

### (1) We Respect...

lawmakers' views as important about national issues, Ghani said: "We would always take your views and suggestions about important subjects." The president also said the fight against corruption would be extended to the whole of the country and people's support was vital in this regard. Ghani insisted he had huge respect for legitimate rights of the Wolesi Jirga and that all the three pillars — executive, legislative and judiciary — were correlative and their close cooperation and coordination was vital for stability and future of Afghanistan.

Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim thanked the president over consulting people's representatives on important issues and said they would fully support the government's reform and development programs.

A day earlier, a number of lawmakers said the president had warned of dissolving the lower house if lawmakers summoned senior security officials. However, Shah Hussain Murtazavi, deputy spokesman to the president, said Ghani did not talk about the issue to anyone. He said the president had held more than 30 meetings with parliament members in the past two years.

Cooperation of the three pillars within the framework of the constitution could steer Afghanistan out of current problems and challenges, he said. (Pajhwok)

### (2) President ...

Jirga. The president said the parliament had full legitimacy and it was the reason he inaugurated the 16 legislative term of the Parliament 8th year. Under the constitution, the Wolesi Jirga's mandate ended last year, but its mandate was extended until elections to Wolesi Jirga and district councils were held.

However, no date has been announced for holding the long-delayed district and parliamentary elections.

Zazai said the president told Wolesi Jirga members that summoning government officials was their right and the three security officials would be present in the assembly tomorrow.

Nominees to replace the ousted ministers would be also introduced to the lower house for a trust vote, he added. Wolesi Jirga disqualified ministers of foreign affairs, labor and social affairs, public works, education, transportation, telecommunication and technology and the minister of higher education. However, all the disqualified ministers continued to perform their duty in compliance with a presidential order.

When asked why 1st deputy speaker of Wolesi Jirga Hamayon Hamayon yesterday said the president had warned to dissolve the Wolesi Jirga. Abdul Qadir Zazai answered Hamayon had a personal meeting with the president and he should avoid sharing personal problems.

Dawa Khan Menapal, Presidential Palace's spokesman, insisted that the president had not talked to anyone about dissolution of the Wolesi Jirga. (Pajhwok)

### (3) NATO Resolute...

Times. The request for more troops, which will be made at a NATO summit in May, is backed by US Defense Secretary James Mattis, according to the news outlet.

Nicholson said the key aim of 12,000 troops he leads in Afghanistan was to defeat the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group (banned in Russia, the United States and many other countries), adding that the Afghan government was controlling only about 75 percent of the country's territory.

NATO-led Resolute Support mission was launched on January 1, 2015, to train and assist the Afghan security forces. NATO leaders decided to extend the presence of the mission in Afghanistan beyond 2016 at the summit in Warsaw. (Sputnik)

### (4) Afghanistan ...

million aged 6 months to 5 years will be given vitamin A tablets," the statement reads. The campaign will cover all provinces, except central Bamiyan, the neighboring Daykundi and Ghor provinces due to cold weather, the statement said. "Two polio cases have been reported in 2017, one from southern Helmand and one from (neighboring) Kandahar province. In 2016, 13 polio cases were reported, down from 20 in 2015. Most of Afghanistan remains polio-free, but wild poliovirus continues to circulate in localized geographical areas in the eastern, southern and south-eastern parts of the country," the statement noted. Currently only two countries, namely Afghanistan and Pakistan still remain polio endemic since Nigeria was removed from the list of polio endemic countries in 2015. (Xinhua)

### (5) Corruption ...

local justice structure left space for

informal justice in many rural areas — often run by insurgents or war lords. This pattern has to change.

"The Government must take lead when it comes to breaking down the culture of corruption. The key is to end impunity — we have seen the first prosecutions and I hope more is to come soon. By starting from the top the Afghan Government can send a strong signal to all Afghans that the time of corruption in Afghanistan is over," states Ambassador Mellbin. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Pakistan,...

process bringing all stockholders to the negotiating table.

