

(1) Senators ...

mitigate the scale of the problems," said Tarin.

Emotions among senators ran high however after Mujahid defended the Taliban and said Jihadi leaders had been traitors.

"Taliban is a sacred group who have fought against Russia and defeated them, then put an end to civil war and brought security to the country," Mujahid said.

Mujahid's comments were widely criticized by Afghans.

"National Assembly staffers who were martyred belonged to poor families and they had only around 100Afs in their pockets, many were the breadwinners of their families, but they were killed," said senator Anarkali Honaryar.

"This will not not be the first or the last incident. It is important that government must be accountable in such incidents," said MP Amina Afzali.

Senators said that the HPC is a failed institution, and asked government to dissolve it.

"Those forging proxies and slaves such as Abdul Hakim Mujahid who works within government institutions and the HPC must be cleared so that the people of Afghanistan can breathe in peace," said senator Gulalai Ahmadi.

"More security measures need to be done, we have signed security agreements with foreign countries such as the US and with NATO, everyone knows where the terrorists live," said senator Gul Ahmad Azami. (Tolonews)

(2) Only 72,000...

government does not help IDPs, their tents will fill up with water and they will face more problems," said another IDP Anzor Safai, referring to the heavy snowfalls recorded in Kabul in the past two days.

Based on MoRR statistics, only 72,000 of the IDPs from the total of 550,000 have been resettled.

"We have around 7,000 IDPs only in Kabul and the majority of them were provided with cash, clothes and food," said MoRR spokesman Islamuddin Juraat.

The majority of IDPs come from a number of war-hit regions such as Kunduz, Helmand, Nangarhar, Farah, Uruzgan, Faryab, Ghazni, Sar-e-Pul, Paktia, Baghlan and Badghis provinces.

According to MoRR, the overall number of IDPs in the country is estimated to be around 1.3 million. (Tolonews)

(3) Whereabouts ...

CEO Omid Maisam.

But, the question being asked is where is the actual letter?

When asked for a copy of the letter, both the presidential palace and the CEO's office refused to hand it over nor would they show the media the register stating it had been sent to the Supreme Court.

Both offices said Sunday that they were holding copies of the letter and that the administrative office of the president sent the letter to the Supreme Court.

"In a government where after two months every institution denies having received such a letter and (government) is not prepared to give a copy of the letter, this indicates that decisions are made on an individual basis and there is not a system where decisions are made on a system-oriented basis," said legal expert Tahir Hashimi.

Back in November, the Afghan parliament dismissed seven cabinet ministers over their failure to spend 75 percent of their development budgets - a move that further added to the woes of the National Unity Government (NUG) whose leaders have bickered for months over the issue of filling vacancies and using caretaker ministers. (Tolonews)

(4) Taliban Leader ...

Elsewhere in the province, three children were injured when an unexploded mortar shell went off in Qush Tapa district.

The children aged between 12, 14 and 17 years were playing with the device when it went off, Turkistani said, adding the injured kids had been shifted to hospital for treatment.

Jawzjan public health director, Dr. Feraidon Habib, said the children were in stable condition.

About a month back, four children were injured in a similar incident in Qush Tapa district. (Pajhwok)

(5) Kandahar ...

Taliban. According to the initial investigation, Taliban is involved in the attack and Haqqani and Taliban have been always working together. They cannot be separated but as per the initial information, the attack was planned by Taliban. (Monitoring Desk)

(6) ADB Operations...

\$2.6 billion going to loans and \$518 million to grants.

Technical assistance from the bank, meanwhile, rose by 20% to \$170 million from \$141 million in 2015.

Among ADB's operational highlights last year were the approval of several groundbreaking projects such as the contingent disaster risk financing in the Cook Islands, the first privately-financed solar project in Cambodia, results-based lending for an elderly care project in China, the development of India's first coastal industrial corridor, and the \$500 million counter-cyclical support to Azerbaijan.

ADB's Office of Public-Private Partnership entered into five new transaction advisory mandates to prepare and structure PPP projects in 2016.

The strong showing of ADB's operations was based on the larger financing capacity generated by the anticipated merger of the bank's two main financial instruments -- ADF and OCR -- which formally took effect on 1 January 2017.

With this innovative reform, ADB's annual approvals of loans and grants will increase up to \$20 billion by 2020.

For 2017-2020, a successful ADF replenishment, concluded in May 2016, will allow ADB to substantially increase support to the region's poorest countries. The replenished ADF will also enable ADB to provide grant resources for disaster risk management and health initiatives.

