

### (1) Law be ...

legal services, issuing of permits and administrative and management affairs. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Ghani Confirms...

government is now focusing on the release of the remaining hostages so they can return to their families. The kidnapping took place in March when masked gunmen stopped two buses the passengers were traveling in on the Kabul-Kandahar highway. Concerted efforts have been carried out in recent weeks by government to free the hostages, including large scale military operations. (Tolonews)

### (3) Wolesi Jirga ...

that parliamentary elections are held without further delay.

"You [parliament] as a body and most importantly as part of the system should deal with the issue of elections seriously. I believe that the first step should be to conduct a meeting inside the house to clarify the requirements for elections to government so that the government announces the schedule for a parliamentary poll," Naseri said.

In addition, house speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim spoke of his disapproval over the continuation of parliament after the completion of its 16th working period (five year tenure).

"We do not think that it would be in the interests of the country if the House of Representatives [Wolesi Jirga], as one of three branches of parliament, continues its job beyond the law. From this venue I want to call upon the president and the chief executive to finalize the date of parliamentary elections," Ibrahim said.

During the session, some MPs criticized the lack of monitoring by the national assembly on government actions and vowed to support the formation of a parliamentary monitoring commission that could pursue effective monitoring of government action.

"In the initial step we should ensure formation of the parliament's monitoring commission on jobs of the government and the commission should collect the views of the legislators particularly drawing up guidelines for government to finalize the date of parliamentary elections," MP Fakoor Behishti said.

Based on the constitution, the tenure of the House of Representatives comes to an end on May 22 and the parliamentary elections must be held within sixty days after the completion of the term. The electoral reform commission is however yet to even set a date for these elections. (Tolonews)

### (4) Nawaz Sharif ...

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and other Pakistani officials. According to Pakistan news agencies, the trip was only decided on Monday at a meeting of high level officials and military leaders.

The meeting apparently focused on Pakistan's relationship and strategic cooperation with Afghanistan.

A statement issued by the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul said that "building close cooperative relations with Afghanistan is a high priority in Pakistan's foreign policy and a vital component of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's vision of a peaceful neighborhood."

The embassy said the prime minister's visit takes place at a time when bilateral relations between the two countries are underpinned by unprecedented warmth, mutual trust and a shared vision of working in lockstep to build a peaceful and stable region.

They said his visit to Afghanistan would further strengthen the positive momentum in bilateral relations and help intensify common endeavors in the pursuit of durable peace, stability and prosperity in the region. This will be the Prime Minister's second visit to Afghanistan and the first after the installation of National Unity Government in Kabul. Earlier, the Prime Minister visited Afghanistan on 30 November 2013. (Tolonews)

### (5) Int'l Donors ...

Independent Election Commission (IEC), 80 percent of the IEC's budget comes from international donors, meaning any decline in funding, let alone a complete withdrawal of it, would have a major impact on the commission's capacity to continue its operations.

"Donors have definitively announced the end of their financial cooperation with us," Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) Secretary Nadir Mohseni said on Monday. "The donors have asked the election management bodies to manage their budget from within the government's budget, and it is quite a concerning issue for us."

In addition to providing the funding for Afghanistan elections themselves, international donors have also been responsible for paying the salaries of IEC and ECC employees. Now, either the Afghan government will have to foot the bill, or the election commissions could be facing a major crisis.

"With the aid cut there would be serious challenges for us," IEC member Sareer Ahmad Barnak acknowledged to TOLONews. "Therefore, the donors must abide by their commitments and provide the necessary support to the election commissions." Meanwhile, election monitoring activists have voiced a degree of understanding when it comes to the cuts, they themselves having been consistent champions of electoral reform and critics of the election commissions long before the aid cuts were being considered.

"There are two important factors behind the aid cut: first, the confusion about the parliamentary elections and implementation of reforms in the electoral system and election commissions, and, secondly, the election commission's mis-management during the presidential and provincial council elections," Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) Executive Director Mohammad Yousaf Rashid said. "The issue has discouraged the donors from continuing to fund Afghanistan's electoral institutions."

Based on the Afghan Constitution, parliamentary elections were originally expected to take place in May of this year. However, with no progress made on electoral reform, and the election commissions now defunded, it is unclear if the elections will even take place this year, let alone in the next few months. (Tolonews)

### (6) Status of \$20mln ...

"Our capital is there and we are deported here to Kabul."

