

**(1) Beijing Ready ...**

"We support the Afghan reconciliation process and want to play a positive role," he added. (Agencies)

**(2) Left in the...**

chief executive had failed to meet the promises they had held out to the mujahideen during their election campaigns.

"Most of the members of the new cabinet have been part of the communist regime that was supported by the Soviet Union. We expected the mujahideen to be included in the cabinet, not those who are against us," he remarked.

The source added the commanders in the central zone planned to form a new coalition led by Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf, the Dawat-i-Islami party head.

People took to social media, especially Facebook, to express their opinion regarding the new cabinet. Malik Stez, a political commentator, wrote on his page: "This is a political cabinet. Half of members belong to the president and half to the chief executive. There is no place for professionals in it."

Ahsan Zahir, another Facebook user, wrote: "Afghanistan needs people who could actually resolve public problems. In this cabinet, half of nominees are experienced the other half aren't." Abdul Latif Pidram, a member of parliament, said: "CEO Abdullah Abdullah has stabbed his own people in the back. The wounds would not heal in years to come. He has denigrated Ahmad Shah Massoud and the good wishes of Panjsher people."

Saifur Rahman Siddique said: "This has become a government of shareholders. Ramazan Bashardost rightly points out a carpenter has been hired instead of a butcher and a butcher instead of a green grocer. This cabinet looks more like a joke."

Others have come out in support of the cabinet and the unity government, wishing the nominees success in their endeavours to stabilise the country and bring prosperity to Afghans. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Inexperienced ...**

reject "undeserving" ministers-designate because they did not have the capability to guide the country to progress and prosperity.

Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said the government had named the cabinet under immense pressure from the people and civil society organisations. It was the responsibility of the lower house to accept or reject the cabinet picks, he observed. (Pajhwok)

**(4) UAE Promises ...**

A statement from the palace said the two sides agreed that an initial study of the projects would be funded by ADFD and later a regional conference would be held to attract more aid from other Arab nations.

Ghani also met the Sheikh Zayed mosque on Tuesday morning and wrote a few lines in the memorial book. The mosque is the largest in the country and the third biggest in the world. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Kerry, Aziz ...**

clearer than on Dec 16. "The brutal murder of your children was felt by every parent and citizen in the United States."

He welcomed the strong consensus forged by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and other Pakistani leaders about the importance of combating all terrorists without any distinction.

Kerry praised the Pakistan Army operations in North Waziristan Agency, saying the results were significant. The offensive was launched in June to clear the area of militants.

Following his arrival in Islamabad on a two-day visit, Kerry met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The secretary will also meet Army Chief General Raheel Sharif.

Kerry is expected to stress the need for more action to fight groups that Pakistani officials and generals have viewed as strategic assets for gaining influence in Afghanistan.

One US official told foreign media professionals: "Part of the secretary's core message will be to ensure that actions are met with a real and sustained effort to constrain the ability of the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-i-Taiba, the Afghan Taliban, and other militants who pose a threat

to regional stability and to direct US interests." (Pajhwok)

**(6) Women to...**

women and hence the need for hiring more women.

Major General Fazluddin Ayar, 301st eastern zone border police head, told Pajhwok Afghan News the seminar was aimed to encourage women to join the police force.

"Our society is in dire need of having more policewomen. Afghan women should work shoulder to shoulder with policemen," he remarked.

NATO's Resolute Mission representatives also attended the seminar. Col. Stokes told the participants that tens of women had joined border police and were serving their country.

President Ashraf Ghani had ordered MoI to ensure hiring 6,000 policewomen by the end of 2015, he said, adding NATO's combat mission was over. "But we will continue cooperation with MoI and provide assistance in training police." (Pajhwok)

**(7) Paktika, Ghazni ...**

have come from Pakistani religious schools and are linked to the Taliban. I think it is a sinister conspiracy. We are investigating them and would share the results with the central government," he said.

Akbarzada said he had received intelligence information that more terrorists might try to sneak into the areas. Ninety percent of them were Taliban militants fighting against Afghan forces in the past, he continued.

His Paktika counterpart Abdul Matin Karim also said about 850 new families --posing as refugees -- had entered the province.

"We believe they are not genuine refugees; they have come here to fuel insecurity," he remarked.

Matin said the families included Arabs, Pakistanis and Chechens, who forced residents to leave their homes. "These people are spreading fear and terror in the area," the governor charged.

