create job opportunities for locals as well. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Security Pact...

tangible and if the US acted upon its undertakings and the Afghanistan peace process, we would consider the security pact as fruitful," he added.

Noting that the US presence in Afghanistan was aimed at fighting against terrorism and extremism, he lamented that the situation in his country exacerbated every day and hopes for establishment of peace in Afghanistan faded out.

In September 2014, officials from Afghanistan and the United States signed a long-delayed security agreement to allow American troops to stay in the country after the end of the year, filling a campaign promise by President Ashraf Ghani.

Ghani's predecessor, Karzai, had long refused to agree to the deal, souring his ties with the United States. Karzai cited his anger over civilian deaths and his belief that the war was not fought in the interests of

his country. (FNA)

### (5) Atmar off...

call on top Turkish leadership, including the spymaster, defence and foreign ministers.

Bilateral security, political and economic relations, Turkish assistance to Afghan forces in the NATO framework and future support will also be discussed at the meetings. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Dostum ...

were among Dostum's suggestions that were not implemented despite promises, he said.

Dostum had suggested that the current youth affairs department could not resolve youth's problems, particularly joblessness and the department should be promoted to a ministry.

Creating a compound of security forces in four zones of the country to eliminate militants and improve security situation was another suggestion of the VP, Tayanj said.

Giving no attention to Turkmen tribe, who played a major role in electing the president, was another issue Dostum was not happy with, he said

"Unfortunately very less number of people from Turkmen tribe has been appointed in ministries, departments and embassies. The Turkmen Tribe is unhappy with government's inattention," he said.

Tayanj also rejected reports that Dostum had boycotted important meetings and said: "The VP's dissatisfaction is not as serious to boycott meetings, but if the requests of Turkmen tribe are ignored then the VP would act on his own and the government would be responsible for any consequences."

He said Dostum was a leader of people and he supported the movement of his tribe.

The VP, an Uzbek leader, and the Turkmen tribes announced their support to President Ashraf Ghani in the 2014 presidential elections.

Pajhwok tried to contact the presidential spokesmen, but failed. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Recommendations ...

meeting focusing global attention on addressing malnutrition in all its forms. The conference on 19-21 November 2014 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy was jointly supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Over 170 states acknowledged that malnutrition in all its forms, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight, and obesity, negatively affected people's health and wellbeing and posed high economic and social costs for individuals, communities, and nations.

The workshop in Kabul was aimed to review the ICN2 recommendations to identify the feasible ones in the context in Afghanistan and also to promote connectivity between food systems and health, a joint statement said.

The outcomes of the workshop have been connected with the post-2015 development agenda and, clearly, feed into the proposed Sustainable Development Goal to end hunger, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. It also builds on commitments and the global targets for improving maternal, infant and young child nutrition by 2025.

"Agriculture is the backbone of the country and around 40 percent of our population is directly and indirectly involved in agricultural activities," said deputy agriculture minister Amanuddin Haidari.

He said agriculture could also play an important role in improving nutrition in the country if the agricultural policies, programs and investments were nutrition-sensitive. "This consultative workshop would contribute to strengthening better collaboration and coordination between agriculture and nutrition sectors at the national level."

Deputy public health minister Dr. Najia Tariq said the Second International Conference on nutrition that held in November 2014 suggested particular recommendations in regard to nutrition. "Today we review and prioritize those recommendations, so each entity can prepare their work plan to address the recommendations which can be implemented with the support of WHO, FAO, and other partners," she added.

She said the Ministry of Public Health supported windows of opportunity in 1000 days of life initiative of children nutrition from pregnancy to two years of child life.. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Russia Promises ...

Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said Wednesday.

"Our Tajik friends and brothers today are experiencing new challenges and threats taking into consideration

the problems that are coming from Afghanistan. It is very important for us to understand what's going on there, what you're doing and give maximum aid to the military forces of Tajikistan by delivering weapons and military equipment and providing everything necessary to strengthen their combat readiness," Antonov said during a meeting with Tajik Defense Minister Sherali Mirzo.

Antonov added that Tajikistan is one of Russia's priorities in developing military and military-technical cooperation.

"We understand that the more secure Tajikistan is, the more secure the Russian Federation is," Antonov said.

