

(1) US Vows ...

"Overall, our mission in Afghanistan is on a positive trajectory. Thus far, in keeping with the campaign plan, we have seen the Afghans successfully defend each of these areas, largely by taking offensive operations against the enemy." (Tolonevs)

(2) Afghanistan Cancer...

"Our objective is not only treatment but also preventive healthcare and early diagnosis of cancer."

"The Oncology OPD at Jamhoori Hospital has been activated with support from the Ministry of Public Health. Cancer patients, who had to go every three weeks to neighbouring countries for chemotherapy, are currently under treatment in the newly established section."

According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, nearly 20,000 cancer cases are recorded every year in Afghanistan. Patients are bound to travel out of the country for cancer treatment. (Pajhwok)

(3) Widespread Twitter...

such as the United Nations to investigate the deadly attack on peaceful protesters that took place on Saturday. "Please consider a donation for the victims & survivors of the #enlightenment movement in #Kabul and bring their message to the attention of the world. We called for justice but were given terror and massacre. #enlightenment #kabul," says a Twitter post. Other tweets show mass graves dug for the dozens of people killed in the attack, saying "#Hazaras r tired of digging mass graves #Kabul #quieta and again #Kabul #enlightenment #enlighteningMovement."

The demonstration was originally organized to protest against the change of a major power project route from the central provinces including Bamyan to Salang pass.

However the protesters are now saying their campaign is aimed at raising voices against the discrimination. The attack in Kabul on Saturday left at least 80 people dead and over 200 others wounded with the majority of the victims consisting of the minority Hazara people.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group claimed responsibility behind the attack but the protesters are saying that an independent probe should be launched despite the government has assigned a delegation to investigate the bloodshed. (KP)

(4) HRW Alarmed...

remained highly vulnerable, conflict-related female casualties fell by 11 percent.

The Taliban were blamed for most civilian casualties. Despite Taliban's claims, that protecting civilians was one of their main aims, the armed group continued to pursue a strategy of suicide bombings in civilian areas, it alleged.

Phelim Kine, said the UNAMA report exposed the Taliban's contempt for the most fundamental principle of international humanitarian law, or the laws of war: The prohibition of deliberate attacks on civilians.

"More shocking is that civilian deaths and injuries attributed to the Afghan armed forces and other pro-government forces, primarily from ground engagements -- a total of 383 dead and 797 injured -- rose 47 percent..."

Civilian casualties inflicted during aerial operations by both the Afghan Air Force and international military forces more than doubled, to 57 deaths and 104 injured, in the first half of 2016.

"This raises concerns that as ground engagements and air attacks by Afghan armed forces increase, not all necessary precautions are being taken to minimize civilian harm," the HRW director noted.

He also pointed out that there was no evidence that commanders responsible for serious laws-of-war violations were being held accountable.

Kine stressed the Taliban needed to stop the practice of targeting civilians, as defined by the laws of war. The Afghan government should also take substantive measures to change its forces' battlefield conduct, he added.

The government was urged to limit the use of artillery, bombs and other weapons with wide explosive effects in populated areas. The government was also asked to cease arming militias, including uprising forces that fall outside the regular chain of command.

"Such militias have a dismal record of abuse, including summary executions of non-combatants, and they have exacerbated tensions rather than providing security for the civilian population," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(5) Govt. Criticized ...

week, but the Presidential Palace said on Friday that they are still discussing the issue with judicial and other relevant organizations as well as elders. "Our commitment to bringing reforms to the electoral system is still

on its place; hence, we have continued our discussions with organizations from inside and outside government -- including the Ministry of Justice and the Commission of Monitoring the Implementation of the Constitution. We will try to find a way which matches the Constitution and the public interest," President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi said.

Sources from the Presidential Palace said that government's decision on the alternative way to start electoral reforms will be announced in the coming week. (Tolonevs)

(6) Afghanistan to ...

demands by private sector to ease the process of issuing license and facilities for investments.

The meeting was also attended by lawmakers from the Lower House of the Parliament and presented their views regarding the transition of AISA authorities to Ministry of Commerce and Industries, recruitment of AISA employees in the ministry and other government institutions and precautions to prevent disturbance in licensing process.

