

(1) US Vows...

officials renew their anti-Daesh struggle at a time that the group has once again expanded its activities in the eastern province of Nangarhar and continue to recruit in five districts in Kunar province. (Tolnews)

(2) MPs Question ...

time the militant group has seized a major city since 2001 when it was driven from power by the U.S.-led invasion.

"The president and the chief executive made a lot of promises to the people, but have not delivered on a single one of them, they deceived the people and today you see Kunduz is burning in war," MP Nazari Turkman said.

Meanwhile, fighting has once again intensified between the Taliban and Afghan government forces in Kunduz's Qala Zal and Dasht-e-Archi districts, raising alarm among residents over a possible takeover of the district towns by the militants.

"The enemy who launched a major offensive aimed to occupy Qala Zal, their offensive has been foiled with the help of the security forces deployed in Kunduz," commander of Pamir 20 Army Regiment Mohammad Akram Same said.

Questions have been raised as to why the Taliban persists in trying to occupy Kunduz. (Tolnews)

(3) Once Again ...

available to millions of Afghans by connecting preexisting infrastructure. One of the protestors, Kulsom Nekzad, told Pajhwok Afghan News the basic aim of their protest was speak out against the government's systematic decimation against the people of Bamyan.

She said members of the Mujahideen Council, civil society and common people were taking part in the demonstration to demand their rights. "We say no to discrimination and demand of the

Another participant, Abdul Ahad Danishyar, said: "We have so far staged protest rallies, but our later course of action will be closing airports and highways in order to make the government accept our demand."

Dada Bakhsh, another protestor, said they wanted the government to stop discrimination against minority tribes. He said the people had lost faith in government's promises and that was why they resorted to protests. (Pajhwok)

(4) Politics, Legal ...

that government is making illogical excuses to delay the process.

"One of the political issues is that some of our friends in parliament who have taken the house hostage think that they can still serve as lawmakers for the next ten years if the elections are not held," political analyst Matiullah Kharoti said.

"I think the problem is already solved, but the president and the chief executive must focus on the issue. Today we are rallying for reforms in the elections, e-NIC is the first step for it," advisor to CEO, Dawoud Hasas said.

Meanwhile, Minister of Interior Affairs Taj Mohammad Jahed has said that government will digitalize all data in the near future.

Speaking to a special gathering in the wake of the inauguration of the new building for the population registration department in Kabul, Jahed said that implementing reforms in the ID card system will help to overcome the issues. (Tolnews)

(5) Nicholson...

peated his commitment to cooperate with Afghanistan and other countries in fighting terrorism.

He told a gathering of ambassadors at the White House the U.S and its allies will eliminate Daesh.

"We will not be deterred. We will not relent," Obama said. "We are going to keep taking out Daesh leaders and pushing Daesh back in Syria and Iraq. We're going to keep standing with our partners from Africa to Afghanistan and we are going to destroy this vile terrorist organization." (Tolnews)

(6) UN Calls...

its power with the security, what we are concerned about is the protection of the women," she said.

Mlambo-Ngcuka is expected to report back to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) about the plight of women in Afghanistan.

"Unfortunately, evasion from the law and impunity is still rising; the level of violence and cases such as Farkhunda and Rukhshana, who were inhumanly murdered, have not been finalized and perpetrators involved in violence have not been served justice. In the peace sphere, we want women to be authorized to make decisions," MP Fawzia Kofi said. (Tolnews)

(7) AAF Receive 4 ...

aircraft that will provide the Afghan air force with an indigenous air-to-ground capability and aerial recon-

naissance capabilities to support the country's counterinsurgency operations.

Eight Afghan Air Force pilots completed their training late last year and graduated from a program hosted by the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in United States and will return to Afghanistan for combat. (KP)

(8) Kunduz on ...

a meeting with provincial council members that the Qala-i-Zal district fell to Taliban due to government's negligence.