The Afghan Senate and Work and Development Party have come to the defense of the deported businessmen, calling on the Afghan government to take action to support them. "The government is still silent and has not shown even a small reaction, even though it's unfair trade and a major economic violation," party leader Zulfakar Omid said. "The government has not shown even the smallest reaction over the past two weeks."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has reportedly assigned a committee to investigate the issue. But when asked about the subject ministry officials declined to comment.

About a week ago, the UAE revoked the licenses and working permits of over 600 traders, giving them two weeks to leave the country. (Tolonews)

### (7) MoFA summons...

traders have been canceled and they have been deported which sparked objections by Afghan government.

Hikmat Khalil Karzai political deputy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressed concern over Afghan traders deporting while visiting Juma Al-Kabai UAE Chargé d'affaires.

Karzai said: "At least 300 to 600 Afghan citizens working in UAE have been deported. They have invested millions of dollars in the UAE."

On other hand, the Chargé d'affaires accepted Afghan official concerns over his country but said that Afghan media misreported the news. He said a number of Afghans were deported due to legal issues.

Al-kaby added in past, many Afghans were expelled from UAE where their ethnicity, language and religion were not clarified. He assured the deputy minister to share his concerns with high authorities in UAE and send feedback within next few days. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Go! Stay V...

past ten years, expressed his happiness at being able to complete his master's degree. He said he is currently working as a graphic visualizer in Delhi.

"Staying in India, I have been able to complete my education. I have completed my master's degree. Currently, I am working with a multinational company in Delhi," said Ameri. The UNHCR is working closely with the Government of India to facilitate Afghans seeking refuge.

UNHCR senior protection officer Kavita Belani said, "While India over the past three decades or more has displayed generosity and warmth to Afghan refugees seeking safety and sanctuary, as of now, there are 10,300 Afghan refugees who have been registered by the UNHCR. Over the years, the government has continued to provide stay visas for most Afghan refugees. This administrative policy and practice of the Government of India to issue stay visas is a positive

development."

India, a close ally to Afghanistan, is helping to rebuild the war-torn country. (ANI)

### (9) Building Tangible...

to an end on January 1. The alliance embarked on the new "Resolute Support" mission aimed at training, advising and equipping Afghan National security Forces (ANSF). The international community was committed to assist ANSF with \$4 billion annually, Abdullah concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (10) India and Afghan ...

festive celebrating Afghani cuisines started at ITC Maurya, New Delhi on May 1 wherein four chefs from Inter Continental Hotel, Kabul have showcased delicacies of a wide variety of Afghan food. The event generated a lot of interest in Afghan cuisine in Delhi.

The Indian food festival is scheduled to start at Inter Continental Hotel in Kabul from 19 to 29 May. A team of four chefs from ITC Maurya, New Delhi will be showcasing a variety of Indian cuisines from their famous Dum Pukht restaurant. The history of this legendary cuisine cooked over long periods of time is interesting, and this style developed accidentally in a period of famine which ravaged the state of Awadh, now Lucknow. Nawab Asaf-ud-Daulah of Awadh decreed the construction of a giant edifice, the 'Bara Imambara' to keep population employed. He also decreed that arrangement be made to provide food to the workers. Accordingly food was cooked in enormous containers filled with rice, meat, vegetables, spices etc. and sealed with hot charcoal placed on top and fires lit underneath for slow cooking to ensure that food was available day and night.

The culinary result was amazing as when the vessels were unsealed the aroma even attracted royal attention. Thus originated the concept of 'Dum Pukht' cooking. 'DUM' means to breathe and 'PUKHT' means to cook. The food cooked in this style cooks and breathes in its own natural juices which enhances its aroma as well as its taste.

A delectable menu for all the days of the 'food festival' has been prepared by the visiting chefs who are coming here inspired by the Kabuli Chefs who became popular in New Delhi. Additional details of the menus and availability and timings can be directly ascertained from Hotel Intercontinental. (PR)

### (11) Military Operation ...

Before this, Bahawuddin Qadis, Head of the Provincial Council of Badghis said that Taliban insurgents attacked the district and took control at about 02:00am local time on Saturday night. According to them insurgents also stole weapons. Jawand is one of the largest districts in the province and has only recently become insecure - with insurgents attacking military posts.

The insurgents have attack northern Kunduz, Baghlan and Faryab provinces of the country in the past month which had dozens casualties. (Tolonews)

### (12) Residential Plots ...

and is located two kilometres east of Nili City, the provincial capital. according to officials, it has all the facilities of a modern township such as recreational parks, schools, roads and business centres.

Sayed Ibrahim Hashimi, director refugees and repatriation, told Pajhwok Afghan News they have started distributing plots to the needy on a lottery basis.

