

(1) Afghan Nation...

transportation and connection, he said. However, pointing to threats posed by terrorism to the tourism, the president said, terror was not letting Afghans live in peace but the Afghans were those who did not live in the past because they believed in future.

"Our morale can be measured from thinking about our strong future while mourning deaths, today's seminar shows the Afghan nation trusts in future and will make their future themselves," he said.

Ghani believed Afghanistan would attract two to five million foreign tourists every year after eradication of terrorism in the country. "One of the main standards of relations between cultures and civilizations is commerce and Afghanistan has a rich history in this area", he added.

The president said natural resources of the country remained untouched and asked the participants of the seminar to present their plans for proper usage of natural assets.

The country's natural resources were a major asset of the country and should be protected and categorized, he said. "If these assets are not protected, our future generations will blame us, so we need your suggestions in this seminar about how many natural parks are needed in Afghanistan and who should manage them," Ghani told the audience.

Ghani said the Afghan government had reached an agreement with an archeology delegation of French for making a national map of the country's historic sites.

Acting information and culture minister Mohammad Rassoul Bawari said that Afghanistan was a country with high tourist attractions due to its natural beauty, culture, historic sites and others. However, he said: "Unfortunately terrorism has taken away tourism from us."

The two-day seminar is organized by the Ministry of Information and Culture in the Presidential Palace to discuss tourism and solutions to challenges facing the industry. (Pajhwok)

(2) USAID Celebrates ...

Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE) program to the stability and economic prosperity of Afghanistan and the critical role they play in generating employment opportunities across the country.

Over the past five years, USAID's ABADE program formed public-private alliances with 199 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to help reduce the risks involved with business expansion. Afghan firms are investing more than \$255 million to expand their businesses, which USAID has complemented with more than \$40 million in capital equipment and machinery. So far, nearly 18,000 enduring, high-quality jobs have been created as a result of these investments. In future months, as enterprises scale up production, more than 25,000 jobs are anticipated.

"The fact that hundreds of Afghan firms are investing millions of dollars to expand business and create jobs shows the resilience of Afghanistan's economy," said USAID Mission Director Herbie Smith. "Small and medium-sized firms investing in Afghanistan represent our best hope for growing the economy and creating good jobs. Strengthening small and medium companies is also good for the future of Afghanistan."

"National Unity Government is committed to support private sector and create a business climate that strengthens the private sector for the long run, so that firms like these are willing to invest even more," said Adela Raz, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Cooperations. "We applaud these companies for developing new products which satisfy domestic and international consumer markets and for investing in the future of Afghanistan." (PR)

(3) Pakistan Embassy ...

will be holding written test at their premises on 28-31 July, 2017 for under-graduates, MPhil and PhD scholarships. The roll numbers of the registered students have already been sent to their email addresses and are also displayed on Embassy's website (www.pakembkabul.com).

3. It is a matter of great satisfaction that 3,000 Afghan students have already availed fully funded scholarship in the past few years and are now making valuable contribution to political, economic and social development of Afghanistan. (PR)

(4) NATO Says ...

Sixteen Daesh or so-called Islamic State (IS) rebels and eight civilians including children were killed and a number of people were injured in the

strike, he said.

Daesh militants were firing at security forces from near the funeral and the drone targeted them later, Shinwari said.

Nangarhar Zonal Hospital director, Dr. Ehsanullah Shinwari, said six injured people had been delivered at the hospital from the incident.

He said three of the injured were discharged after receiving initial treatment.

One of the injured, Chaman Gul, from his hospital bed told Pajhwok Afghan News that the funeral ceremony for a local tribal elder, Haji Aman, was ongoing when they came under airstrike. He said dozens of people had gathered to attend the funeral, but he was unaware about how many killed or wounded.

Sayed Shinwari, a resident of the area, said his uncle and one of his cousins were killed in the drone strike and a number of people were still believed to be buried under rubble.

NATO's Resolute Support (RS) mission spokesman Bill Salvin in a statement said they were aware of the report regarding civilian casualties in Nangarhar. "We take all allegations of civilian casualties seriously and we will convene an inquiry to investigate."

