

(1) Afghanistan Poses....

Afghanistan in December 2014 after more than a decade of war. In March, US President Barack Obama said all remaining US military bases in the country would be closed by the end of 2016. (Sputnik)

(2) MoPH Kicks

MoPH Minister, Ahmad Jan Naeem said.

Twelve measles cases have so far been registered this year in the country, according to the officials. Earlier this year, the MoPH said that measles outbreaks are increasing in Afghanistan - with 445 laboratory-confirmed cases being reported in the first quarter of 2015, representing a significant increase from last year's total of 581 cases.

As part of this year's Immunization Week, with the support of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, the Ministry of Public Health, WHO and UNICEF have however been conducting an ongoing supplementary measles immunization campaign in Khost, Helmand and Kandahar provinces which are most at risk for measles outbreaks. Akhil Iyer, UNICEF representative in Afghanistan said globally 20 million people are affected by measles every year particularly in parts of Asia and Africa.

"UNICEF is committed to supporting the Ministry of Public Health in meeting the vaccination needs of some 1.2 million children under one [years old] especially those who are only partially immunized or not immunized at all," he said.

The MoPH said in April that over half a million children aged 9-59 months will be immunized against measles during the campaign. (Tolonews)

(3) Retaking Dasht....

faced many challenges and the government should take immediate action to drive the insurgents from the town.

But Syed Sarwar Hussaini, police spokesman, said the government had major plans to regain control of the district. For security reasons, he did not give details.

The Chardara district of Kunduz was also overrun by the Taliban for a short period of time before they were pushed back by the security forces last week. (Pajhwok)

(4) Dostum Calls....

the government that help militants. It is the intelligence agency's duty to find these figures and make public their names," he said.

Dostum has set a two-day deadline for the Taliban in Faryab to lay down their arms or else they will be eliminated.

"We are talking from experience. I know that it is like this. It will be revealed. When the situation becomes suitable and security stabilizes they will be unveiled. They will be trialed. They have to be trialed," he added.

He said that the Taliban militants are killing innocent people and have committed war crimes therefore he will never call them brothers - rather he considers them as enemies of Afghans.

"Which kind of brother is this that kills people inside mosques, shopkeepers, poor people. This group should be termed as enemies of the people of Afghanistan. Yes we call them enemy too ... I have never called them brother. This is not the way of brotherhood," he said.

"The Taliban told us in response that they will accept any kind of direction. Hope this happens. Our first plan is to disarm at least 2,000 Taliban fighters," he added.

He said war is not the solution therefore he urged militants to lay down their arms and quit insurgency or else they will be killed.

Dostum rejected the rumors about forming militia and termed it as a plot against him. He said that his visit to Faryab is aimed at advising security forces. (Tolonews)

(5) Female Delegation....

a reconciliation deal has increased in the wake of the first round of talks held in Islamabad, so to have Taliban attacks around the country. Many experts have suggested this is part of the militant group's negotiating tactics, in so far as they hope to put as much pressure on the government as possible in order to extract more concessions.

"The issue of a ceasefire was also discussed in the first round of talks," Natiqi said. "In this second round of talks, the issue of a ceasefire will be discussed with seriousness and the establishment of a ceasefire will be a part of the demands of the peace delegation."

(Tolonews)

(6) Ministry Set....

government for the elimination of drugs would help save other countries from using drugs.

According to a survey conducted by the ministry and the United Nation Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC) poppy was cultivated in Afghanistan on 224,000 hectares in 2014, compared with 209, 000 hectares in 2013.

Currently, Afghanistan is producing 90 percent of the world opium, says the survey, which also shows a 17 percent increase in opium production in the impoverished country. (Pajhwok)

(7) Pakistan Vows....

Afghanistan, we now are actually engaged in real-time intelligence sharing. We don't want to simply push this problem away from our border into somebody else," Fatemi said in response to a question.

Pakistan, he said, is working closely with Afghanistan, the security agencies, the intelligence agencies, and with the passage of time, this cooperation will increase and it will be further enhanced.

