

### (1) Gunmen Storm...

Kabul time after the three attackers were gunned down by security forces.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on his Twitter page rejected any involvement of the group in attack on the military hospital.

However, Daesh militants reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. (ToloneWS)

### (2) UN Stresses ...

women's participation country-wide is far below the target. In a statement, the UN said it was encouraged by the representation of women in public life, including within ministries, parliament and civil society, but the effort should be doubled to ensure women's voices were heard in public life.

The UN hailed the launch of the economic empowerment program for women as a key step forward to opening more doors for women's participation at all levels, and encouraged the government to continue to prioritise investment in education, healthcare and business financing for women.

Such steps would help reduce the gap between women's and men's labour force participation, leading to greater economic growth across all sectors of society, the world body hoped.

"Women's economic empowerment is a crucial precondition to effectively address poverty, inequality and violence against women," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the secretary-general's special representative for Afghanistan.

"While much progress has been made, many women continue to face economic and social barriers to meaningful employment as well discrimination in the workplace and in other areas of life."

For real change, the UN envoy stressed, the essential agenda must be a priority. "Empowering Afghan women will allow them to share their voice and exert influence on matters of national concern, including in development, politics and most importantly peace."

The UN supports the government's efforts to strengthen the implementation of gender commitments in compliance with Afghanistan's international obligations, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Global Agenda 2030.

"While progress has been made over the last decade to protect women's rights and address violence against women, we recognise there can be no impact unless laws are known, implemented and enforced," said Shruti Upadhyay, acting country representative of UN Women.

Upadhyay went on to say that Afghanistan's national and local policies must be strengthened in tandem with government and civil society advocacy to change perceptions towards working women in a way that creates capacity-building initiatives, workforce opportunities and equal access to finance and markets. (Pajhwok)

### (3) First Deputy ...

first deputy," said parliament speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim. Humaira Ayoubi, Abdul Sattar Khawasi and Qadir Zazai failed in their bid for the position of secretary of the parliament.

"I am fully confident that one day a woman will occupy such a position and we, men and women, will vote for a woman candidate. We women are struggling for this to made possible," said MP Humaira Ayoubi. Initially, there were three candidates for the post of deputy of parliament speaker. The candidates were Zahir Qadir, Humayoun Humayoun and Mirwais Yasini.

None of the candidates, in the first round of the voting, succeeded in getting the votes needed. Voting was then conducted for the two frontrunners, Humayoun Humayoun and Mirwais Yasini.

In the second round, Humayoun Humayoun obtained 119 votes and Yasini only 67 votes.

"I promise all of you, I will serve the people and the lawmakers as first deputy," said Humayoun. In its Tuesday session, the parliament had elected Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai as the first deputy secretary of parliament and Irfanullah Irfan as the second deputy secretary of parliament. (ToloneWS)

### (4) Ghani Stresses...

being provided to them as their rights were increasingly respected in society.

Ghani note the time had arrived to work on short and long-term pro-

jects that provided women their rights in line with the country's constitution.

"Until now we saw women actively participating in society while efforts should be made for producing women leaders in the second stage," the president remarked. He said Islam provides women rights of property ownership and inheritance -- something that puts Islam ahead of all other laws and civilisations. Islamic jurisprudence accepts women's rights to property.

Ghani said nation-building and state-building was impossible without an active role of women. The president said despite all-out efforts for enhancing women's role and presence in all walks of life, men still held vital administrative positions.

He said the establishment of women's chambers of commerce would be an effective step to include women in supply chain and its administration. "We currently have successful examples in our country, and we could multiply these examples across the country."

The president said most of women were busy working on small gardens, where they carried out economic activities. Afghanistan, by expanding such examples, could end reliance on imports and women could be the champions of self-sufficiency.

Creating a secure environment for women was a crucial requirement for their increased participation in community, Ghani believed, saying their security should be ensured through laws and regulations.

"Unfortunately, women who work outside their homes are leered at. Such lewd looks ignore the dignity and honour of women, resulting in misogyny, abuse and other indecent behaviours..."

According to him, women participating in the development of the country and doing household work and raising children had equal value. "We should see the safety of women at home and in workplace as our responsibility."

He stressed: "Street harassment, eve-teasing, and verbal abuse in workplace or other forms of improper behavior towards women are intolerable."

Ghani said significant steps had been taken in codification in this regard, and organizations relevant in this sphere had also been established. The culturizing process in this regard should also progress with strength, he added.

The huge step toward ending the oppression of and violence against women gave them a fundamental role in elections, he said, asking women to nominate as candidates and widely participate in the upcoming Wolesi Jirga and district council polls.

