

(1) Membership ...

then ours are also. They sit at home and if they feel they are in danger than they can tender resignation as member of the house," she remarked. House Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the issue would be taken up for debate and their names would be made public. (Pajhwok)

(2) Turkmenistan-...

of this international transport corridor has been constructed, said the newspaper. The departments of Turkmenistan's Railway Transport Ministry continue the work on constructing the railway on Atamyrat-Imamnazar segment.

"Currently, the work on the construction of ground infrastructure facilities is underway on the 23rd kilometer, the work on filling rubble-gravel mixtures is underway on the 36th kilometer, and the work on preparing the soil roadbed - on the 46th kilometer," said the report.

Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railroad should become an important link in international vehicle transportations between the countries of Central Asia, according to the report.

Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper said that this rail route, in addition to real economic benefits, will provide ample opportunities for constructive integration of the Central Asian countries into the world economic space on the basis of equal partnership.

The transport corridor uniting transit communications infrastructure of the three neighboring states, will also allow to increase bilateral trade by several times. (TNA)

(3) Danish Introduces ...

election issue and said that hopefully, once the electoral reform commission is launched, the issue of a parliamentary election date can be set. He added that members of the constitution monitoring committee will also be introduced to parliament in the new future.

In his address to MPs Danish said all nominees introduced were highly experienced people. He said he hoped they would be given a vote of confidence during Saturday's session.

Among those introduced to parliament by Danish was Mohammed Masoom Stanekzai, as minister of defense; Khalilullah Sediq as head of the Central Bank and two nominees for the Supreme Court - Anisa Rassouli and Sayed Yousuf Halim.

Rassouli is the first female judge in the history of Afghanistan to be introduced to such a senior judicial position.

Rassouli who graduated from the Law and Political Science Faculty of Kabul University is highly experienced and is committed to stamping out violence against women. She said in an interview with TOLONews recently that if successful she will increase the number of women in the judiciary and will address cases of violence against women properly.

Halim, who is also nominated for the Supreme Court, also comes with a wealth of experience. He has a Bachelor of Art in Law and Political Science from Kabul University and joined the Ministry of Justice in 1985.

Khalilullah Sediq, nominated for head of Central Bank, has been the Chief Executive Officer of Afghanistan International Bank since 2006. Sediq has 30 years' experience as a central banker and a commercial banker in Afghanistan and America.

Stanekzai meanwhile has served as a minister and security advisor to former Afghan President Hamid Karzai and has been acting defense minister since May. (Tolonews)

(4) US Praises...

here for you to tell you, it's more this month than it was this month last year, but I think we need to keep it in perspective," he said. The spokesman said that "these attacks have not been ultimately successful. They've been executed, that's for sure, but the effect has been minimal on the people of Kabul and the government of Afghanistan."

Afghan national security forces have come an extraordinarily long way in the last several years in terms of their competence and ability, their battlefield prowess, their command and control, their ability to sustain themselves, Kirby said in response to a question.

He said now there were still gaps, which was why "we have an advise and assist mission there. But they've come a long way and they've responded well to this violence, violence which is not atypical for this time of year for the Taliban."

He said that Afghanistan is a sovereign country, and their security forces are acting on the orders of their government, President (Ashraf) Ghani. They have done well, not just in Kabul, but elsewhere throughout the country.

"There's still some international support there, but eventually, what we all hope to do is get to a point where the defense and security relationship between us and Afghanistan is more normalized, just like we would have with any other country around the world," he said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Kabul Court ...

trial", the source added. Furthermore, the court is said to have acquitted the custodian of the Shrine named Omran of the case - who was sentenced to 16 years in prison for playing a major role in accusing Farkhunda of burning the Holy Quran.

Farkhunda was brutally beaten to death, burnt and thrown into muddy Kabul River by a mob on 19 March in Kabul in the presence of a number of policemen after a Mullah accused her of burning the Quran. This led the people to attack her with stones and sticks. About 50 suspects including policemen were arrested in connection with her murder - but four were handed the death sentence and eight got 16 years in prison. (Tolonews)

(6) Special Unit...

unite comprised operation, analysis departments and Special Forces unit to conduct raids against Daesh," he said.

Afghan security forces, he said would eliminate every terrorist group including IS and the country's intelligence had gained achievements by killing notorious Daesh's leaders Mullah Abdul Rauf Khadim in southern Helmand province.

