

### (1) No Government...

government will only grow. "I would like to ask all the MPs: do we have a government?" Kandahar MP Abdul Rahim Ayoubi exclaimed. "The president is in Saudi Arabia, the CEO in India...someone please tell me what is the House of Representatives for?" The promises made by both NUG leaders have left the public and the MPs unsatisfied and enraged that in the past several months since the formation of the government nothing has changed. "We must solve the problems ourselves," Kabul MP Ramazan Basha-dost said. "We must bring the reforms ourselves. They need to understand that we need to solve our own problems first." Not having a specific agenda to discuss, the Minister of Refugees and Repatriates came to Parliament without being summoned by the House to discuss his recent trip to Pakistan. (Tolnews)

### (2) Iranian Province's ...

two nations. Iran has also contributed more than \$50mln annually to Afghan anti-narcotics efforts in the last decade. (FNA)

### (3) With Renewed...

the visit, several high-profile Afghan figures will travel to Delhi, where Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah arrived at the weekend and met Vice-President Mohamed Hamid Ansari. First Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum and Deputy CEO Eng. Mohammed Khan are likely to follow suit. The president is expected to brief his Indian interlocutors on the ongoing peace negotiations with the Taliban. Afghan officials have already promised redlines will not be crossed in the reconciliation talks. (Pajhwok)

### (4) All Insurgent...

"Terrorism remains a major challenge and a destabilizing factor for our region," Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Hekmat Khalil Karzai said. "These insurgent groups pose a serious threat to our security of not just Afghanistan, but also to China."

President of China's Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) Ji Zhiye emphasized that stability of the region relies on the stabilization of Afghanistan.

"We believe that the changes that are ongoing in Afghanistan will not only result in further development of Afghanistan and China, but will also impact the conditions in the region and even the situations around the world," Zhiye said.

This comes as officials of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs have welcomed the new chapter in Afghanistan and China's relation.

"The purpose of this seminar is to improve the cooperation between Afghanistan and China," General Director at the Center for Strategic Studies of MoFA, Faramarz Tamanna said. "China can provide assistance in the peace process as they have close relations with Pakistan."

Chinese officials have been had talks with the Taliban representative in regards to the peace process at least three times since Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's visit to China. (Tolnews)

### (5) 10 Cabinet ...

Ministers nominees would be announced by that time.

After being sworn in on Sept 29, both Ghani and Abdullah had promised unveiling the new cabinet within 45 days -- a deadline they failed to meet.

In late January, the unity government unveiled a long-awaited list of 27 ministers-designate, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and the Afghanistan Bank heads.

But the lower house handed a trust vote to only nine of the nominees, including ministers of interior, foreign affairs, rural rehabilitation and development, finance, hajj, mines, public health, refugees and the NDS head.

Acting officials have been looking after affairs of many portfolios, pending new ministerial appointments. The lower house has repeatedly asked government to introduce the remaining cabinet picks.

Lawmakers believe the security and economic situation would worsen further under acting ministers, who do not enjoy much authority and hence their inability to take important decisions. (Pajhwok)

### (6) No one can ...

defeat this nation." Sayyaf also discussed the recent kidnapping of 31 Hazara travelers on the Kabul-Kandahar highway by

affiliates of the Daesh group. "Anyone you see that kidnaps, kills, takes passengers as hostages, like the 31 passengers who were taken hostage a few days ago by a group called Daesh, you should know that they are a misery to Islam and humanity, they are taking advantage of the name of Islam," he said.

Sayyaf was accompanied by other mujahideen leaders. Muhammad Ismael Khan, another historic jihadi commander and the former Minister of Energy and Water (MoEW), praised the Herat uprising as the critical step to defeating the Soviet Union. "You were mujahid, you were the minority that defeated the majority with 300,000 troops," he said. "You woke those who were asleep and brought a great change in the region and the world." (Tolnews)

### (7) Housing ...

forces neared, demand dried up as most foreign civilians also left Kabul.", another quote of the same person states.

