

(1) MoI, MoFA...

transfer of salaries to teachers. Ghani, who co-hosted co-stated a high level 'anti-corruption conference' at the Presidential Palace with EU Ambassador to Afghanistan Franz-Michael Mellbin, termed corruption a hereditary problem in Afghanistan and stressed continued fight against it.

Major reforms were introduced to the customs, national procurement, land administration, drug trafficking, judicial system, banking, municipalities and the security sector, but still more work was needed to be done, the president said.

He called the establishment of anti-corruption tribunal a major achievement and said reforms brought by the tribunal in the past two years had never happened in the past 40 years.

The presidents said he presided over 99 meetings and assessed 900 contracts about procurement and saved millions of dollars this way.

He said the country's revenue surged by 35 percent in 2016 over 2015 and since late March some 100 metric tonnes of drugs had been seized.

He dubbed the MoI as the heart of corruption and said steps would be taken soon to eradicate corruption from the ministry.

The president said: "Police have been fighting against terrorists, but after this they would perform their basic duty which is law enforcement."

Ghani stressed independence of judiciary and said the government should not interfere in the judiciary's affairs.

He asked members of parliament not to interfere in judiciary affairs. The president said individuals who wanted to contest parliamentary elections should swear they would not interfere in the affairs of the judiciary.

Ghani also stressed on transparency in procurement and mines contracts and said he planned to create a system that electronically performed procurement process.

"We want the ministry of mines not to sign a bad contract, because such contracts create problems, if I heard about corruption in some contracts I would cancel them," he said.

The president said the Ministry of Education (MoE) needed attention and the ministry should reveal how many schools were available and how many students studies in them across the country.

Transparency in payment of salaries to teachers and MoE employment process should be also ensured, he said.

The president said employment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on ethnic grounds was unacceptable and he would control it.

"I visited an embassy where four of its employees could not speak English, it is unacceptable, it should be regularly observed and employment process in MoFA be done through the Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Office in future," Ghani said.

He said the performance of the United Nations and other foreign organizations would be also evaluated.

"I should be assured whether foreign organizations are committed to anti-corruption policies of the UN or not," he said.

Ghani called on donor countries to fight corruption in Afghanistan jointly with the Afghan government. He told donors: "It is my message to you that whenever you do something against corruption, you have to keep in mind what is possible and what is not."

"We suggest creation of a joint framework, coordinate your efforts with SIGAR and other international organizations' reports," he added.

Ghani criticized a number of anti-corruption foundations in Afghanistan and said such foundations had paved the ground for corruption instead.

Franz Michael Mellbin, EU ambassador to Afghanistan, who co-chaired the meeting with President Ghani, appreciated the Afghan government's efforts at eradicating corruption.

He said President Ghani and the Afghan government had showed commitments in fighting corruption and taking serious steps last year.

He said creation of Anti-Corruption Justice Center (ACJC) was an example of the government's efforts last year. (Pajhwok)

(2) ADB to Pursue...

education," he said.

3. Gender equality: Nakao said they would strengthen their gender equality work since "gender is a cross-cutting issue that influences all social and economic processes." It will design projects that help wom-

en and girls secure higher skills, better health, more jobs and a larger voice in decision making.

4. Using private resources for development, the ADB aims to promote greater and more effective use of public-private partnerships (PPPs). It is also financing projects by private companies working on solar, wind and geothermal power infrastructure, highways, telecommunications and ports, as well as projects in education, health, and agriculture and further still the ADB priorities are funding micro, small and medium sized enterprises through local banks.

5. ADB will ensure reforms to better conduct its work in the most efficient way. "ADB will strengthen its sector and thematic expertise, enhance staff capacity and streamline procedures. We will deepen our collaboration with civil society, academia, the private sector and local authorities," Nakao promised. (Pajhwok)

(3) Belt Plan ...

relations with China in various fields.

Foreign Ministry official Sultan Ahmad Baheen said Afghanistan supported China's 'one belt, one road' initiative.

