

(1) Lawmakers ...

number of the members of the House of People shall be proportionate to the population of each constituency, not exceeding the maximum of two hundred fifty individuals. Electoral constituencies as well as other related issues shall be determined by the elections law. The elections law shall adopt measures to attain, through the electorate system, general and fair. Representation for all the people of the country, and proportionate to the population of every

The date for upcoming Wolesi Jirg polls was not yet determined but officials hinted election may be held at the end of the ongoing solar year. Earlier, the election commission officials said the technical team of the electoral body has started the use of technology in the upcoming election to make sure transparency and fairness. Nasrullah Sadeqi, a lawmaker from Daikundi province, said: "A system should be introduced in upcoming polls which could ensure transparency count the votes properly otherwise the conduct of election would be a futile exercise."

He said fraud and rigging led to confrontation between the two teams during presidential election, warning if similar irregularities happened it will lead to confrontation between the people of Afghanistan.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim also stressed over transparent and free election. He said: "It is government responsibility to provide peaceful environment for parliamentary poll so that free and fair election could be ensured and the results would be acceptable to common people." (Pajhwok)

(2) President Back...

cultivation were not an issue confined to Afghanistan, asserting they were global problems that had put in danger the entire region.

"The Afghan government has initiated practical measures against administrative corruption that has left a negative impact on the lives of the common people," the president said. He added: "Development and stability in Afghanistan ensured the prosperity of Asia, because it serves as a bridge between Central and South Asia, with immense capacity in terms of trade and economic connectivity."

The Singapore National University head thanked President Ghani for his informative speech on Afghanistan and gifted him a special jacket with the university logo. (Pajhwok)

(3) Terror a ...

Afghanistan border. He quoted the COAS as saying during the meeting: "Every Afghan is dear to me as every Pakistani. I am as hurt for every Afghan who is a victim of terrorism as much as I am for every Pakistani. Terrorists are our common enemy."

A statement from ISPR said the main objective behind the interaction was to let the Afghan media know about Pakistan's efforts in the war against terrorism.

The delegates, it added, were convinced that terrorism had badly affected both the countries and only joint efforts could bring about lasting peace to the region.

"The visit is expected to enable the visiting media delegation in better understanding of Pakistan's perspective and efforts for bringing peace and stability in the region for sharing in Afghan media," it added. The visit is expected to enable the media delegation to better understand Pakistan's perspective and efforts for bringing peace and stability to the region.

The delegation had already visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of States and Frontier Regions, Ministry of Commerce, Higher Education Commission (HEC), the Headquarters of Frontier Constabulary and the National Security Division. (Pajhwok)

(4) Merkel Defends ...

criminals convicted of offences. In 2016, Afghans were the second biggest group of asylum seekers in Germany after Syrians, according to data from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.

"All other EU countries send those who don't have the right of residence back to Afghanistan," Merkel said during an event at the chancellery in Berlin with people who help refugees. Merkel urged Afghanistan's president: "Don't give the impression that (Afghans) can't live in Afghanistan because otherwise we'll all be lost together and we won't be able to find anybody to fight the Taliban as part of the Afghan army anymore." Around 55 percent of Afghans are granted refugee status in Germany while 45 percent are not, Merkel said. She added that the Afghan government had itself said that those coming to Germany were certainly not all the

Afghans who are in the greatest danger of violence or the poorest.

"I can't and should not send the signal that Germany thinks the 29 million Afghans ... live in unacceptable conditions and that you can't survive in Afghanistan. That's the dilemma we're in," the conservative chancellor said. (Monitoring Desk)

(5) Take Practical ...

Kakar said the closure of boarder by Pakistan, rocket attacks into Afghan areas and detention of Sharbat Gula were some of Pakistan's actions which led to deterioration of bilateral relation, he believed.

Another Afghan delegation member, Mohammad Hassan Haqyar, warned Pakistan would be dubbed as an enemy state in Afghan textbooks if relation between the two countries remained strained.

Haqyar said India and Pakistan considered each other as enemy as the two never had good relation since their birth.

Pakistan army spokesman Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor said terrorism was a common enemy of both countries and there was need for joint efforts to eliminate the scourge.

