

(1) Eight Governors...

who have not registered their assets so far. The officials will fill the registration forms after they received it," the Finance Ministry spokesman Ajmal Abdul Rahimzai said.

At least 8,000 government officials - including governors - have so far registered their assets at the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption. (Tolonews)

(2) Governor Vows ...

Meanwhile, local observers describe the beleaguered Sangin district as "strategically important" area and warned that the "fall of Sangin would further complicate the security challenges" in Helmand province. "The fall of Sangin would add to the security problems in Helmand and adjoining areas," Abdul Majid Akhundzada, the deputy to Helmand Provincial Council said.

Sangin district, if falls to Taliban outfit would pave the way for the fall of Gereshk district and eventually would enable Taliban fighters to tighten the noose around provincial capital Lashkar Gah.

The poppy growing Helmand province with Lashkar Gah as its capital 555 km south of Kabul has been regarded as Taliban hotbed in the conflict-hit Afghanistan.

Qari Yusuf Ahmadi who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit, in contact with media has confirmed fighting in Sangin district and inflicting casualties on government forces stationed there. (Xinhua)

(3) NATO General...

the way ahead and priorities for the Resolute Support mission.

"We must ensure that terrorists never again use Afghanistan as a safe haven," Scaparrotti said. "That's why we are committed to strengthening the ANDSF." (Pajhwok)

(4) CEO's Office ...

CEO and instead the president will meet Noor's demands.

"30 embassies, 30 deputy ministries, a number of independent directorates including the independent directorate of local governance, ten to fifteen provinces and half of the consulates in the world should be given to us," said Noor.

Noor, as leader of Jamiat-e-Islami party, who backed Abdullah during the elections, appears now to be a political rival of Abdullah and a new ally of Ghani

"He (Noor) announced that he has entered negotiations and wants to get a share from Ashraf Ghani, the president of Afghanistan. This government has its leadership and they are supposed to take decisions on bigger national issues, these demands so far have not been discussed between government leadership," said Rahimi.

But what happens next if the CEO's share in power is given to Noor?

"The national unity government was formed on the basis of the political agreement, no individual and no force maintains the authority to give our share and authorities to others, and we will not allow someone to do so," Rahimi said.

In recent months Abdullah has been under mounting pressure from his own colleagues, many of whom consider Abdullah has failed to secure Jamiat's role in politics.

Since its establishment in 2014, the national unity government has been grappling internal disputes.

"It indicates gaps of trust between leaders of the national unity government, the sec-

ond issue is that there is also mistrust within Jamiat-e-Islami party, thirdly trust in the government institutions has vanished completely," said political analyst Hamid Saboori.

Political rifts between Ghani and Abdullah have apparently sparked internal disputes even between political parties. (Tolonews)

(5) Amid Enhanced ...

a gap of 60 days between two Tourism visits, however, remains unchanged.

The government of India promoted and encouraged Afghan businessmen to visit India to further enhance Indo-Afghan trade ties. Henceforth, Afghan businessmen investing in India or having a large trade turnover with India, depending on volume of their investment/trade, shall be issued Indian visas for a duration of 1 to 5 years, with continuous stay of up to 180 days during each such business visit, subject to production of relevant business documents, the statement said. The embassy of India, Kabul was confident that these changes in the visas regime would further strengthen the historic people to people and business ties between our two countries. (Pajhwok)

(6) Experts Assess ...

Program at ICIMOD said in his presentation, "The Adaptation Outlook will include vulnerability assessment, policy assessment, gap analysis and recommendations." The Hindu Kush Himalayan region extends 3,500 km over all or parts of eight countries. The most important region for South Asia and China, it is the source of ten large Asian river systems and provides water, ecosystem services, and the basis for livelihoods to a population of around 210.53 million people in the region. The basins of these rivers provide water to 1.3 billion people, a fifth of the world's population.

At a time when the global temperature is rising owing to climate change, hills and mountains, particularly the Hindu Kush Himalaya mountain system, have constituted places where adaptation, mitigation, and resilience are hallmarks of the people and the landscape.

According to ICIMOD, the assessment will be completed by May 2017. It has been proposed to be launched at 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Germany in this November. (Xinhua)

(7) Route Survey...

Pakistan and India. A sum of \$15 billion will be invested in developing the gas field, with \$10 billion being poured into laying the 1,680 km pipeline. (Pajhwok)

(8) Balkh PC...

representatives was a violation of Balkh people's rights. "Everyone's authority is defined in the law, but some people only work for own interest," she said.

But the governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, said provincial council members had always been invited to meetings about budgetary and development plans.

"Provincial annual budget plan is always finalized by a special committee in presence of provincial council members," he said.

Farhad said sometimes provincial council members themselves did not want to join such meetings. (Pajhwok)

(9) Hizbut Tahrir ..

a student of a private university in Taloqan, the provincial capital, said the Hizbut Tahrir ranks were swelling with each passing day in Takhar.

He said the organization had more supporters in educational centers because the group wanted to promote their ideas through these facilities.