"The Chinese government shares views with the Afghan government about implementation of the 'one road, one belt' project, this is a comprehensive program and all countries the route goes through are involved in it."

The Silk Road system has existed for over 2000 years. China's connectivity program involves extending the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is part of One Road One Belt Initiative (BRI, to Afghanistan, and then stretching the "belt" to its neighbors -Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Iran. (Pajhwok)

(4) Abdullah ...

deeds as work experience.

"Journalists perform a sacred job, they pay tax to the government, but it is unfair that their work experience is not considered for a government job," he said.

He said most media outlets currently struggled with economic crisis and they had been unable to pay even salaries to journalists.

"Media outlets pay monthly salaries to their workers and if their pensions are paid by the government, it would be a great help to them," he said.

Karokhel said access to information consumed great efforts but government organs were not cooperative in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Abdullah said many government organs including the National Security Council (NSC), had recently discussed journalists' problems and solutions to them.

"The problems Mr. Karokhel mentioned would be shared with the Council of Ministers and others to seek solutions to them," he said.

Abdullah also said journalists performed a dangerous job and they had rendered many sacrifices in line of duty.

"The government should count journalists' experiences, I will follow this issue, if the problem is with the law then the law should be amended," the CEO added.

He said freedom of speech in Afghanistan was a clear result of journalists' sacrifices. Abdullah also asked journalists to responsibly file reports and respect the law. The national unity government strongly supported journalists and press freedom, he said.

Deputy information and culture minister, Sayed Fazil Aqa Sancharaki, said journalists and media sometimes committed mistakes and government's relations with reporters depended on the situation at hand.

He acknowledged not prosecuting killers of journalists had encouraged crimes against the community. Sancharaki asked media outlets owners to be attentive to journalists' rights rather than flourishing their businesses.

"We sent a letter to all media owners in which we requested information about journalists' contracts with them," he said. He added 55 media outlets had closed due to economic problems.

At the end of the conference, Pajhwok Afghan News journalist Abasin Zaheer and some other reporters and civil society activists received appreciation letters from the CEO.

A day earlier, President Ashraf Ghani gave away appreciation letters to a number of journalists including Pajhwok reporter Mohammad Hassan Khetab. (Pajhwok)

(5) Hekmatyar ...

countries, many disputes have been resolved through dialogue."

He said had he heard Hekmatyar

through media but would see what happen in the future. The Afghan government and HIA signed the peace accord last year. Hekmatyar appeared in eastern Laghman province last week after decades in hiding. (Pajhwok)

(6) Kunduz Battle ...

The soldiers also said Qala-e-Zal district fell to the Taliban as they had not been given enough support.

"We have been told for three or four days that supplies have been sent to us but until now we have received nothing," said Rahimullah, an officer of the Afghan National Army. Security forces stationed in Kunduz city, however, said they support the posts located around the city.

"We supported the check posts located on the highway at night," said Mohammad Rahim Kohdmani, Brigade Chief of Staff of Afghan Public Protection Force.

On Monday a number of MPs sharply criticized Kunduz officials for not maintaining security and said they should be introduced to judicial centers and should answer to the people.

"We received similar assurances from the army commander and the minister of defense, but after 24 hours, Qala-e-Zal district collapsed, eight people were taken hostage by the enemy, and the police headquarters was set ablaze," said speaker of the Wolesi Jirga Abdul Rauf Ibrahim.

"These events are repeated in Afghanistan every day," said MP Kamal Safai.

"Those commanders who have committed negligence while on duty and who did not respond to the voice of the soldiers and his commander must be held accountable and they must be punished," said MP Abdul Rauf Enaami.

"The commander of the Kunduz unit has been proven as incompetent and a failed commander; he must be prosecuted ... because he knows nothing about military and he is completely unprofessional," added Ibrahim.

Kunduz residents meanwhile say they have become increasingly worried over the past few days and called on government to end the war in the province.

"Kunduz has been surrounded and people are worried that the city may fall today or tomorrow," Sahib Khan, a resident of Kunduz said.

