

(1) No one Should ...

history. Nominee Anisa Rasouli still needs parliamentary approval. Ghani has appointed four women as cabinet ministers and also nominated two women as provincial governors.

"Peace will bring stability to Afghanistan only when the second chapter of the Constitution (fundamental rights and duties of citizens) is accepted by all Afghans," he added.

He said other parts of the Constitution might be amended but Islamic rules and fundamental rights and duties of citizens could not be amended.

The president said the war Afghanistan was fighting benefited regional countries and foreign fighters from ten countries were currently operating in Kunduz province alone.

He called as essential cooperation from neighbouring and regional countries in improving the situation in Afghanistan.

The president urged all regional powers including India, Azerbaijan and Russia to forge a consensus on how to improve the Afghanistan's situation. "A stable Afghanistan is not against any individual or country's interest. (Pajhwok)

(2) Senators Want ...

borders are open for foreign rebels. More than 200 rebels having black flags have recently entered into Afghanistan from Chitral area of Pakistan."

Some days back, provincial council head of Badakhshan province, told Pajhwok Afghan News 200 armed insurgents including Chechens, Uzbek, Tajik and Pakistanis have crossed the border from Pakistan to Arghistan district of Badakhshan.

He said that Khash, baharak and Zibak districts were under high threat of rebels if security situation was not improved.

Local officials had said that 250 militants including foreigners were fighting against the government in Yamgan, Warduj and Juram districts of Badakhshan.

Akbari also criticized the government for talking about peace process with Pakistan and said: "Peace would not be ensured in Afghanistan until Pakistan does not demonstrate honesty in peace process." Another senator Farida Kuchi also blamed Pakistan of having hands in disrupting Afghanistan and said that Pakistan had always tried to support militants against Kabul government.

Her colleague from Nimroz province Nader Baloch also said that security situation had worsened in the country and security organs should be equipped more to fight enemies.

Another member of the Meshrano Jirga, Safiullah Baloch said: "Security, governance and economy has got worsened and delaying of distribution of electronic ID cards, signing of an intelligence agreement with Pakistan also caused people to lose trust on the government."

He said agreement signed with Pakistan had widened distance between the government and the nation.

On the other hand, a senator from Kabul province Farhad Sakhi said that no one should make plots against Mujahideen.

The views about Mujahideen expressed after foreign forces searched the house of a former Jihadi commander Jan Mohammad and destroyed his ammunition and weapons two days ago in central Parwan province.

He said that foreign forces should not target the house of Jihadi commander.

His colleague Muhayudin Munsif also criticized foreign forces' operation in Parwan and said that they should target the centers of insurgents instead of targeting the houses of civilians.

Munsif added only Afghan forces should be allowed to search the house of a commander.

Meshrano Jirga speaker Abdul Hadi Muslimyar also condemned the attack in Parwan and said: "America did not come here to help Afghans, but came here for safeguarding their own interests."

Muslimyar directed internal security and defense commissions of the house to investigate the incident and share report with the general session of the house. (Pajhwok)

(3) Forgetting ...

failure in any one of these areas would have consequences for the

overall success of the Afghan transition.

When asked whether there was a sense of hopelessness among the Afghan people, Haysom said the nation was resilient despite them having lived in an unstable, insecure position for 30 years.

"While they are resilient, there needs to be cause for hope. With hope, I think people can withstand quite difficult circumstances. So really, one is in the business of measuring, as it were, a 'hope barometer,' which looks at a wide range of factors including the state of the economy, the functioning of government and whether they think things are generally moving in the right direction," he said.

According to him the 'hope barometer' was evenly balanced but said "there is cause for concern, which the Afghans express. But on the other hand, things are more or less on track. I think it would be accurate to say that Afghanistan is muddling through. And I would also not undervalue that."

He said "the truth is that Afghanistan first has to address serious economic problems. It has to sustain its overall coherence in its security agencies and security response. It has to make progress politically, which, given tensions within government and the challenges facing it, are quite significant."

According to him, Afghanistan is more or less meeting the benchmarks and may be modestly succeeding them, but said he thought that everyone is aware that if something were to go badly wrong in any one of those areas - if the government was to fall apart for some reason, the economy was to dip badly or there was to be some serious security reverses - all of those would go into the mix.

On a less positive note he said he did not foresee any miraculous transformations to the economy, to the conflict that plagues the country or to the political achievements. On the matter of security, Haysom said the nature of the challenge is evolving, but that one needs to bear in mind that this is the first year the Afghan Security Forces have taken sole responsibility of managing the security of the country. "Five years ago, some would say that was unthinkable. There are steady achievements... but we've always got to be realistic; the Afghans are realistic."

