

(1) HIA Accuses ...

sanctions list, the Afghan government committed to take the necessary measures for the release of Hizb-e-Islami inmates from the jails in line with the peace accord the two sides signed.

"There are a few individuals whose cases have been processed by the commission. In the first step, high-profile figures of Hizb-e-Islami Jihad must be released," added Hashmat Arshad. The commission overseeing implementation of the peace accord between Hizb-e-Islami and the government has not reacted to the assertions. But a high peace council member has said that the delay in the implementation of peace accord was not concerning.

"Of course, some problems exist, but these are not on a scale that would further delay the agreement or bring new obstructions in the process," said HPC spokesman Ismail Qasimyar. Initially there were some indications that the peace accord with Hizb-e-Islami will be implemented within two or three weeks, a move which would also paved the way for the return of group's leader. (Tolnews)

(2) 300,000 Afghan...

in Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan who, through the program, tries to persuade Afghan girls to go to school and learn.

"We are doing this to persuade the girls to come and learn. We consult their mothers to let them come and build their future," said program coordinator Shagooa.

Farzana is also a program coordinator who works in northern Balkh province where she, with the support of local council, try to motivate the girls to get an education.

"I was threatened while coming home from work by those opposing education and learning. Such incidents usually hamper our work," said another program coordinator Farzana

"We are very happy for having such a good place for learning," said student Nagina.

"From the first day, we started learning we have been supported by this institution. There have been a lot of changes and we have learnt many things," said student Mandina.

The United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) initially started the program in Afghanistan in 2012 and the program will continue to September 2017.

The DFID spent more than 55 million pounds through the local councils to facilitate the Afghan girls living in remote areas get access to education. (Tolnews)

(3) 107 Development...

in last fiscal year.

"There was no financial problem in the fiscal year and we have no financial problem this fiscal year either. We urge relevant organizations to increase the spending of their allocated budget," said Ajmal Hameed, spokesman for Finance Ministry. (Tolnews)

(4) IEC Warns

Aziz Aryabee.

It is believed that holding the elections was a key test for the Afghan political leadership, government and the election management bodies of the country.

Some election monitoring groups have said that it is very important to introduce an electronic voting system for holding transparent elections in the country.

"It can help us in announcing the results, this also help to announce the election results within three days," said electronic election expert Sayed Khalid.

"Let's use technology to ensure the transparency of the voter list and transparency of the elections itself," said Naeem Ayoubzada, chairman Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

According to experts, the election commission of Afghanistan needs \$130 million to conduct the next elections.

Alongside financial issues, the lack of polling infrastructure in especially, in the provinces are among main problems facing the election commissions. (Tolnews)

(5) 20 Terrorist...

Jaish-e-Mohammad, Pakistani Taliban and Panjabi militants support Taliban and they are active in Afghanistan," said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman of Ministry of Defense.

• Lashkar-e-Jhangvi: Training centers of this group are located in Waziristan in Pakistan. The group has carried out deadly attacks against Shia People in Afghanistan.

• Lashkar-e-Taiba: This terrorist group has been carrying out terrorist attacks in Afghanistan and India. The group has carried many deadly attacks in Afghanistan so far.

• Jaish-e-Mohammad: This terrorist group also has been carrying out terrorist attacks against Afghan people and Afghan people.

• Mujahidin United Council (Shura-i-Etehad Mujahidin): Bases and training center of this terrorist group also located in Waziristan in Pakistan.

• Maulvi Nazir Group: This terrorist group's training centers are located in South Waziristan.

• Therik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP): TTP is the terrorist group that Pakistan claims the group leadership is located in Afghanistan, but reports say the group's bases and training centers are located in South Waziristan.

• Amre Ba Maroof and Momin group are other groups that have been launching terrorist attacks against Afghanistan.

"Extremism and terrorist ideologies originate from Pakistan and is being used as a tool for destroying Afghanistan," said Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman of Ministry of Interior.

There are other Pakistani terrorist groups, such as Jamat ud Dawah, Lashkar-e-Islam, Ansarul Islam and Islamic Jihad Movement that have been carrying out attacks against Afghanistan.

Chechens, Uighur terrorist group, Tajiks, Tehrik-i-Uzbekistan and Arabs are the Middle East terrorist groups that have been active against Afghan government for many years.

