

(1) Greater Unity ...

He said there were elements that had differences with the democratic system and these differences have turned into conflict. According to Ghani, war was not solution to the problem but a coherent and strong strategy could bring all Afghans together. For external threats, he said, there should be external programmes through a security and economic pact with regional countries since the threats could not be thwarted single handedly.

"The war on Afghanistan has been imposed and we won't surrender to it. We would respond to it by war without forgetting the hope of peace," he added.

He expressed optimism for peace process to go ahead as it wasn't only for the benefit of Afghanistan but also for the benefit of all neighboring countries.

Ghani added his country was thriving to become a trade corridor in the region and no country could turn Afghanistan into a proxy war field.

He pointed out many elements had come together to impose the war on Afghanistan and criminal economy was one of them. "International smugglers benefit from the heroin that is produced in Afghanistan."

Referring to a newly-released survey, Ghani said, five per cent of youth in urban centres and 12 per cent in rural areas were addicted to drugs. Ghani called this a major challenge, saying an addicted youth could turn into a soldier of instability for a country. (Pajhwok)

(2) Warduj District...

Insurgents, eight surrounding districts would also fall to Taliban easily.

He added local officials had told him that the Taliban were preparing to mount attack on them. Last week following heavy fire-fight among security forces and insurgents, the security forces had shunned Sufian and Bashed localities to insurgents. Col. Sakhidat Haidari, a senior security official in Badakhshan, said number of police in Warduj was less who would not be sufficient to the threats that faced the district.

Dawlat Mohammad Khawar, Warduj administrative head, told Pajhwok Afghan News, earlier three battalions of army were deployed in the district, but now there was only one.

Khawar added number of insurgents had swallowed in the district that needed immediate response and deployment of more force. (Pajhwok)

(3) Govt. Committed ...

commitment to provide better health services to mothers and children.

Meanwhile, The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) has said that one out of every 10 babies in Afghanistan died before it was five days old.

Delegates attending the conference included senior ministry of health officials and representatives from donor organizations. The aim of the conference is to discuss challenges in terms of access to health services for mothers.

Based on the latest global figures, of every 1,000 babies born, 327 mothers die, and of every 1,000 children born, 97 die before their fifth birthday.

"Afghanistan is still among the 27 countries with the highest rates of mother and child mortality rates, and the highest in the region. These figures are shocking. Government is committed to facilitating health services to mothers and children," says Abdullah Abdullah, CEO.

"The mortality rate of mothers and children is still a major concern for the Ministry of Public Health. Our country is still suffering high rates of mortality for mothers and children under the age of five. Considerable efforts have been made in this regard, but so far, we have not reached the targeted goal," says Ferozuddin Feroz, Minister of Public Health.

But steps taken in order to reduce these figures have been called insufficient by donor agencies.

"Our message to you as donors is we stand with you to take this step, to renew the promise to save lives. We are heartened by a show of support here today," William Hammink, USAID Mission Director in Afghanistan.

"There is much more that needs to be done, the fact that one in every ten children in Afghanistan dies before they reach their fifth birthday is unacceptable" said Akhil Iyer, UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan. Officials at the Ministry of Public Health and donor agencies have said they will identify the challenges and priorities in the area of health services for mothers and children. Participants are also expected to sign a declaration of continuation of international aid in this area. (Tolnews)

(4) Govt., Partners...

mortality ratio from 1,600 to 327 per 100,000 live births and under five mortality rate from 257 to 97 per 1,000 live births," said Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah in his inaugural speech of the conference.

"And on behalf of National Unity Government of Afghanistan, I promise our commitment to support our health sector in order to improve maternal and child health in Afghanistan," he added.

"This is an historic event, where the government of Afghanistan, partners and technical experts will publicly renew the promise to save the lives of mothers and children and to reach our targets for 2020," said Ferozuddin Feroz, Minister of Public Health at the launch event.

UNICEF Representative Akhil Iyer spoke on behalf of the United Nations in Afghanistan and said: "We will review our progress, agree on a way forward, and promote accountability in delivery of services and reporting results."

"The fact that one child in every ten in Afghanistan dies before they reach their fifth birthday is wholly unacceptable," he said. The fact that most Afghan women, and especially those in remote areas, do not have access to health care services, must change. Together, "we can end preventable maternal and child deaths. It is within our power to make a difference."