Earlier in February this year, Moscow hosted six-party talks including Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and India to help peace and stability in Afghanistan. (IRNA)

### (7) Businessmen ...

in Afghanistan will leave the country. President [Ashraf Ghani] should hear this and security departments should realize it," the deputy head of ACCI Khan Jan Alokozay said. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior said security forces are committed to ensure the safety of businessmen across the country. "The new security team has plans on hand to identify and arrest those who commit crimes in cities, especially in Kabul," said Najib Danish, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry. (Tolonews)

### (8) Senate ...

said he is worried about interferences in appointment of security officials in his ministry.

"People who are expert in logistics are appointed in intelligence department, while intelligence experts are appointed in repairing department. The interior ministry alone can do nothing," Jahid told senators.

At the hearing session, Stanikzai said investigations on hospital attack and the attack at Kandahar guesthouse are ongoing.

"We can bring reforms definitely, if we have a will. We violate reforms," Stanikzai said.

This comes after Humayun Humayun, the first deputy speaker of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament), on Saturday said President Ashraf Ghani had told him to ignore summoning security ministers; otherwise, he will send an order to dissolve the national assembly.

Presidential Palace however rejected the remarks and said the issue was not raised in Ghani's meeting with the deputy speaker. (Tolonews)

### (9) Contracts ...

the schemes according to their contracts.

The projects are being implemented under the National Road Construction Program of MRRD.

According to the ministry, more than 700 kilometers of roads and 1,700 meters of bridges would be built in the current solar year.

So far, 5,600 kilometers road and 4,900 meters bridges had been constructed in different provinces under the National Road Construction Program. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Parliamentary ...

cards to be rolled out, the digitalization of the election comes next," said Fazl Ahmad Manawi, former head of the Independent Election Commission.

"This can help in the counting of votes including voter registration process, but it cannot ease the voting process," said Jandad Spinghar, head of Afghan Civil Society Election Network.

This comes after reports said the United Nations in Afghanistan had reservations over different aspects of e-voting system in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (11) Govt. Urged ...

"We are working hard. If government does not take action, they [drug addicts] will return to the location where they used drugs. We are deeply concerned," said Farima Neghat, member of a rehabilitation center.

Reports reveal that drug addiction has affected female members of those who use drugs.

Zainab, 14, who is under treatment in a rehabilitation center, says she was addicted to drugs by her parents.

She said her sister and brother are also addicted to drugs.

"One day I was taking drugs. Doctors said what are you doing? I replied that I am using drugs. They said do you want to be healthy? I said yes," Zainab said.

Samira, another drug addict, said she has a bachelor degree in music from Iran.

She said she returned home from Iran 12 years ago but drug addiction has challenged her life.

Samira said she was addicted to drugs due to unemployment and economic problems.

"When I visit the bridge and see the drug addicts from a distance, I feel pain and remember the time when I

was a drug addict. I want to work. I don't want to use drugs again," she added.

Meanwhile, Sina, another drug addict who is also under treatment in the center said she was separated from her mother after she was addicted to drugs.

"My mother was a police officer. She was using drugs. My brother took us to hospital when he heard about us. She did not recognize us. She said you are not my children," Sina.

Officials of the rehabilitation center in Kabul said at least 42 people including eight children are under treatment in the center but many of them have no caretakers or family members to look after them. (Tolonews)

### (12) US Confirms ...

conducted in the Paktika province on March 19. He was responsible for deaths of dozens of innocent victims, including two American service members.

"Yasin, a senior terrorist figure from Balochistan, Pakistan, had ties to Tehrik-e Taliban and had plotted multiple al Qaeda terror attacks, including the Sept. 20, 2008, bombing on the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad that killed dozens of innocent people, among them U.S. Air Force Maj. Rodolfo I. Rodriguez and Navy Cryptologic Technician Third Class Petty Officer Matthew J. O'Bryant," the Pentagon said.

"Yasin was also responsible for the 2009 attack on a bus carrying the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore. Six Pakistani policemen and two civilians were killed and six members of the team injured," the Pentagon said. According to Lon War Journal, Yasin was listed by the Pakistani government as the 10th Most Wanted terrorist in the country in 2013. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Pakistan...

of the border after nearly a month and both sides also agreed on "bilateral engagement."

