

**(1) 73pc of...**

He asked the public health minister to share the contract of constructing buildings for regional hospitals with the National Procurement Commission and finalise it.

Provincial council deputy head, Dr. Lal Mohammad Durrani, said the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) should increase budget for Nangarhar health sector and employ more health professionals in rural areas.

"There is insufficient staff at clinics in rural areas, which is a big problem of our people," he said.

However, minister Feroz said there were more health professionals in Nangarhar than any other provinces. He said his ministry would try to increase the number of professionals in rural areas.

Feroz also promised to launch work on the construction of kidney treatment hospital in Nangarhar and provide more facilities to teaching hospital at Nangarhar University. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Kabul to...**

a tit-for-tat response to the Pakistan attacks, he said the ANA forces would be used only when other available options failed to yield any results.

But NSC deputy head Faizullah Zaki said before restoring to a tit for tat response, the issue of rocket strikes from Pakistan should be deeply investigated because armed groups were also operating in the border region. "Therefore a comprehensive investigation is needed."

He said the Afghan government would hold a meeting this evening to discuss the attacks. He said the meeting would also declare the government's official stance regarding the cross border attacks.

The officials called the ongoing Afghan forces' operation codenamed 'Shafaq' as successful.

Mol deputy minister Lt. Gen. Abdur Rahman Rahman said the Afghan forces were currently in high morale. He admitted crimes were on the increase in the country including the capital, but claimed to have neutralised 80 percent of criminal acts.

About the killing of a 12-year-old boy Abasin by his kidnappers, Rahman said an investigation into the incident was underway and the police officers concerned would be also questioned. Abasin was kidnapped in the Kart-i-Naw area of Kabul about two months ago. A few days after his abduction, the kidnappers cut off one of his fingers. The boy was later killed after being severely tortured.

Rahman said more than 10 people had been detained in connection with the incident and cases had been shared with judicial organs. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Drugs Funding ...**

"The government must take action and eliminate poppy fields before the opium sapping programs end so that the Taliban are not able to use the money," political analyst Baz Mohammad Anwari said.

It is believed that double the number of people involved in drug smuggling have been arrested this year compared to a year earlier.

"39 cases have been dispatched to the preliminary courts, 43 in appeal court and 33 others to the supreme court and are in the final stages," said Khalid Mauhid, spokesman for the Counter-Narcotics Justice Center.

But with the increase in drug production and smuggling, security threats have sharply increased and drug production has also restarted in some areas of northern Balkh province. (Tolnews)

**(4) Massoud Calls ...**

of power in Afghanistan has never gained ground and the greatest powers have been defeated through national resistance.

Massoud also warned that those thinking to monopolize power will face the same fate as the Soviet forces faced and called on Mujahideen leaders to get organized, calling the Mujahideen a major movement in the country.

In other parts of his speech, Massoud said the Taliban group does not believe in peace process, noting his earlier remarks regarding the reconciliation efforts.

He hailed the government's change of strategy towards the militant groups and called on the government to hang the Taliban prisoners so that their execution become a lesson for the other criminals.

The remarks by Massoud comes as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for remaining reckless to take actions against the anti-government armed militant groups based in the country.

and Quetta cities, warning that Afghanistan will take the issue to international organizations including UN Security Council if no actions were taken in this regard. (KP)

**(5) Wolesi Jirga ...**

Kofi, another lawmaker, condemned the kidnapping and killing of Abasin and asked security forces to take measures against the perpetrators of such offenses, no matter how well-connected they were.

She said such incidents happen in a few kilometers of the presidential palace but no one was there to respond.

Kofi urged administrative board of the lower house and government officials to pay attention to improving the security situation across the country, particularly in the capital.

Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdur Rauf Ibrahim also condemned the incident. "It is really regrettable. All Afghans share the agony of the affected family," he observed, directing the internal security commission to investigate the incident and share its report with MPs.

