

(1) Security...

thwarts attacks in the past.

According to him, currently the various security branches are cooperating and working well together and are sharing information. He said that once a week he holds a meeting with various branches and together they exchange information.

Raising the issue of civilian casualties, he said that this was an area of serious concern for government but that security forces were trying hard to keep civilians safe during operations.

A worrying factor for him was that security forces are still hampered by a shortage of equipment and air support. One example cited was that of equipment needed to defuse and destroy landmines.

However, he said that government has been in discussions with China and other regional countries with regards to this and that they had shown signs that they will help.

Taking the podium after Olomi was the head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) Rahmatullah Nabil.

He said that in just 48 hours, the NDS has carried out 12 operations countrywide.

He said that a few months ago they arrested a man who they could link to a planned parliament attack. Following this arrest, they arrested a further 12 insurgents carrying explosive devices.

He said that following any arrest they try to find out as much information relating to any planned attacks.

He said that at least five or six planned attacks on parliament have been thwarted.

He said however that he was happy to share in depth details on security matters with MPs but said he would not do it before live television cameras.

He did however warn that the security situation looks set to worsen over the next few months. But he emphasized that this does not mean the NDS is not working around the clock to stamp out insurgency.

He said there is an urgent need for the public to support security force operations – such as what is happening in Waigal district in Nuristan. He said locals are assisting security forces in their fight against insurgents. (Tolonews)

(2) Taliban Want ...

stormed the district centre two days ago and captured it for few hours until the ANA troops arrived and drove them away.

While praising the troops, the army chief referred to the Taliban and said they wanted to capture some areas and then arrive at talks. He said the Afghan rebels were linked with regional spy agencies.

“The armed opponents have lost the ability to continue fighting. The demand of their masters is that they should first capture some areas and then appear for talks from a strong position, but they cannot capture any area.”

About recent rebel attacks, he said the insurgents mounted attacks on Charsadda district of Ghor, Juwind district of Badkhis and Yamang district of Badkhis, but failed to hold the ground there.

Even yesterday, the army chief, said the Taliban captured the Want Weigal district but they were pushed back and driven away by the Afghan forces.

He called as satisfactory the country's security situation and confirmed reports about the emergence of the Islamic State group in some districts of eastern Nangarhar province.

“The armed opponents have targeted public places like banks and killed and wounded civilians and then realised these attacks increased people's hatred for them, so they changed their flag and name.”

He said the Afghan forces were able to fight off these armed groups and prevent their attacks and in the same breath urged the troops to take utmost care of civilians during their operations.

The 201 Selab Military Corps commander, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Waziri, said from the war perspective, the Taliban were fully prepared to change tactics as their current strategies had been flopped. He said the troops had the ability and capability to fight the rebels and defend areas in their control and the people.

Later Defence Ministry officials distributed appreciation letters on behalf of the Chief of Army Staff among the 201 Selab Military Corps personnel in recognition of their services and ability.

Describing coordination among security forces in the east as good, the army chief directed them to continue operations against militants. (Pajhwok)

(3) Over \$200m ...

regularity around \$200 million had been found in a contract of civil aviation and transport in Khost provincial airport.

Khost governor was asked to evaluate and properly investigate the contract.

Dr. Qadar Wadan reassured that printing of passports would be completed by the end of 2016 but around one million urgent passports would be printed according to the mentioned period in the previous contract.

During the meeting, the bidding process of Ministry of Finance construction related contracts was finalized and it was decided that UNOPS would not take part in the primary bidding. (Pajhwok)

(4) Ambitious 10...

to mothers and newborns.

Keeping in view the reward and punishment system, the Public Health Ministry's role in keenly observing activities of health services providing organisations and in making available better health services over the next four years and then 10 years was discussed.

The gathering stressed the preparation of a complete strategy on improved health services and devising a mechanism to provide health facilities in Kabul in line with the city's populations.

