

### (1) Govt. Criticized...

Bank collapsed in 2010; however, the AGO has said that they have recovered more than 60 percent of the money so far. (Tolonews)

### (2) Russia's Actions....

failed to implement a sympathetic regime in Afghanistan, in 1988 the Soviet Union signed an accord with the US, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and agreed to withdraw its troops. The Soviet withdrawal was completed on Feb. 15, 1989, and Afghanistan returned to nonaligned status.

The invasion of Afghanistan claimed the lives of at least 15,000 Soviet soldiers, mostly conscripts in their late teens or early 20s, and left tens of thousands wounded and psychologically traumatized.

Davutoglu said that Turkey has evidence that Russian Air Force bombed the positions of moderate Syrian opposition.

"Russia, Iran and the Lebanese 'Hezbollah' (a Shi'a Islamist militant group and political party) are responsible for the death of the civilian population in Syria," Davutoglu said.

He also noted that a new wave of refugees awaits Turkey as a result of Russian military operations in Syria. Currently, Turkey is hosting more than two million Syrian refugees on its territory. The Syrian refugee camps in the country accommodate about 300,000 people. The rest of them are spread across the provinces and cities of Turkey.

In Istanbul alone, there are currently 40,000 refugees from Syria. Ankara has so far spent \$8 billion to upkeep the Syrian refugees. (Trend News Agency)

### (3) Top Officials ...

social affairs rehabilitation, said: "The CBR programme helps top officials recruit their relatives and friends in ministries and the president has started the programme for political purpose."

He demanded every post relating to the CBR should be announced and candidates selected through an open contest.

He said the implementation of the scheme was against the labour law and the cause of country-wide joblessness.

The Afghan government launched the programme to provide faster and better services, ensure transparency and accountability of public expenditure.

The CRB is an Afghan led institutional reform and capacity building program, formed with the aim to assist the government in improving the capacity and performance of the core line ministries in carrying out their mandates and delivering services. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Kabul to Seek ...

are not strong enough and needs strengthening, according to the ambassador.

"We hope that in 2016, we would be presenting some proposals to the members of the Security Council, and of course within the Security Council it is the P5, that matters a lot. So we need to talk to them," Saikal said, without elaborating.

There were a number of resolutions on counterterrorism and resolutions against the Taliban, Al Qaeda and ISIL, he said, adding they nicely drafted.

"They are comprehensive, they cover wide aspects of terrorism. What is important is the implementation of these resolutions. We feel its implementation is not as strong as it should be. The time has come that we focus on its real implementation," Saikal insisted.

"We have to make sure the countries present reports to the UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate and those reports must be checked thoroughly. The authenticity of those reports, in particularly of the countries in our region, has to be ensured."

Countries in the region must make sure they had annual reports to the satisfaction of the counter-terrorism directorate of the Security Council, Saikal stressed.

He, however, refused to name the country that did not follow or implement the UN Security resolutions on terrorism and associated sanctions regime.

"So any country dealing with violent extremism and terrorism must be obliged to present a comprehensive report about the implementation of the Security Council resolutions," he remarked.

The diplomat claimed terrorists and violent extremists were taking advantage of the negative inter-state rivalry. In the heat of this negative rivalry, some countries had adopted policies to do with violence in pursuit of political objectives, he alleged. "I am just saying there could be one

country developing this anxiety, this sensitivity, this obsession with rivalry with another country and in the process we have suffered."

He called for minimising negative inter-state rivalry and maximising focus on counterterrorism. "This is the case in our region and this is the case in the Middle East as well."

Saikal believed the UN resolutions related to Afghanistan were not strong enough to take action against government bodies and officials supporting or promoting terrorism. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Ghani ....

been the most affected of all over the past few years," said Sayed Elyas Ahmadi, a journalist.

"It is a good thing but the law should not just be on paper; it should be implemented," said Hameed Gul, another journalist. The Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) meanwhile said it is committed to implementing the law in collaboration with the commission.

