

(1) No Option...

Governor Mohammad Tahir Zohair welcomed the UN envoy to Bamyan and his role would be important in encouraging donor assistance with local administration and would result in development. (Pajhwok)

(2) ACCI Asks ...

approved by the High Economic Council during a meeting chaired by the president on Sunday. He added customs duty on imported raw material had been reduced from the more than 10 percent to one percent and duty on imported machineries for factories had been removed. Customs duty on some other import goods such as sugar, paper and others, which could be used as raw material in producing other goods, has been also slashed by 2.5 percent, he added. Throughout Afghanistan's history, Alokozai said it was for the first-ever time that such a strategy had been developed to support domestic industries, improve local products, reduce imports, increase exports and prevent capital flight.

"If practical steps towards supporting industries are not taken, the economy of Afghanistan will not be improved and the war will continue," he said. Alokozai also asked the government to take urgent measures for security of the private sector because abductions and robbery cases had increased in the country. (Pajhwok)

(3) President Orders...

assess problems of IDPs. The president said the government should have clear resources and preparation for families displaced by the conflict and natural calamities in order they could be extended support in-time.

Refugee Ministry officials informed the meeting about proposed memoranda of understanding with Iran on registration of undocumented Afghan refugees and with Germany on Afghan migrants.

The president said measures should be taken in cooperation with the two countries to address problems of refugees and the MoU should be discussed carefully.

The meeting also discussed surveying IDPs and asked the Ministry of Finance to arrange funds for the task.

The meeting was told that land plots meant for distribution among refugees had been given to undeserving persons in Kabul, Laghman, Baghlan and Balkh provinces.

The president asked the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) to take necessary measures for protection and distribution to deserving families land plots in cooperation with the provincial governors concerned. (Pajhwok)

(4) MoD Warns ...

sparked criticism with many questioning the silence of foreign forces in the country over the attacks.

In addition, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) called Pakistani attacks as unjustifiable.

"Pakistan has been firing artillery on Afghanistan's border regions for days. The firing has led to the martyrdom of several security personnel and local people. We hope that these attacks are ended swiftly as there is no logical reason to attack Afghanistan's border regions," MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said.

According to the Ministry of Defense, the insurgents have diverted their war during 2016 to Kunduz, Helmand and Nangarhar provinces. However, the Afghan troops in recent days have been able to pose major casualty tolls to the insurgents with a number of top Taliban commanders having been eliminated in Kunduz, Logar and Ghazni provinces. (Tolnews)

(5) Hold Regular ...

in delivering information to the masses, you can show positive or negative sides of the government to people," he said.

Deputy Information and Culture Minister Sayeda Muzhgan Mastafawi told the gathering that if the government's information side was weak, it could not connect itself with the people even if tried a lot. (Pajhwok)

(6) Poppy Eradication ...

exchange for poppy eradication.

Separately, police recovered 50.5 kilograms of hashish in Behsud district and arrested two individuals. Police spokesman Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashrafi said the illicit substance was captured in at the Samarkhel check-point. (Pajhwok)

(7) Atmar Asks...

government armed militants. The remarks by Atmar comes as President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani earlier said the Pakistani government should act responsibly in fight against terrorist groups, insisting that there should not be distinction between good and bad terrorists and immediate steps should be taken against the group's leaderships based in Peshawar and Quetta.

He warned that Afghanistan will approach the UN Security Council and other international organizations to lodge complaint if necessary actions are not taken. (KP)

(8) Public Execution ...

fingers. The boy was later killed after being severely tortured.

The kidnapers had sought a 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 four days ago.

Police have detained more than 10 suspects in connection with the kidnap-murder case in Kabul and southeastern Paktia province.

On Monday, the Afghanistan Civil Society Groups Coordination Centre, a coalition of more than 100 groups, Zazi Scientific and Cultural Group, General Council of Alokozai tribe and regional council of Kabul's Sarobi district representatives demanded public execution of the kidnapers and killers of Abasin.

Khan Zaman Amarkhel, head of the Afghanistan Civil Society Groups Coordination Centre, said the government should investigate the kidnap-slaying case in a transparent manner and execute the killers in public.

He said the government, particularly security forces, had exhibited weakness in rescuing Abasin and if the killers were not punished, the security officials concerned would be declared complicit in the murder.

At the end of the gathering, the participants issued a resolution that asked the government to investigate all aspects of the martyred Abasin case, share progress with the media and public and award the killers harsher punishment in an open trial.