He added the military operation – codenamed Zarb-i-Azab – had forced militants to flee tribal areas and sneak into Afghanistan, from where they were launching attacks on targets inside Pakistan.

He quoted Army Chief Gen. Bajwa's statement at a recent meeting in London with Afghan defence Attaché. Bajwa that terrorism was a common enemy of Afghanistan and Pakistan and he felt pain equally for Afghans as for Pakistani when they became victims of terrorism.

The Afghan journalist team said they had come to Pakistan with the message of peace. They asked Islamabad to take effective measures to curb the scourge of terrorism. (Pajhwok)

(6) 80% of ...

urban services and revenue law, commercial units, civil technical services centres, car parking or selling units, electronic equipment, transport companies, telecom companies, production firms, petrol stations, restaurants, civil aviation companies should pay the permit fee ranging from 15,000 to 20,000 afghanis.

Municipality administrative units and level of implementation of law. A source at the municipality estimated at about 15,000 trade units operating in the 22nd municipality district of capital Kabul.

But Khair Mohammad Safdari, head of the municipality's marketing section, said they lacked a proper system to tell exact number of trade units in the 22nd municipality district.

He said 12,500 work permits had been issued by the municipality but an estimated less than 20 percent trade units were active.

He said due to the lack of human resources and non-implementation of law, the municipality has been unable to determine the exact number of trading units in the city.

He, however, said it was estimated that some 62,500 trading units existed in the city and 50,000 of them were without work permit or license.

Safdari said: "The law is not respected and people's strong resistance has rendered the municipality unable to cover trade units in 14th, 18th, 19th 20th and 21st municipality districts." He said most of the trade units were without work permits. He said an international organisation had been asked to establish a system through which work permit fee was submitted to local banks. He said the system might be made active in the coming three months.

Comparison of municipality statistics with an estimates statistic based on investigation:

Head of the municipality marketing management estimated the number of commercial units in Kabul City at as many as 26,500.

But Pajhwok Afghan News' findings show 45,000 commercial units such as shops and stalls exist in five municipality districts alone.

The non-existence of data on trade units and unawareness of the municipality prompted Pajhwok to conduct an investigative report about the number of trading units in the city. The assessments were based on demography of the area and population. Pajhwok team visited 17th municipality district also known as Kharikhana north of the city and third municipality district known as Kart-i-Char south of the city, 12th municipality district east of the city known as Arzan Qemat.

The team visited 13th municipality district known as Dasht-i-Barch west of the city and 16th municipality district known as Macro Ryan-i-Kuhna in the centre. The team counted every trading unit in these areas.

The counting of trading units was finished by Pajhwok reporters in 10

days. There are about 44,800 trading units in total and among them 10,918 are in the third municipality district, 3,317 in 16th municipality district, 10,852 in 13th municipality district, 9,663 in 17th municipality district and 10,050 in 12th municipality district. Most of these units don't have without work permit.

In the remaining 17 municipality districts, the first, second and 11th districts are much crowded areas and have more trading units. Mandawi, Jada-i-Cinama Pamir, Jada-i-Nader Pashtun and Leyci Maryam areas are among the crowded areas.

Chal Saton, Waselabad, Kart-i-Se that fall in the sixth and seventh municipality districts are less crowded and have fewer number of trading units.

When 44,800 units exist in five municipality districts, it shows there are 9,860 units in each district on average, with the total number reaching 152,000 in the remaining 17 districts of Kabul city. Kabul has total of 22 municipality districts

Activities without license; escaping the law or corruption, weakness in municipality

Mohammad Nabi Rahimi, the chief for 13th police district of Kabul, said that his district had issued licenses to around 4,000 shops. However, he said the process of license issuance faced serious problems.

Calling license procedure for trade units as unfair, he said: "Based on the regulation, a shopkeeper who has seven million afghanis worth goods, and a shopkeeper who has 20,000 afghanis asset, both pay equal amount of money for license. This is the only reason shopkeepers do not take licenses"

Bashir Ahmad, revenue director for the fourth police district of Kabul, said, "A number of shopkeepers are unaware about the municipality law and they do not apply for license.