"The law has specified basic parts of media activities. We are committed to implementing the law with the help of the Mass Media Commission," said MoIC spokesman Harun Hakimi.

The law is approved at a time that journalists often complain about the lack of a clear structure for their rights and privileges. (Tolonews)

### (6) Corruption in....

the National Directorate of Security (NDS), the ministries of interior, public health and agriculture, representatives of provincial councils and other organs.

Going through 21 organs to get a single license was another problem facing the private sector, he added.

"We suggest that only the Ministry of Finance should check commercial goods and deploy their personnel at customs offices with representatives of other relevant organs," he said.

He criticised the government and said "this is not the principles of business, it is like killing the business, if the president or councils do not resolve the problem, then let us close customs offices and declare jihad against law violations."

Alokozai said he had evidence that a trader was charged 140,000 afghanis in tax and 100,000 afghanis were unnecessary collected by other government organs on commercial goods worth \$20,000.

"The protection of national interest is always important to us, we never support traders who do not pay taxes, but we do support traders whose rights are violated," he added.

Abdur Rahman Sayeed, customs director at the Ministry of Finance, said they had begun working on a plan to simplify the tax system. He said they were also trying to resolve traders' problems and prevent corruption in customs offices.

Some traders having no significant information about paying taxes contributed to the problem, he said, adding that the Ministry of Finance would launch next month awareness-creating programme about taxes, summon letters, payment of taxes, types of taxes, date of paying taxes and other relevant information.

Launching the programme would help increase government's revenue and resolve private sector problems, he said.

About checking of commercial goods by several organs, he said, "unfortunately this problem exists, but I have no authority to comment about other organs." (Pajhwok)

### (7) Projects worth....

Ghor, Parana, Bamyán, Laghman, Takhar, Paktia, Faryab, Nuristan and Sar-i-Pul provinces.

As many as 140,000 people would benefit from the schemes, he said, adding the projects, costing 220 million afghanis provided by the World Bank, would be completed in six months to one year, he said.

Meanwhile, MRRD spokesman Akbar Rostami said they would executive projects in 15,000 villages under the Work for Peace Programme in 2016.

The projects would be implemented in spheres of agriculture, road construction in villages, irrigation systems, rural development, drinking water supply and sanitation. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Japan Provides ...

its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP), the two projects will be implemented in Kabul, Parwan, Baghlan and Samangan provinces. Under these projects, around 1,426,594 square meters of minefields will be cleared.

All of the area that will be cleared is high-quality agricultural or grazing land that has been inaccessible for decades due to presence of mines and explosive remnants of war

(ERWs). Once cleared, these areas will be utilized productively by the local communities and this will in turn help mitigate the poverty that still blights many families around the country.

"These projects will save many human lives, enable the people to move around freely and make it possible to use the lands for productive activities. Mine clearance contributes to setting a basic condition for the development such as infrastructure and agriculture, which contributes to the improvement of the economic situation in Afghanistan," said Ambassador Takahashi

Japan has been contributing to the clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs) through GAGP in Afghanistan and has been assisting Afghanistan's nation-building efforts in various fields including security, education, health, culture, humanitarian assistance, agriculture, infrastructure and its capacity development. (Wadsam)

### (9) Kunduz ...

on the outskirts of the city. Danishi, having served as deputy governor for the past one decade, was appointed as acting governor of the province after the collapse of Kunduz City.

A day earlier, he told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I have got information that Asadullah Omarkhail, the head of Kunduz peace committee, had been recommended by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) as governor of Kunduz."

Omarkhail has been serving as head of Kunduz peace committee since 2010.

Provincial council head, Mohammad Yousuf Ayobi, called the performance of Danishi commendable. He hoped the new governor would focus on improving security in the province.

He said Asadullah Omarkhail was a jihadi man and had better information about Kunduz province.

A civil society activist Inauyatullah Khaliq said security problems in Kunduz City were on the increase -- a situation that needed to be tackled on a priority basis.