Ibrahim accused the Kabul-based security officials of showing gross negligence and asked government leaders and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to take special measures for the protection of people's lives. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Experts Slam ...**

the individuals attended the court sessions and are now in jails and recuperation of the money has started. But some other cases are under the scrutiny of the attorney general, work has been done on these cases and soon these cases will be shared with the media on which courts have issued their orders," Azizi said.

The statements come at a time that concerns have increased over the rise of corruption in the country with many claiming the scourge has found its way into all areas of government.

"Corruption has reached its highest peak, this is just because government leaders are not monitoring it," head of Afghanistan Lawyers Association Rohullah Qarizada said. Afghanistan is still ranked one of the most corrupt countries in the world. (Tolnews)

**(7) NUG Slammed...**

blasted Afghan legislators for not taking into consideration the discussions over Ghani's legislative decree on election reforms dispatched to the parliament months ago.

"Any issue including peace, political or security can justify delaying the reform process in the election system. The government gets its credibility from the elections," ERC spokesman Naeem Ayoubzada said.

"Still the government leaders do not have serious commitment to implement reforms in the election system. Otherwise, the reform process should have been completed by now," MP Ahmad Behzad said.

Joining the critics and monitoring groups, meanwhile, Shah Sultan Akefi, the head of ERC has also expressed deep concerns over the government's lack of commitment to step up efforts and implement the reform process.

"The political and security issues have left an impact on all spheres including the election reform process, we hope that the government leaders, in line with their promises, raise the reform process into their top working agenda," ERC chief Akefi said.

But the Afghan government, despite making repeated pledges for reforms in the past, still insists that the NUG is committed to the reform agenda.

"There is no more obstructions in the way of the electoral reform process, the selection committee will start its job in the near future and new members of the election commissions will be designated," Jawed Faisal, spokesman for CEO Abdullah Abdullah said.

The second draft of the presidential legislative decree on electoral reforms was dispatched to parliament for approval months ago, but many in the country hope that parliament will finalize it swiftly in a bid to help ERC initiate its job. (Tolnews)

**(8) Residents Least ...**

Around 30 to 35 vehicles have developed technical faults while shifting the garbage out of the city.

Workers of the cleanliness department shifted garbage at night out of the city, but people dump trash in wrong places. For this, the official said, the municipality was unduly panned.

Aziz Ahmad Saleh, director of the cleanliness branch in the 4th municipality district, also grumbled about the lack of public interest in cleanliness programmes.

He estimated 650,000 people lived in the 4th municipality district and 160 personnel were not enough to maintain cleanliness in the area.

Mohammad Hassan Malikzada, the cleanliness department director in the 3rd municipality district, claimed more than 70 percent of people placed garbage at improper spots.

Residents of some neighbourhoods, however, are taking steps for the removal of rubbish from their localities. Mehdi Fitrat, a resident of Dasht-i-Barchi, said: "There is a lot of garbage in our area and the municipality pays little attention to it. We have talked to a private company for its removal."

Prof. Wafa Rahman, a Kabul University teacher and environmentalist, said there was need for a strong campaign to spread awareness about urban life and protection of the environment. Keeping the environment clean was a shared duty of municipality and citizens, he explained. (Pajhwok)

**(9) 'Elements ...**

Taliban prisoners, saying the move would further fuel the fighting instead of bringing peace to the country.

A tribal elder and civil society activist, Haji Jamal Tanni, told the gathering that only peace and stability would resolve the current issues and miseries.

He also requested insurgents to shun violence and share their demands with the government through peace negotiations.

"We want the Taliban to have mercy on women and children because this is our own land and we should work together for its rebuilding."

The Taliban in a statement have warned the government against execution of their prisoners and threatened a tit for tat response.

The rebels also asked international human rights organisations, media outlets, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other impartial organisations not to stay silent on execution of Taliban prisoners. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Attack on MSF ...**

that the US military personnel will receive administrative punishments but not criminal charges.

