

(1) Govt. Blasted ...

the Constitution, any decree from the Presidential Palace must be sent to parliament within 30 days. But some MPs say government has violated the Constitution by failing to send the decree to parliament.

"It is against the Constitution if the president's decrees are issued but not sent to parliament," said MP Mohammad Akbari.

Another MP, Farhad Majidi, meanwhile said: "Now it is time that the presidential decree [on elections] should be sent to parliament for approval, and the parliamentary elections should be held as soon as possible."

The remarks from MPs and senators come after President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday said government is committed to bringing reforms in electoral bodies and the electoral system. (Tolnews)

(2) Olson Urges ...

came in the wake of President Ashraf Ghani's meeting Saturday with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. Ghani said the Afghan government is committed to fulfilling its promises and will leave no stone unturned to ensure lasting peace in the country. (Tolnews)

(3) Olson Urges ...

"I think that Pakistan continue to play games with Afghanistan. We want the government not to wait for Pakistan's process and should explore alternative ways for bringing peace" said speaker of the Meshrano Jirga (Lower House of Parliament), Fazal Hadi Muslimyar.

The senators welcomed the move by leader of Hizb-e-Islami, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, for showing willingness to join the peace process.

They called for transparency in the talks between representatives of Hizb-e-Islami and the High Peace Council (HPC). (Tolnews)

(4) Ghani Meets ...

the achievements with international donors, the statement said.

Ghani also said Saturday that restoring long term peace and stability in the country was among the topmost priorities for him and his CEO Abdullah Abdullah - as this has been one of the main aspirations of the Afghan people in general.

Speaking at a joint press conference with visiting U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Saturday night, Ghani said that the American people and government realize the "thirst of the Afghan people for peace".

Highlighting the strategic importance of the relations between Afghanistan and the United States, Ghani said that both the Afghans and Americans have made sacrifices in the country over the past several years while fighting terrorists and these sacrifices in fact outline the common goals between the two nations.

The president hailed the U.S. military for its help and thanked them for their financial cooperation to Afghan security forces and said that the United States government has proved its honesty in its efforts to structure a strong and capable Afghan security force.

He said that the arrangements and plans for the Warsaw and Brussels summits were also discussed at the meeting with the U.S. secretary of state.

Furthermore, Ghani reaffirmed his government's commitment to bringing about basic reforms in the country in order to build up trust among the Afghan public that real change is occurring. (Tolnews)

(5) BSA Not...

agreement has not been reviewed so far in order to address the problems in Afghanistan."

Ministry of Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said: "With consideration of the scale of the threats facing the government and the people of Afghanistan, there is need that aid must be provided to Afghanistan even beyond the security agreement."

However, the Afghan government has assured the U.S. that

it will take firm steps to fight corruption and establish good governance, something analysts say has not changed into reality so far.

Afghanistan and the US governments sealed the crucial BSA in September 2014 in an effort to legalize the presence of US forces in the country post-drawdown and to enable the U.S.'s continued financial and military help to the country.

The agreement between the two nations however has sparked major criticism from people who believe the pact has marred the aspirations of Afghan people for the restoration of peace and security in the country.

While Afghans across the country are still grappling with a fragile security situation, critics say that the Afghan government by outlining comprehensive programs must benefit from the opportunity in order to equip the security forces with modern weapons.

Analysts say that the US should also deliver on its promises regarding the delivery of weapons to Afghan troops as they fight terrorists on several fronts.

The assertions come a day after the US Secretary of State John Kerry visited Kabul as part of the initiatives of the two countries to track the implementation of the BSA and to renew US support to Afghanistan in line with its sovereignty, territorial integrity and democracy.

Kerry also attended a joint commission meeting that oversees the implementation of the BSA and the two sides discussed at least three key factors of the security agreement and highlighted the challenges.

It is believed security was the main topic of discussion and officials from the U.S and Afghanistan exchanged views on how to curb terrorism so that the country is not changed into terror hideout.