Total disbursements of ADB loans and grants reached \$12.5 billion in 2016 -- the highest ever. This performance is tied to the reforms ADB has implemented to fast-track procurement and implementation processes.

Co-financing reached \$13.9 billion in 2016 from \$10.7 billion in 2015, a growth of 29%. This is on the back of ADB's greater partnerships and collaboration with various development stakeholders in the Asia and Pacific region.

Some of the strong partnerships ADB undertook in 2016 include co-financing with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for a road project in Pakistan and natural gas project in Bangladesh. Agreements were also signed with other development partners including an innovative guarantee agreement with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to increase ADB financing by \$500 million over the next 10 years, and a landmark agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency to finance private sector infrastructure projects for \$6 billion.

ADB's knowledge work was strengthened in 2016 through newly established sector and thematic groups. Important forums on sustainable transport, food security, clean energy, and green business were held.

In addition, ADB's legal office hosted a symposium for Asian supreme court judges on law and climate change, and its anticorruption office started supporting tax integrity and transparency of developing member countries in line with international efforts.

As Afghanistan's largest infrastructure development partner, ADB's investment approvals totaled \$550 million in 2016, a 85% increase from \$297 million in 2015.

Total disbursements of grants reached \$235 million in 2016, an increase of 53% from \$154 million in 2015 and contract awards achieved a record \$550 million.

ADB's infrastructure assistance will have a vital impact on the country's economic growth, access to services, job creation, and poverty reduction.

Based in Manila, the bank is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Established in 1966, ADB is celebrating 50 years of development

partnership in the region. It is owned by 67 members—48 from the region. (Pajhwok)

(7) Insecurity in ...

In addition, she recalled, the government had pledged appointing a woman district chief. But the commitment had not been honored yet due to insecurity and threats, the director added.

She asked security departments to pay special attention to the safety of professional and talented women, whose representation in government institutions was not satisfactory.

Holkar said incidents of violence against women could not be registered. "Last year, 70 incidents of violence against women were recorded, but this year 54 cases have been registered." The number of such cases may be higher in areas under rebel control.

Torture, elopement and murder were the main incidents in 2016, but this year underage marriage and murder cases have seen a spike.

The director expressed concern over the escalating insecurity in Kunduz, saying that women could not travel to districts due to threats from rebels.

She said insecurity had forced women not to register cases against them and, therefore, a small number of incidents had been recorded this year. (Pajhwok)

(8) ACJC Making...

corruption cases involving the deputy minister of interior along with five other officials from the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and corruption cases involving employees at the Electronic Identity Cards office, have also been sent to the AGO.

"We did the primary investigations and based on the law, the ministers' corruption cases should be investigated by the special court and we sent them the case," he added.

"Holding open hearings can frighten corrupt people into not embezzling money and that is a good way of fighting the phenomenon," said Khan Zaman Khan Amarkhil, head of Afghanistan Anti-Corruption Network.

ACJC has held four open trials regarding corruption cases involving government officials. Currently 27 non-military and 29 military-related corruption cases are being processed.

"ACJC should investigate those major cases that the AGO has not investigated yet," said Sayed Sharifi Balkhab, an MP.

Earlier this month, an MoI general was sentenced by the ACJC court to 14 years in prison and to repay \$150,000 USD after being found guilty of embezzlement. (Tolonews)

(9) Kabul, Delhi ...

would support," said the official. Recognising the important role that India was playing in supporting stability in Afghanistan and prosperity for the people, Biswal said Delhi's assistance had been an important component.

"We are increasingly engaging India in discussing the broad contours of policy and how to support more stable outcomes for the Afghan people, work with the Afghan government," she said.

The US acknowledged India had long-term interests in that region, she said, adding also recognised there were a lot of complexities there.

"As we have sought to work with Pakistan to support some sort of a dialogue to advance peace and security in the region, there have been times where we have worked closely with India," she said.

Both countries had an important role to play if Afghanistan to be able to advance peace and consolidate security in the region. The incoming Trump administration would need to work with both India and Pakistan as they engaged with Afghanistan on these issues.

"So we shall look to see how policies on Afghanistan are shaped by the incoming administration. We haven't heard from them on Afghanistan, what their approach is going to be..." Biswal concluded. (Pajhwok)

(10) HPC Blames ...

peace and they must be eliminated," said deputy CEO spokesman Omid Maisam.

According to the HPC, with the mysterious death of Taliban's founding leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, hopes for sealing a

groundbreaking peace deal with the insurgency also vanished and since then, no direct talks between the two sides has taken place.