According to Antonov, Russia will use the full potential of its military base in Tajikistan to defend Tajikistan's national sovereignty in particular and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)'s member states in general.

The Tajik leadership is concerned over the worsening security situation in neighboring Afghanistan, where the Afghan armed forces are fighting against Taliban militants and where the Daesh terrorist group is actively trying to spread its influence.

Daesh, which is outlawed in Russia, currently numbers over 3,000 fighters in Afghanistan, according to October 2015 figures released by the CSTO.

The CSTO member states, comprising Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Belarus, are concerned that Daesh extremists after taking part in training and combat in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan may return back to their home Central Asian countries. (Monitoring Desk)

### (9) Baghlan MPs...

continuing in Baghlan-e-Markazi [district in Baghlan] - where the Taliban has moved forward somehow," the senator said.

The Defense Ministry meanwhile said the military operation in Dand-e-Ghori area is intensifying and that the area will be cleared of insurgents in the near future.

"At least 89 insurgents were killed and 85 others wounded [in Baghlan operation]. In addition scores of weapons of different types were recovered by security forces in the battle," said Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri.

The Defense Ministry earlier this week said the security forces have moved forward in the Baghlan operation. (Tolonews)

### (10) New €12.3 ...

priorities of IDLG: 1) Service delivery; 2) accountability; and 3) clear functions and mandates. The project is built on a new theory of change aimed at improving service delivery by enhancing the accountability and transparency of the local governments to women and men of Afghanistan and building the capacity of local institutions to plan, budget and monitor service delivery effectively with the ultimate aim of increasing the legitimacy of the government and the trust between the state and society. The project will be implemented in thirteen provinces and in twenty two Afghan municipalities by the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, with an EU contribution of EUR 12.375 Million over a period of three years. (PR)

### (11) About 200 ...

headed by certain man named Mustafa, said the head of the local administration referring to the Afghan secretive agencies.

Those, who attack with mines and explosive devices are foreigners. The Tajik engineers prepare mines for the Taliban, says the report.

The foreign militants managed to create their bases on the Tajik side of the river Panj waiting out active operations that are carried out against them on the Afghan side.

Imam Sahib District directly borders with Tajikistan. The total length of this section of the common border is about 70 km. (AKIpress)

### (12) Afghanistan Grows...

on January 27. The line supplies electricity from Uzbekistan, providing the Afghan capital Kabul with nearly half of its total power needs. Afghanistan has thus far been unable to repair the line, and Kabul has resorted to cutting power by six hours per day.

"What can we do? We are powerless! The whole problem is the absence of the level of security needed for the country's infrastructure to function," Afghanistan energy ministry spokesman Abdoulbasid Abdi told Sputnik Dari.

Abdi added that the areas where the power lines lie, in the Kunduz and Baghlan provinces of the country, remain unsafe for both the ministry and the power company. The Taliban previously briefly occupied Kunduz,

forcing a battle with Afghan and US forces, which led to the US bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital.

"Let's say Breshna wants to repair lines destroyed by the Taliban, but the territory around them is already mined? We could lose our workers! There is no guarantee that after the line is repaired, they won't be destroyed again," Abdi told Sputnik Dari. (Monitoring Desk)

### (13) Martyrs Kin...

Organization, and the ministries of agriculture and urban development in Kabul.

Urban Development Minister Sayed Sadat Mansoor Naderi he signed two MoUs worth \$140 million. Of the aid, \$100 million would be spent on construction of buildings and commercial centres and the remaining \$40 million would be spent on building houses for families of martyrs.

He said construction works on 1,000 apartments for families of martyrs would be completed in three years.

Naderi said the two projects in addition to providing shelter to homeless people would also generate jobs, attract investment, improve competition in the construction sector and lower house rents.

"We will prevent arbitrary and unplanned buildings, we are improving peoples trust in the government by providing them standard housing facilities," he said.

A third MoU worth \$20 million was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the Qatari charity.

Abdul Manan Matin, agriculture director for western Farah province who was present at the signing ceremony, said Farah was a border province and had great potential in agricultural productions. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Nangarhar Kidney...

who would be dispatched to Pakistan for a three-month training. He hoped the Pakistani government would grant visas to the selected team so they could begin their training without any delay.

Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi said after completion of the training, the officials would return to work in the hospital. He asked the neighboring country to provide necessary machinery to the hospital soon.

