

### (1) ISIL Receiving...

rights abuses, including abductions and killings. The US-led international coalition, comprising over 60 countries, began an air campaign against the militants in Iraq in August 2014, later spreading the bombing to Syria. (Sputnik)

### (2) Gen. Campbell...

activities of the Daesh in the border areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan a threat.

"The possible rise of Daesh, or ISIL, is a new development," Gen. Campbell said. "Thus far, we believe that the Daesh presence in Afghanistan represents more of a rebranding of some of the marginalized Taliban. But we are still taking this potential threat, with this dangerous rhetoric and ideology, very, very seriously." He stressed that continuation of aid from Washington in the areas of security will prevent Afghanistan from becoming another Iraq.

"The best thing we can do to hedge Afghanistan from becoming the next Iraq is to continue to train, advise and assist...we're working very closely with the ANSF to evaluate and understand the dynamics and nature of this fledgling network." The possible emergence of Daesh in Afghanistan, according to the general, can be a chance for Afghanistan and Pakistan to work together in countering the common threat by "collaborating to meet the challenge."

Campbell said that strengthening Afghanistan's Air Force is one vital step forward in the fight against terrorism, ensuring that the news of Afghan servicemen withdrawing from the service will not impact the Afghan security forces in their preparation for the summer offensive. (Tolonews)

### (3) Ghani Comes...

MoFA to prepare the list of officials appointed on nepotism basis and then they would be made on the go. Afghan women should participate as an individual in administration not as a sister, wife or a close relative of an officer, he said, adding women with poor economic background should feel confident when visiting government offices for jobs. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Abducted Hazar...

minority were abducted by armed men on February 23 in Shah Joy district of southern Zabul province when they were travelling on Kabul-Kandahar highway. The drivers and eyewitnesses told TOLONews a day after the abduction that the passengers were drove away to Khak Afghan district of Zabul after identifying them to be Hazaras.

After days of negotiations between Zabul elders and the alleged abductors were proven fruitless, the security forces launched massive operation in the province to rescue the hostages.

However, the operation has been currently halted due to unfavorable weather. But according to the officials, more than 50 militants including foreign nationals have been killed so far in the operation. (Tolonews)

### (5) Operation to...

unsuccessful. That is why the military operation was launched - in hopes of forcefully retrieving them. A picture supposedly from the operation was leaked to the media showing a female Chechen fighter dead as a result of the early stages of the rescue operation. In total, officials have reported that at least 48 militants, including three commanders, have been killed during the operation. (Tolonews)

### (6) Abdullah Orders...

sleeping places, health facilities, improper location of prisons in provinces, space shortage and insufficient guards were some of the basic problems.

A statement from the CEO's office quoted Ulumi as saying the situation of prisons was deteriorating with each passing day and standards could not be met due to a lack of budget. However, he said female prisoners were in relatively better condition than men's. The minister said jails in 14 provinces were equal to nothing because the facilities were not suitable for prisoners to live in.

Literacy trainings for prisoners, timely access to their cases, preventing drugs supply to them and providing them with healthcare facilities were some of the subjects discussed by the council members, the statement said.

Abdullah said kindergartens should be established in women's

jails for children. He tasked the high council on prisons with taking serious measures to release inmates having served their sentences. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Rabbani ...

President Ashraf Ghani and his government to prosecute officials and commanders "whose serious human rights abuses have long gone unpunished."

"Some reports have been published just recently against Afghanistan jihadi commanders including our brother Mujahid Atta Mohammad Noor who has been playing significant role in progress and development of the country," Rabbani added.

Afghanistan and international organizations, he stressed direly needed to work in tandem and stopped publishing reports that would leave negative impact on ties.

"Publishing such kinds of malicious reports will inflict harm on the Afghan society who will not trust its reports in future," he added.

Meanwhile, some Facebook users said many human rights violators existed in Afghanistan and all of them should have been named in the report, not only some of them. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Protests if ...

commission on Tuesday warned to launch a series of protests if a presidential decree empowering PCs was not implemented. (Pajhwok)

### (9) AHRC Dubs...

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### (10) Ghani Promises

committed to our commitments and we have the power to implement them," Ghani said. "We are committed in protecting the achievements made during President Hamid Karzai's time. Our main commitment is to create stable and long-term conditions for women."

In his speech marking Women's Day, Ghani made several announcements and promises in increasing institutions for women.

"A university for women with aid from Turkey will be built in Kabul. Whether you want embassies, deputy ministries, governor positions, God willing it will happen soon and in accordance to standards. The story of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will not be repeated again."

Among increasing female capacity in leadership, economic projects, government positions, Ghani exclaimed that violence against women is intolerable.