But analysts argue that the HPC which facilitates the peace process between the sides is also split when it comes to the issue of peace with the Taliban, referring to recent remarks by Abdul Hakim Mujahid, an advisor to the High Peace Council in which he said that the Taliban were angels of peace and the group is a sacred group.

It is important to mention that the ongoing turmoil in the country has overshadowed the lives of Afghans and that security forces still battle the Taliban in multiple fronts across the country.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) has said that currently the conventional forces are engaging the insurgents in at least sixteen zones, suggesting the Afghan political leadership should speed up efforts for the political settlement of the ongoing crisis.

"Politics have a major role in the national and international levels," said MoD spokesman Mohammad Radmanish.

The National Unity Government (NUG) under President Ashraf Ghani and his CEO Abdullah Abdullah held the first formal round of peace negotiation talks with the Taliban in 2015 in the Pakistani city of Murree with the participation of Chinese and American delegates.

At Murree, the two sides agreed to continue their negotiations for the political settlement of the conflict in the country. But when the news of the death of Mullah Omar broke, bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan also soured. (Tolonews)

(11) HPC Advisor...

people and media outlets no to be influenced by enemy propaganda aimed at sowing seeds of disunity among them at the critical juncture the country stood at. (Pajhwok)

(12) Afghanistan ...

26 not out. He saw his team romp home, with eight balls and five wickets to spare.

Afghanistan, favourites for the tournament, had impressive performances to boast of in 2016, beating the likes of the West Indies, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong and Scotland. (Pajhwok)

(13) Abducted ICRC ...

abductors, their motives or the details of the release.

Kunduz police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Hamid said the ICRC official was being shifted from one place to another by his kidnappers when police identified him and rescued him in Chardara district on Sunday evening.

He said the kidnappers were able to flee. He said Carlos had been kidnapped on the road between Kunduz City and Aliabad district last month. (Pajhwok)

(14) Separate Force ...

suggested for the security of provincial industrial zones.

Among the three major industrial parks in Nangarhar, the Carpet Park and 20 factories in Shaikh Mestri Park are functional. But not a single factory is operational in Hesarak Park. (Pajhwok)

(15) Civilians...

He said the governor was reviewing the investigation report and would share his information with the media.

However, an official privy to the investigation said the investigation showed all those killed, injured or arrested in the raid were civilians.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the official said the casualties took place when the Nangarhar residents accuse the Afghan Special Forces of often inflicting casualties on civilians during their operations.

A provincial council member, Israrullah Murad, pointing to an operation of the forces in Kama district, said four innocent brothers were killed in the raid. He said the special forces always committed mistakes in their operations.

The forces should conduct their operations in consultation with local elders and influential figures to prevent civilian casualties, he said. Provincial council secretary, Zabiullah Zamarai, was of the same view and said such operations created distance between the government and the people. "If the Afghan Special Forces ar-

rest anti-government figures, we appreciate it, but if they cause casualties to civilians, it is condemnable," he said.

The governor's spokesman, in response to people's views, said that Governor Gulab Mangal had always stressed protection of civilians and had advised the special forces in this regard.

He said casualties usually happened when people retaliated during operations.

The Afghan Special Forces in the past too have killed civilians. Earlier, a UN employee was killed in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, and four member of a family, all religious scholars, were killed in Kama district by the Special Forces. (Pajhwok)

(16)3 Smugglers ...

said that four vehicles hijacked by thieves had been recovered.

The robbers were chased by police for the past four months. Their location was positively identified and they were arrested today, he said.

"The robbers, who are very skillful and dangerous, were arrested in Zaranj, the capital of Nimroz," he said. The detainees belong to Kabul and Ghazni provinces. (Pajhwok)

(17)24 Children ...

jail had been discussed with Takhar officials, human rights watchdogs and UNAMA but no positive response was received. Ikrami acknowledged no educational and entertainment facility had been provided to the children inside the prison.

He warned the children faced a dangerous future ahead if they were deprived of an education and other basic facilities.

"I am worried about these children and I have shared my worries with local officials, UNAMA, human rights organizations and other institutions in the hope that a solution would be found," said Ikrami.

He said it was the responsibility of the Social Affairs and Kabour Department to address the issue of these children.

But Nooruddin Mutaba, head of the labour department, said they lacked resources to address facilitate the children. He, however, said the children could be shifted to a kindergarten.

"Children up to the age of seven years can be shifted to the kindergarten during day time as the facility is not available at night."

The prison officials said they lacked facilities to regularly shift the children to the kindergarten and bring them back.

Meanwhile, Bismailah Waziri, head of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) for Takhar, said they were aware of the presence of some children in Takhar jail.

