

(1) Ghani Asks...

of natural disasters and help the war-torn country develop a strong system of governance. The UN officials informed the president about their future programs and how they were to be implemented. (Pajhwok)

(2) Inactive NGOs ...

of foreign aid came to Afghanistan through NGOs and his ministry would investigate where and how they spent their funds. He said activities and spending of NGOs would be streamlined in order to alleviate poverty, fight drugs and improve public health sector and welfare activities. The performance of registered NGOs is being scrutinised by the Ministry of Economy. Earlier some 200 licenses of NGOs were cancelled for their poor performance. (Pajhwok)

(3) Donors End ...

the international community can't really justify that level of assistance." Around \$338 million had been pledged to the three-year U.N. project that was to fund presidential and parliamentary elections. The UNDP would not say how much remains unspent, but said it "will inform the public when the new ELECT II work plan is agreed by the project's partners". Both candidates claimed victory after last year's presidential vote was marred by accusations of fraud and it took months for them to agree to a U.S.-brokered deal to form a unity government under Ashraf Ghani. Reforms were a condition for holding future elections, but no progress has been made because rivals in government disagree over who should lead the commission. (Reuters)

(4) Ghani Seeks ...

of 2015, they say the current class of representatives will have out-served their terms in office. "The president has pledged to clear up the fate of the Wolesi Jirga before its legal term comes to an end; therefore, he has started consultations and next week these meetings will expand so that a constitutional solution is found to the issue," Hashimi said. Parliament's Legal and Judicial Commission asserted this week that the only option for resolving the legal dilemma would be to schedule elections. The national unity government has delayed setting a date for parliamentary elections because no progress has been made on reform of the electoral system, which was a central promise of the accord that reconciled President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah during the 2014 presidential election. MPs in Parliament have overwhelmingly condemned the election commissions for their performance during last year's presidential and provincial council elections. Lawmakers have said the commissions lost credibility with the public, which means reforms are necessary or the next elections will be a failure. "The only solution to end the controversy is to announce a timeline for parliamentary elections," Legal and Judicial Commission Chair Mohammad Abdoh said. "Article 83 of the Constitution declares that until the new assembly comes, the current assembly can continue its work, but not for a long time," he added.

Regarding electoral reforms, presidential spokesman Hashimi said Ghani has had more consultations. "The president is emphasizing on a principle, which is set to ensure the establishment of a mechanism to bring reforms in Afghanistan's electoral system," he said on Thursday. "For this purpose, the president has conducted a number of meetings and soon you will see the electoral reform commission start its work." (Tolonews)

(5) Massoud Talks...

positions are becoming political; every political party is trying to introduce their own representatives in this position," he said. "Our deputy ministers must have five to 10 years of professional experience in their related ministry. We are surely losing our capacities, and we cannot form an administration that can truly provide services." Massoud is certainly not alone in his frustrations with the lack of progress on corruption and good governance issues under the national unity government. The European Union (EU) Ambassador to Afghanistan has called lack of

rule of law and exemption from punishment as the primary forced behind increasing corruption in Afghanistan.

"One of the biggest missing links that I feel very strongly about also, is the lack of rule of law, and the impunity that is prevalent in Afghanistan," Ambassador Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin said. "Now, we have seen a few cases where the government has started to take action, but this is clearly one area where we need to see a lot more happening as we move forward," he added. According to the senior European diplomat, merely locking offenders behind bars is not an adequate solution to administrative malfeasance in Afghanistan. "Of course we can not solve the problem with corruption in Afghanistan by sending tens of thousands of people to jail - that is not the solution," Mr. Mellbin said. "The solution is also very much about changing the system, so that we don't have a system of corruption, but we have systems in place that would actually make it difficult to perpetuate corruption, that that has stronger safeguards and which works against those who try to further their particular interest."

Afghanistan has frequently been ranked by international monitoring groups and transparency activists as one of the most corrupt nations in the world. It is often compared to Venezuela in extent of rule of law. (Tolonews)

(6) Taliban Take ...

Confirming the attack, the ANA 207 Zafar Corps commander, Gen. Taj Mohammad Jahid, said reinforcement troops including the Special Force members have been deployed to the area.

He said the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces have launched air strikes against the Taliban hideouts, killing several insurgents.

"Special Forces and the helicopters have been deployed to the area, and I can assure you that our forces are able to defend our soil," Gen Jahid noted.

But spokesman of Herat's governor rejected as baseless claims that Taliban took over the control of five villages.

In addition to the ANA forces, he noted hundreds of police forces were also taking part in the operation to clear the district from the Taliban.