At the gathering, proposals and recommendations were floated on how to maintain proper attention toward continued health programmes and introduction of health insurance policy between the Public Health Ministry and the National Directorate of Security as a pilot experiment.

President Ghani insisted on the Public Health Ministry's role in observing activities of health services providing organizations and issued necessary directives in this regard, the statement concluded. (Pajhwok)

(5) 3.8m Afghan ...

Minister of States and Frontier Regions Abdul Qadir Baloch at the end of a three-day Ramadan solidarity mission to Pakistan.

The UN refugee chief noted the future of some 2.6 million Afghan refugees in the region, many of whom have been living outside their country for over three decades, still hung in the balance while fresh emergencies in the Middle East and Africa competed for global attention.

Praising Pakistan's goodwill and hospitality as a host nation, Guterres noted that “the unwavering generosity of Pakistani people towards Afghan refugees has contributed to regional stability but also more broadly to the global refugee cause at a time when we witness increased asylum fatigue worldwide.”

However, Guterres stressed that 2015 was a pivotal year for Afghanistan, offering unprecedented opportunities to pursue innovative and lasting solutions for Afghan refugees in the region.

“Traditional approaches are no longer sufficient to fully capitalise on the potential for solutions in 2015 in view of prevailing challenges in Afghanistan ... in an environment of shrinking humanitarian resources, it is vital to pursue innovative solutions and creative joint advocacy and resource mobilization,” he added.

The High Commissioner said he was encouraged by the new National Unity Government of Afghanistan for their ownership and commitment to sustainable return and reintegration of refugees and he repeated calls for the international community to support those efforts.

“It is critical that the international community steps up to support the Afghan government in their efforts to create adequate conditions for Afghans to return home and restart their lives in safety and dignity,” he said.

Pakistan is currently hosting 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees; the largest protracted refugee population globally, of which 67 per cent live in urban and peri-urban areas, while 33 per cent remain in special refugee villages. Within Pakistan, some 1 million registered Afghan refugees reside in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. Since 2002, more than 3.8 million Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan, assisted through the largest voluntary repatriation programme in UNHCR's history. (Monitoring Desk)

(6) Karzai Advises ...

security situation in Afghanistan despite the presence of western troops and asked Washington to ask for help from Russian and China in fighting militancy and extremism.

“And this war has now been going on for 13/14 years, without the results that we all expected. Unfortunately, the Afghans suffered heavily in this

war on terror. Terrorism and extremism rather than being defeated, or reduced, or eliminated, is steadily and widely on the rise.”

In addition, Karzai said that the time has come for the US and its allies come together and talk about the challenges they face in the war on terrorism.

Karzai said the US leaders “should explain to the world whether they have failed in the war on terror, or if the war on terror has gotten out of hand.”

Karzai stated that the situation in Afghanistan was still critical, adding that the Taliban and Daesh control some regions across the country. (Tolonews)

(7) AIHRC Reports ...

Local civil society activists and Ghor Provincial Council members have confirmed the accuracy of the AIHRC report, the head of the province's education department has denounced it.

According to the AIHRC office in Ghor, nearly 70 percent of the province's schools are closed, and tens of local lawbreakers and illegal armed group commanders receive salaries designated for the schools' teachers.

“The Independent Human Rights Commission in its investigations and assessments has always reported about the concerning situation of education in Ghor,” AIHRC Ghor office head Jawad Alawi said on Friday. “However, in some districts of the province, almost 70 percent of the schools are not operational. The schools and names of teachers exist in the administrative structure, but there are no schools and teachers on the ground.”

According to Ghor Provincial Council member Abdul Majid Natiqi, tribal elders and Taliban militants alike receive the government funding intended for education in the province. “The majority of schools in the province aren't operational, but the salaries of the teachers are provided to tribal elders, even the Taliban use the money, which shows that the situation facing education in Ghor is quite distressing,” he told TOLONews.

“The majority of schools have turned into an income source for the Taliban and illegal armed groups,” civil society advocate Hassan Hakimi said.