"Terrorist groups use Afghanistan as their bases, recruitment centers, support and organizing their fighters," said Jawid Kohistani, military analyst. (Tolnews)

(6) India Plans ...

up power transmission lines. The Chahbhar port in Iran, which is a being developed as a part of trilateral agreement between India, Iran and Afghanistan will provide a key link between the nations," he was quoted as saying by The Times of India.

This comes as Indian has played a major role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime and has invested over \$2 billion in various reconstruction and infrastructure projects.

The construction of the major Salma Dam, the new Afghan parliament building, Zaranj-Delaram highway, and some other projects are among the key investments India has done so far in the country.

In the meantime, the government of India announced a new aid package of \$1 billion for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed New Delhi's support to Afghanistan as he announced the aid package during President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's visit to India last year. (KP)

(7) Anti-Polio ...

these life-saving vaccines can we eradicate polio from Afghanistan for good." The vaccine, endorsed by scholars, is safe and it does not have any side-effects even for sick and newborn children.

Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria are the only countries in the world where polio is still circulating. Two polio cases have been reported in 2017 from Helmand and Kandahar. In 2016, 13 polio cases were reported, down from 20 in 2015.

Most of Afghanistan remains polio-free, but wild poliovirus continues to circulate in localised geographical areas in the eastern, southern and south-eastern parts of the country. (Pajhwok)

(8) US Embassy ...

citizens access to fair, efficient, independent, and transparent justice based on Afghan law

and international obligations. (PR)

(9) MoCI Complains ...

for Afghanistan and that government should get the most out of these opportunities.

Once the agreement is implemented, it will increase the international trade exchange to one trillion dollars.

"You know that we are members of the WTO and that government should use the opportunities in developing sustainable progress," said Abdul Qadir Bahman, deputy head of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce.

Officials of the MoCI, have however said that due to the challenges existed in the country, Afghanistan will in the following year be able to use the TFA agreement opportunities.

According to the ministry, currently the administrative issues regarding exportations takes 48 hours, while in other countries, it only takes three hours. (Tolnews)

(10) Afghanistan ...

turn, Ambassador Hussain said the recent military activities along Durand Line were aimed at curbing the terrorists activities and vowed to forward the concerns of the Afghan government to the relevant authorities in Pakistan.

This comes as the local officials in Kunar said Sunday that the artillery shelling resumed late on Saturday days after it was halted.

The officials further added that the shelling has not resulted into casualties of the local residents but hundreds of people were forced to flee their homes. (KP)

(11) 'Gardez-Patan...

worsened.

Local residents and drivers said they were fed up with the road's shabby condition and complained about negligence of the department and the contractor concerned.

Abdullah, a resident of Ahmadabad district, said commuters faced many problems due to the road's bad condition. He said such contracts changed many hands and finally went up in smoke

Jandad, a cargo vehicle driver on the road, said the road's run-down condition had prolonged the time of their journey. He said the highway's condition had extremely deteriorated and drivers faced many hardships as a result.

But Paktia Public Works director Abdullah Durrani rejected the claim that the contractor had been made 60 percent of the payment. "The reason behind the delay has been non-payment to the contractor for the work it has done." Durrani said construction work on the road would be launched after winter. Niaz Mohammad Sherzad, an official of the contracted construction firm, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they had constructed and repaired besides the hundreds of metres long retaining wall a large number of bridges and culverts.

He said some members of the National Assembly were interfering in their affairs, delaying the project.

Sherzad said they would not resume work on the road until they were paid for the work done. He said they had stopped work on the project in protest against the delay in payment.

President Ashraf Ghani has also promised reconstruction of the Gardez-Dand Patan highway --- a key and shortest transit trade route to central capital Kabul. (Pajhwok)

(12) Ghani Confers...

of the alliance, noting that his term is due to end in the near future.

He also conferred the high state medal of Ghazi Amanullah Khan on Mr. Aramaz to appreciate his efforts for attracting international support to the country besides helping to maintain peace and stability in Afghanistan.

In his turn, Mr. Aramaz thanked President Ghani for conferring the high state medal on him and vowed continued support and cooperation with the Afghan government.

Mr. Aramaz was previously serving as the Ambassador of Turkey to Afghanistan and assumed the charge of the NATO senior civilian representative to Afghanistan late in 2014. (KP)

(13) Intending Hajj ...

registered and paid \$1,000 in advance. Specific figure for the money deposited in the State Bank was unknown due to the lack of a certain number of hajj applicants in past years, he said, adding this year about 62 million and 500,000 US dollar had been deposited to the state-run Bank-e-Millie Afghan, with each applicant giving \$500.