President Ghani said the Ministry of Commerce and Industries should start the renewal process of the business licenses for a period of one week as a test process to ascertain whether the ministry is prepared for the merger or further steps are required. (KP)

(7) Siyar Bahadurzada...

submitted the Elevation Fight Team stand-out with a third-round arm-triangle choke.

Bahadurzada ended the fight in his favour during the last seconds of the third round as he executed repeated takedowns, applied his ground-and-pound and seized control of the match.

Bahadurzada made a return to UFC after two years of absence that followed by two back to back losses, to Dong Hyun Kim and John Howard.

Bahadurzada's MMA record includes 28 fights with 22 wins and 6 losses while Masdival's record includes 40 fights with 29 wins and 11 losses. (KP)

(8) Nangarhar's...

sub-canal. They benefit more than 5,100 families and irrigate 1050 hectares of land."

Kunduzi said the canal in Behsud district would protect from flooding large swaths of land and help increase crops yield.

Rural Development Minister Naser Ahmad Durrani said the \$1 million canal project took three years to complete.

"Nangarhar's lands are more appropriate for agriculture and I am committed to giving such agricultural projects a priority."

The minister said the MRRD had put into service hundreds of development projects in Nangarhar and would execute other similar projects soon.

"Before the canal's construction, floods would inundate a lot of land every year, but now the canal will not only irrigate land but will also protect it from being washed away."

A tribal elder in the district, Malak Wilayat Khan, said the canal inauguration fulfilled residents' 20 years old wish.

Wilayat Khan said he himself had been making efforts at initiating the canal's construction over the past 20 years and his efforts finally bore fruit.

"Earlier there were a lot of land which remained either unusable or did not timely get irrigated due to the lack of water, but now the canal's water would reach the fields easily and the harvests will get better." He said the Behsud district land could be cultivated thrice a year.

A farmer in the district, Syed Jan, told Pajhwok large swath of land in the district had been useless for lacking water.

He expressed happiness over the canal project's inauguration and said the arid land would now become arable again. (Pajhwok)

(9) Karimov Stresses ...

turmoil, as it continues to fight Taliban insurgency. Other extremist groups, such as the Islamic State terrorist group, outlawed in many states worldwide including Russia, have expanded their activities in the country. (Pajhwok)

(10) Anti-Graft...

and anti-corruption, the first document related to the functioning of the council and the second document is about the text that was issued for the establishment of the council," said deputy presidential spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi.

Despite several individuals having been identified as involved in corruption, none of them have to date been prosecuted.

"The anti-corruption justice center needs to start its work as soon as possible and investigate major and im-

portant corruption cases," said Sayed Ghulam Hussain Fakhri.

Critics have constantly raised questions over the ineffectiveness of government's anti-corruption measures.

"Some violations have been committed in the present government as well, investigations conducted in this respect, the anti-corruption justice center needs to investigate these cases and prosecute them," Fakhri said.

"President always talks with feelings and he talks emotionally, but the context of his words were never clear to the public," said Tahir Hashemi, a university lecturer. (Tolonevs)

(11) Afghan ...

reports, Pakistani authorities have prepared a list of businessmen and planned to seize their assets. About 1.5 million refugees are living in different parts of Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

(12) Badakhshan's ...

large.

The meeting was attended by three Afghan experts Zofnun Hesan Natiq, Director of the Department of Women Affairs (DoWA) in Badakhshan, Najia Sorush, women's rights activist and Nasima Sahar, representative of the Afghan-German Cooperation.

Natiq underlined the Afghan society's need for women's participation: "A country cannot develop in a sustainable way if half the society is excluded from the process." She added: "Today, I would like to invite all Afghan media to help women in assuming their role in society. Let us show how capable, skilled and strong Afghan women are."

Najia Sorush highlighted the crucial role media has played in the past in strengthening Afghan women: "Media not only changed the minds of women, but more importantly, it changed the minds of men as well. Men increasingly provide support for the women around them."