Referring to the issue of foreign troop withdrawal, he said Afghanistan has not simply seen a military withdrawal but also an international civilian withdrawal.

"There has undoubtedly been an economic contraction with more visible signs of poverty, even in Kabul itself. In the three years that I've been in Kabul, there has been a deterioration of security. The way in which we do our work is more circumscribed. We are now unable to make use of social networks in the way we used to, to engage not only Afghans but also the non-Afghan non-governmental organizations and diplomatic communities. The space for the engagement of society has shrunk because of the deterioration of the security environment."

Politically, it has also been testing for the UN, he said adding that they are working with a government that has made it clear that it expects value from the UN.

"It is not prepared to accept the mandates of any given agency, fund or programme as a self-evident virtue. It wants to see what we bring to the table and how we are contributing towards growing the capacity of Afghans to manage their own affairs."

Despite the UN's firm commitment to Afghanistan, questions have been raised on whether the rest of the international community is losing interest, with corners worried it might become a forgotten crisis. But Haysom said he felt it was a two dimensional issue. "Internally, there has been a reduction in size of the international community's presence. You see that in regard to the media, in regard to the size, the number of diplomatic missions and maybe in the engagement of economic entities as well. One would hope that those remaining are more committed and engaged and that there is still a lot that can be done."

On the other hand, externally, "we would recognize that there are more pressing issues outside of Afghanistan. Those issues occur in places that are closer to Europe and the traditional European-NATO type countries that are heavily invested in Afghanistan," he added. "On the one hand, Afghanistan needs to acknowledge that it is

not the only case that has a compelling claim to international attention. But on the other, it needs to make the case that it would be disastrous, and lead to potential reversals if the international community would lose attention - take their eye off the ball, so to speak." In conclusion, Haysom said that "once you adjust to the hurdles you think the country must meet, to the level of realism, I am optimistic. As I said, there is not going to be any miracles, there is going to be gradual engagement with challenges it meets, against realistic benchmarks. And they have the potential to meet them." (Tolnews)

(4) AGO Warns ...

government will seize and sell their properties. But he said the clearance department was making progress in recovering some of the embezzled money.

About \$228 million USD was recovered by the previous government, Azizi said, adding that a further \$40 million USD worth of properties and loans had been recovered during the current tenure of the National Unity Government (NUG) - which took power in September last year.

"The clearance department is committed to recovering all loans," Azizi noted. "We promise to not leave even a penny with a debtor." The AGO's announcement comes a week after the director and deputy director of Kabul Bank's clearance department were arrested on charges of receiving bribes from a defaulter.

Kabul Bank, once the country's largest financial institution, was badly shaken in 2010, followed by its collapse, after the almost \$1 billion USD scam was uncovered.

The former chairman of Kabul Bank, Sher Khan Farnood, and former CEO Khalilullah Ferozi, were both sentenced to 15 years in jail each in an Appeals Court verdict late last year. This move was among President Ashraf Ghani's campaign promises, where he pledged to finalize the Kabul Bank case. (Tolnews)

(5) Teachers End...

of schools would end today. Almost one month back, teachers of several schools in capital Kabul and 19 other provinces went on strike asking for salary increment and residential plots.

They accused President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani for not honouring his promises to teachers he had made six months earlier. Istiqlal, Habibia, Sardar Kabuli, Mehrabuddin, Ghazi Ade, Abdul Ali Mustaghni, Guzargah, Aqa Ali Shams, Aimani and Brishnakot were among the schools closed in Kabul due to the strikes. Humayun Pajhman, a teacher at Habibia High School, confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News the strike was going to end today.

He said they decided to end their strike after assurances from national assembly, ministries of education, justice and finance to look into their problems.

In the backdrop of teachers' strike, reports said that one million students majority of them from Kabul remained out of schools across the country. (Pajhwok)

(6) Suicide Car Bomb...

"A convoy of NATO forces was targeted in the attack but none of them were harmed," MoI spokesman Sediqi Sediqi said. "One person was killed and 22 others were wounded in this attack. All the victims were civilians."

Senior health officials earlier confirmed that among those injured were three women and three children.

Eye witnesses say at least six civilian vehicles were destroyed in the blast while extensive damage was caused to nearby buildings and shops.

Security forces immediately cordoned off the area. This followed two earlier IED blasts in the city.

The first blast occurred at about 10.30 am in Kart-e-Now. There were no reports of casualties. The second IED, believed to be a magnetic device attached to an army vehicle detonated about an hour later. Two children are believed to have been injured in that explosion.

The Taliban have claimed responsibility of the attack. (Tolnews)

(7) Budget Constraints...

dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes and historic monuments." It warned that attacking such sites

"may amount to war crimes". In addition, it also launched the "Unite4Heritage" campaign, a global coalition for the protection of cultural heritage.

