

(1) Labour...

offer good services to the people of Badkshshan during the past four years, but the ministry had now announced his post for competition without considering the civil service employees law. He said he was qualified for his position based on the ministry's evaluation, but he did not know why the plan of his replacement was taken. He accused MoLSAMD of discrimination in the employment process. LSAMD director for Sar-i-Pul province, Abdul RaufObaidi, also said the ministry had announced his post to be filled through a competitive exam without evaluating his performance or observing the law of civil service employees. "Four years ago, I was chosen as the labour and social affairs director for Sar-i-Pul province through an open competition and also passed an IARCSC exam, but I think the ministry officials now want to appoint their own friends and relatives to the positions," he said. Labour and social affairs directors of Samangan, Faryab and Jawzjan provinces also alleged illegal attempts were being made to replace them. However, LSAMD minister MahmudBaligh denied any discrimination in the employment process and said CBR program was supported by the World Bank, the Ministry of Finance and IARCSC. "All the ministries are responsible to announce high level positions in the first phase and low level positions on the second, third and so phases," he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) I18 Militants ...

province since Sunday. Taliban outfit has confirmed the clash in Helmand province and in online statement claimed inflicting casualties on government forces in parts of the restive province. Notorious for growing poppy and militancy, Helmand with LashkarGah as its capital 555 km south of Kabul has been regarded as Taliban hotbed in the conflict-hit Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

(3) Afghanistan,...

killed in a US drone strike in Pakistan, had been rejecting calls to arrive at peace talks and instead intensified attacks, particularly on civilians. He said Mansour's removal from the scene should be viewed as an opportunity by everybody, especially those groups and leaders within the Taliban who believed in reconciliation. "We hope they grasp this opportunity and issue a positive message of engagement with the peace process," said the former ambassador to Pakistan, saying the Afghan government had extended an olive branch to Mansour to choose the path of peace. "We had pursued those efforts through multiple channels including the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) mechanism, of which China is also a key member. Unfortunately, Mansour, until the very end, did not give a positive response to the call." Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG)

About QCG meetings, Musazai said it was a mechanism that still continued and Afghanistan valued China's role and contribution to the QCG work very highly. "Pakistan has an essential role to play and we hope that support will be forthcoming.

Impetus of Afghanistan-China relations Mosazai said Afghanistan and China enjoyed extremely close ties and cooperation in all dimensions of their relationship. "There is political cooperation between Afghanistan and China and we provide support to each other at the political level bilaterally, regionally and internationally."

Chabahar port Musazai said Afghanistan today and throughout history has held a central and key position in the region, linking South Asia with Central Asia, and China and the rest of East Asia with Iran and the rest of West Asia including the Middle East. "We would like to benefit from every piece of investment that is made in infrastructure and connectivity development in this region." He said Afghanistan enjoyed the importance of Afghanistan-China relationship, which he called as irreplaceable. At the same time, Kabul has an extraordinarily close relationship with India, "a country with which we also share millennia of ties and government-to-government cooperation." "We have never and will never look at the two strategic relationships that Afghanistan has with the two important neighbors in the context of any competition." (Pajhwok)

(4) Number of IDPs ...

Forced evictions Amnesty International found that forced evictions - from both government and private actors - is a daily threat. On June 18, 2015, the first day of Ramadan, a group of armed men in military style threatened to bulldoze shelters at the Chaman-e-Babrak camp in Kabul.

An elderly man protested the attempted forced eviction, appealing to nearby police officers to halt the bulldozing. He was beaten by the armed men, triggering a demonstration. Residents said police and the armed men opened fire on the IDPs, killing two people and injuring 10. One of the injured was a

12-year-old boy. No investigation was carried out and no one has been held to account. A life on the brink of survival Most IDP communities lack access to basic health care facilities. With only mobile clinics, operated by NGOs or the government, occasionally available, IDPs are often forced to seek private health care that they cannot afford. "If we are ill, then I have to beg and find some money to go to the private clinics," one 50-year-old woman in Herat said. "We have no other choice." Most IDPs find themselves burdened with debt. In one case, a man said he had to borrow 20,000 afis (\$292) to pay for an operation for his son. "[This is] an enormous sum of money for us," the father said. The report blamed the Afghan government for failing to provide reliable accessibility to basic living necessities. People were forced to make long daily trips to gather water and struggle to find one daily meal, it claimed.