Javid Wafa, Bank-e-Millie Afghan chief, said: "The money has been transferred to the current trust account of the bank (without investing any or obtaining interest). The money would be saved for four years and this bank is bound to provide the money when needed for the Hajj process everywhere in the world."

He said the bank wouldn't use the money kept as safekeeping and international and local central bank's auditing teams would investigate the existence of the money after every three months. However, he said they charged 300 afghanis from every applicant as banking services.

On the other hand, some religious scholars called forcing hajj applicants into paying money in advance as illegal and un-Islamic and called for the process to be stopped.

Maulvi Shamsurrahman Foratan, a member of the Ulema Council, said: "This money is deposited as safekeeping, but the bank uses it for commercial dealings which is un-Islamic." According to him, it might be a secret deal between the ministry and the bank.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Hassan Haqyar, another religious scholar, also criticized the ministry, saying there was no reason for taking money in advance. "The ministry should give up this practice."

"Getting money from pilgrims in advance has no background in Shariah; in one or two years one can get profit from the \$500." He also believed the bank would use the money in commercial deals and a secret deal existed between the ministry and the bank.

Saifuddin Saihoon, a professor at Kabul University, said receiving money from those intending to go to Hajj without providing them services was illogical.

However, MoHRA officials denied the allegations regarding any deal or misuse of the money. They said the money was being taken in advance for better organizing the hajj process and the ministry had no other aim or benefit.

Minister Mukhtar said: "In line with the agreement between the Bank-e-Millie Afghan and the ministries of MoHRA and finance, the bank couldn't use the money under any circumstances and the money is safekeeping with bank." He didn't go into details, saying the bank had guaranteed no use of the money.

To a question about receiving money in advance, he responded: "We don't need the money of pilgrims, but it is for facilitating the process and it is saved with the bank."

In the past years, he continued, some people after registering for the Hajj used to change their decisions, denying going to the pilgrimage. "Now the money will help show their strong decision." (Pajhwok)

(14) Concerns over...

and shuts down the Torkham and Spin Boldak crossings.

"The Pakistani military came and burnt down the Indian flag in front of my soldiers. They always make such excuses. The Afghan government has no problem with them (Pakistan) neither do the Afghan forces," said commissioner of Spin Boldak port, Mohammad Ali Dawari.

Samiullah is a resident of northern province of Takhar who has been stuck on the border for ten days.

"The Pakistani border police beat me with sticks and told us to go. We will not be allowed to enter Pakistan, because we are Afghan citizens. Our patient fell unconscious on the ground," said Samiullah.

"This boy is my brother and he is suffering from Hepatitis B, my sister and mother also have the same illness," said Nadia, Samiullah's sister.

The Border closure has led to major economic losses for Samiullah.

"They (the Pakistanis) are not opening the border, this is not

the ethics of a Muslim. We are detained here, we spent all our money on the way here," said Samiullah's mother Shukria.

Meanwhile, businessmen in Spin Boldak district of southern Kandahar province have said that border control by Pakistan has left major economic implications for business community from both countries.

"I evacuated 62 of my trucks in Chaman, I have no place to keep my goods, my goods are destroyed," said local businessman Mohammad Idris.

"Pakistan is losing more than Afghanistan. We both have lost," said another businessman Rahmatullah Pahlawan.

Thousands of people enter Pakistan and Afghanistan via the Spin Boldak crossing on the daily basis. The closure of the crossing by Pakistan has brought the regular and routine economic interactions between the two countries into standstill. (Tolnews)

(15) Sarobi District ...

organizations had announced assistance for them, but they were yet to receive that. "We know who has looted the aid and why it did not reach us."

NDS officials had earlier detained many government officials on charges of corruption in several provinces, including Paktika. (Pajhwok)

(16) Poverty Pushes ...

of these associations."

He called creation of job opportunities for women a major issue. But he made clear without the creation of industrial units, dairy and handicraft entrepreneurship, or other women support programme, work opportunities could not be created.

"It's really difficult for women to do farming or herding, because they don't have the ability to perform heavy work. Jobs that are not beyond women's strength should be created for them."

Abdul Rahman Ahmadi, the Bamyan governor's spokesman, said: "This year we have recruited about 570 employees. Of them, 14 percent or 102 appointees are women."