Meanwhile, he confirmed the airstrike but said it was against armed insurgents. "We have no indications that civilians were in the area either before the strike or after the strike," the spokesman said. "However, we will investigate the allegation." (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghan Forces...

narcotics, drug trafficking and organized crimes in the region besides other challenges and threats and stressed joint solutions.

According to the statement, Atmar assured the Uzbek security officials that Afghan security forces would not allow terrorist groups to cross the border and harm the people of Uzbekistan.

He said the Afghanistan government considered the enemies of Uzbekistan as its own and that both the countries had security, economic and cultural partnerships and would continue to cooperate with each other. (Pajhwok)

(6) CEO Calls...

on the Afghan people to support government, and said any insult against government leaders was an insult against the entire nation.

These remarks were made during youth parliament in Kabul on Sunday - which brought together more than 130 youths from around the country with the UN's help.

At the session, youth delegations presented plans and recommendations on good governance.

"Education and training are among our fundamental needs, but it is very unfortunate to say that despite the presence of the international community and the spending of millions of dollars, we are still facing problems in the education sector," said chairman of the Afghanistan Youth Parliament Agha Mohammad Quraishi.

Touching upon the upcoming elections in Afghanistan, the CEO said that the elections need the full support of the public and of politicians in order to be free and fair.

"When we talk about commitment to democracy and elections, the future elections, holding the parliamentary elections, district councils elections is our commitment, but this commitment can be implemented with the support of people, we need cooperation from Afghanistan's political forces and all people in this respect," said Abdullah. (Tolnews)

(7) Afghan Movie ...

The movie is about the miseries suffered by women in Afghanistan as well as about discrimination and violence against women in the country.

Aside from its first world premiere and nomination in the festival, the film will also be screening at the Open Doors alongside other Afghan films in the Asian cinema section.

Locarno is considered one of the four most prestigious film festivals alongside Venice, Cannes, and Berlin. Which will have as much as 8000 spectators, gathered in Piazza Grande for the per film screenings.

The festival will be held from August 2-12 in Locarno-Swiss. Afghan artists said the cinema in Afghanistan is faced with many hurdles. "This is another step that an Afghan woman makes a film and introduces it to an international festival. I hope it will have good achievement in the festival," said Wali Talash, an artist. (Tolnews)

(8) Trapped Forces ...

warned the lives of about 200 security personnel and uprising group members were under threat if the government did not take urgent measures for

rescuing them.

The public representatives asked the central government to airlift the trapped forces otherwise they would get killed.

Mohammad Sami Khairkwa, the provincial council head, told Pajhwok Afghan News losing Lawlash area of Kohistan district centre to the Taliban was worrisome, claiming the area collapsed due to negligence of the central government.

He warned about 200 security personnel and uprising group members trapped in a fortress in Khairabad village would be wasted if the government did not take urgent measures for rescuing and airlifting them until the end of the day.

He accused the central government of being indifferent to Faryab and currently five other districts---Ghormach, Khawaj Sabzposh, Shirin Tagab, Dawlatabad, Balchiragh---were also under threat of falling into the hands of insurgents, barring district centres' buildings.

The public representative believed some circles inside and outside the system had a hand in insecurity in Faryab: "The enemies of the people and especially opponents of the newly-established High Council of Coalition for Salvation of Afghanistan are attempting to destabilize the territory under the influence of the alliance. However, they won't succeed."

Recently, acting foreign minister and JIA CEO Salahuddin Rabbani, JIA's senior member Atta Mohammad Noor, first deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mohammad Mohaqiq, who is leader of the Hezb-i-Wahdat Mardum, after meeting 1st VP Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum in Ankara city of Turkey, formed a new political alliance named "High Council of Coalition for Salvation of Afghanistan".

An Afghan National Police (ANP) service member, who has been besieged in Kohistan, said the Taliban had set 1pm on Sunday as a deadline for them to surrender, otherwise the insurgents would attack them and would kill them after capturing them alive.

Abdul Kareem Yourish, Faryab police spokesman, confirmed security personnel and public uprising forces had taken refuge in a fortified fortress in Khairabad village. He said air support from northern zone and central government was on the way and soon the Taliban would be crushed and eliminated in Kohistan.

