

### (1) Violence Against...

was based on Islamic principles and had no parallel law in the region. He said Islam preferred coexistence and acceptance of each other and Muslims should be united and understand each other. The president stressed more efforts to improve Islamic education and institutionalizing Islamic values in the country. The life of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) should be deeply understood and followed in social life, he said. He added 300 million afghanis had been set aside for the construction of mosques and the government planned to increase the amount next year. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Anti-Terror ...

economic dimension because it's unemployment, it's deprivation that provides recruits for these people in the regions they come from," he added.

He emphasized that terrorism poses a threat to all countries in the world and said some governments in the Middle East region still think that their support for Daesh terrorist group would serve their interests. "Terrorism is threatening the US, Europe and other countries," he said, noting that Syria Saudi Arabia are being threatened alike. (PressTV)

### (3) Abdullah Demands...

efforts are on to provide the Mujahideen the privileges and rights they deserve."

Abdullah demanded an immediate halt to the cross-border attacks from Pakistan in eastern Nangarhar province, saying many people had been displaced as a result.

He said the Afghan government remained patient over the issue which should not be considered a weakness.

At least 200 families have been displaced due to an exchange of fire between Afghan and Pakistani security forces in the Goshta district of eastern Nangarhar province.

Brig. Gen. Wali Khan Shinwari, commander of the 301st border police force, told Pajhwok Afghan News Pakistani security forces had been firing at different villages in the district for a month.

On Sunday, a fire erupted across the Durand Line in Goshta after the Pakistani border guards attacked Anarki area, a public representative claimed. The Afghans responded to the shelling from the Pakistani guards, who used light and heavy weapons, including artillery fire.

Abdullah said the sacrifices of the Afghan armed forces were admirable and the nation was united in the war against the Taliban.

He said different opinions among people would not help the war against the Taliban to be a success, urging the nation to help the government fight the armed opposition. He said Taliban's sympathizers would lose their place in the nation.

The CEO did not name anyone. However, High Peace Council (HPC) chairman Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani in his recent interview with the BBC said the war against the Taliban was not fruitful and had no justification.

Abdullah said the government was committed to defending the country and preserving the hard-won decade-long achievements. He said reaching to a durable peace was the government's top priority. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Taliban War...

they ruin the country," said Sayyaf, who is popular for being a strong anti-Taliban figure. "It is not for Islam and it is not Jihad."

In addition, he praised the sacrifices of security forces fighting the militant groups.

Security forces are "obliged to fight Taliban" to defend the country, he continued.

Abdullah Abdullah, CEO of National Unity Government, was also present at the event where he maintained that government's efforts to make peace with Taliban didn't mean to surrender to the group.

"Those who reject the call for peace are responsible for their lives themselves," Abdullah warned.

Officials from High Peace Council (HPC) were also present at the ceremony where they insisted the past achievements would not be jeopardized in peace negotiations with Taliban.

Deputy head of HPC Abdul Karim Khalili, who was the second Vice President in Hamid Karzai's government, declared that no one would be allowed to compromise on the gains of past 15 years in the peace talks with Taliban.

Discussions on peace talks keep circulating these days as the Afghan government and the Taliban are expected to hold a face-to-face talks in few days in neighboring Pakistan,

who has long been accused of harboring militant groups in the country. (Tolonews)

### (5) Japan to Fund...

will also provide knowledge for the local farmers in future to build up their own farms. The second project involves the construction of orphanage in Surkhrod, providing a safe stay for the 80 orphaned boys and girls and promoting the level of education for them. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Hammond Wants...

visiting British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond at the Foreign Office in Islamabad, the advisor renewed Islamabad's support for efforts to bring lasting stability to Afghanistan.

Hammond, who arrived in Islamabad from Kabul on a two-day official visit, saluted the Pakistani nation for its resilience and resolve against the scourge of terrorism. He hoped Pakistan would emerge safer and more stable.

During talks, both sides reviewed the security situation in Afghanistan, including the reconciliation process. "Terrorism in Pakistan and Afghanistan is a mutual problem which needs to be tackled jointly," he remarked. While noting a real trust deficit between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the visiting dignitary believed the gap could be bridged when Islamabad and Kabul took more effective steps against militants.

The British foreign secretary also met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff Raheel Sharif. His itinerary also includes a visit to Lahore, where he will meet the Punjab chief minister and governor separately. (Pajhwok)

### (7) UK Committed ...

of women in Afghan society." Jeremy said as President Ashraf Ghani had said women were one of Afghanistan's three majorities, yet they remained a minority when it came to participation in politics and the economy.

"I therefore strongly welcome the Afghan government's commitment to women's rights through empowering women and ending violence against them."

On the eve of the International Women's Day, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) said their statistics showed 241 women had been murdered in the country in 2015 as a result of domestic violence.

