

### (1) Ghani's War...

our operations will be conducted and all the people support security forces in Helmand," said Hayat. But TOLONews correspondents Wali Arian and Abdullah Hamim spoke to security forces in Helmand province who said that the troops are unhappy about having to take a defensive position against the Taliban.

They said troops have called for the launch of an offensive operation as soon as possible.

"See at the moment war is going on and firing sounds can be heard," said Nagibullah, a border police force member.

"The front line of Taliban was in Nad Ali district of Helmand province where we defeated them and we will defeat them always," said Jabar, a public order soldier.

According to TOLONews' correspondents, Dasht Matkai area of Nad Ali district is the front line of the battle with Taliban. They said the insurgents are also holed up in civilian houses, which they are using to fire on security forces' strongholds.

"Some times militants attack and open fire but we are also equipped and prepared," said Marstyal another public order soldier.

"In Marja district small operations are underway but big operations will be prepared in wide and joint plans," said Khalilurrahman Jawad a public order commander.

But some provincial council members have raised concerns over Ghani's failure to implement his own war orders against the Taliban.

"The president is different in action and speech and he is not putting his words into practice and it means he is kicking dust in people's eyes," said Karim Attal Helmand provincial council head. (Tolonews)

### (2) Iran Safest...

Zone, he said that he is happy Afghanistan has a rich neighboring state like Iran.

He said that high security in Iran has prepared the ground for investments from different countries which is rare in the countries such as Pakistan.

Activity of 150 Afghan companies and residence of 500 Afghan nationals in Chabahar Free Zone indicates Iranian government's kindness towards the Afghans, the minister said.

Murad said that the first priority of Afghan government is to prepare infrastructures and paving the way for investment.

He further noted that all obstacles in the way of Afghan investors will be removed through better interaction and cooperation with the Iranian officials and exchange of visits by them.

Murad is in Chabahar at the head of a high-ranking delegation on his three-day official visit to Iran to discuss investment opportunities, trade and production with the Iranian officials and businessmen. (IRNA)

### (3) MPs Warn...

Pashtuns, Tajiks and Uzbeks. Speaking during the general session of Lower House of the Parliament, Wolesi Jirga, Naseri urged the parliament to prevent the issue become a crisis.

Calling President Ghani's decision for changing the route of TUTAP as illegal, Naseri insisted that President Ghani and CEO Abdullah must act based on their promises to the people and the Afghan constitution. He also warned that the residents of central provinces will not step back easily if they were forced to come to Kabul to defend from their rights.

Another lawmaker, Nafisa Azimi, said the government should review their decision regarding the project, warning that the unity government leaders will be responsible for any negative consequence as a result of the implementation of the project from Salang.

Lawmaker Asadullah Sadati said the issue of TUTAP does not relate to a specific ethnic group, province or part of Afghanistan, insisting that the government has ignored the rights and justice of the people. He also added that the Minister of Energy and Water should be taught a lesson for sparking national discord by presenting the issue in another way. The Minister of Energy and Water

said Tuesday that the change of TUTAP route would not be possible, insisting that 12 province would suffer if the project is implemented through Bamyan province. He also added that there is no document or evidence to prove that the Fichtner Engineering Company has predicted natural catastrophes threatening the project.

Meanwhile, another lawmaker, Nawab Mangal, said the project should not spark political issues and emphasized that the route of the project should not be changed as several pylons have already been constructed in certain parts, insisting that considering balance in development projects is the right of all Afghans.

The Afghan House Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy meanwhile said the parliamentary commission for transport and telecommunications should intervene and ascertain the main difficulties of the project. (KP)

### (4) No Change in ...

measures would be more helpful for Afghans in timely hearing of their problems.

Andisha said reports about increased formalities for Afghans to get Indian visas had concerned the Afghans.

He hoped the Indian Embassy would cooperate with Afghans in issuing visas as the embassy did in the past and would consider their problems.

The two officials also discussed bilateral relations, regional cooperation, the Afghan peace process and India's cooperation with Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani recently told the upper house of parliament that India had increased formalities for the issuance of visas for the Afghan nationals amid concerns that the Afghan passports have been seen in possession of some of the citizens of neighboring countries of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (5) 120 Schoolgirls ...

and Bamyan provinces. It is the first time that students have been poisoned in Takhar this year.

The government has failed to identify the cause of such incidents, much less prevent them, fuelling concerns among parents and education officials. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Ghani Calls ...

