

(1) Regional, Global ...

Counter-Extremism Coordinator, UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) Chief Executive and Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates. In earlier roles, Dominic was based in Afghanistan with a focus on UK anti-terrorist objectives. At his meeting with President Ghani, the envoy said his country would continue working closely with the unity government in Kabul for the shared goals of stability, security and peace. (Pajhwok)

(2) 3rd QCG ...

minister. Andish expressed optimism that the third meeting of QCG would give a final touch to the strategy upon which future talks with the insurgents would take place, adding that the step would pave the way for direct talks with the Taliban.

He said tomorrow the responsibilities of four nations would be made clear over their role in the Afghan reconciliation process and the member would also agree on how and from where negotiation with the militants would begin.

After the second QCG meeting the High Peace Council (HPC) termed as "satisfactory" the outcome from the second quadrilateral meeting on the Afghan peace process in Kabul. The group once again emphasised the need for an end to the senseless violence against the Afghan people and agreed that all forms of terrorism presented a grave threat to the countries, the region and the world. (Pajhwok)

(3) Joint Global...

member of international military alliance in war against terrorism which posed a huge threat to the war torn country.

"Being the state which had been the victim of terrorism, Afghanistan could better understand the threat and consequences of terrorist activities, adding that NSC last year formed a strategy to deal with the threat of IS, he noted."

The national security advisor, however, stressed the need for joint efforts against war on terror in international and regional level.

On his part, the Turkish national security advisor Saifullah Hashim assured of his country's continued assistance with Afghanistan in the future.

He supported the policies of Afghanistan in war against all terrorist groups on the global and regional level. He told Atmar he would pay a visit to Afghanistan in the near future.

Earlier, Atmar flew on a two-day official visit to Turkey on Wednesday. A statement from the National Security Council (NSC) said Atmar would 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)

(4) Key Positions ...

changed hands, in 13 instances, fathers were replaced by sons. One brother was supplanted by another. At least one woman left her slot to her sister.

Uruzgan
Zalmi Aloko, son of Sardar Mohammad Aloko, was appointed as director of agriculture, irrigation and livestock last year when his father retired from his job.

Fazal Rahim, son of Qudus Khan, succeeded his father two years ago after the latter's retirement as director of labour, social affairs.

Rana Sami Wafa resigned her position six years back when she decided to run for the Wolesi Jirga elections. After her resignation, her sister Fareshta Sami Wafa was named as director of women affairs in the province.

Kunar
Wazir Gul, son of Khanzad Gul, was appointed as director of customs department two years ago when his father retired from the same position. Dr. Ihsanullah Fazli replaced his elder brother Dr. Asadullah Fazli nearly two months back when he was sacked as director of public health.

Maulvi Mohammad Hashim Muneeb was killed in a suicide bombing four years ago, when his son Mohammad Ismael Muneeb took charge as provincial head of the high peace council.

Ghor
Abdul Ghafoor Ghafoori has been working as manager at Da Afghanistan Bank in Ghor since 2009. Earlier, his father Abdul Samad was holding the position.

Allaiddin Mohammadi was ap-

pointed as he head of the National Radio and Television in 2011 when his father Mohammad Jan Kindwali left this slot to join the disaster management section at the Department of Refugees and Repatriation.

Badakhshan
Nasrullah Musadiq, son of Abdul Jabbar Musadiq, was appointed as the Orgu district chief in June 2015 when his father, then Kasham district chief, was killed in a roadside bombing.

Paktika
Mohammad Osman Rahmani replaced his father Arsala Rahmani two years ago as senator under then president Hamid Karzai. Arsala Rahmani, a selective member of the Meshrano Jirga, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Kabul.

Faryab
Mohammad Rahim Masgar, son of Mohammad Azim Masgar, was chosen as Andkhai district head for the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) three years ago after the death of his father in a traffic accident.

Farah
Mohammad Daud Mubarez succeeded his father as Parchaman district chief after Mohammad Saleem Mubarez was killed in an insurgent attack.