The MSF said that the administrative punishments are not comparable with the losses of the attack.

"After the release of the US report we are still calling for an independent fact-finding commission to be activated. We assume that the US refused this activation. It has never been said actually. We are still calling for this independent investigation," said MSF head in Afghanistan.

Relatives of the victims of the incident and those who survived denounced the report and said that perpetrators of the incident should be executed.

Zabihullah Niazi, 25, is a nurse who lost his left arm, an eye and a finger on his right hand in the attack. "The attack is not forgivable. Whoever carried out the attack, either if he is from US or from any other country, should be brought to justice. The prosecution should be carried out in Afghanistan, not in the US, because the US has said that who carried out the attack will be only dismissed," he said.

Khalid Ahmad, 24, was a pharmacist at the trauma center. He has shrapnel embedded in his waist and cannot move his right leg. "We call on the international organisations to do justice," he said. (Tolnews)

**(11) Protestors ...**

executed," said Andeshman Zazai, one of the protestors. "If justice is not forthcoming, we want to tell the government we ourselves will take action and then government can't say we hadn't warned them," said Mohammad Zazai, Abaseen's uncle.

The protestors said that they will be concerned about their own and their family's safety, if justice is not carried out. "Today, we see our sister, our brother and other relatives in Abaseen's face. If justice is not done, possibly one of us will be in the same position next," said Hasib Habib, one of the protestors.

"Abaseen's murderers have been arrested. We want justice to be done. The murderers should be executed in public and reforms should be brought to the judicial system," said Humaira Saqib, chairperson of Afghan Women Network.

The protests come after the National Directorate of Security (NDS) arrested five people for allegedly killing Abaseen. (Tolnews)

**(12) Forces Launch ...**

and targeted assassinations. Army chief of staff Qadam Shah Shaheem told reporters the Taliban was conducting "psychological warfare" designed to weaken morale and undermine confidence in the government but that it would not succeed.

Frustrated by a stalled peace process and by the Taliban's growing attacks, President Ashraf Ghani has instructed the government forces to go on the offensive, security officials say. Speaking in parliament this week, Ghani branded the Taliban terrorists and vowed to avenge the killings of Afghans, in a marked escalation of government rhetoric against the insurgents.

Government forces have beaten off a Taliban offensive in the northern city of Kunduz, which fell briefly to the insurgents last year, and appear to have stabilized the situation in the southern province of Helmand, where they pulled back from several districts in February.

However heavy fighting has continued sporadically in both regions and government and NATO officials say they expect more tough fighting after a difficult year in 2015 when around 5,500 soldiers and police were killed. In one of the biggest single attacks in Kabul since 2011, a Taliban truck bomb killed at least 64 people and wounded hundreds more on April 19.

The insurgency has gained strength since the withdrawal of international troops from combat at the end of 2014, with the Taliban stronger now than any point since they were driven from power by U.S.-backed forces in late 2001. (Reuters)

**(13) Badakhshan ...**

Warduj in the province. The group is trying to extend insecurity to several districts of neighboring Takhar province from Tagab. Our concern is that if the government does not pay serious attention to Tagab district, routes from other provinces to Badakhshan will be blocked if the district falls," said Sardar Sarwari, a member of Badakhshan provincial council.

Badakhshan police meanwhile said that they will launch a clearance operation in the province soon. "We have simultaneously started military operations in different districts including Tagab, and security forces have the capability to protect Tagab district and soon this district and other volatile districts of Badakhshan will be cleared of [the Taliban]," said Ghulam Sakhi Ghafoori, Badakhshan police chief.

Badakhshan governor, Faisal Begzad, said that they have taken drastic security measures to restrict the militants activities. "We call on the youth of Badakhshan, who unknowingly have climbed to mountains and are fighting against government, to join the government and refrain from implementing wrong policies of Pakistan in Afghanistan .... These youth should know that those foreigners, who are beside them and are encouraging them to fight, are the slaves of ISI (Pakistan's spy agency) and their aim is not Jihad," Begzad added.