"They sometimes hold meetings, share their ideas and call the government as Kafir, they also call democracy against Islam, they try to attract more youth to its fold from Takhar universities," he said.

Rahim said the organization might turn into a great challenge for the government in future if it not prevented.

Muzafari said if he was directed, he would soon take action. He acknowledged the Hizb members had increased in the province and so their activities.

A few months earlier, the Cabinet also expressed concern over the Hizbut Tahrir activities.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah told the Cabinet meeting held on November 22, 2016 that the group was a civilian branch of terrorist organizations. He had said the group enjoyed a strong influence in academic institutions, radicalizing the youth.

He said political parties were allowed to operate under the Constitution, but the Hizbut Tahrir wasn't a political party.

1st deputy CEO Eng. Mohammad Khan had said the Hizbut Tahrir had no legal structure in Afghanistan, but its members had not been involved in violence.

2nd deputy CEO Mohammad Mohaqqiq has called the group as extremist and practically against Afghanistan's governance system and the Constitution.

But in a statement, the Hizbut Tahrir said none of its ideological and political activities contradicted Islamic principles and views.

The organization's aim is the re-establishment of 'the Islamic Caliphate.' It was founded in 1953 as a Sunni Muslim organization in Jerusalem by Taqiuddin al-Nabhani, an Islamic scholar and appeals court judge (Qadi) from Palestine.

Since then Hizbut Tahrir has spread to more than 50 countries with its members estimated 'tens of thousands to 'about one million.'

The group has been active in Central Asia and South Asia and in western countries, particularly the United Kingdom, and also in several Arab and Central Asian countries.

The organization has been banned by some governments. Its members typically meet in small private study circles, but in countries where the group is not illegal (such as in Europe) it also engages with media and organizes rallies and conferences. The group has been described as "controversial", and as of mid 2015 it was banned in Germany, Russia, China, Egypt, Turkey, and all but three Arab countries.

Some observers believe it is a victim of unjust and untrue allegations of connections to terrorism as the organization has never been "overtly involved" in terrorism or even any "violent actions"; that its role in radicalization of young Muslims has been "exaggerated", and/or that the re-establishment of its caliphate would provide stability and security.

Critics argue the party is engaged in "politics of hatred" and intolerance and provides ideological justification for violence such as calling suicide bombers "martyrs".

Some five years back, Afghanistan's Security Council described the organization as a terrorist group and allowed arrests of its members.

However, no leader or member of the group has so far been arrested as its support-

ers freely hold gatherings in Kabul and provinces.

A few months ago, an important member of the group was detained in Nimroz province. (Pajhwok)

(10) Khost-Paktia...

Weesa said that highway security was important, promising to cooperate in the area. He called for a joint fight against militants, smugglers and robbers.

While directing relevant officials to focus on their job, he said protecting the border with Pakistan was also necessary. Militants sneaked across the border to disrupt the security in the country, he alleged.

"If we work together, most of our problems will be solved easily. We want to work jointly with other provinces for resolving our problems," he said.

Logar Governor Halim Fidaee has also previously traveled to Paktia for discussing common problems with local officials.

Provincial council members and tribal elders called such meetings important, saying the decisions made should be followed and implemented for the sake of peace and stability. (Pajhwok)

(11) Afghanistan...

more working and active foreign policy track to be pursued.

He said that mismanagement and disharmony within the foreign policy managing bodies would have implications for the country.

"Some rootless people unfortunately on the basis of wage calculation came and occupied some parts of the power in Afghanistan and demolished major parts of global opportunities," said Saleh.

"The government should distance its foreign policy institutions from politics and instead make them more professional, as much as possible, so that it can handle the problems where foreign policy is defined. Secondly the government should pursue a balanced regional and foreign policy. Thirdly I see the ongoing transition happening in the world as an opportunity rather than considering it a threat," said political researcher Tamim Asi.

Meanwhile, a number of political commentators have said that Afghanistan is not able to pursue a neutral foreign policy concept. "At first we need to explain the interests of regional countries in Afghanistan and then institutionalize these interests in a way and make them balance, then tell them this is the limit of your interests, however this needs a regional debate," said deputy minister of foreign affairs Nasir Ahmad Andisha.

Afghanistan Center of Strategic Studies will also organize similar conferences on peace and the constitution in the near future. (Tolonews)

(12) Policeman...

drone strikes in Haska Mena and Achin districts, Maj. Sher Aqa Faqeri, spokesman for 201st Selab Militray Corps, said.

Civilian suffered no casualties in the attack. Rebels groups have not yet commented about the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(13) Police Officer ...

outfit, claimed responsibility, saying Taliban fighters punished Wadood for his fighting against the group. Afghan Taliban militants fighting the government to regain power are in control of parts of Kunduz province. (Xinhua)

(14) 2 People Killed....

passenger vehicles in which seven to 10 people were on board had been rescued from

being trapped in the snow-storm.