Assistance Force (ISAF) until their withdrawal in late 2014, the addicts besides receiving medical treatment would also be given vocational training, the statement said. Lashing at drug producers, drug trafficking and its suppliers, the president said that a small group has taken hostage 3 million Afghan citizens to fill their own pockets, calling upon all Afghans to get united and help the government in its war against illegal drug in the country.

According to officials, more than 1.5 million Afghans are addicted to drugs, however, the number of drug users in Afghanistan, according to unofficial sources, is around 3 million including women and children, a figure doubled since 2010.

The economically impoverished nation as a major producer of illegal drugs harvested 3,300 tons of opium poppies in 2015, according to a report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released last December.

However, the president noted that the problem of drug is an "international problem" and international drug traffickers take the benefit from the easy profitable business of the drug trafficking.

The militancy-plagued Afghanistan is among the major opium poppy producing nations and reportedly supplies around 90 percent of the raw materials used in making heroin to the world.

Some 1,500 drug addicts have already shifted to the newly inaugurated rehabilitation center, the National Rehabilitation Center Omid, according to officials. The number of drug addicts obviously is on constant rise in Afghanistan even in the capital city Kabul as bunches of drug users are seen roaming in each corner of Kabul especially under the bridges of Kabul river. (Xinhua)

### (7) Accord ...

countries in order to improve business relations. Based on the agreement, only those businessmen whose assets are valued at more

than \$100 million could be granted membership of the centers, he said. So far 16 Afghan traders had become members of the centers, he added.

Alokozay said members of the centers would advise the Pakistani and the Afghan governments to resolve problems relating to businesses between the two countries. He asked the governments to separate trade relations from politics and do not create problems for business activities among the two countries.

He said Afghanistan imported goods worth \$2.5 billion from Pakistan and Afghanistan exported goods worth \$2 million to Pakistan each year.

The volume of trade between the two countries could be increased to \$5 billion if business relations between the neighbours improved, he added.

Alokozay also hinted at a three-day exhibition of Pakistani products scheduled to be launched on Thursday at the Kabul Intercontinental Hotel.

He said 40 Pakistani companies would participate in the exhibition that would showcase food items, construction materials, electronics, cosmetics and others. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Pakistan Rules...

way of bringing peace to Afghanistan," the advisor insisted.

Pakistan would continue to pursue efforts together with the United States and China for a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict, he promised, confirming a delegation from Taliban's Qatar office visited Karachi last week.

The visit, criticised by Kabul, was an exploratory contacts that Islamabad was making to pave the ground for peace talks, the advisor said, adding the US, China and Afghanistan were also in touch with the Taliban's office in Doha. (Pajhwok)

### (9) 10pc Kabulis ...

Kabul would be put into service over the next three years and then 20 percent of Kabul residents would have access to potable water.

He said the project funded by the German Development Bank was being implemented by Mumtaz Group. (Pajhwok)

### (10) President Deceives ...

who are providing the figures to the president are not honest or the president does not have the ability to distinguish [this himself]," said Ahmad Sayde, a political analyst. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said that 40,000 operations were conducted but that these included combative operations as well as military patrols, demining operations among others.

"The activities include patrols, clearances operations and demining exercises," said MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqqi.

According to the security institutions' figures, in 24 hours on average 110 combat operations are conducted. But the question raised was how then can the Taliban's activities not be stopped.

"Taliban movements are carried out in groups of five to 10 persons and their exact identification needs to take place," said Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, a former interior minister.

Experts believe that poor war management, the inability to gather good intelligence and the lack of coordination during operations are the main reasons government operations have a limited impact. (Tolonews)

### (11) Solar Water ...

we would use diesel-run generators for lifting water out of the ground that cost us a lot."

Ghulam Sediq Rahmani, who owns 20 acres of farmland in Enjil district, said he had also activated solar irrigation system for watering his farms. He said the power generated by solar could also be used for home lighting.

Mohammad Ismail, the manager of Khushbakht Company, told Pajhwok solar irrigation systems could lift water from 10 to 300 meters depth.

Farmers in the past would use money they earned for repairing water pumps and purchasing diesel, but the solar irrigation system has resolved that problem, he said. Ismail added farmers annually spent 200,000 to 300,000 afghanis

irrigating their farmlands, a cost that could be saved with the activation of a solar system. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Wolesi Jirga ...

"Do not politicise TUTAP project, which should be implemented based on documents available with the MoWE."

