

### (1) Thousands of

food items in the second phase of the assistance. He said the families would be provided assistance worth 26.4 million afghanis in total.

Deputy minister for labour, social affairs, martyrs and disabled Wasil Noor Momand said the programme to assist poor families was aimed at alleviating the level of poverty. In the first phase, he said, each family was given 4500 afghanis in cash in order to buy healthy food for their children. He said 39 percent of the country's populations lived under the poverty line. He said Saudi Arabia had promised paving the ground for 25,000 Afghans to find jobs in the kingdom. He said the youth from Kunar would also be sent to Saudi Arabia.

Kunar governor Wahidullah Kalimzai said Kunar was a mountainous province where arable land was insufficient and therefore most of the residents were poor.

The governor urged the Ministry of Labour to establish a vocational training centre for Kunar youth in order they were imparted professional training. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Lawmakers

electoral system is an important exam to the national unity government. However, if the decree on the election reforms is rejected by parliament, this will increase challenges for government leadership.

"If we are about to reject the order, this would mean that the national assembly will have failed to demonstrate the determination of the people, secondly it would be a major failure for the government of national unity," said Mohammad Naem Ayoubzada, head of Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

"Certain networks are operating from the presidential palace to parliament corridors to disrupt any possible decree expected to be issued from the ARG (presidential palace) so that they can slow down the pace of electoral reforms," a political analyst Asif Ashna said.

But, is there a way to prevent the disapproval of the decree by the House of Representatives?

"Our colleagues who have unanimity of views must work together with those colleagues who have opposite ideas. If this collection joined hands, chances for the approval of the decree will be increased. But if the government dealt with the issue superficially, there is a possibility that the House of Representatives rejects the decree," Abdoh further said.

Based on the constitution, parliament needs to clarify the fate of the decree within a month. But a month has passed since the decree was dispatched to parliament which is a clear violation of the constitution by the lawmakers. (Tolo News)

### (3) Kabul, EU

Representative to Afghanistan Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin said. He said the EU was met with openness and honesty from the Afghan side, also on the really difficult human rights issue that the Afghan people were confronted with. "I commend the government for its strong commitment to improve human rights for the Afghan people," he said. "The outcome from the dialogue contributes in a strong way to set the scene for the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan to be held in October. Mellbin added.

"Here we will have a separate side event on empowerment of women in Afghanistan. Our dialogue yesterday confirmed the commitment of the government to the implementation of NAP 1325. Now it is for the government to deliver strong progress - the more tangible results, they can present when we meet in Brussels."

He said the EU would follow up on the agreed deliverables on an ongoing basis and would meet with the Afghan government to review the progress in the end of November. The next human rights dialogue between Afghanistan and the European Union is planned to be held in Kabul in 2017. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Quartet

since violence begets violence," he said.

To a question about Pakistan's decision to introduce a new border management that requires Afghans to carry travel documents for entering Pakistan, he said it is vital for checking infiltrations across the long and porous Pakistan-Afghanistan border. "The Afghan government's cooperation in this regard is important for strengthening mutual security," the spokesman said after Afghan gov't

raised objections to the decision. Illegal cross-border movement had been an issue between the two neighbors as militants would take advantage of the porous 2,600-km border to move across the border. (Xinhua)

### (5) Taliban Unlikely

that they have switched from a defensive mindset that they had last year into an offensive one.

Cleveland said. "You don't find that in every single location, in every single core, but by and large as an institution, you do find the ANDSF has switched this mindset into the offense."

"The second thing is that they are getting better in employing their newer capabilities and that should be expected. As they have more practice and more experience, they are getting better at using these capabilities," Cleveland argued.

The A-29 aircraft are providing them close air support, with the MD- 530 helicopters also being used. Finally, he said, the special operations capability continued to be really the pride of the ANDSF and.

Responding to a question, Cleveland said the US and Afghan forces should not underestimate the new Taliban leadership. "We shouldn't underestimate this guy. He's the one who's been sending Fatawas about sending suicide bombers out.

"He's the one that issued to Fatwas that it was okay for Taliban to kill Taliban, particularly those who did not support Mullah Mansour. So, as General Nicholson says, "this guy does have blood on his hands."

Cleveland said he does not expect peace talks "anytime in the short term" with the Taliban's new leader, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada. However, he hoped, some Taliban might want to abandon the fight after seeing the precision strike that killed Mullah Akhtar Mansur. (Pajhwok)

### (6) 80 Taliban

killed in the NATO blitz. "There are no government officials in the district. This area has turned into a big centre of Taliban. Omar's men were involved in every security incident that took place in neighbouring districts," the resident said.

