

### (1) Afghanistan ...

smugglers do this to exploit people for sexual abuse and organ trade, the human rights commission is seriously concerned about the issue," said Abdul Rahman Hotak, AIHRC commissioner.

"Human smuggling remains a big challenge to government, however the trend has decreased after government extended its efforts, but human smuggling continues," Minister of Justice Abdul Basir Anwar said.

At a gathering in Kabul on Saturday, to mark Human Trafficking Awareness Day, participants exchanged their views on how to tackle the issue of human smuggling in the country.

"We accept that government has not conducted a lot of work to prevent human smuggling, but we need to provide awareness among the people so that they avoid becoming the victims of human smugglers," advisor to the president, Malali Shinwari said. Meanwhile, some critics have slammed government over its lack of policy to stop the trend in the country.

Credible research shows that one person is being smuggled every thirty seconds.

"A lot of work has been done in the country to stop human smuggling, it has reduced the level of smuggling and the numbers of our citizens becoming the victims of the smugglers who take them abroad," said Kamal Sadat, deputy minister of information and culture for youth affairs.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day is dedicated to raising awareness of sexual slavery and human trafficking worldwide.

Human trafficking is the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. Smuggling of migrants involves the procurement for financial or other material benefit of illegal entry of a person into a country of which that person is not a national or resident. (Tolonews)

### (2) Access to ...

should be shared with people and media, according to Karokhel.

Fahim Dashti, another member of the commission, talked about problems journalists faced in finding access to information.

He said incidents happening on a daily basis were not related to the commission, but journalists needed information for investigation purpose were required to fill out a request form to the relative department for seeking information.

He said the relevant department should provide the needed information within three days of the request under the access to information law.

If the government media offices did not provide the required information to journalists within the three-day time, they could complain to the OCAI, he said.

Dashti added the commission would address problems journalists had complained about. (Pajhwok)

### (3) US Embassy ...

already underway, Afghanistan committed at the Tokyo Conference in 2012 to join the WTO as part of its overall reform agenda to improve the country's self-reliance. Throughout the accession process, Afghanistan has embraced the multilateral trade agenda as a means to enhance the country's economic prospects; for their part, Afghanistan's partners in the WTO have shown understanding of the country's economic challenges. WTO members benefit from greater transparency, market access, and more predictable business environments – all of which can improve Afghanistan's attractiveness as a place to invest and do business.

US Ambassador to Afghanistan P. Michael McKinley welcomed the development, saying, "We applaud Afghanistan for its years of sustained effort to meet this milestone achievement and look forward to working with Afghanistan within the WTO." (Agencies)

### (4) IOM Chief...

such as natural disasters or conflicts. In many countries, he said, trafficked persons, quite often migrants, had access to temporary residence, safe accommodation, medical and psychosocial support, and assisted voluntary return and reintegration opportunities. A few have even been provided with compensation.

"A noteworthy development is that combating human trafficking is now integrated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reflecting a continuing political commitment to addressing the issue," Swing said. However, the numbers of beneficiaries of protection remained small – especially when compared with the millions who continued to be exploited, the American diplomat explained.

"In truth, the line that separates a trafficked person from many exploited or abused migrants is blurred at best, and difficult to draw when people are fleeing from conflict or disaster.

"A migrant – especially if he is young, male and working illegally and therefore doesn't fit the standard stereotype of a victim of trafficking – is unlikely even to be screened for possible exploitation or trafficking," the IOM chief continued.

He underlined a protection disparity between those migrants identified as 'trafficked' and those who are not. He stressed the need to bridge the gap between the large number of exploited people and the very few that were identified.

Some of the world's 244 million international migrants are among the most vulnerable to trafficking and associated forms of exploitation and abuse. Many lack the legal status or recognition of their professional credentials that would allow them to be lawfully and gainfully employed.

Many others were disconnected from the social networks to which they might normally turn for support in times of difficulty, Swing said. Many irregular migrants in particular lack knowledge of their rights, the financial resources required to assert them, and the confidence that government officials will respect them.