He added the governor house had ordered all departments to support women. "It has been decided that only women teachers be appointed girls' schools. In co-education schools women and men have balanced representation. This positive discrimination will help create jobs for women."

According to Ahmadi, about 17 percent of government employees in Bamyan are women. Efforts were ongoing to increase the figure to 25 percent, he continued.

The spokesman said women had been 23 shops for making handicrafts in Bamyan City. The move would resolve women's problems, he believed. Sakina, a tailor by profession, said: "I am not content with my work because I can barely earn 5,000 to 7,000 afghanis a month. This is far from enough to meet my expenditure."

Aziza Ahmadi, human rights director at women's affairs department, said: "There are many issues in hiring women. Educated women are faced with even more acute problems. When a post is announced, hundreds of people participate in the test and interview."

Lack of jobs in private and government sectors has resulted in increased poverty. Many families find it hard eking out a living. Some economists say lack of employment opportunities has worried for both men and women.

Mohammad Faiz, an expert, said thousands of young people had been forced to migrate to foreign countries due to continued unemployment and joblessness.

On the ever-increasing poverty graph in the country, he said: "It is dangerous that the economy is going down and poverty rising in the country. The government should take step to control the situation; otherwise more people will have to live below the poverty line."

Abdul Wahab Mohammadi, agriculture and livestock director, told Pajhwok Afghan News over 2,600 women were provided work opportunities on different projects in the outgoing solar year.

He said according to the latest survey, the average level of poverty in the provinces was 36 percent while in Bamyan it rose to 57 percent, showing Bamyan

was a poorer province than others.

Regarding women's involvement in hard labour, he said over 50 percent females in Bamyan worked with male family members on farms due to extreme poverty.

He lamented that women's inability to look after their children and family matters due to poverty and weak economic condition, which compelled them to work on farms alongside men. (Pajhwok)

(17) Afghanistan...

wicket on the bowling side.

The runs and overs of the match were reduced after the game was interrupted by rain, applying the Duckworth Lewis method. (KP)

(18) 74 Afghan

based Pakistani official said the closure was for an indefinite period due to security concerns. Long queues of trucks containers laden with transit trade items and NATO supplies are stranded on both sides of the border. They are unlikely to move until further notice. (Pajhwok)

(19) 2 Rebel

midnight, "In the morning, we came to know that an operation was carried out and two Taliban commanders were killed."

There has been no word so far from insurgents regarding the offensive in Zarghoon Khar, an insecure area of the district controlled by the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(20) Trump Says...

News Network and the New York Times, among others, of fabricating "fake news" regarding his administration, and has labeled them "the enemy of the American people" in a previous tweet. (Xinhua)

(21) Syrian Army...

eastern part of Aleppo city from the IS attacks, or the possible advance of the Turkish-backed rebels. Observers believe that there was a Russian-Turkish understanding for splitting the battles in al-Bab.

For the Turks, capturing al-Bab cuts the way in the face of the growing Kurdish influence in northern Syria, a red line drawn by Turkey. (Xinhua)

(22) No Diplomatic...

Foreign Ministry and the foreign diplomacy team of the new administration in the US.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China - plus Germany signed the JCPOA on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016. (Presstv)

(23) Australian ...

Maritime affairs were also high on the agenda during official talks, with plans to further cooperation.

"Australia and Indonesia are natural maritime partners with common interests, so we've agreed on a joint declaration on enhancing maritime cooperation which will be underpinned by a plan of action to increase the benefits of our maritime partnership," Turnbull said.

The two leaders also announced a scheme to combat terrorism and human trafficking by boosting the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Justice with 40 million Australian dollars (31 million U.S dollars) of funding. (Xinhua)

(24) Islamic State ...

plot planning - with a view to indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilians of whatever race or color in metropolitan areas - represents an enormous ongoing risk that none of us can ignore," he said.

"So I think that there is undoubtedly significant ongoing risk which is at least as great as the threat to London in the 70s when the IRA were active on the mainland." The IRA abandoned its armed struggle for an end to British control of Northern Ireland and unification with Ireland in a 1998 peace deal. More than 3,600 people were killed, including more than 1,000 members of the British security forces, during a sectarian conflict that began in the late 1960s. British security officials have repeatedly said that Islamic State militants, who are losing ground in Iraq and Syria, will target Britain. (Reuters)