"Claims about collapse of the district into the hands of the Taliban are definitely untrue," Ehsanullah Hayat said. "Forces have been deployed to the area and now the insurgents are fleeing the district." Keshk-e-Kohna is among the restive districts of Herat and has long experienced constant attacks from the Taliban. (Tolonews)

(7) Afghan, Turkish...

insisted on the right to broadcast any types of stories, but said sensational journalism in reporting terrorism-related stories created even bigger panic.

"Reporting too much on terrorism-related stories causes panic among people, which is what terrorists want," he added. He also said broadcasting graphic images of terrorism-related events were disturbing. (Pajhwok)

(8) WB Approves Extra...

long-term sustainability. "The new (Afghan) government has indicated its commitment to improving revenue collection," said Bob Saum, World Bank Country Director for Afghanistan.

"We hope the additional grant will result in improving overall customs performance, particularly in automation and collaborative border management, to ensure that legitimate goods are processed and released in a fair and efficient manner."

Specific activities will include: Roll-out of automation to the remaining border crossings and ICDs as well as technological solutions to enhance surveillance capabilities. Continued refurbishment, rehabilitation or new construction of selected customs infrastructure, improving mechanisms for cooperation with neighboring customs administrations, including real time data exchange and provision of technical assistance and capacity building in key areas.

Further improvement and enhancement of systems for monitoring customs performance through the use of an automated executive dashboard and alerts mechanism. Provision of technical assistance and capacity building in key areas that introduce modern approaches to customs administration, includ-

ing the design of a National Trade Information Portal (TIP) and a National Single Window (NSW) system.

Support to the Customs Training Academy, and strengthening of Risk Management, valuation, enforcement and post clearance verification functions. (Pajhwok)

(9) Iran, Afghanistan...

and Kabul in different fields including campaign against terrorism, fight against drug trafficking, problems of immigrants, economic and transit cooperation, and reinforced ties on water issues.

Earlier in April, Iran and Afghanistan signed two cooperation agreements as part of efforts to boost the relations between the two neighbors in various areas. In a ceremony attended by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Afghan counterpart Ashraf Ghani, high-ranking officials from the two countries signed the documents. Rouhani said at the time that Tehran and Kabul have agreed to boost cooperation in the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking. (IRNA)

(10) Foreign Hands ...

number of Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar.

However, the analysts and public speculations suggest there is no Daesh fighter in Afghanistan, stating they were the same Taliban militants who have rebranded themselves with raising black flags in order to spread more panic in the country.

But according to some security officials in eastern Afghanistan who confirm presence of Daesh, the newly-emerged militants are engaged in fighting with the Taliban in several parts of eastern Afghanistan. Most recently, a commander of 201 ANA Selab Corps also confirmed presence of Daesh militants in several districts of Nangarhar.

"They [Daesh] have been sighted in Achin, Spin Ghara and Nazian districts," commander Mohammad Zaman Waziri said. "They have been engaged several times in fighting with the Taliban."

Also, he confirmed Daesh had started recruiting fighters in eastern Kunar province. However, he noted strong operations have been launched to suppress these militants.

Though, spokesman of Nangarhar's governor denied commenting on the presence of Daesh in his province, he admitted to a fighting between the two armed groups he said were unknown.

"Based on the reports from security agencies, there is a fighting between two unknown groups for several weeks in four districts of Nangarhar. Sometimes one group and sometimes the other one prevails," Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said. (Tolonews)

(11) NRC Distributing...

provide income for food. Multiple families are staying in single rental units to save money." Conditions in informal settlements are particularly dire due to lack of latrines, but especially for women who face additional health risks from inability to use open areas during the day.

Since late April, ongoing fighting between Afghan government forces and armed opposition groups in the districts of Gul Tepa, Chardara, and Imam Sahib, resulted in thousands of families forced to flee their homes, with many living in dire conditions in and around the Kunduz City area.

The cash assistance of 6000AFN (100USD) is unconditional and families may spend it on household items, accommodation, or any other goods of their choosing. "Many of the displaced families have lost their farmlands, which was their only source of income and food," says Hasrat. "Their livelihoods are destroyed and they can no longer support themselves. Every family's needs are different so instead of emergency kits, we are giving the families cash." NRC's Emergency Response programme is funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO).

It is estimated that Afghanistan currently has at least 850,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). With ongoing conflict, the number could hit million by the end of 2015.

NRC has been active in Afghanistan since 2003. In 2014, it assisted 215,310 refugees and displacement-affected Afghans throughout 18 provinces with its emergency response, shelter, legal assistance,

education, water, and sanitation programmes. NRC is a rights-based organization committed to the principles of humanity, neutrality, independence, and impartiality. (KP)

(12) Anti-Child ...

do; second, no investment took place in the country, which must be done; and the third one is the government does not pay attention to the wages of workers. All of these reason have caused the increase in child labor labor."

