

**(1) Govt. Opposes ...**

inaugurated in 18 to 24 months. Last week, Second Vice-President Sarwar Danish criticised the Ministry of Energy and Water for deciding to implement the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUT-AP) power project route through Salang Pass and called for the project to be passed through central provinces.

TUTAP power line will import 500kv of power from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(2) CASA-1000 ...**

was first inked between Afghan and Pakistani officials in Washington in 2014.

Under the agreement, the supply line from Central Asia would go through Afghanistan into South Asia and Kabul would get 1.25 cent per each kilo watt supplied to Pakistan.

The project includes a 750km high voltage direct current (DC) transmission system between Tajikistan and Pakistan via Afghanistan, together with associated converter stations at Sangtuda (1,300MW), Kabul (300MW) and Peshawar (1,300MW).

A 477km 500kV alternating current facility would also run between the Kyrgyz Republic (Datka) and Tajikistan (Khoutjand). System upgrades would also be required to safely and reliably accommodate the AC and DC facilities and the associated power flows.

The Casa-1000 transmission line to Peshawar would be capable of delivering 1,300MW - 1,000MW to Pakistan and 300MW to Afghanistan. The imported electricity would be available from May to October. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.17bn, including \$208m interest.

CASA-1000 will enable the development of the Central Asia South Asia Regional Electricity Market (CASAREM) - a long-term plan for regional energy trade. (Pajhwok)

**(3) China Stresses...**

emphasizes on implementation of the silk-road construction; adding further economic fields would be provided with the silk-road.

There has been a growing sense of optimism among Afghans about the New Silk Road, a key part of Chinese initiative.

The multi-billion dollar project, financed by the Chinese government, aims to build as well as connect roads, railways and seaports across three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe.

The New Silk Road's land route would most benefit Afghanistan, a landlocked country that relies on Pakistan and Iran for access to seaports: If the proposed land route passed through Afghanistan, it would directly connect the country to Europe and the Far East. (ATN)

**(4) DABS Blames ...**

Ghalib, said any review to the transmission line is late and it should have taken place three years ago.

"Now works of the project have progressed a lot. If they wanted to bring changes, they should have taken steps at the beginning," he added.

A large number of people, particularly people from the Hazara tribe, want this transmission line to go through Bamyan. They believe that passage of the line through Bamyan will pave the way for development projects in the province and they will receive electricity. (Tolonews)

**(5) 78 Militants ...**

Defense Forces for the protection of peoples' lives and properties and for defeating and eradicating terror groups, will fight the enemies vigorously and are ready to give sacrifices for bringing lasting peace and stability to people," the statement said.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the reports so far. (KP)

**(6) Officials Release ...**

Taliban member, was guilty of placing an IED in Khairkot district in Paktika province where seven police force members were killed. 6. Akmal, a Taliban member, was found guilty of an attack on the Daud Khan Military Hospital in Kabul where four security force members were killed and 22 others were wounded.

Some of these attacks date back by up to seven years.

Meanwhile, a number of analysts and MPs have welcomed the move by government and said it will help boost the country's security.

"Government should have earlier disclosed the identities of terrorists [under its custody] in order to attract more support and attention from the people, but overall these executions can help the security to improve," said military affairs analyst Jawed Kohistani.

He added: "Government should also execute high profile terrorists like members of the Haqqani network."

"When the Taliban showed the cutting off of people's heads, then government should commit to make public the executions of these terrorists and it should execute all of them [terrorists]," said MP Nahid Farid.

Ghani's move is the first such execution involving terrorists in the past 15 years. Although some executions have taken place in Afghanistan in this time, only criminals have been put to death, not terrorists.

The Taliban's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, on Sunday afternoon responded to the execution of six terrorists and vowed revenge. Mujahid warned that all the organizations involved in the execution will now be put at the top of their military target list. (Tolonews)

**(7) NUG Should ...**

which is coming from Turkmenistan will be paid by the World Bank, now disputes are underway to implement the project through Salang Pass or Bamyan Province to light south part of Afghanistan. (ATN)

**(8) Taliban ...**

an army officer. Most of the villages in Dand-e-Ghori and Dand-e-Shahabuddin are currently under the Taliban's control, where they are building strongholds and creating obstacles along the roads. Dand-e-Shahabuddin area is currently surrounded by the Taliban. (Tolonews)

**(9) 5 Development ...**

Since its inception in Nimroz province, the NSP has been able to execute 862 infrastructure projects disbursing AFN 393488152 in different sectors including transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, etc. while the work of hundreds of others is currently in progress. (PR)

**(10) Order to...**

Currently security forces in Deh Rawud district are under siege and the president is playing with the public's minds," said Jawed Kohistani, a military expert.