"Food is a luxury here, no one can afford it," said Raz Muhammad, a community leader in the Chaman-i-Barbak camp. "We mostly live off bread or spoiled vegetables from the market. The last time we received food assistance was ahead of last winter when we got three sacks of wheat." IDP children's education has been interrupted and adults have been reduced to chronic unemployment. "IDPs should not suffer discrimination of any kind," said Patel. "They should be provided with the same access to education and employment that other Afghans are." "The financial burdens on displaced families are compounded," said Patel. "They have lost the traditional sources of their livelihoods, and only have few opportunities for informal work, creating circumstances where women are excluded, and children are being exploited and not educated." A failed promise The 2014 policy spells out the rights of IDPs on paper and a concrete action plan for the Afghan government to implement it. But it has not lived up to its promise, showing little benefits for the displaced. The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, charged with coordinating the policy's implementation, is under-resourced and has been beset by corruption allegations for years, the report pointed out. With other crises grabbing global attention and donor money, aid to Afghanistan is dwindling. The UN has asked for \$393 in humanitarian funding for Afghanistan in 2016 - the smallest figure in years despite the dire humanitarian situation. By May, less than a quarter had been funded. (Pajhwok)

(5) MPs Slam ...

in Helmand three days ago after the Taliban made a fresh offensive against the hard-pressed Afghan security forces in the region. Currently, security forces are battling the insurgents on multiple fronts in volatile districts of Nad-e-Ali, Gereshk, Marjah, Nahr-e-Saraj and Khanshin. There are reports that up to 60 security personnel have been killed in the latest wave of fighting. It is also said that up to 10 check posts have collapsed to the Taliban. Angered by government's poor war strategy in Helmand, meanwhile, a number of Helmand MPs have said that the bodies of fallen soldiers are still lying on the ground and that the Taliban hung some bodies in trees. "Helmand is on the verge of collapse; 58 people were martyred during a single night; isn't it shameful? Isn't it a shame for the minister of defense, president, chief executive and minister of interior?" said Afghan senator HashimAlkozaei. "An elderly man was killed alongside his family and soldiers and was then hung in a tree; is there anyone to consider this sacrifice," MPLalailHamidzai said. Helmand MPs have criticized the government and security institutions for not doing enough to improve the security situation in the volatile province. There are reports that the commander of local police fought until he ran out of ammunition. He was then killed, along with his wife, seven children and some soldiers. But no aid reached them.

"We have undertaken comprehensive measures to retake control of several areas and fighting has started in some areas. We have taken necessary steps to recapture those areas which have collapsed," governor of Helmand Hayatollah Hayat said. (Tolo News)

(6) Rula Ghani...

where they will be taught different fields. The institution also has a female hostel which has been established to facilitate students coming from other provinces and it has the capacity of providing shelter to 960 students. We are also planning the establishment of a specialized training center for cancer and other fields," chairman of the center, MooraAziziAmiri said. The development comes at a time when many families in Afghanistan still oppose the education of their daughters at co-education institutions. "This is a step forward to address the years of deprivation of the women in the country, establishment of the institution is a key step to ensure the development and progress of women," Minister of Education AssadullahHanif said. Currently there are about 36 state-run universities along with 126 private educational in-

stitutions in the country - all of which are co-educational. (Tolonews)

(7) Herat Prepares ...

which enabled parts of the province to benefit from the power generated by Salma Dam. Deputy Minister of Water and Energy, AmanullahGhalib, said that 28 megawatts of power will soon be added to Herat electricity system. "We activated one of its turbines last night and added it to the network which is connected to parts of Herat," he said. The long-awaited irrigation and power project will help irrigate over 70,000 hectares of land in Herat and will generate 42 megawatts of power. (Tolonews)

(8) Commando, ...

said the corps commandos and other forces were engaged in operations and the armed opponents had been subdued and prevented from advance. He said security forces had adopted aggressive mode and that Helmand would not fall and they were ready to drive militants from the province. Brig. Gen. AsmatullahDawlatzai, the 505 Bost Zone police commander in Helmand, said they had dispatched reinforcements to all areas where clashes had been ongoing for the past three days to prevent the insurgents from advancing. But the provincial council chief, Karim Atal, and the council's security committee chief, Bashir Shakir, said the situation was not satisfactory. Atal defended his yesterday's remarks that Helmand was under threat of falling, but said fresh forces had arrived in response to their request and the situation could improve. The two accused military forces of not fully benefitting from the available resources and as a result, security forces and civilians suffered casualties and areas were lost to the insurgents. The clashes that broke out three days ago in Greshk and Nad Ali districts had left 94 security personnel dead and wounded, with the rebels capturing some posts. Taliban's spokesman QariYousafAhmadi said the fighters had launched attacks in various parts of Helmand and had so far killed dozens of government forces. He claimed the fighters had confiscated a huge quantity of military gear. He rejected casualties to the rebel fighters as claimed by local officials. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban Kidnaps...