Provincial Council Secretary Zabihullah Zamarai also asked the Pakistani government to help make functional the hospital. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Tajikistan and ...

Dushanbe on February 3. "We have reached an agreement with Afghanistan on all issues and it just remains to coordinate some aspects with Turkmenistan," the minister said. According to him, the Tajik government is currently studying the document that should be signed by the sides

"After signing of this document there will be an opportunity to prepare an agreement on implementation of the project that will be signed by the heads of the three countries," Ganjalzoda added.

We will recall that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for construction of the rail link connecting the three countries was signed during a trilateral meeting of the presidents of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan that took place in the Turkmen capital Ashgabat on March 20, 2013.

The 400-kilometer railroad is expected to connect the Afghan town of Akina-Andkhoy to Atamurat-Ymamnazar in Turkmenistan and Panj in Tajikistan. (Asia-Plus)

### (16) Pakistani ...

staff, Gen. Murad Ali Murad, who is leading the counter-insurgency operation, said the Taliban from other provinces and masked men, possibly foreign nationals, were involved in the war.

He added the security forces had destroyed three rebel strongholds and inflicted heavy casualties on them, Gen. Murad asserted.

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the fighters had killed 14 Afghan soldiers and injured 15 others during clashes.

He said three Taliban were also killed and five others wounded. Two damaged tanks and dead bodies of five Special Forces soldiers remained at the site before being handed over to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). (Pajhwok)

### (17) Poppy Cultivation ...

our products, but none of the promises were fulfilled. This is why most of the farmers started poppy cultivation [in Nangarhar]," said Gulpadshah, a farmer in Nangarhar. This comes after Nangarhar was listed as a non- poppy cultivation province last year. (Tolonews)

### (18)16 Quakes Hit...

for two nights, we spent last night outside the room in cold weather due fear of quakes," he said.

Abdul Karim, a resident of Waghaz district, also said they felt several quakes. "But I and some other people here think these are not earthquakes, but caused by heavy atomic and hydrogen bombs tested by foreign forces in our area," he said.

"It is also possible that some people may blow heavy bombs underground to extract natural resources," he added.

Hashmatullah, a resident of Ghazni and a geography student at Kabul University, said earthquakes were mostly occurred in northern provinces of Afghanistan.

He said two quakes in Ghazni were as strong as seven to nine on the Richter scale. "A natural earthquake is at least 180 kilometers deep and the quakes in Ghazni are 23 kilometers deep," Hashmatullah said.

He added this kind of quakes should be seriously investigated as they seemed unnatural. He also believed some foreign countries were possibly testing their weapons in Ghazni that caused such shakes.

Governor Mohammad Aman Hamid said quakes had worried all the people of Ghazni. "I assure people that no foreign country could test their weapons here," he said.

Aman said he had shared the issue with relevant organs in Kabul and the causes of quakes would be revealed soon. (Pajhwok)

### (19) AMP Lends ...

people on both sides of the Durand Line had suffered a lot due to the conflict in Afghanistan and if Taliban's safe havens and hideouts remained intact on the Pakistani side of the border and Islamabad did not initiate a peace dialogue with the Taliban like the Afghan Taliban, Afghanistan and the region would continue to face threats.

"It is better to insist on peace from Amu River to Abasin --- a region we are trapped in an undeclared war with Pakistan. The war in Afghanistan is a proxy war of Pakistan and until peace is not made with Pakistan, the conflict in Afghanistan will continue."

The political party said the Afghan government should hold direct talks with the Taliban, who could find an alternative country to shun reliance on Pakistan or join other groups including Islamic State. (Pajhwok)

### (20)3 Uruzgan...

officer and two policemen were killed and three others injured.

The five injured policemen had been stranded at the checkpoint for the past 20 days, absent arrangements for shifting them to hospital, checkpoint commander Saleh Mohammad said.

"With the help of ANA, we decided to shift the injured police yesterday, but Taliban attacked us on the way to Helmand River," he said. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Taliban Embark...

house and the houses of my five group leaders in the center of Qalazi district."

Another ALP member, who wished not to be named, said militants had looted his house as well. "They burn our houses and loot our assets," the source said, adding that they had families taken out of their homes and had moved to other areas.

