

### (1) President Terms ...

companies were blacklisted due to some reasons and 11 more were added to the number.

The president, however, said a strong political will existed in the government to eradicate corruption, which he called 'a national shame.'

Ghani said the international community had failed in capacity building of Afghan companies, adding millions of dollars were given to a company that merely caught snapshots of roads from satellite and had no idea of the ground realities about road construction and many other things. Regarding corruption in the Ministry of Education, the president said the menace was not acceptable to him in any ministry or institution.

He termed corruption in public sector as cancer which needed to be cured and reiterated the entire government was committed to getting rid of the stigma. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Ghani Appoints...

year to serve as defense minister, had served as acting defense minister until his appointment to replace national intelligence chief and General Abdullah Khan had served as Chief of Staff in the Afghan National Army Chief of Staff office before he was appointed as acting defense minister.

Both defense ministry and the national spy agency have been run by acting chiefs since long amid criticism by Afghans as the lawmakers repeatedly asking the president to introduce the minister for defense and chief of NDS to the parliament for approval.

President Ghani in his address to the joint session of parliament on April 25 promised to introduce the minister for defense and chief of NDS to the Lower House of parliament. (Xinhua)

### (3) Mohaqiq Warns...

acting Balkh governor Ata Mohammad Noor and the former NDS Chief Rahmatullah Nabil have voiced concerns regarding the implementation of the project via Salang.

However, 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.

The Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish first expressed concerns regarding the implementation of the project via Salang.

He wrote a letter to the Ministry of Energy and Water and Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat earlier in January this year and called for technical approach to implement the project, considering the needs of the residents of the central provinces for their access to energy who have repeatedly demanded the government to ensure social justice while executing such projects.

Danish also pointed towards the survey conducted by the Fichtner Engineering Company in 2013 for a 20-year master plan of Afghanistan, a report of which was presented to the Asian Development Bank and Ministry of Energy and Water, and said the Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat is ignoring the technical views of Fichtner. (KP)

### (4) Troops Still...

area because everywhere Taliban has placed mines," said Akhtar Mohammad Nad Ali, a resident who lost his father in a Taliban mine blast which forced him to leave his home eight months ago.

"Whenever forces attack Taliban they use our houses as their strongholds and wear women's burkas to flee the area," Ali added.

Previously, some provincial council members raised concerns over Ghani's failure to implement his own war orders against the Taliban. (Tolnews)

### (5) Corruption on ...

who made a bid on my life," he said, citing it as an example.

The religious scholar claimed dozens of Taliban fighters and drug smugglers had been released in return for money and the released individuals had made a beeline to their old profession.

Tribal elder Abdul Baqi told the gathering that courts and other judicial organs daily decided dozens of cases based on payments but the government had failed to prevent them.

He said not punishing criminals had resulted in increased crimes and a large number of Taliban militants and would be suicide bombers had been freed by judicial organs after their arrest by security forces.

But the provincial head of courts, Maulvi Mohammad Jan, reiterated that no one would be allowed to accept money as bribe.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News that if a judge was caught accepting bribe,

he would face a legal action.

He said they were not only campaigning against corruption but also not tolerating any act that violated the law.

Uruzgan Governor Mohammad Nazir Kharotai also said his administration was serious about corruption and urged religious scholars and common people to cooperate with the provincial government in this regard. He identified the fight against corruption as his government's top priority and said strong measures had already been taken in this regard.

Kharotai said he was committed to preventing bribery and bringing to justice officials involved.

Also on Thursday, President Ashraf Ghani, addressing a gathering in Kabul, said corruption was a national stigma and vowed to root out the menace. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Time for ...

reconciliation efforts needed to be given more time. "Our position has been that the military option has been tried for 14 years, but has failed..."

The roadmap evolved by the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) includes a strategy for dealing with the Taliban if they stay away from negotiations.

