

### (1) Govt. Acknowledges...

fought against the communists and Russians, but it is a long time that I have not seen him," he said.

He said that during his service as minister he tried to end the Taliban's influence in Kiran Manjan.

"Kiran Manjan means more than mines to us. When I was the defense minister, I sent the special unit to clear the district of insurgents," Mohammad added.

Meanwhile, lapis dealers said that rifts among involved groups in lapis lazuli extraction and smuggling has affected their business.

"We have invested lots of money in the [semi-precious] stones. Now I can do nothing with it because business is bad," said Mohammad Akbar, a lapis trader.

According to Global Witness the Taliban and other armed groups are earning up to \$20 million USD dollars a year from Afghanistan's lapis mines.

Afghanistan's untapped mineral resources have been estimated to be worth up to \$3 trillion dollars. Global Witness says in its reports that the country will face new challenges in the future if illegal mining is not stopped. (Tolonews)

### (2) NSC wants...

security threats, the statement said, adding the NSC meeting strongly condemned recent attacks that targeted a number of judges, attorneys and a lawmaker from Kabul in the lower house, Sher Wali Wardak.

The statement said the NSC directed the officials concerned to adopt all necessary measures to ensure security of judicial employees and lawmakers. Three days ago, three Taliban gunmen stormed the appellant court building and opened fire in central Logar province, killing 10 people, including the chief prosecutor, and injuring 33 others. The attack came days after the Taliban attacked the courthouse in Ghazni province, killing four civilians and one policeman. Nearly a dozen other people were injured in that attack.

Similarly, Wardak, who represented the people of Kabul in the lower house, was killed two days ago in a bomb blast near his home in Kabul. Thousands of people on Tuesday mourned his death in Kabul.

The NSC also congratulated the nation on the inauguration of the Afghan-India Friendship dam in western Herat province, saying the project would put Afghanistan on the path to development and attaining self-sufficiency. The meeting evaluated an assessment report on sources of income for Taliban, Daesh and all terrorist groups and issued necessary directives to the security and defence organs to dry up their income sources. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Civilian ...

to March. As per the report, Taliban carried out six suicide attacks in May, while the Afghan Air Force launched 45 air raids against militants.

"The enemy is a global enemy and is very powerful, but we have prevented many of their activities and they have not reached their goals," said Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri. The report indicates that Nangarhar was the most insecure province in May with 91 incidents. Kandahar, Herat, Uruzgan and Baghlan were among the most insecure provinces in May, the report says.

Meanwhile, according to the report, Panjshir and Daikundi provinces, in central parts of Afghanistan, were the most secure provinces during May.

The violence and conflict in May inflicted damages to both security forces and Taliban, but there are a number of concerns about the rise in civilian casualties during that month.

"According to human rights law, no group, including armed groups, can inflict harm to civilians," said Rafiullah Bidar, spokesman for Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. The report also says that no district fell to insurgents during May and that the Taliban's attacks were reduced considerably, after their leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Baluchistan province in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the report reveals that still a number of security forces are in defensive mode against militants in parts of the country. As per the report, the latest anti-security incident in May was the abduction of more than 200 passengers by militants in Baghlan-Kunduz highway. (Tolonews)

### (4) Afghanistan,...

produce 150 megawatts of electricity. Osmani said the reservoir capacity of the dam would also be expanded by a

billion cubic meters.

This comes just days after President Ashraf Ghani and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi together inaugurated the newly completed Salma Dam in Herat.

The dam was built and funded by India at a cost of \$300 million USD. (Tolonews)

### (5) Afghanistan Has...

annually if it uses its own resources to produce electricity.

"If Afghanistan's resources are used to generate power, millions of dollars will be saved which now we use for purchasing the imported power for our use. If this happens, more ground will be provided for investment in the country," said Sayed Massoud, lecturer at Kabul University.

This comes after Salma Dam was inaugurated this week which produces 42MW electricity for Herat province. (Tolonews)

### (6) EU Welcomes ...

"Corruption in Afghanistan is a key concern for the EU. We applaud the MoPH for initiating an independent investigation on corruption in this key area. Now we look forward to see the report turned into tangible actions dealing with the problems in the health sector to ensure equal access to health services for all Afghans," says EU Special Representative to Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin.

EU will support MoPH in tackling corruption by providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Public Health in the preparation of an action plan and the implementation of MEC's recommendations. (PR)

### (7) Iran Wants ...

called for the expansion of bilateral relations, particularly after the implementation of the last year's nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), between Iran and six global powers.

Following the removal of sanctions against Tehran, a "good opportunity" has been created for Iran and Armenia to boost their trade and economic relations which could lead to the expansion of mutual ties in all fields, he said. 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.

