

(1) Taliban Accused

named Mullah Jabbar.

A number of elders from the local ityhad been sent to local Taliban to resolve the issue peacefully, he added.

However, Taliban group spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the fight ershad not abducted the elders as the militant group had no issue with common residents.

He believed some other individuals might have committed the crime to defame the Taliban. Mujahid promised they would try to find out who the kidnappers were. (Pajhwok)

(2) Kamila's Tale:

thinking about my future."

"My sister-in-law would taunt me telling I had turned old and no one would marry me and I would always eat from my brother's food," she said.

A few weeks after her marriage, her husband started treating her badly. "He destroyed my happiness. His son and daughter also started treating me badly, they would provoke my husband to beat me," Kamila said.

"I faced many problems I had never experienced before. No one supported me and I could not complain to anyone. My half children used different excuses to provoke my husband and he would hit me with punches, stick, kicks and pipe," she added. Kamila could not continue talking as she fell in deep thoughts and looked fearful and then burst out crying. She cleaned her tears with her shawl and was silent for a few moments.

Later she resumed her story and said: "It became a routine, he would daily torture me. Life was like a heavy burden."

But again she started crying loudly and this reporter preferred to stop the interview, but her inner pains forced her to share her unsaid story with Pajhwok.

"I was in a situation where I could not live with my husband or with my brother. After my marriage, all my family cut off relations with me," she said while crying loudly. There were clear signs of burns and stab wounds on Kamila's body. "My husband was a pickpocket. One day he disputed with a man from whom he had stolen a mobile phone and he stabbed that man to death and then escaped."

"After this incident, my husband arrived home and forced me to go with him to Pakistan to escape the law for sometime," she said, adding that traveling to Pakistan opened a new page of pains in her life.

"Besides beating me, my husband would tell me that I must work in people's houses and earn money," she said.

"I started washing clothes in houses of people and return home at the end of the day, my husband would take all the money," Kamila said.

With the passage of time, she began losing her ability to work as she continued to tolerate the situation.

While scratching her dried injuries with her nails, she said: "I felt that I cannot tolerate this situation anymore, I decided to go back to Kabul and to my brother's home." She could hardly talk and paused for some moments. After half an hour of silence, Kamila again started talking.

"When I secretly came to Kabul, I went to my brother's home, but my brother did not allow me to live with him, then I went to my only sister's house and spent a few days there in peace," she said. "It was a few more days later when my husband arrived from Pakistan. He talked softly with me and promised a peaceful life together, then I agreed to go with him," she added.

However, Kamila said her husband did not remain loyal to his promises and rented an old and a hidden house for living.

"A few days later, my husband asked me to give him money because he planned to go to Pakistan for work, but I had no money and my husband thrashed me very hard, he threw boiling water on me and injured me with a knife," she said.

"Our neighbors got informed about my situation and they shifted me to hospital where the shelter house heard about me and

brought me here," she said.

While shaking and hardly controlling herself, Kamila said her husband was in prison and his son and daughter had fled somewhere else.

Kamila asked the government to help her take divorce from her husband in order to escape a return to her oppressed life. (Pajhwok)

(3) Jawzjan Police

financing their war with that money," he said.

Deputy police chief said that fifty people have been captured by counternarcotics police since the beginning of the current solar year in Jawzjan province and more than 3,000 kilograms of opium have been seized. (Pajhwok)

(4) Army on Offensive

was eliminated there. A cache of weapons, explosives and binoculars and documents were recovered. We are still working on some other important issues to make sure that their hideouts and camps are destroyed," said Esmatullah Alizai, Logar police chief.

Meanwhile, Gen. Abdul Raziq Sapai, the commander of the 4th Army Division, has said that security forces also seized a huge cache of munitions and explosives during an operation in Charkh district of the province.

"We have seized thousands of kilograms of explosives as a result of the joint coordination between the army, police and personnel of the National Directorate of Security. Now the people's trust has been restored in the security forces. People believe that the security forces are now able to defend them and prevent the infiltration of insurgents. We are firmly committed to providing security to our people. The enemy has lost its war capability compared to a year ago. We wrapped up a very successful operation in Charkh district including in TangiWardak and Baraki Barak districts and around Pul-e-Alam regions," said Sapai.

In addition to this, local residents in the area have hailed the security forces for safeguarding the lives of civilians during the battles. "First I want to recommend that where ever government carries out an operation, they must be careful, because every operation needs a major investment, check posts need to be established in areas where the operations are being carried out, government must establish check posts to ensure security of the site which is cleared of the militants. Unfortunately, in the past we saw that several operations were launched here and opponents returned to the area only a few days after the operations ended. Government invests heavily in every operation," said Mohibullah Saleh, a member of Logar provincial council.