It asked the government to discourage crimes, prevent corruption in judicial organs and adopt strict stance against kidnapping groups.

Sarobi Council member Mohammad Salim said the murder of Abasin had shocked the entire Afghanistan and their demands in this regard were not accepted, the people of Sarobi would block the Kabul-Nangarhar road until their demands were met.

Abasin's father Haji Abdul Ghafoor also attended the gathering. He said his demand was that his son's killers be severely punished in public and in this regard, President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah had assured him support.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News: "My Abasin was martyred, it might be the verdict of God, but my demand on the government and parliament is that currently 300 people have been kidnapped and they are in clutches of their kidnapers, please do something for their release."

A day earlier, a protest rally in the capital of eastern Nangarhar province demanded a public hanging for the killers of Abasin. The parliament has commended the murder of Abasin and has demanded stern action against kidnapping gangs. (Pajhwok)

(9) New Panel ...

the emergence of new crimes.

He said the current penal code was 40 years old but there were other laws which had been approved covering all criminal acts. Advisor to Justice Ministry and Afghanistan Penal Code Review group head Mohammad Ashraf Rasooli said unfortunately the current penal code lacked internationally accepted approach and principles and needed a review.

"In the new draft, it has been tried to adopt strictness against crimes that means most crimes are punished."

He said the proposed measure

minimised the use of capital punishment and recommended 30 years in jail as lifetime imprisonment.

The advisor said death penalty was considered in exceptional cases and would be awarded when many people demanded so. The draft penal code will be presented to the Cabinet for assessment before landing in parliament for approval. (Pajhwok)

(10) Governor Orders...

Addressing a meeting of the Security Council at his office, Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi ordered the provincial police chief to take decisive action to retake the lands grabbed by powerful individual and bring kidnapers to justice.

He directed police to cooperate with the municipality and other relevant organs in evicting land-grabbers. Deterrent action against kidnapers was a must to restore people's trust in the government, he argued.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, said the meeting had decided to remove tinted glasses from vehicles, scrap temporary weapon licences and prevent non-custom-paid vehicles plying in Nangarhar.

Provincial Council's Deputy Chairman Dr. Lal Mohammad Durrani said the government should take determined steps to deal with kidnapers and land-grabbers. He said all those arrested on such charges be brought to justice.

A civil society activist, Ikramullah Ikram, believed mafia groups were involved in kidnapping cases. He tinted glass-vehicles were used said in most such cases. The security personnel should search vehicles of senior officials, too, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(11) No Protected...

The Pentagon on Friday announced that 16 military personnel will be disciplined for the deadly US strike on the hospital, but maintained that it was not a war crime because it resulted from unintentional human error and equipment failure.

The military said some personnel involved "failed to comply with the rules of engagement and the law of armed conflict," and that a general officer was among those facing discipline for their roles in the bombing of the hospital.

The punishments include suspension and removal from command, letters of reprimand, formal counseling and extensive retraining. These punishments would have adverse effects on promotion of the personnel involved, according to the US military.

Twelve of the punishments were administered by US Forces Afghanistan, while the remainder were carried out by US Special Operations Command.

Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of US Central Command, made the announcement at a news conference in Washington. The investigation had identified 16 service personnel that had "warranted consideration for appropriate administrative or disciplinary action."

But MSF's Afghanistan director, Guilhem Molinie, told a press conference in Kabul on Monday that disciplinary punishment to the perpetrators of the incident was 'incomparable' with the killing of 42 people and injuring dozens others.

About the Pentagon report, he said: "The investigation is not satisfactory and the incident needs more and independent investigation." Molinie expressed concern that the MSF and other organizations that were busy providing healthcare had repeatedly been targeted in such attacks and no party to the conflict had so far provided explanation about their actions.

About resumption of MSF work in Kunduz, he said: "We can't put our teams - including our colleagues who survived the traumatic attack - a back to work in Kunduz without first having strong and unambiguous assurances from all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan that this will not happen again."

The organisation said the lack of proper healthcare centers and the delay in giving protection assurance to MSF staff had led to increased death toll from the conflict in Afghanistan.

Molinie said their request for investigation into the bombing of Kunduz hospital by the International Humanitarian Fact Finding

Commission was yet to be answered.

The US paid \$6,000 to each of victim families as condolence money and \$3,000 to each wounded, a compensation MSF called as unacceptable. (Pajhwok)

(12) 'Al Qaeda Still ...