"In line with the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Armenia in the fields of transit and the transportation of goods, there are currently suitable grounds for us to connect the Black Sea to the Persian Gulf via Armenia and we are ready to give technical and engineering services to Armenia in this regard," Rouhani pointed out. (PressTV)

### (8) Khalifa bin...

Afghanistan's Provinces Kabul, Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Sarepul, Balkh, Samangan, Jawzjan, Faryab, Khost, Pakita, Nengarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Logar, Nimroz and parwan. Hundred Thousand of fasting people will benefit from this project during the holy Month in dozens of Mosques in different Afghan Provinces. During the launch of this blessed project, H.E. Jumaa Mohammad Abdullah Al Kaabi the UAE Ambassador in Kabul praised that help and assistance is given to the Afghan Brother People via Development and Humanitarian and seasonal projects. H.E. Ambassador named this aid as a gift from the Emirati People to the Afghan People and mentioned that this aids has been prepared under the guidance of the wise leadership in UAE and it is the biggest Ifar Project in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. H.E. Ambassador added that UAE aids will continue in Afghanistan to reach all the poor and needy people all over the country and appreciated Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Humanitarian Foundation for its obvious efforts in the Afghan arena.

On the other hand, locals and beneficiaries from this project appreciated the role played by Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Humanitarian Foundation in different humanitarian and development areas. Also, they thanked all the staff of the foundation and asked Allah to bless them in this blessed month and to reward them for their efforts. (PR)

### (9) Dostum Asks ...

by Noor as baseless and inappropriate, saying he is involved in some of

other major national issues related to northern parts of the country, apparently pointing towards his efforts to suppress the growing threats posed by the Taliban group. The Vice President also added that he is thinking about resolving the issues of Afghanistan and asked Noor not to further spark tensions among the two political parties.

He also advised Noor not to be deceived by certain individuals who are attempting to brainwash him and further spark tensions among Jamiat and Junbish parties.

This comes as tensions have heightened among the two prominent political parties during the past recent months.

Tensions among Junbish and Jamiat supporters ensued earlier in March after the portrait of Gen. Dostum was removed from Mazar-e-Sharif city which led to widespread demonstrations by his supporters.

Meanwhile, a deadly clash erupted among the supporters of the two parties in northern Faryab province last month which left several people dead and numerous others wounded. (KP)

### (10) UNHCR ...

projects initiated by the Refugees Affected and Hosting Areas (RAHA), he said over 10.6 million people, including Afghan refugees and Pakistani nationals, benefitted from the projects since their launch in 2009.

The RAHA has completed over 300 projects in different districts of Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan at a cost of \$175 million USD, the newspaper reported.

These projects are facilitating people especially in health, education, infrastructure and livelihood sectors, the UNHCR said.

The key objective of these programs was to create cohesion between Afghan refugees and their host communities, it said.

It is estimated that as many as three million Afghans live in Pakistan as refugees. (Tolonews)

### (11) First Batch ...

Speaking on the occasion, Amar Sinha, appreciated IARI & DARE for their contribution and congratulated Afghan students on successful completion of their M.Sc. course. He said ANASTU is still a work in progress and hoped that graduating students will contribute to Afghanistan's agricultural revival.

Afghanistan like India is primarily an agricultural society and induction of technology in agricultural research and extension is very important. India is committed to support Afghanistan in its efforts to improve agricultural sector and referred to the inauguration of India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam on June 04, 2016, which will provide irrigation to approx. 80,000 hectares of agricultural land.

Mr. Haidari thanked the Professors and other officials of IARI & DARE and said that it's a proud moment for him as he himself graduated from IARI in 1973. Unfortunately, decades of war prevented Afghan youth from education in science & technology and other important domains. Being agrarian society, 85% of Afghan population directly or indirectly are involved in Agriculture. Preparing the next generation of agricultural scientist, therefore, of utmost importance. He thanked GoI for establishing the first agricultural sciences university (ANASTU) in Afghanistan and said that Indian development assistance in various field is now over US\$ 2 billion. This batch of 21 students had commenced their M.Sc. Course in 2014 and following completion of course work in Delhi and Afghanistan had gone to Delhi for writing their thesis on April 07, 2016. During this thesis writing phase the candidates underwent data analysis, thesis writing and completion of academic requirement for award of M.Sc. Degree. Second Batch of 20 students is likely to travel from Kandahar to Delhi on June 30, 2016 to undertake modular courses including Agronomy, Statistics and English for a period of eight months.