However, Pakistan thinks believe things have not yet reached that point. It contends any future course of action will have to be determined by the four-nation group through consensus. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Parliamentary ...

the parliamentary and district council elections and had said the election commission had made all technical preparations in this regard.

Noor Mohammad Noor, IEC spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had fulfilled responsibility by announcing a date for holding the elections.

He said the time was being wasted with each passing day and the government was solely responsible for that.

But deputy presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazavi said the government was committed to holding elections and had performed its duty in this regard.

He said it was up to the parliament to approve the presidential legislative decree and pave the ground for the selection committee to nominate new commissioners and recommend electoral reforms.

When asked about the Oct 15 date, he said new commissioners would decide about it and may or may not change the earlier announcement. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Afghan Army ...

to the Afghan Ministry of Defence's foreign affairs section, Asmati said. After investigation into their documents, the cadets were awarded ranks and deployed at duty stations after a draw, he added.

He said the Afghans were also taught about patriotism. "Where you from?" Astami yelled at the Afghan cadets who shouted: "Afghanistan, Afghanistan, Afghanistan."

He said so far 3000 Afghan cadets had graduated from IMA, the biggest number of cadets graduating from a foreign academy. (Pajhwok)

### (9) TUTAP Route...

people of the central zone," remarked the public representative, who called on the government to review its decision in the interest of national unity.

Another protestor, Mohammad Akhlaqi, said: "The president and the chief executive officer shouldn't forget the votes they have been given by Bamyan inhabitants. All eligible voters exercised their franchise right in favour of them."

A resolution issued at the end of the demonstration asked the government to eschew "the politics of prejudice and injustice and undemocratic decisions" and ensure even-handed development of all provinces.

On Thursday, the lower house of the parliament said the route of the 500kv power project would be changed based on findings of the parliamentary commission.

The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) has recommend the project be implemented through Salang Pass crossing Baghlan province, but a number of people have stressed the scheme should pass through central Bamyan. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Afghans Reject ...

appears that Pakistan, after the new policy shift on insurgency in Afghanistan, has started talking about its ties with the Taliban.

"The Taliban did not say no... they are now introspecting and reassessing the situation," a senior official said in a background discussion during the Taliban's recent visit to Islamabad, reported Dawn news.

In reference to Aziz's assertions, the

Afghan government and a number of military commentators have rejected the remarks.

"It is quite regrettable to say that Pakistan is pursuing a wrong policy toward Afghanistan and it is engaging in miscalculations when it comes to the issue of interests of Pakistan in Afghanistan. Pakistan thinks that by waging war through Taliban and forging carnage in Afghanistan it can reach its objectives which is a wrong calculation," an expert on international relations Mohammad Natiqi said.

"Afghanistan and the international community expect Pakistan to use its influence on those groups that continue to wage war and acts of terrorism and target them. Because we have done enough to put the peace process on track. However, presently we have to think about other options as well," a deputy presidential spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi told TOLONews on Thursday, referring to Aziz's Taliban remarks.

In a new development on Monday, Pakistani government ordered Afghan refugees sheltered in Pakistan's tribal belt of Khyber agency to evacuate and return to their home country, warning of the demolition of their homes if they fail to follow the order.

"Pakistan's measures on the issue of Afghan refugees in fact is an attempt to mount pressure on the Afghan government. But Pakistan must remember that repatriation of these refugees has not been an issue for the country nor in the past neither in the future," law expert at Kabul University Nasrullah Stanekzai said.

"Pakistan will not be intimidated by Ashraf Ghani's requests and warnings and it will not handover those Taliban who have fought for the interests of Pakistan for more than a decade and acted against the interests of Afghanistan," former diplomat to Pakistan, Ahmad Saedi told TOLONews.

