

**(1) Afghan Conflict...**

not flexibility in any kind," he said on talks with the Taliban. He said for the first time in history of Afghanistan, principle was chosen over power and the government of national unity was their first peace. "We avoided conflict, we showed that an inclusive political process is possible." Ghani said the peace the Afghan public sought was a sustainable peace that would last, not one of those concluded within five years. "The conflict that re-erupts is 10 times worse."

He recalled around 33,000 Taliban young fighters came to cities during the ceasefire -- the week before there were 1,000 casualties. "In those three days, no one was molested, insulted, humiliated. It shows that our society is opting to overcome the past and choose the future."

About changes to the Constitution as demanded by the Taliban, he said the supreme law needed to be amended, it but through constitutional processes:

About a loya jirga, Ghani said all streams would be brought together in the consultative Loya Jirga which would take place within a month. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Taliban-Imran Meeting...**

and legitimisation of an armed group that posed a serious threat to Afghanistan's security.

The Taliban members were sanctioned by provisions of the UN Security Council's 1988 Committee's sanctions regime, the letter concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Balkh Man...**

their custody after beheading his wife.

A security official, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok the incident happened in the Bokai village of the district late on Saturday afternoon.

The killer managed to escape after beheading his wife, he added.

Police spokesman Adil Shah Adil said he was unaware about the incident but heard the issue from some folks. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Probe Into IEC...**

said Sughra Saadat, spokesperson for Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA). However, most of the IEC's work has ground to a halt following the dismissals.

"There are some legal issues on which members of the commission are supposed to take a decision about, but these issues are stopped now, but the technical work moves forward," said Sayed Ebrahim Sadat, head of IEC's IT department.

Discussions and consultations over the draft amendment started earlier this month and was unanimously endorsed by all groups -- before being approved by Ghani's cabinet last week.

This move came amid ongoing criticism leveled at the commissioners who have still not released the final results for October's parliamentary elections for 15 provinces.

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) meanwhile also imposed a travel ban on the former election commissioners, just hours after their dismissal.

The commissioners -- 12 in total -- were appointed to the posts in November 2016 as part of government's efforts to ensure transparent and fair parliamentary elections. (Tolo news)

**(5) Civil Service...**

phone number, education level, education field and information about the job.

The statement said an officer's

fingerprint, retinal ID and photo would be also registered in the HRIMS.

IARCSC said Afghanistan currently had around 424,000 civil service workers and the HRIMS system would determine the number of civil service officers.

Based on this system, name, nickname, father's name and bank account number would be added to the officer's bank card and that information would be synched with payment system of the Ministry of Finance, the source said.

It said only eligible civil service workers would be able to receive their salaries and ghost sources of money receivers would be stopped.

Ahmad Nader Naderi, IARCSC head, said, "We needed comprehensive and effective systems for better planning, economic and social development in the country as well as provide stable procedure for information system,"

He said the problems civil service officers faced in traditional systems would not resolved with the new information system.

Creation of HRIMS is a significant development in Afghanistan's civil and state administration that makes the country standardized in this specific area, he said.

Naderi said that the system would be expanded to the Ministry of Education and other government organs after it was fully implemented in IARCSC.

This system was designed by an experienced team of Afghans with the cooperation of Central Statistics Organization and Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Parwan Residents...**

first, especially the people of the northern plains and ask them whether they are ready to agree on peace with the enemies of this country," said Aminullah Shaikoori, deputy head of Parwan Provincial Council.

Parwan activists and residents said members of the public should have a bigger role in the peace process as their role is critical.

"Parwan should be part of the peace process and their representatives should play a key role in this process," said Shafi Mushfiq, an activist in Parwan.

"All layers of society should have a role in the peace process. An inclusive peace process will attain good results," said Jamshed Danishjo, an activist.

This comes after President Ashraf Ghani, who addressed a townhall meeting in Munich on Saturday, said the peace process needs to be citizen-centered not elite-centered. "Peace needs to be citizen-centered, not elite-centered and because of it the forthcoming election in July is a must," he said.