Af-Pak relationship, he observed, is very important for his country. "It became even more important when we recognized that the United States would be disengaging from that country, and while it would be inappropriate of me to make any comment on that decision, there is no doubt that the U.S. disengagement would mean greater challenges for us," he said.

"Therefore we started working on promoting good relations with Kabul. We didn't have much success in the first few months, but with the election of President Ashraf Ghani, things have moved forward visibly and speedily," Fatemi said.

"I can claim that we have had more interaction between the two countries at the highest level of the elected government, as well as the military leadership, in the past six months than we had in the past six years," he said.

"The army chiefs have visited each other, intelligence chiefs have done so, interior ministry officials have done so, financial ministers, commerce ministers, you name them. The Prime Minister has visited, the Afghan president has come to Pakistan, and finally, in the common objective of the two countries, to promote a reconciliation between Kabul and Taliban, we had the first overt publicly- acknowledged success a few weeks ago on the 7th of July, just outside Islamabad," he said.

"It is a small step, but we wish to transform it into a process rather than merely an event. We hope that we will continue to use our influence, limited as it is, in furthering deeper engagement between the Taliban and the Kabul government, and yet, at the same time, I wish to affirm before you that our resolve to take on the challenge represented by the militants and the terrorists has been further strengthened," Fatemi said. (Pajhwok)

(8) Artifacts Unearthed

historical country - is known as having been the crossroads of beliefs and faiths for hundreds of years.

Over the years, thousands of artifacts have been uncovered from around the country including in mountains and deserts as well in towns and now at the mine. In the Mohammad Agha district in Logar province, archeologists discovered a treasure trove of artifacts dating back to the Islamic period and Kushans Empire.

Officials from the Afghanistan National Museum said however that some large statues discovered in Ainak area are still there as moving them will be a difficult and specialized process.

"More than a thousand artifacts have been transferred to the center. But still there are some big and immovable ancient relics in the area.

This is a big issue, but the ministry of information and culture is undertaking serious efforts to transfer them to the national museum," Mohibzada said.

According to Mohibzada, Afghanistan National Museum has so far exhibited Bakhteri period gold treasures in ten countries around the world and the exhibition has generated up to \$175 million USD for Afghanistan. The exhibition is currently on in Australia and later it will move to Japan.

"Two hundred and thirty one relics from the Bakhteri period have been put on exhibition in almost ten countries around the world since 2006. Until now up to \$175

million USD from these exhibitions has been transferred to government treasury," Mohibzada said.

Meanwhile, it is reported that a Japanese professor has pledged to hand over up to 100 relics belonging to Afghanistan that he bought off the black market.

Sadly Afghan treasures are still being smuggled out of the country. Museum officials stress that government needs to appoint experts at customs - at border posts and airports - to prevent the continued smuggling of the country's history. Different cultures and civilizations have lived in the country during its 5,000 year history. (Tolonews)

(9) Afghan Refugees

President for, Doctors of the World in Greece said: "The circumstances cannot be described. Our priority has to be the children, regarding water, food and most importantly a place to stay. A park in the middle of the city cannot be turned into a refugee centre. We need to find a place that will be decent so that we are not unfair to neither them nor the city."

Earlier this month, UNHCR spokesperson William Spindler said the number of refugees arriving in the Greek islands continues to rise, averaging 1,000 people daily. Since the beginning of the year, 77,100 people have arrived by sea to Greece. Almost 60 per cent are refugees from Syria. Others come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea and Somalia. Greece is now facing an unprecedented refugee emergency. (Tolonews)

(10) Pakistan Halts....

intent to resolve the issue. "The government of Afghanistan tries to address the issue from any possible angle so that the attacks are halted," Mol spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said. Pakistan first began launching cross-border attacks on Afghan soil in 2010 on some parts of Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. Pakistani officials have long denied the attacks, or claimed they were in response to attacks by militants originating in Afghanistan. Since the establishment of national unity government, the attacks have noticeably declined. (Tolonews)

(11) Logar Air....

fact-finding commission's work has been completed 90 percent and most probably they would be announced tomorrow. If not tomorrow, the day after they would definitely be publicised."