UNESCO noted cultural treasures were under threatened in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Syria and Yemen. (Tolnews)

(8) Senate Warns...

to materialise their pledge with the people that they would announce date for the ballot.

He said the government should specify parliamentary election schedule before the end of the one month deadline. He, however, said the Meshrano Jirga would not agree with any decision of the lower house until the election dates were announced.

Senator Dr. Sami Faisal held similar views saying no bill or draft would be approved until the election date was announced.

Zalmai Zabuli and some other lawmakers expressed similar opinions during their debate on the subject. Chairman Senate Fazal Hadi Muslimyar urged the president and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to specify dates for Wolesi Jirga election.

Earlier, Abdul Ali Mohammadi, president's legal advisor, said Wolesi Jirga election would take place in the near future. (Pajhwok)

(9) Ghani Urged ...

but also make themselves subject to prosecution for war crimes."

Kine demanded that foreign donors assisting the Afghan military should make it clear that their support depends on minimizing harm to civilians and holding violators to account. "Afghanistan's donors need to press the military to end abuses or they may find themselves complicit in future atrocities," he said. (Pajhwok)

(10) UNODC Calls ...

Afghanistan.

Sporting events, including football and volleyball matches involving prominent teams, drew large crowds which were addressed by academics, civil society leaders, elders, government officials and religious scholars from different backgrounds and all walks of life. Anti-drug slogans and messages were broadcast throughout the day by local radio and TV stations around the country, it said, adding that the central theme of these celebrations was a call by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics and UNODC for a National Mobilization Against Narcotics.

Supporting this call were religious leaders and community elders emphasizing the dangers of illicit drugs that ultimately destroy health which is a gift and blessing from Allah.

UNODC's Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, who called for comprehensive efforts, founded on human rights and dignity, to overcome drug traffickers and the appalling impact of drug abuse on individuals and communities.

Fedotov pointed out that "we continue to lose 600 people every day who die globally from overdoses and other drug use conditions. These deaths are unacceptable and have terrible consequences for families and communities around the world". (Pajhwok)

(11) Electoral Reforms ...

imperative that both leaders agreed on head of the panel.

Election monitor and civil society organizations insist the commission should start work without further delay. They say the commission's suggestions should be final and the government leaders not take final decisions about elections.

Following the formation of the commission, president chose lawmaker Shukria Barezkai to head the panel but she faced stern opposition from the CEO. (Pajhwok)

(12) Heritage Sites ...

will be more focus on the quality of newspapers and the state-run Bakhtar News Agency would be uplifted.

He said a national youth strategy would be developed and a database incepted in which skilled youth would be registered.

He said the ministry would be focusing on recruitment of youths for volunteer activities in coordination with the Kabul Municipality and arrangement of volunteers' conferences.

Jahani said 80 percent of the ministry budget went to salaries of the ministry officials and the remaining 20 percent used for development of culture, tourism and youth.

The process of explaining 100-day action plans by ministries started last month and would continue until late July. (Pajhwok)

(13) Heavy Clashes...

district of Kunduz province," he said.

The Taliban have control of three villages in the district but the military forces still continue to clear all villages, he added.

However, he said that there were no reports about Taliban casualties.

Insurgents attacked police posts in Khwaja Ghar about four days ago and clashed with security forces in which two policemen were killed.

The Taliban have not yet commented. (Tolnews)

(14) CBA Announces...

countries foot the bill.

CBA officials have been forced to confront and try to mitigate a recent slide in the value of the Afghan currency against foreign currencies. Afghans have sharply dropped against the US dollar in recent months from 57 to 60 Afs to the dollar.

According to CBA officials, the bank's 100-day working priorities include improving monitoring of banking operations, stabilizing the national currency and implementing comprehensive programs to curtail money laundering.

"Our 100-day working plan has been approved by the CBA High Council, which also includes banking procedures and regulations, monitoring and investigations," Hudawal said.

The Central Bank also announced that \$150 million USD will be provided by the International Monetary Funds (IMF) to shore-up Afghanistan's foreign reserves, which now number around seven billion USD. (Tolnews)

(15) 2 Dead, 51...

told Pajhwok Afghan News the bomber smashed his car filled with explosive at the back side of the police station.

The attacker wanted to force his way inside the facility but he could not succeed because the police station is well fortified, he added.

A medic wishing anonymity in the emergency department in Lashkargah hospital told Pajhwok Afghan News that 40 wounded persons had been shifted to the hospital for treatment. Two policemen were among the injured while the rests were civilians, he added. (Pajhwok)

(16) ISIL Kicks...

in at least six districts in Nangarhar province, with fighting still ongoing in Khogyani and Pachir Agam districts. Witnesses describe the group's black flag being flown across the province. Foreign fighters expound a strict Islamic code in mosques.