The households are living in Nawbahar, Aab Band, Nawa and Shamalzai districts, close to the Pakistan border, where the security situation has been unstable. Security organs are probing the families.

An influential individual from Nawa district, wishing not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News a number of armed men with links to the Islamic State had infiltrated into his area last week.

"No one knows their language and they are wearing masks and black clothes; they carry black flags inscribed with Allah and Mohammad," the source said. He did not provide details.

Previously, some reports said a number of masked armed individuals had sneaked into the Kajaki district of Helmand province, where they fought against Taliban. But the government has rejected reports of IS activities in Afghanistan.

Mullah Abdul Rauf, a militant leader, is accused of recruiting fighters for the group, which controls large swathes of Syria and Iraq. Rauf was a corps commander during Taliban's rule. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Business Center ...**

and Pakistan stood at USD 600 and the past year.

The majority of trade with India is conducted through the Wagah and Chabahar border crossings.

India has invested USD 2bn in aid and reconstruction process of Afghanistan, and is considered to play a huge role in the stability of Afghanistan and the region as a whole. (Wadsam)

**(9) Police Claim ...**

wounded as result of roadside bombing in the Omki area on the Qalat-Mizani road.

Farahi said the Mizani district police chief was killed in the roadside explosion. The police officer was wounded critically in the blast and succumbed to his injuries in hospital.

In central Logar, two insurgent were killed by the mine they were planting, police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai said.

Separately, security officials seized weapons and explosives during clearing operations in Maidan Wardak province, a statement from the governor's house said. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Taliban Being ...**

Afghan forces had taken charge

of the country's security in compliance with a presidential decree. He said the number of armed forces had increased. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Islamabad Oks...**

by heavy vehicles. The Afghan government, he urged, should take up the issue with Pakistan so that people could heave a sigh of relief.

Public Works Director Eng. Rasoul Gul Faqirzai said most of the bridges had been washed away because of inordinate delays in the road completion. (Pajhwok)

**(12) AAF Special ...**

formulate an accurate plan and then launch the operation."

The 777th Joint Air Brigade, involving Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan National Army (ANA) and National Directorate of Security (NDS) Special Forces was established in 2012.

According to security officials, the establishment of the air brigade was aimed at strengthening the country's Air Force.

Meanwhile, the AAF pilots also seem glade with leading the operations independently.

"We have the ability to lead the operations independently against insurgents and drug traffickers in coordination with our ground forces," AAF pilot Mohammad Dawood said.

According to AAF officials, the Afghan air forces are now fully equipped and have skilled engineers. They insisted that they need no assistance from foreign technical engineers for the maintenance of their helicopters.

Night raids are among the hardest missions of these forces, a mission previously carried out by foreign troops but now upon the shoulders of AAF.

AAF has a key role in every mission and can easily eliminate threats. Currently on average, there are 84 combat and logistic flights from Kabul military airfield.

The training of AAF forces began in 2009; with so far only 20 Afghan pilots have received Shortcomings in AAF is the biggest challenge to Afghanistan after the NATO withdrawal. However, the international community has promised to continue helping Afghanistan in this sector until 2017. (Tolonews)

**(13) Traders Turn ...**

"Hopefully, the daily trade transactions have increased and many other traders have resumed their large amount dealings as well," trader Mohammad Gul Yaktan said.

The cabinet announcement came on Monday after 105 days of NUG, a long delay which sparked huge criticisms from the Parliament and civil society groups.

"After the cabinet nominees were announced, the Afghani currency value against dollar increased immediately," said Mohammad Zarak, spokesman of money-changers union in Sarai Shahzada money market of Kabul.

Meanwhile, the labors and daily-wagers also expressed optimism about their economic situation, hoping the unemployment rate would be decreased in the country.

"In the past nine months, we were unable to earn even 100 AFN per day but now we hope the situation will improve," said Ali Ahmad, who is a porter carrying supplies in a market in the heart of Kabul.

According to economists, the country's political situation has always affected the economic situation of the country.

The longest Presidential Election of Afghanistan which took almost six months to complete and then three months passed in formation of cabinet had broadly impacted the normal lives of citizens and also their economic situation. (Tolonews)

**(14) Karzai Hopeful...**

Wall Street Journal, Karzai said "So that tragedy in Peshawar I hope has brought Pakistan to its conclusion, definite conclusion, that terrorism cannot serve as a tool. It is like playing with a snake. It is bound to bite you one day."

