

(1) Lawmakers...

we will lose this project," said Nasima Niaza, another MP.

However, there were also other views regarding the project in the Wolosi Jirga.

"The government has the responsibility to supply power to Bamyan and Paktia, but we should not allow [this project] to destroy the system and create differences among people," said Saleh Mohammad Saleh, an MP.

"Discussions over this issue everyday do not do any good for the people of Afghanistan and we are somehow fanning the differences among people. It is not in the interest of Afghanistan," said Abdul Rauf Ebrahimi, another lawmaker.

A large number of people in Afghanistan launched protests last week to urge the government to implemented power transmission project through Bamyan and they warned to continue their protests, if their demands were not addressed. (Tolonews)

(2) ISIL Expandin...

meantime, the zone of terrorist operations is uncontrollable expanding beyond the region, into Libya, Afghanistan and Europe," he said. "Only an all-embracing approach to anti-terrorism efforts and strict observance of international law may produce a desirable result," he stressed.

"There is no room for double standards here. A consistent and principles approach of all responsible members of the international community is needed to counter this absolute evil," he underlined.

On Thursday, Gerard van Boemen, the chair of the Islamic state and Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee, said joint actions of the states have weakened ISIL in Iraq and Syria but the group's geographic coverage is expanding into Afghanistan, Yemen and Libya. (FNA)

(3) Govt's Failure...

Other problems that people have in Badakhshan include the lack of security forces. In one of our districts, we have 50 troops, which in the current situation is not enough," he added.

Members of Badakhshan provincial council voiced their deep concerns over security in the province and warned that if government fails to take action in time, the militants will reach to their goal in the province.

"The security situation in Badakhshan is deteriorating with the passage of each day. Allah forbid, if the government does not take action to eliminate militants before that snow melts, the militants might achieve their goal in Badakhshan province," said Bashir Samim, head of Badakhshan provincial council.

Since the formation of the national unity government, several high ranking officials, including President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, Former Minister of Interior, President's Special Representative for Reforms and Good Governance Ahmad Zia Massoud and now Rabbani have visited Badakhshan. Residents of the province say however that they haven't witnessed any improvement in security in the province so far. (Tolonews)

(4) 161 of 162 ...

"The base of the relation between nation and government is transparency in performances and provision of services. The government is trying to have a good relation with people through being legal-centric and institution-centric," said Shauhsan Murtazawi, the deputy spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani.

Based on the report, government, parliament and the judicial system, all three, have violated the constitution. It has termed lack of awareness among officials and law enforcement officials regarding the constitution, the culture of impunity, corruption, ambiguity in the constitution and lack of political will to implement the constitution as the main reasons for the violations. (Tolonews)

(5) Mohaqiq, Nabil ...

implementing development projects.

Nabil resigned from his position earlier in December last year after issuing an unusual statement on his official Facebook page, slamming the leadership of Pakistan for their interference in Afghanistan and the Afghan leadership for their approach towards Pakistan.

Nabil was first appointed as Director General of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in 2010. After two years, he was appointed

as Deputy National Security Advisor and then he rejoined the NDS as acting General Director in September 2013.

He was praised for aggressively seeking to keep the resurgent Taliban at bay, stop the remnants of Al Qaeda from growing fresh roots in Afghanistan, and keep the Islamic State from winning adherents in the Afghan insurgency. (KP)

(6) DABS Blasted ...

increase in electricity price is unjust for those customers who regularly pay their electricity bills," said Sayed Qiyas Saeedi, economy lecturer at Kabul University. (Tolonews)

(7) US Panel ...

which can only be released if the United States Defence Secretary certifies that Pakistan is taking the steps needed to evict terrorists from North Waziristan. (Agencies)

(8) Critics Push ...

made during their election campaigns.

"We see the shows ... on television, where they are trying to revive their popularity. But whenever there is an executive support behind the popularity, it starts diminishing," political analyst Khalil Roman said. "He (president) puts on a mask and goes to clean Kabul River; this in-fact shows the weakness of a president. Why do you (president) fear appointing a mayor to clean the garbage himself; this is wasting time, a lot needs to be done in other sectors," political commentator Younas Fakoor said.

Analysts criticize the president's approach in dealing with issues, saying that he focuses too much on unnecessary issues and he only knows how to utter the words but can't take practical steps in the way of implementing his commitments.

"Not only today, but even during the course of history, the politicians in Afghanistan have had the experience in how to deceive the nation with slogans and words. Unfortunately, our nation realizes the dual policies of the politicians very late and the nation reacts to such policies too late," MP Ramazan Bashardost said.

Critics say that Ghani's participation at a number of events last week, including one on press freedom day and one at the opening of a drug rehabilitation center in Kabul were not necessary.