Ghani said Afghans are determined to move forward and that there is a need for political inclusion in the peace process. (Tolo news)

**(7) Afghan Investors...**

others are on display in the exhibition."

Rostami said the expo is a good platform to ensure good relations between Afghan and foreign investors.

Participants of the exhibition said they hope they will sign agreements with foreign investors at the event.

"Investors from different countries have attended this exhibition," said Qasim Ghulami, head of Group of Ghulami Brothers Company.

"It is a good opportunity for us to find more customers for Afghanistan's saffron. We held talks with

some Arab investors today (Sunday) who said they are interested in purchasing Afghan saffron," said Mohammad Nadir Malaki, an Afghan investor. (Tolo news)

**(8) Herat Rolls...**

Since 2015 we did not have a single case of polio in Shindand and there were no obstacles in the way of health workers reaching the children," said Hikmatullah Hikmat, the district governor for Shindand district.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) meanwhile said they are working closely with government in order to eliminate the disease.

"More than 800 of our employees are busy providing public awareness campaigns in Shindand district and also we have specified our teams to go door to door for displaced people and provide them with awareness," said Qudratullah Shinwari, an adviser for UNICEF in Herat province.

Afghanistan and Pakistan were the only two countries in the world to record cases of polio last year. Afghanistan recorded 21 cases in total in 2018 and four cases have already been detected this year. (Tolo news)

**(9) Govt Inattentive...**

or any other motivation to help them feel life outside their homes, the disabled are even pushed into a degrading and humiliating environment."

Mohammad Danish, head of the Association of People with Disabilities in Daikundi province, called the complaints as genuine and said non-implementation of the law remained a major problem for the disabled people despite being the most vulnerable class of the society.

He said people with disabilities remained deprived of educational scholarships, the five-percent share in government jobs, admission in private and state run universities and the Hajj quota in Daikundi province.

Dainsh was unsatisfied with the Labor and Social Affairs department's performance, and said, "People with disabilities face a lot of problems in Daikundi but the government does not care about them."

However, Mohammad Haidari, the provincial labor, social affairs, martyrs and disabled department director in Daikundi, rejected the complaints of handicapped people and said these individuals had been provided opportunities to obtain vocational education.

He said the only problem the disabled people in Daikundi faced was the lack of land and this issue would be solved in few years. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Lack of Medicines...**

had dispatched medicines to all districts of the province expect Pasaband as the Taliban were allowing them to do so. He urged local officials to help them transfer medicines to the district. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Heavy Snowfall...**

responsible to clear the roads. He added the issue of road blockade had been conveyed to the higher authorities, but action has yet to be taken.

District chiefs from Azra and Kharwar confirmed the road blockade issue but have not provided more information. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Tent-Pegging...**

attended today have come because of the passion they have for this game," he said.

Other cavaliers said they have limited access to facilities such as decent grounds or stabling for their

horses.

"There is a lack of grounds and a lack of attention by government. But the cavaliers are very skilled," said Ali Akbar, another cavalier, who is from Khost.

The organizers of the event meanwhile said the sport brings together people from different provinces and they see it as a platform for unity among Afghans.

The specific game of tent-pegging has a mounted horseman riding at a gallop and using a sword or a lance to pierce, pick up, and carry away a small ground target or a series of small ground targets.

The broader class of tent-pegging games also includes ring jousting, in which a galloping rider tries to pass the point of his weapon through a suspended ring; lemon sticking, in which the rider tries to stab or slice a lemon suspended from a cord or sitting on a platform; quintain tilting, in which the rider charges a mannequin mounted on a swiveling or rocking pedestal; and Parthian archery. (Tolo news)

**(13) Merkel's Spokesman...**

to climate change.

"In Germany now, children are protesting for climate protection," she said. While conceding that it was "a really important issue," Merkel appeared to cast doubt on its grassroots origins.

"But you can't imagine that all German children, after years, and without any outside influence, suddenly hit on the idea that they have to take part in this process," she said.