Mounting insecurity has raised concerns among residents in Badakhshan as currently nine districts of the province are under threat from the Taliban. Fighting between security forces and the Taliban is underway in Warduj, Tagab, Raghistan and Yaftal districts of the province. (Tolnews)

**(14) Drone Strikes, ...**

loyalists were killed and 5 others were wounded during an infighting in the same area. According to Khogyani, at least 15 ISIS loyalists were killed in an airstrike Haska Mina district. The Afghan forces have stepped up operations to eliminate the loyalists of ISIS in Afghanistan amid concerns the terror is attempting to expand foothold in the country.

The US forces in Afghanistan have also increased airstrikes against the loyalists of the terror group with the chief of communications for the coalition, Brigadier General Charles Cleveland, earlier saying the United States has carried out 70 to 80 airstrikes against ISIS in Afghanistan. (KP)

**(15) If Elected, ...**

he said the US had to stay in Afghanistan, where the Americans did not have much of a choice. Instead of going to Iraq, the US should have gone first to Afghanistan. "I would say in Afghanistan and only, again, because of its location next to Pakistan," he said, indicating he would keep the 10,000 troops there ... I hate doing it, I hate doing it so much. But, again, you have nuclear weapons in Pakistan so I would do it," Trump added. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Helmand ...**

the incumbent directors of irrigation and social affairs. He said former mayor, labour and social affairs director, agriculture director and several other departmental heads were involved in corruption.

Sapi said several other officials in the education and public health departments had been identified as accused of corruption, but most of them did not appear before the attorney's office. However, he said documents detailing allegations against these officials had been readied.

The attorney also said some district administrative and police chiefs involved in grabbing government land were refusing to appear before the attorney.

Sapi said he performed his duty in accordance with his responsibilities and had investigated all cases of prisoners and fired graft-tainted officials from his office.

The attorney vowed to restore people's faith in area of fighting corruption and thanked the people and civil society activists for appreciating his job.

Helmand governor Hayatullah Hayat told the gathering that corrupt officials and land-grabbers would face justice and would be held accountable because it was one of governance principles.

The governor said people were fed with injustices and that was why they appreciated the attorney who was just performing his duty. He said individuals trying to escape would be arrested and punished.

Provincial council's security committee head Bashir Ahmad Shakir said it was due to corruption in judicial organs that people were happy with decisions by Taliban courts.

He said corrupt officials should be brought to justice in order the gap between the masses and the government could be removed.

The irrigation and social affairs directors rejected the allegations against them as baseless and thoughtless, saying if an investigation was carried out, they would be proven innocent. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Canberra ...**

The Australian foreign minister Julie Bishop had yesterday said that although the details of the report are yet to be confirmed but, the government was closely monitoring the situation.

The details of the report have to be confirmed by the Afghan authorities, but they certainly believe that she has been kidnapped. We are trying to confirm all of the details, but we are in communication with her family, Tolo news quoted Bishop as saying.

The Australian government does not as a matter of policy pay ransom to kidnappers, she added.

The Australian foreign minister also called on the Afghan government to accelerate efforts and make sure they secure the safe release of the hostage. Meanwhile, the hostage's family has appealed for the safe release of her. While the efforts are on for her rescue, local officials in Nangarhar have said that the Afghan security forces have so far arrested several individuals allegedly involved in the kidnapping. (ANI)

**(18) President Meets...**

about two months ago. A few days after his abduction, the kidnappers cut off one of his fingers. The boy was later killed after being severely tortured.

The kidnappers had sought a huge ransom from Abasin's family in exchange for his release. The body of the child was found in the Khak-i-Jabbar district of the capital two days ago.

Hundreds of people attended his funeral offered yesterday in Kabul. A protest rally was also held that condemned the incident and asked the president to order hanged Abasin's killers in public. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Taliban's...**

involved in plotting and carrying out insurgency activities in Rodat district before they were arrested by the intelligence operatives.