Although he did not speak specifically to the allegations of the AIHRC report, acting Ghor governor Syed Anwar Rahmati did call on the Ministry of Education (MoE) to address the issues facing the province's education system. “We had emphasized that public services must be halted in areas where there is no control by the government, and we hope that the Ministry of Education takes notice of the problem and solves it,” he said.

On the other hand, Sibghatollah Akbari, the head of Ghor's education department, rejected the AIHRC claims as outlandish, instead estimating the number of non-operational schools in the province at a handful. “I strongly reject the allegations and I don't understand on what basis the report has been prepared about education in Ghor,” he said.

Illegally armed groups numbering up to 10,000 men are said to be operating in various regions of Ghor province. Their presence has emerged as a major obstacle to development projects in these areas.

The AIHRC report comes just after the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) made its own claims regarding the embezzlement of aid funds by officials at the Ministry of Education. The subject of “ghost schools” has become a hot-button issue for Afghan leaders and donor countries in recent months.

According to SIGAR, as of March 31, 2015, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) had spent 769 million USD to support education in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(8) Spymaster ...

only one time they were somehow successful to stage attack.

He said some individuals who had links with attack on parliament had been detained earlier. The NDS chief said security forces wanted to regain control of areas which were not under their control.

He said the coming month would be more difficult and there would more violence, but these incidents would not demoralize Afghan forces.

He said talented and energetic youth had been appointed on different posts in the spy-service of the country. He hoped the newly-appointed men would be an asset in the future. Regarding the controversial MoU with Pakistan, he said that President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said the agreement had not been signed with Pakistan.

He said the deal could be inked af-

ter it passed through five processes. The official said the president would present the draft to the NSC this week for debate.

Answering to MPs concerns over the growing influence of Daesh, the spy-network chief said a plan had been prepared to deal with Islamic State (IS). He, however, refused to go into the details.

He said neighboring countries and smuggling of drugs were major sources of income for militants to fuel insurgency.

Maj. Gen. Afzal Aman told the house militant presence had been noticed in every part of the country. He said in the first three months of this year more attacks had been launched by the enemy as compared to the first three months of the previous year.

He said militants had intensified their attacks in 2015 and tried to capture districts in northern province, but they were unable due to stout resistance by security forces.

Interior Minister Noor-ul-Haq Ulumi said transfer of security and vacuum created by withdrawal of foreign troops were main causes of surge in violence.

There should not be any doubt over the abilities Afghan forces, he said, adding that due to lack of coordination among security forces some districts lost to insurgents.

He said due to some technical problems the process of Computerized Identity Cards could not be kicked-off. He, however, assured that sooner than later the process would begin. (Pajhwok)

(9) Dried and...

and improvement in packaging and marketing of the products.

He added 1,100 cold storages are currently operating in various provinces of Afghanistan and have been a great asset in increase of exports.

According to Hashemi, Afghanistan's dried and fresh fruits are mostly exported to Pakistan, India, the United Arab Emirates, Central Asia, Russia, Holland and Germany.

Grapes, melons, pomegranates, apples and cherries are the most popular fresh fruits of Afghanistan; and pistachio, almonds, raisins, pine seeds and dried berries are globally well-known dried fruits of Afghanistan.

This comes as Afghanistan is facing a major trade deficit with imports standing at USD 500mn and exports are worth USD 8mn only. (Wadsam)

(10) Pakistani Bank...

answer the calls. According to Hasht-i-Subh newspaper, the Afghan bank had dispatched the complaint letter to the MoFA on May 26, in which the bank had asked the government to help it recover the loan from the UBL.

The newspaper says in 2006, the Pashtany Bank provided 3.5 million rupees in loan to the UBL, which has been now refusing to pay back the amount.

The Pashtany Bank had so far received 11 percent of the loan and it received the last payment in June 2014. Officials of the Pashtany Bank confirmed they had contacted the government to help recover the money from the UBL. They said the Afghan bank had repeatedly asked the UBL to return the loan, but the bank had been refusing to do so.