But residents have said that security forces must ensure that the Taliban are not able to return to areas that have been cleared during such operations. Logar which is close to the outskirts of Kabul city has recently experienced fierce fighting between security forces and the Taliban - which is believed to have planned some of its deadliest attacks on Kabul in the province. (Tolo news)

(5) Shaheen Corps

the female officers in the ranks of the Afghan national defense and security forces. The Afghan government had earlier promised that the women will be given more opportunities to assume responsibilities in different sectors, including politics.

In the Ministry of Defense of Afghanistan (MoD) says around sixteen hundred women are serving with the Afghan national defense and security forces in different fields. According to the MOD officials, 553 female officers, 114 soldiers, and two pilots are currently serving with the security and defense forces. (KP)

(6) IEC Claims

Dawlati said if the presidential palace does not respond to their outline, the upcoming parliamentary and district council elections will be carried out as they were in the past.

"We sent many letters and emphasized the issue of constituencies at meetings, but so far the fate of this issue remains unclear," Dawlati said.

The outline for decreasing the sizes of constituencies has been met with mixed reaction. Some people and analysts have welcomed the move, while others are opposed to it.

"The constituency (outline) is a good move, but we do not have specific data of the country's population. It is good to work on this issue, but it cannot be implemented in the upcoming elections, but will work for future elections," former IEC chief Fazl Ahmad Manavi said.

"It is strange that elections have been scheduled, but constituencies are not clear," Habibullah Shinwari, a member of Election Watch Afghanistan said.

The election commission has scheduled parliamentary and district council elections for July 7 of this year, but said government should respond to the commission about the constituency proposal at least six months before elections. (Tolo news)

(7) New Video Shows

Commandos pushed ISIS-K seven kilometers from Afghan civilian centers positions in Mohmand Valley."

This comes as the Afghan and US forces have launched a series of new airstrikes against the terror groups across the country during the recent weeks.

Over the past 96 hours, U.S. forces conducted air operations to strike Taliban training facilities in Badakhshan province, preventing the planning and rehearsal of terrorist acts near the border with China and Tajikistan by such organizations as the East Turkistan Islamic Movement and others, according to a report by NATO-led Resolute Support Mission.

The strikes also destroyed stolen Afghan National Army vehicles that were in the process of being converted to vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

The report further adds that during these strikes, a U.S. Air Force B52- Strato fortress dropped 24 precision guided munitions on Taliban fighting positions, setting a record of the most guided munitions ever dropped from a B52-. The aircraft has played a leading role in Air Force operations for decades, and was recently reconfigured with a conventional rotary launcher to increase its reach and lethality. (KP)

(8) Noor Warns

mass but peaceful protests until their demands are met.

"We will organize three-day protests on 28, 27 of February and on first of March, our civil movement will be very strong and it will break the hearts of those in the palace, we all will move to Kabul for one day to raise our voices to the world, UN and the international community; on that day, we will get our rights," said Noor.

He said government has committed negligence by not honoring the demands of the people and Jamiat. He called on the public to participate in the protests.

"The demands of Jamiat must be accepted, Jamiat will not backtrack on its demands and this is the right of Jamiat," said Noor. Referring to the issue of Taliban insurgency, Noor said that the Taliban earns about 200\$ million a year from drug smuggling.

"Eighty percent of opium is produced in Afghanistan, what kind of government is this. Based on a US military report, the Taliban gains 200\$ million annually from drugs, this includes almost 40 percent of the Taliban's budget," Noor said.

Noor accused government leaders of dictatorship.

Over the past two months, the two sides have held ten rounds of talks in a bid to remove the political impasse that erupted in the aftermath of Noor's dismissal as Balkh governor by President Ashraf Ghani. But no breakthrough has been achieved.

But, the presidential palace has reiterated that Noor's case will be tackled on the basis of the law.

"We hope that the delegation

of the presidential palace finds a settlement to the issue," said Jawed Faisal, deputy spokesman to CEO Abdullah Abdullah.

Information obtained by TOLO news in January indicated that Jamiat-e-Islami party of Afghanistan and the presidential palace (ARG) reached an agreement on at least seven demands out of twelve tabled to government by the party.

"Government is not willing to find a settlement to the issue, because government is engaging in problems in different areas, similar problems exist in Kandahar province," said former presidential advisor Ahmadullah Alizai.

"There are some elements around Ustad Atta who give him the wrong suggestions, if he (Atta Noor) acts on their suggestions, he will be sacrificed. Those who see their interests alongside Mr. Atta give him these suggestions, it is better that the government offers a post to Mr. Atta and resolves the issue," said political analyst DawarNadi.