Qalazal district fell to militants the day they captured Kunduz City. The main administration office and the police headquarter of the district have been shifted to Aqtapa area which was cleared of militants during an operation. However, the bazaar of the district is still under Taliban

Taliban insurgents have also begun a similar arson campaign in Khanabad and Aliabad districts. The group is yet to comment on the issue.

Arbab Sharif, an uprising commander in Khanabad, also said militants first looted his belongings and then torched his house in Basos area of Aqtash area on Tuesday.

Aqtash, previously part of Khanabad district, was promoted to district based on a presidential decree some three months ago. However, insurgents hold sway in most areas of Aqtash.

Sharif said a Taliban's commission had recently decided to destroy houses of ALP and uprising members. He said five houses of ALP forces in their neighborhood had been torched. (Pajhwok)

### (22)Two Bomb ...

city Jalalabad when it struck landmine in Samarkhil area. The victims are security guards of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghani-

stan (UNAMA). The second blast was caused by a magnetic bomb in the capital city of Khost province which left one person wounded. No group has claimed responsibility for the explosions. (KP)

### (23)Start of Intra...

parties. Though seen as a positive step, dynamics have taken a downwards turn as sides fail to agree on the execution of priorities which will hopefully kick-start constructive discussions between both factions.

De Mistura had planned to meet both the Syrian government delegation and the HNC on Tuesday, which would have been the first time both sides meet the special envoy on the same day. (Xinhua)

### (24)U.N. Scramble...

The opposition canceled a meeting with him on Tuesday afternoon, accusing Russia of putting the process at risk with an "unprecedented" bombing campaign on Aleppo and Homs. Rebels described the ongoing assault north of Aleppo as the most intense yet. One commander said opposition-held areas of the divided city were at risk of being encircled entirely by the government and allied militia, and appealed to foreign states that back the rebels to send more weapons..(Reuters)

### (25)Ukraine's ...

Berlin is growing increasingly suspicious that Russia is trying to stir up trouble in Germany to try to weaken Merkel, who has taken a tough line on a crisis that was triggered when Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014. German officials say Moscow hopes to destabilize Europe and create a vacuum into which it can project its own power. (Reuters)

### (26)China "Seriously..."

informed that the DPRK plans to launch an earth-observation satellite between Feb. 8 and 25. When asked whether the DPRK's announcement of a satellite launch plan is "an unmistakable slap" in face to China, as stated by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel, the senior U.S. diplomat for East Asia, Lu pointed at the United States. (Xinhua)

### (27)Cameron Urges ...

be too soon after regional elections planned for May 5. The British leader was responding to a joint letter from the first ministers of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales asking for the referendum not to be held in June because of their own elections in May..(AFP)

### (28)French Gov't ...

central Paris, killing 130 people, French President Francois Hollande declared a state of emergency a day after Paris attacks, the first such decision since the Algerian War of Independence, in the 1950s and 1960s. On November 19, the National Assembly voted for the government's proposal to extend state emergency to three months, which is expected to expire on Feb. 26. (Xinhua)

### (29)UNHCR ...

than 74,000 Congolese refugees residing in Rwanda, who fled from enduring violence and lawlessness in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The rest are mostly from neighboring Burundi, where unrest sparked by its presidential election last year forced tens of thousands of people to flee. The UN refugee agency promised to ensure basic humanitarian standards for both groups, and in the meantime design a more sustainable model of assistance. (Xinhua)

### (30)Indonesia,

there is no issuance of a license for new plantation at peat land, and it is not allowed to open new plantation on areas which has had a license for that but the land has been long not opened," said SitiNurbaya, Indonesian Minister for Environment and Forestry.(Xinhua)

### (31)Iraq Kurd ...

for the people to make a decision through a referendum on their future," Barzani said in a statement released Wednesday. "This referendum would not necessarily lead to (an) immediate declaration of statehood, but rather to know the will and opinion of the people of Kurdistan about their future," said Barzani, who has remained in power despite the expiration of his term as president. (AFP)

### (32)China to Launch...

21st in the Beidou Navigation Satellite System, into orbit on Monday. The first 16 Beidou satellites formed a network that only covered China and nearby regions. The first new-generation satellite, the 17th in total, was launched in March 2015 to help the network transition from regional to global coverage. (Xinhua)