He said Kunduz City residents would face more problems if a clearing operation was not launched there as soon as possible. Before the fall of the city, Mohammad Omar Safi was serving as governor. (Pajhwok)

### (10) IS Runs Timbe....

harvesting is illegal in Afghanistan, timber smuggling has been going on for decades, especially in eastern Kunar province, which borders Nangarhar.

According to Afghanistan's environmental protection agency, forests cover only about 2 percent of the country.

Experts estimate that Afghanistan loses at least 20,000 hectares each year. According to the United Nations Environmental Program, Afghanistan's forest cover has decreased by about 50 percent over the past three decades.

Several militant groups, including the Taliban, have been involved in the illegal timber business, officials say.

Mohammad Rafique, a local resident in Kunar, said timber is smuggled to Peshawar in Pakistan, as well as through Kandahar to Quetta and onward to Karachi and Lahore. Some of the timber is sent to Dubai from Karachi.

Local residents in Kunar say the IS militant group is attempting to establish footprints in the province. It reportedly has been recruiting locals to its ranks. (VoA)

### (11) Money ....

how much money was available in the office but an investigation into the matter was underway.

A guard and two officials of the office have been detained as suspects, he said.

However, crime branch chief, Col. Imam Ali Azizi said their team was investigating the incident and manager and two workers of the committee had been arrested.

Eng. Behzad, director of the NAC office, confirmed the money had been stolen and said the police investigation would reveal the amount of money stolen.

The Norwegian Afghanistan Committee has been providing services in areas of agriculture and reconstruction over past two decades in Badakhshan. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Media Outlets ....

outlets failing to renew their licenses. Khapalwak Safi, the PMC chief, told reporters the license fee for television was 50,000 afghanis, for cable operators 40,000 afghanis, for FM radios 25,000 afghanis, print media 10,000 afghanis and temporary media outlets 5,000 afghanis.

The Ministry of Justice has recently published in its official gazette the public media draft law in 4 chapters and 41 articles, asking media outlets to abide by the law.

The commission also stressed that every media outlet should pay salaries of its employees in-time, saying sometimes employees' salaries were delayed for three to four months.

Syed Muzgan Mustafavi, deputy broadcasting director at the Information and Cultural Ministry, said the ministry was responsible to ensure the law was enforced.

She said journalists faced multiple issues and the commission on access to information was open at the national archive from 8:00am to 4:00pm every day. (Pajhwok)

### (13) 4 Waste-to....

at the governor's house today. The group formed of government officials and private sector has been active working on the projects from the past four years in Balkh.

Zabihullah Akhtari, the sectoral and technical director at the governor's house, told Pajhwok Afghan News the group had been working over the past four years to find ways how to produce energy from waste without contaminating the environment.

He said the government had approved the four projects for Balkh province as a result of efforts by the energy group.

The four plants would produce 6,000 kilowatts of electricity from garbage being collected from Mazar-i-Sharif city, the provincial capital, Akhtari said.

He did not provide information about the cost on the projects but said the schemes would be launched after bidding among private sector firms. Akhtari said three other projects producing 500 kilowatts of energy from Sholgar, Kashandi and Zari districts waters had also been approved by the government and would be launched.

Extending electricity form Mazar-i-Sharif to the three districts was expensive and difficult, but the power shortage would be resolved with completion of the proposed projects, he added.

Robert Delger, head of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), who participated in the meeting, appreciated the performance of the energy group and told Pajhwok Afghan News several sources of energy were available in Balkh.

He said GIZ was committed to supporting the group and finding budget for producing energy in the province. (Pajhwok)

### (14) US Troop....

exact numbers, saying the reinforcements would be "significant".

The NATO-led coalition in Afghanistan declared its combat mission over at the end of 2014, and Lawhorn said the new troops in Helmand would be there "to train, advise, and assist our Afghan counterparts, and not to participate in combat operations".

