

### (1) Joint Global...

Ghani termed terrorism the enemy of humanity which recognized no border and a grave threat to the security of the globe.

The Afghan government believed that a joint cooperation and multi-dimensional efforts against terrorism were the only way to defeat it.

In the statement the Afghan government offered condolences to the Indonesian and French governments over terrorist attacks and shared the sorrow and grief with the victims' families.

"Afghanistan is in the frontline of terrorism and Afghans suffered from terrorism over decades. The people of Afghanistan understood the grief and sorrow of the victims' families more than anyone else," the statement said.

It is worth mentioning the Indonesian has recently hosted a trilateral ulma conference on Afghan peace process in which clerics from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Indonesia participated. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Senators Want...

dispatching them ammunitions on time."

Senator Nadar Baloch from north-western Nimroz province said: "The cause of huge casualties to security forces is poor management of the war on the government part."

Senator Faisal Sami from northern Baghlan province said he had several times shared his concern about the security situation in Baghlan with government officials but in vain, allowing Taliban insurgents to capture the Tala wa Barfak district and kill dozens of security forces.

Senate chairman Fazl Hadi Muslimyar also expressed his concern about the growing insecurity in the country and urged the government to revise the war management.

He said a large number of provinces were being threatened. He promised to take up the issue with President Ashraf Ghani. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Tehran Willing...

Amir Hatami warned of the growing presence of Daesh (ISIL) in Afghanistan. He said Tehran was willing to help Kabul eliminate the terrorist outfit.

Afghanistan should become the centre of regional cooperation, not a field for regional or international rivalries, Daesh he remarked.

A year ago, Kabul and Tehran held the first round of talks on a comprehensive strategic partnership document to boost cooperation in fields of security, defence, economy, culture and education. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Religious Scholars...

in the document. The word doesn't describe Pashtuns alone, but applies to all Afghans."

Maulvi Fazal Rahman, a scholar from Kabul, urged the warring parties not to disrupt the forthcoming elections and let the people cast their votes in a specific atmosphere.

He called on militants to renounce war and join elections. At the end of the session, Abdul Hai Niamti, the Baghlan governor, said ulema were the leading lights for the Afghan government.

He said they had always respected clerics and asked them to highlight the imperative of peace and elections in Juma sermons. He hailed scholars' support for processes such as reconciliation and elections. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Observers Warn...

Some circles within government are making attempts to impose the plan on the IEC to reduce the number of electoral constituencies or dividing the provinces into several electoral constituencies, officials from the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) said on Sunday. TEFA officials also criticized the IEC over their failure to form a media commission.

Meanwhile a number of political analysts have said that any attempt by government to interfere in the elections could further expand mistrust among the public about the election process.

Based on the election law, the government should have announced its decision 180 days before the elections on whether to hold the elections with a constituency-based method or the previous method. But election observers and monitoring groups have accused government of making deliberate attempts to impose its plan on the election commission.

"Information which has been received by TEFA indicates that certain circles in government are trying to impose the plan to downsize the electoral constituencies, this policy is in violation of the law and it is not practical," said TEFA member Sughra Saadat.

TEFA also criticized the IEC for not organizing the exams for appointments in its key departments.

"The issue of delaying the appointment of the head of the IEC secretariat and provincial authorities is still in place, circles from outside the government are trying to appoint their desirable candidates in these positions," said TEFA chief Naeem Ayoubzada.

But, President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman Shahhussain Murtazawi has rejected allegations of interference by the government in the elections.

"The meetings which are held at ARG (Presidential Palace) in the presence of members of the independent election commission, all are there in attendance including observer groups, ambassadors of the donor countries and all decisions are made in consensus with all present, the government is not involved in any kind of interference in the process," said Murtazawi.

"Election environment in the country is very sensitive, all people and international institutions are seriously overseeing the process, then they should allow the commission to undertake its jobs based on the law and away from any kind of interference," said political analyst Abdul Rashid Jan.

"This is not elections, but a selection, there is no need to spend people's money for these dramatic elections," said senator Farhad Sakhi. (Tolo news)

### (6) Construction...

pipeline passes through Herat, Farah, Nimroz, Helmand and Kandahar provinces of Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, the TAPI pipeline will be constructed alongside the Kandahar-Herat Highway in western Afghanistan, and then via Quetta and Multan in Pakistan.

The final destination of the pipeline will be the Indian town of Fazilka, near its border with Pakistan. The project will cost \$22.5 billion USD.

The project will be completed by 2019, according to President Ashraf Ghani's Office.

The project is implemented by the TAPI Limited Company - a group of firms from Afghanistan and Turkmenistan including Afghan Gas Enterprise, Turkmen Gas State Company, and two private companies from Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

### (7) Demanding...

However, the peace tent members in Helmand on Sunday started their journey on foot to Kabul for the sake of peace.

Mohammad Khyber Iqbal, one of the walk organizers, from Helmand to Kabul, said they wanted peace and an end to the conflict.