Several people who had mansions in Kabul had chosen to rent them in high prices and live in comparatively cheap houses. But now they have no choice than returning to the expansive houses following the collapse of the market. STARS AND STRIPES quotes the house owner who is interviewed as saying if his house is not rented he will move back in. "If I can't rent it out, my family will move in and live here," he is quoted as saying. In the meantime, Sayed Masood, an economics professor from Kabul University has told the paper that most of these palaces were built with illegal money.

"Most of Kabul's mansions, palaces and huge buildings are built with illegal money, either from drug business, corruption, human trafficking" or other criminal activities, Sayed Masood is quoted as saying. He has also said that money laundering is very easy in Afghanistan. He says "Money laundering is like drinking water in Afghanistan. It is very easy," (KP)

### (8) Ghani, Saudi...

were given a red-carpet welcome by the Saudi leaders, including the custodian of the holy mosques, at the Khalid bin Abdul Aziz Airport.

Long-term cooperation in economic, security and cultural spheres came up for discussion, with both sides pledging to boost their relations. They hoped enhanced Afghan-Saudi ties would guarantee peace in the region.

The king assured his guest of continued economic assistance to Afghanistan, as the two leaders decided to form a joint team to evolve a framework of cooperation.

Ghani praised the oil-rich kingdom's generous assistance to the Afghans during the jihad era and over the last decade. He was optimistic of continued help from Riyadh.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer Eng. Mohammed Khan, National Security Affairs Hanif Atmar, Minister of Hajj and Endowments Fida Mohammad Osmani and senior officials assisted Ghani at the talks.

Governor of Riyadh Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Minister of National Guard Prince Miteb bin Abdullah and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Naif were also present, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

The Saudi deputy minister of foreign affairs, minister of defence, Royal Court head, minister of finance, Ambassador to Afghanistan Misfer bin Abdul Rahman Al Ghaseb were in attendance.

Earlier in the day, King Salman hosted a luncheon for Ghani. The banquet was attended by princes, ministers, senior officials and members of the delegation accompanying the president.

After arriving in Saudi Arabia, Ghani and his entourage performed Umrah in the holy land. The president and his delegation prayed for durable peace, prosperity, development and stability in the world, specifically Afghanistan.

On arrival, they were accorded a warm welcome by Malik Bin Abdul Aziz, the Amir of Makkah. Ghani was to meet the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Ghani visit to Saudi Arabia comes at a time when peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban are a subject of discussion in media.

Hassan Haqyar, political analyst, viewed Ghani's visit as immensely important, saying the Arabs could play a key role in Afghan peace efforts. Saudi efforts could yield positive result given its good relations with Pakistan and influence with the Taliban.

During his trip, the analyst believed, the president would stress the need

for greater support from Saudi Arabia for establishing peace in the county. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Canada's Afghan...

similar conflicts in the future, the evaluation found.

The Conservative government appears to be considering such a model in its approach to the conflict in Iraq as it prepares to debate the extension of the military mission there.

But there were major flaws in the Afghan aid program's conception and its delivery, the evaluation concluded, including a failure to ever completely understand what was driving the conflict in Afghanistan and in turn be able to really help solve it. "Canada is recognized as a consistent and reliable donor with a clear results orientation, but there is insufficient evidence to provide a definitive answer to the overall evaluation question related to Canada's contribution to long-term stability and sustainable development in Afghanistan," the report said.

The ongoing and eventually worsening violence in Afghanistan has been largely blamed for keeping development programs from doing what they were ostensibly designed to do -- help secure the peace won by the military.

"In Afghanistan, saving lives and alleviating suffering has been a short-term activity that was threatened by on-going political and military violence," the report said.

When that peace was declared elusive and the military decided to leave Kandahar in 2011, aid officials were left to create exit strategies of their own -- keeping a large-scale development program going was never an option, evaluators were told.

A decision was made to hand everything over to the U.S., and the Americans then started pursuing their own, differing, priorities, the report found.

"The frequent change of American staff on the ground meant that there was little institutional memory remaining to keep the strategic Canadian legacy alive," the evaluation concluded.

