

### (1) Pak-Afghan ...

on lines of effort to go after these groups by both governments." The remarks by Kirby comes as the Afghan officials believe that the Taliban group and Haqqani terrorist network leaderships are still based in Pakistan as they enjoy immunity from the ongoing operations in the tribal regions of the country. (KP)

### (2) \$8.7m Grant...

are fuelling the epidemic. The most recent drug use survey showed eight per cent of the population aged 15-64 is dependent on drugs, with significant increases in the number of people who use opium and heroin. Minister of Public Health Ferozudd in Feroz said: "With this grant we'll be able to expand treatment and care for people living with HIV, boost our prevention efforts and raise awareness among vulnerable groups that are key to controlling and reversing the HIV epidemic."

Men with high-risk sexual behaviour may play a larger role in HIV transmission than previously thought. They also experience stigma and discrimination in their own families and communities, and are confronted with punitive laws, prosecution and a lack of access to HIV prevention services.

UNDP Country Director Douglas Keh said: "Without reducing stigma associated with drug use, and implementing prevention programmes that treat every person with dignity, compassion, and respect, regardless of circumstance or condition, Afghanistan's efforts to curb the HIV epidemic will fall short. We need to go the extra mile and this new grant will help us do it."

To address high levels of stigma and discrimination, the grant will strengthen legal and policy environments in order to promote access to HIV prevention, treatment and support for people vulnerable to and affected by HIV, securing their meaningful involvement in the response to HIV in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Wolesi Jirga...

president had issued two legislative decrees in this regard, but the Wolesi Jirga rejected them both.

The first decree was thrown out by the Meshrano Jirga too, but the upper house approved the second decree last month. Due to differences over approval of the decree by the Senate, the issue was referred to a joint parliamentary team.

Article 100 of the Constitution says: "If one house rejects decisions of the other, a joint commission comprised of an equal number of members from each shall be formed to resolve the differences. The decision of the commission, after endorsement by the president, shall be enforced."

"If the joint commission does not solve the differences, the decision shall be considered rejected. In such a situation, the House of People shall pass it with two-thirds majority in its next session. This decision, without submission to the House of Elders, shall be promulgated once endorsed by the president," the article adds.

The Meshrano Jirga or upper house was able to elect its seven members for the team, choosing senators Habisullah Kalimzai, Maulvi Mohiuddin Munsif, Mohammad Hassan Hotak, Farhad Sakhi, Aziz Musleh, Anarkali Hunaryar and Seddiqa Balkhi.

But the Wolesi Jirga, which was expected to introduce its members for the team today, failed to do so.

Kamal Nasar Usoli, Asifa Shadab, Fawzia Kufi, Qazi Nazir Ahmad Hanafi, Hili Arshad, Sadeqzada Nili, Mirdad Khan Nijrabi, Saleh Mohammad Saljoqi, Abdul Qadir Zazai and Sharifi Balkhahi have been introduced to the house's administrative as nominees for membership of the joint parliamentary team.

However, all the nominees were rejected by a majority of the lawmakers and the relevant commission was tasked again to introduce other nominees for the team's membership.

The lower house legislative affairs commission introduced Abdul Sattar Khawasi, Najia Babarkhel, Zamarak Padkhawi, Qudratullah Zaki, Rahman Rahmani, Hafiz Mansoor, Musa Nasrat, Sayed Mohammad Akhundzada, Sarwar Faiz and Masuma Khawar as new nominees, but they too were rejected.

After long discussions, Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim announced that the house would take a decision on the matter in Saturday's session. (Pajhwok)

### (4) HR Violations, ...

displaced in the Shinwari zone due to frequent firefights between Afghan forces and Daesh this year.

A week earlier, Nangarhar Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi said 600 families had been displaced only in Kot district. He added the affected house-

holds had been given essential items, a process that is still underway.

Sabrina Hamidi said harming civilians during the conflict was a violation of human rights. "We are concerned about such violations in eastern Nangarhar province," she added.

"Afghanistan's international allies should bring pressure on those who do not accept the law and prevent them from violating human rights," Hamidi stressed.

