

(1) Situation in ...

give our commanders the resources and authorities they need to seize the initiative and take the fight to our enemies. I urge him to do so immediately," he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) Turkish Aid ...

"With the support of our donors, we as the 'IHH family' continue to be on the side of the oppressed Afghan people in these difficult days," the agency's central Asia and Caucasus desk coordinator, Ruslan Ayvazov, said in the statement.

"In this context we are here in Afghanistan to continue our activities due to the cold weather conditions in recent days," he added.

In cooperation with a Kabul-based foundation, IHH is also planning to open an orphanage for 160 children in Taloqan, according to the statement.

The IHH, which began operating in 1995, has opened 32 orphanages in 11 countries in the last 22 years. (AA)

(3) MoI Announces ...

Police Chief;

- Gen. Ekramuddin Sari as Baghlan Police Chief;
- Gen. Muhayuddin Sarwari as Nuristan Police Chief;
- and Gen. Mohammad Wahid Hamidi as head of anti-corruption and audit office of the Interior Ministry.

Meanwhile, Sediqqi said that Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi, former Kabul police chief, was appointed as Nangarhar Police Chief. (Tolonews)

(4) Rabbani Rules...

country, any neighboring state in facilitating that process, which should be coordinated by Afghanistan's government," Rabbani said.

The situation in Afghanistan has significantly deteriorated in recent months. The Afghan forces are fighting the continuing Taliban terrorist group insurgency. Other extremist groups, such as the Islamic State, outlawed in many countries including the United States and Russia, have also expanded their activities both in the country and in neighboring states. (Sputnik)

(5) Afghan

during the winter season readied and took needed measures to deal with threats from insurgents in spring.

"Security forces have adopted needed measures in all spheres and they are ready to foil enemy threats and defend the country-men."

He denounced Wednesday's double attack in Kabul, which 22 people were killed and more than 100 wounded. He said the attacks had no impact on the security forces' morale. He said a probe had been launched into the attacks.

While claiming terrorists were always equipped outside of Afghanistan, Faisal said: "Investigations are underway, but so far it is not yet known whether the attacks were designed in Pakistan."

"We should await the results of the probes. But there is no doubt Pakistan is a strong terrorist-supporting country in the region, the country develops terrorism and many of the terrorists who are fighting in Afghanistan have been trained in Pakistan," he alleged. (Pajhwok)

(6) Ghani, US...

US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Laurel Miller stressed on the need for continued American cooperation with Afghanistan, the statement said.

President Ghani once again thanked the United States for its assistance and cooperation with Afghanistan in various fields. (Pajhwok)

(7) Details on ...

We will share necessary details about the electronic identity cards rollout process," head of the office, Humayun Muhtat said.

President Ashraf Ghani approved the amendments in the Census Law on Thursday and paved the way for the new identity cards issuance.

"It has multiple benefits, because one of the serious problems that we are facing is that there is no exact figures and statistics in different fields," Ghani said on Thursday after approving the amendments.

"All people are happy with the amendments and I welcome it. I hope its practical steps move on quickly," the Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said.

Meanwhile, the European Union Ambassador to Afghanistan welcomed the move and said the issuance of the electronic identity cards will help maintain security, good governance and will improve services to the people.

More than \$100 million USD has been estimate for the rollout process of the new identity cards which will be funded by the European Union, reports indicate. (Tolonews)

(8) Ghani Endorses ...

the draft amendments concerning the distribution of computerised ID cards. A legislative decree ratifying the changes was also issued, the 2nd vice-president's office said.

A statement from the VP office said Article 6 of the Population Registration Act was about the registration of an individual's particulars in computerised ID cards. The changes endorsed by the president allow inclusion of the word 'Afghan' and one's ethnicity.

Draft amendments to Article 6 were introduced and approved last year by the Cabinet's Rules Committee, headed by 2nd VP Mohammad Sarwar Danish.

After the president's approval, the draft was referred to the cabinet for final consent. After a year, the draft was referred to the cabinet. Besides its approval by the cabinet, the changes were also upheld by the president through a legislative decree.

The statement added the draft's endorsement into the presidential decree removed obstacles in the way of distributing computerised ID cards. The distribution process will be initiated soon.