Kunduz
Nasruddin Saadi was appointed as Dasht-i-Archi district chief nearly two year back after his father Sheikh Sadruddin Saadi vacated the slot.

Nuristan
After the death of Haji Abdul Halim by unidentified gunmen in Kabul two year ago, his son Fazal Rahim was appointed as provincial head of high peace council -- a position that previously rested with Halim.

Kabul
Salahuddin Rabani was appointed head of the High Peace Council (HPC) in April 2012 after his father Burhanuddin Rabani was assassinated in a suicide attack in September 2011.

Salahuddin Rabani worked as chairman of the HPC until February 2014 when he was given the portfolio of foreign ministry.

Muneera Yousufzada, spokeswoman for the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), claimed qualified and deserving individuals had been appointed to key posts recently.

She said the appointments to key government posts such as governors, their deputies, heads of governor offices, spokespersons, district chiefs heads and others had been made based on IDLG recommendations.

The spokesperson acknowledged the transfer of key posts from one person to another within a family after the death or any other incident was not the right thing. In some districts, relative of previous district chief had been appointed on insistence from people.

Yousufzada said currently some posts were being occupied by acting officials, who would be replaced within two months, s directed by the president.

The hereditary nature of occupying key post could be observed in non-government institutions as well.

Salahuddin Rabani, son of Burhanuddin Rabani was appointed as acting head of the Jamiat-i-Islami Political Party after the demise of his father. Ustad Rabani was the founder and leader of Jamiat. (Pajhwok)

(5) Taliban Taking ...

they did. The Taliban on the other side had no mercy on civilians and had nothing for the people of Afghanistan, he believed.

Campbell indicated that if the situation in Afghanistan does not improve, the US would stay there for longer term. "I have made my recommendations to adjustments on the capabilities that are required based on what we learned in 2015. And the 5,500 number is primarily focused on Counter terrorism. If the Afghans cannot improve, we're going to have to make some adjustments. And that means that number will most likely go up," he said in response to a question.

"I want to keep 9,800 as long as I can in 2016 before I have to drop to 5,500. To do that, after the fighting season between October-November- December time frame, it's going very, very difficult," he asserted. (Pajhwok)

(6) Dostum Says...

master's degree to better serve the people. He also asked the youth to widely participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections and field youth who had leadership abilities. Dostum said his daughter would be among the candidates.

The VP also asked the youth not to flee from Afghanistan to foreign

countries and instead participate in their country's rebuilding. (Pajhwok)

(7) Germany ...

and the collapse of Kunduz city to the Taliban was shocking for the country, he said. The country spends \$200 million USD in different areas in

Afghanistan. Most of the economic projects of Germany are focused on Kunduz province, he added.

"We need the Afghan people to join the police, to join the armed forces. Kunduz was not in a way a sign of failure of the mission, it was the failure of some people who were in there, so the armed forces were not ready to fight at this point; they did it two weeks later," he said.

De Maizièr urged Afghans to protect the achievements of the past 14 years. (Tolonews)

(8) HPC Funds...

million annually and the total \$15 million had been spent until now since the inception of HPC.

According to some reports the HPC chairmanship had been proposed to Per Syed Ahmad Gilani, former Jihadi leader, and he might be introduced formally for the post in coming week. (Pajhwok)

(9) Ghor ...

protest until justice was delivered in the cases or the president himself visited Ghor to resolve the problem. Former governor Seema Joyinda in November, 2015 introduced Tokhi, finance department director Mohammad Paiman, revenue director Mohammad Yousuf Danar and procurement head Taj Mohammad to the attorney's office over their alleged involvement in corruption in five construction projects at the police headquarters.

The attorney's office banned the accused from travelling out of Ghor until their cases were fully investigated.

However, Mohammad Yousuf Danar rejected his involvement in corruption and said he was ready to stand trial.