Complex and protracted humanitarian and migration crises, such as armed conflicts, further increase vulnerabilities and in some cases, have led to an increase in human trafficking, according to the official.

In some instances, the conflict itself may lead to the emergence of specific forms of crisis-related trafficking in persons. Trafficking in persons is a direct result of disaster.

"The forthcoming UN Summit Refugees and Migrants also puts the spotlight on the specific vulnerabilities to trafficking, exploitation and abuse of migrants travelling within large movements," the IOM DG believed.

He added those affected were in desperate need of assistance and protection – a major challenge for front-line responders who often lack the time, resources and established processes necessary for victim identification, referral and assistance.

As a result, he pointed out, many victims are not afforded the protections they were entitled to.

"There is no quick or easy way to ensure that those who most need our assistance and protection will receive it. However, the starting point is quite clear: we must make it clear that all migrants are entitled to the full realization of their rights.

"In order to achieve this, we must change the current toxic narrative on migration. We must seize the opportunity to campaign for a fundamental shift in public perceptions of migrants and migration.

"Xenophobic language and hate speech should have no place in political discourse or media communication. Migration is not a problem to be solved but a reality to be managed," Swing said.

In tackling human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, he called for upholding migrants' rights as human rights and their entitlement to the same respect and dignity to which all persons were entitled. "We must all strive for this and remain united in the fight against human trafficking." (Pajhwok)

### (5) Taliban Meet...

tations if all sides agree. "I can confirm that our delegation visited China to discuss the invasion in the region and to adopt a joint stance against the malicious policies of the invading countries," the Taliban leader told the daily.

"Policies of the Islamic Emirate (Taliban) about the region and the world also came under discussion," he said, without commenting on the possibility of peace talks.

Qari Hamza, speaking on behalf of the Fidayee Mahaz, said: "The Taliban leaders held talks with the intelligence officials of China, the US and foreign countries and reached a deal with them," Chinese officials have met Taliban representatives in Qatar. China also hosted Taliban and officials of the Afghan government's High Peace Council in Urumqi earlier last year. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Afghan Troops...

Kot after a heavy air and artillery bombardment as fighters pulled out into nearby mountain areas. "We have already destroyed their training camps in Kot district and the operations will expand to other districts too," said Shereen Agha, an Afghan army spokesman.

Provincial government spokesman At-tahullah Khogyani said 78 Daesh fighters had been killed in the operation and many bodies had been concealed inside houses to hide the number of fatalities they had suffered. Five U.S. special forces troops, fighting alongside Afghan special forces, were injured in the fighting.

Involving both regular army and special forces, the operation in Nangarhar, dubbed "Wrath of the Storm", coincided with last week's suicide bombing in

Kabul that killed at least 80 people and wounded more than 230 more. (Reuters)

### (7) Dozens of Daesh....

where the dead bodies were found had been vacated by people due to the conflict and the Daesh affiliates had turned those homes into their bastions.

Col. Sherin Agha Faqiri, the 201 Selab Military Corps spokesman, said 36 Daesh militants were killed and 17 others wounded and seven more captured alive during the past 24 hours.

He said almost all areas of the Kot district had been cleared of Daesh militants as a result of the ongoing operation, which had been extended to near-by districts.

Nangarhar police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said other operations in Jalalabad and nearby areas were underway in parallel with the Operation Qahr Selab.

He said police arrested four suspected persons in the Chaparhar district during a raid and similar raids were being carried out in the provincial capital and other nearby areas. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Khanshin District...

casualties of security forces and seized weapons and ammunition from them. The governor's spokesman Omar Zwak confirmed the overnight battle for the district, but did not confirm its fall to the insurgents. He said reports regarding the district's fall were being investigated.

Abdul Majeed Akhonzada, deputy head of the provincial council, told the Associated Press, Kanashin district had "fallen into Taliban hands." Khanshin was overrun by the militants five years ago. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Afghan Com...

National Army personnel. Col. Zazi said all areas fell to the rebels last night had been recaptured by the commando forces.