Earlier, some circles insisted only the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan should be written in the ID cards and there was no need to mention the words Afghan and tribes.

Many opined that the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan should be written in ID cards because other information about holders was saved in supporting database. (Pajhwok)

(9) Unknown...

disease has permeated the Bed village in the district and so far has killed two children, said Khaliqdad Akbari, head of Ghazni Provincial Council.

He said the disease has so far infected at least 40 children.

Akbari added that roads to the district are closed due to heavy snowfalls.

He stated that more children will lose their lives if the Ministry of Public Health does not provide emergency aid to the affected areas by helicopters.

Meanwhile, a number of local residents said major symptoms of the disease include breathing problems, pneumonia and abdominal pains.

The residents urged the relevant organizations to help them and save the village from the disease. (Tolonews)

(10) Tripartite

Pakistani Army officer assigned to the NATO RS TJOC.

The meetings focused on sharing of information and charting a clear agenda for improved coordination between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Parmiggiani chaired the day's events, assisted by TJOC NATO personnel, and led participants through a series of discussions that gave attendees the opportunity to tackle numerous challenging Af-Pak border subjects.

He clearly explained RS's stance on the current situation along the Durand Line. "We were extremely happy to have facilitated a 're-start' of the counter-IED discussion forum at the tripartite one-star level," Parmiggiani explained.

"This will provide a significant connection between the two Armies for the counter-IED fight."

RS has held Tripartite meetings on a monthly basis since October 2016. However, this was the first Counter-IED Tripartite since May 2015, and represented an opportunity for increased cooperation for both sides.

"RS HQ is encouraged that persistent engagement by Afghans and Pakistani military professionals will complement other discussions taking place between the two countries."

"The threats that exist on both sides of the Durand Line cannot be neutralized without continued interaction at all bilateral levels, but especially within the military" Parmiggiani added. (Pajhwok)

(11) US Hails

three districts down in southern Nangarhar," said Cleveland.

He said Afghan forces launched a fresh operation in two districts in the province about a month ago with the assistance of U.S. airpower, and the effort is progressing well.

The spokesman reiterated that IS militants are primarily active in Nangarhar and in nearby districts of neighboring Kunar province, but he denied the existence of the terrorist outfit in northern Afghan regions, citing intelligence gathered by the U.S. military.

Cleveland said the U.S. military was able to kill 12 top leaders of IS, including its regional chief, in 2016, degrading the terrorist threat in Afghanistan.

The US military spokesman criticised Russia and Iran for maintaining overt contacts with the Taliban insurgency, saying it undermined the Afghan government's efforts against terrorist forces in the country.

Moscow and Tehran believed the emergence of IS loyalists in Afghanistan poses a threat to their regional interests and territorial boundaries, and justifies their ties with the Taliban, saying the Islamist insurgency is fighting IS to prevent it from expanding its influence in the war-torn country. (Pajhwok)

(12) Afghan Forces ...

militants were in the run and the security forces had been chasing them.

Taliban, which is in control of parts of the northern Baghlan province, has yet to make comment on the situation in Tala-o-Barfak district. (Xinhua)

(13) MoF to ...

economic affairs.

The cost of the construction of three dams has been estimated to be more than \$200 million USD.

The power-generating dams would also have the capacity of irrigating over 2,000 hectares of agricultural land. (Tolonews)

(14) 149 Taliban...

and 20 mines were confiscated.

Two commanders were among 34 Taliban militants killed and another nearly a dozen wounded in central Logar province, the statement said, adding eight militants were killed in Nangarhar, seven in Farah and four in Takhar provinces.

The MoD statement had no mention of casualties along the security forces. The Taliban have so far not commented about the MoD claims. (Pajhwok)

(15) Malfunctioning ...

colleague. He said he could not defend himself because police weapons were malfunctioning during the attack.

"Unfortunately, our weapons just stop firing. We have been given M16 rifles. The reason our people are getting killed, is that our morale is weakened because of poor weapons," he said.

Shuja Khan, another police officer, said he was wounded critically in the attack.

"Something was thrown inside the room and the room caught fire," he added.