Nasima laid out the Afghan-German Cooperation's wide range of activities for women: "In Badakhshan, the German government provided funding for the construction of a dormitory for female students, a women's garden and an education centre. Furthermore, in conducting internship and training programs for women in areas such as IT, English, tailoring, food processing and disaster prevention, the German government supports women empowerment as well."

During the second part of the media meeting, the Q&A session, the experts answered questions from more than 60 national and local TV, radio and newspaper outlets. When asked about her expectation in the media landscape, Zofnun replied: "I wish to see more investigative and in-depth reports on gender-related topics, because it makes stakeholders realise that they are accountable for what they do."

"Media Meetings 2016 - Afghan media for Social Responsibility" are a series of regular events held by the Afghan-German cooperation and SAJNA. The meetings bring together experts from the public sector, civil society, development organizations and the media to discuss important development issues. (Wadsam)

(13) Insecurity ...

three teams are assessing and initial reports show the displaced families are more than 1000 in number."

He said the displaced families had camped in Dasht-i-Qala, Baharak districts and Taloqan, Takhar's capital and some other areas.

Zinda said potable water and medical teams had been provided to the displaced families' camp in Dasht-i-Kala district.

Meanwhile, Takhar refugee affairs director Syed Murtaza Hamdard told Pajhwok that they were currently busy assessing the displaced families' situation.

Hamdard said some organizations had announced their assistance for the displaced families in meetings held with them and the aid would be distributed to the families after a survey.

"We had a joint meeting with Takhar refugee department officials, the disaster management authority officials and some welfare institutions in the province. The Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), DRT and World Food Programme (WFP) have expressed their readiness for cooperation."

He said 50 families from Rustaq district and 24 from Farkhar were displaced due to harassment and torture by insurgents.

A resident of Khwaja Ghar district, Saifuddin, told Pajhwok he migrated to Taloqan with his family because of insecurity in their area. He said as insecurity continued to rage, many families were forced into leaving homes.

Saifuddin said the conflict recently spread to some areas of the Khwaja Ghar district, threatening people's lives.

Currently security forces are locked in

clashes with Taliban in Darqad, Yangi Kala, Khwaja Ghar and Ashkamash districts of Takhar.

Residents of these areas say dozens of families fed up with insecurity might migrate to other areas. (Pajhwok)

(14) 9th Death ...

always tried to ensure Afghanistan developed and progressed in all spheres. Democracy in Afghanistan was initially introduced to the country during Zahir Shah's reign.

"He was always focusing on the comfort of people and development and tried to steer away from political complexity," said former minister of information and culture Sayed Makhdom. However, many believe that although security was good in those years, economic and political development showed no visible signs of progress.

Zahir Khan was proclaimed King (Shah) on 8 November 1933 at the age of 19. He died in Kabul in 2008. (Tolonevs)

(15) Govt. Not...

bodies were buried in a mass grave, 48 bodies were transferred to Jaghori and some other provinces, eleven bodies were buried in this hill, still bodies are lying at hospitals and await their families, the government is telling lies, saying that eighty people were killed, more than 200 people were killed," said Ali Shah Bahrami, a relative of one of the victims.

The majority of those killed in the attack were buried in a hill in Kabul while other bodies were transferred to provinces.

Aziz Rahimi was one of the protesters who was killed in the attack. His family were barely able to identify his body, the said.

"We found the body two days after the blast and searched all hospitals, then we found one of his legs at Wazir Akbar Khan hospital," said Rahimi's brother Abdul Razaq.

Rahimi was expected to complete his master's degree next week.

Rahimi's family on Thursday called on government to make sure an in-depth investigation into the attack is carried out transparently.

"We want the government to investigate the case and ensure justice is brought against the plotters," said Rahimi's brother Abdul Wahid. (Tolonevs)

(16) 5 Foreign Forces ...

currently existed and involved in insurgency in Afghanistan, earlier the number of these hardcore militants was 3,000.

The US-led NATO mission in Afghanistan formally ended its operations in December 2014 after a presence in the country since 2001 to help local authorities to defeat the Taliban Islamist movement. Afghanistan, however, continues to be in political and social turmoil as jihadist groups take advantage of the instability in the country.

