

(1) 1397 Should...

She presented information about school management, accelerated learning, classes at society level, distance education, online education and overall supervision of teachers and students.

Second Vice-President, Sarwar Danish, ministers of higher education, public health, women affairs, labour and social affairs and education, as well as other senior officials also talked about civil society's cooperation to the Ministry of Education.

They also spotlighted the imperative of greater coordination, problems in online programmes, teachers' capacity building and other issues.

While thanking civil society activists for explaining their plans, the president said his government and civil society should have a single voice for resolving the problems facing the Ministry of Education.

"The next solar year, 1397, should be the year of a public campaign for education so that the sector is strengthened through utilisation of all available resources.

"The basis of our cooperation with the international community in the area of education is clear, but the way of forging such links should also be clear," he believed.

Ghani called for a clear survey of the education sector to ascertain the number of teachers, their ages and education levels. Civil society's plan for the education sector would be reviewed and implemented, he promised.

"We seriously need an in-depth assessment of the education curriculum, which should conform to the requirements of current times. We do have the will for education reforms and exploiting opportunities to improve the quality of education."

Ghani directed the relevant state organs to deal with the internet connectivity problem at schools across the country. (Pajhwok)

(2) E-NIC Hits another ...

Sarwar Danish had promised that the government will soon announce the start of the process. Danish's remarks followed a similar statement from the minister of communications and information technology in which he said that the government will on Tuesday set the date for the rolling out of electronic identity cards.

Some MPs have meanwhile criticized the recent decision by the joint commission of the parliament for the e-NIC rollout and termed it illegal.

"Based on article 100 of the constitution, if one of the members of the joint commission remains absent, the meeting has no credibility and none of its decisions are legal. So now the decision of the joint committee is illegal," said Rahila Salim. "This is totally a fascist and repressive law and it is unacceptable to us. It should be included in the parliamentary agenda to decide on," said MP Abdul Latif Pedram.

"This law is not in the interests of people, we hope that the presidential palace does not increase the issues facing the people," said MO Zaheer Saadat.

But other MPs have said that there are no legal issues in the way of rolling out the ID cards

"There have been a lot of discussions around ID cards, there is no need for further discussions," said MP Lailuma Kakmi.

"If anyone debates the ID cards, he is committing mistake," said MP Saleh Mohammad Saleh

The census law was approved three years ago. But later Ghani issued a legislative decree in terms of which the terms nationality, religion and ethnicity were also included in the e-NIC. (Tolonews)

(3) Govt Asked to ...

The coalition of several political parties said transparency in election process was a serious demand of people and fundamental reforms in the electoral system should be given a practical shape and not confined only to paper.

Meanwhile, Massoud Trashtwal, spokesman for the High Council of Coalition for Salvation of Afghanistan, said the PPCC meeting urged the government to resolve its internal problems as soon as possible and act based on national interests. "If the government fails in resolv-

ing these problems, the PPCC is ready to mediate for finding a responsible solution", he said.

Differences between the Presidential Palace and Atta Mohammad Noor, executive director of Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan (JIA), deepened after President Ashraf Ghani approved resignation of Noor as Balkh governor.

However, Noor had said he would continue as governor of Balkh province and only the JIA could remove him. (Pajhwok)

(4) This Year's ...

of elections was concerned.

The IEC said it reassured and re-located as many as 7,000 polling stations and devised voter registration plan based on the existing paper national identity cards. UNAMA would pay 90 percent of the cost on the voter registration process and 10 percent by the Afghan government.

The IEC strongly rejected reports regarding any delay in the elections due in July this year and reassured the polls' conduct on the announced date. (Pajhwok)

(5) CBA to Assess ...

Afs are aging and become out of use over time.

According to CBA, the issue of torn and mutilated banknotes has significant implications for the economy of the country.

"We are suffering major losses whenever we burn the damaged notes. The burning of banknotes itself is a burden and impacts the environment. Therefore, we are considering publishing plastic or hybrid banknotes," said Wahidullah Nawsher, first deputy of CBA chairman.

"Old banknotes in circulation have not decreased but increased and this is surprising. We recommend that not only members of the parliament, but also the people must be aware how many banknotes are distributed and how many are burnt," said MP Najia Babakarkhail.

Currently, it costs 3.5 Afs to print one banknote.

The CBA says, on average, the old banknotes cause harm to the national economy of over 11 billion Afs.

"I have seen the banks distribute old banknotes to the people and tell them that there will no problem. But whenever the people conduct transactions with the banks, they experience a lot of problems," said Hamidullah, a resident of Kabul.

Meanwhile, some lawmakers have said that the presence of mutilated banknotes in local bazaars is concerning.

"Our money exchangers who work in the bazaars are not doing this but outside the Sarai Shahzada market there some people are exchanging new banknotes with old notes with some difference in the price," said money exchanger and member of the Forex Dealers' Union.

The presence of contaminated and mutilated banknotes has also led to corruption. (Tolonews)

(6) Raziq Says Govt ...