Tokhi had previously said he did not accept the attorney office's allegations against him.

He said the embezzlement allegation against him was baseless and that he had asked for a delegation from the central government to assess the issue.

Tokhi added he had approached the attorney's office to defend himself, but he believed the office was not impartial and had links with the former governor.

Other officials also rejected allegations against them.

A week earlier, the attorney's office referred their cases along with six other graft-tainted officials to the local court.

The protestors asked the court to be impartial in addressing the cases based on the law. (Pajhwok)

(10) Talks with ...

have no chances during the talks, given that Kabul's hopes for peace are linked with Pakistan, which may fail to meet Kabul's expectations as far as Islamabad's ability to have an impact on the Taliban is concerned," he said.

Late last month, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said that the government is due to begin peace talks with the Taliban on February 6. The peace talks will be open to those Taliban factions which are willing to negotiate with the government, while the remaining factions will be fought collaboratively, the ministry said.

According to the Afghan High Peace Council, Islamabad's participation will ensure that talks between the Pakistani government and the Pakistani Taliban will also take place. (Sputnik)

(11) Merkel to ...

in Germany appears to be largely down to winter weather. The government registered nearly 1.1 million arrivals last year, though it believes the actual number is lower because of double registrations and people who continued to other countries. It is keen to ensure that the number drops in 2016, but still saw 91,000 people arrive in January.

Germany's immigration authority has struggled for months to keep up with the influx, though it is adding staff and says it speeded up handling asylum claims in last year's fourth quarter.

Frank-Juergen Weise, the head of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, said Friday that 370,000 asylum applications have yet to be processed and an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 people who have arrived in Germany have yet to file formal applications. (AP)

(12) Zakhilwal ...

The PII leader assured Dr Zakhilwal of all his support to make his mission a success and for peace and stability in Afghanistan as well as improving Afghan-Pak relationship. He also offered he would instruct the leadership of his government in Khyber-Pakhtunkwa to sit down with Dr Zakhilwal to discuss the refugees as well as Afghan traders problems and agree on steps to remove the current difficulties whatever they were.

Dr. Zakhilwal invited Imran Khan to visit Kabul, which he accepted and promised the visit would take place soon. The details of the trip will be worked out later. (Pajhwok)

(13) Taliban Control ...

He said Taliban had reached 100 metre close to the district centre and they controlled 95 percent part of the district. He claimed all cases were decided by Taliban courts in Haji Zahir Karez area.

Former head of the provincial council, Haji Ibrahim Akhonzada, asked the government to end insecurity and create coordination among security forces in the district.

He said residents of the district supported national security forces and the government and if the security forces coordinated their activities, the district would get rid of threat from militants.

While admitting insecurity, the district chief, Aminullah Khaliqi, said the district police chief had newly been appointed and he would launch operations against insurgents soon.. (Pajhwok)

(14) NATO Chief...

in the Middle East and Libya. Foreign Ministers also were joining their defense colleagues Friday afternoon to discuss a united front in defense and foreign strategy.

"The European Union has a choice between exporting stability and importing instability and therefore it has to strengthen its policies," said Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency.

Stoltenberg also welcomed the Obama administration's announcement this week that it will propose quadrupling spending on its troops and training in Europe as part of the U.S. military's accelerating effort to deter Russia after Moscow's annexation of Crimea and incursion into eastern Ukraine. (AP)

(15) Besieged ANA ...

months with several areas of the district in the north still under control of the insurgents. There are reports that the militants have cordoned off all overland routes to the area, leaving air transport as the only way to reach troops.

"Two months have past since the war erupted, several troops were wounded and martyred," an Afghan National Army ANA soldier said in Sangin adding that despite numerous pleas, no reinforcements have been sent in.

"They (officials) promised that they will do it today or tomorrow, but promises weren't kept. The entire bazaar is under Taliban siege. They (officials) tell us lies. It is now four days that we did not eat," said the soldier.