The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the arrest of the group's senior leader so far. (KP)

**(20) Youth ...**

and Afghan youth investment in peace and sustainable development. Fifty community-based skills centres have been established in different union councils, where 727 Pakistanis and 273 Afghan refugees were given skills training. More than 10.6 million people (11 per cent Afghan refugees) have benefited from some 3,500 projects implemented across the country at a cost of approximately \$175 million. (Pajhwok)

**(21) Afghan Refugee...**

(OPV) drives to boost the immunity among children and ensure that the virus transmission is stopped this year.

IPV is not a door-to-door campaign as children would be vaccinated at the 57 health centres and 355 outreach sites in the 43 union councils.

(Pajhwok)

**(22)84 Migrants...**

were transferred to a coastguard vessel and taken to the Italian island of Lampedusa, were not immediately known.

More than 350,000 people fleeing conflict and poverty have reached Italy on boats from Libya since the start of 2014, as Europe battles its biggest migration crisis since World War II. (AFP)

**(23) Austria in EU...**

will allow those member states who consider it necessary to either extend or introduce the temporary border controls inside Schengen as of May 13," the six countries said in a letter addressed to the EU, according to German newspaper Die Welt. (AFP)

**(24)Deployment...**

the DPRK and the United States. Despite the end of the Cold War, the antagonism and mistrust between Pyongyang and Washington and that between Pyongyang and Seoul, which have been festering for a long time, cannot be eliminated in the short term. With different kinds of contradictions, the process of relieving the tensions on the Korean Peninsula has been tough.

The DPRK diplomacy has prioritized improving its relations with the United States under the precondition of safeguarding its sovereignty and basic interests. (Xinhua)

**(25)Turkish ...**

hitting the PKK targets in northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey, said the report.

The air raids were part of an escalated campaign against PKK posts in northern Iraq following a suicide car bombing on March 13 that killed 37 people in the capital city of Ankara. The Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK), a Kurdish militant group linked to the PKK, has claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Feb. 17, a suicide car bomb targeted military shuttles in Ankara, killing at least 29 people and injuring 81 others. TAK also claimed responsibility for that attack. (Xinhua)

**(26)Air Strikes ...**

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The British-based monitoring group put the civilian death toll in government and rebel bombardments of neighborhoods in Aleppo since April 22 at nearly 250. (Reuters)

**(27)France Says...**

time of growing regional terror threats, especially after an Islamist attack on the beach resort of Grand Bassam, near Abidjan, in March that left 19 people dead.

Abidjan is one of three "reservoirs" of French troops in the world, along with Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates, providing entry points to the different regions, Le Drian added. (AFP)

**(28)Australia ...**

2025 (AIE2025) market development roadmap.

"As Australia transitions to a knowledge and service-based economy, the Government's innovative strategies will strengthen and grow our international education sector over the coming decade," said a joint statement by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Minister for Tourism and International Education Richard Colbeck. (Xinhua)

**(29)Xi Vows ...**

Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road routes.

The initiative covers about 4.4 billion people in more than 60 countries, or 63 percent of the global population. Since the Han Dynasty about 2,000 years ago, the ancient Silk Road starting from Chang'an, now northwest China's Xi'an city, has served as a route for international trade and cultural exchange connecting China with various nations through Eurasia. There were also other routes starting from south China and spreading outwards by sea, called the Maritime Silk Road. (Xinhua)

**(30)Turkmenistan...**

sugar beet. In early April, Turkmenistan created a control council for the sale of agricultural and commodity products of the domestic agricultural industry to other countries. (Agencies)

**(31)Tajikistan...**

States and the UN members in Tajikistan, some 30 professionals in the area of chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear security in Tajikistan also attended the meeting. The discussion was held to mark the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on 28 April 2004. (AKIpress)