

### (1) SIGAR Warns ...

areas. "In light of the challenges, it said the long-term stability of Afghan forces remains uncertain. "Without the ability to call on US and coalition military components for help ... without the strong monitoring and mentoring arm of US and coalition troops, it is increasingly questionable whether the ANDSF will develop into a robust and sustainable force," the report said. Maintaining Afghanistan's security forces costs about \$5 billion a year, with roughly 80 percent of the amount coming from the United States. SIGAR's analysis shows that even with this level of funding, Afghan forces are unable to sustain themselves in many areas.

"With the Afghan economy under great stress facing years of low growth Afghanistan's difficulty in contributing significantly to its security costs will persist," the watchdog said. The United States and its allies will meet in Warsaw this summer to discuss how to share the burden of financing the costs of Afghan forces. SIGAR said providing effective security is "essential for the survival of the Afghan state — and for the success of the reconstruction effort. Neither can deliver lasting gains without the other." (Pajhwok)

### (2) Economic ...

community was cycle of the country's economy and with implementation of government strategies, labourers would soon witness positive change in their lives. Nasrin Oriakhel, labour, social affairs, martyrs and disabled minister of, expressed concern over the increasing unemployment in the country. She said around 40 percent of the country's labourers were jobless. She said women's empowerment programme would help three million women become self-reliant. The minister said the process to dispatch labour force to Saudi Arabia would be kicked off soon. Earlier her ministry had announced sending as many as 25,000 laborers to Saudi Arabia. Mohammad Maroof Qaderi, head of the Labour Union, said the government should create work opportunities for labourers and attract foreign investment in the country. Shapor, a labourer, who was waiting at Shaheed Square of Kabul for client to hire his services, said he had been unable to find work since the past one week. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Labour Rights...

joblessness, low salaries and discrimination were in full swing, he alleged, urging adherence to the international conventions on labour rights. He blamed the government for failing to implement the conventions it has signed. Poverty and unemployment were increasing with each passing day, Adel said, adding the economic situation of the country was worsening as investors were withdrawing their capital. Adil asked the rulers to provide job opportunities for the Afghans so they were not forced to take risks of travel abroad illegally in quest of work. Many illegal immigrants die or are detained on reaching their dreamlands. Currently, 51,000 posts are vacant due to corruption and the poor performance of the government, while tens of thousands of Afghans are jobless, according to the labour rights activist.

Afghanistan had a 12 million-strong workforce, with 65 percent (around 7 million) jobless, Adil explained. Around three million people — most of them youth — were addicted to drugs, he regretted. The government was guilty of nepotism and discrimination against the ordinary people in the process of recruitment, a problem that must be resolved, he stressed, calling for transparency in employment. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Conflict in ...

Pointing towards the latest terrorist attack in Kabul as a result of which more than 60 were martyred and more than 300 innocent Afghans including children women were injured, Karzai asked the CICA member countries to condemn the aforementioned barbaric attack and increase their cooperation towards countering terrorism which Afghanistan is in frontline of.

He added that Afghanistan is committed in this regard and as an active member of CICA, it has recently held the counter terrorism conference under the Istanbul Process/Heart of Asia process framework in Kabul and the counter drugs conference is

due to be hosted by Afghanistan next month as well.

The Fifth Ministerial Meeting of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia was inaugurated by the President of the People's Republic of China H.E. Xi Jinping. (KP)

### (5) Helmand Court ...

for government to step up its efforts to tackle such crime which has severely overshadowed transparency and rule of law in the country.

Those convicted by the court include the head of the local irrigation department, the head of the local public works affairs department, head of labor and social affairs department and some other officials in the province.

"The majority of the defendants convicted today are Helmand local officials who have been found guilty either of corruption or land grabbing. We will no longer keep silent against land usurpers and corruption," Fazel Sultan Safai, head of Helmand appeals court said, Meanwhile, Hayatollah Hayat, the governor of Helmand province promised justice will be served in these cases.

"I appreciate the verdict of Helmand appeal court and promise to refer these cases to legal and judicial institutions," he said.

In addition, Helmand provincial council has also welcomed the verdict, calling the move an important step in fighting corruption and implementing the law.

"We strongly support the action taken by the appeal court and hope that the law will be implemented on the land grabbers and corrupt elements," member of Helmand's provincial council Bashir Shakir said. According to the Helmand appeal court, there are certain individuals in the education and health departments who are also being investigated on charges of corruption. (Tolnews)

### (6) MPs Call ...

should have transferred the law to the House of Representatives already. It looks like government is not committed to conducting parliamentary and district council elections," MP Fakoor Behishti said.

Article 6 of the population registration law was one of the controversial items of the law, which restricted ethnicity being mentioned in e-NIC, an issue which has delayed the distribution of e-NIC for years. However government now says that ethnicity has been included but there are other issues that are slowing down the distribution process. "The population registration law is now being processed by the law commission and soon it will be referred to the cabinet, we hope that the law is soon referred to parliament," Justice Minister Basir Anwari said.