"Improving lives of girls and women remains central to the UK's role in Afghanistan. We are proud of what we've done and continue to do to support Afghan women. For example, UK aid has helped create over 44,000 jobs here, including 13,000 for women," said Chris Austin, DFID Country Director.

"A further sign of this commitment is our new partnership with the Afghan Finance Ministry, the Aga Khan Foundation and the Afghan NGO Zardozi. We will be investing some \$1.2 million to help Afghan female entrepreneurs and to develop a National Action Plan on Women's Empowerment."

Aga Khan Foundation-Afghanistan CEO, Jan Schollaert, said the national unity government was undertaking important steps to develop the National Economic Empowerment Plan for women (NEEP), which would strengthen the quality of life for women and their families in Afghanistan.

"While this process is underway, DFID, Zardozi and AKF-A have initiated an exciting collaboration to pilot a new model for women's economic empowerment."

He said in particular, the project would support groups of women to establish and manage a community-based platform through which all aspects of economic empowerment could be addressed, including increasing their access to finance and their participation in remunerated work and entrepreneurship.

The UK is supporting many other initiatives to help Afghan women to play an active role in society. Through our programmes we are helping to address violence against women, to support women in the security forces, and to encourage women's political participation. Education is fundamental to women's empowerment. We are directly helping to support more than 180,000 girls to attend school through the Girls Education Challenge, a community based and accelerated learning education system.

Sohila a beneficiary of the Girls Education Challenge programme, said: "I feel really proud of all the things I have learned in class and I am really happy. My family and the other people in the community are very grateful to the programme." She said they appreciated their work,

especially helping girls like her, who were uneducated, to attend school.

The British Embassy said they were pleased to launch on Tuesday an essay competition on the current challenges facing women in Afghanistan and what could be done to overcome them. "Details can be found on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/ukinafghanistan." (Pajhwok)

### (8) Afghan Forces

northern Baghlan province over the past one year, from where the militants launched attacks in the neighboring Kunduz and Samangan provinces.

Government forces launched a major offensive in late March in Dand-e-Ghori and Dand-e-Shahabudin districts and according to security officials, both districts have been cleansed from militants in the wake of the crackdowns.

Cleanup operation including house-to-house search has been continuing in both districts to ensure lasting peace there, the local officials said.

Taliban has yet to comment on the situation there. (Xinhua)

### (9) Afghan ...

can achieve, encouraging women to take part in politics, to vote and to put themselves forward for provincial council seats," Hassan said.

Programming also encouraged women to take an active role in ending the country's 15-year war by exhorting their brothers and sons to lay down arms, she said.

Radio is a powerful medium in Afghanistan, where the literacy rate is less than 40 percent and much of the population lives in remote communities. Wind-up radios requiring no batteries are popular and widely accessible in communities where electricity is erratic or non-existent.

In northern Afghanistan, where just 15 percent of women can read and write, radio is a rare portal to the outside world. The U.N. Development Program says Shaesta reached up to 800,000 people.

"I've met illiterate women weaving carpets with the radio on because they can listen and it doesn't interrupt their work," Hassan said. "I once met a farmer out in his field who had a radio hooked over the horn of one of his cows."

Hassan often invited Islamic scholars onto her programs to give their seal of approval. But the Taliban, who espouse a harsh version of Shariah law, view her and other women's rights activists as purveyors of Western influence who threaten the country's moral fabric.

She has received more death threats than she can count, one of which even specified an exact date. So when the insurgents stormed into Kunduz on Sept. 28, she knew she had to run. "The Taliban had a list of all the women who were working in the government, civil society, media, women's organizations," she said. "I knew they were going to be for me." She hid in a relative's basement for two days before donning an all-covering burqa and fleeing the city.

The Taliban held Kunduz for three days, during which they looted businesses and hunted down activists and journalists. Afghan forces backed by U.S. airstrikes pushed them out more than two weeks later, but by then the militants had looted Shaesta and burned it to the ground, along with another radio outlet run by Hassan that was oriented toward youth.

Now, six months later, she has returned to Kunduz, and Shaesta has come back on air in time for International Women's Day on March 8. She was able to rebuild the station with a \$9,000 grant from the UNDP, which said it hopes to encourage a "courageous voice for change."

"Women's rights are a key lever toward improving the lives of the entire community," said UNDP country director Douglas Keh. "When women and girls have the same opportunities (as men and boys) in education, and the same economic opportunities, society as a whole benefits." (AP)

### (10) Parliamentary ...

militants and had taken control of several areas during recent operations. "Afghan forces can defend their country and have gradually reduced reliance on foreign troops." According to the statement, Ghani praised Britain's support in different areas, particularly in electoral and peace processes and cooperation with the Marshal Qasim Fahim University.