ANASTU was set up with Government of India's financial and technical assistance and was inaugurated in February 2014. In April 2016, an MoU was signed between Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and ANASTU. The MoU will primarily focus cooperation in research, education and extension in agriculture & veterinary sciences; capacity building and academic exchange; exchange of scientists and technologists; exchange of germplasm and breeding material; exchange of scientific literature, information and methodology; and exchange of scientific equipment; and

programmes of common interest as mutually agreed upon; Development and implementation of collaborative research projects as mutually agreed upon, etc. In addition, India is also funding and assisting ANASTU in the Establishment of Laboratory equipped with Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS). AAS is expected to reach Kandahar in end June while other equipment which include tractors etc. is expected by September, 2016. (PR)

### (12) Taliban Seize...

and drivers of the same company. Later, the drivers and the vehicles were recovered by security forces during an operation. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Zabihullah's...

institutions protecting journalists said that Afghanistan is still an extremely dangerous country for journalists and that government needs to step up efforts to protect them.

"The incident shows that Afghanistan is still a dangerous place for journalists and reporting is a very difficult task in Afghanistan," said Najib Sharifi, chairman of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Zabihullah is the 10th media worker to die in terrorist attacks in less than six months in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (14) 3 Brothers...

order in the area. Raz Mohammad, another inhabitant of the area, alleged the blood of innocent people had no value in eyes of the national unity government. He said security officials had not reached the area to investigate the incident.

"The government seems to have no writ here. We request the officials concerned to crack down on the illegal armed men and ensure people's security," he said.

Jalga district chief, Gul Agha, confirmed the incident and said the area was unstable. He expressed concern over the presence of gunmen. He acknowledged the armed grips were disrupting public security in the district. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Torkham ...

Mohammad Asif Shinwari confirmed about 150 Afghan children daily crossed the border into Pakistan to go school there.

"The number of such students has drastically declined. We have built primary and high schools in Torkham and Momand Dara, but still some students continue to study in Pakistani schools."

He said most of the children belonged to Afghan families living across the border. The children accompanied their fathers daily to their workplace on this side of border and then returned to Pakistani schools.

"A few number of these children belong to families living in Torkham and Momand Dara, the children come from wealthy families who send their children to Pakistani schools on their own free will."

Asif Shinwari said schools had been established in Torkham and nearby areas and hoped local residents would admit their children into these schools. A shopkeeper in Torkham, Javed Shena, said the temperature in areas across the border had risen and summer vacations had started there. He said hundreds of children daily crossed the border into Pakistan to go to schools.

"Pakistan recently denied entry to Afghans not having visa and passport and the restrictions have possibly affected these children as well, but now schools in Pakistan are on vacations and it is hoped the restrictions will be lifted until that time."

Pajhwok tried to find students studying in Pakistan, but could not find one because, according to a Torkham resident Imranullah, the number of such students has greatly decreased.

"A few years ago, my brother would go across the border to a school, but now thanks to God we have schools in Torkham and my brother is studying here," Imranullah said.

Nangarhar provincial council secretary Zabihullah Zamarai told Pajhwok Afghan News the government should become serious and should forcibly prevent Afghan children from going to Pakistani schools.

"There is nothing illegal in studying in a foreign country, but it is a matter of concern that our children daily cross the border."

He said Afghan children were taught Pakistani subjects which had a bad impact on their future.

Some time ago, Afghan children going to Pakistani schools had told Pajhwok Afghan News that they went to Pakistani schools because there was

no school for them on this side of the border.

But now officials say dozens of schools have been established and made functional in the border town. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Aerial Firing...

celebratory firing.

He said in some events, government officials themselves resorted to celebratory firing and if the practice was not discouraged, it would become a strong culture and then it would be hard to control.

"When government forces resort to celebratory firing, it leaves no room for complaint against a common man."

Another resident of Khost City, Mujahid, said if it was not possible for the government to prevent people from aerial firing in districts, it could do it in the provincial capital at least.

He said aerial firing not only terrorized people but had left dead and wounded many people, including children and women.

Mujahid said: "A few days ago, there was a heavy gunfire from noon until the afternoon; we thought it was a clash, but later it appeared it was a wedding."

Civil society activist Haji Jamal Tanai said in the past aerial firing was not taken as serious as today because of the sensitivity of the situation. He said the celebratory firing had caused mental problems to people.

"Suicide bombings have increased, personal enmities exist, and targeted killings take place, so when we hear gunfire we think it is an attack, but it is not. It is either someone's wedding, engagement or the birth of a baby boy."

Tanai said police had the ability to prevent aerial firing but some police officials due to their incompetency, lack of interest and personal interest did not fulfill their responsibility in this regard.

He urged all the provincial authorities to be honest with their duty and serving the people.

Provincial council member Janmir Zazai said he had expressed concern over celebratory firing at various meetings with security officials and he would further insist on the matter in future advisory meetings with officials.