"Many interviewees indicated that this exit strategy may have been short-sighted and that, given the enormous Canadian investments made in Kandahar, other alternatives should have been explored as was done by other bilateral donors." What results the massive program managed to achieved were "impressive" and came mostly through projects in which Canada was one of many donors, the evaluation found. They included the training of thousands of health workers, food aid, teacher training, loans and enhanced capacity of rights and women's organizations.

Canada's three signature projects, the rehabilitation of the irrigation system flowing from the Dahla Dam, the construction of 50 schools and polio vaccination had mixed results.

More than 50 schools were actually built but it's unclear how many are open and how many students are enrolled, while polio cases from Pakistan continue to infiltrate Afghanistan. The irrigation system repair achieved most of its objectives, but with no new money earmarked to continue the work, it is all at risk, the report found.

The emphasis on short-term implementation strategies may have seen projects completed faster, but came at the expense of ensuring sustainable long-term development results, the report said.

"However, a few years after the Canadian exit from Kandahar, there is limited evidence of positive outcomes in terms of more jobs, enhanced income opportunities or better quality of services outside of the health and education sectors," the report said.

While the politics of the Afghan mission may be a thing of the past for Canadian parliamentarians, they reared their head for the evaluation team, who reported feeling some pressure to emphasize the positive results of the aid program in their report. In the end, they drew nine conclusions from their study and provided five recommendations. In its response to the report, the government acknowledged the program's shortcomings and agreed with many of the evaluation's conclusions. Canada has committed to spending \$227 million in Afghanistan between 2014 and 2017 but the report suggests Afghans are left wanting. (Agencies)

### (10) Pak-Afghan ...

the only Forum where Afghanistan is the permanent Chair while Co-chair changes every year. (PR)

### (11) CSTO Head's...

been annihilated.

According him, agreements reached between Afghanistan and Tajikistan provide for carrying out joint operations in case of threat of breakthrough over the Afghan-Tajik border. "Under an agreement between our countries, we carry out a joint operation in case of necessity," said ABP commander. "Currently, there no any problems between Afghanistan and Tajikistan on their common border."

Mohammad Shafiq Fazli further added that no country has the right to carry out military operation in Afghan territory without coordination with Afghan authorities.

We will recall that the CSTO Secretary-General Nikolay Bordyuzha says that CSTO's military forces could be at the Tajik-Afghan border within three days if a conflict broke out there.

Speaking at a press conference in Dushanbe, late on March 13, Nikolay Bordyuzha said CSTO forces could repel any threat emanating from the Afghan side of the border.

Bordyuzha said Russia is not looking to create a "second front in Tajikistan, but [Russia] would never permit the security of a CSTO member to be in doubt."

Bordyuzha is one of several Russian officials who have regularly warned Central Asian states about the dangers of militant groups in Afghanistan.

The CSTO, comprised of Tajikistan, Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, has been helping Tajikistan strengthen its defenses along the Afghan border.

The Afghan Border Police (ABP) secure Afghanistan's 5,529 kilometers border with neighboring countries and all its international airports. It also administers immigration services such as checking documents of foreigners entering the country or deporting them. The ABP's anti-narcotic efforts are a prominent concern to the international community at present. The ABP and the regular Afghan National Police jointly patrol a 55 km-wide corridor along the entirety of Afghanistan's border, particularly the longest and porous Durand Line border in the southeast with neighboring Pakistan.

The ABP falls under the command of the Afghan National Police (ANP) which is under the administrative control of the Ministry of the Interior. The ABP is headquartered in Kabul. The Afghan Border Police reportedly divides command of its 23,000 police force across 6 zones to protect 14 Border Crossing Points and 5 Major Airports. (Asia-Plus)

### (12) Displaced Panjshe...

only one blanket to an entire family has no benefit because every family has at least 10 members. One wonders how all these families live in eight rooms."

"We need household items, which we lost to the disaster as currently three persons share a cup to drink tea." He thanked local residents for providing them emergency assistance.

Another displaced person, Syed Alam, from Arghach village of Dara district, said the avalanches had killed 34 people and destroyed 30 homes in their village.