It has been 13 days since the president has ordered the security forces to suppress militants, but any tangible change on the battlefields is not being seen.

Security forces in Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces are on the defensive, while in Baghlan province more forces are needed to eliminate militants.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) meanwhile assured the public of an increase in operations against insurgents.

"The fighting is very serious, a strong resolve has taken shape and we have a 15 percent rise in operations and we will launch a large-scale operation in 30 districts in the next six months," said Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the MoI.

A number of experts however are optimistic about the implementation of the order.

"I think that the president has defined a new perspective about the war and we will soon see the results on the battleground," said Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former deputy minister of interior.

A number of security officials believe that war is the only solution for Afghanistan's dilemma.

"War is the only solution. They (militants) don't even care about their mothers and fathers," said Abdul Rahman Sarjang.

The experts believe that the president's order has heralded new hopes that militants will be eliminated. They stressed that if the order is not implemented, public trust in the president will dwindle. (Tolonews)

**(11) Taliban Attacks...**

in Helmand over much of the winter, a lull in combat had been seen over the past few weeks, according to Afghan and NATO officials.

However there has been continued heavy fighting in other parts of the country including Kunduz in the far north, Uruzgan, which neigh-

bours Helmand and the central province of Ghazni.

Brigadier General Charles Cleveland, the main spokesman for NATO's Resolute Support mission in Kabul, told reporters last week that many fighters had been working in the Helmand opium fields, which provide one of the Taliban's main sources of income.

However he said that the end of the annual spring harvest in Helmand, which accounts for the biggest share of Afghanistan's opium production, would probably lead to an increase in fighting, possibly as early as this week.

The insurgents, fighting to drive out the Western-backed government in Kabul, now control much of the province and have long operated in Babaji, just to the north of the centre of Lashkar Gah.

The decision to pull security forces back from districts in the north and centre of Helmand was announced in February as a tactical manoeuvre to concentrate strength before launching attacks on the Taliban. However so far there has been little sign of the long-promised offensive.

"We are well equipped and well prepared but we are waiting for an order from the defence and interior ministries to attack the Taliban," Sarjang said.

Afghan special forces have launched some targeted operations and, in one attack last week, freed around 60 prisoners from a Taliban jail in Naw Zad district in the centre of the province. (Reuters)

**(12) Unemployment ...**

not have jobs and faced negative responses whenever they referred for job to both government and non-government organizations.

"More than a hundred youths apply even for a single teacher post or similar jobs, it shows the level of unemployment is very high in Bamyan, a person could not be employed unless he has friends in the relevant office and wagers spend entire day in the on the road waiting for someone to take them to work and they would be lucky if they could find one day labor work in a week, he added.

Mohammad Ullah, another man said that joblessness caused youths to addict to drugs or leave their country and accept life risk. He blamed the government for paying no attention to youths' problems in the country.

Bamyan labor and social affairs director, Sayed Rahmatullah Alawi confirmed youths problems and said, "Unfortunately the level of joblessness is on the rise in the country, more than 80 applicants apply for even a single government post," He said the joblessness also forced youths to migrate to foreign countries.

Governor's spokesman, Abdur Rahman Ahmadi also confirmed people's problems and said the government should launch programs for generating job opportunities for youths in all over the country.

It is impossible the local government could resolve all the problems of youths, but it has tried to employ qualified people in selection government posts, he said, adding majority posts of Bamyan province were led by youths.

Youths' sports problems Mohammad Nasir, a sportsman in Bamyan province said that youths in Bamyan were also faced with problems in sports area; an issue he said the government should pay attention to.

More than 10,000 athletes are playing in football, volleyball and martial sports, but there is no proper sports environment available for them, he said.

"We are playing football on a dusty ground because we have no standard playgrounds," Nasir said.

Zahra, a sportswoman said, that there was no a sports center for women in entire Bamyan province. She said the local government also paid no attention to provide a sports environment for female athletes.

However, Hussain Ali Karimi, the newly appointed physical training manager of Bamyan province said, "It is the fact that the physical training department was inactive and did not do anything for promoting athletes,"

He said that lack of coordination between the physical training department and other organs and absence of sports resources and environment were the major problems of athletes in Bamyan. He promised to address the problems with

a proper management.

"Allocating 15 acres of land for sports ground in the new master plan of Bamyan city would be my first step," he said, adding the land would be allocated for play grounds for football and other games including a swimming pool and the budget for providing the facilities would be paid by the physical training department.

He said more than 5,000 footballers, 150 skiers, 100 bicycle riders, 150 Taekwondo athletes, 200 Muay Thai athletes, 10 Kung Fu athletes, 500 volleyball players and 10 badminton players have been registered with the physical training department, Karimi said.

