

(1) 'Nearly Half'...

they are at an increased danger of abuse, exploitation and recruitment."

While the numbers are concerning, there is also progress and hope. The study notes that school dropout rates are low, 85 percent of boys and girls who start primary school go on to complete the last grade, while 94 percent of boys, and 90 percent of girls who start lower secondary also complete the grades. The challenge is to get children to start school in the first place.

"We commend the Government of Afghanistan for prioritising and declaring the year 2018 as the year of education," said Khodr.

"Now is the time for a renewed commitment to provide girls and boys with the relevant learning opportunities they need to progress in life and to play a positive role in society."

To overcome this challenge, early learning opportunities, community-based education, including accelerated learning programmes, gives families more control over education by organizing classes in community buildings and in some cases inside homes. This is especially critical for girls, as it reduces insecurity on the way to school, such as harassment and conflict related incidents.

The 'Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey, 2016-17', released in May this year, also highlights significant improvements in adult and youth literacy rates over the past two decades. The literacy rate for youth (aged 15-24 years) has risen from 31 percent in 2005 to 54 percent in 2017.

"Getting girls and boys into school is so much more than sitting in class," said Khodr. "It's about providing routine and stability in life, which is a wise investment given the insecurity across parts of the country."

The report calls for continued government and civil society commitment and action to address the out-of-school children, especially girls, while recognising that strong national data institutions and capacity take time and investment to develop. In addition to protecting children and schools from harm, the report identifies four principles to underpin this work:

- Targeting provinces with disproportionately high rates of out of school girls, including working with religious leaders and other groups to advocate for increased education, especially for girls;

- Ensuring girls' learning facilities meet basic security and health standards, including toilets, handwashing facilities and safe drinking water;

- Recruiting and building the capacity of female teachers; and
- Addressing child marriage.

(2) Muslimyar sets...

the government.

Muslimyar also asked the Afghan Special Forces 02 Unit to share information about their operation in Chaparhar district with the media.

"Do not force us to stand against those who create militias which are not in the interest of Afghanistan, they should be dissolved," he said.

He added: "I am not against the government, but we want justice for those who have been martyred, if the government fails to deal with this case in 10 days, we ourselves will raise our voice against militias," he added.

Few days back, the Meshrano Jirga sought a discussion over the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Afghanistan and the United States and said that the US should support Afghanistan against Pakistan's missile strikes.

Pointing to the BSA discussion issue, Muslimyar said: "This attack occurred on my family. We did not say that we do not need the BSA but we need to talk about it."

"We should talk about the BSA, when Pakistan assaults our territory and you (foreign forces) say that Iran was involved in Farah province fall, then what is your responsibilities," he added.

He said Meshrano Jirga members had made a decision regarding the BSA and were following the issue with patient to find out whether it was in the interest of Afghanistan or not.

He added security officials should provide clarification about the increasing conflict in the country, implementation of the BSA with the US and NATO and their commitments to the Meshrano Jirga.

A number of other senators also demanded investigation into the Chaparhar airstrike and a review of the BSA. (Pajhwok)

(3) Ghazni Election...

the IEC office have proposed that government either provides security to the province or reduces the size of election constituencies.

"If the president does not accept our demands, we will not allow elections to happen, we will boycott the elections and will stage demonstrations," Abdullah Sadat, a resident of Ghazni said.

"We want the implementation of the law, the expectation of people is also the implementation of the law and whatever the law says must prevail," Naseer Ahmad Faqiri, a member of Ghazni provincial council said.

"A number of people in Ghazni have reservations, their demands must be met based on the law, if their demands are against the law, government has a responsibility to convince the people. The basic issue in Ghazni is security threats, the Afghan government and the international community have a responsibility to pave the way for the people there to come to the ballot boxes," said Abdul Qayoum Sajjadi, MP.

The IEC has said that its delegation that recently visited Ghazni has sent its report to the presidential palace.

The IEC called on the Afghan government to enter dialogue with the people of Ghazni to settle the dispute.

The commission has also called on the security institutions to provide security to Ghazni.

"Today also we had discussions with the security institutions regarding the issue of Ghazni, all were there including ministry of defense, ministry of interior, national directorate of security and (foreign) forces, members of the commission held discussions with them to find a solution for the people there so that they can participate in the elections," said IEC commissioner Sayed Hafiz Hashimi.

According to Ghazni MPs, Nawa district of the province is under the control of Taliban while another thirteen districts are facing high threats.

They said that fifteen voter registration centers in Ghazni city remain closed.

From 44 voter registration centers some of them have been closed due to the shortage of

election materials, said MPs. (Tolo news)

(4) ANSF Fatalities...

defense has rejected such reports.

"This year the activities of the enemy has increased compared to previous years. The number of our operations also indicates that this year the number of casualties unfortunately has also increased," said MoI spokesman Najib Danish NATO's Resolute Support (RS) has also said that the Taliban during the current war season are trying to takeover some strategic towns.

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Martin O'Donnell, a spokesman for the US-led coalition in Afghanistan, said on Sunday that the Taliban are trying to takeover some strategic locations.

"They are going to try and we have seen that with the district raids, we saw that in Farah, but we also see again is that the Afghan forces are certainly capable of defending those," he said.

He said that the Taliban do not have the capacity to keep towns and districts under their control. But, MPs from Ghazni and Farah have claimed that the Taliban have gained access to ammunition and weapons belonging to the security forces in the two volatile provinces and are fighting government forces with the same weapons.

"Pur Chaman district is still under the control of Afghanistan's defense forces and Afghan police. Its total propaganda like Khandaq operation propaganda," said defense ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish.

Sources within the security institutions have said that currently on average 50 members of the security forces are being killed and wounded each day.

