

### (1) Ghani Seeks ...

has been issued from Pakistani side so far.

The Pakistan Army in a statement, however, has said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attended an important meeting at the ISI headquarters along with Chief of Army Staff Gen. Raheel Sharif. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Land-Grabbing...

staff, he said were main challenges the ministry faced. He said they were aiming to bring necessary reforms, introduce an effective legislative system and draft 20 laws in the first 100 days.

The draft laws, he added, would cover civil service employees, food safety, passports, regulation of postal services, consumer rights, protection of the rights of inventors and explorers, military education institutions and human trafficking prevention.

Anwar added one of their programmes in the first 100 days included directly dealing with complaints and petitions of the visitors and end of each week to evaluate the activities of relevant departments.

Anwar expressed concerns about usurpation of government properties, saying: "Usurpation of government properties is a major challenge... we are committed to find solution to this problem in coordination with departments concerned."

Giving permission to political parties and associations were responsibilities of the justice ministry and their activities would be thoroughly assessed.

Providing learning facilities and vocational training for children under detention, he said, was among their priority in Balkh, Nangarhar, Maidan Wardak and Khost detention centres.

He added in 25 provinces the justice ministry did not have any building for child detention and rehab centres and the children were being kept in rental buildings.

Justice minister said providing better services, required professional, educated and experienced staff. He added 56 per cent of the ministry's employees were 12th class graduates at provincial and district level. In the first 100-days, he said, they planned to hire 55 educated employees in Kabul and 70 more in provinces. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Senate Approves ...

, rural development, education and issues related to science and youth. Humaira Nemati, member of senate international affairs commission, said the accord included capacity building of government agencies and training of Afghan security forces.

She said the agreement had 17 articles and had been prepared in Dari, Pashto, English and Turkish languages. The agreement was approved with a majority of votes. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Merit Criteria...

as chief of army and deputy defence minister respectively.

Dr. Sami Fazl, senator from Baghlan, said he was against such appointments since they were not competent. Mohammad Azim Qoyash, senator from Sar-i-Pul, said: "Recently we witness some movements by government leaders that are as dangerous as the movements of Taliban and Daesh." "Some leaders have caused political assassination. A disabled cannot lead a war," he said referring to Masoum Stanikzai.

Jumaudin Gayanwal also criticized government's hiring policy. "Someone has been hired in office of the administrative affairs as head of international relations. Despite being called Solaimankhail, that person still cannot speak in any of our national languages." He did not take the mentioned person's complete name but said Solaimankhail only knew English and Urdu.

Sher Mohammad Akhundzada, another member of the house, said: "Solaimankhail was only hired because of campaigning for president during elections." He added most of the newly-appointed officials were the ones who had campaigned for president and CEO during the elections. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Govt. Saves...

achievement for the government. About construction of five slaughterhouses by the Ministry of Agriculture, the president said attention should be paid to natural environment in the projects, which he said should be implemented in consultation with local populous.

On the Arghandi-Kabul road, Ghani asked the Ministry of Public Works to submit monthly progress reports about the scheme to the Presidency. The president said local people should monitor work on the road.

The president also directed the Ministry of Finance to investigate some services offered by the Ministry of Public Health in provinces in order to reveal how many specialist doctors and particularly healthcare services for women were available. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Turkmenistan ...

Abad his ready to carry out this hosting under UN supervision. The presidential special envoy for CIS Shaker Kargar expressed hope that the suggestion of Turkmenistan on mediation in Afghan peace talk's process could help Kabul in restoration of peace and stability.

Expressing optimism on expansion of relations between Afghanistan and the regional countries, political analysts believe and expect that these relations would further improve and close relations would be in the benefit of all these countries. These analysts emphasize that if the neighboring countries have sincere cooperation with Afghanistan in this process, no doubt Afghanistan would achieve reliable peace. But what is a source of concern for the Afghan people, is lack of a sincere commitment with our country. In the past the neighboring countries particularly our eastern neighbor have never had sincere cooperation with Afghans. But today this hope has improved that this cooperation would also improve. Amir Muhammad one of these political analysts believes, this is a clear fact that Afghanistan neighboring countries can play constructive role in restoration of peace and stability and removal of misunderstanding and the need of mutual cooperation economic, political and security fields. (BNA)

### (7) Preparations for...

announced the event would be held on the scheduled date.

Having historical importance, Bamyan was declared as the SAARC Cultural Capital for 2015 by a delegation of the organization in 2014.

Cultural programs and handicraft exhibitions and agricultural products from different provinces would also be showcased in the event.

