

(1) Gen. Murad ...

of the Afghan National Security forces (ANSF) is not acceptable, the BBC reported.

He said if such plans are implemented then the forces should be established within the frame of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces.

Gen. Murad insisted that the Afghan National Army (ANA) consist of professional units and are capable to respond to all requirements of the country.

In regards to the reports suggesting the growing operations of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) operations in the country, Gen. Murad said the Afghan army forces have not encountered with such insurgents so far.

However, he warned that the Islamic State is posing more threats to the Central Asia countries. (KP)

(2) Militants Posin...

Senators raised concern of what they believe to be a rise in terrorist activities throughout the country that illustrate the presence of ISIS in the country.

"There is visible increase in activities of Taliban and ISIS militants in Faryab province," Senator Mohammad Gul Rassouli said. Adding to the statement, Senator Mohammad Haleem Hassanyar said that "activities of the group have been witnessed in borders of Ghazni province."

Concluding the session, the Senate appreciated the commitments and achievements of the security forces for maintaining security in the country. (Tolonews)

(3) Turkey to...

government on Jan. 13 to continue posting Turkish troops in Afghanistan for two more years under a new NATO mission.

According to the new legislation, the government will be able to send troops to Afghanistan to support a new NATO-led mission called Resolute Support, which was launched on Jan. 1, 2015.

As the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force ended its 13-year combat mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2014, the mission has evolved into training and advising of the nascent Afghan security forces. (Monitoring Desk)

(4) Protection of...

he constitutional obligation in an efficient manner.

Gossman expressed concern over increasing violence against journalists and asked the government to protect their lives. The HRW officials also voiced their reservation about the delay in approval of the journalist protection law.

The HRW is all poised to release its annual report on the human rights situation in Afghanistan on Tuesday. Last year was the bloodiest for journalist in Afghanistan, where 125 cases of violation, including eight incidents of murder, were recorded. (Pajhwok)

(5) Aussie Head...

Australia and Afghanistan enjoyed a close partnership, based on shared agenda to improve the lives of the Afghan people.

"We continue to work with the Afghan Government, particularly in the areas of economic growth, empowering women and girls and humanitarian assistance.

"Australian defence force personnel continue to be part of the mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces." Anderson, who is expected to take up his appointment this month, succeeds Jon Philip. (Bernama)

(6) New Power ...

Director Mohib Rahman Momand told Pajhwok Afghan News the substation would supply power to 20,000 families and factories and would help reduce electrical outages.

Ludin praised the national power utility for installing the new facility and hoped it would resolve electricity related problems of residents.

Electricity is supplied to Jalalabad from Daronta and Naghlu hydro-power plants, but the supply is insufficient to meet needs of the growing population. (Pajhwok)

(7) Corps Commander ...

during the meeting in which means to further enhance the two countries' existing border coordination mechanisms came under discussion.

Pakistan's Southern Commander Lieutenant General Nasir Khan Janjua is also scheduled to visit Afghanistan on Wednesday to meet his counterpart.

These visits are aimed at enhancing the military-to-military relationship between the two countries.

In the wake of the Dec 16 attack on Peshawar's Army Public School which claimed at least 150 lives – including more than 132 schoolchildren, Adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz had said that security forces in Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to carry out coordinated operations against terrorists along the Pak-Afghan border.

He had added that the Afghan leadership in Kabul had assured the Pakistani army of full cooperation in countering terrorism.

Last month, on Dec 17, Gen Raheel had met ISAF commander General Joseph Dunford, who had condemned the attack on APS and had assured Pakistan of complete cooperation in countering terrorism and in security related matters.

Gen Raheel had also sought Kabul's help to extradite top Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan chief Mullah Fazalullah who is wanted for terrorism cases in Pakistan. (Monitoring Desk)

(8) Popal Withdraws...

Estonia for one of the many companies he owns in the country, but he maintains that corrupt officials from Estonia have prevented him from entering the country so they can steal millions of dollars from him.

Government officials have stated President Ashraf Ghani will introduce the cabinet to Parliament on Tuesday. (Tolonews)

(9) Ancient Silk ...

Muradi said they imported 500 packages of eggs from neighbouring Tajikistan last year. Each package weighed 12 kilograms and comprised of 1000 eggs each, she said.

