

**(1) Next Four ...**

Afghan Local Police. The president thanked the Wolesi Jirga members for sharing their views and proposals regarding the security situation in Ghazni and said: "Unfortunately and fortunately our predictions about the current situation were right." "Unfortunately because the war has escalated and fortunately because we are prepared for it," the president said, calling the next four months as fate-deciding. The president said they intended to execute a three-pronged policy in Ghazni and other important provinces. The supreme commander of the armed forces said the Afghan forces were improving with the passage of time from discipline and professionalism perspective, but in this area, support from lawmakers and all political forces was seriously needed. (Pajhwok)

**(2) US to be ...**

US ambassador said the new defense minister would have a chance to reflect on how was the train, advise and assist (TAA) mission working and what should be their plans for the future after six months into the mission.

To a question about any possible changes in the US pullout timeline from Afghanistan, Lute said it was a decision to be made in Washington after this fighting season.

He said presidents Ashraf Ghani and Barack Obama had agreed this year would obviously be a fighting season during which the Afghan forces would be tested. "I think that's proving to be true."

"They also agreed that together they would take an assessment as to progress this year and what the challenges of the future lay. I don't have a forecast for you on how that assessment will go, but I think we can agree that this is a real challenge. This will be, has been so far, and will continue to be a challenging year for the Afghan Security Forces." (Pajhwok)

**(3) Dostum-Noor...**

Wolesi Jirga members expressed doubts over the alliance between the two rivals and warned it might produce grave consequences in future.

After a series of incidents of violence in the north, Dostum, also head of the Junbish-i-Islami political party and Noor, also the executive head of Jamiat-i-Islami political party, had resolved their differences through mediation of tribal elders and forged an alliance to fight the Taliban, their common enemy in the restive north.

Dostum said he had a roadmap for strengthening security in the north and eliminating anti-state actors. He asked the National Security Council (NSC) to allow him to implement his strategy.

The VP said the time had come to get united against the enemy of peace and stability, adding that he and Noor had passed through difficult times together and similar situations had arrived again that required their mutual efforts.

Javed Faisal, a spokesman for Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News the alliance between Dostum and Noor would leave a positive impact on the security situation in the north.

He said the two leaders as part of the government had full responsibility to play their role in strengthening the country's security. He insisted the alliance would not undermine the abilities and capabilities of Afghan armed forces rather it would encourage the public to help security forces. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Electoral Reform ...**

cause delay for the commission's work," he added.

According to Faisal, all differences have been resolved and both leaders were on same page about commission's work.

Two months back, lawmaker Shukria Barezkaiz was appointed as head of the panel by the president. The move was opposed by the CEO and no alternative has officially been nominated for the post. Deputy CEO spokesman without going into details said the differences over appointment of the panel's head had also been resolved.

"If anyone wants it or not electoral reforms have to come. Without reforms there will be no elections." Meanwhile, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) say the government is not capable of conduction parliamentary elections this year and an alternative date would be announced soon. (Pajhwok)

**(5) NSC Issues ...**

Wolesi Jirga in capital Kabul, with one of them smashed his explosive-laden vehicle to the gate of the parliament, providing others to force their way inside the building.

The president awarded one apartment to the soldier in recognition of his bravery that he demonstrated during the attack, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

In addition, ministers of interior and chief of army staff of the Ministry of Defense provided a detailed report about the overall security situation in the country during the meeting.

Threats from enemies were also assessed in the meeting and security organs were directed to keep ready to thwart any attack.

The NSC also praised the performance of security forces in defeating militants and regaining control of Chahardara district of Kunduz province. The council stressed on clearing all parts of Kunduz province from rebels.

The NTA draft prepared by security, defense sectors and Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) was also reviewed and then issued by the NSC. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Strong Pakistan...**

confirmation hearing. Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Hale said relations with its neighbors play an important part in Pakistan's security and prosperity.

Pakistan has undertaken important outreach to Afghanistan following the Afghan election, and the two countries have made some progress against terrorist safe havens on both sides of the border, he said. Hale said US security assistance to Pakistan is equally important and is directly supporting Pakistan's ability to conduct counter-insurgency operations, clear terrorist safe havens, and stem the flow of deadly improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which have killed far too many civilians and security personnel.

"Our security assistance, like our civilian assistance, is geared directly toward meeting critical U.S. national security objectives," he said. Hale said Pakistan has taken important actions on counter-terrorism that have brought to justice several senior al-Qaida leaders. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Talks without ...**

Aziz said that Pakistan had organized talks between Afghan officials and Taliban delegation in Urumqi city of China.

The Taliban said they had an organized wing for every political issue which dealt with according to the rules and regulations of Taliban policies.

