

**(1) Nearly 300...**

experience for 20 to 40 years in the country's courts.

They claimed that Ghani was trying to remove them from their positions under the pretext of tests.

The attorneys demanded the dismissal of Ghani's legal advisor, Mohammad Ali Mohammadi, who they claimed has studied in Iran and was assigned to overlook the tests.

"An illiterate person has come to take tests from those who have 20 to 30 years of experience," a protesting attorney said. "Everyone can make forged degrees in Pakistan, Iran and even in Washington. Is there anyone to check the documents of the advisor?"

They emphasized that instead of taking tests Ghani could directly remove them from their positions. "We are appointed formally and we can also be removed formally, so what are the means of these tests?" a female attorney Malalai complained.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's advisor, Ibrah Ahmad Mehergan, said the government was trying to remove those attorneys from their positions who had not studied law. Some other protesting attorneys accused Ghani of replacing the attorneys and government officials with those who helped him win the presidency.

"This is not a fair process," protestor Hashmatullah Ghalib said. "Their purpose is to replace the government officials and attorneys with the election campaigners."

Meanwhile, the legal experts also opposed this practice of government, suggesting fair methods for bringing qualified and eligible persons into the government departments.

It is said that about 2,500 attorneys across the country have studied till the twelfth grade and have not studied law.

Mohammadi, however, did not respond to a TOLONews request for information in this regard. (Tolonews)

**(2) AUAF ...**

groups in Afghanistan and around the Muslim world brutalizing women and human rights in the name of Islam. "Compared to several centuries before, when Muslim women were playing important roles alongside the men, now, there are extremist groups such as Daesh and the Taliban that commit brutal and oppressive actions in the name of Islam, which we see on television on a daily basis," he said.

German Ambassador to Afghanistan Markus Potzel discussed Afghan women in the legislative process, the need for electoral reform and a greater presence for Afghan women in the business community and national security apparatus. "In Afghanistan, the full and equal political, economic and social participation of women is central," Ambassador Potzel said. "This country can't afford to neglect one half of the population, no country in the world can afford that, and economic empowerment is the gateway for more female leadership, more opportunities for women and families, for better contribution to sustainable development of the whole society."

Afghan MP Shukria Barakzai also attended and spoke at the gathering. "Unfortunately, we, the Afghan women, have always been deprived of our rights in the country because of our gender," Barakzai said. "From the mosque to Mullahs, and even intellectuals and politicians, have all been engaged in some particular issues about what women wear and they even intervene in what dresses women can wear," Barakzai said. She also expressed concerns that women's role in politics remains largely symbolic, particularly in peace negotiations with the Taliban. "One of our major concerns is that women have a symbolic role in politics, and given this, the peace negotiation talks, security and economic development will not be applicable without the participation of women." (Tolonews)

**(3) Pakistan to ...**

in Islamabad with Pakistani side to discuss the issue of refugees amid complaints of their arrest and expulsion.

Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Abdul Qadir Baloch, led the Pakistani side in the talks. "Both sides agreed for the documentation of un-registered Afghan nationals in Pakistan with the technical support from NADRA and verification by Afghan authorities," a joint statement said Tuesday.

The Afghan delegation arrived in Islamabad on Sunday amid claims that Pakistan has launched a "crackdown" of the refugees following the Taliban attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar on Dec. 16.

A Committee comprising three members from Afghanistan and three from Pakistan was constituted which will work out the modalities for documentation of unregistered Afghans in Pakistan and subsequent issuance of necessary documents by government of Afghanistan.

Both sides also endorsed an "Enhanced Voluntary Return and Reintegration Package" and it was agreed that both governments will work jointly with traditional and new donors for generation of funds, which would be help sustainable reintegration efforts.

They also agreed that a Common Strategy and Plan of repatriation will be worked out between Afghanistan, Pakistan and UNHCR with clear timelines keeping in view the ground realities and absorption capacity inside Afghanistan.

Balkhi told the meeting that any repatriation plan should be based on ground realities especially in the aftermath of three decades of war in Afghanistan, the statement said. He said the National Unity Government of Afghanistan has chalked out a strategy for the repatriation and reintegration of Afghan nationals. However, he highlighted the challenges and requirements which are to be faced in the process including extending the existing deadline of December 2015.

Abdul Qadir Baloch emphasized that since the deadline of December 2015 is approaching fast, both countries should immediately start working on an Action Plan ensuring voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees to their motherland. Pakistan had registered some 2.15 million Afghans with the help of UNHCR in 2006-2007. The PoR cards, valid until December 2009, were issued.