Surviving members of the 30 families have moved to different areas, said Alam, whose family is living with relatives in Kora Taz village of the town.

He said his relatives had given his eight family members a room in their home. He said they lived with their relatives like guests, but they needed assistance because they had lost everything to the avalanches. He confirmed receiving some food and a blanket in aid.

Panjsheh Refugee Affairs Director Abdul Majeed Nawrozi confirmed the problems facing the displaced families and said his department and the Emergency Response Committee were trying to assist the families.

He said 152 families in Heshah-i-Dom district, 150 families in Abshar district, 158 families in Paryan and 120 families in Heshah-i-Awal district had been displaced by the natural calamity.

Of the families, 20 had migrated to Kabul, 10 to Rokha district and the rest to nearby villages. He said most of the displaced families were staying with their relatives and some in the meeting hall of the regional council in Paryan district.

Nawrozi said the Emergency Response Committee had distributed relief goods to 250 families, but the assistance had been insufficient and the families needed more assistance.

He said each family received 50 kilograms of flour, 10 kg of ghee, five kg of pulses, a 50-kg bag of rice, tea and sugar, one blanket and one tent. Relief items with the Emergency

Response Committee have been exhausted and efforts are on to attract support from donors. (Pajhwok)

### (13) EU Renews ...

assistance until 2020.

At his meeting with Huber, Mohammad Khan thanked the EU delegation for assisting Afghanistan in diverse fields. He hoped many achievements would be made in the peace process and their impact would surface soon. Calling electoral reforms as crucial, Khan said the two campaigns would jointly work in cooperation with specialists to meet the challenge. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Lawmaker Alleges...

during such attacks on the police building, saying the latest attack was the third of its kind. He said no one could enter the heavily-guarded police building without cooperation from individuals inside.

On the other hand, the police chief, Brig. Gen. Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai, rejected the allegation as baseless and untrue. He told Pajhwok Afghan News 14 policemen were being investigated for failing to repulse the attack.

He said individuals, who took money to facilitate the rebels to attack the police headquarters, had also been detained. The police chief said he was ready to stand trial if the lawmaker produced evidence substantiating his allegations. The detained policemen have been accused of colluding with the insurgents to carry out the attack. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Kuchi Tribesmen...

schooling and the Ministry of Education should provide them facilities like other children.

He said schools for Kuchi children were without buildings and lacked text books and other essential teaching materials. "Children attend classes in the open under a hot summer sun and brave cold weather in winter. The big problem is the lack of shelter, which we want to be built. Our children also belong to this country."

The elder said his tribe had now realized the importance of education and wanted their children to be educated and enabled to serve the country.

"When Kuchis see children of other people going to school, they wish their children also go to school. The nomads like education for their children more than everything else on earth." Kuchis are regarded the most ignored community in Afghanistan, but the tribe has started demanding rights equal to other tribes.

Rozi Khan, a 12th-grade student at a high school for Kuchi tribesmen in Khost City, told Pajhwok Afghan News the government had totally ignored the tribe when it came to service delivery. "As little work has been done to improve our situation, other people think that Kuchis are wild and unsocial. We are not wild, but the government has forgotten us," he said. According to the provincial education department, nearly 5,000 Kuchi children are enrolled in 10 schools in Khost City and districts. The nomads say only two of the schools have buildings.

Education Department official Matullah Fazli said they were making efforts to resolve problems being faced by Kuchi tribesmen in area of education, but they lacked budget to construct buildings next academic year. He told Pajhwok Afghan News they had met the shortage of teachers and teaching equipment and were planning to establish six more schools for Kuchi children due to their increasing number. "We don't have development budget for the next academic year; we have repeatedly urged the Ministry of Education and some aid agencies to construct buildings for schools and provide tents."

The Kuchi Affairs Department in Khost says 32,000 nomadic families are permanently living in province. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Over 16,000 ...

