

(1) Young Afghans ...

shared with the Presidential Palace. A high-level youth counseling section would be also created at the Presidential Palace to follow and implement youths' plans and programs, the president added. Ghani said a high council would be created to work for changes to academic and higher education curriculums. "Youth's role is important in this area and they should share their suggestions and plans", he added.

He said the youth should attend High Economic Council meetings and learn about planning and programming. "The current developments are not enough and there is a need for change, particularly in the health and sports sector", said the president, who called for elections in the Olympic committee and federations through the Independent Election Commission (IEC).

The government also allocated budget for Afghan athletes competing in 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, he said. Ghani said economic situation of the country was improving and stressed changing mind from consumption to production and asked the young Afghan generation to become regional specialists.

He added the youth should be aware of their natural resources, particularly of water as they would be managers of the resources in future.

He stressed sustained job opportunities for the youth and said Afghanistan was bestowed with massive natural deposits and their exploitation would generate jobs.

The president termed national unity a huge asset for the country and said there was the need for deep social relations irrespective of tribe and ethnic affiliations because everyone was Afghan in this country.

He said the government would not allow social divisions and the young generation as future representatives of Afghanistan would keep the national unity intact.

"Our enemies despite their all efforts to divide us would not be able to send us back to the dark age and it is our mission," Ghani said.

He said Afghanistan did not belong to a single tribe and a handful of individuals who wanted to impose own agenda should not succeed.

Khaleda Khelwat, deputy head of the Youth Parliament, thanked the president for his attention to the youth affairs and asked him to implement youth-related programs. She highlighted various issues the youth faced and stressed their solution. Dr. Kamal Sadaat, deputy head of youth affairs at the information and cultural affairs ministry, thanked President Ghani for his support to the youth and hailed the creation of learning parliament and offered best wishes to the youth for good governance.

He said a five-year strategic plan requested by the youth had been prepared and some parts of the plan were being implemented. (Pajhwok)

(2) Dostum to ...

was denied landing at the Mazar-i-Sharif Airport by German forces. Tajan said Dostum would arrive in Kabul in ten days and would formal launch the activities of the newly formed alliance in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(3) Uprising for...

protests and gatherings. "So far government has not concentrated on any demand made by the Uprising for Change movement," said one of the group's members Asar Hakimi.

"Several provinces are covered in blood, Ghor, Baghlan and Kabul are examples," said another member of Uprising for Change Angiza Habibi.

"We call on the international community, particularly the UN representative office in Kabul and embassies of friendly countries, to concentrate on the situation and not to allow a small group to take the government hostage and push the country towards a crisis by committing illegal actions and violence," said another member of the group, Ahmad Omar.

The protesters said that the present government has failed to fix the security problem in the country and said the leaders need to step down.

"We will continue our protests if government fails to meet our demands," said protestor Mohammad Hashim Hashimi. In response, government has said that it will respond to the legitimate demands of the protesters.

"Those demands which are within the framework of the law and the demands which are practical, the government will think about and it is the responsibility of government," said deputy spokesman to CEO Jawed Faisal.

Protestors who called themselves 'Uprising for Change' poured onto the streets of Kabul two months ago in the wake of a deadly truck bombing in the heavily-fortified diplomatic zone of Kabul. At the time they also demanded the resig-

nation of government leaders.

But the protests turned violent after Afghan police opened fire on the protesters killing at least seven and wounding over 30 others. (Tolonews)

(4) Serious Concerns...

and if we improve ways to infiltrate the enemy (structures)," said Mohammad Gul Mujahid, a former military officer.

Kandahar, a relatively secure province in the south, has been hard hit by numerous Taliban attacks over the past month.

The Defense Ministry said more than 2,000 Taliban fighters attacked the Qarz Ali Military Base in Khakrez district in Kandahar on Wednesday where 28 soldiers were killed and 30 others were wounded.

"This is a new tactic; terrorists are trying to create threats to check posts," said Mohammad Radmanish, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense.

He admitted however that they had received intelligence ahead of the planned Taliban attack on the Qarz Ali Military Base.

"Some problems and threats result in the martyrdom of our personnel but it is important that we have sent a fact-finding team to the corps center in order to complete its report in this respect," he said.