William Hammink, USAID Mission Director while speaking on the occasion, said: "As donors, we stand with you as you take this step to renew the promise to save lives." The analysis from this conference is based on evidence about which health interventions will reap the greatest benefit. Together we will commit to find ways to bring those interventions to Afghans across the country including the poorest and the most remote areas." (Pajhwok)

(5) Court Delays ...

Sharif son of Sharafuddin, Abdul Bashir son of Abdul Shakoor on the charges of killing Farkhunda and burning her body.

Those sentenced to 16 years in jail included Ghiasuddin, Habibullah, Akramuddin, Mohammad Inran, Abdul Fatah, Ghulam Mohammad, Mohmand and Sayed Noor Rahman. The convicts have the right to appeal the sentences.

The trial that began on Saturday involved 49 suspects, including 19 police officers, over the March 19 killing that sparked nationwide outcry and made international headlines. (Pajhwok)

(6) Peace Process ...

"War is unaffordable, and the levels of aid which go on to sustain the security establishment are not going to be forthcoming forever," a statement quoted Haysom as saying.

He added: "It doesn't have to be at peace immediately, but [Afghanistan] is simply not going to survive if there isn't peace in the long-term."

The UNAMA received a new mandate from the UN Security Council in March, which says that UNAMA would play a role in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan and that an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process is critical to support reconciliation.

"A peace process must be one in which Afghans talk to Afghans, not Afghans talk to the United Nations. As we say in Africa, where I come from, the doctor can't take medicine on behalf of the patient," said Haysom, who comes from South Africa.

UNAMA also helps ensure coordination between the international community, donors and government of Afghanistan. In addition, more than 20 UN agen-

cies work in Afghanistan with many have been in the country for decades.

"As the international community draws down, if the UN would precipitously leave Afghanistan, it would be seen as abandonment," he added.

As part of its core mandate, the Mission is also working to try to ensure that women and youth have an equal right to participation in public life.

"Why would we put such an emphasis on it?" Haysom said. "Apart from the question of human rights standards, apart from the question of the fact that women constitute 50 per cent of the population, or that youth are the country's future, what we know is that for effective growth and development, the participation of women in the public and economic life of the nation is critical." (Pajhwok)

(7) Iran is Ready ...

who have tolerated huge massacres, but never yielded to defeat. The former foreign minister said that the US is trying to safe its face in Afghanistan as it says it will evacuate its forces in accordance with the signed agreements. (Trend News Agency)

(8) 850 Militants ...

commander, joined the peace process two years ago and expressed satisfaction after renouncing violence.

"We had a painful life earlier and could not live with our families. After returning to the peace process, we came to know how beautiful life is."

The High Peace Council was established in 2010 after decision of Loya Jirga, with provincial offices were set up after two years. (Pajhwok)

(9) Officials, Civil ...

said that they had carried out successful blood donation drives around the country Sunday.

A celebrity donar was Farhad Darya, the popular Afghan singer, who also gave up his time to help the troops. He said that everyday Afghan soldiers sacrificed their lives to fight for peace and everyday dozens of families lost sons who fight insurgents as proud soldiers.

He said that a nation forced to spill the blood of its sons in exchange for peace is unforgivable. As an Afghan I want to call on all insurgent groups involved in this war and tell them that they need to have the determination to work towards peace because they are splitting the nation.

Anarkali Honaryar, a Senator who was also there to donate blood said that "as a representative of the Meshrano Jirga (The Upper House) and a person of honor I am donating blood for them today and to say to them that their sister is also alongside them."

A spokesman for the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Hassib Sediqi said that "we have come here to donate blood for those who defend our people in the trenches. This is the least we can do for our security forces."

Officials at the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan Hospital said that so far they had received about 15,000 ccs. They said this was not a massive amount but that it would help soldiers and it would send a strong message to the public to come forward and help donate blood for the security forces. (Tolnews)

(10) General Murad ...

governance," General Murad said on Saturday. "The ANSF are walking with people in the area and people are starting to reopen their shops. The ANSF has also recovered over 30 tons of explosives, which includes suicide bombing vests and mines."

Afghan forces fought militants in Nawa by air and ground for over 14 days before finally riding the entire district of them. Meanwhile, the Afghan military has similar ongoing operations in Helmand, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Ghazni, Zabul and Farah provinces. But Murad expressed confidence that the Afghan forces would be successful wherever they face off with insurgents.