Taliban had a political wing or political office which had responsibility of dealing with all local and foreign political issues, the statement said, adding that "since the inception of political office, no one is authorized to issue a statement or meet on behalf of Taliban." (Pajhwok)

**(8) MPs Donate ...**

wounded in the incident. At least six of the attackers were killed by widely praised Essa Khan, a soldier of Afghan National Army (ANA).

In reward, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani promoted and awarded an apartment to Essa Khan. In addition, 64 members of the upper house donated 320,000 afghanis to him, the house chairman gave him 200,000 afghanis, Eng. Farhad Sakhi and Gen. Abdul Raziq assisted him with 200,000 and 300,000 afghanis respectively. First vice-president Abdul Rashid Dostum awarded Essa Khan a Hi-lux vehicle and \$5,000.

Today the lawmakers appreciated Essa Khan's bravery and patriotism, urging the government to honour all security personnel of the parliament.

Nilofar Ibrahim, a lawmaker from northeastern Badakhshan province, said: "We should appreciate Essa Khan, but should not forget other soldiers who offered resistance during the assault." (Pajhwok)

**(9) Afghanistan to ...**

resources which have not been properly used due to old irrigation system, the president said, adding that at 26,000 megawatt electricity could be produced had "we used the modern technology which would not be only sufficient for Afghanistan but could also be exported to neighboring states like India and Pakistan."

According to a new survey, some of the areas had wind for around 250 days of the year which could

produce sufficient amount of electricity whereas Afghanistan could also produce 80,000 megawatts to 150,000 megawatts of electricity from solar energy.

Afghanistan is an agricultural country yet depended on export of agricultural items, he said, adding that Afghanistan should find a crop which could replace opium cultivation.

He said that his government main focus was on transit therefore the government was planning to convert the northern and central provinces into main transit centers.

He said around 33 percent of natural resources of Afghanistan had been uncovered which cost trillions of dollars and would turn Afghanistan as major country of iron and copper exporter in next ten years.

"Historically Afghanistan focuses on trade therefore we also focus on expansion of our cities and construct residential buildings according to modern ways," he suggested.

The president ensured that education curriculum would be changed in order to enhance professionalism among new generation and monitoring from grassroots level up to ministry levels.

The president showed interest to follow China model in a reconstruction therefore an Afghan delegation would be sent to China to sign contracts in sectors where Chinese investors were interested to invest in Afghanistan.

The statement stated Chinese delegation ensured that China would evaluate Afghan president's demands and would look into sectors where China could invest. (Pajhwok)

**(10) US to Decide ...**

would be tested. I think that's proving to be true."

He said, "In the aftermath of this fighting season, given the current level of support, they agreed that together they would take an assessment as to progress this year and what the challenges of the future lay."

"I don't have a forecast for you on how that assessment will go, but I think we can agree that this is a real challenge. This will be, has been so far, and will continue to be a challenging year for the Afghan Security Forces," Ambassador Lute added.

He also added that United States will remain the major troop contributor to the NATO mission in Afghanistan beyond 2016.

"I won't forecast what our numbers will be beyond 2016, but I think it's safe to say that we'll still be a major contributor to the NATO mission beyond 2016," Ambassador Lute said, adding that "And the numbers, quite frankly, aren't complete yet."

He said "We're still working closely with our Afghan government colleagues to define exactly what tasks will be done, and this always begins with the tasks, and then we add the numbers after the tasks. So we're still in the process of figuring that out. But I think it's safe to say the U.S. will be a major contributor." (KP)

**(11) Powerful People ...**

distributed to teachers - who recently went on strike in protest against poor salaries and failure to get the promised land.

According to the MPs, most of the plots earmarked for teachers had either been seized by the powerful individuals or were located on inaccessible hillsides.

"Most of the plots distributed for the teachers in Nangarhar are occupied by powerful people," MP from Nangarhar Sayed Ikram told the House.

However, the education minister went on to say that the plots had been distributed to the teachers.

"Over the past few years, more than 80,000 plots have been distributed to the teachers," Balkhi told the session.

But some other lawmakers accused some government authorities of confiscating land plots dedicated for teachers.

"The officials responsible for distributing land plots have mainly benefited from the land considered for the teachers," female MP Fawzia Kofi said.

"Most of the plots distributed to teachers are in mountainous areas where there is no possibility of living," House Speaker Abdul Raouf Ibrahim said.

Meanwhile, the officials from Afghanistan Land Authority also confirmed that land plots for teachers were being grabbed by powerful people.

"Most sections of 56 hectares of

land allocated for the teachers have been seized by these opportunists," head of Afghanistan Land Authority Ahmad Jawad Paikar said. (Tolonews)

**(12) China Condemns ...**

in Afghanistan would bear in mind the bigger picture of peace and stability in Afghanistan and do more things that contribute to the political reconciliation in the country, Kang said. (PR)

**(13) Finance Minister...**

said evaluation of budget in the middle of the year, finalisation of strategic plan, ensuring gender equality, expansion of national budget plan from 16 to 25 budgetary units and finalisation of provincial budgets would be top priorities of his ministry in coming three months.