He also confirmed the trapped security forces had been sent a message by insurgents to surrender, but the security personnel refused to do so and promised to fight and defend until death. Lawlash area fell to insurgents as a result of coordinated attacks last night, leaving 200 security personnel trapped in Khairabad village. (Pajhwok)

(9) Rights Watchdog...

we don't know where they took them," another freed hostage said.

Ahmad Bilal Sediqi, a spokesman for the AIHRC, said that at the moment more than 40 civilians including children are being held hostage by the armed group.

The commission has called on the authorities to find a way to secure their release.

However those who were freed claimed they were kidnapped by Taliban and that the others are still being held by the Taliban.

But in a statement, the Taliban denied they were involved in this kidnapping. "In total the armed gunmen took 70 people with them and at the moment our intelligence institutions are working to find out where they are being held," said Zia Durani, Kandahar police spokesman.

The freed hostages are currently in Kandahar city and said getting to the city had been difficult.

"They killed my two cousins and my niece but yet no one handed their dead bodies over to us; we don't know what to do," said one released hostage.

"Taliban came over the roofs of our houses and took two to three people from each home," another released hostage said.

The AIHRC said that most of the hostages are men between the ages of 20 and 40 but there are also reportedly some children among the hostages.

"We don't know anything about the fate of the other hostages," said another freed man.

"All the residents of Shah Wali Kot district are displaced and no one is left there; they all came to Trinkot capital of Uruzgan province; this is a clear act of human rights violations and a war crime," said Ahmad Bilal Sediqi, a spokesman for the AIHRC.

Meanwhile the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) said they don't have details about the incident.

The kidnapping occurred on Thursday but the news only reached the media after the freed hostages managed to

reach Kandahar city. (Tolnews)

(10) Polio Vaccination ...

huge number of children in insecure areas, such as Pachiragum, Shinwari and other areas may not get the polio drops," the official suggested.

His department personnel and Afghan Red Crescent Society's volunteers would strive jointly to administer polio drops to as many children as possible. The security issue would soon be resolved, he joped.

Meanwhile, Nangarhar Hajj and Religious Affairs Department official Gul Nabi said the polio vaccination was permitted by Islam. He urged all families to let their children be vaccinated. He said mosque leaders in all districts had been asked through special letters to help vaccinators during the campaign and persuade people to allow their children to be vaccinated. (Pajhwok)

(11) 15 Killed, 28 ...

driver's recklessness. He said the driver was managed to escape after the accident.

"Traffic police would be directed to seriously follow such incidents and those violate traffic rules would be arrested and their vehicles confiscated," he said.

Ghulam Ali, who lost son in the accident, said that the driver was not in normal condition during driving. He asked the government to prevent such individuals from driving and stop people losing their lives to accidents every day.

On the other hand, a statement from the Presidential Palace received by Pajhwok, said President Ashraf Ghani was affected by the loss and injury of a number of people in the incident.

The president asked transportation companies and drivers to observe all traffic rules for the safety of passengers and ordered Baghlan officials to take needed measures for the treatment of injured and assisting the affected families. (Pajhwok)

(12) Taliban Seize ...

Ghor governor confirmed that the Taliban killed a number of doctors and employees of Taywara district after seizing control of the area.

Taliban launched an offensive on Kohistan district on Saturday night at about 10 pm local time. Officials said the district collapsed after heavy fighting at about 2am. But this was not end - 220 kilometer away, the Taliban also managed to seize control of Ghor's Taywara district early Sunday.

"The reason is that we were grappling with a shortage of fresh forces, we needed the commandos, but they did not come," said head of Faryab provincial council Mohammad Sami Khaikhwah.

"We requested more ground troops and air forces; hopefully our demands have been accepted," said Abdul Karim Yourish, spokesman for Faryab police headquarters.

But the Defense Ministry says sufficient troops have been deployed.

"Sufficient army and commando forces have been deployed in both districts; the situation will be under control within a few hours," said Mohammad Radmanish, deputy defense ministry spokesman.

But government leaders are concerned about the situation.

"A member of parliament fought back in that district until it collapsed, the forces also resisted and sustained casualties," said CEO Abdullah Abdullah.