The Ministry of Information and Culture said international event would be gloriously celebrated in which representatives of all Asian countries, members of SAARC, representatives of the United Nations (UN) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other officials would participate. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Health Officials...

number of salesmen explained some of the new trends in the market. "This tobacco is taken to different provinces like Badakhshan, Takhar and other provinces, where snuff is produced from it," explained Mangal, a tobacco salesman in Kabul.

"In the past, a box of snuff was 10 Afghanis, but now its 25 Afghanis and is sold even more," a cigarette peddler named Ajmal said.

However, health experts universally agree that the health risks of tobacco use are serious and abundant. "Use of tobacco products in general would result in respiratory and digestive diseases and will result in different types of cancer," Dr. Muhammad Naser Sharifi said. The World Health Organization (WHO) has called the illegal trade of tobacco a major challenge for combating tobacco use in developing countries.

"Illegal trade of tobacco products such as cigarettes and snuff happens in all Mediterranean countries. Every year, \$40 billion USD is earned from the illegal trade of tobacco," WHO representative Sophia told TOLONews. "In some countries, this trade makes up to the 50 percent of the market share, but there are no figures regarding tobacco trade in Afghanistan." The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has said that the government has increased the tariff on tobacco products, especially cigarettes, in order to discourage use.

"In order to decrease use of cigarettes, the government has increased the tax to 20 percent on cigarettes and 10 percent on other tobacco products like snuff," MoF spokesman Abdul Qader Jeelani said on Sunday. "If the government requires, we can increase the

tax even more." (Tolonews)

### (9) Daesh a Threat ...

over increasing activities of Daesh in the province.

"Daesh group has started its activities in many districts of this province. Taliban have been destroyed in these districts and Daesh has instead started its activities," says Malek Usman, tribal elder from Nangarhar.

The spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar has not however provided details about Daesh in the province, but said that at the moment Afghanistan National Security Forces are fighting anti-government armed groups in Kot, Nazyan, Acheen, Deh Bala and Rodat. Reports indicate that the leader of Daesh in Khurasan is a Nangarhar resident who has been actively recruiting local Taliban for Daesh.

But some sources have said all is not always well between Daesh and Taliban with the occasional skirmish between them. Nangarhar is in the eastern part of Afghanistan and borders Pakistan. It is divided into twenty-two districts and has a population of about 1.4 million people. The city of Jalalabad is the provincial capital. (Tolonews)

### (10) Daikundi Security...

right back to oversee and evaluate performance of local departments. The council says in the last four months since their strike they had many achievements and have established well rapport among residents. They say people's visits to the council in large number showing their trust on the body.

Subhan Naeabi, provincial council deputy, told Pajhwok Afghan News the previous council could not gain people's trust as much as they were enjoying this time.

Naeabi told Pajhwok Afghan News: "The previous provincial council did not have good reputation among people. With better planning, we are trying to both regain the lost reputation and also to improve our administrative system."

In their plan, security was their top priority and they were pursuing this goal aggressively. "We advised security officials to establish check posts in the areas where illegal armed men have presence," he said, adding it was government's duty to disarm these people.

Two months back, hundreds of Ashterly district residents expressed concerns over activities of illegal armed groups, asking the central government to put an end to the threat.

Residents of Khadir district had also said that armed robbery had increased in their localities and the armed men had taken money and mobile phones from students.

Provincial council deputy said there were reports of insecurity in Kajran district also and they had advised the local security officials to provide more weapons to security forces so they could fight the insurgents. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Bolstered Security...

province to another. But now the situation has changed to worse amid increased bomb blasts and coordinated attacks on border security posts," he lamented.

Khaksar linked recent insecurity to lack of coordination between president and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

He said president had a focus and he was spending time on small issues while fundamental issues had been ignored.

"Peace is important than any other issue so the president should take measures for improved law and order to counter of Taliban's attacks," Khaksar added.

He said that Ghani also committed a big mistake by removing some individuals who were supporting him during presidential election campaigns.

He said that many individuals with good governance experience also ignored.

"If the government appoint former governors and ministers, it would help prevent the country witnessed crisis", Khasar said, adding the government plans could be implemented better if senior provincial officials were granted with more authorities and responsibilities.

For bolstered security, the president should respect people's demands in appointing new governors, he said.

"The president should appoint individuals as governors with excellent experience and bridge the gap between people and government," Khaksar added. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Factions within...

themselves because the remote control of Taliban is in others' hands.

"If my death translates to peace, I have no problem with it,

"What I fear is it won't lead to peace. It is an illusion for the Taliban to sit down for talks.