He said currently fierce clashes were underway between security forces and Taliban in the Dasht-i-Archi district where the rebels had captured many areas

The lawmaker said currently the Taliban were in control of Aqtash, Gulbad and Gortepah districts. "The government is not paying attention to the security in Kunduz and it is the reason 70 percent of Kunduz is with Taliban. If no attention is paid at the earliest, the provincial capital will fall again." Kunduz provincial council chief Mohammad Yousaf Ayubi said there were circles within the government who wanted a repetition of the fall of Kunduz. (Pajhwok)

(9) Defense Minister ...

Earlier President Ghani visited Nangarhar province to meet the provincial officials and assess the security situation of the province.

He ordered the 201st Silab Corps of the Afghan National Army to completely root out the terrorists from Nangarhar. President Ghani further added that the difficult days in the country have gone but he cautioned that the enemies of Afghanistan are still plotting destructive activities. (KP)

(10) IMF Approves...

three-year Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for SDR 32.38 million (US\$44.9 million, or 10 percent of quota) to help raise growth by consolidating progress on the macroeconomic and structural fronts and catalyzing continued support from donors, a statement by IMF said.

The statement further added following the Board's decision, SDR 4.5 million (about US\$6.2 million) is available for immediate disbursement; the remaining amount will be phased in over the duration of the program, subject to semi-annual reviews.

Mr. Mitsuhiro Furusawa, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, said "Afghanistan is undergoing a difficult political, security, and economic transition. Against this background, the authorities' successful completion of the 2015 staff-monitored program has provided the needed track record for a financial arrangement with the Fund. The authorities' program supported under the Fund's Extended Credit Facility aims to consolidate recent gains on the macroeconomic and structural fronts, and catalyze donor support. It will focus on institution building, fiscal and financial reforms, and measures to combat corruption. These reforms will help lay the foundation for private sector development, in line with the goal of Afghanistan's forthcoming National Development Framework. (KP)

(11) Pakistan, ...

and visas. Pakistani officials insist that the militants would take advantage of the loose border control and would move on either sides of the border for carrying out terrorist activities.

Afghanistan had complained that Pakistan introduced the new system without consulting it. Both sides had last month involved in border clashes over the construction of a gate on the Pakistani side of the border at Torkham.

PM Nawaz presides over top security huddle in Islamabad

Later, the two countries agreed on a ceasefire and a joint committee to address to the border disputes. Pakistan and Afghanistan have a nearly 2,600km-long border, mostly porous.

"The first meeting of Afghanistan-Pakistan joint technical working group under the high-level consultation mechanism for coordination on border management and related security issues will be held in Kabul on July 26, 2016," the Foreign Office said.

Pakistan's delegation will be led by Director General Military Operations and include representatives of the ministries and departments concerned, the statement added.

On sidelines of the SCO Summit in Tashkent on June 24, 2016, Adviser to PM on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani had agreed to constitute a bilateral mechanism for consultation on issues including security, movement of people and vehicles between the two countries and other related issues. (Agencies)

(12) Antiquated System ...

national identity cards (Tazkera).

A CPRD official revealed some vital

documents were burnt during the civil war in southern parts of the country and others were lost as they could not be stored in a secure place. He some people had to visit Kabul to get their Tazkera applications approved.

Issuance of new Tazkera, photo change, approval of Tazkera, change of name, age, employment, marital status, and registration of foreigners are the tasks of CPRD.

Noor Ahmad Ghafoorzai, the CPRD director, told Pajhwok Afghan News, 18,000 registers containing information regarding citizen identities were being kept in the department. "We always remain worried about the safety of these documents and strive hard to ensure their protection."

Ghafoorzai explained the registration documents had become old with time and their security was difficult, requiring special care and more resources. "If these documents are computerised, our concerns will be addressed and there will be little chance of corruption in the department."

In addition to the problems associated with the antiquated system, visitors complain of growing corruption, incompetence of staff and other issues. Mujtaba Payenda, 20, a resident of southern Ghazni province, recently traveled to Kabul to change the photo on his Tazkera.

He said his identity documents in Ghazni office were burnt and had to come to Kabul to have his problem resolved. "I have brought a relative, whose Tazkera will help find my document quickly." If the current documents had been computerised, the process could have been completed with a few clicks.

Another applicant, Gulalai, 22, come to CPRD to change her name. She grumbled she had been visiting the department for the past four months, but the issue lingered on. She said the situation forced many people to bribe staff for the resolution of their problems.