The deputy spokesperson said major clearing operations in northeastern Badakhshan province were in the offing. Some operations are currently ongoing in parts of Badakhshan and no area is in danger of falling to insurgents.

Sediq Siddiqi, Ministry of Interior (MoI) spokesman, said reinforcements had been dispatched to Warduj district to stabilise the situation in Badakhshan. Clearing operations will start soon in Faryab, Kunduz, Helmand and Baghlan provinces. Dozens of insurgents have been killed in the past 72 hours in different parts of the country, Waziri said, adding ANA had also lost 12 soldiers.

Nine foreign fighters, including Mullah Khaksar, Taliban's shadow governor for Faryab province, and three district chiefs, were among the dead, Waziri concluded. (Pajhwok)

(12) In Nangarhar,

governance issues, including pervasive corruption and a delay in resolution of public problems."

The issues have been shared with higher-ups, according to Kamawal, who said reforms were yet to be implemented. "One complication is that several officials have been holding important positions for years on end."

He alleged: "These well-connected officials refuse to address public complaints in time. In certain instances, the people are forced to take their cases to the Taliban for decisions."

Civil society activist and journalist Zabihullah Ghazi believed: "Reforms in local departments may have a direct impact on security and could lead to stability. There is still enough distance between the public and the government."

While welcoming the decision, he urged Governor Saleem Khan Kanduzi to keep his word as soon as possible.

Earlier, Wolesi Jirga Deputy Speaker Haji Abdul Zahir Qadeer had told a news conference in Nangarhar the government sought co-operation from locals but could not protect them. (Tolonews)

(13) ALP Personnel....

concerned," he said.

Area resident Sahar Gul said the villagers had lodged complaints against the ALP posts with different provincial departments several times, but no one bothered taking corrective action. As a result, the security personnel continued to ride roughshod over the poor inhabitants.

Haji Momin Mullahkhel, a dweller of Sher Khan area, remarked the ALP officials had inflicted more sufferings on them than the Israelis had on Palestinians. He charged the so-called ALP men were loyalists of a certain group and were superimposed upon Jalrez residents in the garb of security officials.

He spurned assertions by some circles that the locals had assaulted the police posts, asking those who branded Jalrez residents as terrorists after the incident to apologise for the slur. "We voted for President Ashraf Ghani in the hope he will address our problems, not to allow our torture and killing at the hands of gunmen from another province..."

He added the locals were threatened and tortured by the ALP personnel who had been sent to the area illegally. The people were happy with the security officials who had come to Jalrez in line with relevant rules, the elder explained, seeking stringent action against the individuals involved in torturing the masses.

Victims' claims: Pajhwok Afghan News interviewed some of the people who were tortured on different pretexts at the hands of the ALP staff manning the 12 posts. Habibullah, 37, said: "An ALP member named Karim ordered me down my bike in Khwaja Sahib village. He scorched several parts of my body with a heated skewer."

Gulzar, a resident of Ismailkhel, also accused the ALP personnel of attacking him. "They struck me with a grenade, whose shrapnel is still inside my body. I cannot be treated here and need to go to Pakistan. However, I can't afford to pay expenses of travel to the neighbouring country."

A shopkeeper in the Jalrez bazaar, Qudratullah, has also a woe-filled tale to tell. "In broad daylight, some members of the force looted my shop. To lodge my complaint, I went to a post led by ALP Commander Hussain Ali. He hanged me upside down. I was beaten so much so that I fell unconscious..." Zakirullah, Qudratullah and several other people have approached tribal elders, provincial council and civil society representatives with grievances against the ALP. Pajhwok has also obtained documents linking the personnel of the 12 checkpoints to 24 cases of murder, injuries to 44 and losses to 40 others. On the other hand, ALP Commander Raza scorned the allegations from Jalrez residents as baseless. Instead he said the complainants had connections with the Taliban. The commander claimed having evidence against some of the people who had accused the force of involvement in abuses.