In December 2012, the Cabinet agreed to extend the stay of Afghan refugees in Pakistan until 30 June 2013 as an interim measure whilst the government of Pakistan formulated a national policy on Afghan refugees for the period beyond June 2013.

In July 2013, Pakistan approved a new policy on Afghan refugees, which includes the extension of the PoR cards and the Tripartite Agreement on Voluntary Repatriation until Dec. 31, 2015. (Xinhua)

**(4) 2,500 Hectares ...**

would take concrete measures to clear 1,500 hectares of land of poppies in Kandahar this year. The target has been set by the ministry concerned under the US-funded initiative.

Zherai district chief Haji Jamal Agha also confirmed the decrease in poppy cultivation, where retaining walls and small bridges are being built under the Food Zone programme.

But some farmers claimed economic problems and lack of access to markets had prompted a number of growers to cultivate poppies. One grower, Haji Abdul Qayyum, said they had little access to markets where they could sell their produce at reasonable rates. Subsequently, farmers have resorted to growing poppies. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Afghan Govt...**

aware of the fact that the breakthrough has to be achieved before the Taliban's spring offensive." The reported added: "The first round of talks will focus on striking a deal on a ceasefire," said the source.

Prime Minister's Adviser on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz also confirmed on Tuesday that the Afghan government and the Taliban were holding negotiations.

He informed Pakistan's Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs that both sides had already formed committees to pursue the peace talks. Aziz clarified there were no talks taking place between the Afghan Taliban and the US. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Russia Ready...**

on the principles of expansion of bilateral ties with counties including the Central Asian states." He welcomed Russian investment and said cooperation in the areas of trade and commerce would further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

The statement added the Russian envoy assured Ghani of his country's complete support in the de-

velopment of different sectors of the Afghan economy. (Pajhwok)

**(7) HPC Says...**

which had its reservations and suggestions regarding stability in the country. The views have been shared with the president.

Abdul Hakim did not have concrete information about plans for talks with the insurgents, but he hinted Ghani knew what was going on.

Earlier, the presidential palace had said the nation would be informed about major developments in talks with the armed opponents.

On the other hand, presidential spokesman Ajmal Abid said: "We have not yet started talks with the Taliban and the president would not hide any issue of national importance from any government institution."

He informed the president would definitely take political parties, civil society organisations and Jihadi leaders in confidence on any fresh development in peace process.

Abid added the role of HPC was clear. "So far we haven't launched formal talks with the rebels and hence we haven't contacted members of the peace council." (Pajhwok)

**(8) Police Chief to ...**

of local authorities. The decision prompted PC members to shut their offices.

A week back, President Ghani issued a decree giving back the provincial councils the right to oversee the performance of local departments.

A day earlier, Baghlan, Jawzjan and Bamyan councils also returned to work.

Ghairat asked the public representatives to identify the problems in his department. He assured his staff would cooperate with the council in resolving the problems.

"I hope PC members will point out problems on the security front. We will take decisive action to address them," he said.

Khos PC Chairman Amirullah Zraswand welcomed the presidential decree allowing them to monitor local government's performance. He promised to discharge their duty responsibly.

Zraswand added his colleagues would meet the people to assess their security problems and share them with the administration. (Pajhwok)

**(9) President Order...**

elaborate on the formalities. Musafir had been detained in 2006 over photo shoots of two girls carrying a sport banner at the Ghazi stadium in Kabul. The photos were later edited and used for commercial purposes by one of the companies.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah had also hinted at the release of the photographer.

The Ministry of Information and Culture expressed concerns over the misuse of the photographs and said it had been kept unaware of Musafir's prosecution.

According to the ministry, a commission has been formed to deal with cases of plagiarism, duplication and other acts of misuse.

The ministry lamented the case of Musafir was not referred to the commission. The detention of the photographer had fuelled anger among civil society organisations. (Pajhwok)

**(10) UAE Urged...**

problems, the Afghan government would not be able to tackle the challenges on its own, he remarked.

He urged the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Gulf country that funded construction of the building, to adopt measures to address the problems being faced by the SZU.

The university has 16 teaching facilities and dormitory buildings, he said, adding that it was donated by the UEA as a gift for people of this strategic province. The buildings cost \$15 million, he added.

The UAE support is vital to turn SZU one of the leading institutions not on Afghanistan but on regional level, Bawari hoped.

Development and facilities: Bawari said SZU has been drastically improved and now considered one of the leading educational institutions of Afghanistan. For capacity building of faculty members and administrative staff, he noted academic seminars, conferences, workshops and other trainings have been conducted, which were still underway.

He added that faculty members of Medical, Engineering, Economics,

Agriculture, and Journalism have been sent to foreign countries for obtaining Masters and PhD degrees. "Ten lecturers from Afghanistan, 28 from Japan, Thailand, India, Malaysia, China, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Germany are pursuing their MA while another one is doing his PhD degree in Tajikistan," he noted.