Bilateral relations between Afghanistan and its controversial neighbor Pakistan has faced ups and downs over the past fifteen years since the establishment of the new democratic system in Afghanistan. Kabul has persistently accused Islamabad of harboring the Taliban leadership and other militant groups on its soil to use them as tools in a bid to destabilize Afghanistan, however Pakistan has always rejected the allegations, arguing that Islamabad is committed to restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

### (11) ANA Demonstrate...

deputy ScanEagle advisor, ISR Capabilities Integration Cell, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. "Before this technology, they relied on human and signals intelligence. The ScanEagle systems considerably increase their intelligence collection and reconnaissance ability.

"The Afghan National Army is now able to see enemy movements and can visualize enemy tactics," added White, who hails from San Diego, California. "This technology helps them better prepare their troops."

Another ScanEagle system became operational last month at the training center in Mazar-e-Sharif, where classroom training for future ScanEagle operators is conducted.

The Afghan forces are expected to suppress the insurgency activities of the terror groups with improved capabilities this year with the addition of modern military equipment, including the US-supplied A-29 Super Tucanos and Mi-25 gunship helicopters provided by India.

The A-29 is a multi-role, fixed-wing aircraft that will provide the Afghan air force with an indigenous air-to-ground capability and aerial reconnaissance capabilities to support the country's counterinsurgency operations.

Eight Afghan Air Force pilots completed their training late last year and graduated from a program hosted by the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in United States and will return to Afghanistan for combat. (KP)

### (12) 94 Girls, Boys ...

rassment in society.

Fazela, 27, a resident of Darzab district, attempted self-immolation, but was rescued and now in terrible condition. She faced violence everyday at the hands of her husband, an aggressive person who beat her daily for no reason.

Maghfirat Samimi, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) head for Jawzjan, Faryab and Sar-i-Pul provinces, said forced marriages, child marriages and giving girls into marriages to settle a dispute were main natures of violence against women.

She said some girls married in childhood did not understand marital life and when they grew up, they faced

multiple problems, which ultimately led to violence and an unhappy life.

Mohammad Rassoul Akhunzada, head of a local council, said Islam strictly prohibited suicide as a sin.

Darzab is 105 kilometers west of Shiberghan, the provincial capital, and is one of the insecure districts. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Afghan Army...

Ghani] stopped buying, and that means someone has got to do it," Ken Watson, head of essential functions for NATO's Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, was quoted as saying by the paper.

The allies are about to ship boots costing from between \$75 and \$90 dollars to the country, with total expenditure on footwear for Afghan soldiers expected to reach \$100 million by September 2016, to be followed by an additional \$215 million in the next fiscal year.

US troops started to pull out of Afghanistan in 2011 as President Barack Obama resolved to keep his election pledge to put an end to the military operation in the country. (Sputnik)

### (14) Treatment of...

fled Afghanistan in a bid to reach Europe through risky sea crossings.

But Earl Howe dismissed criticism of the treatment meted out to the translators

Ex-Tory minister Lord Fowler said: "Surely, the time has come for us to recognise we owe a debt of honour to those who helped this country at great danger to themselves."

Ashdown, former Lib Dem leader, referred to two Afghans waiting for a decision in the UK and another 10 caught in despair in Calais. One of them was seriously wounded in an explosion. (Pajhwok)

### (15) U.S. Warns ...

to be very high."

The embassy advised U.S. citizens to take appropriate precautions, including avoiding "predictable travel patterns" within the country.

"The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens in Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan to review your personal security plans, take appropriate steps to enhance your personal safety, remain aware of your surroundings, monitor local news for updates, and maintain a high level of vigilance," the statement read.

Last week, gunmen kidnapped an Australian development worker at dawn from her home in Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan.

The embassy statement referred to the U.S. State Department's travel warning for Afghanistan, which advises that a risk of kidnapping exists throughout the country, and that the capital and other major cities face a "high risk for militant attacks," including car bombs, direct and indirect fire, and suicide bombings.

Analysis: Afghanistan must recognize Taliban are winning

Last month, rockets were fired near Kabul's diplomatic area within an hour of U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry flying out of the country after a visit aimed at defusing Afghanistan's political crisis.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the rocket strikes, saying Kerry had been the intended target. (CNN)

### (16) Situation in ...

There is also the risk of kidnapping and hostage taking throughout the Afghanistan," according to a statement by the Indian Embassy.