He said people should cooperate with security forces for a permanent solution and the media, religious scholars and tribal elders should play their role in highlighting the danger of aerial firing.

"The media and influential figures can play a key role. The practice can be banned through tribal structures."

Khost deputy police chief Col. Jehangir Karamat told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Ministry of Interior had sent them a letter yesterday saying the police headquarters could not share information with the media.

Without speaking much, Karamat said the responsibility to share information with media had been taken by MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqi who should be contacted.

Khost governor's spokesman Mubarez Mohammad Zadran acknowledged the issue of celebratory firing and said it was a matter of life and death for the people.

He said the issue had previously been also discussed and insisted upon at security meetings and he would again convey people's concern to Governor Hukam Khan Habibi about the matter.

Earlier, the Ministry of Interior through a statement had declared aerial firing as outlawed. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Key Taliban Group...

and seven other armed Taliban were wounded.

The statement further added that a group of armed Taliban also attacked Afghan National Police check post in Qisar District of Faryab province.

MoI said the Afghan National Police forces did not suffer any casualties during the clashes.

"This group was involved in many terrorist and destructive activities in this district and other areas of Faryab province," the statement added.

The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

### (18) Turkish President ...

be prepared," Erdogan said, pledging all the precautions to "minimize" the threat of terrorism.

Press reports said the buildings of several universities, the Istanbul municipality headquarters and Ottoman-era mosques were damaged in the explosion, while the final exams in Istanbul University were postponed. (Xinhua)

### (19) European...

many MEPs see as a better balance between farmers, food processing companies and the big supermarket chains. Many MEPs believe farmers are disadvantaged when striking deals with food processors and retailers who have much greater market power.

Family farm incomes across the EU have fallen as much as 13 percent compared with 2013 levels, and the current crisis is even more prevalent in sectors such as dairy and pork farming. (Xinhua)

### (20) British Queen...

exceptionally high quality of teaching and research at an institution. Of the 12 universities, five are receiving a Regius Professorship for the first time, including the first to be conferred on universities in Wales and Northern Ireland." Each institution will assign the title to an existing professor at the chosen department or will appoint a new professor to take the chair and hold the title." (Xinhua)

### (21) Second Aid

to the locations I just mentioned," he added.

As of June 1, UN figures reveal that 269,250 people out of the 592,000 civilians living in besieged areas have received life-saving humanitarian assistance so far this year. (Xinhua)

### (22) Facebook CEO...

However, Facebook has said in a statement that Zuckerberg's Facebook and Instagram accounts had not been breached.

"No Facebook systems or accounts were accessed. The affected accounts have been re-secured using best practices," the statement read. (KP)

### (23) Top British...

can help Nepal improve its business environment and boost bilateral trade and investment, and future development partnerships," the embassy added. The British officials are also scheduled to visit Britain-funded projects in Nepal. Britain has been one of the oldest development partners of Nepal over the years. (Xinhua)

### (24) Civilians Fleeing ...

Fallujah was captured by the IS, at least 22,169 civilians have been killed and 43,435 wounded in Iraq. These casualty figures are considered an absolute minimum as they do not include Anbar Province, where Fallujah is located, nor do they include people who died from the secondary effects of violence, such as lack of water, food, medicine, or health care. (Xinhua)

### (25) Spanish Police

important figures in the Syria-Iraq conflict zone," and had expressed a desire to join the organization himself as a fighter.

Officials consider the operation has "deactivated a dangerous radicalizing element and promoter of terrorist activities" in Spain. (Xinhua)

### (26) Russian Loans...

Iran earlier. Russia's Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov said last December that the country's loan for Iran would be provided under the Iranian government's guarantee.

"We are talking about granting a state loan, naturally under the Iranian government's guarantee... I think that if all the formalities can be agreed upon in the first quarter of 2016, then next year part of it may be provided," he was quoted as saying by the Russian media. (Press TV)

### (27) Pakistan's...

various issues related to external and internal security situation of the country, a statement from the army's Inter-Services Public Relations said.

It was noted with satisfaction that successes of military operation code-named "Zarb e Azab" had been phenomenal and it was agreed that the achievements in bringing stability in the country will have to be sustained whatever it takes. (Xinhua)

### (28) Iran Censures...

group fighting the government, is not something new.

Turkey has suffered a spate of bombings this year, including two attacks in tourist areas of Istanbul blamed on Daesh and two car bombings in the capital, Ankara, which were claimed by a Kurdish militant group. (PressTV)

### (29) Forbes puts 9...

presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Meanwhile, Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer is the youngest women in the list while the oldest is 90-year-old Queen Elizabeth II. The list ranks women by "money, momentum, media, spheres of influence and impact. (Xinhua)