But in his defense, a deputy presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazawi said: "The president had special programs last week in the wake of certain issues which included a cabinet meeting, the meeting of high council on refugees, the high economic council meeting, the high judicial council meeting, the procurement commission meeting, citizenship covenant meeting, the president also had a video conference with members of the provincial councils in 34 provinces." (Tolonews)

(9) Coalition Forces ...

Security Forces did not sustain any casualties during the operation."

The Afghan Special Operations Forces have stepped up night raids targeting the Taliban insurgents in the restive provinces recently as experts believe the operations have yielded positive results in curbing the insurgency activities of the militants. (KP)

(10) AGO Pledges...

and their approach is wrong, because, corruption is the biggest obstacle in the way of development and it is a central factor that undermines growth," a religious scholar Maulavi Habibullah Hisam said. "We are deeply concerned about the next generation, if the same trend is imposed on them, this will create problems for them as well," local resident Mehrollah said.

In a recent survey, the European Union (EU) announced that the majority of Afghans do not trust in the effectiveness of government institutions.

"If there are ten good people, another thousand are not on the right path, so the government must stop those who are violating the law," university student Najib said. According to field experts, corruption and the culture of bribery threatens the integrity of markets, undermines fair competition and distorts the allocation of resources in the country. Corruption is also one of the biggest impediments in the way of economic development and affects rule of law. (Tolonews)

(11) Afghanistan ...

people, the deadliest in the Afghan capital in years, which experts say was too sophisticated for the insur-

gents to have carried out without the Haqqanis.

The network's role could also further poison already tainted relations between Islamabad and Kabul. Afghanistan is pressing Pakistan to crack down on the Haqqanis, accusing it of tolerating the group, a charge the Pakistanis deny.

An audio recording of a recent meeting of the top Taliban leadership, obtained by The Associated Press, offers a glimpse into the influence the Haqqani network now holds within the movement. Sirajuddin Haqqani, the network's leader and newly elevated deputy head of the Taliban, tells the gathering that they must end differences and focus on fighting. "It is time to work. The mujahedeen (Islamic holy warriors) are happily going to the battlefield," he is heard saying. The voice is recognizable as Haqqani's.

Haqqani's rise to the deputy post is the highest, most direct role that the network is known to have taken in the Taliban leadership. The network pledged allegiance to the Taliban years ago but has traditionally operated independently.

The network was founded by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a one-time ally of the United States who achieved fame fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s and who developed close ties to the slain al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden. After his death, his son Sirajuddin Haqqani took over.

The elder Haqqani aligned his group with the Taliban after the insurgents were driven from power in the U.S.-led invasion that followed the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. He was a formidable militant financier, traveling to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to raise money. The network maintained close ties to al-Qaida and is believed to have large numbers of Arab and other foreign fighters.

The network is believed to command thousands of fighters on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistani border. Over the years, the Haqqanis emerged as the Taliban's strongest asset because of their battle-hardened fighters and traditional links to Pakistan's security agencies. Both U.S. and Afghan intelligence agencies say Pakistan's intelligence network, known as ISI, has allowed the Haqqanis to live freely for decades in Pakistan's tribal regions, a claim Islamabad denies.

"There's no one sole source of the Haqqani network's strength, though three places you can point to are its personnel, its links to Pakistan, and its ties to the Gulf region," said Michael Kugelman, senior associate for South and Southeast Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

The Taliban leadership meeting, held early last month at an undisclosed location, focused on strategies and battles ahead, the audio recording shows. During the meeting, Sirajuddin Haqqani called on the Taliban to close ranks, reminding them their enemy is the "foreign infidel" and not each other.

"Our objectives should be service to religion and we should end our differences and complaints," he says in Pashtu, the language of Afghan and Pakistani Pashtuns, the ethnic group that makes up the backbone of the Taliban movement.

Since last summer, Sirajuddin Haqqani has been instrumental in reconciling differences among Taliban commanders, who balked at recognizing Mullah Akhtar Mansoor as the supreme Taliban chief following the announcement that the insurgency's reclusive leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, was dead.

As soon as Mansoor became leader, he announced that he had named Haqqani as his deputy.

Haqqani quickly set about uniting the fractured Taliban, first by bringing Mullah Omar's son, Mullah Yaqoob, and his brother, Mullah Abdul Manan Omari, into the fold, according to a Taliban official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to talk to the press.

Haqqani then coaxed Zakir Qayyum, a Taliban strongman in the battleground southern Afghan province of Helmand and the former head of the Taliban military committee under Mullah Omar, to swear allegiance to Mansoor, healing some of the biggest divisions within the Taliban, the Taliban official said. Fahd Humayun, program and research manager at the Jinnah Institute, a think-tank in the Pakistani capital, who closely follows Taliban developments, also said Haqqani was key to healing the divisions.