"Every ministry is responsible to defend the rights of women. There is no place for violence."

Also at the event was Afghanistan's First Lady Rula Ghani who emphasized that women's rights must be respected and that discrimination between women of village and cities must be eliminated.

"Women need to be supported," Ghani said. "No women must be left out."

As Afghanistan acknowledges and celebrates International Women's Day, the women of the country still face major challenges including insecurity, violence, harassment, and illiteracy.

The president has shown commitment in bringing female presence to the Supreme Court, ratifying laws especially the family law, the anti-discrimination code, and the anti-harassment code. He added that the number of women will increase in key positions, pointing toward the deputy ministry roles.

In addition to his promises made at the event on Thursday, the Ministry of Women Affairs has demanded that the cases of the female prisoners be reviewed. (Tolonews)

### (11) Karzai Urges ...

the country achieved milestone in education during the last 13 years, he claimed, adding the nation needed to do more in education sector. He said that our elders and leading people were though being killed in the country on one hand while on the other "we have a strong youth power to deal with the challenges." Continuous down pour followed by snowfall and blizzards left hundreds of persons dead, wounded and destroyed homes elsewhere in the country. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Abdullah ...

diplomats by police in northeastern city of Peshawar and the perpetrators would be dealt with legally.

Abdullah thanked Pakistan for providing relief supplies to victims of avalanches in Afghanistan. About a

week back, Pakistan sent two helicopters into Afghanistan carrying relief goods for survivors of avalanches in central Panjsher province.

Abdullah said the incident of arresting Afghan diplomats by police in Pakistan should be thoroughly investigated.

About the invitation to visit Pakistan, the CEO said the Afghan government would decide about the date and duration of the visit, the details of which would be shared through diplomatic channels.

Abdullah and the Pakistan ambassador discussed problems Afghan refugees faced across the Durand Line, their solution and efforts in this regard, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

### (13) HN, Quetta ...

including the Haqqani Network and the Quetta Shura, were included in it.

He termed it useless to keep any of the groups away from these talks. Pakistan would perform its positive role in restoring peace and bringing reconciliation between the Afghan government and the Taliban through dialogue and would perform a constructive role wherever a need was felt for it, he pledged.

To a question as to when these talks would start, he confirmed that the process of contacts had been initiated. However, it was a sensitive issue and he would be careful about assumptions and said that it was their utmost desire to bring all of them to the negotiation table. To a question on the Haqqani Network, the defence minister said that Pakistan had never acknowledged this group and wanted its elimination. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Noor Wants ...

Afghan Local Police Commander Azizullah from the Urgan district in Paktika province, Atta Mohammad Noor, the incumbent acting governor of northern Balkh province, Najibullah Kapisa, the National Directorate of Security chief for Takhar, Mir Alam, a former senior commander with the Jamiat party, Asadullah Khalid, the former head of the National Security Directorate, and General Abdul Raziq, the Kandahar provincial police commander.

All those implicated in the HRW report have dismissed the HRW report in categorical terms. Farhad said that such kinds of reports would damage the personalities of a number of persons. He said: "How Noor can involve in drugs and other illegal activities at a time when poppy cultivation has dropped to zero level in Balkh province." (Pajhwok)

### (15) Journalists...

only harm the enacted laws, but would keep the masses in dark and away from information regarding the country's security situation.

"Article 50 of the Constitution gives every Afghan citizen access to information and the decision of the NSC and the MoI is against the Constitution and is not acceptable." Ending their gathering, the journalists warned of launching protests and boycotting government's functions if the decision was not cancelled. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Khalili Wants ...

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### (17) Child Labor...

Hussain is 14 years old, but due to his family's poverty, he has been forced to work in a coal mine in return for 300 Afghanis an hour day. He has been working in the mines for the past three years. "I am forced to work," Hussain told TOLONews. "I used to study, but now I have quit that as well."

The mines are extremely unsafe without the proper safety precautions in place. The risks of a tunnel collapse and poisoning from the gases inside the tunnels are very high. The children working in the mines lack basic safety equipment such as hard hats.

"We go inside the mine for 15 minutes, God is protecting us," a young

miner named Rohullah said. "If the mine collapses, many people will die of the gas inside the tunnel, but we have to go, otherwise, who would do this?"

Some of the kids working the mines go up to 1,000 meters deep into the tunnels. Some even spend the nights below ground. "Its life, we have to...I owe people," another young miner named Jawad told TOLONews.

Afghanistan's mining industry is known for its lack of standards and regulation. Last year, as a result of an explosion of methane gas inside a tunnel in Samangan's Dare Soof district, 22 miners lost their lives. (Tolonews)

### (18) Canada Support...

countries.