For many child workers in Afghanistan, however, the direct causes of their plight often have little to do with macro-level issues involving the government or investment, and more to do with their families and local communities.

"Five years ago my father passed away, so we don't have any one else at home and I am the worker, and I must find money - there is no other way for me," one child laborer in Kandahar province told TOLONews. "How will I find money if I go to school while my father is jobless and I have to work?" asked another young worker in Helmand province.

Human rights activists seem to recognize both the high-level and ground-level factors playing into the troubling trend of child labor in Afghanistan. "The current political situation has had negative effects on the economy of families, and when fathers becoming jobless, they are using their children to work," Kandahar Children's Human Rights Commission Director Shamsuddin Tanwi said.

During the presidential election in 2014, a number of leaders now in top positions within the national unity government championed themselves with promises to get child workers off the streets. However, little-to-no action on the matter has been taken by the government since it took office. (Tolonews)

(13) Women's Activists...

rights of women. Although the results of the Norway talks are unknown, a participant who spoke on condition of anonymity said that women's rights were defended bravely. No Taliban spokespeople have commented on the meeting. (Tolonews)

(14) Noor Claims ...

of social discrimination. But despite all these negative aspects, we still have good relations with our Muslim brothers and sisters, but we are vulnerable to social discrimination."

He went on to say that: "In all provinces they (Sikh and Hindus) owned land, but unfortunately their land was taken over by powerful individuals during the war. But the other problem that we have is that there is a group who use fraudulent power-of-attorney letters and sell properties owned by Hindus and Sikhs." Under the Taliban, Sikhs and Hindus ... (More on P4)... (9)

(15) President Visit ...

problems in Kandahar with the president in open and large meetings.

He said the president was told that there were powerful elements who interfered in government affairs and influenced appointments and used the affairs for their personal benefits.

He said it was hope-giving that people had found the courage to speak about major issues and that it seemed reforms and change topped their demands. He said it was a positive development that the president set himself a deadline to materialize his pledges.

In response to people's demands, the president said he and the governor had investigated problems in provincial government departments and on the basis of their investigation, positive change would come to Kandahar in two weeks. Mal said the president made it clear that only the governor was his representative and there was no place for a parallel authority in Kandahar.

Another Kandahar City resident, Abdul Waseh Hasyal, held similar views. He said the president's resolve to honour his pledges was strong. Hope for positive change raised when the president set a deadline to meet his pledges, he said.

He said the president gave time to everyone from security officials to government officials, tribal elders, women, civil society activists and listened to their problems. He said the president noted all the prob-

lems mentioned on papers.

The issue of electricity in Kandahar City also came up for discussion and the president said it would be resolved through short and long term projects within available resources. (Pajhwok)

(16) Pro-Rohingya...

140,000 to a crowded, squalid government camp.

In Takhar, some of the protesters carried Daesh flags during the demonstration to condemn the persecution of the Rohingya and shouted "We need Caliphate".

But others among them condemned this behavior and entered a physical clash with them. Those holding Daesh flags called democracy as "un-Islamic" and civil society organizations as puppets in westerners' hands.

They went on to say: "We don't want democracy in Afghanistan but an Islamic Caliphate." Hikmatullah, one of the protesters, said "all issues in the region can be solved with an Islamic Caliphate system of government." He also asked Muslims to extend support to such a caliphate.

Maulvi Hayatullah, another participant in the demonstration, said Daesh had waged resistance against a cruel regime in Iraq and were doing jihad. (Pajhwok)

(17) Poppy Workers...

Char Barjak districts of the province.

Mohammad Asif, a Nimroz resident who had come to Khashrod to collect the yield, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had gathered nearly half a kilogram of opium that had he had pasted onto his clothes during lancing and harvest.

Apart from the wages paid, he claimed, the sale of the opium thus stolen augmented his income considerably. Some workers earned even more in this way than their actual remuneration, Asif said, adding each labourer was paid 500afs daily and up to 600afs they get by selling the stolen opium. (Pajhwok)

(18) Survey Lists...

with the most votes going to Ramazan Bardost, Shukria Barakzai, Obaidullah Barakzai, Mohammad Naeem Hameedzai Lalai and Haji Zahir Qader.