She said rural environment suited rearing silkworms due to greenery and that was why the industry mostly depended on women. Muradi said trained women were associated with their industry in Dehdad, Balkh and Dawlatabad districts of Balkh and in Samangan, Faryab and Jawzjan provinces. She said the women had been trained in silkworm farming through a series of workshops. A resident of the Dehdad district, Shafiq, told Pajhwok Afghan News she had been rearing silkworms for the last five years. She said their job had been made easy by the green environment in village.

She said she was rearing silkworms under a contract with the Rabia Muradi industry and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and was able to meet her family's economic needs.

She said she transferred the silkworms to the industry after becoming pupas in about 45 days, when the insects stopped eating. The eggs took about a week to hatch into larvae, which continuously ate mulberry bushes, she said.

"The newborn silkworms have black colour. After two or three weeks of the hatchings, I start feeding them mulberry leaves, which are the only leaves the silkworms eat."

About six weeks later, the insects grew into full size and turned white and become pupae after eight weeks of their life cycle. "When the insects start spinning cocoons, I transfer them to the industry for making threads which are used to make fabric."

Another worker of the industry, Shehla, said the cocoons were separated from each other in the first phase and then the threads were woven into fabric through machines. She said the industry where she worked sometimes manufactured carpets from silk.

Rabia Muradi said 30 women worked in her enterprise's manufacturing section. She said the silk was used to make clothes,

carpets, scarves and other similar things. She was happy with the market value of their products showcased at national and international exhibitions.

However, she said they were in dire need of government's support, especially in imports of silkworms and finding market for their products in foreign countries. Muradi said they planned to import eggs from China besides Tajikistan this season.

Balkh Agriculture and Livestock department officials said Balkh served the only centre of silkworm farming in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture supplies silkworms to other provinces from Balkh, they add.

Agriculture Director Katib Shams told Pajhwok Afghan News the system of producing silkworm eggs had been active in Dehdad district over the past eight years. He said the production of silkworm eggs stood at 3,000 packages this year and had reached the provincial capital, Mazar-i-Sharif.

Shams believed if the government paid adequate attention to the silkworm industry, Afghanistan could become unparalleled in this sector in the region. (Pajhwok)

(10) Balkh Municipality...

municipality officials for ignoring balance in the development of different city neighbourhoods. For his part, Moqim said connecting the Mazar-Kabul highway with the Karta-i-Sulh town and construction of the third district police complex had been completed.

He said it was impossible to asphalt all roads and streets of the city in a year but the projects would be implemented one after another. (Pajhwok)

(11) China Firmly ...

Abdullah said China and Afghanistan enjoy time-honored friendly relations. Over the past 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, China and Afghanistan, committed to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, have always understood, respected and supported each other. Our two countries have established the Strategic and Co-operative Partnership and carried out productive friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields.

Chinese premier further added that the Chinese government cherishes its friendship with Afghanistan and is committed to growing the Strategic and Co-operative Partnership between the two countries.

We are willing to provide support and assistance to Afghanistan's peace and reconciliation so as to ensure its economic growth, people's well-being and long-term security and stability. I stand ready to work with you to advance our bilateral relations and bring more benefits to our peoples, he added. (PR)

(12) Infighting between ...

for two years due to clashes between rival groups -- a constant headache for civilians, who accuse the government of doing nothing to resolve long-running feuds between former jihadis. One resident Mirza Mohammad told Pajhwok Afghan News the two commanders had hired illegal gunmen and had established bunkers and check-posts in the area.

But the government, despite having enough resources and forces, had been unable to disarm the commanders or reopen the schools, he regretted, saying they frequently stayed indoors due to clashes.

Another resident of the district, Habibullah, said dozens of people had died and been injured during clashes between the rivals. He said schools and health clinics had long been closed, but the government was yet to send security forces to the district to control the situation.

Yet another resident, Zarin, said Taliban militants also existed in the district, but the government had turned a blind eye to the situation. Many residents have migrated to other parts of the province due to clashes and insecurity. Police spokesman Humayun Rashidi told Pajhwok Af-

ghan News the two commanders, Gul Nazim and Sabit Wakil, had rivalry since the jihad era. The two had been commanders of the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan and the Jamiat-i-Islami groups in the past.

Rashidi confirmed schools had problems in the district, where children avoided going to school due to insecurity.