Commenting on the recent Taliban attacks in Kandahar, provincial council member Sayed Ahmad Selab said: "Unfortunately, casualties are high. In one attack 20, in another 15 and in another 17 and meanwhile in the latest attack (on Qarz Ali Military Base in Kandahar) at least 70 people were killed and wounded."

"There is no leadership in the center firstly and secondly (no leadership) in the army corps," said Attaullah Attaee, another member of the council.

Meanwhile, the CEO Abdullah Abdullah said at a meeting that the insurgents had also sustained a high casualty toll in battles against government forces.

"The enemy also has had casualties and their plots have been foiled in many areas," he said. (Tolonews)

(5) MoD Assures ...

operation. "About Janikhail, I can tell you that we have good achievements and we will clear the area of the enemy in the near future," Radmanesh said.

An Afghan Commando spokesman Abdul Qayum Nuristani, said at least 59 Taliban fighters including four commanders of the group were killed and 45 others have been wounded in military operations in Ghor's Taywara district in the country's west.

The center of Taywara district has been retaken by security forces, he said, adding that they will continue their mission to oust the militants from outskirts of Taywara's center.

"There are no facilities in Janikhail and our soldiers are living under tents, even in winters. Facilities should be established there and soldiers must be provided with heavy weapons," said Ayub Khan Gharwal Zazai, member of Paktia Provincial Council.

"If the insurgents are not pushed back from the entire district after the reinforcements leave Taywara, it will become insecure and insurgents will attack the district once again," said Nader Shah Bahar, an MP from Ghor.

Afghan security forces are fighting against insurgents in 11 provinces, the Defense Ministry said. (Tolonews)

(6) U.S. Black ...

keep those MI-35s going; it is to replace that capability with the Black Hawks, they also can perform the mission," Colonel Sean C. Mclay, a former advisor to Afghan Air Force, told TOLONews.

Jamshed and Amanullah, two Afghan pilots, who have been trained in the United States, said they have flown MI-35 and MI-17 aircrafts. They added that they will be flying the Black Hawks in the near future.

"We will be prepared for the Black Hawks in six months," Jamshed said.

"All the pilots, specially MI-17 pilots are prepared to use the Black Hawks. The Black Hawks are not so different from the MI-17s," said Amanullah.

Afghan Air Force engineers said MI-35 aircrafts have not been repaired basically in Afghanistan, therefore, he said the Russian helicopters require serious checkup and repairing after every 2,000 hours of flight.

"These two helicopters which are here (at the Afghan Air Force camp) for repairing, are not too old. They will be sent abroad for basic repairing," said Mohammad Saber, an aircraft engineer.

The engineers said Russian helicopters' parts are rarely available in markets. "Sometimes we have to use from old aircrafts' spare parts to repair the (Russian) helicopters," said Ahmad Shah Hotak, commander of Afghan Air Force Repairing Battalion. (Tolonews)

(7) US, Italian...

troop arrived here to help Afghan security forces in fight against resurgent Taliban

and other militant groups.

Defence Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said some foreign forces in the framework of NATO Resolute Support (RS) mission reached Farah province to train and advise Afghan security forces.

He said they would not take part in ground offensives but would certainly provide Aerial help to Afghan forces during offensive against insurgents.

According to some sources 120 foreign soldiers arrived in Farah province. Last year around 200 US and Italian forces reached Farah province when intensified their attacks and reached close to Farah City.

After the removal of Taliban regime US and Italian troops were stationed in Farah province and pulled out of the province in 2013.

More troops now reached to Farah province at a time when US have been planning to send more soldiers to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(8) New Political...

that efforts were on for the creation of new political movement through which pressure would be put on government to address major issues of the eastern part of the country which is security and development.

He said the new political movement was consisted of a leadership council with Syed Ishaq Gailani and Mirwais Yasini as their spokesmen and an administrative panel would be appointed in the future.

Umar Zakhelwal, the country envoy to the Pakistan, stressed over unity and asked the council members to defend their rights.

It is pertinent to mention that new political movements and alliances were being created which the political experts termed them as reflection of weak government in the centre. (Pajhwok)

(9) Plan to Classify ...

The Leadership Committee had tasked the Ministry of Interior (MoI) with ensuring security of all polling stations, he said. (Pajhwok)

(10) Positive Changes...

Helmand in the morning to assess the security situation before returning to Kabul in the afternoon.