Safullah Abdi, chief of 12th police district, said: "Afghans enjoy escaping from the law, some shopkeepers do not have licenses, but we will seriously follow the licensing process this year."

Haji Zaman, who owns a food items store in Jamal Mina of fourth police district, said: "Three years ago two officers from the municipality came here and explained license issuance process to me. It was very complicated and I started paying them 200 afghanis each month instead of taking license."

Noor Bahadar, a shopkeeper in Tapa-I-Salam area, said, "I have license, I pay 2,000 afghanis each year, but municipality officers demand more money under different excuses."

"In other countries, municipalities provide needed services to people in return for taxes, but unfortunately our municipality does nothing but demands taxes," he said.

Obaid Naseri, who owns a mobile phone shop in the 16th police district, said, "We have the license but the municipality still takes extra money, they come up with different excuses, if we do not pay them the extra money, they shut our shop."

Abdul Matin, a shopkeeper in Arzan Qimat area, said he opened his footwear shop seven years ago and was yet to obtain license. (Pajhwok)

(7) Iran Can ...

concerning it in many ways. At one level, it has played host to millions of refugees from Afghanistan who had fled the country at various times. At another, it was ostensibly a part of the 'international alliance' that was supporting the Afghan-led resistance against the Taliban, Chayanika Saxena said in exclusive interview with IRNA.

"It has been, thus, for Iran, as much as for any other country, its international and national priorities that have governed Tehran's involvement in Afghanistan and the role it has played to that effect," she added.

Terming Iran's Chabahar port as an important port to connect Afghanistan to the open seas and thus, to stabilize its economy, she said: "Prior to the Chabahar port, the Bandar Abbas port was providing Afghanistan's access to open seas. A transit agreement to this effect was concluded between Iran and Afghanistan in 1974 itself, while the one concerning Chabahar took effect in 2013. It is important to note that where Bandar Abbas serves as an entry into Russian territories and Europe, the significance of Chabahar will be in connecting Afghanistan and the Central Asian Caucasus to India and other South Asian nations by effectively bypassing Pakistan."

"Connected further through land routes to Afghanistan (Delaram-Zaranj Rail and Road Link and further (in future) to Bamyan) and given its strategic and economic significance, completion of the Chabahar Port will not only come to benefit Afghanistan, but also Iran and India," she added. (IRNA)

(8) Special Forces...

The statement further added that five militants affiliated with the Al-Qaeda terrorist network were also among those killed during the operations. Gen. Waziri said at least eight foreign insurgents were also killed and four others were wounded during the operations.

He said at least eight Tajik insurgents and the deputy shadow governor of the Taliban group identified as Mullah Asadullah were killed during the Special Forces operations in Dasht-e-Archi district of Kunduz.

Gen. Waziri said at least 13 ISIS loyalists out of dozens killed in the past 24 hours were eliminated during the Special Forces operations in Deh Bala and Achin districts of Nangarhar. (KP)

(9) 31 Daesh, ...

a statement from the 201st Selab Military Corps said.

Eight suspected militants were arrested during the clearing operation, the statement added. Three policemen suffered wounds during the firefight. Taliban and Daesh have not yet commented on the incidents of violence. (Pajhwok)

(10) Efforts ...

transparent election," said Nahid Farid, an MP from Herat.

"Delay in finance of the elections will affect political stability, the stability of democracy and civil society organizations. This will not have a good future if it prevails," said Kamal Safi, an MP from Parwan.

Meanwhile, member of Election Watch Afghanistan Habibullah Shinwari said the absence of a budget for upcoming elections would affect transparency. (Tolnews)

(11) Helmand ...

work at their official offices.

"We accept that district governors do not work in the districts that are under Taliban control. Despite this, civil servants address villagers problems from Lashkargah city," Omar Zawak, spokesman of Helmand governor said.

Reports indicate that Nawa, Khan-shin, Dishu, Baghran, Musa Qala and Nowzad are completely out of government control and that Taliban are active in these districts. (Tolnews)

(12) Early Warning...

Farah provinces.

From one to five million Afghans to each, and food and other essential items to all provinces except the capital Kabul have been made available for distribution to affected families whenever a disaster happens, Barmak said.