The Pajhwok team visited a room where 40-year-old documents are kept in pretty ordinary conditions and no special arrangements have been made to ensure their safety. Officials have no information how many individuals have been registered and provided with the Tazkera because the system is not computerised.

Traffic Department The Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) is tasked with registering vehicles, issuing driving licenses and handling related issues. Its system could not be streamlined as all documents are kept manually. Mohammad Hanif Sediqui, head of the traffic department, said licences of different kinds continued to be issued in line with a 50-year-old system. As a result, applicants suffer a lot.

He said the department had issued 760,000 travel permits, 1,450,000 driving licences since 2001. Storage and safety of the documents was a difficult task, he acknowledged, saying higher-ups had been requested to modernise the department and introduce a new system but no response had been received so far.

Col. Abdul Rahman Karimi, vehicle registration manager at the traffic department, said around 798 vehicles, including high speed cars, trucks, taxis, buses, rickshaws and motorcycles had been registered in the recently-activated computerized system at the department.

But he said the electronic registration system of vehicles remained limited to urban areas and a large number of non-custom paid (NCP) vehicles could be seen in rural areas.

"The traffic department is more active in urban areas where it impounds NCP vehicles, but such vehicles are used in rural areas where traffic police don't exist," Karimi said.

In the new system, each vehicle is registered on a special page that contains all specifications of the vehicle. Registering biometric information of vehicles' owners and other specifications on the page is part of future plan.

Karimi confirmed some people had misused the traditional registration method and had been issued with more than four driving licenses for a single vehicle.

Registering a vehicle through traditional system took around three months, but now the process was completed within few days thanks to the computerized system, he said.

However, he added most sections of the traffic department performed their tasks using traditional methods because they were yet to be computerized.

He said computerizing the entire department would help banish corruption and accelerate the registration processes.

A week earlier, Mohammadullah Batash, the transport and civil aviation minister, said that around 1.9 million vehicles including 312,000 trucks, 104,000 buses and 1.2 million high speed cars were registered with his ministry.

A number of people referring to the

traffic department said their works were processed very slow due to the traditional registration system at the department.

They said they were sometimes forced into paying kickbacks to middlemen to finish their tasks at the traffic department.

Bahman, 25, a resident of Karta-i-Sakhi area said that two weeks ago he visited the traffic department in order to get his driving license renewed. "The officers there told me I should wait so they could find my documents among the thousands of documents, but my documents could not be despite two weeks had passed."

He believed the computerized system could find his documents in a very short time that would help him and the officials to simplify their work process.

Bahman said he was obliged to pay money to a middleman to finish his work. However, he did not say how much money he paid.

Kabul education department The Ministry of Education (MoE) is the largest non-military institute. Despite its performance and development described as good during the past 15 years, but figures and statistics of students and schools change whenever a new minister is introduced.

MoE spokesman Mujib Mehrdad said previous statistics put the number of students across the country at about 10.5 million against the current 9.5 million including 5.8 million boys and 3.7 million girls.

Based on the current statistics, 15,838 schools exist all over the country, he added. Some sections, including the documents' registration process of teachers and school graduates have been computerized in the ministry, a process that is ongoing, Mehrdad said.

"Computerization of education system ensures transparency, it simplifies evaluation and control and provides accurate statistics and decreases corruption," he said.

However, education officials and the Presidential Palace have different statistics about the education sector.

About five months back, the current education minister, Asadullah Hanif Balkhi, put the number of students at 8.5 million.

Balkhi had said that the absence of an electronic system in the ministry had led to the registration of 764 schools of a district in another district. But the statistics published by the Presidential Palace in June, 2016 show a clear difference in the figures.

The Presidential Palace has put the number of schools to 13,000 across the country, which shows around 2,000 difference compared to the statistics provided by the MoE spokesman.

A Pajhwok team that visited the Kabul education department saw all the tasks there were being performed traditionally and the referrers there had to wait for a long time so their works were processed.

Kabul Education Director Mohammad Sayed Mansoor said around 1.2 million students attended schools in Kabul city. He said all documents of the students were registered under the traditional system.

