HERAT CITY - More than 1,000 people have tried to commit suicide since the beginning of the current solar year in western Herat province, an official said on Wednesday.

Local officials said 10 percent of those attempting suicide for different reasons, including domestic violence, were women.

Dr. Aref Faisal, director of Herat Zonal Hospital, told Pajhwok Afghan News they registered five to 10 attempted suicide cases involving women on a daily basis. He said 100 people who committed suicide in the past four months, nine had died. Five committed self-immolation and five others hanged themselves to end it all.

Of those who committed suicide by hanging themselves, taking harmful substances and committing self-immolation to the 110 people died daily, the director added.

Sahar Khalili, a women’s rights activist, acknowledged the government had launched programmes for reducing violence against women in different parts of the province.

However, she said, such initiatives had failed to yield any results during the insufficient periods of such programmes had. She called for a government of a provincial council, also asked the government to conduct long-term programmes for decreasing violence.

Meanwhile, Jalal Farah, the governor’s spokesman, told Pajhwok that monitoring committees would be created in near future to investigate attempted suicide cases.

He said the committees would be comprised to promote culture and raise public awareness among people in different parts of the province.

A person who works for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, expressed concern over the increase in suicide cases.

One girl who tried to commit suicide said she committed the act to escape an anomaly that domestic violence forced her to take the extreme step.

“I did not like to get married but my husband and his in-laws would be beating me up. My husband and his in-laws would be beating me up. I felt I did not have any hope of saving my life so I tried suicide,” she added. (Pajhwok)

**Kabul** - Minister of Public Health, Siafak Azizi was officially introduced to new colleagues in Kabul on Wednesday.

Azizi was previously serving as a head of Afghanistan’s Cricket Board. Before this, Lutfullah Stanikzai was appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Cricket Board.

The changes came after poor performance of Afghanistan’s cricket team in the ICC World Cup 2019 in England.

Azizi lost all their matches in the World Cup. (Tolo news)

**Kabul** - Afghanistan’s former ambassador to India, Walid Tamim has been appointed as ambassador to India in compliance to presidential decree and will take charge of the affairs soon.

Tamim, who earlier served as head of Petroleum and Gas Authority, was appointed as the new chief executive officer of Pakistan Cricket Board.

He is one of the presidential hopefuls of Afghanistan.

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**Pakistan** - A number of working women in western Herat province complained of tough jobs and low wages, saying they were forced to work hard.

Safar Gul, 30, working in an almond processing factory, said, she cleaned 40 kilograms of almonds for 30 afghans from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm.

“I have been working for five years here, I am given 30 afghans a hug and with this wage we just manage to eat,” she told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Ehna Bibi, another woman who has to do difficult work for low wages, said: “In the morning, after performing prayer, I have for work.”

“Whenever I receive my wages at the end of the day, I don’t have but wonder what to buy - food, tea or medicines,” she said. (Shah Gul, 35, who is working for a private firm, said she earned 100 afghans a day. “I have no breadcrumbs and have to feed eight family members.”

Qal Ahmad, owner of the almond cleaning plant, said he could not pay the women more than 30 afghans a day due to lack of work and market. He added he could not even pay 30 afghans but the women were helpless so he paid them that amount. (Aimala Taposi, a women’s rights activist, said: “The wages were worse and inhuman in comparison to the hard jobs they do.”) (Adam on Pajhwok)