"We urge government to take serious action to tackle the problems," Rahmat, another resident of Kunduz said.

A number of people who know the province said one of the key reasons for the Taliban's continued onslaught in the province was that smugglers, especially those involved in weapons smuggling, were very active in the province.

"Commanders (local commanders) sell weapons and then the buyers sell to others and finally these reach the Arab, Pakistan and Indian borders. It is the biggest route for drugs, cigarettes and alcohol smuggling," Abdul Karim Hashimi, a member of Afghanistan's Governors Association said.

Mohammad Aman, who lives with 11 family members close to the Kunduz-Khanabad highway has had to flee his home and take shelter at a friend's house on the outskirts of Kunduz city. He said he and his family have repeatedly been displaced due to ongoing fighting in the area. "Rockets and other artillery have smashed into people's houses. One part is at the hands of the Taliban and the other is by government. Either government or Taliban should take the city completely and leave us to live our lives," he said. (Tolonews)

(7) Urgent Efforts ...

fatality rates due to road accidents," said Dr Ahmad Jan Naeem, deputy minister of public health.

"The newly-adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has set an ambitious target for road safety: halving the global number of deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes by 2020..." Afghanistan has a national speed limit law but it is not properly enforced. There are currently no laws regulating the use of seatbelts or the use of mobile phones when driving and it is not compulsory for motorcyclists to wear helmets.

"Too many Afghans lose their lives or get badly injured on the roads every year. We can all make our roads safer by adopting a few simple habits: slow down your speed, wear your seatbelt, make sure other passengers are wearing a seatbelt, and don't talk or text on the phone while driving," said Dr Richard Peepkorn, WHO country representative. (Pajhwok)

(8) Presidential ...

serves as founder of Focus Research

and Investigation Center, had in the past told TOLONews that the findings of his organization had revealed that key posts are sold by certain individuals at the Presidential Palace. Now however he insists the findings of research conducted by his organization were not based on facts.

In an interview with TOLONews four months ago, Azad said that thousands of posts at government institutions were lying vacant due to the existence of a corrupt circle operating in the Presidential Palace and in its office of administrative affairs.

"There are 30,000 vacancies within government and the president himself is responsible for these, because three months ago, on the basis of a presidential decree, the president as part of a working plan was interviewing people for first and second grade posts in order to fill these posts," he said at the time.

In his interview, Azad accused Ghani of creating a corrupt circle within the office of administrative affairs of the Presidential Palace, and said the circle was related to a certain family that takes money from the people appointed to government institutions.

"He assigned the responsibility to a certain circle at the Presidential Palace, a circle which not only does not recognize the merit, but it prefers to do its business, those who are willing to nominate themselves for these posts must be quite rich, the circle belongs to a certain family and they take money from the individuals," said Azad in the interview.

But now Azad has back-tracked on these remarks and said the survey carried out by his organization was fragmentary, and insisted that he had made the remarks on behalf of an independent organization.

"I had said it with bravery in my interview and uttered it from the address of Focus organization, but our investigations were at a preliminary stage, we realized that it was not based on reality, therefore we did not publish it," added Azad.

Azad is also known for his provocative remarks on social media against some ethnic groups.

In postings, Azad has in the past said that if he had the power, he would name the majority of hills and airports after the Taliban's founder Mullah Omar and would convene a grand burial ceremony for him.

In an article written by him for eurasia review website and published in December, Azad called Ghani's National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar, The Chess-Queen Of Afghan Politics.

In the article, Azad said that Atmar wanted to topple the government through a coup and had planned to assassinate Ghani's first Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum. "According to several secret sources

pertinent to power players (power brokers) in ARG (the palace) and its peripheries, a collective move for toppling Ghani from power was organized. Seizure of the palace, was unilaterally organized by Hanif Atmar, the National Security Adviser to the President and was supported by Hamid Karzai, but foiled in the bud," part of the article reads.