"After the warring sides did not hear our voice and we even endured further problems, our telephone services were cut off, but we would continue our struggle," he said.

He said they recently asked the warring sides to cease fighting in the wake of the fasting month of Ramadan and choose a date for negotiations, but no sides responded.

"We started our journey on foot today to Kabul to strengthen our movement," he said.

Qais Hashemi, another member of the journey, that he joined the peace movement with his family's consent. "No one has forced me to join this movement, I told my family that I would sacrifice my life for peace and they agreed with me," he said.

Hashemi asked people to join the movement and achieve their dream of peace. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Govt Accused...

trying to add an extra regulation in terms of limitations and restrictions of live coverage of terrorism-related activities.

"The government does not have the will to support the media and the journalists. Press freedom and freedom of speech are the last pillars of the democratic process in Afghanistan, we believe that the government is trying to breakdown the main pillars of this process," said Hamid Poya, chairman of Media Bazar Organization.

"The media, has had over 100 staff members killed or wounded in the past 15 or 16 years and hundreds more have been displaced, now we cannot suppress it (media) or impose restrictions on the orders of a few people who do not like live broadcasting," said Mawlana Abdullah, chairman of Afghanistan Radio & Television Union (ARTU).

This comes after 11 journalists were killed in the country last month - in three separate incidents.

One journalist was gunned down in Kandahar and another was shot six days later in Khost province. However nine journalists were killed in Kabul in a single explosion.

"In the second explosion (two weeks ago) which led to the martyrdom of journalists, was it a suicide attack or the result of pre-embedded material? These are among the dangerous questions which are circulating in our minds. Based on the law, the government does not have pre and post broadcast censorship rights," said Mir Ali Asghar Akbarzada, chairman of the Afghanistan National Journalists Union.

Hujjatullah Mujadadi, chairman of the Afghanistan Freelance Journalists Union meanwhile said: "These cases make the situation worse than in the past, the violence will increase and the working environment for journalists will become limited in the provinces."

On April 30, a coordinated double suicide bombing claimed by the Daesh militant group hit central Kabul, killing at least 25 people, including nine Afghan journalists.

The journalists were killed after they rushed to cover the aftermath of the first blast in the area. (Tolo news)

### (9) UN to Afghan...

"The government has made significant progress in ending violence against women, but the use of mediation for the gravest cases of violence, including murder, severe violence and harmful traditional practices, is to be regretted."

In a statement from the UN, Gilmour said: "What would send a strong signal to those men who continue to violently abuse women with impunity would be to start seriously prosecuting them."

He also urged the authorities to investigate and prosecute military or civilian perpetrators of sexual abuse of boys. He welcomed the commitment from the government, particularly the minister of interior, to end impunity for the despicable form of child abuse.

Welcoming the government's adoption of the new anti-torture law and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, Gilmour urged active implementation that required prosecuting perpetrators.

During his trip to Kunduz, Gilmour met the governor and senior members of security forces and judicial institutions. He stressed the need to reduce civilian casualties in military operations.

He also met community representatives from Laghmani village, Dasht-e-Archi district, in relation to the April 2 aerial operations by Afghan forces in their village, in which more than 100 people, mainly children, were killed and wounded.

Gilmour, deeply troubled by the accounts of the devastating loss and suffering from this incident, asked the government to take measures to protect civilians, hold perpetrators accountable in line with their obligations under international humanitarian law and restore trust between the residents of Dasht-e-archi and the Government.

"Accepting full responsibility for what clearly was a terrible mistake, and a sincere apology for the suffering caused is always a useful step in advancing reconciliation and a failure to do so provides great ammunition for terrorists," he said.

Gilmour stressed the UN human rights team in Afghanistan continued to document high levels of civilian casualties, particularly from suicide attacks in densely populated areas.

He referred to a report released on Thursday by UNAMA detailing a disturbing pattern of attacks at election-related facilities following the start of voter registration for the October 2018 polls, resulting in 271 civilians killed and injured.

In his meeting with President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday, Gilmour welcomed the government's clear commitment to take additional measures

to protect civilians, despite extremely difficult circumstances.

Speaking at a conference on Accountability, Human Rights, Justice and Peace in the pursuit of reconciliation, he said the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) had been performing impressively and remained a key pillar of the human rights community.

"The Afghan People Dialogue, facilitated by AIHRC, civil society and UNAMA, showed how much the people of Afghanistan want security and a lasting peace built on accountability and justice. I hope the government hears these compelling voices," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (10) HIV/AIDS a...

said over 2,500 people are infected with HIV/AIDS and have been identified by the ministry.

Feroz said over three million people are addicted to drugs in Afghanistan and that most of them are using the same syringes which provides the ground for HIV/AIDS to spread.

"This is a social problem, an economic problem, a security problem, and if it changes into a political problem it will turn into a crisis," he said.