Afghanistan and sought shelter outside the Afghan borders.

Speaking to reporters here, the lawmaker said the US did not put pressure on Islamabad despite giving shelter to Osama.

Wolesi Jirga Secretary Abdul Rauf Inami said efforts to dismantle Al Qaeda had been made but wiping out the terrorist network from the world's map was not an easy task. He said Al Qaeda still posed a huge threat, although its leader was perished five years back. (Pajhwok)

(13) Sar-I-Pul ...

would be trained in stitching up bags, with each trainee getting \$2 per day. The objective behind the project is to make women self-sufficient.

Masooma, one of the trainees, said: "We work for 5,000 afghani a month." She requested the private sector and all purchase the hand craft made by them. (Pajhwok)

(14) Operations...

launched offensive couple of days ago to reopen the essential highway.

"The Kandahar-Uruzgan highway would soon be reopened," Durani said.

However, he added that the Taliban militants had mined to roads and sweeping the mines would take time.

Taliban militants in surprise offensive some 10 days ago overrun 25 security checkpoints on the key road linking Kandahar to Uruzgan and disrupted traffic, creating problems for government to supply troops in Uruzgan.

The major road, according to local observers, is essential and regarded as lifeline for Uruzgan, Daikundi and Helmand provinces.

"From both military and economic angle, the Kandahar-Uruzgan road is important. In term of economy if the government fails to reopen it, the prices of basic needs and kitchen items would go up in Uruzgan, Helmand and Daikundi," local analyst Abdul Manan Arghand told Xinhua.

He also observed that closure of the highway could undermine the logistic entities of government to supply military bases in the said provinces.

Meantime, army spokesman in the southern region Sadiq Eisa in talks with Xinhua said that the operation for reopening Kandahar-Uruzgan highway which begun six days ago is going on smoothly.

Dozens of Taliban militants including some important commanders have been killed over the past six days, Eisa said, adding the major highway would soon be reopened.

Taliban outfit, however, without commenting on the situation on Kandahar-Uruzgan road, has claimed killing more than a dozen security personnel in Kandahar, Zabul, Helmand and Uruzgan provinces over the few days. (Xinhua)

(15) Experts ...

over the past one and half a years. "The government of Afghanistan has proved its commitments to the world. The presence of Afghan government in the four-nation talks proves its commitments for restoration of sustainable peace in the country and also the government of Afghanistan has utilized all its resources to improve the security situation and has called for a wider action against those that commit acts of terrorism," a deputy presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazawi said on Monday.

NUG had also committed to secure Afghanistan's highways, but failed to deliver on the promise.

"The council (High Peace Council) which was formed to leverage the peace process is not supposed to be a body for bringing peace, but it is a project. The HPC members who are paid salaries in dollars, why have they even failed to take a single step for peace?"

The government has the responsibility to defend the territorial integrity and the citizens while it keeps one of the windows open for peace. Peace is not supposed to be achieved by pleading and supplication. The government must

defeat the rebels (insurgents) to force them to endorse peace," MP Saleh Mohammad Saleh said.

"The government failed to gain visible achievement in peace and security. We saw the results after bloodshed increased in Afghanistan and war expanded. The peace plan completely failed. The four-nation talks also collapsed while people were hoping for a positive outcome from it," MP Ghulam Farooq Majroh said. (Tolnews)

(16) Almost 400 ...

most common drug used among teachers is hashish.

"The addicts are not doing anything positive for the students, in real sense this exploits the future of the students. So government must recruit professional and healthy teachers," a member of the provincial council, Abdullah Naji Nazari said.

A number of provincial civil society activists have also expressed their concerns over the issues and said there will be negative consequences if the education department does not dismiss the teachers.

"Addicted teachers have been teaching the students for several years, during this period, they have contributed nothing positive to benefit the students. If government does not take action and dismiss them, students will remain illiterate and will become addicts too," said Basir Wasiq, a member of civil society.

Students in the remote parts of the province frequently complain about the low quality of education materials available - many of whom have said in the past this has contributed to them not being able to qualify for higher education. (Tolnews)

(17) Taliban's...

remote-controlled bomb in the second police districts of the provincial capital. Another landmine, which was planted in the Rustae Kashkak district, was defused with the help of people. (Pajhwok)

(18) Police Officer...

be named, said the woman killed was involved in immoral activities. She had also previously served in the police force.