Food and other items are kept in local reservoirs of the provinces and can help up 28,000 damaged families.

He added ANDMA can better use 1.5 billion Afghans allocated for emergency cases and 550 million Afghans provided by charity organizations for its relief programs.

"The aid programs have depoliticized and would be not distributed based on demands of specific figures unless a disaster happens or people damaged, in the past, aid was distributed based on pressures and demands, some individuals distributed the aid even to undamaged families in order to get fame," he said.

He said no any charity organizations in the future would be allowed to distribute aid without coordinating with ANDMA. All aid programs are currently managed by the government so the rights of affected families not lost, Barmak said. (Pajhwok)

(13) Protestors...

tomorrow," he said.

Abdullah, another tribal elder, said people's houses, gardens and graveyards near the road had been destroyed four years ago during the initial construction process.

The project remains hamstrung by corruption, according to the elder, who alleged the funds allocated for the key road had been misappropriated. He complained patients experienced problems due to the bad condition of the road.

"People were so happy and they sacrificed their houses, gardens, graveyards and farmlands when the construction process began under the leadership of Juma Khan Hamdard, but all the money allocated for it ended up in a few pockets," he lamented. Abdullah warned they would block the highway for traffic if the reconstruction process did not resume soon.

Haji Amanullah Ahmadzai, another protestor, said funds for the construction of the highway were twice allocated and its design and survey had already been completed, but practical work was yet to begin.

"Hundreds of thousands of people from Paktia and Ghazni provinces travel the highway; we are in great

trouble, as this road must be constructed," he said. (Pajhwok)

(14) Jalalabad...

cement wall located near the Afghan army base will be removed first and eventually the barriers established near airbase will also be removed.

He predicted that the main works on the third and final phase of the second will be completed in four months.

According to Mangal, the greenery work and erection of the light pillars will also be done along the highway. (KP)

(15) Anti-Locust ...

campaign. If the drive was not carried out, the pests would soon spread to all farms, he warned.

Niamatullah, 48, a resident of the Baba Qamar area of Khuram Sarbagh district, said grasshoppers emerged about 10 days ago and they were currently feeding on pastures.

"I have cultivated 840 kilograms of wheat on 30 acres of rain-fed land. The grasshoppers, if not eliminated, will destroy all my farms," the grower feared, calling for timely action. (Pajhwok)

(16) Kabul Residents...

The square is often stuck with heavy traffic which has been caused by four lines of standing cars.

"Traffic here are trying to create problems to make some money back, even if they could not find any problem with our documents, they are telling us that you our machines have got problems," said Abdullah, another local driver. (Agencies)

(17) Much Remains ...

provided by Radmanish, a spokesperson for MoD to those questions.

Under extreme public pressure, the ministry of defense has sacked 11 officials and put them under persecution. "A professional team is needed to find out what really happened and how did actually it happened. That will take time. But, these questions should be answered by the officials," Yarmand, a military expert told Ariana News. (Agencies)

(18) Afghanistan...

Lord's this summer," Fleming said.

"I have seen first-hand the talent and passion for cricket the nation has, and this fixture can only be a good thing for the ongoing development of Afghan cricket," he said.

"It is the latest landmark on a very exciting journey for Afghan cricket, and MCC will need to field an extremely strong side in order to compete.

"We are delighted therefore that Brendon McCullum (former New Zealand captain) will captain MCC, as he will ensure the match is both competitive and exciting, played in the very best spirit. The whole club looks forward to what we know will be a wonderful and historic day," Fleming said. (Tolnews)

(19) Afghan Refugees...

forced deportation agreement of Afghan refugees from her country.

According to the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, over 2,000 Afghan citizens have so far applied for asylum in Finland.

"Germany has not implemented the agreement. Few refugees have returned to Afghanistan. The agreement mentions that a flight will land in Kabul once in week which will carry 50 people. It means that 200 people return in one month," said Islamuddin Jurat, spokesman for the Refugees and Repatriation Ministry.

Figures by the Afghan ministry show that last year, 40,000 Afghans applied for asylum in Germany and 60,000 others did the same in other European nations. (Tolnews)

(20) Top Haqqani ...