Regular military advising is largely limited to the corps level and above, but coalition special operation advisers are still embedding at the tactical level with Afghan commandos, sometimes blurring the lines between advising and fighting.

American Special Forces advisers on the ground in Helmand have found themselves increasingly drawn into combat, with one Green Beret killed in January during a heavy firefight with Taliban insurgents. U.S. warplanes conducted 12 air strikes during that fight.

Roughly 9,800 U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan, but President Barack Obama's initial plan to withdraw forces by 2017 has already been scrapped, and top commanders are calling for an increased presence for at least five more years. (Reuters)

### (15) EU, US ....

critical press in Afghanistan. Already Afghanistan has one of the most professional press corps in the region.

"We now need to see the by-law implemented and call upon the Afghan government to make sure that this happens," said EU Special Representative Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin.

In a statement, Mellbin called the freedom of the press and expression a fundamental right of any free society and was strongly supported by the EU.

He acknowledged the Afghans have in the last decade enjoyed a high level of freedom of the press and expression. "This is key to the further development of a democratic society in Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, the US Embassy in Kabul congratulated the Afghan government over launching the Afghan Mass Media Commission of the by-law on Establishment and Activity of Private Mass Media. (Pajhwok)

### (16) US Embassy....

"Unidentified insurgents are planning to attack unidentified foreign guest houses in Kabul City, possibly near the Qala-e Fatullah neighborhood. The attack could also occur near Ansari or Haji Yaqub roundabouts in Kabul City," it said.

The embassy again warned against travel to Afghanistan, saying the security situation in the country is "extremely unstable and the threat to all U.S. citizens in Afghanistan remains critical."

Suicide bombings

Taliban suicide bombers and heavily armed fighters in recent months have staged deadly attacks against local and foreign targets in Kabul, including guesthouses.

Meanwhile, hundreds of U.S. troops were headed for the restive southern Helmand province to support the Afghan Army's 215th corps, which has struggled for months to reverse Taliban territorial gains in the poppy-growing region.

"This was a planned deployment of additional personnel to both bolster force protection for the current staff of advisors and to provide additional advisors to help with ongoing efforts to re-man, re-equip, and re-train the 215th Corps," said U.S. Army spokesman Col. Michael Lawhorn. (VoA)

### (17) Saffron Yield....

by farmers and sold in other provinces," he said.

The world's costliest spice is cultivated mainly in Injil, Ghoryan, Pashtun Zarghooon, Guzra, Zindajan, Korakh, Adraskan, Shindand and Kaskh Rabat Sangi districts of Herat.

Abdul Khaliq, a saffron growers from Pashtun Zarghon district, cultivated 1.4 acres of land with the crop. He said he was happy with the yield of the precious medicinal plant.

If the government provided international marketing facilities, the cultivation of saffron would increase rapidly and provide work opportunities for many people. (Pajhwok)

### (18) 10 Insurgents

clearing operation in the Dago area of Chaparhar district on Monday night, the police spokesman said.

Lt. Col. Hazrat Husain Mashriqiwal added: "15 suspected militants were arrested. They are under interrogation." (Pajhwok)

### (19)Iranians among ....

moral activities, 65 over purchasing drugs, two for transferring magnetic bombs and as many Iranians for using duplicated currency.

Rahimi said: "The two arrested Iranians sold carpets and circulated forged bank notes in the market." The Iranians, however, did not confess to their crime and maintained they only sold carpets, he said. He said police had recovered six stolen cars during the past four weeks. (Pajhwok)

### (20)8 Rebels...

stationed, had been surrounded by the Taliban last Friday.

He said army, police and National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel, supported by copters, launched an attack to clear the base late on Monday and took back its control from the Taliban.

Nine insurgents had been wounded in the attack and some fled to Kubra and Basiqal deserts.

Ahmad Shah, a resident of the locality, said two children and a woman were wounded during the clash when a rocket hit their house. (Pajhwok)

### (21)Faryab Girl ....

of official institutions. Islam is against such action," said Waliullah Labib, a religious scholar.