The deputy police chief also said 70 Taliban militants had been killed during three days of clashes and yesterday's bombardment of the coalition forces in the Ziruk district of the province. He said security forces had collected 25 dead bodies of the militants. Masood said two security personnel were also killed and another three wounded during the firefight.

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied the fighters were targeted in a NATO airstrike in Gayan district. He said the rebels had besieged Ziruk district and had captured two security posts and killed and wounded

### (7) Al-Qaeda

and that is to project stability not by deploying NATO forces into combat operations, but by projecting stability by training local forces," said NATO chief Stoltenberg.

Apparently the US and NATO forces are concerned about a resurgence of al-Qaeda operatives and the Taliban. "We think that they have tried to become closer to the Taliban, primarily because they recognize that if the Taliban can carve out some space, then al-Qaeda can move in under the Taliban and they have got some freedom from U.S. strikes, they have got the freedom and the ability to plan that type of thing," said Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, deputy chief of staff for communications for Operation Resolute Support, the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

"We don't think that the Taliban would have cut their ties with other terrorist groups, they are already in touch with al-Qaeda, Haqqani network and other groups," MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqi said.

Meanwhile, a number of political analysts have said that sidelining the security threats in Afghanistan by the world community would have repercussions in future and Afghanistan must reassess its partnership with the world.

NATO statistics reveal that a number of al-Qaeda affiliates are present in Kunar, Paktika, Paktia and Kandahar provinces, but they are not able to launch major attacks on the west.

This comes at a time that the Afghan security forces are struggling against the Taliban and other terrorist groups on multiple fronts with the Afghan officials persistently asking international partners to leverage the process of mobilizing a strong and capable air power and deliver more weapons to

the army of Afghanistan to battle the insurgents effectively on the battlefields. (Tolo News)

### (8) UNAMA

identify those with connections to the government or security forces. In addition to 10 men who were subsequently murdered, the fate of a further 10 passengers remained unknown.

In a separate incident yesterday (June 1), armed attackers abducted 25 civilian men and women travelling in two vehicles in Balkh Ab district of northern Sari Pul province.

All passengers were reported to be from the Hazara community while four women and one elderly man were subsequently released, the fate of the 20 others remains unknown.

"Taking civilians hostage is indefensible," said Nicholas Haysom, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA. "I call for the immediate and unconditional release of all civilians detained and a halt to this horrible practice." (Pajhwok)

### (9) 24 Kidnapped

district in the province, 350 km northwest of Kabul, according to locals.

On Tuesday, Taliban militants shot dead 10 civilians after militants seized three long-distance buses in northern Kunduz province.

The militants have claimed that they killed were off-duty members of Afghan security forces. The militants still seize eight passengers in an unidentified location in Kunduz, 250 km north of Kabul.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) expressed its concerns over the spate of abductions and hostage-taking against passengers travelling in civilian vehicles.

"Taking civilians hostage is indefensible," Nicholas Haysom, Secretary-General's special representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA was quoted in a UNAMA statement as saying.

"I call for the immediate and unconditional release of all civilians detained and a halt to this horrible practice," he said. (Xinhua)

### (10) Khost Gathering

dialogue are actually benefitting from the conflict and have reached power through the conflict. But our demand is that national interests should be preferred over personal interests."

Civil society activist and teacher at Khost Sheikh Zayed University Rabani Wihdat said Hekmatyar had many supporters within and out of the government and his reconciliation with the government would be a positive step towards bringing peace to the country.

He said the return of Hekmatyar would pave the ground for peace talks between the government and the Taliban, but there were some hurdles which needed to be removed.

"All Afghans want peace. If conditions the Taliban demand are considered and hurdles being created by some local circles and foreign governments are removed, the Taliban will also join the peace process," he believed.

Common residents of Khost province also welcomed the HIA-government peace talks and believed Hekmatyar's return would help bring peace to the country.

A resident of Khost City, the provincial capital, Qadirullah Sahil, told Pajhwok Afghan News he was happy about a possible return of Hekmatyar to the mainstream politics because it would help end the war in Afghanistan.

"It is the desire of every Afghan to have peace in the country. The return of Hekmatyar is highly beneficial for the country. We are tired of the war and hope the blood of innocent people will no longer be shed."

Government officials say the draft peace agreement signed between the High Peace Council and HIA delegates would be signed by President Ghani and Hekmatyar soon, but an exact date is not given. (Pajhwok)

### (11) 3 Badakhshan

militants will further expand their operations," he warned.

But Badakhshan police chief, Brig. Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Ghafouri said they were working on an operational plan to stabilise the restive areas and vanquish the Taliban and their allies. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Private Jails

council law and principles and they had exposed injustices and factors behind insecurity in Balkh.

He said they had no gunmen and they did not support powerful individuals and those behind land-grabs. "Our struggle is legal, we are not provoked

by a particular group or party. It is our deputy to investigate problems in the province," Shuja said.