The source said immoral activities of the woman had forced her husband to take the extreme step. Khan had married the woman three years ago.

Qasim Khan, a police officer based in Sharan, also confirmed the incident. However, he offered no more details. (Pajhwok)

(19) Kerry Urges...

hostilities and at the same time raise the level of accountability that will accompany the day to day process of implementing the ceasefire," he added. (Xinhua)

(20) S. Korea ...

intermediate-range ballistic missiles, which South Korea's military saw as failures because the missiles exploded in mid-air or crashed in waters.

The DPRK announced a successful launch of a ballistic missile from a submarine on April 24, and South Korea's military said Pyongyang had partially advanced in its technology. (Xinhua)

(21) Libya's...

condemned claiming the position of the Higher Commander of the Libyan Armed Forces.

"We strongly condemn the statement of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord on April 28, in which it claims the position of the Higher Commander of the Army. We consider this to be division and adds more systematic violations to the political agreement."

Khalid Turjuman, a political analyst based in Benghazi, told Xinhua that the unity government is merely a cover for western intervention in Libya. (Xinhua)

(22) British Gov't ...

on leaving political office should be banned.

They also said by a slightly higher margin of 75 percent, that the practice of senior civil servants accepting corporate consultancies should also be banned.

Nearly two thirds (62 percent) said that inviting private corporations into British government to help shape the regulation of business should be banned. (Xinhua)

(23) Polish Leader...

alleged involvement in a conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Kaczynski said "everything indicates that we will stop being a NATO member of the second category, that the eastern flank will be strengthened, that the US Army will be on our territory." (AP)

(24) Denmark ...

Austria, Belgium, France and Germany asking the European Commission to extend internal Schengen border controls for a period of six months.

Denmark received 21,000 asylum applications in 2015. (Xinhua)

(25) Yemeni ...

the talks. The closed-door talks aim to end fighting between a Yemeni government backed by a Saudi-led military coalition on one side and rebels known as Houthis who seized the capital in September 2014. (AP)

(26) Far-Right...

migrant shelters to inciting violence on the internet - totaled 1,150 cases, up from 750 in 2014, the report also showed.

Austria received around 90,000 asylum requests in 2015, mostly in the last few months of the year, after large numbers of migrants and refugees, many fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, arrived in the staunchly Roman Catholic country of 8.5 million people.

"If we look at these hate crimes more closely, we see ... (they seek) to create tensions and cause splits in civil society," Martin Weiss, head of the BVT department for information gathering and investigations, told reporters. (Reuters)

(27) First US ...

gives you the opportunity to interact with the Cuban people."

The cruise comes after Cuba loosened its policy of forbidding Cuban-born people from travelling to the country by sea. The last such cruise from a U.S. port to a Cuban destination happened in 1978.

The company got the green light from the Cuban government to begin sailing from the U.S. to the island on May 1 during U.S. President Barack Obama's March 20-22 trip to Havana.

Obama has relaxed U.S. travel and trade restrictions toward Cuba, allowing Carnival, which touts itself as the world's largest cruise ship operator, to apply and get permission from the U.S. government back in July 2015.

The cruises will be part of the thaw in relations between the United States and Cuba after Obama and his Cuban counterpart Raul Castro decided to re-establish ties in late 2014. (Xinhua)

(28) China-Australia...

on agricultural products had led to a big increase in export requests from China; something he said was greatly benefiting Australian businesses and would continue to do so for "years to come."

Among the best performing exports were bottled wine, lobsters and fresh cherries, while products such as beef, other varieties of seafood and livestock feed all experienced significant rises in export levels.

"Between January and March 2016, Chinese imports of Australian bottled wine grew more than 60 percent compared to the same period 12 months previously, to reach 160 million U.S. dollars, as tariffs were cut twice, from 14 percent to 8.4 percent," Ciobo said in a statement released on Monday. (Xinhua)

(29) US Delegation ...

strength of Pak-US bilateral relations.

The assurance comes just days after a BBC Urdu report, citing an unnamed senior US State Department official, said the US administration is withholding subsidy which was earmarked for Pakistan's purchase of eight F-16 fighter jets.

The State Department official told BBC Urdu on condition of anonymity that the Obama administration is still willing to sell the fighter jets to Pakistan, but will not contribute US funds towards the deal.

The US administration took this step with directions from US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker because only Congress has the authority to dispense or withhold the funds, the official said. (Agencies)