Ahmadi added 40 more vehicles had been trapped in Qunaa tunnel situated between Bamyan and Daikundi provinces. (Pajhwok)

(15) Children Direct...

eyes hurt at night. He would prefer to go to school, but as the eldest son, it fell to him to support the family when his father, a brickmaker, developed chronic stomach pains.

"I warn my son every day about the cars coming from the Kabul side. The drivers are completely careless and I fear for my son's life," said his father, Nader Khan. "It pains me to see him work, and I'd rather see him go to school. But what he earns now is the only income we have in the family."

Afghanistan bans children under 14 from working and has ratified international conventions against child labor. But rights groups say laws against child labor are poorly enforced. Human Rights Watch has estimated that a quarter of all Afghan children under 14 work for a living, many in dangerous industries like brick-making and mining.

On a recent winter morning, as other children headed off to school, Sedaqat set up black, red and blue oil cans at his favorite bend at the highway and took up his red wooden traffic sign.

"When I see other kids going school, I feel sad because I also want to go to school," Sedaqat said. "But I know that I'm the only breadwinner in my family. I have to work to help myself and my family survive."

He said he would like to become a real traffic policeman, a job that pays around \$180 a month. But that would require some schooling.

"I have to do this now to support my family," he said. "Maybe one day I'll become a real traffic policeman and help my nation." (AP)

(16) EU Does...

afternoon session will be an occasion for the leaders without May to prepare for the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties, which falls on March 25. (Xinhua)

(17) 700,000 More ...

serious constraint to alleviating the humanitarian crisis." According to the UN, close to 10,000 people, of which 2,000 are civilians, have been killed since the conflict began in mid-April 2014. (Xinhua)

(18) Turkey, Germany...

presidential system would violate Turkey's current separation of powers.

Merkel said that everything should be done to ensure the separation of powers and the diversity of society.

German Chancellor also said Turkey had put efforts for the integration of refugees, adding "refugees are an important issue for both Turkey and Germany." (Xinhua)

(19) Turkish Parliament ..

either April 9 or April 16, said Anadolu Agency. On Dec. 30, the ruling Justice and Development Party and the opposition Nationalist Movement Party submitted the constitutional amendments to parliament for ratification. (Xinhua)

(20) UNHCR Warns ...

worsening living conditions and the expected intensified military operations there. The UN agency warned that those leaving Hawiga faced "grave dangers including ambushes, improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance, especially moving across the Hamreen Mountains." (Xinhua)

(21) FAO Urges...

communities. Although it is imperative for

farmers to adopt drought tolerant crops, uncertainties over prices of substitute crops complicate their transition to climate smart farming.

"It is difficult for farmers to change overnight from growing their own food and cash crops to becoming fully market dependent and feeling comfortable to give up growing their staple food crop for a crop whose production might be more reliable but whose market price is unknown and liable to global fluctuations," he said.

FAO has established Early Warning Early Action Fund (EWEA) from which county governments in Kenya would receive financial support to provide animal feeds for selected breeding animals for individual families, Simpkin said.

On preparing communities for weather extremes, FAO is executing an early warning system of which 100,000 people are targeted with early warning messages and response options, according to the official. (Xinhua)

(22) Trump "Disappointed"

(Malcolm Turnbull), is subject to extreme vetting," Spicer said.

The spokesman added that Trump has "tremendous respect" for Turnbull and for the Australian people.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that over a telephone conversation on Saturday, Trump blasted Turnbull over a refugee agreement.

"This is the worst deal ever," Trump fumed as Turnbull attempted to confirm that the United States would honor its pledge to take in 1,250 refugees from an Australian detention center, according to the newspaper.

The Washington Post also reported that Trump abruptly ended the call, but Turnbull told Australian media that the report is not correct. (Xinhua)

(23) China Urges...

Chief Kim Kwan Jin that THAAD would not be needed were it not for North Korea's "provocative behaviour."

The THAAD missile defence system has drawn criticism from both China and Russia ever since the US and South Korea confirmed its deployment last year. (APF)

(24) Turkmenistan...

Diplomatic relations between Turkmenistan and the UAE were established in October 1995. The UAE companies successfully operate in the local energy market. One of such companies - Dragon Oil has been operating in the Turkmen sector of Caspian Sea since 1999 as part of the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA). The company is one of the largest foreign investors in Turkmenistan. (Trend)

(25) Uzbekistan Making..

Uzbekistan continues to implement action plans to reduce the risks of forced labor that are influencing the context of the annual large-scale cotton harvest. It also points to improved public awareness of prohibited labor practices due to a nationwide communications campaign that included: more than 800 banners, 44 thousand posters, 100 thousand leaflets, TV, radio and text messages during the harvest in September - October 2016.

"Improving labor practices and reforming and modernizing agriculture is a long-term process, and we remain committed to helping Uzbekistan transform its agriculture sector into an important source of growth, higher incomes, and quality jobs for the people," said Lilia Burunciu, World Bank Regional Director for Central Asia. (AKI)