The public representative said thousands of acres of government and private land had been grabbed in Balkh over the past 15 years and even land around the Hazrat Ali Shrine had not been spared. "You all know provincial council members are not behind these land-grabs but those who are ruling this province."

Shuja once again insisted that unauthorised people were being distributed illegal arms. He also said privately-run prisoners existed in Balkh, but did not go into details.

"If an authorized delegation comes from Kabul, we will present them evidence about where the illegal arms are and who possess them, who are behind land-grab and who run private jails. The people of Balkh know these all."

He did not say who run the private jails but said if a powerful delegation came from Kabul, they would produce individuals who had spent time in the private jails. Shuja also said some departmental heads in Balkh could not be replaced during the past 13 years.

Former PC head Mohammad Ibrahim Khairandesh also confirmed injustices, unbalanced development and concentration of power within a single group in Balkh province. As an example, he said the municipality's director and his four deputies belonged to the same tribe and party.

Khairandesh said the provincial government earned one million afghanis in revenue per day, but last year's revenue was shown as 90 million afs only.

He said he had repeatedly shared these problems with the provincial governor during his tenure as the provincial council chief, but to no avail.

"Whenever we had spoken about injustices, the governor and his aides had considered us linked to a particular group."

He said he had travelled to Kabul many times and had shared the problems of Balkh people with the unity government leaders, but his efforts produced no result.

About a planned protest demonstration on Saturday, Khairandesh said: "The people of Balkh waited for 15 years for the governor to think about others as well. But neither the governor changed his mind nor he listened to us."

Another PC member Syed Abdullah Masroor named some individuals who ran private jails. "Who are Agha Mohammad and Nazar Gul in Sholgar district, to which group they belong to," he asked.

He did not say as to which group the two individuals belonged to, but said they had hundreds of illegal gunmen and had established private jails.

Munir Farhad, the spokesman for the acting governor, said criticism and protests were everyone's right under the law, but rejected as baseless claims about the existence of privately-run jails and the involvement of the governor in land-grab and the distribution of illegal arms to unauthorized people.

He said no tribe was discriminated against in Balkh and all appointments were made through open completion and in line with directives from the ministries concerned.

About Saturday's protest, he said every Afghan had the right to raise his voice through peaceful protest. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Azizi Bank

said. It further stated that Afghanistan Payment Systems (APS) has gone live in April, 2016. Azizi Bank has the proud distinction of becoming the first bank in the country with its own ATM switch to go live with APS.

Afghanistan Payments Systems (APS) has embarked on a major undertaking to modernize Afghanistan's retail payments infrastructure with the support of the Central Bank of Afghanistan (DAB). In order to provide the envisioned service to participating banks and other financial institutions, APS will implement a shared interoperable retail payments infrastructure. With this project implementation, Azizi bank will have ATM interoperability with all member banks of APS. (PR)

### (14) Saleh Warns

influential leaders were mentioned as one of the reasons behind the fall of the city. The Taliban militants briefly captured the control of the strategic Kunduz city last year but the Afghan forces recaptured it from the militants.

The fact-finding team led by Saleh concluded their investigation late in the month of November last year and

blamed government's failure in leadership and structural complexity for the fall of the city. (KP)

### (15) Roya Rahmani

country. The Afghan lawmaker Shukria Barezkai was earlier appointed as the Afghan Ambassador to Norway and took over duties last year. (KP)

### (16) Officials Call for

"We are at the service of our people and our soil. We have made a big barrier and we have sacrificed to secure the highway, but more security check posts should be established here in order to convince the people that government is committed to address people's problems and ensure security in the area," said Gulbuddin, a Public Order Police officer.

Meanwhile, a number of civilians who have been displaced due to the ongoing conflicts and insecurity in Baghlan said they are fed up with the situation and that they want an end to this chaos.

One of them who left his house along with his family to flee the war, said: "They kill people every day and night. We have been ruined."

The route from Pul-e-Khumri City, the capital city of Baghlan, to Kunduz was once a safe journey to other northern provinces, but recently it has changed into a nightmare those traveling to north and northeastern provinces, including Takhar and Badakhshan. (Tolo News)

### (17) Blind Teacher Calls

they told me I could not see, that I was blind. At that moment I thought this is the end of the world and everything ended," Azizi added.

He said that a collection of his poetry has been published with the help of friends and soon his second collection of poems will be published. (Tolo News)

### (18) Kandahar Girls

year but 650 graduated." Kandahar is among the secure provinces in the south but according to reports, three of its districts have only primary schools for girls and a high number of girls in this province have reportedly little access to education. (Tolo News)

### (19) Fuel, Gold

But wholesale prices varied from retail rates in parts of the city. A retailer in Dahna Bagh area, Ahmad Navid, sold a 24-kg sack of rice for 1,800afs and a 50-kg bag of Kazakh flour for 1,350afs.