However, a follow-up meeting has not yet been held since the advisers' meeting on March 15.

The civil delegates will also hold meetings with senior Pakistani officials including Foreign Affairs Adviser Sartaj Aziz and National Security Adviser Nasir Janjua. Some of them will also speak to students at two major universities.

Organizers said the dialogue aimed at developing understanding on the identified bilateral issues to help detox narratives, improve public perceptions, and mitigate mutual allegations and suspicions.

They said the members will act as bridge between the two governments to ensure continuation of bilateral conversation and promote and foster better people-to-people contacts between the two countries.

During their dialogue last month in Kabul, the Afghan and Pakistani members called on both countries to exercise restraint in the current situation in the larger interest of the people of the two countries.

The groups also called on both governments to instantly provide counsellor access to prisoners detained in both countries on various charges as this could help in providing mutual legal assistance and fair trial. (Xinhua)

### (14) States Supporting ...

and South Asia.

The upper house chairman said recent visits of government officials, negotiations and signing of different agreements between the two countries further cemented friendship between China and Afghanistan.

He added a free trade zone (FTZ) suggested by China's President Xi Jinping in 2013 would connect large number of countries through land and sea if implemented.

"The second plan is the route that would pass from China in the Central Asian countries, we believe implementation of the two plans would revive the historic role of Silk Road," he said.

"We need a permanent peace in the region, our regional countries are also suffering from terrorism, drug trafficking and other similar problems, so we together should fight against these problems and resolve them ourselves," he said.

Muslimyar said 20 terrorist groups including Daesh or so called Islamic State (IS) were fighting in Afghanistan and killing innocent people.

However, he said all terrorist groups were trained, equipped and resided outside Afghanistan. "It is not far when other regional countries would also burn in the fire that is currently burning Afghanistan if the states supporting terrorism are not controlled," he said. "We also need China's support in education, fortunately many Afghan youth are busy in higher education in major Chinese universities," he said, adding many culturists, academics, journalists, archeologists and civil society activists from China had visited Afghanistan in the recent years.

He invited the China's national congress leadership and the China People's Political Consultative Conference to send their representatives to Afghanistan to meet their Afghan counterparts. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Kabul Residents ...

Siyam Pisarlay said.

However, the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) has said that commodities prices have decreased in the local markets.

"The prices of goods that were increased now have decreased and we are supervising the market," Musesafer Qoqandi, spokesman for the ministry of commerce and industries said. (Tolonews)

### (16) 4 Afghan...

Qani, Head of Apartments Cohesion and Syed Aman Sadat, Manager Finance Apartments Cohesion were jailed for 20 years each on charges of the embezzlement and misuse of the authority.

The two former officials of the Ministry of the Urban Development and Housing were also fined 150 million Afghani each.

The two other officials, Ahmad Nawaz Bakhtyar, Director of Housing Enterprise and Mohammad Yaqub Ibrahim, the Deputy Director for Housing Enterprise, were jailed for seven years each.

The special tribunal also awarded a fine of 443 million for each of the former officials on charges of the embezzlement and misuse of the authority.

The three officials except Mohammad Yaqub Ibrahim are serving in Jail. Ibrahim is on the run and the verdict during the trial was announced in his absence as efforts are underway for his arrest.

The four former officials were among six senior MUDH officials suspended by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on corruption charges earlier in 2015, involving millions of dollars in several urban development and housing projects.

The other officials included Ahmadshah Hemat, Urban Development Director and Gul Rahim Ziarnal, Plan and Policy Director. (KP)

### (17) Delegation to ...

told Pajhwok Afghan News. However, he said that only windshield of the vehicles the delegation members were traveling in broken and the officials onboard were escaped unhurt in the incident.

The clashes between supporters of Naim Charik and Firoz, commanders of Junbish, and Hayatullah, a commander of Jamiat party in the area were ongoing from the past few days, Qaderi said, adding both sides and civilians suffered casualties and financial losses in the battle.

Faryab police spokesman, Abdul Karim Yurish, confirmed the attack on the delegation and said the fight between the two sides was ongoing from the past two days that left nine people injured including two women and a policeman and one person dead.