that the Taliban insurgents have killed a number of the hostages while the fate of the remaining hostages remain unascertained. So far, the Taliban group has not commented regarding the report so far. Kunduz is among the relatively volatile provinces northern Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in a number of its districts and frequently carry out anti-state activities. The Taliban militants have earlier abducted a senior police official of Kunduz province while travelling on the province highway. (ANI)

(10) Projects Worth ...

projects also included the construction of a water reservoir, 20 culverts, two bridges 10 metres each, digging of 19 wells with hand-pumps, extension of a potable water network to 1857 metres, creating a power system in a village and gravelling of a 500 metres long road, he added. He said the NSP projects of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) would benefit more than 10,000 families in 42 villages. Seventy development projects under NSP are still in progress in the province, he added. SalahuddinChareekzadah, a member of the provincial council, expressed happiness over completion of the projects and said transparency should be considered during implementation of such project. EnayatullahMosmim, another public representative, said: "I am happy over the implementation of the projects. Earlier there were issues in implementation of projects by MRRD, but recently the ministry has been able to satisfy 90 percent of people in our province." Officials say 612 villages are under NSP and 2044 projects under the programme have been so far implemented in different areas of the province. (Pajhwok)

(11) President ...

reason for the dismissals was not yet known. However, the power utility welcomed the move. (Pajhwok)

(12) Chabahar Port...

is also a member of Mahmud Tarzi Think Tank, told a press conference here that Afghan trucks would not face problems on the border and would not be asked for unnecessary documents on their way to the port and Afghan products would easily reach Indian markets. "Chabahar can become a regional and international port," he said, adding Afghan traders had to face different restrictions while importing and exporting their goods through Pakistani ports. He asked Afghanistan to fully utilise the Iranian port and facilitate investment in the country, pay attention to related infrastructure and keep security on the Zaranj-Dilaram road for Indian goods to central

Asian countries. Another member of the foundation, Bakht Mohammad Bakhtyar, said benefiting from the Chabahar port would not only be useful for economic development, but would also help improve political and security in Afghanistan. He said the recently signed trilateral agreement among Afghanistan, Iran and India on the port would increase India's and Iran's cooperation with Afghanistan in maintaining peace, countering terrorism and fighting drugs. "If the route is properly managed, it would help the three countries understand each other and boost trust among them and that would result into more development and prosperity," he said. He asked the Afghan government to keep security of the route and pay attention to the establishment of needed infrastructure along the road. Another member of the foundation, Sher Ali Nazari, who is also economic analyst at the Afghanistan Academy of Sciences, said after benefiting from Chabahar, Pakistan would not be able to use its ports as pressure tools against

(13) Ease Border ...

on the Pakistani side would be transferred to the Frontier Corps in three years. On Monday, an Afghan delegation, led by Col. Nisar Khan, made the request during a five-hour meeting with Pakistani officials in Landikotal, including Taufeeq of the Pakistan Army and Landikotal Assistant Political Agent RahimullahMehsud. Passport Officer GhunchaGul also took part in the meeting that discussed border security, intelligence-sharing and other issues of bilateral importance. The Afghan team formally requested the Pakistani side to soften border restrictions. (Pajhwok)

(15) Tajikistan, ...

\$464,000 contribution from the Aga Khan Foundation. "In addition to the newly connected villages, the project helped Pamir Energy upgrade its existing systems and infrastructure, laying the groundwork for further expansion and service improvement to customers on both sides of the Tajik-Afghan border," the statement said. Similar stories of cross-border cooperation are all too rare, but this precedent is a heartening change from the stories of violence and drug-trafficking more typically associated with the Afghan border. The US Embassy hailed this development as a boon to local economies and the prospects for children in the Afghan villages. "Educational outcomes improve as children have light to study by in the evening and during the dark winter months; and a reduction in indoor air pollution means sharp declines in the rate of lung and eye diseases," it said. The Afghan side of the Badkshshan region is home to around 950,000 people whose primary source of income is generated from trading crops and livestock. Trade between the Tajik and Afghan sides of Badkshshan has been greatly enhanced by the creation of a handful of cross-border markets around bridges across the Panjriver near the towns of Tem, Darvaz, Langar and Ishkashim. The economic potential of those markets has been constrained, however, by their only once-weekly operations and regular security scares, which prompt authorities to suspend trading. (Monitoring Desk)

(16) Taliban ...