In addition to causing casualties and financial losses to civilians, the war had also deprived tens of thousands of children of education, she lamented. Around 50 schools have been closed in the Shinwari area of Nangarhar for the past one year and a half. Based on the department's information, a number of schools were previously open. More than 30 are still closed. The department has set up mobile schools for displaced children. Ahmad urged warring parties to avoid civilian casualties and respect human rights. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Women's Affairs ...

house commissions and administrative panels had decided to move the no-trust vote against the minister.

Without going into details, Irfan said the legislators had presented multiple reasons for ousting the Cabinet member. One reason was the unsatisfactory performance of Nazari as minister, he added.

Article 92 of the constitution says 'the Wolesi Jirga, based on a proposal by one-tenth of members, can impeach a minister. If the reasons given are not satisfactory, the house will consider the issue through a vote of no-confidence.'

The no-trust vote against a minister should be explicit, direct and on the basis of well-founded reasons. This vote should be approved by a majority of members of the Wolesi Jirga, the article adds.

To a question in today's session, Nazari defended her performance as minister and said she had announced a women's rights week to denounce violations of their rights.

She said she shared women's rights violations with the commission concerned and had asked other organizations and groups, including the Taliban, for cooperation in preventing women's rights violations in the country.

She told lawmakers that the hiring process at her ministry was corruption-free as the entire process was being carried out by the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC). The minister said she had no issue with any high or low scale staff member, adding that some officers of the ministry were transferred in line with presidential orders and the decisions were taken on Cabinet level.

About the hiring of some family members in the ministry, Nazari said except her son, she did not hire any other member of her family in the ministry.

She said her son received a small amount of salary and the purpose was that he would cooperate with her because she was a female and there were some issues in which she needed his help.

Her remarks turned the tables and of 125 lawmakers present, 68 raised red cards, 51 green cards and six votes were not counted.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said Nazari could not be impeached as insufficient votes were polled against her. Therefore, he said, Nazari could continue her job as women's affairs minister. (Pajhwok)

### (6) More Than...

of in the municipalities is old and do not match with the current constitution, he added.

Akbar said mayors were appointed based on political grounds and power-sharing instead of merit. He claimed 62 percent of mayors were high-school graduates or had even lower qualifications or experience. But they are still appointed to the high position. A statement from MEC said: "The appointment of unqualified mayors not only affected municipality services, but also paved the ground for widespread corruption in collection of revenue and utilisation of funds." Based on the survey, municipalities in other provinces were given revenue collection targets of 5.53 billion afghanis for 1392, but they were able to realise only 2.21 billion afghanis. The report shows the target for Kabul was 3.5 billion afghanis for 1393, but an amount of 2.88 billion was collected. Their incomes would soar by more than 50 percent if the 200 municipalities were managed well.

Overlapping roles of the Kabul municipality and the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), lack of coordination among relevant departments and interference prompted citizens, the private sector and government departments not to pay taxes.

Akbar suggested deployment procedures of municipalities should be reformed, an effective system for collecting revenues] created and mayors elected. (Pajhwok)

### (7) US Forces ...

Taliban, and they have begun to carry out their mission in several areas.

Nicholson spoke to reporters accompanying US Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who arrived here on an unannounced visit.

Carter during a joint press conference with President Ashraf Ghani said the expanded authority that President Barack Obama granted to US forces last month allowed "much more efficient use and effective use" of both American and Afghan forces.

US troops in Afghanistan can now attack Taliban fighters directly to gain a strategic advantage. Previously, American forces were only authorized to strike Taliban units if they were under attack or if their Afghan allies were facing imminent defeat.

Explaining the new rules of engagement for his troops, Nicholson used the example of last year's lengthy battle for control of Kunduz in northern Afghanistan. Nicholson said US troops were on "a defensive, reactive" footing during the prolonged Taliban offensive.

Now that American forces have more clear-cut guidelines allowing them greater freedom to attack Taliban units, Nicholson said, US assistance has helped Afghan forces expand their control outward from Kunduz city to a large area of that northern province.