Ghani promised the distribution of computerised ID cards would be initiated soon. It was so important for women to receive the ID cards because they helped them achieve their rights, he said.

He asked women representatives in parliament to file a report on females' rights and let people know what work and activities had been conducted for the improvement of women's situation. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Centre for ...

Hussain Murtazavi, deputy spokesperson for the president, Zohra Yousaf, adviser to First Lady Rola Ghani, Dr. Nasrin Oryakhel, labour and social affairs minister and journalists attended the event. Zohra Yousaf read out a message from Rula Ghani, saying the first lady supported the centre. She also affirmed Rula Ghani's commitment to an environment free of violence against women. (Pajhwok)

### (6) March 8:...

said the government's definition of the enemy remained vague. "Poisoning girls on March 8 reflects the hate of militants for innocent people, especially for females," he added. (Pajhwok)

### (7) 50% of ...

an area of 50 square meters. I would have given my share to my brothers if they treated me well. They claimed the money from renting the house with my share for 42 years, but I did not say anything. I told my brother he is a disabled person, so he should benefit from the property," Shahla said. Some female religious scholars have said inheritance for women is clearly mentioned and ordered in the Holy Quran.

"Men have to give a woman their share of inheritance based on the Holy Quran if she is their sister or daughter," said Sayed Abdulhadi Hedayat, a religious scholar.

Scholars said they believe that the lack of public awareness about the orders and teachings of Islam and the Holy Quran is the main reason behind men's ignorance to give women their inheritance. (ToloneWS)

### (8) 29 Inmate....

beneficiaries to avoid committing crimes in future and learn lessons from their detention, which kept them away from their families, friends and businesses.

Elsewhere in the east, 17 inmates were set free under the 167th decree in Kunar province. Jail terms of three other prisoners were cut. Central prison chief Col. Abdul Rahman Sapai said about 251 inmates were currently languishing in the jail.

Governor Waheedullah Kalimzai, who visited the jail, called it a seminary. "If law and rules are observed and respected, then the crime rate will come down and the community will see reforms." He asked judicial organs to ensure justice for all. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Gov't Asked ...

prices have raised to 250 AFs to 280 AFs," said Ahmad Sharif. Residents in Kabul have accused the businessmen of exploiting border tensions and for hoarding potato stocks for higher prices.

"We have no option except the closure of our shops, prices are very high," said potato seller Jaffar.

Residents have also asked the government to better manage the local markets to avoid price-hikes and hoarding. (ToloneWS)

### (10) Unity Among ...

security in the country.

"Sometimes, intentionally or unintentionally, we have been used as a tool for evil plans of enemies of religion and the country," said Abdul Rahim Wardak, former minister of defense.

"We have good memories from the late marshal. He was thinking about the entire Afghanistan and he was one of the main pillars of government," said Mohammad Mohaqiq, Abdullah's second deputy.

Establishing and implementing an organized security plan, equipping the Afghan Air Force, purposefully combating corruption and boosting good governance were other issues raised at the gathering. (ToloneWS)

### (11) Afghan Leaders, ...

fight against terrorism, he wrote on his Twitter account.

NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan also slammed the attack and said they stand ready to assist their Afghan partners.

Pakistani foreign ministry in a statement stated that "we extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this heinous terrorist attack and convey our prayers for early recovery of the injured," the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said.

A statement said Pakistan reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

"In this regard, we reaffirm our commitment to cooperation with the Afghan government and the international community for the elimination of the scourge of terrorism," it said.

Indian Ministry of external affairs strongly condemning the terrorist attack said that "The heinous attack on a hospital is the most deplorable expression of the diabolical designs of terrorists and those who continue to provide safe havens and sanctuaries to terrorists.

India assured Afghanistan of continuous support in fighting all forms of terrorism and bringing perpetrators of terrorist violence to justice.

### (12) EU Seeks ...

Mellbin said. The government was asked to implement the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and give women full participation in all aspects of the peace processes.

"Of special concern is continued widespread violence against women. The increasing use of extrajudicial killing and torture of women by the Taliban and other anti-government elements are gross violations of the basic human rights of Afghan girls and women. This must stop immediately."

The EU pledged to work closely with the Afghan government and civil society to promote women's rights and their full and equal participation in all walks of life, including access to services, work, public life and government. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Govt. Arranges...

tions against the notorious and Pakistan-based Haqqani terrorist network and the Taliban leadership councils being using Peshawar and Quetta cities as their safe havens for the attacks in Afghanistan.