"They have no control on that. "Their remote control is with someone else," he is further quoted as saying.

General Abdul Raziq has survived several Taliban attacks in the past that he says he has lost the count of these attacks.

But the news agency is quoting an official involved in the peace process as saying that HPC's job is to stop the bloodshed not to add to it. "The job of the High Peace Council is to stop the bloodshed, not add to it,

"This is a struggle: Those who are effective on the battlefield or in trying to bring peace become targets." General Abdul Raziq is one of the worriers of the country who has a very strict policy against Taliban. (KP)

### (13) Non-Machine ...

said that hundreds of passports were issued daily.

Provincial foreign relations officials said that foreign consulates reacted over non-electronic passports.

The foreign relations director Mohammad Yaser Sadiq said only Iran and Pakistan issue visa to non-machine readable passports but India reject the passports.

The number of electronic passport applicants has increased as the government announced expiration of non-electronic passports. A resident of Herat city Jalil Ahmad Rezayee said: "It is the third day I am waiting in front of the passport department for getting my electronic passport, but I didn't get it yet." (Pajhwok)

### (14) Kapisa Rally ...

run and increase trade activity in the country.

They called for reforms in all government departments and positive change to get rid of the current uncertain circumstances.

The statement called for the intelligence agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan to be declared null and void and said secret deals and meetings would not bring stability and peace. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Call to Build ...

He added through a workshop they had presented a set of suggestions to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah regarding improvement in education, agriculture, public health and security areas.

He said they were promised that immediate action would take place soon.

Atiqullah Abdul Rahimzai, a member of the council, said following people's extended cooperation schools had been made functional in the province and there were no evidence of insecurity in any locality.

He said due to efforts by security forces highways had been made secure and there were no problems to passengers or local officials.

He added a team from the council was visiting most of the districts and with the help of local council they were trying to resolve people's grievances.

He also demanded increase in number of local police force for improved law and order in the province. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Analysts Doubtful...

(ISI) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining plans for cooperation on counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations.

Meanwhile, analysts have said Ghani's high-stakes demands are likely to complicate ties between the two neighbors. "I think Pakistan will never bow to such demands and this could affect the diplomatic ties between Kabul and Islamabad," military analyst Jawed Kohistani told TOLONews. In his letter, Ghani sets a three-week deadline for Pakistan to meet his demands. "If this does not happen, the window of opportunity will be closed," Ghani warns. (Tolonews)

### (17) 2 Senior Police...

As per the investigation Husain Nasrat found out earlier this month that the woman who is having affairs with him has been in a hotel with Sayed Zahir Hashimi after which in an angry mode he

arrived at the hotel.

When the woman got to know that Nasrat has arrived at the hotel she jumped from the second floor of the hotel slightly injuring herself. The TV channel has also seen some documents depicting that Nasrat had another case of immoral activities last year.

In this case, Nasrat who was then a Criminal Investigation Officer had put the condition of fornication in front of a woman for releasing her son imprisoned with him. However, the charges were denied by Nasrat. The two police officers might be referred to judiciary for the apparent misuse of power. (KP)

### (18) 3 Balkh Districts...

He said the acting governor had told security officers during his meetings with them to chase militants hiding in mountains and plain areas and eliminate them. Atta Mohammad Noor had asked security forces to keep their morale high while fighting the enemy and protect the people's honour and safety with full might, according to Farhad.

During his visit to the three districts, the governor met with tribal elders and residents and listened to their problems and promised to resolve their problems as soon as possible, the spokesman said. Farhad said the acting governor also laid the foundation stones of two health clinics in the Khishindeh district and inspected a newly-constructed building for the hospital in Sholgar district.

The hospital building has been constructed at a cost of \$2 million, the spokesman said. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Taliban Kill...

clashed for several hours in Anar Dara district," he said.

Before this, the Taliban also attacked Daesh fighters in Khak-e-Safid district of the province in which dozens of Daesh fighters were killed.

This comes shortly after police confirmed the arrest in Bamyan of a top insurgent commander and former Jihadi leader, who has ties to both Taliban and Daesh.

According to local police chief Khodayar Qudosi, Ibrahim Shokhak was arrested Friday by police after having long posed a problem in the province.

Following his arrest, Shokhak allegedly confessed to scores of crimes and told police that he had close ties with Daesh and was in fact being funded by the organization. (Tolonews)

### (20) Airstrike Hits...

could not be known if the airstrike was carried out by foreign forces or local forces."