He said a residential building was also torched and 15 member of Jamiat party surrendered to Junbish side. Jamiat party commander, Hayatullah said several commanders of the Junbish party supported by Afghans forces and equipped with military tanks attacked Dahandara village.

One person was killed and four houses torched by the Junbish commanders in the incident, he said.

"I took stronghold on the top of the mountain to resist against the assailants and prevent civilian casualties," he added.

However, Firoz, a commander of Junbish party, said the attack was first conducted by commander Hayat who he said fired four rockets on his house. "I was obliged to defend my village and stand against Hayat," he said.

Clashes between the two sides began after a son of a Junbish commander, Nizamuddin was killed by supporters of a Jamiat commander in a dispute.

Nizamuddin's son was Gen. Abdur Rashid Dostum's special representative for upraising groups in Faryab. After the loss of the commander's son, fight between the two parties continued for three days in Maimana, the capital of Faryab and some other parts of the province. (Pajhwok)

### (18) 2 Acting Chiefs ...

Nazari, his assistant, were dismissed over complaints by people about their involvement in widespread corruption and incompetency to provide necessary services.

Qaderi said he had been appointed by the provincial governor and the MoE. He told Pajhwok Afghan News until a full department head was appointed, he would continue controlling the department's affairs.

He said the education minister had also verbally appointed him as the acting head, but formal approval was yet to arrive. Qaderi confirmed Abdullah Asakzai had brought a letter from the

MoE confirming his appointment as acting head, but the provincial administration hadn't approved it yet and he hadn't been introduced as acting head.

"The Governor's House hasn't agreed to Asakzai's appointment. But the Education Minister has verbally told him that his appointment letter is sent to the Presidential Palace and it will be sent to the province after its approval." On the other hand, finance and administrative affairs in-charge at the education department, Abdullah Asakzai, claimed that the MoE had given him an appointment letter to serve as the acting department head.

Asakzai said he paid a visit to Kabul to resolve some administrative works and there he was handed a formal appointment letter by the Education Minister. He said he had shared the letter with the provincial administration, which had agreed to it and only his introduction to the position remained.

Kandahar governor's spokesman, Samim Khaalwak, acknowledged Asakzai had been issued an appointment letter by the MoE. However, he said the provincial administration had not yet approved it.

Khaalwak said earlier the Governor House with the ministry's agreement had appointed Qaderi as acting head of the education department, still holding the post.

He said Governor Dr. Homayoon Azizi had introduced some officials to the attorney's office and had dismissed others as part of his promise to bring about reforms and clean government organizations of corruption.

Due to the governor's efforts, Paiwastoon and former teaching assistant Mohammad Ewaz Nazari, were dismissed a few months back and Qaderi was appointed as acting head.

Khaalwak said the main problem lied with the MoE because the ministry made appointments based on connections and relations.

He said the ministry had given appointment letters to three and four persons for a single post. "It has been observed multiple times that the MoE is providing appointment letters for the same very low-key positions at the department to three or four men and all such appointments are based on connections."

He said the provincial administration had always opposed such appointments, because the MoE was a joint public facility and the Governor House was committed to allowing no one to meddle in the department's affairs.

He said the provincial administration had directly shared the issue with President Ashraf Ghani, who had promised immediate fundamental changes in the Kandahar education department.

Kandahar residents were also worried about the current situation of the education department. They called on the authorities to implement reforms.

A resident of Kandahar City, Ghulam Sakhi Nooriwal, said the education department was a victim of improper competitiveness at a time when tens of schools were shut and those active lacked standardized education process.

He said strongmen and so-called servants of Kandaharis were busy trying to appoint their own men to posts at the education department.

He asked the president to firstly bring about positive changes to the MoE before improving the situation of the Kandahar education department.

There have long been complaints about embezzlement and graft at the provincial education department.

There are a total of 450 schools in the province, of which 318 are operational. Only 192 schools have buildings.