The footage shows armed Taliban men and a Taliban judge lashing a girl named Bebe Gul - a resident of PashtonKot district of Faryab province.

In reaction to the lashing, the Human Rights Commission strongly condemned the action.

"The Human Rights Commission strictly condemns the incident and asks the government to implement the law and see that justice is carried out," said Latifa Sultani, coordinator of the women's rights section at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, AIHRC.

In the past few months, a number of violent crimes have been carried out against women by kangaroo courts. However, most perpetrators are still at large. (Tolonews)

### (22)Pregnant Woman....

Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital is a military medical facility, but staff refused to help the officer's wife. The footage shows that the woman gave birth to her baby out in the open eventually, before leaving the hospital.

"Medical politeness is not just to provide medicine to the patient but also provide psychological treatment to a patient and there is no good treatment for those patients who are not families of officers," said Fawiza Kofi parliamentarian.

The ministries of defense and hospital officials were not however prepared to comment about the incident. Meanwhile, the Independent Human Rights Commission has reiterated that every citizen has the right to access health services in the country. (Tolonews)

### (23)Foreign Troops...

mation in this regard would be shared with the media after the investigation.

Eyewitnesses said the guard was shot several times in the stomach and was rushed to hospital in critical condition.

Wishing anonymity, the witnesses said the incident took place in the afternoon and that the foreign troops fled the scene after the shooting.

One eyewitness FaizAzimi told Pajhwok Afghan News foreign troops fired a magazine full of bullets at the guard. (Pajhwok)

### (24)Greek Coast....

their journey had ended. Mustafa, a 24-year-old mathematics student from Syria, called on Europeans to open their borders for the Syrian people fleeing war atrocities.

"Open to people, because the people have children and want peace. And all people want to stop war in Syria because many people in Syria, your house is very finished. Don't have house, don't have money, don't have work," Mustafa said.

"And stop war and open because if the war in Syria is enough all people Syrian will be back in Syria and building Syria and the first," he added, longing for the time that refugees would be able to return to their country. (AFP)

### (25)Greece Open

By February 15 Athens should have a total of five hot spots running on the Greek islands and two relocation centers in the mainland. So far only one is operational on Lesbos island, as mayors and local residents protest their construction on old military camps in several cases. (Xinhua)

### (26)EU Introduces ...

buy medicines online through verified sources, and to ensure that only high quality ingredients are used for medicines in the EU.

The delegated regulation would enter into force three years after publication, according to the press release. (Xinhua)

### (27)Pro-Gov't ....

the Saudi-led Arab coalition and U.S. drones were seen flying and hovering over Aden's airspace, according to the residents.

A source of Aden's Police Command told Xinhua saying that "the security forces are now implementing a new strategy for maintaining security in Aden, fighting off terrorists and driving them out from Mansourah."

The port city of Aden, Yemen's temporary capital, has been witnessing a state of chaos and lawlessness during the past weeks resulted in the assassination of Aden's former governor, several high-ranking security officers and judges. (Xinhua)

### (28)Kremlin Rebukes ...

already delicate situation in Syria now and the Syrian settlement," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Despite complaints from the West and the Syrian opposition, Russia had not received any credible evidence of civilian deaths from air strikes, Peskov said. (AFP)

### (29) Israeli, Palestinian....

the Palestinian-controlled territories, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) would soon reconsider all these agreements," the official said.

In March, the PLO Central Council decided to sever security cooperation with Israel and reconsider the signed peace treaties and agreements in response to Israel's policy and the ongoing stalemate in the Middle East peace process. (Xinhua)

### (30) Hollande Set....

13 jihadist attacks on Paris which killed 130 people. But three months later, the problem that has plagued him since he came to power in 2012 -- France's stubbornly high unemployment -- has dragged him back down to popularity ratings of around 19 percent.

Hollande is haunted by the pledge that he made at the start of his mandate that he would not run again if he did not improve the jobless rate. (AFP)