The attack happened when a number of police force members were under training at the military campus.

Parwiz was one of them. "We were sitting behind a container. They [the attackers] threw hand grenades at us," Parwiz said.

A policewoman, who also sustained injuries in the attack, said

she lives in a rented house and is the only bread winner of her seven children and her jobless husband.

"They [the militants] must never think that we are afraid. I would be proud to be killed in a police uniform. I will resume my duty if they call me to come today. I am not afraid of Taliban or Daesh," she stated.

Officials in the Police Hospital said at least 33 wounded, including three women were taken to the hospital following the attack.

They said many of them were sent back home while 10 are still under treatment at the hospital. (Tolonews)

(16) Execute Terrorists...

lived in a rented house made of mud. His sudden death has left his children and family without a caretaker.

Three young polio vaccinators were also killed in the attack.

Hussain was one of the vaccinators killed in the attack

"He is my son, Oh Allah, my son was so young," cried Walidad's mother.

Civilians remain to be the main victims of the Taliban insurgency over the past fifteen years. Civilians are frequently killed in Afghan cities and towns by suicide attacks and other acts of violence by insurgent groups, including the Taliban. (Tolonews)

(17) Work on

officials welcomed the construction of the private-sector hospital. Sifatullah Samangani, the provincial council head, said currently hundreds of residents took their patients to Balkh province or Kabul for treatment. If other businessmen also invested in such projects, health issues would be resolved, the public representative believed.

Dr. Ikramuddin Wakilzada, the provincial hospital head, also hailed the investment in the health sector. He said the population of the province was increasing and so were people's health problems.

He said currently, 34 health centres were functioning in Samangan, including the provincial civil hospital and three others in districts. The remaining 30 health centres could not cope with the number of patients.

He hoped with the completion of the hospital, having standard equipment and experienced doctors, the of quality and standard of health services would considerably improve. (Pajhwok)

(18) After Wardak,...

Afghan News the insurgents had established a customs check-point in the past but that did not exist any longer.

"The Taliban created a custom check-point that was destroyed in a security forces' offensive. Some robbers later stood in that area and took money from vehicles," he added.

But the Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid verified the group had set up a check-point on the Ghazni Paktia highway in Deh Yak district. He said the check-point had been shifted from Spin Boldak to Deh Yak for security reasons.

He, however, said the Taliban charged specific companies that imported fuel. He insisted the group did not charge all vehicles. Mujahid added they would take action against other groups extorting money from drivers, using the Taliban name.

The militant movement established a custom check-point in the Syedabad district of Maidan Wardak province as well. (Pajhwok)

(19) Community ...

headquarters will have a Community Policing Services Office which will work with the people to address their problems. The office will include all Zabul communities," Nawrozi stated.

Meanwhile, some members of Zabul Provincial Council and residents of the province, who attended a session held in Qalat to discuss the office with the people, welcomed the move by government and said the community policing services will decrease the distance between government and the people.

"It is a good decision. It will help

remove the problems which have been created due to a distance between the people and the government," said Sayed Mohammad, a tribal elder from Zabul.

"It is a good move and I hope that people choose those as members of the office who can better connect government with members of the public," Asadullah, a civil society activist and resident of Zabul said.

Zabul residents said the public trust in government will upsurge when it boosts rule of law in all communities. (Tolonews)

(20) Parwan PC...

to the news agency's manager in the same aggressive manner and sought apology at the end and promised to come to Pajhwok office with documents.

On Wednesday, the PC member along with his armed bodyguards forced his way into the Pajhwok central office without permission.

During a meeting with Pajhwok senior staff, Mohammadi said: "I hope you people will not waste your energy in unnecessary topics."

"The land grabbing issue is six years old. If I am a land usurper, there is government, judiciary and police who should arrest me," he said.

About his school certificate, he said many government officials, including CEO Abdullah Abdullah and others held fake degrees and Pajhwok should make a report on them.

"On directives of a few corrupt people why do you waste your time, you indulged yourself in unnecessary issues that create problems," continued Mohammadi.

He said it was government's responsibility to investigate the land grabbing issue of not a media's job.