The president said different militant groups had been invited by his government to peace negotiations so as to put an end to the ongoing conflict in the country.

Only reconcilable groups would be invited to peace talks and those refusing to renounce violent activities

would face military action, Ghani explained.

He said relevant state organs were trying to hold the elections on due date with technical preparations for the democratic exercise being fast-tracked. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Women Have ...

Women's Day, he said President Ashraf Ghani and First Lady Rula Ghani were passionate about changing the reality for millions of Afghan women by expanding their ability to earn money and build their dreams. Mohib said Ghani had issued a decree ordering the review of all cases of women detained on charges of moral crimes. Out of 402 women detained, 255 have already been released.

The government has appointed two women as governors; nominated the first Afghan woman to be a Supreme Court judge and the Supreme Court issued a ruling that barred the common practice of imprisoning females who ran away from their families.

It also approved an anti-harassment regulation to improve the work environment for women in the public sector that addressed complaints related to harassment, support for victims and opportunities for women in employment and education.

"President Ghani and First Lady Rula Ghani inaugurated the country's first Trust Fund for Victims of Violence against Women by making the first donations themselves. Ghani also announced all members of his Cabinet would donate 15 percent of one month's salary to the Fund."

Mohib said these actions and many more -- particularly in the areas of economic empowerment and educational opportunities -- set an example at the highest level that women must not be treated as second-class citizens. (Pajhwok)

### (12) UN Stresses ...

and civil society - and their contribution to the economic and social development of the country.

But despite these achievements, women continue to face enormous challenges that exclude them from political processes vital for peace and security. The escalation in conflict continues to take a heavy toll on Afghan women, with a 37 per cent increase in women casualties in 2015. The UN called upon the government to strengthen the implementation of its gender commitments in compliance with Afghanistan's international obligations - including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

"Sustaining the gains made and promoting women's rights are a must for Afghanistan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and, more specifically, to make the goal of 50-50 by 2030 a reality," said Elzira S-agnbaeva, UN Women's country representative.

Substantial participation of women in the forthcoming parliamentary and district elections is critical to the credibility and inclusiveness of the process, according to her. Nicholas Haysom, the secretary-general's special representative, stressed: "Women must be able to participate actively in all political, social and development initiatives across the country, including in peace processes."

Haysom added Afghan men and boys had an important role to play in helping to empower women and achieve gender equality in the home, the community and the workplace. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Taliban Step...

prepared for the talks. He added that members of the Quadrilateral coordination Group (QCG) are busy to organize the direct talks between the Afghan government and Taliban group as soon as possible. (KP)

### (14) US State ...

up and running, Kirby told journalists at a news conference in Washington on Monday.

"If there's no peace process in place... we would and the Afghan security forces would have to prepare themselves for ... increased violence in the spring and summer months," he said.

On March 5, the Taliban said they would not take part in peace talks with the government, renewing their demand that all foreign fighters must leave Afghanistan.

However, senior Afghan government officials, including the president and his chief executive officer, are still optimistic of the militants joining the peace process.

"Obviously, we completely associate ourselves with what President Ghani said. We join him in calling for the Taliban to participate in these talks. And as we've said before, they have

a choice," Kirby remarked.

He said President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry remained committed to seeing an Afghan-led reconciliation process succeed. "It's what we all want."

He went on to note some coordination between Afghanistan and Pakistan in working together to address the real threat that emanated from the border region. (Pajhwok)

### (15) KSH Celebrates ...

women's empowerment and women's rights. It is a chance to compliment women as pillars of the societies and the wonderful progress women have made towards greater equality. (PR)

### (16) Negligence...

security posts," argued the presidential envoy.

He said they had identified problems in security posts and said efforts would be made to resolve them.

Qaharam rejected rumours that Helmand was on the verge of falling to the insurgents, saying President Ghani and foreign troops were paying special attention to Helmand.

He said foreign troops were taking part in nighttime operations and airstrikes with their Afghan counterparts in Helmand.

He also informed that a 300-member strong security squad had been created for maintaining security in Lashkargah.

Qaharam said the operations against militants were slow going because the rebels had taken refuge at people's homes and security forces did not want to harm civilians.

He said he had mustered people's support for maintaining security in Helmand and had devised some plans in this regard.

Four districts are under Taliban's control in Helmand where the government's writ has been confined to district centres in many other towns. (Pajhwok)

### (17) 5 Kunduz...

Pul-i-Saidamin villages of Chardarah district.

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the fighters killed three public order policemen and injured four others in Chardarah district. He also denied the fighters suffered casualties.

Syed Ahamd, a resident of Ghondi village, said their village, which had been in Taliban's control for the past eight months was cleared by security forces on Monday night.