Some returning refugees, however, said they did not have the means to build houses for themselves. Mohammad Hassan, who returned with his six-member family from Iran last year, said: "I'm an ordinary laborer. I can't build a house for myself."

He no choice but to borrow money to build a shelter for his family to get rid of renting houses.

Head of refugees department said the plots were distributed with a meager price and the government would build the township's infrastructure. He added until now food items have been distributed to 4,000 repatriated families and construction material was also assisted with 100 families for building their houses.

Based on refugees' department figures, more than 7,500 families have returned to the province from neighboring countries. (Pajhwok)

### (13) 100-Bed Military...

and sought immediate removal of governor and police chief. Jawand district of Badghis fell to Taliban insurgents on Sunday night and security forces had reportedly retreated to west of the district. Officials said fresh troops had been deployed to the district to drive out insurgents.

Abdul Rahim, lawmaker from Badghis who had taken part in the rally, told Pajhwok Afghan News Jawand district was entirely controlled by insurgents and security situation in Moqor, Aab Kamari, and Bala Murghab were also deteriorating.

ter treatment to soldiers when they needed.

He said civilians getting injured in security incidents and traffic accidents would also be treated in the military hospital, but not those suffering from common diseases.

"All sections of the hospital are ready to function. Its administrative affairs are 80 percent complete and the staff will be completed in a month time. The hospital is ready for all kinds of surgical operations."

Maj. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Waziri, the 201st Selab Military commander, said injured troops would previously receive treatment in civil hospitals in the eastern zone.

"We would take injured soldiers in Nuristan province to Kunar, then Nangarhar and if critical to Kabul for treatment, but now this problem has been resolved," he said.

He said international standard machines had been installed in the new hospital, where injured soldiers would receive better treatment.

"This hospital is not for military personnel only, it will in the service of intelligence, police and all security personnel. we thank the US and NATO for assisting the project."

Gen. Waziri also thanked officials of civil hospitals for treating soldiers and other security officials during the past 13 years and said civilians would also benefit from the military hospital. (Pajhwok)

### (14) MPs Discuss ...

our request is for cooperation from other institutions, so they can help stop the smuggling of wood and other items," spokesman Abdul Qader Jeelani told TOLONews.

Deforestation is considered one of Afghanistan's most pressing ecological crisis. Then President Hamid Karzai's decree was aimed at alleviating deforestation pressures as well as better regulating commerce and trade between Afghanistan and neighboring countries like Pakistan. (Tolonews)

### (15) Balkh Starts ...

Afghan News the forum consisted of local elders and malaks would consult security officials and share necessary information with them.

He said the government wanted to bring closer people and police, a liaison that was necessary for sustainable peace. He said the community policing process was launched from Khulm district.

The forums would inform police about suspicious activities and persons and police would assist the committees in legal issues, he said, adding such systems existed in other countries and effective in maintaining peace.

Abdul Samad, a member of the peace committee for Khulm district, welcomed the government's initiative and said sustainable peace could only be possible if local residents extended complete support to security forces.

Balkh police chief Shabar Jan Durani said more community policing forums would be set up if the Khulm peace committee produced positive results.

Sharing information and consulting police in important matters were the main goal of the committee, he said, adding that weapons would not be given to the committee and its work would be confined only to sharing information with police. (Pajhwok)

### (16) More Badghis ...

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"I think a deal had been struck. The district chief and police chief had hand in the fall of the district," he claimed.

He accused the governor and police chief of negligence to bolster security. "We want security and change. We want the governor and police chief sacked."

Abdul Basir Osmani, a civil society activist, said the government should take serious measure to ensure security in the province. He was also of the opinion that authorities should be dismissed.

In today's Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament session, lawmakers from Badghis expressed concerns about security in the province. "If they don't act seriously more districts tend to be controlled by rebels," said Abdul Rahim, a lawmaker.

Safia Aimaq, another lawmaker, said: "Earlier, we had informed the interior minister and other officials about Taliban's gathering in Jawand district but nobody paid attention." She said more than 500 insurgents had presence in the district threatening other parts of the province. Maj. Gen. Taj Mohammad Mujahid, commander of the 207th Zafar Military Corps, said a contingent of Afghan National Army (ANA) had been sent to Jawand district through air and have set up their posts. He added those troops that were surrounded by insurgents had also joined the fresh forces. (Pajhwok)

### (17) 20 Rebels...

Army (ANA)'s commandos and four helicopters from Herat province provided reinforcement in the operations, he added.

Khatibi said Firozkoh-Charsada highway had closed since last one month by insurgents. A security official wishing not to be named said four policemen had been killed in the fighting.