In addition, people aren't satisfied with the quality of education and there are imaginary schools as well in some districts and salaries of ghost teachers are transferred to powerful individuals' bank accounts. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Belgium ...

and dubbed the neighboring country as supporter of terrorism. The protesters passed a resolution and submitted a copy of the resolution to the European parliament. The resolution claimed that Pakistan provided safe havens to terrorists and continued supporting them. "Pakistan has turned to be a cancer and if not restricted the entire world would suffer," the resolution said. It demanded the European Union (EU) and its parliament to designate Pakistan a terrorist state and impose economic, political and military sanction.

They also demanded to stop Pakistan from the violation of Afghanistan territorial integrity in line with the bilateral Security Agreement (BSA). (Pajhwok)

### (20) Takhar Cleric,...

release.

He said Kabir before joining the Taliban issued verdict during Friday prayer sermon in the favour of pro-government religious leaders killing.

Taliban have not commented about the development. (Pajhwok)

### (21) 76 Persons...

city, except for the Friday when two traffic accidents occurred in Karukh district.

Homayun was concerned over the increase of vehicles in the city and said, "The number of vehicles in the city was on the raise. Currently there have been over 400,000 vehicles in Herat city making trafficking management difficult."

Some residents of Herat province showed their concerns over the increasing traffic accident in the city and ask the government to take legal action against those who breaks traffic rules and drive illegally.

Ahmad Nadeem, the resident of Bagh Morad area in Herat city, said: "More traffic accidents have been happening, motorbike were being driven recklessly asking the officials to take notice of the situation."

Farid Ahmad, another dweller said: "The increasing number of motorbikes driven by youth violation of traffic laws that involved over speeding was main reasons behind traffic incident and poor management of traffic in the city."

Wakil Ahmad, a taxi driver said: "The authorities should limit the export of motorbikes and take action against those violating the traffic laws if they want to bring management and organized flow of traffic."

People have also accused the drivers for careless driving. Some drivers were addicted to narcotics and some have no driving experience, they believed.

Traffic accidents and he loss of human lives in vehicles mishaps was said to be a huge challenge in Herat and need immediate attention from authorities. (Pajhwok)

### (22) 5 Killed in ...

the statement noted.

The Taliban militants, who ruled the country before being ousted in late 2001, renewed armed insurgency, killing government troops as well as civilians.

The Taliban insurgency has been on the rampage since the beginning of 2015 when the Afghan security forces assumed full responsibilities of security from the U.S. and NATO troops. (Xinhua)

### (23) 3 Closed...

government construct school buildings in addition to improve security situations in the area.

Provincial Education Director, Mohammad Naseem safi, confirmed the reopening of the schools by the indefatigable efforts of local elders. (Pajhwok)

### (24) Russia Says...

entities from cooperating with Iran and Syria, she said.

The new sanctions run counter to Washington's anti-terrorism commitments and undermine the prospects for establishing broad multilateral cooperation to defeat the Islamic State and other terrorist groups, said the spokeswoman. (Xinhua)

### (25) Arab World...

Ahmed Aboul-Gheit said at the opening of the meeting.

"Only the Arabs will be able to heal their own wounds," said Aboul-Gheit. The refugees' crisis threatens the future of all Arabs with some 2.8 million Syrian children cannot go to school.

Extremism is the main enemy to development in the Arab world. It causes spits in the societies and prevents Arabs from making advances and catching up with the rest of the world, said the Arab League official. (Xinhua)

### (26) Turkey May...

European Parliament passed a resolution to freeze EU accession talks with Turkey until it "halts repression," aiming at the lift of "disproportionate repressive measures" in Turkey under the state of emergency. (Xinhua)

### (27) Iran Sanctions...

ban on contacts with them.

The sanctioned companies also included ITT Corporation, United Technologies and specialty vehicles maker Oshkosh Corp. The Iranian move came two days after the United States imposed sanctions on 11 companies or individuals from China, North Korea or the United Arab Emirates for technology transfers that could boost Tehran's ballistic missile program. (Reuters)

### (28) France's Hollande...

trade," added Hollande, making the first official visit by a French president to Singapore. The two countries signed a Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership in 2012 to deepen cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, defense and space technology.

Singapore's president, Tony Tan, said that France was a "special friend," noting that it was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Singapore after its independence in 1965. (AP)