Continued delays in the past over the distribution of e-NIC finally resulted in international aid being terminated by donors. "The European Union as one of the key donors, over different sessions, announced that if the process is started again, they will continue their cooperation in all fields including financial, technical and operation assistance," head of e-NIC department Humayoun Muhtat said. Meanwhile, residents have also asked government to take steps to launch the process to end peoples' concerns.

"A year has passed since e-NIC came under discussion, huge money was spent, but no results," Kabul resident Naibi said.

"A single person is holding ten ID cards, the government is aware of this, foreigners have obtained Afghan ID cards in Kabul, Kandahar, Paktia, Parwan provinces," another resident Ahmad Fahim said. (Tolnews)

### (7) Provincial ...

services are being provide in at least 28 districts of Badakhshan province, we face challenges only in a few districts," said Noor Khawari head of Balkh health department.

In addition, a number of health officials have said that nepotism and exploitation of the recruitment process has created major problems within the health management system at the ministry of public health.

"Powerful people try to recruit their own relatives to a post. But our demand is that recruitment should be on the basis of qualifications and professional people must be appointed for the jobs, otherwise the country will not develop," Noor Ahmad Sherzad, head of Nimroz health department said. (Tolnews)

### (8) Afghanistan's ...

criminal law a single code and he

tasked the commission with that function," the minister said.

He also said that this move was in line with government's commitment to fulfill promises ahead of the Brussels summit in October. He said his ministry will try to complete the remaining tasks on the law and then send it to parliament for approval. Afghanistan's criminal law was drafted in two chapters and 229 articles nearly 40 years ago, but now it stands at 44 chapters and 430 articles, said Rasuli. (Tolnews)

### (9) Ghani, Abdullah ...

gratitude to the Australian government for its contribution in the rebuilding process of the war-torn Afghanistan, saying he wants to enhance relations between the two nations in different fields.

The chief executive also emphasized on joint cooperation in the war on terror and extremism.

Topics like Afghanistan's relations with countries in the region, relations between Afghan and Australian armies and Australian cooperation in the field of capacity building were also discussed in the meeting, a statement released by the office of Chief Executive said.

Both leaders also exchanged views on bilateral issues, including enhancing cooperation between their countries. (Xinhua)

### (10) SUT to Expand...

News correspondent on Saturday. "To develop cooperation with countries in the region, we have carried out activities, specifically for more cooperation with Iraq," Fotouhi said.

He pointed to the talks for student admission with Iraq, and said, an Iraqi academic delegation has traveled to Iran to hold meetings on advancing the bilateral plans. We plan to increase the number of foreign students, Fotouhi said, adding among which is admitting students from countries in the region, including Iraq which is a priority of Sahri University's schedule.

Sharif University of Technology is one of the largest engineering schools in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the 2013 Academic Ranking of World Universities Engineering/Technology and Computer Sciences rankings, SUT was ranked 5th in the Middle East. It was in the top 251-275 universities in the world and 37th in Asia in the 2014 Times Higher Education World University Rankings. (MNA)

### (11) Protestors ...

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 Khaki-Jabbar district of the capital three days ago. The protestors in Jalalabad asked the president to come hard on kidnappers. They also sought an end to rocket firing by Pakistani paramilitary forces into border Afghan towns and assisting family of a border Afghan guard killed in the cross border shelling in Nangarhar.

The protestors, who marched on the Youth Affairs Department till Pakhtunistan Square, called on the Presidential Palace to meet their demands.

Nangarhar youth affairs official Matullah Ahmadzai told Pajhwok Afghan News that a large number of youth were taking part in the protest rally to demand justice for the family of Abasin and an end to the cross border shelling.

The story of Abasin made headlines after his pictures were posted on social media. Police have detained some suspects in connection with his murder.

"The government should hang to death the killers of Abasin in public in order others could learn a lesson," Ahmadzai said.

The protestors chanted "death to kidnappers," "backers of kidnappers be exposed" and "respond to Pakistani attacks."

Noor Ahmad Noorani, one of the participants, told Pajhwok Afghan News their demands included prevention of rocket attacks from Pakistan.

Last week, Pakistani militia forces first launched direct attacks and then fired dozens of rockets into Lal Pura and Gushta districts, killing one Afghan border guard. "The family of Ahmad Bilal, the martyred border guard, should not be forgotten because these soldiers are our heroes. We urge the government and the United Nations to help stop the Pakistani assaults."

Civil society activist Ikrumullah Ikrum said kidnapping incidents had lately increased and the govern-

ment should take serious measures to prevent them. "It is believed some high profile figures are behind kidnapping incidents."