The Pashtany Bank is one of the oldest banks of Afghanistan and was inception in 1954 during the reign of King Zahir Shah. (Pajhwok)

(11) Conflicting Reports...

center in HMC, told Pajhwok Afghan News three infected persons were transferred to the center for treatment.

Zakirullah 9 son of Raziqullah, the resident of Bamyān, was discharged from the hospital the other day who was recovered from the virus, he said, adding that another patient Khaliq Dad 30 and Hasham 33 were died of the disease in the hospital.

Wahid further added that few others infected with same virus had been died in recent past.

Wahidullah Mayar, spokesman of the Ministry of Health in Kabul, rejected the claim and said that the disease did not exist in Afghanistan. He said the disease was reported back in 2009 in western Herat and central Bamyān provinces.

Mayar said the infected patients might be Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and he ensured that the Ministry of Health would immediately consult with Ministry of Health in Pakistan about the disease.

Pajhwok Afghan News also contacted director of health in eastern Nangarhar and Bamyān provinces who also rejected any such disease in the provinces. (Pajhwok)

(12) Anti-Drug ...

surpassed the deaths from the conflict in Afghanistan, where so far \$8.6

billion had been spent on the counter-narcotics campaign, but the drugs witnessed a 34 percent increase since 2001.

Looking at these bitter realities, Rohi said it was essential to mobilise the masses against the growing menace.

Deputy counternarcotics minister Haroon Rashed Sherzad, who spoke on the occasion, announced the ministry's full support to the campaign and appreciated the effort.

He said currently poppy crop was grown in Afghanistan's 132 districts out of the total 376 districts. The bulk of the illicit plant was cultivated in 10 districts of Helmand, Kandahar, Farah and Nimroz provinces, he added. Mohammad Hashim Wahdat, who represented the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) at the gathering, said the campaign was the first of its kind to be involved the public. He announced support to the campaign and hoped it would produce positive results. (Pajhwok)

(13) Provincial...

lah, who was found dead about two weeks ago, accused Tokhi of killing their loved one.

“On 16 June, Omidullah was kidnapped and his body was found the next day,” his brother Mohammad Ayubi said. “Four people were suspicious in the case who after being arrested confessed that Angar Tokhi was the real murderer.”

He called on the government and courts to bring the culprit to justice. But Tokhi's family members rejected the allegations as baseless, calling it a political conspiracy against Tokhi.

“I don't really want to defend my brother. Let the time decide about him but what I know is that there is a political conspiracy against my brother,” Tokhi's brother Mohammad Dawar told TOLONews.

But the Faryab Police also accused Tokhi of killing Omidullah and said a girl was also detained in this connection.

Provincial lawmakers who are often the most powerful people in the provinces have repeatedly been accused of supporting illegal armed groups, violating law and misusing their authority. (Tolonews)

(14) 12 Girls Schools...

deprive of education.

Jamil, a resident of the locality, said Taliban ordered to close all girls' schools except primary. “At least four girls in my family have been suffered. Schools have been closed for last four days. I wonder why the government is not taking action against anti-state elements,” he questioned.

Mohammad Amin, the Baraki Barak district chief, confirmed that middle and high schools had been closed.

“Apart from girls' schools, Taliban have also threatened to close religious seminaries registered with government if the teachers get salaries from the government.”

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, denied Taliban ordered closing of schools and said that the insurgents' group had launched investigations in this connection to divulge facts. (Pajhwok)

(15) Floods Displace ...

also under the watershed threat. The residents have appointed teams to inform people if the level of water rose in the river, he added.

The level of water usually rises in Parwan River as the snow on the mountains starts melting in summer season. (Pajhwok)

(16) Drug Price ...

News Network special report on

Drugs in Kabul city, President Ghani has ordered Minister of Interior Affairs to adopt significant measurements on drugs in Kabul.”