The statement further added that "The Embassy advises all Indians in Afghanistan to live and work with adequate security precautions. All should review their personal security plans, take appropriate steps to enhance personal safety, remain aware of surroundings, monitor local media for updates, and maintain a high level of vigilance."

"Non-essential movements especially during peak commuting hours may be avoided, as also unknown areas and establishments frequented by foreigners. Movement should not have a predictable pattern and vehicle should be parked in secure premises," the statement added.

This comes as the US Embassy in Kabul issued two separate alerts on Wednesday and Thursday, warning regarding a possible suicide and coordinated attack or kidnapping attempt of foreigners in capital Kabul.

In its first statement the US Embassy said the militants are attempting to carry out attack or kidnapping in police district 10 of the city, citing the police chief of the district.

In its second statement, the Embassy said "An attempted kidnapping occurred in Kabul on May 2, 2016 targeting several expatriates including a U.S. citizen. The U.S. Embassy Kabul reminds U.S. citizens that the threat of kidnapping and hostage taking continues to be very high."

This comes as the anti-government

armed militant groups have been attempting to carry out attacks in capital Kabul during the recent weeks which comes after the Taliban group announced its spring offensive. (KP)

### (17) Central Govt...

lacking ammunition as well.

He said the south had been experiencing power outages amid dwindling economy over the past many years, but no action could be taken to resolve these issues.

As an example, the public representative mentioned the Kandahar-Uruzgan highway which had been closed since a week. He said a number of districts in Uruzgan province were on the verge of falling to insurgents, but security forces were yet to get assistance there.

He complained when a similar situation emerged in other zones or provinces, special operations and air support were immediately sent there.

Khakrezwal continued the southern zone provinces were struggling with a lot of problems in areas of education, health and others and the central government had failed to honour its promises in this regard.

Zabul provincial council chief Haji Atta Jan Haqbayani said if the central government did not take measures to resolve problems in the south, it would further exacerbate the situation.

He warned if the central government continued to ignore problems in the south, they would also continue holding protest gatherings. "We will demand the rights of our people in any way possible."

Dr. Zalmai Zabuli, who represents Jirga province in the Meshroon Jirga, said the youth in the south had long suffered from the conflict and deprived of their right to education and other rights. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Over 60 ...

In recent months with the support of NATO that freed scores of prisoners, including Afghan security personnel. Regional army commander General Dawoodshah Wafadar told VOA that a Taliban commander supervising the prison was among those killed in the operation. He said almost all the hostages were civilians. (VoA)

### (19) Local Documentary ...

gained 15 international awards for Afghanistan cinema industry including the first position at Al-Jazeera festival and Voice of Women Awards in the United States.

This year, 600 filmmakers from all over the world attended the event.

The Afghan documentary 'Afghanistan Night Stories' are among the new works by Sadat and is based on the stories of the Afghan army soldiers on the battlefields.

Sadat is the only Afghan filmmaker, who despite facing serious challenges, was able to make the documentary which is based on lives and hard missions of the Afghan army soldiers. (Tolnews)

### (20) Nabil Supports ...

government leaders regarding the change of the project route and said 'What would be fault if the project brings light in the homes of Baghlan, Bamyan and Maidan Wardak provinces besides benefiting Khost, Paktia, Logar and Ghazni provinces?'

Nabil said he was expecting the government would provide a satisfactory response to the demands of the people considering the sensitive situation the country is going through.

According to Nabil, certain elements are attempting to spark ethnic and political tensions as the government has failed to consider and respond to the demands of people.