In future, he said the country budget would be introduced for three years period and there would be more focus on provincial budgets particularly of small provinces. Future budgets would address areas from where masses could benefit the most, he said, adding it would help improve living standard of the people.

He said the 100-day plan would focus on completion of long and small terms development projects. He informed introduction of computerized system of money transfer, amendment in the insurance law and introduction of more articles, enhancing the capacity of administrative system of the ministry, connecting all political department of municipality with the ministry through new computerized system, transfer of revenue to the treasury on daily basis, mapping a strategy for revenue collection from costume office across the country and registration of new tax depositors were other priorities the ministry would focus on in coming three months. (Pajhwok)

Another Afghan refugee, Bibi Gul, said: "Although I face huge economic problems I have decided to return to Afghanistan with my family, in these hard times."

According to UNHCR, there are more than 150,000 documented Afghan refugees in Pakistan; however, more than 100,000 of them are undocumented. (Tolonews)

**(14) Many Problems,...**

month to protest the issue. The provincial council office of Jawzjan was reopened on March 10 after one month of protest.

Deputy provincial council head Abdul Qadir Malia told Pajhwok Afghan News that his office resolved several problems particularly disputes between some people and groups.

Citing an example, Qadir said that six months ago residents of Aqcha and Faizabad districts of the province had engaged in a dispute over irrigation water, which resulted into the injuries of some people.

When the residents referred the problem to the provincial council, he said the council succeeded to settle the dispute permanently, he said.

He said that a stream flowing to Faizabad district was controlled by the people of Aqcha that created problem for Faizabad residents in access to clean water. Malia added that the issue was then resolved following interference by provincial council. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Wolesi Jirga...**

house session that if the attack was not investigated, the house would come under such assaults in the future.

He said Pakistan was trying to destroy the Afghanistan legislature in revenge for lawmakers' opposition to an intelligence agreement between Kabul and Islamabad.

Ali Akbar Qasimi, who represents Ghazni people in the Wolesi Jirga, also accused Pakistan of trying to destroy one of the important pillars of the Afghan government. He also said the incident should be deeply investigated.

His colleague Arif Rahmani said no tight security measures had been when the attack took place. He said the enemies of Afghans had been defeated, but they still dreamed regaining power.

Rahmani said intelligence and detective organs should effectively respond to the attack because they were being blamed for not fulfilling their responsibilities. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Govt. Urged ...**

Atiqullah Nasrat, head of the ACCI, and the Norms and Standards Department director Popalzai Popal.

Under the MoU, Nasrat said the ACCI was tasked to train producers about the pros of standards and help them in their trade development.

He urged private sector to invest in laboratories inside the country in order to ensure better quality of domestic products.

Popalzai said the MoU was aimed at evaluating, capacity building in production sector, improvement of

exports and access to world markets.

Khan Jan Alkozai, the ACCI deputy head, told Pajhwok Afghan News it was responsibility of the private sector to ensure safety of employees in trade and manufacturing sector to restore people's trust and to improve production and trade. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Military Operation ...**

close to 100 of them were killed, according to security officials.

The Taliban's effectiveness in destabilizing parts of northern Afghanistan, a region of the country traditionally more removed from the group's activity, has prompted major concerns as the Afghan forces struggle to assert themselves in their first fighting season since the NATO combat mission ended in late 2014. (Tolonews)

**(18) UN Calls ...**

office will be opened here by the Afghan government to ease travel for Afghans. It is traditional and common that Afghans and Pakistanis travel between the two countries through Chaman and Torkham borders, but I am sure that it will be good that the Afghan refugee repatriation (program) takes place through a respected process," he suggested.

A number of Afghan refugees in Peshawar city said they are often harassed by Pakistan security forces and are therefore being forced to return to Afghanistan.

"Pakistani police have started harassing Afghan refugees for the past few months therefore I decided to return to the country with my family," said Mohammadullah, an Afghan refugee in Peshawar.

Another Afghan refugee, Bibi Gul, said: "Although I face huge economic problems I have decided to return to Afghanistan with my family, in these hard times."

According to UNHCR, there are more than 150,000 documented Afghan refugees in Pakistan; however, more than 100,000 of them are undocumented. (Tolonews)

**(19) US to Manage ...**

director general on policy and planning, told The Associated Press late Tuesday.

The U.S. would continue to manage Afghan airspace till Sept. 16, which will allow for a smooth transition until a well-experienced international company takes over, Wafayezada said.