Karzai said the leaders from the Pahstun people of Pakistan visited Afghanistan recently. "They are mostly secular leaders. We all hope that Pakistan would change its approach, we all hope that Pakistan won't find terrorism any longer as a tool of policy. Either

toward Afghanistan or toward other neighbors," he added.

In response to a question regarding Pakistan's sincerity in shifting its policy toward Afghanistan, Karzai said "I hope very much that Pakistan has now begun to sincerely work with Afghanistan toward improving relations and toward not using extremism or radicalism as a tool, as an instrument of policy toward Afghanistan, or toward other countries in this region, toward India."

The Pakistani Taliban militants launched a deadly attack on an army-run school in Peshawar city of Pakistan in mid December last year, leaving at least 141 people dead, mostly school children. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP's) spokesman Mohammad Khorasani told the media that the attack was a revenge of their people killed in Pakistan's military operation in North Waziristan. (KP)

**(15) UN Mission ...**

The nomination of the unity cabinet, which came after a wait of more than three months, is seen as part of a wider move by Afghanistan to bring together the country's political factions. The unity cabinet has yet to be approved by Wolesi Jirga, the National Assembly's Lower House, as prescribed by the country's constitution.

"The spirit of respectful collaboration demonstrated by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, and their teams, in agreeing these nominations is a welcome manifestation of their partnership and cooperation," Haq quoted the secretary-general's special representative, Nicholas Haysom, as saying.

"Given the many pressing issues facing Afghanistan, it is to be hoped that this process can be undertaken in a smooth and timely manner," Haysom said.

He reiterated that "the UN remains a committed and reliable partner of Afghanistan, and looks forward to working with all new ministers and officials in support of the Afghan government's work," Haq said.

The Monday announcement of the unity cabinet nomination came amid a brutal upsurge in attacks throughout the country. The year 2014 was the deadliest for Afghan civilians since 2009 and the UN mission in the country has documented a rising number of civilian casualties attributed, in a large part, to increased ground engagements and the increased use of improvised explosive devices -- both of which are killing and injuring more Afghan civilians than previously documented by UNAMA. (Xinhua)

The human rights commission also said the existence of illegal commanders were a major obstacles to the government, as they created a parallel system in their respective areas.

Jawad Rezaeye, the commission head, said illegal commanders never allowed a problem to be resolved by the government; they addressed such issues through their illegal courts. He asked the government to disarm the armed men.

Acting Governor Syed Anwar Rahmati, who confirmed the existence of illegal armed men, promised stern action against such groups. All irresponsible armed individuals would be disarmed, he pledged.

He continued the problems local people faced in resolving their issues would be addressed by the government. The number of security forces in the province was not enough to deal with the challenges, he complained.

Rahmati also confirmed corruption in government offices, but said changes in the relevant had helped contain the problem in recent years.

An anti-corruption committee has been set up by civil society, media outlets, provincial council and the attorney general's office. Its head Abdul Qayum Shadab said corruption was a dangerous phenomenon.

"If corruption is fuelled by government officials, one aspect is the people who pay bribe," he said, calling for government-public cooperation in weeding out the problem. He added the committee would help promote public awareness. (Pajhwok)

**(18)Ghor...**

leaders. He said the issue was addressed within a week and he got his land back in accordance with the ulema decision.

A resident of the Kamanj are of Shahrak district said his brother was killed by an unidentified gunman, but the judicial authorities refused to arrest the killer. "I contacted Mullah Mustafa, a local commander, and he nabbed the killer in one week..."

Back in 2008, NATO claimed killing Mullah Mustafa in an airstrike, but the alliance later retracted its assertion. At least 16 people, including Mustafa's brother and a son were killed in

the raid.

Meanwhile, some residents said government departments -- specially the judicial institutions -- were highly corrupt. They claimed no case moved ahead without bribes being paid to court officials.

Mohammad Sadiq from Pasaband district waited for three weeks to receive compensation for the killing of his son, who served as a police official. He said it was not possible to get his right without paying bribes.

Habibullah, another resident, said the resolution of cases was not possible without money or a strong reference. A majority of innocent people remain behind bars because they do not have money or recommendations.