Lyons said women's empowerment in diverse fields of Afghanistan meant empowerment of all women of the world.

In her address to female provincial council members, she said: "Afghanistan woman politicians are strong and I appreciate it."

The ambassador said her country was assisting Afghanistan in reducing mother-child mortality rate and Canada strongly opposed to forced marriages.

NDI director Diyana Bowen said the week-long introduction programme came to an end on Thursday with participation of female PC members from nine northern provinces.

She said the participants were trained on how to effectively chalk out their programmes and establish close contracts with each other.

She said the NDI planned to arrange similar programmes in future with support from the Independence Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG).

One of the workshop participants, member of the Baghlan provincial council, Shah Jehan Ayubi, told Pajhwok Afghan News such programmes helped women improve their political skills.

She said she learnt many new things during the week-long training and hoped such events would be organized for other provincial council members. (Pajhwok)

### (19) KMU, USAID ...

technicians aren't available, the statement said, adding that the new Bio Medical Engineering Technology Program (BMET) will help address this problem.

The BMET will address this gap by offering a two-and-half-year Associate Degree Program at KMU. Dr. Wahid Omar, Chief of Party for USAID's University Support Workforce Development Program (USWDP) said: "KMU was selected as an institutional home for the BMET program because of its capacity, supportive leadership, and passionate faculty members. The team at KMU is committed to bring change in Afghanistan."

The educational initiative is part of USAID's University Support Workforce Development Program (USWDP). USDWP is a five-year, \$91 million program that started in January, 2014. The program works with the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education and public universities to strengthen curricula and establish new academic programs. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Accused Afghan...

years. The eight men named were Hazara leader Abdul Hakim Shojoi, former Takhar police chief Khair Mohammad Timur, Afghan Local Police Commander Azizullah from the Urgan district in Paktika province, Atta Mohammad Noor, the incumbent acting governor of northern Balkh province, Najibullah Kapisa, the National Directorate of Security chief for Takhar, Mir Alam, a former senior commander with the Jamiat party, Asadullah Khalid, the former head of the National Security Directorate, and General Abdul Raziq, the Kandahar provincial police commander.

A spokesman for Noor, Munir Farhad said the governor had rejected the allegations against him as baseless. Farhad told Pajhwok Afghan News the HRW report was not only unacceptable to them but to all the Afghans.

"All people know Atta Mohammad Noor, who has been active in Afghanistan's politics over the past three decades. He has national and international fame." Farhad said some internal and external elements had launched a movement to disgrace Afghan leaders and this way to derail the political process in the country.

He said such reports had no impact on Noor, who emerged a prominent figure in the last fall's elections and would remain a leading politician in

future.

Former Takhar spy department chief Najibullah Najib also called the HRW's report as unfounded. He told Pajhwok Afghan News it was not a report but a bunch of allegations which lacked evidence and documents in support.

Najib said he had always tried to stop infiltration of militants into Takhar province for the sake of peace. "I consider the report a baseless allegation. I reject all the allegations. If you compare Takhar with northeastern provinces from security aspect, the situation is much better here."

Najib said the report had mentioned those who were in high spirit against the Taliban and the people of Afghanistan should make a judgment on them.

Kandahar police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq, who is in Zabul leading an operation to rescue 30 kidnapped passengers, told Pajhwok Afghan News over the telephone from the frontline that he would talk to the media after the rescue mission had finished.

ALP commander in Paktika Azizullah Karwan held similar views and rejected the report as a false propaganda.

He said he had always followed instructions from high officials and had never killed an innocent person.

Pajhwok tried to establish a contact with HRW officials, but did not succeed. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Many Rebels to ...

Hadi, had been active in the Kamdesh district and they surrendered to border police earlier this week.

"They surrendered to the seventh border police battalion with their guns. They had realised the facts (behind the conflict) and we will hand them over to officials spearheading the peace process."

"Through the media, I assure the people of Afghanistan that our disgruntled brothers, who are fighting in Kunar, Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces against the system and the government, will give up the insurgency soon and join forces with border police." However, Hussainkhal did not go into details in this regard. The Taliban have said nothing in reaction to the border police's claim and the reconciliation of the group. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Burqa-Clad...

from the Pul-i-Surkh Square in Kabul City and reached the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission's office. Ali Raza Asa, one of the burqa-clad activists, said: "By wearing burqas we want to show solidarity with our women who wore this for many years and share their pain that they spent much of their life wearing burqas, in which they breathed and endured hardships."

Another activist, Abdul Basir, also said their demonstration had two messages for the world's women — how women feel in men-imposed burqas and March 8 (International Women's Day) is not celebrated for women attending programmes in five start hotels.