He said deprivation does not recognize Hazara, Pashtun, Uzbek and Tajik, insisting that he supports from the well deserved rights of Bamyan, Maidan Wardak, Tala Barfak and Daikundi. (KP)

### (21) 4th Made in ...

products such as handicrafts and decoration products have also been put on the display at the show, he said, adding that Afghanistan hosted the previous three Made in Pakistan exhibitions in 2012 and 2014 in Kabul and in 2015 in Mazar-I-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province.

Alokozay welcomed the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its efforts at improving trade relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan by launching the exhibition and said the move could also remove problems regarding trade affairs.

Mia Homayon Parviz, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry head, also said showcasing Afghanistan and Pakistan products in each others' cities could promote business and economic relations and encourage the governments to improve their political relations as well. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Pakistan's ...

impose their draconian and regressive writ in the country," he argued.

Hasan, who heads the Regional Peace Institute, alleged Pakistan had lived for an excruciatingly long period of time in denial of the presence of the Afghan Taliban on its soil. Only recently, Adviser on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz conceded the reality in his address to the Council on Foreign Relations in the US. "We have some influence on them because their leadership is in Pakistan, and they get some medical facilities, their families are here. So, we can use these levers to pressurise them to come to the negotiating table."

He took issue with the advisor's statement: "So that is the kind of leverage we have to bring them to the table. But to pressurise them and to negotiate will depend on the parties which are actually negotiating. We can advise the Afghan government, if they want our advice, on what might be acceptable and so on and so forth, but in this task, I think, and according to the road map, all three of us have to share that advice - US, Pakistan, and China - so that we collectively decide what is best."

The analyst viewed Aziz's stance as non-committal, refusing to accept outright responsibility for actually bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table - on which the whole quadrilateral effort hinges. This ambivalent position literally pulls one pillar from under the very edifice of the quadrilateral process. (Pajhwok)

### (23) 200 Suspected...

If this issue becomes clear that these people were traveling to the north to join their fellow fighters battling government forces then it means that terrorists in the north are trying to shift their followers to the north and strengthen their ranks and intensify their attacks against government forces. (Tolnews)

### (24) Thousands ...

28 people were killed in an airstrike that hit a refugee camp in northern Syria near the border with Turkey, according to pro-opposition activists.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said the camp for the internally-displaced near Sarmada, in the northwestern Idlib province near the Turkish border, was struck on Thursday afternoon. (AP)

### (25) Poetry Session...

youth to focus on education so as to revive the past glory of the city.

Governor Dr. Humayun Azizi said such literary and cultural gatherings were useful in bringing about intellectual interaction among people from different areas and promoting peace and unity. (Pajhwok)

### (26) Prices of Sugar...

But wholesale prices varied from retail rates in some parts of the city. A retailer in Dahna Bagh area, Mohammad Haroon, sold a 24-kg sack of rice for 1,700af and a 50-kg bag of flour for 1,300af.

Similarly, he sold a 49-kg bag of sugar for 2,150af, a 16-kg tin of Momin ghee for 1,200af, a kilo of black tea for 270af and the same quantity of Indonesian green tea for 250af. (Pajhwok)

### (27) Pope Francis ...

where being a migrant is not a crime but a summons to greater commitment on behalf of the dignity of every human being," he said.

### (28) 8 Killed ...

gripped by one of the most active regional al-Qaida insurgencies in the Middle East.

The AQAP, also known as Ansar al-Sharia, emerged in January 2009. It had claimed responsibility for a number of attacks on Yemen's army and government institutions. (Xinhua)

### (29) IS Takes ...

organization in the city and its outskirts."

The unity government warned, in a statement last week, against the "competition to initiate the battle against the IS in Sirte. (Xinhua)

### (30) Russian S-300 ...

the Belarusian military, the complexes are able to deal with ballistic targets, guided bombs, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles and light aircraft. (Xinhua)

### (31) Hamas Says ...

northern Gaza and near Khan Yunis in the south of the territory, witnesses said. There were no reports of any casualties.

The Israeli army confirmed only one strike, saying it was a reaction to cross-border mortar fire. (AFP)