That company, which he declined to name, won the contract after a tender for the next two years. Paperwork is underway and the contract is to be signed soon, following negotiations over some more details.

"There is nothing to be worried over for now or the next two years," he said.

Qasim Rahimi, Civil Aviation Authority spokesman, said the company will work under Afghan government supervision. It will hire foreign experts, but also train and employ Afghan staff, something authorities had set as a condition during negotiations, Rahimi added. (AP)

**(20) Daesh Curbs ...**

"There are no schools and reconstruction projects in the districts where Daesh fighters are present," provincial council member Zabiullah Zemarai said.

The governor of Nangarhar, Salim Kunduzi, neither confirmed nor denied the latest threats by Daesh. But he admitted the presence of these insurgents in the province.

He also confirmed clashes between the Taliban and Daesh militants in some parts of his province.

But the head of provincial council, Nasir Kamawal, urged the government to curb Daesh activities before it expands throughout the province.

"Daesh has just started its activities and it is very easy to eliminate them. But if they grew, the government would not be able to curb them," Kamawal warned.

According to the provincial council members, the so-called Daesh fighters have considerable presence in nine districts of Nangarhar. They added the leaflets were distributed in Achin, Nazian, Kot, Spin Ghar and Haska Mina districts. (Tolonews)

**(21) WH Praised ...**

heavy and light weapons started shooting at the parliament.

But Afghan security forces were able to quell the attack in less than an hour. One Afghan soldier killed six militants who were trying to enter to the parliament and more likely carry out a carnage inside. (KP)

**(22) Child Abuse...**

Negligence to law, insecurity, poverty, administrative corruption and lack of awareness were main reasons of surge sexual abuse of children, he said, adding that religious scholars, local elders and security organs could prevent the practice. Abdullah Baloch, area coordinator of AIHRC, also confirmed sharp rise in sexual abuses of children and said security organs and people should protect vulnerable children.

Maulvi Khudai Nazar, head of religious council, ensured their efforts in prevention of the practice. (Pajhwok)

**(23) First Crop...**

Zameer said the laboratory would also control soil diseases and produce a kind of pesticide to protect the roots of plants against diseases.

Calling insects in gardens and farms a big challenge, the minister hoped the new laboratory would not only support beneficial insects, but it would also help prevent the use of different kinds of pesticides and protect the environment. (Pajhwok)

**(24) Five Taliban...**

of Alawuddin and Mangal villages in the district.

Tribal elders meanwhile confirmed the collapse of villages into Taliban hands but said that the Afghan security forces have re-taken control of at least one village, Khudaidakhil, which had also fallen into the control of the Taliban insurgents.

Baghlan borders Kunduz province, which has been the scene of ongoing clashes with Taliban insurgents who took control of Dasht-e-Archi district. (Tolonews)

**(25) Badakhshan District...**

nor any group took responsibility for the explosion.

Elsewhere, seven Taliban fighters, including two commanders, have been killed and two others detained in the Baghlan-i-Markazi and Dushi districts of northern Baghlan province, an official said.

Kohar Khan Babari, administrative chief of Baghlan-i-Markazi, said five Taliban fighters, including their commander Mula Malang, was perished during overnight attack on a police check post in the Mangal locality.

Separately, notorious Taliban commander Maulvi Abdul Rahim was killed, another wounded and two others arrested during security forces raid in Dushi district, the newly appointed Police Chief Abdul Jabbar Purdali said.

He added the group wanted to carry out subversive acts on Kabul-North Highway in the Kilgili locality. (Pajhwok)

**(26) Road Construction...**

the construction company but said only that preliminary work on Shiberghan - Qoshtapa was launched by the public works ministry. Asphalting of the road, he said would start soon.

Taliban have not yet commented on the incident.

Last month also on the same highway, a construction company's vehicle was attacked, leaving one worker dead and seven others wounded. (Pajhwok)

**(27) Low Power Voltage...**

Currently, the Breshna Shirkat was importing 120 megawatt electricity from Iran and 20 megawatt from Turkmenistan to Heart. Authorities had planned to start work over import of another 60 megawatt from Iran and 20 megawatt from Turkmenistan in coming month. (Pajhwok)

**(28) Lebanon Parliament...**

six-year term ended. The constitution states the government administrators presidential powers in the case of a vacuum in the post. (Xinhua)

**(29) Tashkent Hosts...**

towards the Millennium Development Goals for the period 2000-2013. It identifies the key factors that contribute to the objectives, challenges and formed the challenges facing the country in the future, - she said. The event with the presentation of the report made by the representative of the Center for Economic Research, is the coordinating institution for its preparation. It was noted that in September 2000, leaders of 189 countries, including Uzbekistan, have signed the Millennium Declaration and pledged to promote human development by putting in front of eight major goals with specific deadlines and criteria for assessing their achievement. (PR)