Insurgents however have planted landmines on the routes leading to Sangin district in an effort to inflict more casualties and curb the advance of troops.

"There are problems and pressures, Taliban alongside foreigners and opponents mounted their pressure. They (insurgents) had decided to seize control of the entire area in northern Helmand in a bid to establish strong command centers. However, insurgents failed to reach their objectives," Dawlat Waziri, a defense ministry spokesman said.

Waziri said they have been supporting Helmand fully, but promised to discuss certain issues facing troops in Helmand with the chief of army staff in order to address the problems.

While Waziri dismissed claims made by the embattled forces in Sangin, members of the provincial council said that troops fighting Taliban in Sangin are under serious threat and are facing a food shortage.

"The national army and border police forces live inside a fort, supply routes are closed and they face food shortages. According to our information, it is four or five days that they have not eaten food," a member of Helmand provincial council, Abdul Majid said. (Tolonews)

(16) 2016 - The...

they (armed men) took us inside a house and put their guns on our heads, they wanted to kill me as well, but the rifle couldn't fire, they tortured me a lot then people in the

mosque came to rescue me," Musa a worker of the local radio told of his ordeal.

Baghlan police have arrested an alleged criminal in connection with the attack.

"Our demand from government is to serve justice," father of the wounded media worker said.

"Around 7:00 pm yesterday, two workers of a radio station were threatened by certain individuals. The police in the area reached the scene on time and detained a suspect named Abdul Qayoum and his case has been referred to the crime investigation department of Baghlan province and an investigation has been launched into the matter," Zabiullah Shuja, head of the media department of Baghlan police headquarters told media.

Seven staffers of TOLO TV were killed in Kabul in January after a Taliban car suicide bomber hit their minibus while another Afghan journalist Zubair Khaksar was killed in eastern province of Nangarhar.

The unprecedented surge in violence against the journalists have raised major concerns among journalist protection institutions. "Only a few days had passed since the start of the first month of New Year, but it has been the most bloodiest year in. (Tolonews)

(17) About 5,000...

that the militants group includes representatives of the Taliban movement, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Jamaat Ansarullah, as well as tens of natives of Tajikistan.

"The threat of the continued concentration of militants on the Tajik-Afghan border is not both overestimated and underestimated in Dushanbe, even taking into consideration the sufficient forces to meet the attack and having the strategic military partners of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, in particular, Russia," said the officer in the Committee.

The number of Tajik nationals fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria reached 900 people. Some of them were killed during the wars against the government forces of these countries, said the representative of the Committee. (AKIpress)

(18)25 Taliban ...

district, but insisted that two civilians had been killed and two others injured.

Situation in Kunduz, which borders Tajikistan, is volatile since the fall of its provincial capital Kunduz city to the Taliban in late September. Kunduz was recaptured by government forces in mid October. (Xinhua)

(19)Nimroz Residents ...

nappers and arrested five individuals in connection with the heinous crime.

In the third incidents, trader Abdulhah Noorzai went missing on the Zaranj-Dilaram road in Khashrod district. There is still no information about the businessman.

According to inhabitants, well-off individuals and businessmen were usually taken hostage for ransom. Last year, there were fewer incidents of kidnapping, they add.

Tribal elder Nooruddin grumbles: "We are keeping our children inside home and behind closed doors, fearing they may be lost." He confirms people are scared of their children being kidnapped if they venture out of home.

Mohammad Nader Noorzai, a businessman, warns if the incidents of kidnapping are not controlled, traders will migrate to other provinces. Such a move will put negative impact on trade and commerce in Nimroz.

He claims police are hand in glove with the kidnapers -- an issue that cannot be resolved as long as supporters of criminals in law-enforcement agencies are not removed.. (Pajhwok)

(20)Soldiers Pick ...

try Regiment of the Iowa National Guard. He was stationed in the east of the country in Torkham Gate, an area close to the Pakistani border. He also served in eastern Laghman province.