"Those who want to start operations against the people of Afghanistan will be defeated," Murad said. "Anti-government armed groups have suffered major losses in our operations." (Tolnews)

(11) Herat Economic ...

appointed governor, on the first day of his work assured investors that strict law and order and beefed up security were among his priorities. (Pajhwok)

(12) Iran Set to...

a deal has been finalized to export six million liters of diesel and two million liters of kerosene to Iraq's Kurdistan region. The head of NIOPOC added that Tehran and Kabul already have a deal based on which Iran exports one million liters of diesel per day to Afghanistan.

Concurrent with an increase of 100 million cubic meters of natural gas in the year to March 20, 2015 and a predicted rise of 100 mcm in the year to March 19, 2016, there is surplus capacity for exporting various oil products in Iran, he added.

He noted that there is a 15-million-liter surplus capacity in Iran to export diesel and kerosene to the international market.

The National Iranian Oil Company is scheduled to make liquefied gas and kerosene available to the market, he added.

Iran sits atop the world's fourth largest oil reserves and the first largest gas reserves. (Agencies)

(13) Paktika Elders...

agriculture lands which could be impossible for them to vacate, he added.

Khalid suggested that the mayor could easily implement his strategic master plan in a plain area in eastern part of the area.

Amanullah, another elder, said then president Hamid Karzai issued a decree banning development of townships on agricultural lands.

Abdul Qayyum, a businessman, said he paid 3,000,000 afis to the mayor few years back for construction of four markets but since then the mayor had not handed over the markets. The mayor wanted to sell the markets to other businessmen, he added.

Banaras Nisar, president of shop-keeper union, said the mayor increased shop permit fee from 250 afis to 5,000 afis. Sharan municipality had 29 markets in the city and the mayor had given most of the shops to influential instead of poor and deserving.

Haji Mohammad Khan, president of unions of gas stations and mosques, said: "The population of the town is less and has over 270 markets where as economic exchange growth is also limited hence there is no need to expend the city to reconstruct township over agricultural land."

The elders complained that mayor's policies had widened the gulf between locals and government which needed to be bridged. They warned of Khost's style protests in the area and the responsibility would be on mayor.

Mohammad Khalid, another elder, said that they had submitted written complaints to the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) but its response was yet awaited.

Eng. Karim, director urban development, said the government had not implemented any plan to order a township on any agricultural land.

Obaidullah Saadat, Paktika mayor, called it baseless allegations. He added he distributed shops as per governor's and commission's recommendations among deserving people. Most of the aggrieved people complained to protect their own interests, the mayor said.

The mayor categorically denied reconstruction of any township over agricultural land but Pajhwok received a signed letter of the mayor which described the villages where the mayor wanted to implement Master Plan. Saadat explained he increased the shop permits as per suggestion from the central government. The mafia did not want development in Sharan City, therefore, they created hurdles for his development projects, he added. (Pajhwok)

(14) Many Zabul Areas...

between Qalat and Shahjoi, where 400 to 500 Taliban insurgents were based.

The security forces were in better position to secure control of the entire area, he noted.

Although, the security officials asserted they could have chance to recapture Khak-e-Afghan district and could release the 31 abducted passengers from the militants yet they did not have any

success.

However, casualties suffered by security forces could not be immediately ascertained.

But Taliban claimed inflicting heavy casualties on security forces during the ongoing operation. (Pajhwok)

(15) NPC Approves...

by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, ministers of defence, education interior, energy and water and other high ranking officials, the statement said.

It added the officials approved some projects, while few were delayed due to lack of proper documentations.

The meeting approved construction of the second portion of Kamal Khan Dam in southern Nimroz province, but stressed that the company which would get contract should ensure completion of project in a specific time. (Pajhwok)

(16) Insurgents Intensify...

council member, said: "The district has strategic importance for Taliban since from where they can pose security threat for Kabul and other provinces."

Brig. Gen. Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai, provincial police chief, confirmed the district was facing with looming insurgents' threat. But he said that security had been beefed up. "The rebels cannot secure control of the entire district."

The police chief said more security personnel would be deployed to ensure security of the district and thwart any militants' threat.

Meanwhile, two armed rebels were killed while two security forces wounded when Taliban raided a security check post in Babos area, he added.

Taliban yet to comment on the incident. (Pajhwok)

(17) Taliban Insurgents ...

both insurgents were killed by the security forces after almost 30 minutes of clashes," he said. Samim Ikhpelwak, a spokesman for the Provincial Governor has also confirmed the attack, but did not provide details about the incident.

The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack.