Mr. Ahmadi has declared the main reasons for hiking price of drugs in Kabul city was the special report for Ariana News Network, arresting drugs dealers, and launching scores of operations.

The drug prices hiked from 100 Afghani to have 100 grams up to 500 Afghani 100 grams that means are demanders will not be capable to buy drugs easily added MoI counter Narcotic drugs deputy Ahmadi.

The Ariana News Network special report indicated that drugs were sold closer to the houses of CEO Abdullah Abdullah and even the presidential palace with no fears of Afghan security forces. (ATN NEWS)

(17) Sheep Smuggling ...

livestock industry in the province. He said the livelihoods of thousands of families in the province is dependent on livestock and this new phenomenon is creating enormous problems for them.

Ahmad said several individuals have been arrested on charges of sheep smuggling but the illegal trafficking continues.

“Think of the huge amount: 1,000

sheep on a daily basis and 30,000 monthly. This illegal trend seriously affects meat prices in Herat markets and affects families lives as well,” he said.

According to Afghanistan's laws, live animals are not allowed to be exported. But the smugglers are reportedly assisted by officials at police checkpoints to get their livestock out of the country, some locals said.

Herat police chief Gen. Abdul Hamid Rozi has confirmed the smuggling problem and said: “The roads which are connected to Iran are under our control. According to my information, the sheep are herded on foot out of the city, and then they are taken [by vehicle] out of the country,” said Rozi.

In addition, a number of reports say the smugglers receive buffalos and donkeys in exchange for sheep from Iran and Pakistan.

Lamb was however always smuggled from Herat slaughter houses to Iran - over the past 40 years - but following the closure of these plants the smuggling of live sheep has increased dramatically. (Tolonews)

(18) Helmand Residents...

from Garmsir district, told Pajhwok Afghan News people most of the time in his area refers their disputes to local Jirgas for addressing their cases.

“Judicial organs do not resolve people's cases and even they create more problems for people. The government organs also take bribe from both sides of a case that is why people prefer local Jirgas,” he said. He said judicial organs repeatedly complained why people use local Jirgas instead of government organs.

Wazir Gul a resident of Lashkargah city, the capital of Helmand, also said that people take their problems to local councils. “Local people know how to solve their problems because they also have background information about local issues, norms and tradition.

The government, he said do not solve people's problems but it creates more problems. Gul said even one percent people do not refer their cases to government organs because they do not trust judges would demonstrate impartiality.

Most of the people in other areas use local councils for resolving their cases. Mohammad Qasim Noorzai, provincial borders and tribal affairs director, said that local Jirga was an old custom in parts of Afghanistan. “Few days ago, we have resolved our 33-year old land dispute through a local Jirga. I believe if the case was taken to government organs it would take more than five years to be settled,” he said.

He added if tribal elders and influential took authority of some government seats they would also be able to bring peace to Afghanistan.

However, Helmand appeal court head Dil Agha Himat said people only in unstable areas used local Jirgas for settlement of their problems. “Hundreds of people refer their cases to us every day but people in remote areas use local councils to resolve their cases,” he said.

Helmand is one of the unstable provinces of Afghanistan where several districts are under high militants' threat. (Pajhwok)

(19) Number of ...

Governor Hayatullah Hayat said anti-drug sub-commission consisting of 17 departments had been formed which had started activities to control cultivation, smuggling and use of drugs in the province.

He said the sub commission consists of police, department of counternarcotics, education department, National Directorate of Security (NDS), Attorney General Office (AGO), agriculture and livestock, rural rehabilitation and reconstruction department, department of Hajj, information and culture, provincial council and women affairs.

The prime duty of the commission would be to bring down the number of drug addicted to zero, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(20) Once Unheard...

two enemies engaged in discussions on nuclear and other matters would have been a bombshell felt in capitals around the world.

Now, whether or not the U.S. and its negotiating powers can clinch a pact in Austria's capital over the next several days, it's hard to imagine the tentative U.S.-Iranian rapprochement ending anytime soon. (AP)