He said a professional team should be tasked with identifying advantages and disadvantages of both the project routes and then a final decision should be made.

Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdu; Rauf Ibrahimy asked the house communications commission to contact the relevant organs to review information about the project and share the result with the house for a final decision. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Mourning Political ...

execution of militants serving in the Afghan jails was another topic discussed by the lawmakers but an MP Mawlawi Rahmani said 631 militants are included in the list that has been given to President Ghani.

He claimed that President is keen to obtain views of international community, human rights commission before signing the death penalties of the militants. (KP)

### (14) April 19 Kabul ...

News she aborted her baby after she was injured in the blast.

She welcomed the assistance and said: "God destroy those who commit destructive activities and carry out bomb explosions."

Zarina, another mother, said: "My son Nazir went out of home for selling plastic pags in the bazaar when he was injured in the head, feet and back in the blast."

She said her husband died five years ago and her son was the only breadwinner for her five-member family. However, she added doctors had told her that one of her son's feet might be amputated due to the deep injuries. (Pajhwok)

### (15) UN Demands ...

increase in attacks and serves as a reminder that hospitals, ambulances and medical workers cannot be targets in war.

It was the first-ever resolution adopted by the council specifically on the need to protect medical facilities in war zones.

According to Doctors Without Borders (MSF), there were 94 attacks in Syria against hospitals and clinics supported by that NGO and three MSF-linked health facilities in Yemen have been bombed over the past six months.

Hospitals and clinics in South Sudan have been pillaged repeatedly over the past three years.

"Hospitals and patients have been dragged onto the battlefield," MSF president Joanne Liu told the council.

"Stop these attacks", she pleaded.

"Make this resolution save lives." The resolution does not name countries, but "demands that all parties to armed conflicts" ensure "the respect and protection" of medical personnel as well as their ambulances, hospitals and other health facilities.

"Such attacks must end," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the council.

"When so-called surgical strikes end up hitting surgical wards, something is deeply wrong."

The resolution was drafted by five non-permanent Security Council members: Egypt, Japan, Spain, New Zealand and Uruguay.

It was presented at a time when four of the five permanent council members -- Britain, France, Russia and the United States -- are backing parties in the Syria conflict.

Syria's state media reported that rebel fire on a hospital in the government-controlled area of Aleppo had killed three women and wounded another 17 on Tuesday. The vote came days after the United States said its troops involved in the bombing of a MSF-run hospital in the Afghan city of Kunduz would not face war crimes charges. (AFP)

### (16) Pakistan ...

attempts to improve conditions. Although India is a strong trading partner of Afghanistan, trade between the two countries has not fared well as they are dependent on Pakistan for logistic and other transit aids. Radha Kumar, Director General of Delhi Policy Group, stated that the Taliban is present in at least a third of Afghanistan and

are mobilising along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The Delhi Policy Group's annual report titled 'Afghanistan 2016 Turbulent Transitions' was released on April 17, 2016 in Kabul. The annual report covered major developments in the country and the challenges it faces.

"The main country for Afghanistan for this period is going to be Pakistan, mainly, Pakistan has been so implicated in the security in Afghanistan and now that the focus has come here that Pakistan has to be, whether it is coaxed or persuaded to do far more in terms of co-operating in cross border issues, militancy in particular sanctuaries and logistic aid and so on for Afghanistan and with Afghanistan, and I think that is going to be the top challenge for 2016," said Kumar.

India has played a pivotal role in rebuilding the war-ravaged country by providing aid and assistance for the past 15 years.

"India has tended not to play neighbourhood politics in Afghanistan, so Pakistan has constantly tried to make India an issue in Afghanistan and India has never tried to make Pakistan or any other neighbor an issue in Afghanistan," said Kumar.

International communities and regional countries must take charge and coordinate to assist Afghanistan in securing peace and development. (ANI)

### (17) Haqqani ...

Haqqani. The group is allied with al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban and cooperates with other terrorist organizations in the region.

The network is accused of staging numerous cross-border attacks from their base in North Waziristan, including the 19-hour siege at the US Embassy in Kabul in September 2011. (KP)

### (18) 18 Taliban ...

government forces in parts of Kandahar and neighboring Zabul, Helmand and Uruzgan provinces over the past several months, are yet to make comment on the situation in Khakriz district. (Xinhua)

### (19) Flash Flood ...

been affected at 15 locations and would take up to three days to be cleared.