In the meantime, the provincial government in Nangarhar said Wednesday that necessary precautions including transportation arrangements are in place for the thousands of people stranded on the other side of the line due to Pakistan's decision.

The main crossings between Pakistan and Afghanistan were reopened on Tuesday morning and it is expected that the crossings will be closed by the end of the day based on the decisions of the Pakistani authorities.

Provincial governor Gulab Mangal hailed the authorities and the activists for their support in arranging transportation free of cost for the stranded passengers.

According to the local officials in Nangarhar, more than one hundred vehicles were arranged with the owners providing voluntary services to help the stranded passengers reach the capital of Nangarhar, the Jalalabad city. (KP)

### (14) UN Mission ...

to the hospital, after which several attackers armed with AK-47s, grenades and suicide vests entered the facility. The armed attackers proceeded to target patients and medical workers before Afghan security forces ended the assault. The number of civilian casualties is reportedly high.

UNAMA stresses that attacks on hospitals are violations of international humanitarian law that may amount to war crimes, urging all warring parties to respect and protect all medical workers, clinics and hospitals.

UNAMA expresses its condolences to the families and colleagues of those killed in the attack and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured.

Afghanistan has been in protracted conflict for more than three decades, which has seen an ever-growing number of civilians killed and poverty reduction and development efforts seriously hampered.

UNAMA is mandated to support the Afghan Government and the people of Afghanistan as a political mission. It also promotes coherent development support by the international community; assists the process of peace and reconciliation; monitors and promotes human rights and the protection of civilians in armed conflict; promotes good governance; and encourages regional cooperation. (PR)

### (15) Sharif Govt. ...

hit in Nangarhar, Kunar and Kandahar.

The foreign policy must be formulated by parliament, Kishwar said, asking the government to respect the "independence and sovereignty of Afghanistan".

Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions Abdul Qadir Baloch said Pakistan never had cordial relations with Afghanistan since the country's inception in 1947.

The government had been trying to improve the relationship with Afghanistan and even invited President Ashraf Ghani to a briefing at the army headquarters, he added.

PPP's Shazia Marri accused the Nawaz Sharif administration of contradicting its own stance as the foreign minister and the defence minister had entirely different points of view on the border issue. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Women Fight ...

Defying the tribal tradition and restrictions imposed by the Taliban regime during its six-year reign, Afghan women, presently, are serving as cabinet members, legislators, business people, artists and singers, a cultural advancement once unthinkable during the Taliban rule, which collapsed in late 2001.

Currently, four female ministers and eight female deputy ministers are serving in the Afghan government. While 69 of the 249 seats in Afghanistan's Lower House of parliament are held by women.

However, women and girls in the countryside and rural areas are unaware of their rights and are mostly confined to their homes where they suffer from poverty and have little access to schools and clinics.

"It has been proven that women have a significant role in the flourishing economy, particularly in a war-torn country.

We call on the government to take

more actions by providing job opportunities, and helping women to be involved in more economic activities and local businesses, so they can improve the living conditions and help build a better future for their family members," she noted.

"Afghan women are talented and they have the ability to work outside and also inside their homes but they need financial support, they need marketing skills for their products," she explained.

In the conservative country, some 22 percent of civil servants are women and the government has pledged to increase the number to 30 percent in the coming years, according to information provided by the Afghan Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission.

Meanwhile, the statistics also show that some 38 percent of women in Afghanistan are economically active.

"The female economic empowerment movement is essential for building a sustainable society. I heard this year's International Women's Day also focuses on women and their role in both the economy and broader society," she said.

"According to the Afghan constitution, all kinds of discrimination and distinction between citizens are forbidden. The citizens of Afghanistan, male and female, have equal rights and duties under the law, so we urge the government to take further action to improve the conditions of women and ensure they are not victims of domestic violence and harassment," Hanifa Akbari, an Afghan lady, told Xinhua.

"To be honest, just a few people's lives have changed over the past decade and a half, after the Taliban's fall, but the majority of Afghans are still living in poverty. And Afghan women still need support," she remonstrated.

In spite of some socio-economic progress being made over the past 15 years, the war-torn country is still dependent on foreign aid and the Taliban and associated groups have been directing their attacks on the cities to terrorize the local people.

About 36 percent of Afghanistan's some 30 million population are currently living below the poverty line, according to official statistics.

Without revealing her specific ordeal, Akbari, clearly distraught, added that thousands of women, including widows, have also been living in misery elsewhere in the war-hit nation.

On the eve of Women's Day, Afghanistan's First Lady, Rula Ghani, on Tuesday congratulated the country's women and urged all Afghans to join hands for bringing about peace and stability in the embattled country.