Ikrum told Pajhwok Afghan News the killing of Abasin had shocked the nation and his killers should be punished as soon as possible.

The protestors at the end issued a resolution that asked the government to launch a serious campaign against kidnappers and prevent Pakistani attacks. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Shops Owned ...

Torkham bazaars would be expelled and their businesses closed, The News International reported.

Zahid Younis, a senior administration official in Landikotal, told the newspaper they had not issued notices on the Afghans to vacate their shops and leave or leave for their motherland.

Public call offices and shops in Landikotal bazaar were raided on suspicion they were selling Afghan SIM cards. However, no Afghan SIM cards were seized. (Pajhwok)

### (13) NUG Tackles ...

through diplomatic ways," said Tahir Hashemi, a professor at Kabul University.

Eastern parts of Afghanistan have been witness to rocket shelling by Pakistan over the past few years. In a recent incident, rocket attacks killed one Afghan soldier and wounded two others in Ghoshta district of Nangarhar province. (Tolnews)

### (14) DABS to ...

Afghanistan purchase electricity from Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Dollars.

Tawhidi further added that the government is supplying electricity and charge the consumers in Afghan currency which has resulted to DABS suffering a considerable loss.

According to Tawhidi, DABS also suffered around \$2.5 million during the winter after the insurgents cut the electricity supply lines in northern Baghlan province.

He said the policy will only apply on electricity imported from the neighboring countries.

According to reports, Afghanistan is importing the majority of electricity from the neighboring Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Iran which forms 70% of the total electricity needed for the country. (KP)

### (15) Saudi, India ...

The minister said Saudi had been denying visas to Afghans aged below 40 years over the past few years because most of them did not return home country after the expiry of their visas.

Rabbani said it was a security issue and the Saudi government would start issuing visas to even less than 30 years old Afghans once getting assurance.

The foreign minister said discussions had been launched over the issue and the president during a telephonic conversation had discussed the matter with the king of Saudi Arabia. Rabbani said Afghans, who traveled to Saudi on Pakistani passports, would be distributed Afghan passports and this issue had been resolved to some extent. (Pajhwok)

### (16) People Themselves ...

strangers prevented from infiltrating into the area.

He, however, expressed concern militants might sneak into Arghandab from Shah Wali Kot and Khakrez districts. Maintaining security was also a public responsibility, he remarked, saying the elders and residents of Arghandab supported the government and would not allow foreigners to disturb public order.

Ahmadi said militants were out to mount pressure on tribal elders and brought them under their influence but there was public support for the elders. "Militants in Arghandab are persuading people to cultivate poppies and have promised each farmer Rs300,000.

Some years back, he said, poppy cultivation in the town declined to zero, but the government failed to keep the promise held out to the people. Arghandab was removed from the list of Food Zone Programme despite bringing poppy cultivation to zero.

Ahmadi demanded the central government provide assistance to residents as nobody in Arghandab cultivated poppies.

He also spoke of the development projects, saying a 26 metres long bridge had been constructed in the Merab Khor locality under the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) at a cost of over 3 million afghanis. Over 300 families will benefit from the project. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Afghan Forces ...

as a key battleground as, if it fell, the

Taliban could use it as a springboard to launch attacks on Helmand and Kandahar further to the south.

The Taliban is seeking to isolate the provincial capital Tarin Kowt from outlying districts and over the past week has been fighting Afghan forces for control of the road between the town and Shawali Kot in Kandahar province.

The battle has added to the pressure on stretched security forces engaged in heavy fighting from Helmand in the south to Kunduz in the far north. A spokesman for the Afghan army's 205th Corps said troops had reopened the route but the situation was still unstable and the road was threatened by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted by the insurgents.

"We launched a counter-attack that inflicted heavy casualties to the Taliban and reopened to the highway but it is heavily mined and our engineers are working to clear IEDs off the road," army spokesman Mohammad Mohsen Sultani said.

Underlining the extent of the threat, General Abdul Raziq, the Kandahar police chief who gained a fearsome reputation fighting the insurgents in his home province, has joined the battle, according to Zia Durani, a spokesman for the head of Uruzgan's provincial police. (Reuters)

### (18) 23 Militants ...

were also wounded. The statement further added that 2 vehicles used by the anti-government armed militants were also destroyed during the raids. The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far. The Afghan security forces have stepped up crackdown on anti-government armed militant groups across the country to suppress the activities of the groups as they prepare increase attacks as part of their spring offensive. (KP)

### (19) ASWF 1st ...

country. He said: "we are not in a position to improve situation in a year time. We should work hard as unit and a sports journalist's body to bring our dreams alive."