Similarly, he sold a 49-kg bag of sugar for 2,350afs, a 16-kg tin of Shaista ghee for 1,130afs, a kilo of black tea for 280afs and the same quantity of Indonesian green tea for 260afs.

Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, told Pajhwok Afghan News the price of one gram of Arabian gold cost 2,250afs while the price of the same quantity of the Russian variety decreased from 1,900afs to 1,850afs.

He said the price of Russian gold declined because of low demand and high imports.

According to Sadaqat Money Services in Sara-i-Shahzada, one US dollar accounted for 69.05afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 650afs against last week's 68.90afs and 649afs respectively. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Protestors Ask Govt.

strengthen security on highways. He called the killing of passengers in Kunduz as crime against humanity and said the Afghans had run out of patience and could not longer tolerate such brutal acts.

Haqdar Sharif, another civil society activist, said the government was unable to protect people and maintain security on highways and that was why the Taliban snatched passengers from buses at a distance of 500 metres from security posts.

Human Rights Commission official in Badakhshan Arifa Naveed said the government should respond to people's demands and that negligence of security officials in protection of people was intolerable. (Pajhwok)

### (21) CSTO Provides

over 1500 households and leaving them without shelter and food, damaging arable land critical infrastructure, and killing livestock. (Asia-Plus)

(22) UN Envoy EU, where around 121 million people are at risk of poverty, to consider the social and human rights impact of future economic programs and reforms. (AP)

### (23) EU Leaders hav

differently had been a failure.

"The chaos of the Middle East and its painful consequences have proven that democracy cannot be exported, either with weapons or peacefully," Orban said.

All people must be allowed to build their own politico-economic systems in keeping with their own cultures, he added. As far as Libya was concerned, he said, Europe had two alternatives. One was to fully support the Libyan government and allow it to arm itself. The other was to receive an international mandate for European armed forces to land in Libya and set up huge refugee camps there to hold the people trying to cross into Europe as well as those who have already crossed into Europe illegally. (Xinhua)

### (24) New Permanen

political acceptance. Reform, she stressed, must also be based on principles of democracy, transparency and accountability. (Agencies)

### (25) China

China does not accept the U.S. making irresponsible comments about the counterterrorism policies of other countries including China," Hua said. Calling terrorism the "arch-enemy of human civilization," Hua said joint counterterrorism efforts are a pressing task and the responsibility of the international community, and double standards will do little to help international cooperation.

China has always attached importance to and participated in international counterterrorism cooperation, and will continue to have exchanges with other countries including the United States, Hua said. (Xinhua)

### (26) Turks Prot

Turkish Ambassador in Berlin Huseyin Karslioglu returned to Turkey late on Thursday, after the German parliament approved the bill describing the 1915 massacres of Ottoman Armenians as "genocide."

"Our friendship and our relations with Germany will continue. We will act logically," Karslioglu told reporters on his arrival at Esenboga Airport in Ankara. (Xinhua)

### (27) Leader Urge

revolutionary spirit. "The pressures which are being exerted are due to this revolutionary (spirit) because the enemies are afraid of it."

"Why they oppose the revolution, because the country was entirely under their control. Besides, it has become a source of inspiration for other countries" after the revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei said. (PressTV)

### (28) Trump Pro

also showed a woman wearing a Trump jersey being pelted with eggs and food as she entered the rally while in another video clip, a Trump supporter was seen bleeding from the side of his head.

Police were captured on video clips trying to disperse the crowd. Officers wearing riot gear were shown forming lines to control the crowd and taking at least one protester into custody.

It is unclear if arrests were made as San Jose police officials were unavailable for comment. (Reuters)

### (29) China, Russia

framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

He said the Russian military is keen to launch more joint maritime drills and anti-terror exercises with the Chinese side.

The 15th Shangri-La Dialogue, an Asia-Pacific defense and security summit, runs here from Friday to Sunday. (Xinhua)

### (30) Syria Insurgents

including Iranians and the Lebanese Hezbollah fighting in support of Syrian government forces.

It was a rare success in recent months for rebels battling President Bashar al-Assad. Government forces and their allies have advanced against insurgents, and separately against Islamic State, in a number of other areas. (Reuters)

### (31) Chatter

Turkmenistan's massive gas reserves around 2011 - has seen incremental increases in Turkmen gas imports over the past three years, rising from 25.9bcm in 2014 for 28bcm in 2015. According to the report, Turkmenistan "expects to deliver" 30bcm to Beijing by the end of this year. (Agencies)