Jamiat's proposals included:

- Establishment of constitution amendment commission
- Amending the election law and giving shares to the political parties in the national assembly
- The re-election of members of the election commissions
- Holding the parliamentary and district council elections on time
- Holding the constitutional amendment Loya Jirga
- Rolling out the e-NIC based on the law already approved
- Considering the share for Jamiat in the National Unity Government (NUG)
- Providing credible information about the nature of attack on the funeral ceremony of Salem Ezedyar
- Establishment of high council of political parties and groups
- Establishment of a joint commission between NUG and Jamiat-e-Islami
- Extension of the tenure of Atta Mohammad Noor as governor of Balkh until ARG and Jamiat-e-Islami reach a final settlement
- Monitoring of the agreement by the UN and US ambassador
- Signing of the agreement by President Ashraf Ghani

In December, the presidential palace said in a statement that Ghani had approved the resignation of Noor as Balkh governor, but Noor defied the action and declared himself as the legitimate governor of Balkh.

Public calls for resolution of dispute

"During election campaigns, they all made promises to the people, but now that they have gotten posts, they have forgotten their commitments to the public," said a member of Jawozjan provincial council Halima Sadaf.

"The insurgents exploit these tensions for their own interests, everyday the scale of threats is on the rise, we want government to bring an end to these tensions," said Mohammad Tahir Rahmani, head of Faryab provincial council. (Tolo news)

(9) Pashtany Bank

made another 277.3 million afs through participation in central banknote capitals, he explained. Efforts were underway to strengthen ties with the US-based Citibank, Oxus Bank, ICICI Bank, Baroda Bank, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and YDIB Bank for investments and international money transfers, he continued. Babakarkhel said his bank had cleaned about one and a half billion paper notes in the current year. "Coloured and old banknotes are quarantined and new ones distributed to customers. The quarantined bills have been sent to Da Afghanistan Bank"

He announced most of the properties pledged to the bank had been vacated and clearance of deals reached more than 30 years was being pursued seriously. In the solar year 1396, Pashtany Bank opened branches in GulBahar Centre, Baharistan, Rahman Baba Mena and Sara-i-Shahzada, with all systems of information technology.

Similarly, bank offices have been set up in GulBahar Centre, Deh Mazang, MirwaisMaidan and Micro Ryan areas to further improve token machine services. According to Babakarkhel, they have constituted management and

discipline, as well as procurement committees to resolve problems and bring transparency to their work.

"People have been employed based on experience and through transparent competition. By the same token, semi-higher and higher education institute students have been provided with employment and training opportunities."

Changes had been brought to the bank's statute, which was not amended in years, to accelerate work and ensure effectiveness, Babakarkhel concluded. (Pajhwok)

(10) IWA Concerned

the budget. About the falling level of public participation in budget making, he said: "The decrease is a matter of concern. The budget will benefit only the elite if the public doesn't participate in it."

He believed public participation should increase, particularly at the provincial level. Afzali said the survey also assessed the performance of budget supervisors. From the budget observers, the Audit High Authority obtained 67 points, Wolesi Jirga 47 and civil society institutes 43.

Khalid Pinda, deputy finance minister, said the Ministry of Finance (MoF) would benefit from the survey in preparing next year's budget. He asked budget supervisors to cooperate with MoF in bringing the budget to the required standard.

Amir Janyar, head of the Wolesi Jirga's finance commission, said more efforts were needed for a standard budget and relevant organs should cooperate with the MoF in this regard.

The amount of revenue should increase so that most of the budget could be funded from national income, he suggested, saying the best budgetary plan was one that contained job-generating projects and increased revenue. (Pajhwok)

(11) Sherpao Supports

harmful for the country, he warned.

The provincial government's failure to plead the case of PK had further aggravated the hardships for Pakhtuns, he noted. Sherpao also voiced concern at the deteriorating security situation in the province.

Culprits in the high-profile cases that recently took place in Dera Ismail Khan, Kohat and Karachi were still free, Sherpao said while speaking on the 43rd death anniversary of former governor Hayat Mohammad Khan Sherpao. Restrictions on the homeless tribal people in and maltreatment of Pakhtuns were a source of resentment, he said, stressing an end to the plight of Pakhtuns. (Pajhwok)

(12) IEC to be

He listed as demands of the council creating an election observation committee, changing the election system, observing the law in removing or employing election commissioners, creating polling stations in welfare facilities in consideration of public access, preparing voter lists and firing officials involved in fraud.

IEC head Abdul Baday Sayyad, speaking to the meeting, said that fair and transparent elections could not be held without the support of political parties, influential figures and the public. He thanked political parties' leaders for their views on elections and stressed the need for more such meetings in future.

The IEC members presented information about progress in preparations for the upcoming elections and a reform program in the commission and said they were operating independently and were able to prevent interferences with the support of political parties.

They said the reform program in the commission was underway in line with the law and those involved in past electoral fraud would be removed from the election body.

On the other hand, Sibghatullah Mujadadi, head of High Council of Jihadi Parties, said that the council fully supported the IEC.

He appreciated efforts of the commission leadership and said current leaders of the IEC were honest people and there was a hope for a transparent election in the future. (Pajhwok)