He said the Taliban fled when the air forces arrived and that was why casualties among the rebels were unknown. Earlier local officials ruled out the fall of Khanshin district to the Taliban.

A district administration source confided to Pajhwok Afghan News Khanshin police chief Abdul Rauf and the deputy intelligence head had been wounded critically in the overnight fighting. Earlier Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi also claimed the fighters had captured the district. He said they had inflicted heavy casualties on security forces and seized weapons and ammunition from them.

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Abdul Majeed Akhonzada, deputy head of the provincial council, told the Associated Press, Kanashin district had "fallen into Taliban hands." Khanshin was overrun by the militants five years ago. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Mazar-I-Sharif ...

and the young trees were looked after with people's cooperation. He said the private sector had been handed over preservation of the city's greenery.

In order to control floods during rainy seasons, the mayor said they rehabilitated 10 culverts and a kilometer of canal during the past six months.

He said during the city's expansion, some new areas had been included in the master plan and work on the plan was in progress.

In this regard, he mentioned Dashti-Shor area, saying a two-km of road would be reconstructed in the area with financial support from the World Bank until the end of this solar year. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Pakistan Must ...

friends both in the region and outside. "It is a matter of time before folks in Islamabad wake up and ask themselves a question whether it is worth to lose the advantage of having many friends because rest of the friend sees India differently," Haqqani added.

The remarks by Haqqani come as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for the allowing the Afghan Taliban and the notorious Haqqani terrorist network to use its soil for planning and coordinating attacks in Afghanistan.

A number of the US lawmakers also criticized Pakistan for not doing enough to eliminate the terrorists safe havens in the country and refused to fund the purchase of F-16 fighter jets for the Pakistani air force. (KP)

### (12) Large-Scale ...

by taking over gold mines. "Taliban is focusing on Raghistan because it has gold mines. They extract the mineral to finance their war. They [Taliban] will vanish and be eliminated if government takes control of the mine and the district," said Zia-ul-Haq Wasiq, deputy head of Badakhshan provincial council.

"The only solution to eliminate the Taliban is through a public uprising. Government should support an uprising

and then deploy local police once the district is cleared," said Mamoruddin Kofi, a civil society activist in the province.

Raghistan is located in Badakhshan's west and its strategic location and mineral wealth has lured insurgents.

Nearly 70 percent of the district is under Taliban control and has been so for the past year.

The operation comes after a recent outcry by Badakhshan residents and officials who have reported that Warduj and Yamgan districts are also under the control of insurgents, along with at least seven other districts. (Tolonews)

### (13) Over 45%...

area in Bamiyan.

Roya said she cultivates and farms land on her own and that she also collects firewood for her family.

"I shoulder all the responsibilities – from farming to cooking and I even collect firewood. I don't have another option," she said.

Another female farmer in Bamiyan, Farzana, said: "When men prepare the land for cultivation, we spray seed on the land and when they are tired we must serve them tea."

Meanwhile, a number of male farmers in Bamiyan praised the participation of women in farming and said that it helps the business a lot.

"Women in families with a better economy play a lesser role in agriculture but those who struggle financially, they try to give women a bigger role in agricultural activities," said Mohammad Mobin, a farmer in Bamiyan.

However, women farmers said they are not really supported by the local men.

They said they do manual labor and help the men but their male counterparts do not pay attention to them and they do not share the income with the women.

"Despite this we do most of the farming, the income goes into the men's pockets and we get nothing from selling the products," said Najiba, a woman farmer in Bamiyan.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Minister, Asadullah Zamir, who visited Bamiyan recently said his ministry will build greenhouses and cold storage facilities in order to encourage the women farmers in the province.

"This year we provided women farmers with cold storage units for potatoes and we built greenhouses for them in order to encourage them to improve their produce," Zamir said.

According to reports, 85 percent of Bamiyan residents in total are farmers – with 45 percent being women. (Tolonews)

### (14) Poyan Shares ...

school principals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa complained of police harassment during a separate meeting with Poyan. He promised taking up the issue with Pakistani officials. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Karzai Rallies...