These two districts have however faced fierce fighting. Poor war leadership has often been cited as the reason for this.

"It is very easy to end this war, because we have enough advisors and forces and programs, but we have a leadership issue," said military analyst Atiqullah Amarkhail.

"Government officials have failed to maintain security in Afghanistan, they failed to define a working program in this respect," senator Sami Faisal said.

There are some reports that a number of government forces have been surrounded by the Taliban in these districts.

Security sources have asked the government to make sure that reinforcements are sent to the area.

The collapse of the two districts comes amid fierce battles around the country. Currently the security forces are fighting the Taliban on a number of fronts including Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Zabul and Helmand provinces. (Tolnews)

(13) 44 Inmates ...

the Mujahedeen's Victory Day.

He said jail terms of another 22 prisoners, including three women, were reduced under the decree.

One of the released prisoners, Mohammad Noor, said: (I had been in prison for a long time but I would not like come back here again."

He did not want to identify the crime for which he had been imprisoned, but said he was happy to be released

Currently more than 300 men and 12 women are being held in the Nimroz prison.

The prisoners complain about the lack of suitable and hygienic environment in the prison, saying the prison has the capacity for 50 inmates against the current strength of more than 300 prisoners.

Nimroz police chief Khwaja Jilani Abubaker said construction work on a new prison in the city was on going on a 20 acres of land and its construction would be completed in near future. (Pajhwok)

2018 Election to Wipe out those Doing Negative Politics: Shehbaz

LAHORE - Punjab Chief Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said on Saturday that the politics of those who damaged national economy would be wiped out in general elections 2018.

Talking to parliamentarians here, he said opponents were afraid of rapid development and progress in the country, and these negative politicians should stop playing with countrymen's fate and let Pakistan progress.

Shehbaz Sharif said, "Our opponents are afraid of four years successful period of PML-N government and they are frightened that elimination of load shedding by PML-N government will end their politics."

He said, political performers who had looted national resources were also supporting the sit-in group and Niazi sahib should look around and he would see those who had got hefty loans written off and land grabbers.

It was unfortunate that Niazi sahib had not learnt any lesson from repeated defeats in the past and the history book would record his name among those who conspired against Pakistan's development and prosperity, he maintained.

The Chief Minister said those who held new juggery daily and were trying to bring bad luck to the people, should mend their ways as efforts had been made in the past to damage development process through sit-ins, lockdown, civil disobedience and protests, but the common man distanced himself from politics of violence and protest as well as foiled negative designs of such elements from general elections to by-elections and local government elections. (APP)

Anti-Govt Protesters March in Polish Cities

WARSAW, Poland - Thousands of government opponents are gathering in Warsaw, Krakow and other cities across Poland to urge President Andrzej Duda to reject legislation that would give the ruling party control of the Supreme Court and the judiciary. People with national and European Union flags gathered before the Presidential Palace in Warsaw. Many are holding "3 X veto" signs to make Duda reject the bills on the Supreme Court and other judicial bodies that are waiting for his signature to become law. Others are holding placards with the word "Constitution" - a reference to accusations the governing party is destroying the constitutional order. Protester Tadeusz Przybylski, 61, said he opposed the communists decades ago and was back now because the ruling party's moves to control the judiciary have led to a "lack of democracy and justice." A huge crowd has also gathered in Renaissance Market Square in Krakow. Polish democracy icon and ex-President Lech Walesa has told a large crowd of anti-government protesters in Gdansk that he will always support their struggle. (AP)

Russian Ambassador to the US Sergei Kislyak Ends his Term

MOSCOW - The Russian ambassador to the United States, Sergei Kislyak, a prominent figure in the controversy over Russia's possible involvement in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, has ended his assignment in Washington.

The Russian Embassy in Washington announced on Twitter that Kislyak's tenure ended on Saturday. Kislyak's successor has not been announced, although it is widely expected to be Anatoly Antonov, a deputy foreign minister and former deputy defense minister seen as a hardliner regarding the United States. President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn, resigned after lying about contacts with Kislyak. Attorney General Jeff Sessions recused himself from the investigation into possible Russian interference in the 2016 election after reports that he had not disclosed meetings with Kislyak. (AP)