He added that Buz Kashi and chess games were inactive in Bamyan but he would try to activate them as well. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Unemployment ...**

Kunduz, told Pajhwok Afghan News the population of unemployed people had increased in the province but the government was paying no attention to the problem. "Joblessness is a serious problem of the youth in Kunduz, most of them complain about lack of jobs and a large number of them had either left the country or joined the militants," he said.

Most of these jobless youth are suffering from psychological problems or have developed addiction to drugs, Majidi said, asking the government to launch reconstruction projects and employ jobless youth for their implementation.

Ghulam Jan is another man struggling with unemployment. He said most of educated youth in Kunduz were jobless while people of other provinces coming to Kunduz had been given jobs.

He expressed concern over the increasing unemployment and corruption and said "people are already hired on posts announced in government offices, they take a symbolic exam. People who have no friends in government offices cannot get jobs."

Local officials also confirmed the youth, who could not find jobs, used to join militants to earn money to feed their families.

Abdul Ghafor Hottak, the youth affairs director in Kunduz, said joblessness had produced dangerous consequences.

He said jobless youth had either developed psychological problems or joined militants. More youth would possibly join militants if the government continued to neglect them, Hottak warned.

Around 1,220 jobless youth despite being graduated from schools or earning bachelor's degree have been registered with the youth affairs department, he said, adding the number of other jobless people not registered with the office was much higher. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Taliban Storm ...**

sides over a period of 30 minutes. The check point is located in Paghman district alongside the Kabul-Kandahar highway. The security forces did not allow media to take footage of the check post, but reporters in the area said the encounter caused some damage.

"I am surprised how a coordinated attack happened at the check post, one officer has been killed and three officers were wounded," a local resident Jaffar said.

"It was around 1:00 am, we were sleeping and heard the exchange of gun fire suddenly. We were afraid. Every kind of weapon was used in the encounter," another resident Mohammad Asif said.

Meanwhile, citizens have said that launching coordinated attacks in the capital would have negative repercussions in future.

"The attack was really horrific, people are afraid when attacks on this scale happen in the capital," a resident of Kabul Shah Wali said. Residents have asked the government to step up efforts and improve security in the city. (Tolonews)

**(15) Road Crash...**

Governor Mohammad Aman-Hamimi earlier reported seven fatalities but his own spokesman gave a death toll of 50.

Bloodied, dazed and badly burned, many of the survivors streamed into Ghazni's main provincial hospital, while many others were rushed in ambulances to health facilities in southern Kandahar city. The Kabul-Kandahar highway passes through militancy prone areas and many bus drivers are known to drive recklessly at top speeds so as not to get caught in

insurgent activity.

"Our driver was at fault -- he was driving too rashly," said Esmatullah, one of the few lucky passengers who survived Sunday's crash with minor injuries.

"Most bus drivers on the highways are known to smoke hashish, opium and other drugs. They are completely out of control."

Afghanistan has some of the world's most dangerous roads, often in dilapidated condition and traffic rules are seldom enforced.

Many in the country rely on old and rickety passenger vehicles, meaning that high casualty road traffic accidents are common.

At least 18 people were killed in May last year when a minivan overturned in the western province of Badghis.

And in April 2013 a bus hit a wrecked fuel tanker in the southern province of Kandahar, killing 45 people.

The World Bank in November signed off a \$250 million grant to upgrade roads crossing Afghanistan's Hindu Kush mountains, crucial trade links that are often closed in winter by snow.

Insecurity is growing around Afghanistan as the Taliban press on with their 15-year insurgency against the Western-backed Kabul government.

The Islamists, who have been waging an insurgency since being toppled from power in 2001, announced the start of their spring offensive on April 12, dubbed "Operation Omari" in honour of founding leader Mullah Omar, vowing large-scale attacks across Afghanistan. (AFP)

**(16) Detained...**

were taught to them in the camp.

This comes as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the Afghan anti-government armed militants to use their soil as sanctuaries for conducting attacks in Afghanistan. The Taliban group leadership as well as the notorious Haqqani terrorist network are openly operating in Pakistan by establishing councils in Peshawar and Quetta cities.

President Ghani earlier asked Pakistan to take actions against the Taliban group leaderships based in Peshawar and Quetta cities of Pakistan. (KP)

**(17) Two NATO ...**

policeman is reportedly to have been arrested and is being questioned. However, the local officials have not yet commented about incident. (Tolonews)

**(18) Another 15 ...**

Hizbullah group had been killed. The Iranian military confirmed 13 troops had been killed and 21 others wounded in the clashes in Syria. Earlier there were reports that the bodies of some Afghans who were killed in the Syrian conflict had been shifted to Iran. (Pajhwok)

**(19) UN Envoy...**

before forging ahead with other issues that require them to surrender arms and withdraw from territories they occupied in 2014.