The rise of the Haqqanis comes at

a critical juncture in relations between Kabul and Islamabad.

In the off-and-on effort for negotiations over the years, Pakistan has hosted past meetings between the Kabul government and the Taliban, whose leaders are widely believed to be based in the Pakistani cities of Quetta and Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan.

A four-nation group that included Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and the United States launched efforts earlier this year to try to bring Afghanistan's protracted war to a negotiated end but the push fell apart amid recent Taliban battlefield gains.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani now says he is no longer interested in having Pakistan bring the Taliban to the negotiating table. Instead, he demands Islamabad stop harboring the Taliban and take up the fight against the Haqqanis.

The U.S. State Department has also repeated its demand that Pakistan take action.

"We have consistently expressed our concerns at the highest level of the government of Pakistan about their continued tolerance for Afghan Taliban groups, such as the Haqqani network, operating from Pakistani soil," U.S. State Department spokesman Elizabeth Trudeau said at a press briefing following the Kabul attack.

Islamabad claims it decimated the Haqqani network's infrastructure in a military operation launched two years ago in North Waziristan, where the Haqqanis are headquartered. It points to its own grievances with the Haqqanis, who also maintain links with the Pakistan Taliban, a separate group that has killed hundreds of Pakistani soldiers in recent years. (AP)

(12) 43 Militants...

detained by ANSF," the ministry said in a statement providing daily operational updates.

Those killed included six foreign militants, the statement said, without disclosing the nationalities of the killed.

One militant of the Islamic State (IS) was killed and three others were wounded during the raids after the air force conducted an airstrike in Bati Kot district, eastern Nangarhar province, the statement said.

The statement also confirmed loss of seven Afghan army personnel in the same period.

The Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants since mid-April when the Taliban started a so-called annual spring offensive code named Operation Omari and step up attacks across the country.

The Taliban has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

(13) 75 Flood...

Mohammad Azai, was happy over the assistance and said his house was damaged and four livestock perished in the floods.

Meanwhile, governor's spokesman Mohammad Siddique Azizi said local officials were in contact with donor agencies and the World Food Programme and UNHCR had pledged to assistance with the flood affected families.

Nearly 100 houses were completely destroyed, another 377 houses partially damaged, 2200 acres of farming land washed away and 20 small bridges were destroyed in the floods that killed 172 household animals on May, 2, he said. (Pajhwok)

(14) Militants Give...

said the government should conduct clearing operations against rebels to purge the province of them.

A tribal elder from Musa Qala district, Maulim Abdul Bashir, said recently rebels' respect to tribal elders' decisions had declined.

Haji Baz Mohammad, another tribal elder from Khanshin district, said not only militants but government official also didn't respect elders' decisions. "If both accepted our decisions, the current issues would be solved," he added. (Pajhwok)

(15) Opium Trade ...

criminal groups, terrorist organizations, and local and international mafia.

However embattled troops in the area have said the only way to end the war in Helmand is to eliminate poppy cultivation.

TOLONews correspondents Abdul Wali Arian and Abdullah Hamim who are reporting from the front-line in Helmand have said that the opium trade is widely believed to have been the main reason for the ongoing Taliban insurgency in the area.

Niaz Mohammad is a local farmer who cultivates poppies in his fields

and has done so for over fifteen years.

"Taliban have imposed taxes on the fields, drug mafia is involved in the trend, so far we have not talked to them" another farmer, Niaz Mohammad, said.

"No one is able to tackle the Taliban. They have a lot of supporters in the village, even civilians are supporting them," an Afghan National Police officer said. (Tolonews)

(16) 3 Policemen ...

operation on the outskirts of Ghazni City and Maqur district of the province.

Mohammad Hanif Rezaei, the 203rd Thunder Military Corps spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News another 26 militants were wounded in two days of the operation wrapped up on Saturday.

He said the operation was aimed at clearing Ghazni City and the Kandahar-Kabul highway of militants. Mohammad Ibrahim, a resident of Noghi area of Ghazni city, said the both sides suffered casualties during clashes in the area during the past two days. He said local residents had seen bodies of two Afghan soldiers killed during the clashes.

Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the clashes and said 14 security personnel were killed in Noghi area, a claim rejected by Ghazni security officials. (Pajhwok)

(17) Hundreds...

list of people demanding wheelchairs was expanding each day. Therefore we request all our friends to donate to the foundation for buying wheelchairs."

One of the beneficiaries, Inayatullah, said: "I had no wheelchair for a long time because my poor economic condition, but I am happy today for receiving one today in aid." He said the government and aid organizations should pay attention to people with disabilities.