An individual, who wished anonymity, said that corruption had literally become legalised in judicial organs of Ghor. He secured the release of his brother from police custody in return for 100,000 afghanis. "My brother had been arrested on robbery charges."

But the appeal court chief, Gul Ahmad Haidari, denied rampant corruption in government departments and said the level of graft had declined. He said his office was trying to eliminate the scourge.

He argued it was the responsibility of intelligence personnel to detect corruption cases and refer them to the attorney general's office. Haidari promised corruption cases would be investigated after the new cabinet was announced.

Civil society organisations head, Khudayar Waqif, linked increased corruption to the government's carelessness in investigating such cases and punishing the perpetrators.

He stressed corruption would persist as long as a new reform system was not created. "Graft is not confined to bribe; recruitment of non-professional individuals, land grab and misuse of authority are major forms of corruption."

"One instance is that when an individual with a weak financial background is appointed to a high position and he becomes rich overnight or buys a car and a house while other people live in poverty," he explained.

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**(19) Badakhshan...**

wounded. Two other people were killed and a third wounded in a similar incident in Mahami town, district chief Mohammad Ismail said. Their bodies were discovered and returned to families with the help of residents.

Several districts of the mountainous province remain cut off from the capital Faizabad due to heavy snowfall in winters. (Pajhwok)

**(20)Kabul ...**

came under the bomb attack in Aqa Ali Shams locality of Kabul,

said Hashmatullah Stanekzai, spokesman of Kabul Police.

"The NDS has not confirmed to us so far whether their employees were targeted in this attack," Stanekzai said. "However, we can't reject it as well."

But according to eyewitnesses, the blast left many people killed and wounded including the National Directorate of Security (NDS) -- Afghan intelligence agency -- officials.

"When the blast occurred we reached the scene, we saw many people killed and wounded lying on the ground, we also saw NDS men with their wireless radio sets," said an eyewitness named Wasi.

The NDS officials, however, has not commented so far in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Taliban in a statement claimed responsibility for the attack.

It has been the second blast in seventh police district of City Kabul in the past two months. In a similar bomb blast last month in the same area, several Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed and wounded.

The blast occurred a day after the government announced the list of cabinet nominees after a delay of more than three months. (Tolonews)

**(21) Afghan...**

defence and foreign secretaries complied with their statutory obligations or not. The judicial review is scheduled for next month.

In the appeal court ruling, Lord Justice Sullivan said: "There is a wider public interest in ensuring that government decisions are made in a lawful manner."

Following withdrawal from Iraq, local interpreters who had worked for the British for more than a year were offered a targeted assistance scheme, through which they could either accept a one-off package of financial assistance, exceptional indefinite leave to enter the UK or the opportunity to resettle in Britain.

But the Afghan redundancy programme offered the chance to relocate to Britain only to interpreters who were still serving British forces in Helmand province in December 2012 and were employed for more than 12 months. The offer is also inferior in other regards, the lawyers say. The hundreds who stopped work before the cutoff date but who also face death threats have to rely on a separate intimidation policy.

Only one interpreter has been deemed to be at a sufficiently high risk to warrant visa. Mohammad Rafi Hottak, one of the claimants against the government who is now living in Birmingham having fled Afghanistan because of death threats, said: "I hope that the British judicial system will make the right choice. There are many interpreters and their families whose lives depend upon the decisions of this appeal and the judicial review."

Last month, the 28-year-old told the Guardian that he identified two former colleagues being beheaded in footage on the internet. The men, who Rafi believes are his friends Yahyah and Achikzai, are shown struggling as they are held down and their heads attacked with a handheld knife. A caption in Pashto describes them as spies.

Rosa Curling, a solicitor from the firm Leigh Day representing the interpreters who brought the legal challenge, said: "We are delighted that the court has granted permission for this important legal argument."

"The refusal by the government to offer the same resettlement scheme to Afghan interpreters as to Iraqi interpreters is discriminatory and unlawful." (Agencies)

**(22) Injured ..** discharged early and currently stay at my residence."

Matuallah, another Afghan refugee in Tehran, said the Iranian government had mounted pressures on refugees. The authorities did not respect the basic rights of Afghan workers, he alleged.

He said if the government of Afghanistan generated employment opportunities for the people, then all Afghans would prefer working in their own country. Earlier, the Iranian government was criticised for forcing Afghan refugees to leave the country. But Tehran rejected the criticism as misplaced. (Pajhwok)