"The day is only for women who are victims of violence...mostly burqa-wearing women happen to be a victim of violence, they are seen on roads, they roam the streets wearing burqas, but these women have never been invited to programmes in connection with the women's day." "The demonstrators themselves do not know the rights of women. Hijab has never been in contradiction with education. Hijab is not injustice, it protects women and burqa is. The cleric said if the burqa-clad men were real sympathizers of women, they should avoid ill-treating their sisters, wives, mothers and neighbors and assist thousands of destitute women existed in Afghanistan.

Nilab, a 29-year-old resident of Kabul's Qala-i-Zaman Khan locality, said she wore burqa on her own free will, felt better in burqa, which had not been imposed on her. Nilab added: "We have inherited burqa from our grandmothers. It is not good to talk against burqa. Every country has its own culture, which should not be mocked." (Pajhwok)

### (23) Afghan Military ...

until 2017 and 2018 under the current schedule, he said.

While waiting for the A-29s, "We're working MD530s, which is a 'Little Bird' that has two .50-caliber machine guns on the sides," Campbell told the Committee. He also acknowledged frustration at the delays in getting the A-29s to the Afghans. "It is a very long process," Campbell said. "In hindsight, I wish we would've started that years ago," but "we are where we are. Quite frankly, we can't get it out there quick enough for them."

Embraer won the initial bid to provide a light air support aircraft for the Afghans against Hawker Beech-

craft's AT-6B Texan aircraft. Hawker Beechcraft filed suit to contest the award, but Embraer won in court and the A-29s are now being made by Embraer and the Sierra Nevada Corp. in Jacksonville, Florida. (Fox News)

### (24) 29 Insurgents...

, Logar, Ghazni, Paktia, Herat, Farah and Helmand provinces.

The statement stated that three other insurgents were detained during the operation and that weapons and ammunition were confiscated.

The operation was conducted to clear the provinces of insurgents. (Tolonews)

### (25) Policewoman ...

district. She told Pajhwok Afghan News that militants launched group attacks in the area some three days back, which forced ANA soldiers to leave the check post unmanned.

She along with her 13 personnel and family members offered stout resistance to rebels and locked in intense gun battle with militants the whole night. She got reinforcement from the Sangin district to repulse militants' attack. Hajjani said: "I approached ANA and told them that militants had arrived in the area and how could we counter them. The soldiers told me that anti-militants operation would be launched soon. But after a while I came to know that ANA had deserted the check post."

She said that her 13 personnel were protecting three security check posts at a time when she lost her son and 25 border police personnel during the last couple of years. She challenged rebels could not dare to enter the area in her command and the government should provide them with fuel, vehicles and other needed facilities. she said, adding that the area had now been completely purged of anti-state elements.

Malakhel pledged that all facilities would be provided to the policewoman to further stabilize their position against rebels. (Pajhwok)

### (26) Pul-i-Alam...

Alam criticized provincial authorities for weak approach to deal with land grabbers. Sher Ahmad, a resident of Pul-i-Alam, said the grabbed land had been made a township and each plot was being sold for \$5,000. (Pajhwok)

### (27) 7 Helmand Police...

have claimed responsibility for the killings, with their spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi saying five policemen had been killed after being poisoned and their guns taken away. In October 2012, six policemen were killed at a checkpoint in Greshk after they were poisoned by a colleague and cook in an assault co-ordinated with rebel fighters. (Pajhwok)

### (28) Civilians among...

wounded during the clash. Members of provincial high peace council said that more than 200 people including civilians had been killed during clashes between illegal commanders in the past few years in Kunduz. (Pajhwok)

### (29) 28,000 Flee

Iraqi forces to avoid and prevent the abuse to civilians of any kind of activity that violates international norms, fuels sectarian fears, and promotes sectarian divides, and that includes Iran in terms of their activities," US Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday in the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh.

"It used to be more acceptable to be sectarian, now it's less acceptable to be openly sectarian in your speeches," he said. "This changes the nature of the political environment, slowly but surely." (AFP)

### (30) No Country ...

don't have critical mass to say that post-Beijing women have reached a tipping point in their representation," she said.

If that happens, she said, "we've got something to work with, taking the campaign forward." (AP)

### (31) China Likely to ...

employment and avoid financial and fiscal risks, it is imperative for China to maintain a medium-high-level of growth and achieve a medium-high-level of development, Justin Yifu Lin, former chief economist and senior vice president of the World Bank, said. (Xinhua)

### (32) Pakistan Wants...

trust of mainstream peace-loving majority and building resilience in local communities against radicalization is need of the hour. (Monitoring Desk)

### (33) Li Advocates "Twin..."

Governments of all levels should be more clear-minded, active and efficient, he said. (Xinhua)