Another person Sulaiman said: "My two daughters are disabled, I brought them here and the Baz Charity Organization gave them wheelchairs." He was happy for the aid and said he personally could not purchase the wheelchairs. (Pajhwok)

(18) Mazar-E-Sharif ...

there is better security situation and people stay till 1:00 am," one Mazar resident, Mohammad Misaq, said. According to visitors to one park, they still remember the chaotic era of the Taliban regime which had banned people from going to parks and enjoying other amusement programs.

"We come to the park at 5pm this evening and will return home at around 11:00 pm," mother of three children Maryam said. (Tolonews)

(19) Movie ...

(not to use them), so that people will come towards art. They were more concerned about your activities, rather than security forces. It was a great blow to the Taliban, because you artists were the ones who took pictures of their crimes and brutality and show them to people," Baba Jan added.

Film makers and actors lent their support to security forces and urged Afghans to support Afghan forces. (Tolonews)

(20) Video Shows ...

1990s. Last year, a young woman was stoned to death in Ghor province in central Afghanistan after being accused of adultery.

In August 2011, a woman and a man she had eloped with were stoned to death in the district of Dashte Archi in Kunduz province.

A Taliban spokesman defended the 2011 incident at the time saying: "Anyone who knows about Islam knows that stoning is in the Koran, and that it is Islamic law. (BBC)

(21) Special ...

Fidai said Miakhel had honestly served in several fields, particularly in rehabilitation of rural areas as part of the government during the past 14 years.

A writer from Khost, Ilyas Wahdat, said, "Miakhel has offered tireless efforts on political, cultural and educational fronts over the past few years and even opened education centers in rural areas using his personal budget."

He said the ongoing problems in the country would be resolved if all Afghans followed into Miakhel's footsteps.

At the end, Miakhel thanked organizers of the gathering and said such gatherings encouraged intellectuals.

"Our people have recently begun hailing intellectuals, which is a good initiative," he said, promising

to work for improvement of education and intellectuals. (Pajhwok)

(22) Roadside ...

khaili, the provincial police chief, said that a police officer was killed in the fighting, which erupted when hundreds of insurgents tried to overrun Ghazi Abad district headquarters near the border with Pakistan. He said forces had prior intelligence about the attack and were prepared to repel it. (AP)

(23) Army Helicopter ...

personnel on board the helicopter did not suffer any casualties.

The Taliban group claimed that the helicopter was shot down by the group's fighters and all on board were killed after it crashed.

However, the local officials have rejected the Taliban claims as baseless.

This comes as an Afghan army helicopter was forced to perform emergency landing in a similar incident in eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan late in the month of March. (KP)

(24) Abe's Visit ...

mentioned "the great potential in cooperation between Japan and Russia in economic and other areas." Yet, such cooperation can only happen within the context of a settlement of the territorial dispute and signing of a peace treaty. (Xinhua)

(25) Bad Politics...

areas far from urban centers, and took advantage of such sentiment to forge an image of Washington outsider.

In March, he responded to criticism over a punching incident that happened at his campaign rally, saying "I am just a messenger." "The people are angry about the fact that for 12 years, the workers in this country haven't had a pay increase," he said. (Xinhua)

(26) Calm Prevails ...

relies on a network of activists on ground, said a total of 286 civilians, including 95 children and women, have been killed since 14 days ago when the violence flared up in Aleppo.

The al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front and likeminded groups were the ones who unleashed a wide-scale offensive on government-controlled areas two weeks ago, prompting the Syrian army to respond. (Xinhua)

(27) UN Envoy...

paralyzed the work of the government and parliament "and added a new layer of complications to the already complex set of military, security, humanitarian, economic and human rights challenges the country is facing."

Supporters of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr have been holding demonstrations and sit-ins for months to demand an overhaul of the political system put in place by the U.S. following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003. (AP)

(28) Labour's Khan ...

today chosen hope over fear and unity over division," Khan said in a short speech after the results.

"I hope that we will never be offered such a stark choice again. Fear does not make us safer, it only makes us weaker and the politics of fear is simply not welcome in our city." (Reuters)

(29) Torture ...

other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to the independence of the justice system.

"Sri Lanka is at a crucial moment in its history and we hope that our recommendations will contribute to setting out a path for the future that will be fully aligned with the international human rights obligations of the country," the Special Rapporteurs added. (Xinhua)

(30) Turkmenistan ...

Turkmenistan's Oil and Gas Ministry said in February that the Turkmenoil state concern will start to implement the plans for developing the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea. (Agencies)

(31) Symposium ...

the nation initiated reform and the opening-up drive.

Luo Haocai, CSHRS president, said the Chinese government has long been giving priority to the survival and development rights and the people's material and cultural standards of living have been broadly improved and their various rights have been guaranteed. (Xinhua)