Abdul Karim Khadman said at least 11 checkpoints had been captured by the Taliban. He demanded the immediate dispatch of reinforcements to the district to avoid further losses. Gen. Mohammad Rassoul Kandahar, a senior official of Afghan National Army (ANA) in the province, acknowledged clashes with the Taliban in Gizab but he ruled out the fall of the district. He admitted a shortage of troops in Gizab. Taliban spokesman QariYousufAhmadi, meanwhile, said the rebel group had captured eight police check-posts with arms and ammunition in Gizab. (Pajhwok)

(17) Brimming...

institute in our country. I will pursue higher education. Fortunately enough, I have been able to realise my ambition." With half of his body disabled, the man said he was hopeful about his future - and that of Afghanistan, which needs educated people. And people with disabilities should also play their role in their country's development, Shahabi commented. "We cannot do things that require physical strength, but we can contribute to the prosperity of our society through our educational skills," he maintained, suggesting that no one should give up even in the worst of circumstances. Shahabi, who secured 284 marks out of 360 in the 2014entry test, said: "I wanted to study politics, but I also have no problem with agriculture. I would continue the course to the end." A sports enthusiast, a football fan to be specific, he said: "I cannot play games, but I am a staunch fan of Real Madrid." Shahabi is yet to tie the knot, residing in the Kabul Universi-

ty's hostile. His elder sister and brother are affected by similar disabilities. He has tried several times to get a special card of privileges from the Ministry of Public Works and Social Affairs. But the ministry did not grant him the privilege because his disability did not result from war or other violent incidents. (Pajhwok)

(18) Taliban Suicide ...

militants. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. This comes as the group has been attempting to stage coordinated attacks across the country since they launched their spring offensive earlier in April. (KP)

(19) Baghlan NDS ...

went on to say that he was told that in Afghanistan there are Hindus and Americans and that Muslims are not allowed to pray in the country. "I told myself I am going to take revenge for the Quran and for Muslims and for the bad things done to Afghan girls but when I crossed Torkham (border) I saw there were no infidels and I don't see any Hindus and everyone is Muslim." Bariz meanwhile said: "The arrest of the suspect by the NDS is a sign of hope. The security forces are alert day and night and they are not negligent." "The enemy is not able to carry out horrible attacks and as leader of the provincial government I thank the NDS forces for their hard work especially the head of the NDS," he said. A number of provincial councilors welcomed the arrest and said the move had prevented a number of casualties from occurring. Head of provincial council Mohammad Safdar Mohseni said every person who has carried out an attack in Afghanistan is the enemy of the people. "We know who the suspect was supported by," he said. Provincial council members also praised the NDS forces for having captured the suspect before he was able to carry out an attack. (Tolonews)

(20) Deadly Week...

Turkey and Greece since an agreement in which Turkey has agreed to help stop illegal migrants reaching Europe in return for accelerated EU accession talks, visa liberalization, and financial aid. Boats departing from the shores west of Tripoli in Libya often carry more than 600 people and are sometimes towed by larger fishing boats, a dangerous practice, Spindler said. "The North Africa-Italy route is dramatically more dangerous: 2,119 of the deaths reported to far this year have been among people making this journey, making for odds of dying as high as one in 23," Spindler said. (Reuters)

(21) Netanyahu...

embrace of the Arab plan comes after far-right politician Avigdor Lieberman was sworn in as defense minister in a broadened coalition on Monday, an appointment that has raised concern at home and abroad. Israel fears it could face strong world pressure for concessions toward the Palestinians once foreign ministers, including U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, convene in Paris on June 3 in preparation for a full conference in the autumn.