Similarly, in southern Afghanistan, the US is attacking Taliban fighters alongside Afghan troops in areas such as Kandahar Province's Maiwand district, the US commander said.

Carter's trip to Afghanistan followed by less than a week Obama's announcement that US troop reductions will be slower than planned in the coming months.

Total American forces in Afghanistan as of next January will be 8,400 troops, up from the force of 5,500 men and women originally scheduled to be on duty at the start of 2017. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Velayati ...

will be set up in Kabul the next months.

Problems of the two countries are often common. Afghanistan is a very important country, playing a key role in formation of the Islamic civilization and culture. Regarding the valuable role of Afghanistan and the highly important geographic status, the UK, former Soviet Union and now the US have had covetous eye on it.

Velayati said the campaigns of the Afghan people led to their victory over enemies and repelled the former Soviet troops.

He referred to Iran-India-Afghanistan transit and said the contract to that effect has been signed authorizing Afghanistan to use Iran's transport facilities.

'Afghanistan can use the way to access free waters and to facilitate its exports and imports.'

He noted that there are now 300,000 Afghan students studying in Iranian schools and 16,000 Afghan students in Iranian universities.

Two Afghan presidential advisors were also present in the meeting. (IRNA)

### (9) NUG Leaders...

said that there is consensus within the government over issues of national interests. "The decision makers need more discussions to reach consensus, we have not failed to take the right decisions," Ghani said.

As the NUG is due to end its two-year term, analysts say disagreements within the government officials have increased uncertainties. If this continued is could cause serious harms to the political system, they say. (Tolnews)

### (10) Above 350 ...

was established a couple of months ago to retake government land usurped by powerful individuals. The commission has claimed recovering some swaths of public land in Alibabad and the process is underway. Omarkehel warned land-grabbers to stop the illegal practice otherwise they would be punished.

Provincial council's members expressed their happiness over the recovery of the more than 350 acres of land from its illegal occupants and said hundreds of acres of land had been forcefully grabbed in Kunduz. Amruddin Wali, one of the provincial council members, said: "We were concerned about the land grabs and we have asked the government to prevent it. Although the issue was ignored in the past, but now the government has retaken 350 acres from powerful people. We support this action of the government".

Ibrahim Turkmen, land and property registration director at the agricultur-

al department, said the exact figures about grabbed land were not available, but 1980 acres of public land had been grabbed by 962 people and houses had been built on them.

Turkmen didn't name the illegal land grabbers. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Governor Claims ...

areas from where the group plots attacks on civilians and the security forces.

"Forces in Helmand must strive to get tangible outcomes from the operation and to wipe out the terrorists," said Attaullah Afghan, secretary of Helmand provincial council. Residents in the province have also pledged to support the security forces in their struggle against the militants.

This comes at a time when Afghan forces are struggling to man the front lines against a rising Taliban insurgency in the war riven country. This is in part because of untold numbers of "ghost" troops who are paid salaries but only exist on paper.

It remains an issue that has led to strong criticism from military analysts who have constantly put the government in Kabul under fire for its poor leadership of the war on the battlefields. (Tolnews)

### (12) Iran-Made ...

is cable to identify buried historic monuments and other precious earth materials.

According to Zahir, the equipment is worth around \$80,000 and the intelligence operatives have also confiscated three books regarding the usage of the equipment as well as other documents regarding the smuggle of the monuments and precious earth materials.

Afghanistan's mineral resources were valued at \$908 billion by U.S. Department of Defense's Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) in 2010. However, Afghan government's estimate is \$3 trillion.

The resources provide the potential for Afghanistan to develop its economy, to create jobs and build infrastructure, as it goes into the future and lift Afghanistan out of poverty and fight crime and terrorism.

The smugglers and anti-government armed militant groups are excavating and smuggling the monuments and precious stones including Lapis Lazuli to finance their insurgency in the country. (KP)

### (13) Taliban Reacts ...

they were granted expanded authorities granted by Obama.