MoI spokesman also considered Daesh a dangerous group and said Afghan forces were committed to crush the so-called IS network in Afghanistan. At least 35 IS fighters have been killed in eastern Nangarhar province and the group suffered heavy casualties in Farah province as well, he claimed.

He said Daesh had established networks in Helmand, Nangarhar and Farah provinces. At least 44 militants were killed and four others wounded during the past 24 hours in clashes with security forces.

MoD spokesman said: "Afghanistan was on the frontline in war against terror and the international community should extend all out support to Afghan security forces to win the war."

As many as 73 militants have been killed and 29 others wounded during clearing operation in parts of the country in the past 24 hours, he noted.

Seven Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were also killed in clashes, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) \$400m Projects...

initiating any project. Dr Mathew French, UN Habitat country director for Afghanistan, said they wanted to facilitate people and benefit them in the long term through the projects.

He said the projects would be implemented with coordination of the municipality to facilitate people.

Acting Mayor Eng. Abdul Hakim said the projects would be initiated soon and 30 percent of the projects would be implemented in Qassam Abad Township and the rest in Jalalabad.

He said they would form village committees before launching the projects. However, he did not say when the projects would be completed.

Dr Nisar Kamawal, deputy head of the provincial council, asked the municipality to prioritise areas which needed such projects the most. He appreciated the UN Habitat for its continued support to the municipality. (Pajhwok)

(8) Japan Donates...

attended by Mahmud Baligh, Minister of Public Works and Hiroshi Takahashi, the Ambassador of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The "Project for Improvement of Road Maintenance Capacity in Afghanistan" is executed with the partnership of Japanese International Cooperation System (JICS) with the total budget of \$32 million USD.

As a result of the implementation, road maintenance capacity of these provinces such as Kabul, Maidan Wardak, Ghazni, Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Bamyan, Daikundi, Ghor, Logar, Paktia and Parwan would be significantly improved.

Speaking on the occasion, Hiroshi Takahashi, ambassador of Japan to Afghanistan, said: "The improvement of road maintenance by these machineries will stabilize the networking of transportation and movements of the people and promote the trade and products from rural areas to the main cities.

Takahashi said that Afghans would have also better access to the basic social services like hospitals, schools and markets and the economy, which would change social life of people for the much better.

In Afghanistan, most of rural roads including important national highways are not in good conditions. Such roads are easily damaged by natural disaster, such as landslide, avalanche.

On behalf of the people, government and particularly the Ministry of Public Works, "I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people and the government of Japan. These machineries will help Ministry of Public works to improve the maintenance of highways in critical areas," said Mahmud Baligh, Minister of Public Works. (Pajhwok)

(9) New Bamyan...

was reeling under widespread corruption, he claimed, pledging he would help improve education, health and media sectors in cooperation close cooperation of local people and departments.

Mohammad Tahir Zahir is the resident of Dara-i-Souf Bala district of Samangan province who received his bachelor degree in sociology from Kateb private university.

He had served as advisor to former Second Vice-President Mohammad Karim Khalili from 2011 to 2014. Zahir was the 34th ground brigade commander in Bamyan from 2001 to 2004.

Zahir was advisor to President Ashraf Ghani during his electioneering campaign in 2014.

However, Safura Ilkhani representing Bamyan people in Wolesi Jirga today said that she along with her supporters gathered in front of the governor house to oppose the appointment of Zahir as Bamyan governor.

"We in the past also opposed the new governor and now we're opposing because he is an emotional man," she said. (Pajhwok)

(10) Families of ...

higher - some putting it as high as 10.

Head of Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital Noor Agha Akramzada told TOLONews on Wednesday that the hospital admitted 23 patients who had been wounded in the attack - including two women and two children.

Locals say numerous people died, including a student who died of heart failure when the explosion occurred.

Two separate families who lost relatives in the attack spoke out on Wednesday and said they are tired of such incidents. They called on government to step up efforts to fight insurgents.

The Sher family - who lost the head of their family - were among those who spoke out about the security.

Sher, the family's breadwinner, was one of the victims of the blast. His distraught wife told TOLONews that the family's livelihood had depended entirely on her husband, who had supported her and their eight children.

"What will I do with my daughters and sons? They are small and cannot work. We have nothing," she said with tears streaming down her face.

Sher's daughters were as distraught and said the family had been left destitute. "My brothers are so young to work. Our father was everything to us," one of the daughter's said.

"We want the president to prevent such attacks by insurgents, or else he should resign," they said.