Mohammad Musa, a resident of Charsada, said he saw bodies of three Taliban fighters. "I still don't know about civilian casualties. We want Taliban and government should not harm locals."

Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesperson, said the group had besieged Charsada and had overrun many outposts.

Charsada is among far-flung districts of Ghor bordering Faryab and Sar-i-Pul provinces. Last year, the district was overrun by Taliban for a day. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Hundreds Rally...

that show the assistance has been given to displaced families through different delegations.

Later Matin had told a press conference that he had been quoted out of context. His removal as governor sparked a protest demonstration on Monday.

Hundreds of people, including some provincial council members, attended the rally. The protestors insisted Matin was the only suitable governor for Paktika in the current circumstances.

Carrying photos of Matin and waving national flags, the protestors chanted slogans in support of the former governor. One of them, Nimatullah Babri, the provincial council deputy head, told Pajhwok Afghan News that security had improved in the province after Matin's appointment as governor.

He said Matin had been able to reduce corruption in provincial departments and the gap between the people and the government.

"His removal was an unjust decision by the national security council and can once again increase the gulf between the masses and the government," he said.

Babari warned they would close the doors of the provincial council office if Matin was not reinstated as governor.

Tribal elder Maulvi Abdul Manan also threatened they would shut all government entities if Matin was not reinstated.

Another elder Abdul Aleem said Matin was the only governor in the past 13 years to create coordination among tribes, religious scholars and the government, raising hopes for a better future.

The protesters also issued a statement that called as unfair the decision to remove Abdul Karim Matin as the governor of Paktika. It warned all government departments would be closed if Matin was not reappointed as the governor.

The statement called Matin as a sensible, patriot and experienced person and urged the president reinstate him as governor. (Pajhwok)

### (19) UNAMA Strongly...

targeting civilians are strictly prohibited under international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes," he added.

UNAMA said in a statement from 1 January to 10 May 2015, the Taliban claimed responsibility on their website for 11 separate attacks against legal professionals and court houses which caused 28 killed and 86 injured an increase of more than 600 per cent from the same period last year.

"These attacks call into question the Taliban's public statements to protect civilians," said Georgette Gagnon, UNAMA's Human Rights Director. "All of those killed and injured in the 10 May attack in Kabul were civilians going about their daily business."

UNAMA reiterated that international humanitarian law, which binds all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, including the Taliban, prohibits attacks against civilians at any time and in any place. This includes civilian government workers and judicial authorities, the statement added. (Pa-

jhwok)

### (20) FIFE Becomes...

the UK had a "moral duty" to help people whose lives would be at risk were they to stay in Afghanistan.

A report on Fife's potential participation in the UK Government's Afghan Relocation Ex-Gratia Scheme was presented to the local authority's executive committee.

A report to that committee by Derek Muir, Fife Council's head of neighbourhood services, said: "The Prime Minister has made a commitment to relocate to the UK 300 Afghan families and individuals who have assisted the British Army during the period of service duty in Afghanistan.. (Agencies)

### (21) Afghan Clerics ...

He warned to turn Kabul city upside down if the government did not take any action to stop such movements.

"I have 7,000 supporters who will obey any orders I give them. I can turn Kabul city upside down," Baligh said, adding that the government has failed to enforce laws that would require it to punish those who offended Islam. (KP)

### (22) India and Afghan...

a lot of interest in Afghan cuisine in Delhi.

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### (23) Along with...

President Barack Obama had planned to meet King Salman one-on-one a day before the gathering of leaders at the presidential retreat but the White House did not take his decision to skip the summit as a sign of any substantial disagreement with the United States. (AP)

### (24) Russia Has...

Relations between Russia and the West are at their lowest ebb since the end of the Cold War due to Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in March 2014 and its backing for the rebels. The West has imposed economic sanctions on Russia, triggering retaliation by Moscow. (Reuters)

### (25) 72 Dead as...

provincial capital and a military base in recent weeks. More than 220,000 people have been killed in Syria since anti-government protests broke out in March 2011 spiralling into civil war in the face of a bloody crackdown by security forces. (AFP)

### (26) S.Korea Tells...

new level, allowing deployment far beyond the Korean peninsula and the potential to retaliate in the event of a nuclear attack.

The main strategic threat from such a weapon is the difficulty in tracking a submerged, armed submarine, Kim said. (AFP)

### (27) Libyan Military...

"We condemn strongly this contemptible attack which targeted a civilian ship in international waters and curse those who carried it out," (Reuters)

### (28) Syria Army ...

also potentially to retake the town, which lies near the Turkish .(AFP)