During the one hour meeting, Mohammadi used an aggressive language and warned if Pajhwok published land grabbing related report regarding him, he would tie the Pajhwok reporter in Parwan to a car and would drag him.

"Don't disturb people. I swear, I would capture your reporter in Parwan and would beat him up."

He repeated his warning saying he would capture the Pajhwok reporter and would beat him fifty times if the report was published.

Pajhwok Afghan News head Danish Karokhel said his organization was committed to journalistic principles and used to publish reports after taking viewpoints from all sides.

Kharokhel said if a Pajhwok staff member faced any security issues in Kabul or provinces, the responsibility would be on Mohammadi.

He condemned Mohammadi's entry to Pajhwok office with armed bodyguards and said the PC member used harsh language during the meeting.

He asked the government to take steps for safety and protection of journalists and media organizations in the country. (Pajhwok)

(21) Afghan Forces...

highway going towards Balkh province.

He said four RPG launchers, a PKM heavy machine gun, and 35 AK-47 assault rifles were confiscated and an individual was arrested in connection to the smuggle of the weapons.

He said the weapons were placed inside a mini truck and was on its way from southeast Khost province to northern Balkh province when it was identified and the weapons were seized.

According to Gen. Zaman, the militants were looking to destabilize the northern Balkh province by carrying out a series of attacks, specifically during the Nowruz days when hundreds of thousands of people are visiting the province for Gul-e-Surkh picnic.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

(22) Iran Honours...

Sepah Qods, Ismail Qani, praised the sacrifice of the two

leading Afghan commanders. Qani told Iran's Mehr news agency that the Fatemiyoun brigade was an effective defence unit. He said the brigade was not only fighting in Syria but they were ready to reach every part of the world. (Pajhwok)

(23) Khostis Rally

we issue fatwas declaring them infidels."

He said if the aggression continued, the Afghans were responsible to defend their country and respond effectively.

They also asked Pakistan to avoid disuniting Pashtuns on both sides of the Durand Line and immediately reopen the Torkham and Spin Boldak crossing points.

Similar rallies have been taken out against Pakistan in Nangarhar, Kunar, Kabul, Balkh, Helmand and Kandahar provinces. (Pajhwok)

(24) Moody's Warns....

as details of any U.S. corporate tax rule changes have yet to be announced.

It said multinational companies are a crucial part of Ireland's economic success and Ireland's low corporate tax rate has been an important driver for foreign direct investment in the country. (Xinhua)

(25) UN Nuclear...

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and other senior U.S. officials in Washington on Thursday, March 2," an IAEA spokesman said on Wednesday, declining to elaborate. (Monitoring Desk)

(26) Syria Talks ...

government negotiator Bashar al-Ja'afari wants "counter-terrorism" to be included on the agenda.

"There is movement from both sides. The difficulty is that the opposition wants to be sure how the question of terrorism will be dealt with and in what order," one diplomat said.

"They need language that ensures the process is not hijacked by the government to distract from political transition. De Mistura has to ensure that both sides don't feel trapped." (AP)

(27) Russian Opposition...

Navalny, who became popular via his exposes of high-level corruption, was a driving force behind massive opposition protests in Moscow in 2011-2012.

He has declared his intention to run for president in 2018, even though a court ruling last month bars him from joining the race. He denounced the ruling as politically motivated and vowed to appeal it. (AP)

(28) Turkish Minister...

German counterpart in protest, while Turkey summoned the German ambassador seeking an explanation.

Recalling previous incidents, including one last year when President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was also blocked from addressing Turkish citizens, Cavusoglu said, "This has become a systematic practice of the German deep state."

"They don't want Turkish leaders to campaign because they are working for 'no' votes," Cavusoglu said. "They want to prevent (the creation) of a strong Turkey."

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer said the federal government was not involved in canceling Bozdag's engagement in Gaggenau, or a separate rally in Cologne planned for Saturday with Turkey's economy minister. (AP)

(29) Britain must...

highlighting the plight of British citizens living in other EU member states, many speakers also underlined that EU citizens should not be used as "bargaining chips" in the Brexit negotiations. (Xinhua)

(30) Uzbek President ...

Regional issues and the ways of expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation within international organizations were also discussed during the meeting. (Trend)