Merkel's innuendo is not uncommon, as Moscow has been blamed for a range of international interferences by media and foreign governments, from Brexit in the UK, Yellow Vests in France, and -- most recently -- the global measles outbreak.

However, Merkel's suggestion did not sit well with environmental activists at home, who were fuming at the suggestion. (RT)

**(14) Hundreds Stranded...**

The airline thanked workers for their dedication and said "it is with a heavy heart that we have made this unavoidable announcement."

The airline operated 17 jets on routes to 25 European cities. It employed 376 people in Britain, Germany, Sweden and Belgium and says it carried 522,000 passengers on 29,000 flights last year. Pilots union chief Brian Strutton said the airline's collapse came with no warning and "is devastating news for all employees."

"Our immediate steps will be to support Flybmi pilots and explore with the directors and administrators whether their jobs can be saved," he said.

Britain is scheduled to leave the EU on March 29 but there are serious doubts about whether the British Parliament will approve the Brexit withdrawal deal that Prime Minister Theresa May negotiated with the EU. That is making it more difficult for businesses to plan for the separation. Flybmi said all flights will be cancelled and advised passengers to seek refunds from credit card issuers, travel agents or travel insurance companies.

Passengers were told not to travel to the airport Sunday unless they had made arrangements directly with other airlines. Flybmi said it would not be rescheduling passengers on other airlines' flights. (AP)

**(15) Miner Vale...**

on similar fears of dam failures. The collapse last month of a separate Vale dam in the same area un-

leashed an avalanche of mud that engulfed nearby buildings and farms, killing an estimated 300 people in Brazil's deadliest mining disaster.

As evidence mounted that Vale missed warnings of trouble at the dam in the town of Brumadinho, pressure has risen on the firm and other mining companies to bolster safety measures to avoid a recurrence. (Reuters)

**(16) Irish Backstop...**

Northern Ireland.

The removal of a hard border was a key element of restoring peace to the island of Ireland after decades of conflict.

Asked about British demands to change the backstop, Kaljulaid, whose country joined the EU in 2004, told Reuters at the Munich Security Conference: "This is not possible." (Reuters)

**(17) Syrian's Assad...**

to crush the YPG.

Ankara sees the YPG as a security threat and an extension of the Kurdish PKK movement that has waged an insurgency on Turkish soil for decades.

The U.S. move drove Syrian Kurdish leaders into fresh talks with Damascus and its key ally Moscow, hoping to agree a deal that could protect the SDF region and safeguard at least some of their gains. (Reuters)

**(18) World Bishops...**

cure-all.

Several victims were also invited to the Vatican.

"I ask you to pray for this meeting," the pope said Sunday, adding that he wanted the meeting "as an act of strong pastoral responsibility in the face of an urgent challenge of our time."

The conference aims to be an opportunity to improve awareness of the global phenomenon of sexual abuse of minors within the Church, despite many in Africa, Asia and the Middle East being in denial of what they call "a Western problem".

In many parts of the world, discussing violence towards children and even sex is taboo, leading the Vatican to organise this week's "educational" gathering.

Some abuse victims, particularly from countries where their plight is ignored, have also been invited to attend.

"Someone who has met a victim, heard their cries for help, their tears, their psychological and physical wounds, can't remain the same," said German Jesuit priest Hans Zollner, a psychologist who travels the world educating priests and is one of the conference's organisers. (AFP)

**(19) Lebanese Women...**

"There are a lot of female interior and defense ministers in the world and they have proved their efficiency. It might be a new phenomenon for Lebanon and Arab countries, but hopefully it will be repeated and not be unique," she added.

The three other women in the 30-strong cabinet are in charge of energy, administrative development and the economic empowerment of women and young people. Though Lebanon is widely held to be liberal by regional standards, with women playing a prominent role in public life, some of its laws continue to uphold a patriarchal social code.

Much Lebanese civil law, including personal status matters such as marriage, divorce and inheritance, is applied according to religious sect and in some cases treats women differently to men. Lebanon has 17 recognized Muslim and Christian sects. (Reuters)