Haqqani network was formed in the late 1970s by Jalaluddin Haqqani. The group is allied with al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban and cooperates with other terrorist organizations in the region.

The US Department of State designated the HQN as a Foreign Terrorist Organization on September 7, 2012. (KP)

(21) Taliban's Deputy ...

17 insurgents including Mullah Mazlumy and six Tajikistanis were killed.

In the meantime, another official in the north put the number of the militants killed in the airstrikes to 24 insurgents. (KP)

(22) In Peshawar,...

world that Pakhtuns were neither violent nor extremists, said Palwasha, another nationalist activist. The peace-loving Pakhtuns had a rich culture, she added. (Pajhwok)

(23) Daesh Recruitment ..

was ended.

Daesh recruitment in-charge is being arrested as no activity of the militant group has so far been seen in Kanda-

har. However, destructive activities of the militant group in neighboring Zabul province have several times reported by local residents and officials. Meanwhile, three militant suspects were detained in the limits of ninth police district of Kandahar city, the spokesman said. The three detainees were being investigated, he added.

Elsewhere, an insurgent was killed and three others wounded in a police ambush in Darzab area of Khakriz district of Kandahar, Durani said. (Pajhwok)

(24) 7 Rebels Killed,...

Sultan village and other insecure areas to prevent militants' movements and improve security situation of Mihtarlam city, the provincial capital, Zwak added. (Pajhwok)

(25) Shinwari - a ...

These items have become household names in Peshawar and other parts of province. But it is the Kabuli pilaf that has found its way to the menu of every big or small food outlet in all parts of the country – from the shores of the Arabian Sea to the Karakorum.

Hungarian traveler Arminius Vambery, in his book Sketches of Central Asia 1868, described the preparation of pulao in great detail. "This dish is excellent and indispensable alike on the royal table and in the hut of the poorest. From here it was introduced among the Afghans; by them to the Persians, who call it kabuli (Kabul). The pilau, if I am not mistaken, has its origin in Central Asia, and spread from thence far and wide over Western Asia," he wrote.

Sirajuddin, a kabuli pulao lover, said he did not miss the chance of eating it whenever he is in Peshawar. He particularly likes the cooked rice containing meat with bone. This is best prepared by chefs of Peshawar restaurants. (Pajhwok)

(26) 16 Insurgents...

Afghan forces during the operation. However, the Taliban in a statement claimed 22 security personnel had been killed and wounded during the militants' retaliatory attacks. (Pajhwok)

(27) Xi, Trump...

two countries and their peoples, but also the whole world. Cooperation is the only correct choice for China and the United States. (Xinhua)

(28) White House...

was a result of a government airstrike on a rebel-held town in Idlib Province struck a rebel weapons depot that contained chemical materials. (Xinhua)

(29) U.S. Congress ...

Ryan said in a statement issued Thursday night.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, also expressed support to "both the action and objective" of the strike ordered by Trump. (Xinhua)

(30) Turkey, EU ...

deadly suspected chemical attack on Idlib. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in a statement that the European Union (EU) firmly believes that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Syria. (Xinhua)

(31) EU Must

Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos after their meeting, according to the Greek presidency. Regarding migration, the German president acknowledged the disproportional burden Greece was shouldering due to its geographical position at the frontline of the refugee-migrant route. (Xinhua)

(32) French PM ...

government said the attack on the air base came in retaliation for the strikes by the Syrian air force on the town of Khan Sheikhoun. (Xinhua)

(33) North Korea...

unforgivable act of aggression against a sovereign state and we strongly condemn this," KCNA quoted an unnamed spokesman for the North Korean foreign ministry as saying.

"The reality of today proves our decision to strengthen our military power to stand against force with force was the right choice a million times over," KCNA said. (Reuters)

(34) Iraqi PM...

policy in the region "has not changed, and our priority is a decisive defeat for Daesh (IS group) in Iraq and the region," the statement added. (Xinhua)

(35) Over 200,000 ...

and psychologists continue to report striking behaviour changes in children as young as three years old. Symptoms include severe anxiety, bed-wetting, nightmares, aggressive behaviour and withdrawing from families and communities. (Xinhua)