Governor spokesman Sunnatullah Taimur said construction work on a new prison was underway in Takhar. After its completion, all issues related to the prison would be resolved, he said.

He said education and entertainment facilities for children would be provided in the new prison.

According to Article 26 of the Constitution crime is a personal act. Investigation, arrest and detention of an accused as well as penalty execution shall not incriminate another person. (Pajhwok)

(18)49 Taliban

Taliban military unit for Kandahar province, Haji Khalid, deputy governor for Uruzgan province and some other key militant were among the dead, the statement added. Omar Zwak, the Helmand governor's spokesman, said the NATO airstrikes targeted a big meeting of the Taliban and inflicted heavy casualties on them, but he had no exact figures.

He said nine Taliban militants including a notorious commander Hafizullah were killed late on Saturday night when security forces ambushed them in Nehri-Siraj district. Two vehicles and some weapons of Taliban were also destroyed in the attack.

On the other hand, Ayub Omar Omari, the Garamsir district chief, said an explosion inside a Taliban's bomb making factory killed five militants and wounded two others in Kharko locality.

Separately, Uruzgan deputy police chief, Noozai, said operations were ongoing in Safid Khar, Baqir, Dab Alokozai and Gogorak localities over the past three days. He said so far 20 Taliban insur-

gents including a commander had been killed in the ongoing operation which would continue until the areas were cleared of militants. (Pajhwok)

(19)7 Civilians Killed, ...

cShah, a resident of the locality, said the ill-fated vehicle was on its way to Jalalabad, the provincial capital. The injured were evacuated to the district clinic with the help of local residents.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Earlier, security forces claimed Daesh rebels had been driven from Pachiragum district as a result of a clearing operation. (Pajhwok)

(20)Project ...

man from Asiabad, welcomed the project's implementation and said that Hazrat Sultan was a fertile district, where arable land would increase with the construction of the canal. (Pajhwok)

(21)Trump Warned ...

and such a unilateral view on this issue. You have to try to create the conditions for peace," he told France 3 TV.

Both Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas have been invited to meet with President Francois Hollande to discuss the conclusions of the Paris talks.

Abbas, who has backed the conference, is expected to travel to Paris in the coming weeks but Netanyahu has rejected the offer, French diplomats said.

The Israeli premier on Sunday again heaped criticism on the conference, calling it "futile." (AFP)

(22)Russia Says...

Obama of "deliberately ignoring the fact that the main Internet servers are based on the territory of the United States and are used by Washington for intelligence and other purposes aimed at retaining its global domination". (Reuters)

(23)IRENA, ADFD...

the Solomon Islands will use the funds to support a government-backed 20-megawatt reservoir dam and hydropower facility. The funding facility is aimed at putting in place a process "which supports transformational and replicable projects that can potentially bring sustainable energy to millions of people around the world," IRENA Director-General Adnan Z. Amin said. (Xinhua)

(24)US will be...

nonsense," he said, adding that Washington must end its cooperation with terrorist groups. "We clearly say that all weapons supplied by the U.S. to the Democratic Union Party (PYD) ended up in the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) hands," the minister added. Turkey considers the PYD and its armed wing, the YPG, to be the Syrian offshoots of the PKK, yet Washington does not list the YPG as a terrorist group. avusoglu's comments came in the wake of U.S. States Department spokesman Mark Toner's statements to the press on Tuesday. Toner said the PYD should be party to any Syrian peace talks, and sooner or later have a place at the negotiating table. (Xinhua)

(25)Syrian Airstrikes...

tandem with shelling by IS on the government-controlled parts of the city, which resulted in the killing of three civilians, including a woman. A day earlier, 12 soldiers were killed during the raging battles, the Observatory added. It said the IS offensive is the most violent since the terror group attacked areas in Deir al-Zour and besieged government-controlled areas in the city two years ago. It added that the IS fighters were advancing near the graveyard area and the vicinity of the Deir al-Zour airport, the only port the Syrian army uses in and out of the city. (Xinhua)

(26)Russia to ...

system, is capable of hitting an airborne target at a distance of up to 400 km with medium- and long-range missiles. Outgoing U.S. President Barack Obama ordered Friday to extend punitive measures against Russia imposed in March, 2014 for one more year for "its purported annexation of Crimea and its use of force in Ukraine." The United States and its allies accused Russia of fueling the conflict in southeastern Ukraine and illegally incorporating Crimea. Moscow insisted that a vast majority of Crimea residents voted to rejoin Russia in a popular referendum. (Xinhua)