He did acknowledge the killing of a mentally sick woman, who was shot dead by ALP men after she refused to stop. The security personnel mistook her for an enemy. Her mental problem was confirmed by relatives as well. The case went to judicial organs, but the ALP staffers were acquitted, Raza said.

About the man who had been burnt with a skewer, the commander said he had evidence of the man aiding the insurgents. Raza vehemently denied ALP involvement in torturing the people. If the allegations had been true, other government institutions would have taken action against them, he argued.

Provincial Council Chairman Haji Ahmad Jafari also tended to reject the accusations. He said if the people should share with the council before the Jalrez incident whatever proofs they had against the security personnel. He saw a pattern in levelling such allegations against the ALP after the attacks.

Deployment against rules: Almost all senior provincial officials admit that those manning the 12 ALP posts were not Maidan Wardak residents and that they were posted to Jalrez in violation of the ALP rules. Not only they failed to improve security, they also created problems, the provincial authorities acknowledged.

Governor Hayatullah Hayat told Pajhwok the Jalrez assault occurred a week after his assumption of office. He also verified the illegal

deployment of the ALP personnel to the restive district. Hayat also lashed out at the force for misbehaving with residents. (Pajhwok)

(14) Hundreds of....

base, he said.

Provincial police chief Col. Sakhi Dad Haidari confirmed the security forces in Badakhshan lacked air support - a matter of great concern. He has requested the Ministries of Defense and of Interior for air support, but they are yet to come up with a positive response.

At least 18 rebels, including two foreign nationals and as many Taliban commanders, had been killed during the past three days, Haidari said. Local officials say nearly 300 militants, 70 of them foreigners, are fighting Afghan forces in Warduj. Meanwhile, the Taliban militants claimed capturing an important security post in Tirgran area and killing at least a dozen border police personnel.

However, Sediq Seddqui the Mol spokesman rejected the claim that Afghan forces were besieged by Taliban militants in Warduj district and said none of Afghan military bases were under the Taliban threat.

He said that Taliban militants had launched several attacks on military bases in Warduj but 22 militants were killed and 13 others wounded in retaliatory attacks by Afghan forces.

Dawlat Waziri, Ministry of Defence (MoD) spokesman also rejected the provincial council head's claims and said that Taliban had several times attacked military centers in Warduj but faced defeat. (Pajhwok)

(15) Khost Dweller....

government. Clean drinking water is one of the basic needs of residents, he said. "The government is responsible for meeting the basic needs of the people."

Nisarullah, a shopkeeper, said he did not know if the water he used daily was hygienic. "There is always a crowd of people around the tanker, which often brings them water. But nobody knows if the water they consume is clean," he remarked.

Mayor Kiramat Khan Khpalkw confirmed the issue, saying an old water supply network existed in Khost City. But the system needed to be fixed, he said, alleging the government had never responded positively to their requests in this regard.

Water supply through tankers remained the only viable option to meet people's need, the mayor added. "Absent assistance from the private sector, the government would have never been able to repair the water-supply network," he admitted.

Repairs of the existing water network were initiated with Italian aid that had been suspended for unknown reasons for the last few years. (Pajhwok)

(16) Helmand Officials....

abduction. He also stopped short of naming anyone. "We are trying to bring the kidnappers to justice," he said.

Maj. Qand Agha, counter-terrorism police head, promised they would do their best to arrest the kidnappers and bring them to justice. Police often apprehended kidnappers but judicial organs rarely punished them, he complained.

Meanwhile, Deputy Governor Wali Mohammad Jan Rasulyar said the National Directorate of Security personnel apprehended a nine-member group of kidnappers today. The detainees have confessed to their crimes. (Pajhwok)

(17) Year-Long....

of Mohammad. However, Akhizai noted with happiness an end to the dispute as a result of one month of efforts by tribal elders. The provincial council had urged the elders to intervene. Both antagonists were summoned to the provincial capital several times as part of the campaign for resolving the problem.