Another 32 MPs who gained the most votes are following. Erfanullah Erfan from Kabul, Haji Mohammad Umar Nangyali from Kandahar, Arin Yun from Nangarhar, Gulali Noor Safi from Balkh, Mohammad Ibrahim Ghashtali from Paktika, Fawzia Kofi from Badakhshan, Muhaud-din Mehdi from Baghlan, Nader Khan Katawazi from Paktika, Habiba Danish from Takhar, Enayatullah Babar Farhamandi from Jawzjan, Sahra Sharif from Khost, Asadullah Sadati from Daikundi, Abdul Qadir Qalatwal from Zabul, Mohammad Hussain Sharifi from Sari Pul, Abdul Mohammadi from Samangan, Abdul Qayyum Sajadi from Ghazni, Ikramuddin Rezazada from Ghor, Fathullah Qaisari from Faryab, Ustad Humira Ayubi from Farah, Iqbal Safi from Kapisa, Abdul Rauf Ibrahim from Kunduz, Abdul Sattar Khawasi from Parwan, Qazi Abdul Rahim Rahin from Badghis, Abdul Rahman Shahidani from Bamyan, Ziyufon Safi from Laghman, Mohammad Akbar Stanikzai from Logar, Haji Abdul Majid from Maidan Wardak, Nahid Farid and Haji Khalil Ahmad Shahidzada from Herat, Abdul Jabbar Qahraman from Helmand, Wazma Safi from Kunar and Haji Nazir Ahmad, a Kuchi tribe representative.

Mukhlis announced the "Most Popular Lawmaker Award" for the aforementioned persons, saying their performance had been satisfactory and people liked them. (Pajhwok)

(19) Abdullah...

outlet on national level and the Voice of America offices. This was an attack on the freedom of expression," Abdullah said in a statement. The CEO said the unity government was committed to defending the freedom of expression and providing safe working environment to journalists.

He directed security officials in Jalalabad to thoroughly investigate the incident, saying nobody would be allowed to create problems in the way of freedom of expression, journalists and the media.

Aurang Samim, Nangarhar information and culture director, who visited the Pajhwok office on Thursday morning, also condemned the attack.

He said Pajhwok as an independ-

ent outlet had always reflected the truth and people's problems. He promised to work together with security forces in ensuring the safety of media organisations.

A statement from the governor's office condemned the attack, saying: "We call this a cowardly act and an attack on the freedom of press. It has no justification."

Security officials have been tasked with thoroughly investigating the blast and arresting the perpetrators to prevent such incidents in future.

A number of journalists and civil society activists visited the Pajhwok bureau office in Jalalabad and condemned the incident.

Sabrina Hamidi, Independent Human Rights Commission head in Nangarhar, condemned the attack and urged officials to ensure that journalists were protected. (Pajhwok)

(20) Blast at Pajhwok...

the strongest words the attack on the Pajhwok bureau office and described it an attack on the freedom of expression and journalists.

The resolution urged the government, particularly security organs, to seriously and thoroughly investigate the incident and to protect journalists from such attacks.

Asif Shinwari, member of the union of journalists in the eastern zone, told Pajhwok Afghan "we all are with Pajhwok and we condemn the attack in the strongest possible terms."

He said journalists were concerned about the attack and the government should pay exclusive attention to their protection.

Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, the provincial governor's spokesman, also attended the gathering in front of the Pajhwok bureau office. (Pajhwok)

(21) 1 of 4 Kidnapped...

and the kidnapers had moved them to an unknown location.

Askar said security forces and local elders had started efforts to rescue the remaining kidnapped men. Few months ago, gunmen snatched 31 passengers from buses in the Shah Joy district of Zabul and so far 24 of them had been released. (Pajhwok)

(22) Construction Work ..

Provincial MRRD director Eng. Abdur Raouf calling the bridge vital for Farah residents said transportation problems of Pusht Rod, Khaki Safid and Bala Bolok districts would be resolved with the completion of the project.

Pusht Rod people's representative in the provincial council Khair Mohammad Noorzai said the bridge would help the people of the mentioned districts to shorten their route by 20 to 30 kilometers to reach Farah city.

During the inauguration ceremony of the project, Farah Governor Mohammad Asif Nang said, "Building Rigi bridge was one of my promises to Farah people, we are happy the construction of the bridge started today."

He said that the bridge would improve the economic, social and political conditions of the three districts.

Nang added that work on some other new projects would also begin in the near future. (Pajhwok)

(23) Trust...

meeting, and a view from some countries - including the United States and the European Union - that the pace must pick up, many officials took a pragmatic view. (Reuters)

(24) S. Korea...

people are under quarantine, down from 3,805 the previous day. A total of 1,249 people have been released from quarantine, including 294 on Friday. (AFP)

(25) Barrier on...

state radio. "We think they should be stopped within Serbia."

Orban said the European Union should fund facilities outside its borders where migrants wishing to come to Europe can stay until their cases are evaluated. (AP)

(26) Germany...

show U.S. intelligence had tapped the phone. But he said at the time there was not enough clarity to bring charges. (Reuters)

(27) Pakistan will...

regarding the working criteria of the NGOs. Nisar said two NGOs registered in Zambia and Guinea respectively which were operating in Pakistan without any permit and reporting stories from Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan which were based on lies. (Agencies)