Meanwhile, in another interview with TOLONews on Tuesday, Gen. Raziq warned that insecurity will increase if the government failed to have a strong will to eliminate Daesh.

He said Daesh activities are increasing every day.

"A number of signs which we see in the north and east or in the west, it seems that Daesh has lots of facilities and it is an oppressor terrorist group which will not have mercy on the people," he said.

He said he will not allow the group to operate in Kandahar.

"We will not allow the group... The situation created by government will allow the enemy to reach their nefarious ends," he added.

Meanwhile, Kandahar provincial council members claimed that government is more involved in "political games" rather than paying attention to security and other important matters.

"Government has fallen short when it comes to Kandahar. It has not provided the required support and plan to this place (Kandahar). Government should pay attention to the country instead of getting involved in disagreements," said Attaullah Atta, member of Kandahar provincial council.

The remarks come after reports in-

dicate that at least 26 Daesh fighters including French and Uzbek nationals in a recent air raid by Afghan forces in Jawzjan province - in the north of Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(7) Surgery Enabled ...

I was unable to go to school. Now I am happy that my foot is treated, and I can walk. I will take the first steps to school," Fatima said.

Fatima's uncle wife, Shafiq, said Fatima's family did not expect that their daughter would walk one day. "A few days ago, her mother came from Daikundi and when she saw her walking, she became very happy. Her father has not seen her walking yet," Shafiq said.

Istiqlal hospital doctors said they are able to carry out complicated burns surgeries, but there is not enough equipment and devices in the hospital. (Tolonews)

(8) Protesting Aibak ...

Afghan News the commissioners charged him 600 afghanis a month last year.

But this fiscal year that began on December 22, they were being charged 500 afghanis daily, the driver complained. He demanded an immediate revocation of the tax increase.

The drivers are made to pay the tax on transporting construction materials, rocks or other stuff to Aibak. Mohammad said: "We have been protesting for 10 days, because paying this amount is beyond our capability. We have to give all the money we earn to the commissioners."

However, Municipal Commissioner Abdul Aziz insisted they charged the truckers according to the relevant rules and those who protested did not want to pay the tax or accept the law.

Mayor Noor Ahmad Same said commissioners charged 50 afghanis on each cubic meter of bricks, sand and gravel and 30 afghanis on soil and rock. He argued the commissioners could be blamed if they took more than those amounts.

Provincial police chief Nadir Fahim, who was also present at the scene, acknowledged the protest as a legal right of people. But he asked the protestors to reopen the road for traffic. (Pajhwok)

(9) US, Pakistan...

purposes to serve its interests in Afghanistan.

Asif reminded the U.S. president that the money given to Pakistan was for the services the country provided it, not as charity "for the sake of God".

"Instead of holding us responsible for its failure in Afghanistan, he [Trump] should hold those accountable who have conceded a failure for the U.S in Afghanistan," the minister said, according to local television channel Geo.

Asif said Washington was reeling from "frustration" due to its own failures in Afghanistan.

"We are ready to share the details of U.S. aid and its utilization at any open forum," he said.

He also said Pakistan would give "no importance to 'No More' from President Trump as we have already said no more to Washington."

Relations between the U.S. and Pakistan in the so-called war against terrorism have plummeted to new lows in recent years, mainly due to a clash of interests in war-ravaged Afghanistan.

Pence late last month said at Afghanistan's Bagram airbase that Trump had "put Pakistan on notice" for allegedly "providing a safe haven to the Taliban and other militant groups". (AA)

(10) Govt Prepares...

consultations in this respect. we hope that this meeting is held in Afghanistan in a very successful manner," said CEO spokesman Mujiburrahman Rahimi.

Afghan defense ministry officials have said that the elimination of terrorists and the cutting of aid to the terror groups in the region are making two important aspects of the new counter-terrorism policy.

"A security commission has been established under the chairmanship of deputy minister of interior on security affairs of the ministry of interior. the commission has taken all necessary preparations to en-

sure the security of this meeting," said Mol spokesman Najib Danish. "Supports to terrorists must stop, the terrorists must be eliminated, the entire world needs to stay alongside Afghanistan," said defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri.

The first round of Kabul Process peace conference was held in Afghanistan's capital last June in which delegations from 28 countries and international organization expressed their views on the Afghan talks. (Tolonews)

(11) Trump's Tweet ...

Trump's statement because the Americans had never said the truth. He said they would not believe in Trump's words until they were enforced.

Some other lawmakers also welcomed the US President's tweet of the year.

Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said: "Trump's social media statement against Pakistan is a positive development for Afghanistan. It is not a simple thing that the US president has started believing that Pakistan deceives them."

He asked Pakistan to improve relation with Kabul otherwise the neighbouring country would be isolated.

"We don't want the Pakistan nation to suffer like Afghans suffered for 40 years. We want Pakistan to sincerely fight against terrorism so that the people of both countries can live in a peaceful environment."

Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was on Tuesday reportedly chairing a high level meeting to discuss Trump's latest tirade. (Pajhwok)

(12) Iran Denies ...

days, the Iranian forces have carried out an operation in Sistan's Nimrooz region to free a hostage.

"The foreign news outlets most probably have mistaken the Nimrooz region in Iran's Sistan, Baluchestan for a similar name, the Nimruz Province in Afghanistan, saying the rescue operation by Iran has been conducted in the southwestern part of the country," he said.

This has provided the opportunist and antagonist media with a chance to make their scenario to create crises, cause disputes and provoke Iran's neighbor Afghanistan, the provincial official added.

"We dismiss all such allegations aimed at disturbing the relations with the friendly and brotherly nation of Afghanistan," Mirshekari said. (IRNA)

(13) Noor Awaits ...

always served the people. I will not fear not only one but five Corps?" he asked.

He said: "we will follow this issue till the end and that they will need to answer to it.

Noor also questioned the repeated delay in the distribution of electronic national identity cards.

"What is the reason for delaying the rollout of the identity cards? Instead of dividing the Afghan nation, we should become one nation so that there should be one line on the back of our cards that says: 'The identity card of Afghanistan'. This is enough," he said.

Noor said he will prevent the Daesh project by the government in the province.

"We have cooperated with the government for several years; now, we have changed into a 'spoiler'. They (government) have introduced us to their bosses as a bad figure. They say we have impeded their projects. Yes, we are impeding the Daesh project of government," Noor said. He called on his supporters to be ready for civil action.

"We are firm in our agreement. We have always said that we will not bow to any plot. This plot is not for Balkh governor's position only; this is against a big family of jihad... This plot is against the last strong bases of jihad who will not leave anyone to achieve their goals unless there is an understanding where nothing will be harmed in terms of people's interests." He said. "We will consult with you (government), otherwise we are ready for both civic action and respond to the acts that you have already prepared for. We call on you (his supporters) to be ready for this

and we will step towards elections same as we are united at the moment." (Tolonews)

(14) Pollution of ...

pollution in water in subdistrict 6 and 13," said researcher Abbas Payendaneck.

Kart-e-Parwan area of Kabul is also one of the areas in capital Kabul where residents have raised concerns over the pollution of groundwater.

Groundwaters have been polluted badly, we call on the government to address the issue. We see women and children facing illness because of pollution," said a resident of Kabul, Nazir Ahmad

Doctors have said that the increasing level of pollution has been inflicting major harms on human health.

Meanwhile, officials of Kabul Water Supply Department have said that one of the reasons of pollution of groundwater is the recklessness of the people.

According to the study, one-third of the water in the fourth, fifth, 10th, 12th, 15th, 19th and 20th districts is contaminated with microbes and water has to be boiled before drinking.

Meanwhile, the study indicates that low-quality and unprocessed material used to heat houses are the main reason for the heavy air pollution in the city.

Figures by Central Statistics Organization show that the population increase has also added to the problem.

Researchers say that the level of groundwater has dropped by 15 meters.

Unprofessional canalization of high-story builds has also added to the problem, said the researchers

A groundwater pollutant is any substance that, when it reaches an aquifer, makes the water unclean or otherwise unsuitable for a particular purpose. Sometimes the substance is a manufactured chemical, but just as often it might be microbial contamination.

Contamination also can occur from naturally occurring mineral and metallic deposits in rock and soil. (Tolonews)

(15) Turkmenistan ..

Both sides agreed on extending the power supply to Afghanistan for one month.

Two days back, Turkmenistan cut power supply to Herat, Faryab, Jawzjan and Sar-i-Pul provinces. The electricity supply, however, resumed Monday night. (Pajhwok)

(16) More than 120 ...

fighters, 42 Taliban militants were killed in these offensives.

This comes days after pro-Daesh fighters killed 65 people, mostly civilians, in suicide attacks in eastern Nangarhar province and the capital Kabul.

Nangarhar Governor's spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told Anadolu Agency Daesh hideouts in Haska Maina district had been targeted in the offensives.

Similar raids were conducted in northern Jawzjan province bordering Turkmenistan.

According to the provincial police headquarters in Jawzjan, scores of suspected Daesh fighters, including at least seven foreigners were killed during air and ground offensives in the Darzab district.

Besides the eastern Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan's tribal belt, Jawzjan in northern Afghanistan is said to be emerging as another strong bastion of Daesh in the war-riddled country. (AA)

(17) French, Uzbek ...

"Three French citizens and four Uzbekistan citizens are among the deaths," Jawzjani added.

According to the police chief, two civilians were also killed in the airstrike.

Darzab district of Jawzjan province is one of the most insecure districts in the north and located 100km of Sheberghan capital of Jawzjan province. Daesh is highly active in the district. (Tolonews)

(18) 5 Haqqani ...

Mohammad Jamal, was killed during a clash with security forces in Jabul Saraj district of central Parwan province at around 9am in the morning, said Waheedi Shahkar, the governor's spokesman. (Pajhwok)