But the issue lingered on, according to the council member, who explained the tribal elders showed a lot of determination in bringing about a patch-up between the rival sides. Having remained in a state of war and confined to trenches for months, they eventually agreed to bury the hatchet.

Akhizai adds: "The elders sized up the losses while handing down their verdict. The family of each victim was given 2.5 million afghanis or a piece of land worth it." Kabir, who had lost four men, was more enthusiastic about reconciliation. Mohammad was ready to pay compensation to kin of the dead

but consistent efforts by the jirga members forced him to reach a comprehensive settlement with the rival party. "Personally speaking, I wasn't part of this decision. However, elders from nearby areas were present on the occasion. (Pajhwok)

(18) Bride Price....

ceremonies in the said districts. Anyone violating the decision would have to pay a hefty fine. But he stopped short of saying if anyone had been penalised so far.

Without putting a specific figure on the fine amount, Sahibzada hoped the move would help alleviate the plight of young men, who could not afford to pay heavy bride prices and thus remained unmarried, or spent precocious years of their lives, toiling their way to marriage in foreign climes.

Azizullah Azizi, a resident of Sharan, believed a reduction in the walwar amount and other social reforms would help reduce the level of domestic violence. He called for the government, tribal elders and religious scholars to help the council implement its decision.

An inhabitant of Sarobi district, Saleem Baryal, confirmed many youth in Paktika and other provinces could not wed because of prohibitively high walwar rates. "Economically, it's impossible for a man in his 20s to observe unfair and back-breaking customs." (Pajhwok)

(19) 2 Civilians....

But officials at the Nangarhar hospital said that "bodies have been transferred to the hospital and six other people were injured." However, officials did not provide further details.

No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the blast. (Tolonews)

(20) Ex-Jihadi....

uprising members in his area. He had differences with other commanders but a day earlier, local influential individuals and provincial High Peace Council members mediated between them and resolved their enmity.

Separately, five ALP members were killed in internal fighting in the Dahan Dara area of Pashtun Kot. The district chief said the policemen were killed after two ALP commanders engaged in infighting over personal differences.

He said the slain ALP members included two brothers Asadullah and Abdullah, who were under the leadership of commander Piroz and another two brothers killed in the incident Mohammad Saleh and Ahmad Khalid were led by commander Hayat.

A civilian, who was carrying the bodies of the ALP members also killed by Hayat, he said. "Both sides are still in a state of fighting but we have sent security forces to the area to prevent more clashes," Qadiri said.

Hayat is a pro-government commander from the Jamiat-I-Islami party while Piroz belongs to the Janbish-I-Milli Islami led by Vice-President Abdul Rashim Dostum. (Pajhwok)

(21) U.S. Troops....

separatist unrest in eastern, Russian-speaking regions of Ukraine. Hodges said officials were looking at training army and special operations troops, likely focusing on skills like tactics and combat medicine. He said the expanded training mission did not mean the administration would be providing Ukraine with lethal arms. (Reuters)

(22) Iran Nuclear....

prices hanging around 100 U.S. dollars per barrel

As international oil prices fell sharply last year due to oversupply, however, the momentum of the U.S. tight oil industry has slowed down significantly by production, investment and employment.

Gordon said it is "impossible" to predict whether the deal will worsen the global oil oversupply at present as "lifting sanctions will likely be a non-linear process just as the nuclear negotiations have been. No one can predict the exact path, end point, and timing." (Xinhua)

(23) U.S. May....

was overly harsh given the fact that the country he spied for was a U.S. ally, while Israel has also been strongly lobbying Washington for his early release.

The U.S. Justice Department insisted on Friday that "Pollard should serve his full sentence for the serious crimes he committed, in which case is a 30-year sentence as mandated by statute." (Xinhua)