But the closure of schools in the district was denied Education Director Mohammad Nasim Safi, who admitted security problems in the town. He promised the problems would be resolved soon.

Some residents said the two commanders enjoyed the backing of high-ranking government officials and that was why no one could dare take action against them.

Deputy police chief Ibadullah Talwar confirmed the two commanders had created problems in the district. He said the matter had reached the Ministry of Interior, which had initiated measures to arrest the two commanders.

Situated in the northwestern part of Kapisa, Koh Band district borders central Panjsher and eastern Laghman provinces. Militants cross into Panjsher and Laghman through mountainous routes from this district. (Pajhwok)

(13) Group Poisoning ...

insurgents were killed in past 24 hours in military operations and conflicts in five provinces of the country.

Defense Ministry statement does not clarify what five provinces the operations were conducted in but states that one confrontation took place in Helmand's Washir district where a group of about 50 rebels attacked an army check post.

The attack left eight attackers killed and there were no casualties to the Army, the statement adds. (KP)

(14) Prisoners Released ...

There are still 210 inmates in Maidan Wardak jail including thirty children and eleven women, as per the information of the statement. (KP)

(15) Delhi Policy

with United States and NATO will not only provide security assistance but will help with logistical aid and support at a higher level there.

"The security situation in Afghanistan has of course has been very fragile for a very long time whether you want to go back to the incessant wars, cold war or if you want to go back to post Soviet phase or you want to go to 9/11 or post 9/11, there has been continuous conflict in this country for more than 30 years now and it continues. Now if you look at overall scale it does appear Taliban directed attacks have increased hugely in this run up to the withdrawal of the ISAF forces", said Dr. Radha Kumar, Director General, Delhi Policy Group.

India has extended a sum of two billion dollars as reconstruction aid into Afghanistan and has been asked for further support, including military assistance, in Kabul's battle to counter the Taliban insurgency. "India's role thus far mainly in aid, investment, reconstruction, capacity building at every level where in government, parliament or in civil society and those programmes will continue they may not expand very much but they will continue to the level of requirement and obviously they will continue at request of the Afghan government", Dr. Kumar said.

The Government of Afghanistan signed five agreements with the Embassy of India in Kabul for the implementation of small projects under the 120 million dollars small development projects.

The MoUs include construction of a water supply pipe scheme at Kohak village in Argandhab District and a water reservoir in Panjwai District of Kandahar Province. "There was an opportunity I would say last year, India to begin more in leadership role in the international, regional and political consultations but that has not transpired and my impression is that the government

of India is going to be slow and will wait and see first will give the new government to establish itself and then see how the policies with others are working out. However, India does have very critical national security as well as neighbourhood concern," Dr. Kumar said.

Delhi Policy Group believes that the level of violence in Afghanistan will go down in near future. It will help generate more employment opportunities and economic upliftment in the country facing decades long conflict. (ANI)

(16) 14 Rebels Join...

containing shells with warheads, anti-aircraft bullets, machine-guns, RPGs, etc. were recovered in Tagab.

According to security officials, Maulvi Abdul Qadir, a famous bomb-making expert, was also detained in Tagab. (Pajhwok)

(17) Seerat Conferenc...

leaders, senior government officials, students and members of Pakistani community. Ahmad Zia Massoud, Afghan President's Special Representative for Reforms and Good Governance was the Chief Guest at the event.

Addressing the Conference, Ahmad Zia Massoud and other speakers highlighted the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Paying attributes to the Holy Prophet (PBUH), they urged upon the Muslim Ummah to follow the principles taught by the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Ambassador of Pakistan at Kabul, Syed Abrar Hussain, said that the solution to our problems lies in following the teachings of the Holy Prophet who had taught us forgiveness, patience, kindness, tolerance and respect of humanity.

The speakers at the Conference included Mir Wais Yasini, Former Deputy Speaker of Wolesi Jirga, Deputy Speaker for Hajj and Religious Affairs, Abdul Haqem Munib, Religious Scholar Mr. Muhammad Baqir Napti and prominent leader Qazi Amin Waqad. Three Afghan students at the Embassy Vocational Institute, Gulbadin, Rafi Ullah and Miss Shakeela also made speeches while Qari Ateeq and Ahmad Ahmadi group presented Naats. The Embassy has expressed its gratitude for participation by a large number of local dignitaries in the Conference. (PR)

(18) Notorious...