"Moreover, Dostum (Afghan Vice-President) accused the National Security Council (indirectly Mr. Atmar) for the recent attack on him. Additionally, the rumors add that Dostum assassination was also part of the coup agenda. Akhtar Ibrahim had been tasked right from the outset to kill Dostum at an opportune time and no wonder why he was looking for someone to have as his deputy who could do the job," reads Azad's article. (Tolonews)

(9) Reforms to ...

Two years ago, the government authorized ministers to hire people in their ministries on their own for the sake quick reforms, but unfortunately some organs misused the authority. He said reforms in judiciary organs were important as prosecutors and other judicial workers lacked professionalism and independence in decisions. (Pajhwok)

(10) Afghanistan ...

recent years due to the endeavors made by the Iranian government that took office in August, 2013.

The 22nd Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition, attended by 4,500 national and international companies, started work in the Iranian capital on May 6 for four days. (IRNA)

(11) Over 50 ...

Dand Aw Patan was a Haqqani local commander, Hazrat Mohammad - known as Mutmaen. Officials said there were no civilian casualties during the airstrikes. (Tolonews)

(12) Pakistan, ...

loss of life."

He said diplomacy must overcome the "misunderstandings and restore trust" though he reiterated Islamabad claims that Afghanistan fired first.

Aziz said the two sides also agreed to look at the demarcation line in the area.

"I hope in the next couple of days the issue will be resolved through meetings between local commanders as well as at the high level commanders," he added.

Afghanistan refuses to recognize the so-called Durand Line, established more than a century ago when the British Empire controlled much of South Asia, as the international border. The line runs through the traditional homeland of the Pashtun ethnic group, which dominates Afghanistan and the border provinces of Pakistan. (AP)

(13) MPs Hail ...

attacking Afghanistan, we stayed silent. Kandahar police commander Gen. Raziq who defended the country his bravery should be hailed."

She said individuals who should be executed had been appointed ambassadors while the Kandahar police chief who fought with trivial resources and manpower was yet to be praised and honored.

Hashami believed if the Kandahar police chief was praised for the valor he showed, the remaining border forces would follow in his footsteps. Obaidullah Barakzai, a lawmaker from Uruzgan province, also praised Gen. Raziq and said everyone who defended the motherland should be appreciated.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said: "We are proud of our security forces and it is the lower house right to appreciate individuals who show extraordinary courage in the service of the motherland."

He ordered the house secretariat to invite Gen. Raziq to a Wolesi Jirga session and award him letter of appreciation.

Ibrahim termed the country's security situation dangerous. He said Defence Ministry officials in Kunduz who had assured him of security situation in Qala-i-Zal district just 24 hours before its fell to the Taliban.

He said the problem was in the leadership of security institutions due to which districts and strategic areas fell into Taliban's hands.

He said when a commander had no information about the security situation of his area, how would he lead a fight.

About security forces' weak leadership, Defence Ministry spokesman Gen. Dawat Waziri said lawmakers had the right to express their viewpoint, but the ministry was sparing no effort in ensuring security across Afghanistan.

In the past 11 days, the Taliban overran the Qala-i-Zal of Kunduz and Zebak of Badakhshan besides capturing some police check-posts in Sar-i-Pul's Sayyad district. (Pajhwok)

(14) Poverty Deepens, ...

more vulnerable to unexpected setbacks, increasing the likelihood that poverty would be handed on to the next generation.

The economic and security crisis had once again underscored widening inequalities between Afghans who have the means to cope with shocks and those who must give up vital assets to stay alive, it added.

Women find it increasingly difficult gaining access to education and health services. The poverty and inequality, if left unaddressed, could threaten progress attained over the past 15 years, the report warned.

Following are highlights of the report: Poverty increased substantially from 36 percent in 2011-12 to 39 percent in 2013-14. As a result, 1.3 million more Afghans were unable to satisfy their basic needs.

Unemployment reached 26 percent in 2013-14 as fewer jobs were created and existing ones from the pre-transition phase were destroyed, hitting mostly youth, rural populations, and illiterate workers.