Considering unstable security situation in Afghanistan, US President Barack Obama a head of the July 8-9 Warsaw Summit announced to leave over 8,000 US troops in Afghanistan until the end of his administration. The NATO summit also pledged fresh assistance to Afghanistan including the training and financial support of Afghan security forces until 2020. (Pajhwok)

(17) For Kapisa...

want to be named, said the government and global community had been raising catchy slogans. But they had done nothing practically for youth's welfare, he alleged. They duped the youth, claimed the graduate from Al Beruni University.

Allauddin, a resident of Tagab district, said: "We have been hearing on radio and television that uplift projects have been launched for youth. But in reality, announcements are mere eye-wash."

He grumbled hundreds of youth graduating from universities every year searched for jobs here and there but failed and left for Iran, where they get addicted to drugs. Billions of dollars had poured into Afghanistan, but no long-term project had been launched to create jobs, he maintained.

Jawad, hailing from AlaSai district, also lamented the situation of youth was deteriorating with each passing day in terms of employment and education opportunities. "Five youngsters of my family, after graduating from school, went to Iran for work."

On the other hand, civil society activist Hashmatullah Sapi said some institutions worked for youth. "We have few groups of youth in Kapisa working for promoting education, sports and solidarity." He claimed they were trying to help youth with school and university admissions by providing them scholarships.

Public Health Director Dr. Mirza Mohammad Raja confirmed due to unemployment some youth had become addicted to drugs. "We have rehabilitation facilities for youth in the pro-

vincial capital. They tell us stories and explain why they consume drugs. Unemployment is one of the reasons."

Qais Qadir, the governor's spokesman, admitted effective programmes could not be executed for youth's prosperity. But the projects funded by the central government had also been implemented in Kapisa, he explained.

He said the provincial government was striving to provide opportunities for youth in areas of sport, education, public awareness and other programmes. (Pajhwok)

(18) With Artificial ...

of FIFA, he added.

According to Rahmani the Heart Football Stadium was constructed 70 years earlier and had the capacity of 10,000 viewers. (Pajhwok)

(19) Woman Killed...

violence against women across the country during the recent months. Earlier a woman was shot dead by her relatives as she was trying to elope with a man in western Ghor province of Afghanistan.

The woman was identified as Aziz Gul and was shot dead in Ahangaran area of Ghor in mid-June this year.

A teenage girl was also burnt alive by her brother's wife in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan earlier last month, while three sisters were shot dead, allegedly by the militants in Logar province.

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) in its report released late in November last year said "statistic of violence against women, obtained from the registered cases of violence against women during the first six months in 1394 exceeds 2579 cases."

The report further added that figure was reported 2403 cases during the six months in 1393 which shows 7.32 percent increase in 1394, the last solar year. (KP)

(20) School Building...

be provided under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s city programme and the rest by the municipality.

He said the terminal was being constructed over two acres of land and it would have a mosque, cafeteria, parking lot, and toilets and its construction would take four months. (Pajhwok)

(21) Afghanistan-Nether...

formats but since last year we have played enough matches here as well as undergone camps in England, Ireland and Scotland," Captain Asghar Stanikzai said, as quoted by the ICC.

Afghanistan has an enviable record since its debut in 2009-10 when it surprised everyone by winning the tournament. It has won 13 matches, drawn four and lost just one, to eventual champion Ireland during the 2011-13 championship. (Tolonevs)

(22) No Work for...

morale, but I was not treated well; they disappointed me, I am not even talked to properly at the ministry of defense, I have an uncertain future despite my military achievements," Amiri told TOLONEVS.

"I passed difficult examinations in the forests of Arizona in the United States and scored the best marks among the students at the CGSC, a four-star US general honored me with a medal and praised my ability; I have also attained certificates in English language and other fields," he said.

Meanwhile, a number of military analysts have said that the political collusion in the security institutions will have major repercussions ahead, arguing that the appointments of some unprofessional and under-qualified cadres is one of the main reasons for the growing casualties among the security forces.