Initiating discussion on demands for constitutional Loya Jirga, former Afghan leader urged upon leaders of national unity government president Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah to deliver on their promises they made to the people and make sure that the Loya Jirga is convened as per timeline.

In the wake of 2014 controversial presidential elections, President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah after signing the political agreement pledged to convene the constitutional amendment Loya Jirga in two years.

Karzai served as leader of the country for fifteen years in the post-Taliban democracy.

When asked whether he is going to use his influence over NUG leaders as their two years deadline heads closer, Karzai said that he wants to live in a country where the people are hopeful of their future.

"I want to live in a country where the people look to the future, in a country where we move on the right direction toward peace, rule of law, in a country where the appointments are made on the basis of the law, but not on the basis of the personal relations, a country where social services are not distributed among the individuals, a country where the people serve the nation, but not the demands of certain groups and individuals," said Hamid Karzai.

Karzai while confirming his government failures rallied the leaders of national unity government to convene the Loya Jirga. But corruption has now changed into a major problem for NUG leaders.

"I had two options, the first option to attack on the certain elements, but this option would take the country toward anarchy and instability. I had also the option of ignoring it, but I wanted to make sure that the money is spent inside Afghanistan so that the country move forward, I was studying the experience of other countries such as Malaysia, South Korea and other countries," he said.

But, what does the present government have to say?

"Article 60 of the constitution of Afghanistan has defined the working process of the job of the president, the government will deliver on all promises including the elections," said Dawa Khan Meenal, deputy presidential spokesman.

Karzai became a controversial personality in the Afghan politics during his recent years in office when he started criticizing the policies of the United States in public.

Karzai also refused to sign the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with the US, an agreement that was allowing the US troops to stay in Afghanistan post-2014. (Tolonews)

### (16) Calls for Justice ...

and breadwinners.

Mehr Ali was one of the protestors killed in the blast, he has left a widow and four children behind.

"My condition is not well, I don't believe that Mehr Ali is martyred, my children always ask me about their father," said Farishta Ahmadi, Mehr Ali's wife.

Mehr Ali's elder son Shoaib is only ten years old. Now he has to cope with the challenges of life in the days to come without a father.

"We are broken after the demise of my father, I am the only breadwinner," said Mehr Ali's son Shoaib.

"We ask the government to make sure they prosecute the plotters, how long do the people of Afghanistan have to go through this situation," said Mohammad Latif, a wounded protestor.

Statistics show that more than 300 protestors were wounded in the blast. Laila and her husband were at the rally and survived.

"Many youths were killed, legs and heads were dropping from each side of the vehicle," said a wounded protestor, Laila.

They called on government to take action against those responsible for the attack. (Tolonews)

### (17) Activists Ask....

gathering here that the provincial governor, Salim Khan Kunduzi, was incompetent and had failed to bring about reforms.

"We have told the provincial administration to be serious about corruption and kidnapping incidents, but no one could be arrested in connection with corruption and incidents of kidnappings continue to rise," he said.

He said development projects could not be launched in Nangarhar over enough period of time. "The government should bring about administrative reforms, otherwise we will launch protests," he warned.

Another civil society activist, Noor Agha Zwak, said the security situation in Nangarhar had worsened and corruption had reached the peak and they wanted to be rescued from the situation.

He said changes were required in the provincial administration and reforms should be introduced, accusing the provincial government of failing to control the security situation. He asked the central government to pay attention to the problems in Nangarhar.

In response to these allegations, the provincial government spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News if the activists had evidence about the provincial administration negligence and incompetency, they should produce it. (Pajhwok)

### (18) 36 ISIS...

has direct links with the main group in Syria and Iraq.

Earlier the officials were saying ISIS loyalists are attempting to establish a regional operational base and consolidate operations with the terror group in Iraq and Syria in a bid to expand foothold in the country. (KP)

### (19) Boy, 12, ...

This comes as the Afghan children have regularly been recruited by the militant groups, the Taliban and the Haqqani network for the terrorist related activities, including suicide attacks.