Accused of making fake passports, the militant would often visit regional countries like Pakistan, Tajikistan and the United Arab Emirates. Tajikistan's authorities had put him on the blacklist based on his crimes there. (Pajhwok)

(19) Kandaharis...

charged 250 afghanis and they continued to charge the same amount despite decreasing fuel prices. He asked the government to adjust fares with fuel prices. (Pajhwok)

(20) Inmates ...

memorised the Quran in 11 months, said: "The jail is an important Mad-rasa for me. I am happy having memorised the holy book." (Pajhwok)

(21) Protesters...

and called the move as irresponsible. The latest issue of the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo hit newsstands on Wednesday which depicts a drawing of Prophet Muhammad, with a tear rolling down his cheek and a placard that reads "Je Suis Charlie".

The issue was created by the surviving staff with supporters saying the cartoon on the cover of Charlie Hebdo is a defiant expression of free speech following a terrorist attack on the publication's Paris offices that killed 12 people on January 7. The publication of caricature sparked protests across the Muslim world which began after mid-day prayers Friday, Islam's holy day. (KP)

(22) Moneychangers...

head Rahimullah said security forces had started an investigation into the case but failed to ascertain the captive's whereabouts. The victim had personal

enmity with no one, he said.

Another businessman, Ziaul Haq, suspected police involvement in the incident and said that his son was also kid-napped recently. Police later mediated with the captors and released his son in return for ransom.

Governor Mohammad Omar Safi said he had city's third police district officials to trace the money-changer within 24 hours or risk being referred to the attorney general office (AGO).

Safi told Pajhwok Afghan News he remained committed to reforming the provincial government but interference from some lawmakers thwarted his attempts.

He did not name anyone, but said he had to deal with a parallel government by illegal armed men. "Whenever I try to disarm irresponsible armed men, the government forces me to change my decision." Appointed a month ago by the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), Safi warned of resigning if the government failed to meet the needs of Kunduz residents. (Pajhwok)

(23) Two Border...

the security of its borders due to the data received over the cluster of militants in the northern Afghan provinces that border with Tajikistan. The total length of the Tajik-Afghan border is about 1,400 km. "Heavy security was rolled out by law enforcement officers," he said at the press conference in Dushanbe. These militants, he believes, belong to different groups, including Taliban and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. Afghan authorities say that these militant groups have a goal to move into the territory of Tajikistan. (AKIpress)

(24) Gas Cylinder...

my uncle wounded and another person killed on the spot." (Pajhwok)

(25) Time Not ...

states are divided in their enthusiasm for sanctions.

Linkevicius said there was no reason to change the EU's policy or to lift sanctions.

With attempts to restart peace talks stalled, rebels have stepped up attacks in the past week and casualties have mounted. Fighting has raged around Donetsk airport.

Danish Foreign Minister Martin Lidegaard said the time was not right for the EU to "give up any sanctions or to send any signals that we are willing to do so, but ... we should explore any possibility to find a political solution to this crisis." Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom said the EU must hold on to its sanctions on Russia, but it also needed a long-term perspective on engaging with Moscow. Mogherini said any relaxation of sanctions on Russia would only happen if there were improvements on the ground in Ukraine. Sebastian Kurz, foreign minister of Austria, on the doveish side of the sanctions debate, said the EU should draw up a strategy to put relations with Russia back on a firm footing in the long term. "It's not about sharpening or easing sanctions, it's about coming away from pure reaction ... I think it's false only to be reactive," he told reporters. The first sanctions the EU imposed on Russia come up for renewal in March and unanimity is needed to extend them, which may mean more political disputes ahead. (Reuters)

(26) 17 Killed in ...

posting IS news and execution footage on internet, was killed by an airstrike of an Iraqi warplane on his house at a village in north of the volatile town of Maqdadiyah. Meanwhile, the security forces pounded five IS positions in the villages in north of Maqdadiyah, apparently, preparing for an offensive to clear the rural area from IS militants, the source added. Elsewhere, a civilian was killed and seven others were wounded when a car bomb detonated in the town of Mahmoudiyah, some 30 km south of Baghdad, damaging the several nearby buildings and cars, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. (Xinhua)