Barak-i-Barak district chief Mohammad Rahim confirmed the airstrike and the casualties, saying insurgents had been spotted near the school.

A resident of the area, Ajmal, said the airstrike killed two students and injured four others. He said the injured were in critical condition.

The provincial police headquarters have said nothing about the airstrike.

The Ministry of Education in a statement said a rocket hit the primary school in the Barak-i-Barak district, killing a teacher and two students and injuring four others.

The ministry's statement did not say who fired the rocket. (Pajhwok)

### (21) 5 Policemen...

He said Taliban seized cash and ammunitions from the check post.

Mohammad Hashim Sarwari, a provincial council member, confirmed the incident but said that the gun battle last four hours. Sarwari added the check post fell to insurgents due to delay in arrival of logistic form the district centre.

Dozens of Taliban infiltrated in Bayanan, Daikondy, Baghak and Damaki villages of Dar-e-Sof district, but security officials have not taken serious action to check their influx.

Pajhwok Afghan News repeatedly tried to get view point of Fakhrudin, the district chief and Col. Najeib Ullah, the police chief, about the incident but both the officials were unable to speak. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Police Commander...

policemen suffered grievous injuries.

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed claimed the explosion left two policemen dead and three others wounded.

Jawzjan police chief said that Taliban mounted attack on Mahtab

police check post in Qosh Tapa district and the ensuing gun battle left two rebels dead and as many wounded.

He said police remained unhurt in the firefight.

Mujahed claimed policemen suffered heavy casualties in the last night assault on police check post but he had no exact details into casualties.

Qosh-Tapa is one of the insecure districts of Jawzjan province and has witnessed severe clashes this year between Taliban and security forces. (Pajhwok)

### (23) 10 Terrorists ...

The other terrorists are identified as

Raza Khan alias Nana (The name used for Indian actor Vishwanath "Nana" Patekar who usually appears in the role of a villain in movies.)

Mohammad Wali alias Mohammad S/O Amir Khan member of the group who had the assignment of planting landmines.

Abdul Manan S/O Gul Rahman cameraman of the group.

Sayed Malouk S/O Shah Mahmood member of the group who had assignment to terror people.

Mudir S/O Abdullah member of the group who had the assignment to terror people.

Ali Mohammad S/O Haji Alwaz member of the group whose assignment was hiding bombs in his home.

Ashiqullah S/O Nasrullah member of the group.

Faiz Rahman S/O Mohammad Alam member of the group.

Bilal S/O Gul Meer member of the group.

The arrested group has confessed that they were behind the terror of two government officials while a third one was killed through a landmine. (KP)

### (24) Insurgent Kingpin ..

officers including post commander Sayed Akbar and to having carried out numerous attacks on convoys.

He said that following this attack he fled with his men to the mountainous region of Behsood where he took refuge in the houses of civilians. At one point he returned to Panjab however and has admitted to having set a mobile phone tower on fire three days ago.

In Friday's operation, Shokhak was arrested, one of his insurgents was killed and the rest escaped, said the police chief. However, no details were available as to exactly how many insurgents were linked to Shokhak's operation.

Qudosi did however say that Shokhak is believed to have traveled to Pakistan on a regular basis. He added that Shokhak had posed a "real threat" to the province. (Tolonews)

### (25) IS Destroys...

dropped barrel bombs," the Observatory said.

In the worst carnage, 59 civilians, all male, were killed at a market in the jihadist-controlled town of Al-Bab, the Britain-based monitoring group's director Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP. "People often gather on Saturday mornings at the Al-Hail market in Al-Bab, which is why the number of dead was so high," explained Abdel Rahman.

He said 12 people were also killed in barrel bomb attacks on Aleppo's rebel-held Al-Shaar neighbourhood, including eight members of a single family. (AFP)

### (26) EU Criticizes...

foreign affairs said that in recent months Russia had denied entry to a number of EU politicians.

"We consider this measure as totally arbitrary and unjustified, especially in the absence of any further clarification and transparency," she said. A spokeswoman for Britain's Foreign Office said there was no justification for the travel ban. "If Russia's intention is to put pressure on the EU to ease sanctions then this is not the way to do it," she said. (Reuters)

### (27) Russian...

routinely in the Black Sea, in accordance with international law," Lainez said, noting the Ross's deployment to the Black Sea had been publicly announced.

Russia's Defense Ministry was not immediately available to comment on the report. (Reuters)

### (28) Kerry...

Union official Helga Schmid. "Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Zarif, along with their teams, had a thorough and comprehensive discussion of all of the issues today," a senior State Department official said. (AFP)