The chancellor said his administration has been getting assistances from various donor organizations and now the university is being equipped with Internet and other facilities. "Laboratories, computer labs, libraries, FM radio station, research farm, green houses have helped resolve university's problems to great extend," he added. The university, he said has a public library which has more than 50,000 books on different topics, which helped students and lecturers to multiply their knowledge.

Challenges and requirements: The SZU has 16 faculties being run in three shifts, he said, adding that more than 9,000 students were taught by 235 lecturers but still the university was facing with shortage of faculty members.

In a move to meet growing demands, he said the university plans to have 410 academic cadres in five years in the future. The university is facing power supply shortage which leaves negative impact on students, teachers and the entire learning process. "The university needs uninterrupted power supply," he added.

The chancellor informed the institution was being run under three shifts while its eight teaching buildings were not enough to accommodate 8,000 students. The institute needs eight more teaching buildings to facilitate students with standard education.

Sprawling meeting hall, gym, guest-house equipped with all facilities are main problems which needed to be resolved, he said, adding that another problem was that to make the university hospital operational. The hospital, he said was built four years ago but yet to be equipped with medical equipments.

Relations with international universities:

He informed Business and Administration, Journalism and Agriculture Faculties had linkages with Bochum of Germany, Ball State of the USA, Seoul of South Korea universities respectively. He said it was of immense importance for capacity building of lecturers to have partnership and cooperation with international universities. (Pajhwok)

**(11) 40pc of Wome...**

his ministry showed 59 percent of Afghan women faced forced marriage and 74 percent suffered mental illness. Violence left a negative impact on women's social life and mental health, he noted.

But the minister claimed improvement in health services for women and said: "Access to prenatal health services has increased from 10 percent in 2003 to 45 percent in 2013." (Pajhwok)

**(12) Current Military ...**

Not noting the number of ANSF casualties, Waziri stated that the numbers of insurgents killed are far more than ANSF.

"In the past when we captured an area we would establish an outpost, but now we've changed our tactics and build garrisons and battalions," he said. "We have equipped each station with heavy and light weaponry to counter insurgents."

A number of provincial police chiefs from Kunduz, Baghlan, and Badakhshan have warned insurgent groups to put down their guns as they "will not be a match for the ANSF."

"A number of foreign insurgents and their families were located and have suffered heavy casualties," Badakhshan Police Chief Baba Jan said. "More than 40 to 50 insurgents have been killed in our clearing operation."

Since the ANSF have been handed the responsibility of providing security for the country and its people many have supported and asked that the security personnel protect the nation in the upcoming summer offensive. (Tolonews)

**(13) Arm us if You ...**

reason we have gathered here is that Taliban were extorting money from the people of Sar-i-Pul City and Sayyad district under the nose of the local officials," the man continued.

"Ninety percent of Sar-i-Pul is insecure," he alleged. Local officials could not be reached for comments

on the public claims regarding the nose-diving security situation. (Pajhwok)

**(14) US Special ...**

act with responsibility not to allow detractors of peace to succeed," the ISPR statement said. "The onus for negotiations to succeed lies on both parties concerned."

However, on March 9, the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs suggested that Pakistan not get involved in the internal affairs of Afghanistan unless officially asked to do so.

Read: Afghan peace process: FO to brief Senators on Pakistan's role

"We will ask the government not to interfere in the internal affairs [of Afghanistan] in the name of mediation because such interference in the past proved disastrous for Pakistan's own security," said the committee's chairman, Senator Haji Adeel.

"Pakistan should leave Afghanistan as an independent and autonomous state and should not interfere in its matters without a formal request from Kabul," he said. (AFP)

**(15) ANSF Kill 25 ...**

Baghlan, Takhar, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul, Jowzjan, Balkh, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Pakiya, Herat, Farah and Helmand provinces over the past 24 hours during which 25 armed Taliban members have been killed," the statement said.

According to the statement, 21 more militants have sustained injuries and three others arrested during the operations.

The statement, however, didn't say if there were casualties on security personnel. Taliban militants have yet to make comment. (Xinhua)

**(16) 3,000 Passports...**

preparation is replacing manual copies with electronic ones."

Pajhwok talked to 55 applicants who mentioned the following reasons for getting passports in time:

Treatment  
Sixteen applicants said they wanted to get their passports early because they needed to travel to Pakistan, India and Iran for medical treatment.

Among them, 11 were waiting for their passports to go to Pakistan for treatment. Mohammad Asif, a resident of Nangarhar province, said: "Due to the low quality of medical services in Afghanistan, I have decided to go to Pakistan. Going abroad for work

Sixteen individuals wanted to go to Iran, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and Pakistan for work.