The president delivered a speech to Helmand officials and security forces in the 215 Maiwand Military Corps headquarters.

Ghani said the Afghan forces made history by defeating the Taliban in Marjah, Nad Ali, Greshk and Nawa districts of Helmand in recent months.

The security situation would improve in near future following the implementation of an organized plan, the president announced, adding the problems shared with him by soldiers and security officials would be addressed within one month.

"Discrimination in security foundations is never acceptable, the enemy misjudged you and were severely defeated."

Ghani said a plan about displaced families was ready and would be implemented two months later. He did not meet local residents during his visit.

"I did not meet the Helmand people because I had a plan to visit all military bases first, I would meet the people as well," the president said.

He said if the New Kabul Bank failed to deliver salaries to soldiers on time then an alternate arrangement would be made.

Helmand governor Hayatullah Hayat said good coordination existed among Afghan security forces in the province and local people also supported them.

"Helmand holds key the stability of Afghanistan, we want more attention towards improving security of Helmand," Hayat told the president. He said Helmand borders needed strict control and a decisive action against drug smugglers.

Hayat said people suffered huge losses due to the prolonged conflict in the province and were in need of assistance.

Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai, commander of the 215 Maiwand Military Corps, said Afghan forces were in high morale despite continuously fighting against militants for months.

He sought the president's attention to the supply of weapons, vehicles and other equipment to police forces.

Helmand is one of the most unstable provinces of the country where six districts are completely under Taliban's control. (Pajhwok)

(11) Afghan Women...

Afghan singer Farhad Darya has supported the campaign, posting a picture of himself with his wife and the caption "Farhad and Sultana Darya."

Thousands of Afghans, including authors, journalists and musicians have backed the movement on Facebook and Twitter, aided by widening access to the internet in the country.

"I went to a private bank office to fill up the form, when the manager asked my mother's name, I paused for few seconds, because I had actually forgotten my mother's name. Nobody in all these years asked or

called her by her name," said Batool Mohammadi, a member of the campaign.

The practice of erasing women's names is rooted in Afghan customs, rather than Islam, the dominant religion.

It is a symbol of women's second-class status in society, where decisions about their education and marriage are left to the men of the family.

'Unwanted chaos' Since the ultra-conservative Taliban was overthrown in 2001, Afghan women have regained the right to go to school, to vote, and to work. But violence against women in the home is widespread, and often goes unpunished.

Where's My Name aims to challenge attitudes that allow men to make all decisions and leave women invisible and powerless. "Many times I meet wonderful women with bright thoughts and opinions during my work trips, but when I want to interview them or take pictures they say to me, 'Let me ask my husband, father or brother if they allow me to talk or be pictured,'" said Farzanah Wahidi, a female photojournalist from Kabul.

Bahar Sohaili and her friends are fighting for the day that a woman's name and her identity will no longer be shameful.

"We aim to put pressure on the government to enact laws to protect women's rights. Whenever we demand our rights before a court or in parliament they [officials] use the pretext of religion to put us down," she said.

Laws must be rewritten

According to Afghan law a mother's name should not be recorded on a birth certificate. Abdullhah Atahi, a spokesman for the High Court in Kabul told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that Afghan society wasn't ready for change.

"We don't have a problem mentioning the mother's name on the birth certificate or on other relevant documents, but in Afghanistan's culture people aren't ready for such a modern step," he said. "It may invite unwanted chaos."

But Shahgul Rezaie, a lawmaker and women's right activist said the battle for women's rights would continue.

"There are some radical elements in the parliament who are against these steps for women," she said by phone from Kabul.

"But we are trying hard for amendments of existing laws and to formulate new laws to protect the rights of women." (VoA)

(12) NATO Stresses...

a negotiated political solution to the conflict. They also discussed the importance of the peace agreement with the Hezb-i-Islami.

The SCR assured Danish of the support of the international community, and NATO in particular, for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. (Pajhwok)

(13) OSCE Trains...

training institutions.

During the course Tajik and Afghan officers learned about the methods and techniques for developing curricula, programmes and lesson plans, conducting training sessions and conducting their own train-the-trainers course. Other topics covered by the course included public speaking skills, programme planning and the principles of active learning. The participants were also introduced to pathfinding methodologies, military topography and first-aid training as well as the preparation and delivery of practical training activities using technical equipment.