Progress in human development outcomes slowed down and girls' primary school attendance declined markedly, especially in rural and conflict-affected areas.

Afghan households have been negatively affected by the crisis triggered by the security and political transition. The decline in aid and growth damaged jobs, and the escalation of conflict further intensified the vulnerability of the Afghan people. (Pajhwok)

(15) Zakhilwal ...

seven others injured.

"Truth is that only two Afghan soldiers were martyred and seven injured," the envoy wrote on his social media account, deploring Pakistan's

move to celebrate the unfortunate incident.

"The Chaman clash left casualties on the Pakistan side too. But we instead of celebrating it called it unfortunate and regrettable," he wrote. He told Pakistan the loss of two Afghan soldiers was too many as the two countries seek to forge good relations. (Pajhwok)

(16) South African ...

The improvement of all-rounder Najibullah Zadran, who boasts an impressive average of 36.35 and 150-plus strike-rate in 57 Twenty20 Internationals, has pleased Maron, who was instrumental in rearing Zadran into a specialist point fielder. (Agencies)

(17) US Seeks to...

nor the US embassy in Kabul would comment on Pedram's claims.

Meanwhile a number of parliamentarians said that Hekmatyar's move to join the peace process should not be ignored.

"Peace brings blessings, let the peace which is achieved work and do not evaluate it from a negative point of view," said MP Mullah Tarakhail Mohammedi.

"We want all criticisms against the coming of Hizb-e-Islami and slogans which are chanted for maintaining justice to come to an end," said another MP Habiba Sadat.

Pedram meanwhile once again said he recognized the Durand Line as Afghanistan's official border with Pakistan.

Pedram reiterated that the Durand Line was the official border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, but said that those who show sensitivity toward the issue in fact represent a certain ethnicity that pursues to tighten its grip on power and monopolize it. (Tolonews)

(18) Afghan-US...

"The raid conducted by Afghan Special Security Forces [Ktah Khas], in partnership with U.S. Forces - Afghanistan, also resulted in the deaths of several other high ranking ISIS-K leaders and 35 ISIS-K fighters," according to the U.S. military headquarters in Kabul.

The Syrian-based terrorist group refers to its extremist operations in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan as Islamic State Khurasan Province, or ISK-P, while the U.S. military often refers to it as ISIS-K.

Hasib was appointed last year following the death of his predecessor, Hafiz Saeed Khan, in a U.S. drone strike in the same Afghan province. (VoA)

(19) ISIS-K ...

violence against the Afghan people, especially those in southern Nangarhar." He added.

Abdul Hasib directed the March 8 attack against Kabul National Military Hospital, which resulted in the deaths and injury of over one-hundred innocent Afghans. Hasib also directed fighters to behead local elders in front of their families and ordered the kidnapping of women and girls to force them to marry ISIS-K fighters.

"I applauded the tremendous skill and courage shown by our Afghan partners," said Nicholson.

"This fight strengthens our resolve to rid Afghanistan of these terrorists and bring peace and stability to this great country. Any ISIS member that comes to Afghanistan will meet the same fate." He said. (Pajhwok)

(20) 34 Daesh ...

In a statement Sunday night, the Pentagon confirmed the death of Logari. At the time of the raid officials said they thought Logari had been killed, but were not certain.

US officials said Logari, who was believed to have been the leader of Daesh in Afghanistan, was among several Daesh leaders who died in an April 27 raid. It was carried out by Afghan Special Security Forces in partnership with U.S. Forces in Nangarhar province.

Two U.S. Army Rangers were however killed in the same raid by what officials believe was friendly fire. (Tolonews)

(21) Logar

teachers worked half day with the government, pocketed salaries and then fought alongside Taliban against security forces the rest of the day. (Pajhwok)

(22) 1 Civilian ...

One man was killed, two women and a child was wounded. The injured had been shifted to the hospital and were in good condition.

The resident of locality who wished to go unnamed said the min was recently planted. He said in past incidents of blasts did happen in the area. (Pajhwok)