The officials in Pentagon have confirmed that the new airstrikes were carried out in the southern parts of the country lately and following the approval of the new broader role for the US forces in the country. (KP)

### (14) Afghanistan ...

hosts frittered away their last five wickets for 22.

The third match is scheduled for Thursday at the same venue. The first ODI was abandoned without a ball being bowled on Sunday due to heavy rainfall. (Pajhwok)

### (15) 800 Flour...

Pakistan because of its high cost and low quality. The move is likely to cause hardships for mill owners as unconfirmed data reveals 800 flour mills, mostly in K-P, have already shut down due to one reason or the other. This comes as reports emerging earlier suggested that the medical business in Peshawar city of Pakistan has suffered significantly following the Torkham incident last month which led to the decreased movement of Afghans to the country who were mainly traveling for medical care.

According to reports, half of patients at the private hospitals in Peshawar were the Afghans. "Since the Torkham incident, we were getting less than 10 percent of the usual number of Afghan patients during Ramadan. This was much less even for the month of Ramadan when there is a general drop of patients by 50 percent," a doctor in a private hospital in Peshawar said. (KP)

### (16) Strong Winds ...

the use of sunglasses for people to protect their eyes against disease during winter and seasonal winds.

A number of Heart residents said the winds containing dust and sands usually blew for 120 days in Herat between spring and fall.

Freshta Nabizada, hailing Herat City, said: "I have been using glasses for the past three years to protect my eyes from dust and other harmful things."

"My eyes have been so sensitive that I must use glasses for," she said. A number of other residents of the province also said the culture of using eye glasses was not popular.

Maryam Haidarzada, a resident of the provincial capital, complained: "People use bad words and leer at us whenever we use sunglasses. In a way, they force us not to use them at all."

Another resident of the city, Lala Ahmadi, said she had been using glasses since her childhood because of her eye condition. But people have been using offensive words just because she wears glasses.

However, Noor Hospital officials said glasses were the only way of protecting eyes against microbes. People with sensitive eyes are advised to put on spectacles. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Waziri Hail...

of the country. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Waziri said foreign forces, particularly the US, forces have played an important role by providing equipment and training to Afghan commando forces.

"We have selected certain days during the month to recruit the youths to the ranks of the special operation forces. Every month dozens of youths come to us with special interests and enthusiasm. We select them by following particular procedures.

"We have achieved major gains during our special operations. We strongly value the civilian lives during the operations," Waziri said.

He said that the government forces are also committed to accountability and transparency in their application of financial aid from international donors. "We are very grateful for the continued support of international community to our forces and assure them to combat corruption seriously," Waziri said.

It is said that the National Brigade of the Army Special Forces will soon be formed. Analysts pointed out that international community, besides focusing on the numbers of the special security forces, also dedicate funding for equipping the conventional forces. (Tolnews)

### (18) Pakistani Dealers...

hike in the custom duty, decided to raise the issue with the authorities concerned both in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The suspension of exports could cause financial losses worth millions of rupees. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Income from...

at the booth and he gives a special card to owners of vehicles and motorcycles using the park.

"The price of car parking ticket for visitors of the police headquarters is 30 afghanis" is written on the card.

Ashiqullah told Pajhwok Afghan News the car park was for visitors of the police headquarters. He charged a motor car 30 afghanis, a motorcycle 20 afghanis and a bicycle 10 afghanis.

He said he was on the job over the past two years against 7,000 afghanis salary per month. He said up 100 vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles daily parked in the facility. To a question, he said, he gave the money to the one who had appointed him there, but he did not name the person.

A resident of Pul-i-Alam, Ajmal, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Whenever I visit the police headquarters, I use the same park. They charge 30 afghanis, but keep care of my car."

He did not know where the car park's income goes. "I don't know about that," he said.

Crime branch chief at the police headquarters, Col. Mohammad Jan Abid, told Pajhwok Afghan News the car park came into being two years ago. He said income from the car park did not go to the government but into pockets of some officials inside the police headquarters.