Croatia, Germany, Poland, Greece, Portugal, Hungary, Romania, Iceland, Slovakia, Ireland, Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Latvia, Sweden, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Luxembourg, Turkey, Czech Republic, Estonia, Mongolia, Ukraine, Denmark, Montenegro, the UK, Estonia, the Netherlands, Spain, the US, Finland, New Zealand, Georgia and Norway. A US military official, meanwhile, said 10,000 American troops were currently based in Afghanistan -- 6,839 in the framework of the NATO mission and 3,161 fighting against Al Qaeda remnants, Taliban and their allies.

In response to a query, he said the troops involved in counter-terrorism conducted drone strikes and ground operations. They also extend support to Afghan partners based on security agreements between the two sides.

On the other hand, the NATO source explained US troops in the Resolute Support Mission were not conducting ground operations. "US troops involved in counterterrorism conduct operations appropriate to the situation but I am not able to discuss specific details due to operational security concerns." (Pajhwok)

### (17) WHO Helps...

and after that," Minister of Public Health Ferozuddin Feroz said. "In January 2015, 268,321 kids were covered in the south, southeast and east of the country."

The funding for the vaccination initiative amounts to 6.3 million USD, and is being provided by the WHO. "The goal of this program is to eliminate polio completely from Afghanistan," WHO representative in Afghanistan Dr. Richard told TOLONews. "We are expecting to completely eliminate this disease from Afghanistan in the upcoming years." Polio has been eradicated from almost every country in the world. Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria are the three nations in which there are still widespread cases.

During the year 2014, 28 positive polio cases were registered in Laghman, Kunar, Nangarhar, Uruzgan, Khost, Farah, Paktika, Kandahar, Ghazni, Zabul and Helmand. Since the start of 2015, only one positive polio case has been registered with the Ministry of Public Health. (Tolnews)

### (18) 2 Women Killed, ...

other people were injured when the bomb planted by the Taliban hit their car. But the insurgents have not commented on the incident so far. Abdullah, a resident of Gander area, where the incident happened, said the bomb hit a civilian car and inflicted casualties on a number of its occupants. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Russia Starts ...

than 6,000 people have been killed in nearly a year of fighting. The exercises were meant to focus on fighting Islamist insurgents, whose movement to create a Muslim state has spread across the predominantly Muslim North Caucasus, fueled by religion and anger at local abuse of power. (Reuters)

### (20) EU Seeks Ways ...

see ... what other potential role would be in place for Europe," said Ireland's European affairs minister, Dara Murphy. Italy is on the frontline of the immigration wave and has been trying to spur the EU into action, but even Rome wants to focus on the political track for now. Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said that Italy could eventually help to train Libyan police, but he insisted that political progress must be made first. (AP)

### (21) Assad Says Wants...

international change in attitude regarding Syria's situation would be positive. But he reiterated that foreign countries should stop supporting terrorist groups in Syria, a term Damascus uses for insurgents who have been fighting the army and allied militia for four years.

Two rounds of peace talks last year in Geneva failed to halt the conflict, which started when peaceful democracy demonstrations in 2011 were cracked down on by security forces. Russia, a close ally of Assad, invited on Monday the U.N. envoy for Syria to a second round of meetings scheduled for the beginning of April. The first round was shunned by key political opposition members and did not involve the main insurgent groups. (Reuters)

### (22) Tusk Presses EU...

bloc to act now to renew them, while other want to delay a decision to see how a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine develops.

Appointed last year, Tusk's role as Council president involves steering policy meetings of EU leaders and trying to forge consensus in the union. (Reuters)

### (23) Gulf Arabs Respond...

analysts with connections to the ruling family and conservative Sunni Muslim clerics quickly voiced concern about Kerry's remarks. (Reuters)

### (24) U.N. Rights Envoy...

a report by Shaheed last week said the executions for drug crimes in Iran did not meet the internationally accepted threshold of "most serious crimes" required for use of the death penalty as stipulated by international law. (Reuters)

### (25) Kuwait Meet Aims ...

the first and second conferences, also hosted by Kuwait, pledges of \$1.5 billion and \$2.4 billion were made, but the United Nations has complained that not all pledges were honoured. (AFP)