"They tell them about Islam and what people should do and should not do," Abdul Wali, a refugee from the region, told Reuters.

"They (ISIL) burned poppy fields in Shadal village and banned shops from selling cigarettes," a tribal elder from Spinghar added. Other witnesses describe the IS fighters beheading captured Taliban commanders.

The strategies appear to be working. By destroying the Taliban's opium production, IS cuts their rival off financially, and many villagers reportedly prefer living under the new rule.

"Unlike the Taliban, they don't force villagers to feed and house them," Jan said. "Instead, they have lots of cash in their pockets and spend it on food and luring young villagers to join them."

The source of that money is a cause for international concern. While both the United States and Afghan officials have downplayed the suggestion that these fighters represent a true extension of the Islamic State, the fighters' vast stockpiles of cash seem to suggest otherwise. Officials cite a lack of evidence to suggest that the new militant group is taking orders directly from the Middle East, but many witnesses report that the insurgents have been relying on gold to fund their operations, which is not a common sight in the region.

In December, NATO officially withdrew from combat operations in Afghanistan, entrusting the nation's stability to the government in Kabul. While Afghan security forces maintain security in most of the country, the Taliban insurgency had remained strong in the eastern province of Nangarhar. Still, despite the government's goal of weeding out insurgency pockets, the Afghan army has not yet

taken action against IS, preferring instead to let them battle the Taliban.

"They haven't attacked us, and we haven't engaged them either," Achin district chief, Malek Islam, told Reuters.

Would-be martyrs joining the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) from around the world are complaining of favoritism, as senior militants tap friends and family for the honor of blowing themselves up in the name of jihad.

While playing both sides against each other may seem like a tempting solution in the short term, the quick spread of IS fighters through Iraq and Syria could prove indicative of the long-term threats the group poses to Afghanistan.

The Islamic State has already showed frightening signs of spreading beyond the borders of war-torn Syria and Iraq. The group has also taken advantage of the chaos in Libya to secure a footing in North Africa, and also has loyal factions in Egypt and Algeria, and Nigeria. Growing support in Afghanistan is the latest indicator of the group's far-reaching intentions.

A letter reportedly written by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, proclaimed by followers as the group's caliph, was distributed through Nangarhar. In a blatant effort at recruitment, it reads: "All Mujahideen fighters are invited to carry out this holy war under one flag, which is the Islamic State." (sputniknews)

(17) Power Cables ...

sabotage act then they were meting out injustices to common people for their own interest. (Pajhwok)

(18) Badakhshan Moms

The impoverished man has stopped pushing and pulling the cart -- his principal source of income. "My two-year-old-son needs milk, but I'm penniless."

Mohammad, 35, has no option but to stop sending his elder son, a student of Class 1, to school. After dropping out, the boy will take care of four sisters and a brother. Additionally, he will have to work to supplement his father's income! "If there were a clinic close to our home, my wife may have survived," argued the daily-wager, who explained Faizabad dwellers were not alone in being hit by the absence of a maternal health centre. In fact, all residents of Badakhshan are facing the problem.

A midwife at the Baharak Health Clinic, Maleeha, said an expecting mother had a miscarriage on her way to the facility. The woman, who was being transported to the clinic on a mule, lost her baby due to the lousy route and bleeding. Doctors took great pains saving her life.

The medic confirmed many expecting mothers from remote districts like Baharak, Arghanchkhwa, Yamgan and Kiran-o-Manjan districts died while being brought to hospital. She added: "There are villages, from where patients are transported to district clinics on horses and mules in two days. The number of child and mother mortalities is higher than registered cases, as many women and their babies dies on the way." (Pajhwok)

(19) Taliban Shadow...

Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban mounted attack on police check post in the area and it was first such attack during last one year. Meanwhile, the governor spokesman said security forces regained control of some areas in Khwaja Ghar district. The military operation lasted for three hours, he said, adding he did not know about casualties suffered by militants. Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

(20) Obama Stresses...

Minister David Cameron for a number of British citizens killed in Friday's terrorist attack in Tunisia and offered support in the aftermath of the attack. Obama and Cameron reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to work together with their partners in Europe, the Middle East, and around the world to confront terrorism and counter violent extremist ideologies, the White House said. (Xinhua)

(21) Electronic...

lated crimes in the country. It will be a kind of an analogue of the system used by the police of the European Union. "It will be available not only for the law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan, but also for other countries, as it is important to fight against this evil jointly," said Gyorgy Szabo. (AKI Press)