He said an investigation into the matter had been launched and those involved would be punished in accordance with the law. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Pakistanis Fight...

in the area. Locally officials say that almost 30 percent of Koot is currently under control of Daesh. However, people in the area still look to the future and a peaceful life. (Tolnews)

### (21) Afghanistan Hopes...

had already sent the draft to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Anurag Thakur and had a word or two with him during the International Cricket Council (ICC) annual conference in Edinburgh a few days back. However, the BCCI officials have not yet spoken on the proposal.

Stanikzai believes shifting their home ground from Sharjah to Greater Noida, outside Delhi, will also help them get more games with sides touring the country. (Agencies)

### (22) Candidates for...

non-governmental organization representatives and even a fresh-faced student from Brazil, during the fast-paced 90-minute telecast and slightly-longer webcast.

The first group consisted of Vesna Pusic of Croatia, Antonio Guterres of Portugal, Susana Malcorra of Argentina, Vuk Jeremic of Serbia and Natalia Gherman of Moldova.

seeks the position to counter "deep cynicism or antipathy, resentment" against peace, development and human rights at the United Nations." (Xinhua)

### (23) McConnell Says...

still out there to be considered or to be modified," McConnell said, referring to the trade deal reached between the United States and 11 other Asia-Pacific countries last year, which covers about 40 percent of the global economic output.

McConnell's comments are in stark contrast to many top officials in the Obama administration, who have urged Congress to approve the TPP as soon as possible. (Xinhua)

### (24) S. Korea to...

than a day to change, into a forward-based mode that can range as far as 2,000 km. The THAAD system will be operated by the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK). "Pandora's box is opened," said Kim Joon Hyung, professor of international studies at Handong Global University. He said at a forum hosted by the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) that South Korea entered an irreversible U.S. missile defense network, incapable of slipping out of it once any country enters. (Xinhua)

### (25) Asia-Europe...

Cooperation is the economy. "The spiraling down of the world economy would necessitate closer cooperation between the Asian and European countries," said Oh, pointing out that Asia had seen tremendous growth in recent years while Europe still possesses the technology advantage.

After Britain's decided to leave the European Union, Europe would face challenge to pump up its economy, where Asian countries like China could be its assistance, he said. (Xinhua)

### (26) Iran Can ...

so as to be able to reach our desired stage in a short period of time," Rouhani said.

The JCPOA, the president said, "is beneficial to all countries, and to global peace, security, stability, and development, and its violation will be everyone's detriment."

"Anyone that initiates the violation of the deal will be the loser on the international arena," he added. (Presstv)

### (27) China Urges ...

concerns must be respected," he said. He voiced China's support for a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He urged the international community to draw lessons from other hot spots in the region and increase peace efforts on the basis of the work of the Middle East Quartet, which is composed of the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States and seeks a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. (Xinhua)

### (28) UN Chief Urges...

actions, a genuine commitment to the two-state solution" and to "refrain from unilateral steps that prejudice the outcome of the final negotiations."

The diplomatic group reiterated that a negotiated two-state solution is the only way to achieve an enduring peace that meets Israeli security needs and Palestinian aspirations for statehood and sovereignty, ends the occupation that began in 1967, and resolves all permanent status issues.

The two-state solution, widely backed by the international community, means a secure Israel to live in peace with an independent State of Palestine. (Xinhua)

### (29) Chinese Premier ...

same treatment as Chinese companies. China will continue to reform its foreign investment management system and gradually build up the management system for pre-establishment national treatment plus a negative list, according to the premier.

Li said China would continue to ease market access, enhance intellectual property protection, guarantee the legitimate rights of all types of enterprises, and be committed to creating a fair, transparent and expectable investment environment. (Xinhua)

### (30) Pakistani Media ...

sovereignty after ruling", reporting that China vowed to take all necessary measures to protect its sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea.

Pakistan's most prestigious daily Dawn printed the statement from Chinese foreign ministry, which said "the award is null and void and has no binding force. China neither accepts nor recognizes it."

Another English daily Express Tribune published two articles at its front page in titles "China dismisses the case as farce, reaffirms sovereignty" and "Islamabad threw its weight behind Beijing after an arbitration ruled about South China Sea." (Xinhua)