But, lawmakers in parliament have blamed poor war leadership as one of the factors which has increased fatalities among the security forces. (Tolo news)

(5) Security Institutions...

Tazkeras are being distributed to people by 60 teams --- six in Faizabad, the provincial capital --- and the remaining in districts since April 14.

So far 16,153 Tazkeras have been distributed to men and 23,361 Tazkeras to women in Badakhshan.

Governor's spokesman Naik Mohammad Nazari said it was the responsibility of security institutions to ensure safety of Tazkera distributing teams in the country. (Pajhwok)

(6) Concerns Raised...

of nearly fifteen million stickers in the provinces.

According to the IEC, these stickers will be used both in the parliamentary and district council elections and the presidential elections.

"The system works in a way that tracks the number of booklets which have been distributed, and the data exists in the system," Sayed Hafiz Hashimi, an IEC commissioner said.

The IEC argues that it has distributed the stickers after taking into consideration the number of people at each voter registration center and in line with the interests of the people.

"This time we have focused on three factors, the first factor involves our centers, second the population of the area and third participation of the people in the previous elections," added Hashimi. While the IEC insists that the

sticker situation will not impact the credibility of the elections, a number of lawmakers in parliament have said that these stickers are being sold in the cities. (Tolo news)

(7) MoMP Wraps...

It is believed that the Chinese company had retracted on some of its commitments and the issue led to the prolonged delay of work.

"All items which had been recommended to us by the MCC company have been assessed from a legal, technical and economic perspective and the outcomes will be shared with the high economic council," said MoMP spokesman Abdul Qadeer Mutfi.

"In addition to MCC, dozens of Chinese companies have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in Afghanistan. MCC will also start working here when the situation becomes stable," said Liu Jinsong.

Mes Aynak Copper Mine is considered one of the biggest planned economic projects of Afghanistan with its estimated reserve of 14 million tons. The Afghan government was expected to gain \$100 million a year from the project. (Tolonews)

(8) UAE to Provide...

beyond that in European and American nations," said Nabi Sadat, an analyst in economic affairs. (Tolo news)

(9) 42 Voter Registration...

in this election, and if they do not pay more attention, these elections will be rigged elections," said Halima Sadaf Jawzjan, a provincial council member.

Jawzjan police chief said however security forces are working to ensure the security of voter registration centers.

"The government forces are trying to provide more security for these centers and open the way for the registration of Jawzjan residents," said Jawzjan police chief Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani. Jawzjani said that soon, operations to eliminate insurgent strongholds will be launched in vulnerable parts of the province. (Tolo news)

(10) 651 Students...

Sayed urged the students to serve their country after getting higher education and choose pen over weapons.

He said Uruzgan location was far from Kabul but still a large number of youth took part in the entrance test, which gave him joy. He strongly believed education would resolve all issues.

Prof. Dost Mohammad Faizi, a delegate from the ministry of higher education, asked the students to select a faculty based on their talent. (Pajhwok)

(11) 12-Km Road...

said the road was important for residents of the district, particularly for agriculture and exports. He said some people of Andrab locality of the district were not able to travel to Ghazni City, the provincial capital, due to lack of road.

Nazir Ahmad, a resident of the district, expressed his happiness over asphaltting of the road and said the road would connect hundreds of families and would provide transport facilities to them. (Pajhwok)

(12) Daikundi Residents...

and Daesh were active in Gezab. Meanwhile, Sayed Anwar Shahab, director of civil society network, said that Daikundi had long borders with insecure provinces of Helmand, Uruzgan, Ghor and Ghazni, posing a threat

to the province security.

He urged the central government to equip provincial security forces with light weapons and increase their strength and pay serious attention.

Ghulam, a resident of Miramor district, said: "Few days ago, Arjistan district of Ghazni fell to Taliban and we were worried the Taliban would attack our district."

He added border districts were always threatened by Taliban in Ghazni province, urging government to send more forces to the border with Ghazni.

But Brig. Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Ghafoori, Daikundi police chief, assured people of striving hard to maintain security.

"We will not give an opportunity to any group to disrupt security of the province and will face severe resistance from security forces," he added.

Security officials have said nothing about rumors that Daesh is penetrating in Gezab district of Uruzgan that borders Daikundi. (Pajhwok)

(13) Stanikzai Excited...

great news for Afghanistan cricket ... it is also great for the people of Afghanistan, as they really love the game. Special thanks to the BCCI for this announcement," he remarked.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board chief executive believed it would be a good opportunity for them to play many matches, gain exposure and exhibit their skills.

"It's a very good opportunity for us. For the time being, we have two grounds, Dehradun and also Greater Noida, we're considering both. We'll be playing on both the grounds," Shafiq Stanikzai said. (Pajhwok)

China Warns US Trade Deals Off If Tariffs Go Ahead

BEIJING — China warned Sunday after another round of talks on a sprawling trade dispute with Washington that any deals they produce "will not take effect" if President Donald Trump's threatened tariff hike on Chinese goods goes ahead.

The warning came after delegations led by U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and China's top economic official, Vice Premier Liu He, wrapped up a meeting on Beijing's pledge to narrow its trade surplus. Ross said at the start of the event they had discussed specific American exports China might purchase, but the talks ended with no joint statement and neither side released details.

The White House threw the meeting's status into doubt Tuesday by renewing a threat to impose 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese high-tech goods in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. The event went ahead despite that but Beijing said it reserved the right to retaliate.

Tuesday's announcement revived fears the conflict between the two biggest economies might dampen global growth or encourage other governments to raise their own barriers to imports.

"If the United States introduces trade sanctions including a tariff increase, all the economic and trade achievements negotiated by the two parties will not take effect," said the Chinese statement, carried by the official Xinhua News Agency. (AP)