The Ministry of Public Health has 13 specific centers for HIV treatment in 13 provinces.

"Those who have been infected with HIV/AIDS are ill human beings therefore they need treatment," said Mohammad Shafi Samim, deputy minister of education. (Tolo news)

### (11) New Energy...

also increased due to power supply in this area."

The new network currently provides connections for more than 2,600 households. This number could potentially grow to 3,000 households in the future.

An additional administrative building was constructed to ensure the energy supply's reliability. The new facility offers office and storage space, allowing for the network's effective operation and maintenance.

Besides funding the construction works, the Afghan-German Cooperation offered on-the-job training, coaching and mentoring activities for engineers and managers working for DABS. These activities aimed at developing the DABS' ability to identify, design, construct and maintain electric supply networks independently in the future.

Secure electricity helps to increase employment, promote economic growth and improve living conditions.

The Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) is implemented by KfW Development Bank on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The program aims at improving economic and social infrastructure in Northern Afghanistan while enabling provincial administrations to plan and implement development programs increasingly independently.

In the past 7 years the program has funded and constructed/rehabilitated more than 160 kilometres of roads, approximately 50 kilometres of irrigation canals and 11 protection dams against flooding or erosion in the provinces Balkh, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan and is now implementing two schools rehabilitations also in Samangan Province.

At the same time, the RIDF program has organized about 490 job-specific on-the-job trainings, coaching and seminars for more than 2,300 engineers and governmental employees facilitating the independent realization of future infrastructure projects. (Wadsam)

### (12) 8 Afghans...

build it until the day that I die," said Abdul Hanan. "I am very proud and I am extremely happy to be representing Afghanistan in Australia to the entire world. I will represent this beautiful flag, but truly I am very small to have such a big role."

The Invictus Games are an international sporting event for wounded, ill and injured servicemen and women, both currently serving and veterans. The Games use the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for those who serve their country.

"I'm very excited for the Invictus Games," said Sohail. "It is my first time that I am selected in this game, and I'm very happy to represent Af-

ghanistan in Australia and show the world that Afghans are not defeatable. We will stand up to represent Afghanistan in the best way possible, and we ask the people of Afghanistan to support us."

"Remember you are not alone," said Nicholson. "We are with you. We are with the soldiers and police of Afghanistan. We are with you and your families and all the Afghan people in our desire for peace. Together we will win against terrorism and restore stability and peace to Afghanistan that is so richly deserved by the people of this country."

The Invictus Games were established in 2014 by Prince Harry following his inspirational visit to the Warrior Games in Colorado in 2013. It was at that event that he saw how the power of sport could help wounded warriors physically, psychologically and socially. Afghanistan has participated in each competition since the Games were founded.

The 2018 Invictus Games will be the largest to date with 18 countries, 11 adaptive sports and over 500 competitors.

"Many of the nations competing in Sydney have served here in Afghanistan, or are currently serving to achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan," said Ms. Diana Shi, Australian Consul General. "Last year in Toronto, Afghanistan's team won its first medals, a silver and bronze and were presented the "Best Team" award for 2017." (Pajhwok)

### (13) Taliban Capture...

a mortar, a machine gun and four rifles from the security personnel based in the locality.

According to local officials, the militants also suffered heavy casualties during the overnight firefight, but they did not give exact figures. (Pajhwok)

### (14) More ID...

Resident of Kabul will start receiving forms for e-NIC from Monday. The card distribution exercise has four phases: Collecting personal and family identity information, identification, registration, printing and distribution.

Ahmadzai said five more centres would be established in other parts of the capital over the next six months. Later on, similar sites will be set up in Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar, Kandahar and other provinces.

He did not specify the number of centres to be set up across the country, but said the process of distributing e-NICs would continue for five years. During the time, all citizens would be provided ID cards. (Pajhwok)

### (15) 'Ethnic Discrimination'...

were not in dark about later stages until interviews.

He said candidates should be given preference considering their proficiency and discrimination on ethnic and linguistic lines would give birth to serious problems.

However, Mohammad Nazari, public awareness in-charge at IECC, rejected the allegation of ethnic discrimination, saying the employment process of provincial commissioners were based on merit, but the last employment was based on a competitive exam for transparency.

The IECC is authorized to select its employees and the commission can select individuals and suggest them to the President.

"The IECC commissioners are from different ethnic groups of the country, two of the commissioners are Pashtuns, one is Hazara, one is Uzbek and one is Tajik, these commissioners consider ethnic balance," he said.

About the nature of exam from provincial IECC members, Nazari said, "The exam from provincial IECC members was taken by Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC, which was based on merit and qualification." (Pajhwok)

### (16) Herat Clashes...

fighters of Mullah Najib and one of Mullah Nangyali were killed and eight others on two both sides got injured.

Separately, two Taliban were killed and five others injured during a clash with security forces in Obe district. The security forces escaped unharmed in the clash, he added. (Pajhwok)