Abdul Qadir, a resident of western Herat province, complained there was no work opportunity for him at home. He decided to get a passport and go to Iran to support his large family.

Haj, Umrah and ourism  
Among other applicants, five wanted to get their passports ready as soon as possible to go on emergency trips to foreign countries, while four others planned to travel to Saudi Arabia for Hajj or Umra. Education

Pajhwok talked to five individuals who have won education scholarships in South Korea, Russia, India and Turkey.

Three others have applied for passports to participate in short-term training courses in Iran, the US and Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

**(17) 15,000 KG...**

issued by the National Directorate of Security (NDS) usually do not contain information about the date of the activity but their statements usually come after recent achievement. (KP)

**(18) Hamza Baba'**

seminar, arranged in remembrance of the poet by the Nangarhar Information and Culture Department, was attended by leading poets and dignitaries from Kabul and many some provinces.

Awrang Samad, the Nangarhar information director, said various aspects of Hamza Baba's personality, philosophy and style of poetry were discussed at the seminar.

"Hamza Baba worked a lot to enrich Pashto language. This seminar is dedicated to remembering him for his valuable contribution to Pashto language," he added.

Maroof Shah Khan, the dean of Pashto department at the Nangarhar University, welcomed such seminars to pay tribute to influential figures.

"Hamza had developed his unique style in Pashto sonnet. Therefore, he is being called Baba or father of Ghazal. He has written over 40

books and for the first time authored stories for movies and dramas," he recalled.

Deputy Governor Mohammad Hanif Gardiwal praised the department for conducting the seminar. "Hamza Shinwari was an asset of Pashto literature. It is the duty of writers to preserve his style," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(19) 9-Km Road ...**

mentioned the need for asphaltting the 'Mail78' route connecting Farah province with neighbouring Iran. (Pajhwok)

**(20) 24 Civil Servant...**

Trained by two highly qualified trainers, the participants discussed a wide range of topics including effective techniques of dealing with accounting system challenges, methods of increasing revenues and ways of improving the quality of services to the citizens.

During certificates distribution ceremony, Sadiq Azizi, the governor's spokesperson, said: "We do believe that such measures play a significant role in bringing transparency to the departments and implementing administrative reforms."

Ms. Nawidah Mutmain, an officer of Mostufait added: "This training provided us with a very unique opportunity to address our routine problems." The training was supported by Regional Capacity Development project (RCD) in Samangan, which is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). (Pajhwok)

**(21) Ex Air Force ...**

in Iowa, assessed at \$277,000, court records show. A judge will decide on the precise sentence at a later date. Investigators say Pudenz had sought guidance from Air Force officials in December 2010 about post-government employment restrictions, saying he was considering working as a consultant in Afghanistan to help clothing businesses become sustainable. (AP)

**(22) Girl Undergoes ...**

families in order to not let their children be a burden on them, and let their children help their parents instead," she said. Her family, however, is grappling with poverty and is said to be unable to afford the educational expenses Arezo wishes for. In the most recent cases in the western province, a boy beheaded his fiancée for unknown reasons while another person mutilated his wife's genitals. (Tolonews)

**(23) Seeking Release,**

rovided loans to 70 unregistered companies. Established in 1954, the Pashtani Bank is controlled by the government. Meanwhile, AGO spokesman Basir Azizi said the decision of the appeal court on the release of the seven individuals was yet to be formally conveyed to them. (Pajhwok)

**(24) 2 Kidnapped ...**

ago, 31 passengers were forced out from a bus by gunmen from the same highway. The fate of the passengers is still unclear. The incident took place when rebels set the house of ALP commander Almas on fire in Dawrankhel area of the district last night, Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, said. (Pajhwok)

**(25) Kazakhstan ..**

into account "our people's interests and their request to me". (Agencies)

**(26) China, S. Korea,...**

talks of their foreign ministers after in-depth discussion. The three sides agreed to continue the close communication and coordination to ensure the smooth running of the trilateral talks. Liu added that China is willing to strengthen the communications and cooperation with Japan and South Korea in the fields of economy and trade, sustainable development, humanities and non-traditional security, making contribution to promote the regional prosperity and stability. (Xinhua)

**(27) Iraqi Forces ...**

above a military hospital in the section of Qadisiya they had retaken from the militants, security officials said. (Reuters)

**(28) IS Battling Kurdish ...**

main partner for the U.S.-led alliance fighting Islamic State on the ground in Syria. Backed by Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga fighters and air strikes, the YPG defeated Islamic State in the border town of Kobani in January. (Reuters)