"This approach has a negative impact on military personnel, because our security forces think that there is corruption in our security institutions and those that do not have connections will not be designated posts," said military analyst Atiqullah Amarkhail.

"We are in dire need of military cadres, a huge amount of money is being spent on education of our youth abroad, so the money shouldn't be wasted," said military analyst Sangarwal Niazi.

"His excellency the minister of defense has directed that several youths must be taken into serious consideration; if the person you are talking about is right, he can consult my office and I will concentrate on his demands," a defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said.

This comes at a time that Afghanistan's international partners have always talked about developing the skills of Afghan security forces and resolving the issue of poor leadership. (Tolonevs)

(23) Hillary Clinton ...

isn't working the way it should because our democracy isn't working the way it should," said the Democratic

presidential nominee whose close ties to Wall Street had been scrutinized during the year-long campaign. (Xinhua)

(24) Aleppo Escape...

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu.

Though the plan is seen as good news given the dire situation permeating the lives of those living in eastern parts of the city, De Mistura urged warring factions to implement a 48-hour ceasefire regardless of whether the scheme moves forward. (Xinhua)

(25) U.S. Deploys...

U.S. Forces Korea and the radar operation will not be made transparent.

China and Russia have expressed strong opposition to the THAAD deployment as its X-band radar can spot Chinese and Russian territories far beyond the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). (Xinhua)

(26) New Cold...

the Soviet Union, the United States, the most powerful nation on Earth, risks goading North East Asia back into conflict, chaos and estrangement.

The Obama administration claims the anti-missile shield could help defend South Korea against potential security threat from its neighbor the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). (Xinhua)

(27) Anti-U.S....

Minister Bekir Bozdogan told broadcaster Haberturk TV that Ankara has received intelligence that Gulen may flee to a third country that does not have an extradition treaty with Turkey.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has also repeatedly urged Washington to agree to sending Gulen back to Turkey. (Xinhua)

(28) Turkey Brushes...

Gulen to Turkey. "Our relations will be affected if the U.S. will not give us Gulen. It is inevitable. We don't want to think about the bad scenarios," he said. (Xinhua)

(29) Turkey Shuts

motherland Turkey," he said. Yildirim strengthened that Turkey will bring Gulen, accused by Ankara of plotting the coup, back from the U.S. to face charge in court. (Xinhua)

(30) China Continues ...

for certain countries in the region, such as Venezuela and Ecuador," she added.

Noting that China is playing an increasingly important role in global affairs, the senior UN official said China has shown its willingness to cooperate with Latin America.

"There have been advances to implement the cooperation fund that the Chinese government has announced (for the region)...and China has also teamed up with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for programs in Latin America," said Barcelona. (Xinhua)

(31) 17,000 People ...

coming weeks," Yann Fridez, head of the ICRC in Mindanao.

He said that casualties have been reported on both sides, while a few civilians were also wounded in the wake of the long-running clashes.

"We urge all to the fighting to exercise utmost precaution to minimize the impact or damage to civilian communities," said Fridez, pleading to the clashing groups "to spare the civilian structures such as hospitals, schools and houses, and facilities that are essential for their daily lives." (Xinhua)

(32) Xi Calls for...

pursuing unity and cooperation, and that China's support for African peace and development will never change, Xi said.

The current weak performance of the world economy brings opportunities and challenges for the economic development of China and Africa, Xi said, adding that China and Africa must "stand shoulder to shoulder and march forward hand in hand." (Xinhua)

(33) Iran, Tajikistan ...

economic and trade relations over the past years, and said, "I am glad to see that over 150 Iranian companies are operating in Tajikistan."

The Tajik president underlined the importance of cooperation between the two countries in energy and infrastructural transportation projects, and expressed the hope that Tehran would help Tajikistan with its energy projects like Sangtoudah-II.

Chitician and President Rahmon also underlined the need for the expansion of Tajikistan-Iran-Afghanistan cooperation, including railway construction, power transmission lines and drinking water network

The trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan exceeded \$228 million in 2014. (FNA)