In the past month, insurgents have increased their attacks across the country, targeting Afghan security force posts and compounds. (Tolnews)

(18) Boom in...

his child while on a motorcycle and crashing with a speedy right-handed car.

He said instead of judicial organs it was the elders who took the matter in their hands and resolved the case with the driver.

Another resident, driving a four-runner high model vehicle, wishing not to be named, said he had bought the car from Kandahar's Wesh city for 700,000 afghanis and if he completed the documents it would cost him more than 750,000 afghanis.

He said he also did not own a driving license but after paying 5,000 afghanis to a middleman he got one without going through other formalities.

Sayed Ahmad, another driver, said: "I don't have any document. My car has tinted window and nobody has stopped me yet."

According to the provincial hospital, during in the last two months two people have been killed and 163 wounded in traffic accidents.

Dr. Juma Gul Yaqoobi, the hospital director, said last year three people were killed and 1,200 others wounded in road crashes. At least 21 of the wounded were shifted to hospitals outside the province due to their critical condition.

Abdul Qayom, an official at traffic department, said majority of the private cars in the province were right-handed and were owned by powerful figures.

"We have proper figures because we don't have power to deal with powerful individuals," he added. (Pajhwok)

(19) Obama to...

for the region is a bad idea. I think everyone's on board," Qtaiba said. "The challenge is how do you turn on a regional defense system when different countries are purchasing different equipment and at different paces? How do you link it? How do you get the radars to talk to

each other?" (AP)

(20) Ukraine Peace...

links, have soured sharply over Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean region and its support for the separatists. Berlin has strongly backed the Western economic sanctions subsequently slapped on Russia. "But still, the lesson of history is that we have to try everything to solve conflicts - as difficult as they might seem - peacefully and in dialogue and that means diplomatically," Merkel said. (Reuters)

(21) Cameron ...

a liability in the run-up to an election.

Cameron's surprisingly clear victory in Thursday's vote has paved the way for him to make new ministerial appointments from Conservative ranks, as he is no longer reliant on his former Liberal Democrat coalition partners.

But so far the main signal has been one of continuity, with the reappointment on Friday of George Osborne as finance minister, Philip Hammond as foreign secretary, Michael Fallon as defense secretary and Theresa May as home secretary, the British term for interior minister. (Reuters)

(22) N.Korea's...

their diplomatic options. Even before the latest flexing of the North's military might, U.S. officials said the North had not shown it was seriously interested in re-engaging on the nuclear issue.

Former senior U.S. official Victor Cha, an expert on North Korea, said he wasn't sure whether the latest test "will create an impetus for talks or kill it."

"It shows that North Korea's missile capabilities are advancing at a clip that is concerning, if not alarming," he said.

North Korea conducted its first nuclear test in 2006. International penalties were intended to prevent the North from obtaining sensitive technology and starve the country of funds. Yet U.S.-based experts forecast that North Korea could increase its nuclear arsenal from at least 10 weapons today to between 20 and 100 weapons by 2020. (AP)

(23) Gaddafi's Son...

July 19," the chief of the investigation office of the attorney-general, Sadiq Al-Sour, told Reuters. "The defense lawyers had asked for more time to read the case file and prepare for a plea." Saadi Gaddafi faces charges of killing a soccer player and unlawful imprisonment. (Reuters)

(24) Turkmenistan...

passing under the Baltic Sea, and Langede sea pipeline, the biggest in length - 1,200 kilometers, which has been laid through a complex benthic terrain of the Norwegian Sea from Norway to the UK.

"Ensuring environmental safety is a key issue for Turkmenistan," the ministry said. "The strict observance of international environmental norms and standards should be a prerequisite during the implementation of large-scale energy projects."

As for the raw material base of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline, first of all, the offshore fields in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea can become such a base. Moreover, a 1,000 kilometer-East-West gas pipeline will be constructed this year. It will bring together the main gas fields of the country into a single gas transportation system. It will significantly increase the export potential of Turkmenistan.

The construction of this gas pipeline will greatly expand the diversification of the Turkmen natural gas supply routes, as well as create an additional guarantee for the reliable and stable export of Turkmen energy resources to the international markets, the statement said. If necessary, this gas pipeline is capable to supply large volumes of energy resources in the required direction in the long term. "There is an obvious fact," the statement said. "The construction of regional and interregional pipelines is the most effective way to overcome the imbalance in the distribution and consumption of energy resources and thereby to create the favorable conditions for the development of national economies." (Trend News)