"The Europeans are gathering ammunition, the danger is real. (Netanyahu) is bracing for all this with a regional initiative that has cost him only words for now," political commentator Ben Caspit, a frequent critic of the Israeli leader, wrote in the Maariv newspaper. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry accused Netanyahu of playing a "public relations game". But Nickolay Mladenov, the United Nations special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, welcomed the Israeli leader's comments. "This can help advance negotiations on achieving a two-state solution," said Mladenov, referring to a longstanding formula for a Palestinian state co-existing with neighboring Israel. (Reuters)

(22) Refugee Children...

reach safety in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of refugees like her have landed on Greece's shores since early 2015. Living conditions at the muddy field of Idomeni, where they stayed for nearly months, were tragic. Sleeping in the open and queuing for several hours to get food and medical aid was not what they had in mind when they sold all their belongings back home to seek sanctuary in Europe. Daily life in the tent they have been calling home over the past two weeks is still difficult. They are staying in the state hospitality center of Lagkadiakia, which currently accommodates some 800 people, 100 km southeast of Idomeni. "It is very hot in the tent in the morning. At night it is very cold. If there is rain all the clothes soak in water. The food is not bad," Aya said. However, the strong-willed family keeps smiling and dreaming of a brighter tomorrow. Aya and her family are among 55,000 refugees and migrants currently stranded in Greece who are hosted in 35 accommodation centres and informal camps across Greece, according to UNICEF. (Xinhua)

(23) Russia Denies...

Moscow has repeatedly denied attacking civilian targets, claiming the high-precision air strikes were directed exclusively against terrorist groups operating in the war-torn country. (Xinhua)

(24) NATO Marks...

the title "Women in NATO: From Pioneers to Champions since 1961" was also inaugurated at the NATO Headquarters on Tuesday, featuring historical pictures of female military personnel. (Xinhua)

(25) Libyan Forces...

has faced opposition from various factions, and a patchwork of militias control most of the country. Kobler said defeating IS "requires a military solution," but "must be first a Libyan fight." The Libyan ambassador to Italy, speaking Tuesday in Rome, insisted there are no foreign troops fighting IS extremists, dismissing reports in recent days about British special forces in Misrata fighting alongside the militias against IS in Sirte. "Formally and officially, I can tell you that the (unity government) has not welcomed any foreign troops operating on the ground or facilitated the presence of foreign groups in Libya," Ahmed Elmabrouk Safar told reporters. He said Libyan officials have asked for "technical support in security and administration" through the U.N. (AP)

(26) Iran to ...

Berat Albayrak, this amount was planned to be increased to 1,200 megawatts in the next 1.5 years and 3,000 megawatts in the upcoming period, Falahatiyan said. He added that Iran had exported some 10 billion kWh of electricity to its neighboring countries, Hurriyet added in its report without mentioning a period for the exports. (PressTV)

(27) Heavy Clashes...

cars that were destroyed before reaching their targets, the officers said. Iraqi forces suffered casualties, but the officers didn't provide details. Monday's push into Nuaimiya, a sprawling agricultural area, was the first attempt by Iraqi forces to enter the city, which fell to IS in January 2014. In recent days Iraqi forces had focused on driving the militants from outlying areas to tighten a siege on the city. The clashes subsided by Tuesday afternoon, but the officers said further progress was slowed by roadside bombs planted by militants. The troops also paused to destroy tunnels in the area. The officers said 106 militants have been killed since Monday. Fallujah was the first Iraqi city to fall to IS and is the last major urban area controlled by the extremist group in western Iraq. The militants still control the country's second largest city, Mosul, in the north. (AP)

(28) UN Worried...

Affairs (OCHA) said civilians fleeing the IS advance had been prevented by Syrian Kurdish authorities from entering areas under their control in response to rebel shelling of a Kurdish-held area of Aleppo. (Reuters)

(29) Iran FM ...

Iran," the top Iranian diplomat said. Zarif added that such agreements have been signed in various economic sectors including banking, "but certain European banks are still concerned that in case of resuming ties with Iran, they will be confronted by the United States of America."

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia - plus Germany started implementing the JCPOA on January 16.

Under the deal, all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran by the European Union, the Security Council and the US would be lifted. Iran has, in return, put some limitations on its nuclear activities. (PressTV)

(30) Sharif's Open...

Chelsea where he previously received treatment, and is presumed to have left his home without detection. Members of the premier's security detail have allegedly been posted at various hospitals to throw reporters off the trail. (Agencies)

(14) In Crisis-Hit ...

boasts, as banners bearing similarly grateful messages form a line behind it. When Rakhmon visited the area in February to open an orchard named after him, state media reported that sections of a 200 metre-long (650-foot) velvet carpet he walked upon were distributed to local pensioners.

"This process is being driven by the president's advisors," Rustam Kodir, a prominent Tajik writer and rare critical voice in the country of eight million people, told AFP.

"They only honour him and tell him good things. We are moving along the path of Turkmenistan and North Korea," said Kodir.

The strongman's burgeoning personality cult troubles many in the secular republic as religious conservatism rises and the economy toils under the weight of the Russian crisis. (Agencies)