Khaki Shah lost his 13-year-old

son, Faisal, in Tuesday's attack. Shah, who lives near Sher's house, said Faisal was a Sixth Grade student and that he lost his mother this time last year.

"I raised my son in a very miserable situation. It was a struggle. But the sound of the explosion stopped his heart from beating. My salary is only Afs5,000 a month and the mother of my children died last Ramadan," said Shah.

The increase in civilian deaths this fighting season has become a major cause for concern. Last month the United Nations reported that almost 1,000 civilians were killed in the Afghan conflict in the first four months of the year, while 1,989 were injured.

Mark Bowden, the UN Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan, said at the time that "as of 30 April, 1,989 Afghans were injured as a result of the conflict and 978 Afghan civilians killed, throughout the country".

He said the number of wounded at the Emergency Hospital in Kabul illustrates the devastating impact of the conflict. "The doctors there told me that they are seeing a 50 per cent increase in the number of civilians injured this year compared to the same period last year." (Tolonews)

(11) Farah Farmers ...

continue for the next two weeks, he added.

Matin said that only 10,000 tons of watermelon was used in Farah province while tons of the product was exported to other provinces and neighboring Pakistan. Each kilogram of watermelon was sold for five afghanis and 1.6 million afghanis revenue was collected so far from its sales, he said.

Another agriculture official Shah Mohammad said that Farah River last year was rich of water up to March, but this year the water was continue flowing upto June which helped rich production of the crop.

He said that timely raining and less farm diseases were another cause that increased to watermelon products.

Meanwhile, farmers are happy they benefited more year from their crops.

Nisar Ahmad, a resident of Masaw village of Pushtrod district, said that he allocated 20 hectares of his land for farming watermelon.

"Fortunately I collected 200 tons of watermelon and sold each kilogram for six afghanis," he said, adding he earned 800,000 afghanis this year from the crop.

"Last year we grew poppy, but I am sure if we farm watermelon and sell them on current price Farah people would no longer grow poppy," he hoped. (Pajhwok)

(12) Female Ghor...

appointed me as governor, they should also support me in bringing reforms and fighting corruption, otherwise working would be difficult," she remarked.

She announced support for the provincial council, civil society organizations and media, stressing their role in combating corruption.

Abdul Hameed Nateqi, provincial council member, told Pajhwok Afghan News problems were more in the province. He welcomed appointment of female governor. "We hope the new governor take serious steps in ensuring security and fighting corruption."

Earlier, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) nominated her for the position. IDPG spokesman Tawab Ghorzang told Pajhwok Afghan News Ms Seema replaced Syed Anwar Rahmati. Ms. Seema was born in 1982 in the Chaghcharan district of Ghor province. She has also served at the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and Ministry of Education. (Pajhwok)

(13) Farah ALP ...

head, said at least 15 local policemen have joined Taliban and taken away their arms with them. Taliban said Sher Aqa and five other local police personnel have joined them along with two police pickups, two motorcycles, and some weapons. (Pajhwok)

(14) Presidentia...

the blatant disregard for human life by those seeking to disrupt Afghanistan's democratic progress," an embassy statement said.

Tuesday's blast is the second attack on the Afghan capital during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Prior to the start of Ramadan, the group rebuked calls for a ceasefire during the holiday.

The attack in Kabul came only hours after a car bomb in the southern province of Helmand killed two and wounded 51 others in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital. (ATN NEWS)

(15) Violence Against ...

told Pajhwok Afghan News they had registered 37 cases of violence against women. The cases included murders, sexual attacks, suicide, runaway from homes and giving into marriages to settle disputes.

She said the victims had themselves approached the commission to register their cases and if such cases registered with the women's affairs department, police, public health, court and the attorney's office were collected, their number would be much higher.

"That's why we say violence against women has increased not decreased," she said, stressing awareness among women about the law protecting their rights.

Nawabi called ignorance the main problem which often led to violent acts and had turned into a culture.

She said several civil society groups had obtained projects and funds in the name of working for women's rights, but they had failed to carry out essential tasks. She said the government should take realistic steps to improve the situation of women, particularly in rural areas. (Pajhwok)

(16) Growing Insecurity...

of problems and the provincial council members put all their efforts to address them.

He also acknowledged that insecurity and worst law and order situations had paralyzed development and performance of the members.

Lack of financial resources was major obstacle which the members had been confronted with, the provincial council secretary said, adding that they would leave no stone unturned to resolve people's problems.

The provincial council office had been damaged and dozens of people were killed in a suicide attack one month back and the members were forced to work in another adjacent building.