At the graduation ceremony, Vyacheslav Abramets, Border Management Adviser at the OSCE Office's Politico-Military Department, said: "The Office is helping to build the capacity of Tajik and Afghan border officers by providing high-quality training in a number of key areas. The OSCE will continue to support agencies involved in border management through providing a platform for cooperation and discussions." The training was led by two local experts with considerable experience in border management and adult education. (Aki Press)

(14) 200 Taliban...

local officials of the district of improved security in the area and said the provincial government would launch development projects in the area.

Governor Mohammad Humayon Fawzi, who also visited Kohistan district and met security forces and public uprising members who had been besieged by the Taliban after the collapse of the district, praised them for retaking it.

Fawzi said those who fought for recapturing of the district would be honored, rewarded and promoted.

Gen. Amir Mohammed head of the 1st brigade of 209th Shaheen Military Corps, said the Kohistan road would be cleared and opened to Maimana City, the provincial capital, to allow people to travel without any concern.

The security forces and public uprising

members should be supported and never left alone, he stressed.

Abdul Basir Andrabi, commander of the commando unity in the northern zone, said they reached to the aid of the besieged forces and rescued them after killing dozens of Taliban.

A resident of the district, Qari Mohammadullah, said had the government taken such a strong action three years ago, the rebels would not have blocked the highway 10 months ago.

He urged the provincial leadership to quickly reopen the road so the people could solve their problems. (Pajhwok)

(15) 6,000 Jawzjan ...

The problem will continue until September. Till then, we will have to bring water from Shiberghan, 25 kilometres far from our village...

"All families are unable to buy water; we are pleased that the RRD Department is supplying free water through tankers to our area. Earlier, the people were using pond water with is injurious to health."

According to officials, at least 70 percent of people have no access to potable water as a result of lack of a resource shortage. Despite its harmful effects, salty and pond water is widely used in Jawzjan. (Pajhwok)

(16) Not a Single...

some students could continue their studies. Besides the education conundrum, Paktika women also faced grave health and domestic violence issues.

Gul Maki, another resident, accused the government of ignoring the development of the province. Paktika is the only province of Afghanistan where no high school for girls exists, according to her.

Families living in Sharan were more interested in sending their daughters and sisters to schools, she said. But there was not a single high school in the provincial capital, she hastened to add.

Zarghoona, a student at Kashiwal Primary School, said: "I am currently studying in sixth class. After completing the sixth grade, I will have to discontinue my education as there is no high school here."

She linked girls' education to the improved economic condition of families, saying well-off parents sent their children to school but poor households could not afford doing so.

Women Affairs Director Bibi Hawa Khosival acknowledged no high school for girls existed in Sharan and the authorities concerned had done nothing in this regard.

She said the issue had been discussed with education officials, who promised constructing a well-equipped girls' high school in the provincial capital.

Mohammad Naseem Wajid, acting education director, said lack of attention from the previous administration and cultural restraints were the main reasons for the failure to build a high school for girls.

Wajid pledged the issue would be resolved in the next academic year. More than 32,000 girls are receiving education in 29 schools across Paktika. The number of schools in the provinces is 347. (Pajhwok)

(17) Airstrike Eliminates...

militants in the airstrike.

The provincial government media office in a statement also confirmed the airstrike and said the main hideout of the terror group was targeted in Wach Kot area.

The statement further added that the hideout of the terror group was totally destroyed in the airstrike but no casualties or property damage was incurred to the local residents.

It is yet not clear if the airstrike was carried out by the Afghan forces or the US forces based in Afghanistan.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

Both the Afghan and US forces conducted regular strikes against the loyalists of the terror group in this province.

The increased raids, usually involving drone strikes, by the US forces followed a broader role granted by the Obama administration earlier last year.

The broader role was granted amid concerns that the loyalists of the terror group are attempting to expand foothold in the country and turn the eastern Nangarhar province into a regional operational hub for its fighters. (KP)

(18) Gang Leader ...

gang leader of the kidnapers comes as there has been a sharp rise in criminal incidents in the key cities of the country, including capital Kabul during the recent months.

At least three hundred and twenty three people were arrested on various criminal charges over a period of almost one month from capital Kabul.

The Kabul police officials said last week that the suspects were arrested in connection to nearly 200 criminal incidents involving murders, kidnappings, armed robberies and various other criminal acts. (KP)