He said the Taliban still controlled Khalazi and Kharoti villages. At least 20 families including Syed Ahamd's family were displaced to a neighboring village but they returned after the security situation got better. Jangalbagh confirmed the exodus, but said the families had returned to their homes and escaped unhurt during the operations. (Pajhwok)

### (18) At Least 35...

types of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

Afghanistan is in a state of political and social turmoil, with the government fighting the continuing Taliban insurgency, while other extremist groups, such as the IS, outlawed in many countries including Russia, has expanded its activities in the country. (Sputnik)

### (19) 2 Kunduz

staffers were forced into hiding. Previously, they covered Kunduz and neighbouring provinces with information on healthcare and education, as well as women's rights.

"UNDP has replaced damaged equipment, allowing both stations to resume programming in time for International Women's Day on March 8th," a statement from the UN agency said.

"Our two stations share the same equipment, so this investment goes a long way," said Zarghoona Hassan, editor-in-chief of Shaesta. "Over the next few months, we'll be promoting women's rights and youth issues throughout the local area."

Cecilia Ncube, UNDP's gender project manager, said: "Local radio is a great way to spread important messages about women's rights where they need to be heard the most."

UNDP Country Director Douglas Keh said they stood behind the people of Kunduz and were proud of being able to help women regain their voice. "Hearing other women's voices on air can bring hope and encouragement to those who feel trapped at home and are afraid to speak out." (Pajhwok)

### (20) Khattak Seeks ...

in Peshawar -- the provincial capital. The extortionist gangs are operating from across the border, according to the dispatch, which urges Islamabad to talk to Kabul to resolve the security

issue.

Khattak claimed: "Ninety-eight of extortion calls received here originate from Afghanistan, where we neither have any access nor the jurisdiction to operate." (Pajhwok)

### (21) EU Still...

new proposals at the summit. Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu not only asked the EU to provide an extra three billion euros (3.3 billion U.S. dollars) to help settle massive migrant flows, but also demanded visa-free travel to EU countries for the Turks. (Xinhua)

### (22) Without Turkey, ...

removal of visa requirements for Turkish nationals.

"It is an absolutely necessary accord which needs to be discussed. Turkey wants to do things, but it demands other things in return. Does this make sense? Of course it does," Stephane Le Foll, government's spokesman said.

"I know one thing is that we need Turkey (to solve the crisis)," he told Itele news channel. (Xinhua)

### (23) Migrant Sea ...

Afghans (33,844) and Iraqis (21,514). Over one million migrants and refugees reached Europe last year, with most (853,650) arriving in Greece.

In comparison, only 34,442 maritime migrant arrivals were recorded in the south-eastern European country in 2014. (Xinhua)

### (24) EU Faces...

from 10 countries in which there are conflicts. Many are blocked at borders without any security and are prey to the risks of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, particularly women," he added.

The inability of the European Union (EU) to organize the welcome on its soil of one million people who arrived in 2015 was "the tragic proof of our collective failure. Building walls is not a solution. It is also unacceptable to stir up fear," he added. (Xinhua)

### (25) UN Launches...

in disaster response. "There is need to shift away from a single event donation to durable private sector involvement in efforts to address natural and man-made disasters," Nkaissery said. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is behind the creation of platform to enhance business engagement in disaster response. (Xinhua)

### (26) Biden Talks ...

reference to Republican candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz, who have vowed to use both against extremists in the Middle East.

"If Ronald Reagan were alive today, he could no more get the nomination of the Republican Party than I can get the nomination," Biden said, referring to the U.S. Republican president from the 1980s often praised by GOP candidates. (AP)

### (27) Iran Test...

"successfully" test-fired the country's first long-range missile of Emad which could be guided and controlled until hitting the target with high precision. In December, a United Nations experts' report said Iran violated the UN Security Council Resolution 1929 by test-firing the Emad missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead. (Xinhua)

### (28) President Xi

for innovative ways of working, pushing forward supply-side structural reform, improving the livelihood of the people, and advancing agricultural modernization, in a bid to give the people more sense of benefits. "Advancing the supply-side structural reform is a tough battle," the president said, calling for practical efforts to win the battle, including improving basic public services, and fixing shortcomings in the people's livelihood. (Xinhua)

### (29) Power, Politics ...

elite circle have no incentive to introduce reforms as long as they are able to meet societal aspirations and control dissent. If a transition from Turkmenistan's authoritarian regime were to take place, it would be more likely to result in a new brand of authoritarianism. (Agencies)

### (30) Pakistan...

national and regional instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) are being implemented in their entirety. A number of steps including pro-women legislation and efforts aimed at socio-economic betterment and empowerment of the women clearly reflect the commitment of the state towards the cause of the women and assuring gender parity. (Monitoring Desk)