Madrasas are described as the main recruitment source for the militant groups as poor families in Pakistan and Afghanistan send their sons to such madrasas for free education and lodging. Earlier, a 17-year-old child assigned for a suicide mission was arrested by the security forces in Kabul city before he manage to carry out an attack.

A 12-year-old child assigned for a suicide mission surrendered himself to the security forces in the eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan earlier this year.

According to the local security officials, the child was taken to Jalalabad city from the neighboring Pakistan for the suicide mission. (KP)

### (20) 15 Militants...

Banader areas of Garamsir last night. The source acknowledged the militants seized large areas of the district.

The clash is still underway in the area, where militants have blown up the house of Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander Abdullah Khan, a security post and two bridges besides blocking roads to the district centre.

Two days earlier, Garmser community

council head Mahboob Khan told reporters the Taliban planned to capture security posts one by one before storming urban areas. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Gunmen on ...

a Pakistani, on the charge of terrorist attacks.

Uruzgan police chief Brig. Gen. Mo-hamad Wais Samimi told a press conference that the two detainees had arrived from Pakistan to carry out terrorist attacks on the directives of Taliban commander Mullah Mustafa.

He said the two wanted to join police and then reach their goal. He said police had gathered information about the two and they were arrested yesterday during investigation.

The police chief said the two had confessed to their intended crimes and had been handed over to the judicial organs. He also said 27 militants had been killed and 20 others wounded during an operation since last week in Dehrawud district. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Over 56 ...

and uncertainty over fulfilling future needs, damaging human capital and contributing to the spread of disease among others," they added. (Xinhua)

### (23) US Democratic...

incidents, including the DNC breach." The news came one week after a number of emails of the DNC were published by hackers on the Wikileaks website, setting off a political storm within the Democratic Party. (Xinhua)

### (24) Putin, Pahor...

Russian Chapel for preserving memory of Russian soldiers, stressing that he was glad to be in the "friendly Slovenia" where Russian guests are always "received with sincere hospitality." (Xinhua)

### (25) Rebels Start ...

areas in Aleppo, according to SANA.

Citing Aleppo's Governor Muhammad Olabi, SANA said the three safe passages have been prepared to allow civilians to leave rebel-held districts.

"The governorate has finalized all arrangements and measures to secure the safety and accommodate civilians leaving the eastern districts of Aleppo with temporary shelters equipped with the necessary medical and aid services," the governor said. (Xinhua)

### (26) Turkey Army...

Turkish security forces in Hakkari province.

A group of PKK militants attacked the soldiers with long-barrelled weapons while the troops were conducting identity checks on the Cukurca-Hakkari Highway.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and the EU, resumed its 30-year armed campaign against the Turkish government in July 2015. (Xinhua)

### (27) 77 Million...

Progress in getting more newborns breastfed within the first hour of life has been slow over the past 15 years, according to UNICEF data.

In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, where under five mortality rates are the highest worldwide, early breastfeeding rates increased by just 10 percentage points since 2000 in East and Southern Africa but have remained unchanged in West and Central Africa. (Xinhua)

### (28) Syrian Asylum ...

2015 before being intercepted by German police in March and Turkish authorities two months later.

Pending trail on terrorism charges, he was under house arrest and wore an electronic tag which allows police to trace him. (Xinhua)

### (29) UN Security ...

was under attack during which two Chinese peacekeepers were killed.

"China will continue to support the UN peacekeeping operations unswervingly and to continue to make greater contribution for international peace cause," China's Ambassador Liu Jieyi told the Security Council after Friday's vote.

Liu said when discussing mandate adjustment, the Security Council should strengthen consultation with countries concerned and the countries in the region. (Xinhua)

### (30) S. Sudan ...

restore security in the war-torn country after fighting in early July between rival army factions.

"We are in a very critical time. We don't want the diplomats to understand us in a wrong way that we are targeting them," he said. (Xinhua)

### (31) US Says ...

were men and said they are all active Zika cases and have not exhibited symptoms to be admitted to the hospital. "While no mosquitoes have tested positive for the Zika virus, DOH is aggressively testing people in this area to ensure there are no other cases," Scott said in a statement. (Xinhua)