Zabul provincial council has nine members with two of them are female members. (Pajhwok)

(17) 80 Police...

the people." The lawmaker warned people would stage uprisings against the government if the situation continued. "If these forces are lost, government leaders and security officials would be responsible."

Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim urged the government and security officials to assist the surrounded policemen, directing the defence and internal security commission to follow the matter. Ministry of Defence deputy spokesperson Brig. Gen. Dawlat Waziri expressed his unawareness about the siege, saying two operations were ongoing in four districts of Uruzgan.

He said if reports about the surrounded security men were true, they would take immediate action. (Pajhwok)

(18) Pilot Questioned ...

out and echoed much of the letter's underlying concerns about the treatment of members of the Afghan security forces.

"We have seen that in some cases the commanders do not provide legal rights to military personnel and it is unfair; instead of their problems being addressed, they are sent in for questioning," MP Abdul Qayoum Sajadi said on Tuesday. "If the government wants reform, such criticism should be welcome," he added.

Others, such as MP Sakhi Mashwani, openly accused military commanders of covering up abuses against service members' rights. "The commanders do not want to disclose the betrayal of officers rights and so they are threatening the officers with threats to stop them from taking such action in the future," he said.

The AAF is widely considered by leaders and analysts to be one of the crucial puzzle pieces, that if nourished and matured, could be a decisive advantage for the government when it comes to

battling insurgency and securing Afghanistan's borders. However, persistent problems related to equipment, funding and training have bedeviled the air force, and if Rahmani's experience is emblematic, then the AAF appears to have a long way to go.

"Officers should be supported, not be rebuked for seeking justice for their rights," said MP Abdul Rahman Rahmani, who is of no relation to pilot Rahmani.

MoD officials have confirmed that the pilot has been brought in for questioning, but tried to assure that he is not being punished. "Our pilot is young and must be advised and be questioned about his problems," MoD spokesman Dawlat Waziri told TOLONews. "We are not sending him to prison." (Tolonews)

(19) Chechen, Tajik...

An Afghan insurgent, who comes from Badakhshan, and now in the custody of the Afghan security forces, said there are many foreign fighters among them fighting the Afghan forces.

"They deceived me. They prevented me from going home for the past year. They told me that I am part of the Taliban and I should stay with them. They deceived me," the insurgent told TOLONews.

Badakhshan has made headlines recently due to ongoing turmoil and clashes between Afghan security forces and insurgents.

MPs recently voiced their concerns over the issue with one, Neelofar Ibrahim, pointing out the complexity of the geopolitical interests behind the turmoil in the province. (Tolonews)

(20) Suicide Attempts...

According to Tahiri, as many as 100 incidents of violence against women, including, murder, sexual attack, torture, education restriction and none payment of alimony have taken place and registered with the women affairs department since the beginning of the ongoing year.

Najiba Aziz, co-director of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHC), said none implementation of laws contributed to surge in suicide attempts and incidents of violence against women.

"Neither majority of perpetrators of violence could be detained nor they were punished and it was the main reason behind increase in violence," She said. (Pajhwok)

(21) 16 People Killed ...

Separately, a Taliban militant was killed in a blast caused by his own bomb in the Jaghtu district of central Maidan Wardak province on Wednesday morning, the governor's spokesman told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Later, a Taliban group leader, Mullah Nasir, arrived in the area to collect the remains of the dead militant, but Afghan National Army troops engaged him in a gun-battle and killed him. Attaullah Khogyani said one ANA soldier was killed and an officer injured during the clash. (Pajhwok)

(22) Paktika Fighting...

to other areas but the security forces seized truck carrying the contraband.

Khaista Gul Akhtarzada, the district chief, also confirmed the incident and said that dead bodies of Taliban were handed over to their families after intervention by local elders.

However, militants have not yet commented on the incidents. However, Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, claimed heavy casualties inflicted on policemen when they were attacked in Shakin district. (Pajhwok)

(23) Concert Staged...

Ban Ki-moon said that the progress in addressing climate change has been moving at "snail's pace," while calling on people around the world to pay close attention to this universal challenge. (Xinhua)

(24) U.S. Appoints ...

prisoners and holding prisoners without charge or trial, failed to yield results.

As Obama's presidency is winding down, the prospect for the closure of the detention camp looked dim, as the U.S. Congress refused to budge from its stance of barring the Pentagon from transferring some prisoners to the United States. (Xinhua)