Zaland told reporters in Kabul: "Our annual congress is an event that brings all journalists together for mutual support, education and inspiration. We have grown over the years and our first congress is a huge movement in the history of the country. We are expecting attendance (400) from all over the country and also some guests from outside the country." He added he wanted to make the congress itself an absolutely memorable event. "We are pleased that keynote speaker and CEO of Afghanistan HE. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah will be available to open the congress officially. Also the sports organizations like ACB, ANOC, AFF, Paralympics Federation, and Afghanistan Sports and Education directorate will have their presentations."

According to Zalan, their aim was to bring together, under its auspices, the Provincial Associations/Units of professional sports journalists; to encourage and assist with the foundation of Provincial Associations/Units for sports journalists in countries where they do not now exist; to recognize and maintain the authority and autonomy of its member associations and to promote closer links between its member associations and the sports organizations; to discourage the parallel or fake and fictitious sports bodies, which are not affiliated with ASWF.

Afghanistan Sports Journalists were expressed their happiness over the arrangement of first ever sports Journalists congress in a country. A AIPS Member Shoib Dost who have been working with Afghanistan National Radio TV said AIPS media that all the journalists are hopeful for the congress. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Taliban Kill ...

person and she had been unsuccessful in breaking the engagement through judicial organs.

"But she married the police officer and was living with him in Kunduz province. She had arrived at her paternal home in Darqad, when she was killed." (Pajhwok)

### (21) Aliabad ...

the injured stable. A relative of the district chief, who wished not to be named, said Faqiryar was wounded in his foot and shifted to the Afghan National Army (ANA) hospital for treatment. The area is three kilometres from Kunduz City. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Steep Decrease ...

Nabi Khan belonging from Kurran Agency told The Express Tribune

that his daily income has decreased due to the departure of Afghans.

He said "My customers were mostly Afghans and I used to earn around \$50 to \$60 a day which has now declined to \$15."

Another trade Gul Muhammad who was earning more than \$50 a day before the departure of Afghan refugees, said "I have sales of only \$5 nowadays."

Over 30,000 Afghan refugees were forced to leave Pakistan and return to Afghanistan amid fears of persecution by Pakistani authorities following a deadly attack on a school in Peshawar city late in December 2014. (KP)

### (23) 8 Taliban ...

haven't commented.

A similar incident also killed eight Taliban fighters in the northern Kunduz province a week ago. (Xinhua)

### (24) Yemeni Gov't ...

seized heavy weapons. A pro-government journalist told Xinhua that Kuwait's foreign minister and other GCC officials held a meeting with the Yemeni delegation in a bid to bring them back to the negotiations table with the Houthis. (Xinhua)

### (25) 741 People ...

and 1,561 others injured in terrorist attacks and violence across the country.

Iraq is currently witnessing a wave of violence since the Islamic State controlled parts of Iraq's northern and western regions in June 2014. (Xinhua)

### (26) Anti-Immigrant...

with Germany's Muslims. "Islam is foreign to us and for that reason it cannot invoke the principle of religious freedom to the same degree as Christianity," said Hans-Thomas Tillschneider, an AfD lawmaker from the state of Saxony-Anhalt, to loud applause. (Reuters)

### (27) Israel Claims ...

which holds the rotating council presidency for April, was speaking to reporters at the UN headquarters in New York after a closed-door council meeting.

The council resolution 497 of 1981 made it clear that Israel's decision at the time to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the Golan was "null and void and without international legal effect," Liu said. (Xinhua)

### (28) Abe Embarks...

G7 countries and lay the groundwork for substantial talks to be held in Japan later this month on global economic imperatives and sustainability, against an uncertain backdrop of slowing emerging economies, currency fluctuations and volatile stock markets.

"I hope to hold frank and candid discussions with the countries' leaders. The biggest theme is how to deal with the world economy at present," the Japanese prime minister was quoted as saying to local press at Tokyo's Haneda airport, just prior to his departure. (Xinhua)

### (29) Political Chaos ...

people that the situation in Baghdad is under the control of the security forces, and I call on the demonstrators to withdraw and protest peacefully, and not to encroach upon the public and private properties, which are the property of all Iraqis," Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said in a statement. (Xinhua)

### (30) Up to 33 ...

km south of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source said. The massive blasts set fire to several nearby civilian cars and caused damaged to nearby buildings, the source added. Earlier, the source put the toll at 20 killed and some 40 others wounded. (Xinhua)

### (31) With Help, ...

stronghold on the Cameroon border. The group also has hideouts within nearby Lake Chad's huge maze of small islands and swampland.

Despite losing some ground in recent months the insurgents retain the capacity to launch attacks almost at will, notably via suicide attacks which require few resources. (AFP)

### (32) Car Bomb ...

Mansourah, he said. A source of Aden's Police Command told Xinhua that Aden's governor and the police chief escaped the terrorist attack unharmed and only bodyguards were either killed or injured. The official spokesman of Aden's local government said that a suicide bomber slammed his explosive-laden car into the motorcade carrying both the governor and the police chief. (Xinhua)