"The Afghan women have the right to live in peace and to send their children to school in a peaceful environment," she said in a statement.

The Afghan first lady in her congratulatory message said that it was a national and moral responsibility of all Afghans, including women and men, to do their best to end the current crisis.

And she also urged the Taliban militants and other armed groups to renounce violence and join the peace and reconciliation process.

The inclusion of women in Afghanistan's security forces was also a great achievement. In early 2002, the presence of women in the security sector was two percent but it had increased to five percent last year, while the government is trying to recruit more women into its security sector.

Currently, more than 3,000 women have been serving as police officers and employees of the Afghan Interior Ministry, while more than 1,400 women work as army officers in the country's Defense Ministry and within the ranks of the Afghan army. (Xinhua)

### (17) Afghanistan ...

will be also the first bilateral series for Ireland in India. They have played World Cup matches there but nothing other than that. Both Ireland and Afghanistan are amongst the rapidly rising teams in international cricket.

So far, both the teams have played seven T20s against each other. Afghanistan holds the upper hand by winning four out of them, while Ireland won three.

In the recent times, Afghanistan has dominated Ireland quite often. Ireland was beaten twice in the recently concluded Desert T20 tournament. Ireland faced a disastrous

defeated in the final of the tournament, where they were bowled out for mere 71.

This series seems to be a big one for both the teams and surely a historic one for Afghanistan.

Both teams will meet again in the T20 on Friday. (ToloneWS)

### (18) Nangarhar...

over to DIAG program, he added. DIAG in-charge in Nangarhar, Jawharshah Dawlatzai, asked officials to submit old weapons to DIAG if they had them in depots or home. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Baghlanis Stage....

situation and challenges in the province, a young and eligible governor should be selected, he said.

The protestors in Kabul warned of more demonstrations if a young and experienced governor was not appointed in the province.

Lal Mohammad, a resident of Baghlan, said the previous governor was good enough but he was replaced with an elderly person who was not fit for the job. (Pajhwok)

### (20) 20 Rebels ...

In the Khakrez district, three children were injured when a hand grenade they were playing with inside a police officer's home exploded, a security official said.

In northern Balkh province, police have detained 10 suspected criminals during a series of operations, provincial police spokesman Syed Kamal Sadat told a press conference in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

He said the detainees included five alleged car-lifters who had recently been released from jail. Among the suspects three were accused of extortion.

Sadat said police had rescued a person from his kidnappers in Chahar Bolak district. No one was arrested in connection with the kidnapping. (Pajhwok)

### (21) OPEC, Non-OPEC ...

the U.S. shale production, he said the comeback of shale to a certain degree is not only welcome and acceptable but also necessary for demand growth. (Xinhua)

### (22) Germany Urges ...

said he had "made clear that comparisons between the Nazi era and the cancellation of rallies or the rule of law in Germany are unacceptable". (AFP)

### (23) Iraqi PM ...

announced that he had ordered airstrikes against positions of IS militants inside Syria in retaliation for deadly bomb attacks in Baghdad.

"We are determined to chase terrorism that tries to kill our sons and citizens wherever it is located. We gave orders to the air force command to conduct airstrikes against the terrorist Daesh (IS group) in Husaybah (IS-held Iraqi border town) and Albu Kamal inside Syrian territories, as they were responsible for recent terrorist bombings in Baghdad," according to Abadi's announcement. (Xinhua)

### (24) S. Korean...

eight justices uphold the motion, Park will be forced out of office. If more than three judges reject the bill, Park will be reinstated immediately.

The ruling date was set on Friday as the acting chief justice is scheduled to retire next Monday. Former chief judge retired on Jan. 31.

A presidential election must be held in 60 days if the impeachment is upheld. Park would then be subject to indictment and detention as she loses the immunities as head of state. (Xinhua)

### (25) Turkmenistan ...

politics, management, ecology, maritime law and other disciplines are invited to the event.

Systematic training, improvement of skills of specialists engaged in the activities related to the Caspian Sea - the oil and gas sector, hydro-meteorology, fishery, tourism, environmental protection, maritime transport, border services, foreign affairs and others - is one of the partnership formats of the Caspian basin countries, says the message. (Trend)

### (26) Turkmenistan...

The visit to Turkmenistan is the first foreign trip for Mirziyoyev, elected in December to succeed Karimov who died in September.

During Monday's talks, the resource-rich nations agreed to cooperate in exporting electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan and work together to develop trans-Caspian transport routes to South Caucasus and further on to Europe. (Agencies)