The Faizabad-Takhar highway is vulnerable to floods at 46 points, he said, adding the route should either be changed or fundamentally reconstructed to prevent blockades in future.

Obaidullah, a driver, said: "Yesterday, I wanted to travel from Faizabad to Takhar, but we faced with a strong flood on our route. A police pick-up was also stuck in the floodwaters but we helped it move to safety after a lot of pushes."

He asked the government to clear the road as soon as possible in order to allow movement of public traffic. (Pajhwok)

### (20) 5 Militants...

that a child was injured after a mortar round fired by militants landed on a residential house in Geyan district of Paktika.

The Afghan armed forces also discovered 8 Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during separate operations conducted in Khost, Paktika, Logar and Maidan Wardak provinces. MOD said. (KP)

### (21) 2 More ...

ing from severe depression as he was told by the British authorities that he would be deported.

His service with the British forces as a translator in the restive Helmand province had reportedly put his life at risk as the Taliban group was repeatedly threatening him, a threat which normally the Afghan citizens are receiving from the group for working with the foreign forces.

According to MailOnline, Dawoodzai's death has sparked fresh support for the Daily Mail's Betrayal of the Brave campaign to give sanctuary to the men who were the eyes and ears of UK frontline troops. Field Marshal Lord Guthrie, former head of the Armed Forces, said the policy on Afghan interpreters 'shamed Britain'.

The campaign - supported by a petition signed by nearly 180,000 people, including military chiefs, soldiers and MPs - has revealed how interpreters have been shot dead or beaten. Their homes have

been attacked and their children kidnapped and murdered. (KP)

### (22) U.S. Says...

confront ISIL in Iraq and Syria and its metastases elsewhere."

The talks included ministers from France, Britain and Germany and were planned well in advance of Tuesday's attack, in which Islamic State fighters blasted through Kurdish defenses and overran a town. (Reuters)

### (23) Turkey Ready ...

artillery fire of its own against IS but has always stopped short of making any firm commitment to send its troops over the border.

Drones from the US-led international coalition fighting IS have also taken off from Turkey's Incirlik base in the south of the country for bombing raids against IS targets.

Asked if Turkey could act unilaterally against IS, Davutoglu said Turkey had a right to self-defence against IS based on UN resolutions. (AFP)

### (24) German, ...

important, "based on the realization that there are no military solutions to this conflict, to find a way back to Geneva to the political negotiations."

The Russian military says it has withdrawn about 30 aircraft from its base in Syria, including all of the Su-25 ground attack planes stationed there. (AP)

### (25) Israel Hails...

Israel's standing in the world."

A statement from the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that the move "comes after a long diplomatic effort by Israel."

On Tuesday, the NATO organization said it has agreed, after years of attempts by Israeli diplomats, to accept a request to open an Israeli mission at the Brussels headquarters. The mission will be headed by Israel's ambassador to Belgium.

An official in the Israeli Foreign Ministry said the move of opening Israeli offices in the NATO organization headquarters points to an upgrade in the ties between Israel and the military alliance, and is one step in the way of possibly having Israel accepted to the organization as a non-member state, and increase cooperation between Israel and the organization. (Xinhua)

### (26) Kremlin ...

place Friday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, would help solve the issue.

Moscow and Tokyo have territorial disputes over the four Pacific islands, known as the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia, which prevented the two sides from inking a peace treaty after World War II.

Relations between Russia and Japan have soured after the latter, together with the United States and the European Union, slapped sanctions on Russia in 2014 in response to Russia's role in the Ukraine crisis.

Putin is expected to pay a return visit to Japan later this year. (Xinhua)

### (27) France Wants ...

returns straight away and we would like the ISSG to meet. For now we have not got any agreement from the Americans or Russians who co-preside the group to hold this meeting," he said.

"That's the reason why I am going to invite like-minded countries to meet in Paris on Monday for a strong initiative to end the deadly bombings so that humanitarian aid can arrive effectively and that we can once again open the way to a political solution," Ayrault said.

Ayrault did not specify which countries Paris would invite, though government spokesman Stephane Le Foll earlier mentioned inviting officials from Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Other countries supporting non-jihadi opposition groups battling Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces include the United States, Turkey and European powers. They have all called on Assad to step down. (Reuters)

### (28) Turkmenistan, ...

said the article citing the president of Turkmenistan. "These positive tendencies will be preserved in the future, according to the experts of a number of authoritative international organizations." (Agencies)