The rebels have also demanded the withdrawal of a small US force operating in the south of the country against Al-Qaeda militants. (AFP)

**(20) S.Korea ...**

that North Korea should not be recognized as a nuclear-powered state," the unification ministry said.

At the party gathering, Kim emphasized that his country will not resort to nuclear weapons first unless its sovereignty is encroached upon by hostile forces with nuclear weapons.

He also stressed that the WPK has worked hard for the implementation of the strategy of pushing forward economic growth and nuclear development at the same time. (Xinhua)

**(21) Sykes-Picot's ...**

powers. As victors of the first World War, Britain and France designed the Middle East based on the Sykes-Picot agreement they secretly signed in 1916. (Xinhua)

**(22) Spy Masters...**

work today relies on the lawful and accountable use of large data-sets to reveal the associations and activities of terrorists and cyber-attackers. As an EU member, we shape the debate, we push for what we think is the right balance between security and privacy and we benefit from the data that flows as a result."

In their Sunday Times letter, Sawyers and Evans say modern intel-

ligence work relies on gathering large amounts of data on terrorists and cyber-attackers. (Xinhua)

**(23) 18 IS Militants ...**

wounded, including an officer, when a suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into their military base and detonated it in Jereshi area in north of the provincial capital Ramadi, the source added.

Iraqi security forces and allied paramilitary units have been battling IS militants for re-control of large territories in northern and western Iraq that was seized by the IS since June 2014. (Xinhua)

**(24) UN Welcomes ...**

concluded. The Lebanese headed Sunday to the municipal polls scheduled every six years in its first leg taking place in Beirut and the Bekaa region. (Xinhua)

**(25) Australian PM ...**

and employer organizations, and has twice refused to pass legislation to re-establish the Australian Building and Construction Commission.

A double dissolution election will see that both houses of the Parliament dissolved and all of the 150 House of Representatives seats and 76 Senate seats up for grab. (Xinhua)

**(26) Rouhani ...**

of Turkmenistan's Cabinet of Ministers, praised Iran's support for his country in regional and international circles and called for efforts to boost cooperation based on good neighborliness and common interests. (Tasnim)

**(27) Iran Strives ...**

sector and help secure Iran's hydrocarbon resources.

According to the report, a study in 2012 showed Iran ranked third, after Russia and Iraq, in the global flaring of natural gas. (Xinhua)

**(28) Rights Activist ...**

and outspoken opponent of radical Islamist groups, particularly the militant Sunni organization Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and the Pakistani Taliban. (Agencies)

**Turkish Warplanes Strike PKK Targets in Northern Iraq**

ANKARA - Turkish warplanes conducted an air operation on Sunday targeting the positions of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq, local media reported. F-16 and F-4 2020 warplanes destroyed shelters, ammunition stores and weapon pits belonging to the PKK in the regions of Qandil, Metina, Zap and Gara in northern Iraq early Sunday, according to local NTV news broadcaster. The warplanes returned to their bases in Turkey after hitting the PKK targets, said the report.

Meanwhile, two soldiers of the Turkish security forces were killed on Sunday in an explosion in the Nusaybin town of the southeastern province of Mardin, where operations by the Turkish troops are being carried out against the PKK militants, local Daily News reported.

A hand-made explosive planted by the PKK militants in a house in the Firat neighborhood of Nusaybin exploded while security forces were conducting searches inside. (Xinhua)

**Turkey Kills 55 IS Members in Syria**

ANKARA - Turkish military killed 55 Islamic State (IS) members north of Aleppo province in Syria on Saturday, Turkish Armed Forces said in a written statement on Sunday.

Turkish army also destroyed three vehicles and three rocket installations, according to the statement.

In a separate operation with the coalition forces on Saturday, 48 IS members were killed in northern Syria, Turkish army said in a separate statement on Sunday. The IS attacks on settlement areas of Syrian opposition ended and the group has retreated, said the military. Turkish military destroyed a total of 2,144 IS positions in northern Syria and killed 807 militants, the Turkish army said earlier.

Rockets fired from Syria have been landing in Kilis since mid-January, killing a total of 21 people including seven Syrians refugees and injured over 66, including 17 Syrians, according to military figures. While Ankara said it is battling the IS as part of a U.S.-led coalition, the extremist group also orchestrated a number of suicide bombings in Turkey's capital and Istanbul, leaving hundreds killed. (Xinhua)