He expressed concern about the current state of affairs in the ministry and feared possible loss of documents. "Computerization of the system would provide significant facilities and it would prevent the waste of time and corruption," he said.

Basit, a school student from Gul Dara district of Kabul, said he had been attempting migration to a Kabul city school over the past three months to continue his education. But his school documents were yet to be transferred to Kabul city, he said.

He said he would not have suffered the long wait if there was a computer-based system in the education sector. (Pajhwok)

(13) Taliban Capture ...

209 Shaheen Military Corps first battalion commander in Faryab said government forces several times sent helicopters to the area yesterday in support of the uprising forces and shifted injured persons and equipment.

He said as per plan of the provincial administration, ground forces were sent to Sarhooz area and the forces were now at the frontline against the Taliban.

Meanwhile, a police official, who declined to be named, said Taliban had abducted families of Raz Mohammad and Raham Dil and had threatened to kill the hostages if the two did not surrender.

He said the two commanders spearheaded uprising groups comprising 60 fighters, but security forces did not reach to their aid. (Pajhwok)

(14) Critics Ask NUG ...

Regional efforts for the peace process in Afghanistan and regional economic cooperation.

"International community will decline their aid to Afghanistan if the government of Afghanistan fails to deliver on their promise and also the people of

Afghanistan are fed up with the current situation," law expert Nasrullah Stanekzai said.

21 months have passed since the London conference on Afghanistan. Critics say that the national unity government has failed to deliver on its promises it made to the world during the summit. Afghan government pledged the following measures to the world during the London Conference:

Electoral reforms

Legal and judicial reforms

Reforms in the ministry of finance

Fighting corruption

Establishment of independent revenue department

Increasing the level of income taxes

Reforms in the financial laws

Women empowerment and increasing their role in the government

Improving and supporting human rights

Expanding regional cooperation for enhancing Afghanistan's economic development

Many believe that the government has failed to deliver on its promises amid election reform deadlocks. (Tolnews)

(15) CPRD, CID...

acres of land at a cost of \$1.5 million provided by the US.

Earlier, the DI had also inked an agreement with Kabul municipality to digitalise the license issuance system of the department. (Pajhwok)

(16) Afghanistan Owns...

played for up to seven months, with some high ranking authorities of the republic, including Vice President and Chief of Army Staff visiting the outstanding treasury, the number of which reaches to 145.

Since 2009, up to 1241 transferable and hundreds of non-transferable relics have been found from the Mes Aynak area, repaired and shown in different exhibitions in the Czech Republic's capital city, while the Bakhtar treasures have been displayed in S. Korea, a work could highlight the Ministry of Information and Culture's achievement in its way to introduce Afghanistan's glorious historical relics.

The revenues received from Afghanistan's touring exhibitions of Bakhtar and Mes Aynak reached to \$5million, with the portion of the government would be secured based on the 19th display of Bakhtar treasury and up to 50 percent national revenues from the Mes Aynak exhibited relics, said Hakim. (Agencies)

(17) Nangarhar ...

and efforts would be made for its implementation.

He said similar researches had been done by various faculties of the Nangarhar University and the papers would be shared with the authorities in due course of time.

Afghanistan is an agriculture country and the sector contributes 80 percent to the national economy, but the decades of wars destroyed irrigation systems and dams, causing huge damage to the sector. (Pajhwok)

(18) Afghan Brothers...

which in the Hassani's native Dari language means "something that explodes" - drew high praise from anti-landmine organisations.

- Flying blue octopus - Now their latest mine-hunting device combines drone technology, 3D printing and robotics with a metal detector to find and ultimately destroy landmines.

Hinged on six arms with rotors that creates lift, the 4.5 kilo (10-pound) drone consists of a blue hard plastic casing that contains batteries, computer hardware and software and a global positioning system.

A robotic arm slung underneath is fitted with pincers that can remotely be opened and closed. The pincers can carry a metal detector or a small explosive charge, which the brothers say can be used to destroy a landmine.

The on-board GPS allows it to plot its course via computer.

Massoud explains that the drone works in three stages: mapping, detecting and destroying.