Burgett, who lives in Iowa City, said he would back a candidate who supports staying in Afghanistan to try to help the Afghan people.

"I would be happy to see a candidate who would win that shows appreciation to Afghans," he said, "because a lot of Afghans helped the U.S. and I think we owe it to them. I would be happy to see someone who would show a little gratitude to the people who fought alongside us in Afghanistan." (VoA)

(21)Flour and ...

kilograms of unpeeled oak sold for 6,400afs against its last week's 6500

afs and the same quantity of cedar declined from 6300 afs to 6200 afs, said a firewood stall owner in Charah-i-Shaheed locality, Khan Mohammad.

The flour price declined during the going week. Food Traders Union head Fazal Rahman said the price of a 49-kilogram of Kazakhstani flour decreased from 1,280afs to 1,260afs.

The rates of other daily-use items remained unchanged as a 49-kg of sugar bag was sold at 1,800afs, 16-litre tin of Momin ghee for 950afs and 24-kg of rice for 1650 afs.

The price of a kg of Indonesian green tea cost 220afs and same quantity of African black tea 240afs, dealer Fazal Ahmad in Kabul food market said. (Pajhwok)

(22)New Baghlan ...

position at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and was introduced to the new post by Lt. Col. Sher Aziz Kamawal, commander of the 808 Spin Ghar Zone.

Brg. Gen. Abdul Jabbar Purdali was the previous police chief of Baghlan who left the post three months earlier. (Pajhwok)

(23)6 Suspected ...

Tahir, who had an Afghan identity card, was responsible for shifting Taliban from Waziristan to Kunduz, Baghlan and other northern provinces of the country, he alleged.. (Pajhwok)

(24)Australian FM ...

ulation, pledged twice as much. But Bishop, who was attending the Syrian donors' conference in London, rejected the criticism on Friday, saying the extra funds would take Australia's total contribution past 170 million U.S. dollars. "Overall, our contribution to this crisis in terms of humanitarian, military and resettlement offers is a significant contribution by any measure," Bishop said. (Xinhua)

(25)French Gov't ...

emergency allows police to conduct searches without judicial warrants, put people under house arrest, close the country's borders and ban public gatherings. (Xinhua)

(26)Obama Seeks...

Colombia is much, much different from the Colombia of 15 years ago," Santos said, "Today, we see the future with hope." Violence in Colombia is at its lowest level since 1973.

The country has also seen a 50-percent drop in homicides and a 90-percent decline in kidnappings since 2002, according to the White House statement. (Xinhua)

(27)EU Negotiators....

changes requested by Cameron to enable him to campaign for continued EU membership when Britons vote in a referendum, possibly as soon as June.

The British leader faces an uphill struggle according to an opinion poll on Friday that gave campaigners for a British exit from the bloc a nine-point lead, and he is under pressure at home to secure stronger assurances. (Reuters)

(28)Ukrainian ...

Ukraine. He was appointed as 14 months ago along with a cadre of other political newcomers from the private sector including American-born finance minister Natalia Jaresko, which was viewed as an indication that the new government would go through with the long-overdue reforms.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Abramavicius said that he is glad his resignation has served as a "cold shower" for the political establishment and expressed hope that it could help to accelerate the pace of reforms. (AP)

(29)UN Report ...

resulted in the lengthy detention of Mr. Assange," it added. The 44-year-old Australian took refuge in Ecuador's London embassy in 2012 after losing his appeal to the British Supreme Court against extradition to Sweden, where a judicial investigation was initiated against him in connection with allegations of sexual misconduct. However, he was not formally charged.. (Xinhua)

(30)French, German ...

coastline, Greek islands have been the favored way for people fleeing conflict and poverty to reach Europe. Cazeneuve visited Lesbos, the island that has seen the most arrivals and where one of the "hotspot" registration centers will be set up, on Thursday. Both ministers stressed the need to reduce migration flows.

De Maizièr said Germany was sending 100 police and two coast guard vessels to Greece. (AP)