When deployed, a 3D mapping system scans the section that needs to be demined. Secondly, the mapped area is meticulously swept by the drones carrying a metal detector on a pre-program path.

"This way the mine field in question can be scanned inch-by-inch," Massoud told AFP at his workshop in the southern Dutch city of Eindhoven.

Finally, the plan is to destroy the mines by using the drone to place a small charge on every mine to detonate it.

"We believe this way mines can be cleared almost 20 times faster than what they are now," Massoud said. (Tolnews)

(19) Ex-Jihadis...

country's situations and express their views.

Omari said it was the current situation demanded that all Afghans should show unity and deal with challenges Afghanistan faced.

"We all are responsible for the current situation. It is our duty to respond to these problems through unity and oneness," he said.

Omari stressed the need for understanding the importance of jihad that could benefit the entire nation.

Ex-mujahideen from Kabul City, Bagrami, Sarobi, Mosahi, Charasiab, Farzai, Khak-i-Jabar and other districts attended the gathering. (Pajhwok)

(20) Taliban Official...

A resident of the area, Omid Safi, said car-lifting and snatching of mobile phones and computers had increased these days in Jalalabad and the government should pay more attention to the matter. (Pajhwok)

(21) Khost Residents...

government posts.

One of the speakers, Maulvi Mohammad Daud Waqafi, said they were not against the regime, but they wanted President Ashraf Ghani to translate into action his election pledges with the people of Khost.

"President Ghani reached the power with the votes of Khost people who cast him more votes than in any other provinces. However, the president is yet to respond to our single demand. We regret it."

Speaking on the occasion, Wolesi Jirga member from Khost Humayun Humayun said the unity government had completed half its term, but it had failed to honour a single out of many promises held out to the people of Khost. (Pajhwok)

(22) ALP Official...

(UNCTAD) said in a new report published in Nairobi the African countries faced the risk of economic stagnation as a result of the huge debts.

Seven African countries - Ghana, Djibouti, Mauritania, Burundi, Chad, Central Africa Republic, Sao Tome and Principe - have been facing severe debt crisis while Sudan and Zimbabwe are currently on debt distress, unable to repay their foreign debts after the collapse of the international commodity markets. (Xinhua)

(23) Turkey in

and former director of the intelligence department of Turkish Joint Chief of Staff.

"We can see the assassins come into play, we can see an increase in bomb attacks and sabotage," he said, adding they may collude with radical Islamist groups in Turkey as well as terror groups like Nusra Front and the Islamic State. (Xinhua)

(24) Kerry Calls

than 40 countries.

He said the coalition and its partners on the ground have driven IS out of nearly half the territory it once occupied in Iraq and 20 percent in Syria, and the number of IS fighters has gone down by at least a third.

"So today, we can look forward without exaggeration to a time when Daesh (IS) is driven completely out of Iraq and Syria," Kerry said. (Xinhua)

(25) UN Warns...

manageable, but governments must act to prevent the debt from becoming a crisis such as those of the 1980s and the 1990s.

"Africa is not overstretched in the debt markets. It is the collapse of the world commodity markets which has left several countries vulnerable to economic shocks," said Mukhisa Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary-General. (Xinhua)

(26) World Trade...

announcing the agreement on the role of UNCTAD in managing trade and other emerging issues such as the Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) and the fight against poverty. (Xinhua)

(27) Trump Vows...

what he called those "horrible trade agreements."

"That includes renegotiating NAFTA to get a much better deal for America - and we'll walk away if we don't get that kind of deal," he said, referring to a three-country free trade agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico. (Xinhua)

(28) UN Chief ...

senior Turkish government officials regarding full adherence to the rule of law and due process when investigating and prosecuting those deemed to be responsible for the attempted coup on July 15. (Xinhua)

(29) Assad Says ...

one of the staunchest opponents to the government of President Bashar al-Assad throughout Syria's five-year-old conflict. (Xinhua)

(30) Iran Should ...

well as its recent support of the legal government in Turkey.

"All these countries are cognizant that the stability that exists in Iran is crucial not only to Iran but also to the security of the region, and are thus... developing interest in closer ties with Iran," he said. (presstv)