"In the area of defense and security, the government of Afghanistan appreciates the delivery of helicopters and aircraft by the United States to our forces and we greatly welcome the addition of more attack helicopters before August. Also the train, advise and assist support provided by the United States and our international partners continues to strengthen our forces in their daily battles against terrorists," Afghan foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani said.

During his visit, Kerry said that Washington was committed to a stable and prosperous Afghanistan and that the U.S will keep supporting the Afghan security forces.

"The United States continues to support the sovereignty, the independence and the territorial integrity of a self-reliant, democratic and increasingly prosperous Afghanistan, these goals are at the heart of 2012 enduring strategic partnership agreement between our governments and tracking their implementation is a major priority for this commission," Kerry said. (Tolnews)

(6) Reserve ...

of Nuristan; we will set up security posts in areas between the Alingar district of Laghman to the Noogram town of Nuristan," he explained.

Safi said that Public Order Police had stepped up search operations in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar, to better the overall security environment.

He agreed the rebels would intensify attacks in the summer. However, he said they would not be able to capture any area because the Afghan forces were ready scuttle insurgent plots.

The commander called on the people to stand by their security forces who had been trying to improve the situation. (Pajhwok)

(7) No Project ...

projects," he said. Ajmal said people would protest if local officials did not pay attention to their problems. Mohammad Daud, a resident of Andar district, said hundreds of jobless youth in his district awaited construction projects to be launched.

He said the increasing joblessness would force many youth into joining militants if the government did not pay heed to the issue.

A number of other residents held similar views. Governor's spokesman, Javid Salangi confirmed construction projects could not be implemented during the past several months due to some problems.

"The financial year had ended and the weather turned cold when the new governor took office, therefore no projects could be implemented so far," he said. He said the governor was busy managing the security situation of the province and he had no time for other affairs.

However, Salangi said the local government planned to implement several projects in Ghazni during the ongoing year. (Pajhwok)

(8) Strong ...

New Delhi time.

Indian media reported that the strong quake hit the Hindu Kush region.

Tremors were also felt in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, Indian-controlled Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, said meteorological officials in New Delhi.

People rushed outside from their homes and offices in New Delhi and Kabul, Xinhua's reporters witnessed. (Xinhua)

(9) Daikundi Women...

were of shabby quality, which made travel dangerous. More than 70 percent of the roads had been destroyed by rains and floods, he added.

The Daikundi people lost their lives in traffic mishaps on a daily basis, just like those who fell victims to suicide attacks in insecure provinces.

Sumaya Mohammadi, a female member of the provincial council, said: "We hope the provincial government will pay due attention to the poor condition of roads and reconstruct them with a sense of urgency." (Pajhwok)

(10) Ghani Offers...

and charred debris was strewn throughout the complex at daybreak, while police examined large unexploded bundles of fireworks.

"Now the situation is under control... the police are on the spot," Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala told NDTV.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was flying to the scene and announced 200,000 Indian Rupees in compensation for the families of those killed and INR50,000 for those injured. (Pajhwok)

(11) Lack of ...

successful so far.

"Unfortunately Bamyani city is like a village, it has very limited facilities. The Ministry of Higher Education should resolve this problem," she said.

Bamyani University's deputy chancellor, Mohammad Amin Joya, confirmed the accommodation problem but said the central government was responsible for not paying attention to the issue.

The university's only hostel has the capacity to accommodate 450 male and 50 female students among the total 6,500 including 16 percent of them girls.

Joya said the Bamyani University had the capacity to accept 1,700 new students this year, but the Ministry of Higher Education sent 1,800 students.

"On the other hand, some people and owners of residential buildings are taking advantage of the situation and have created problems for students. Property owners have increased the rents which is a serious problem that needs attention of both local and central governments," he said.

Bamyani governor's spokesman, Abdur Rahman Ahmadi, said they were working to provide accommodation facilities to students and would convince owners of residential areas to charge fair rents.

"We would provide every facility to students we have access to, but the main problem is the central government that did not provide budget for building hostels on the campus," he said. (Pajhwok)

(12) 'Unity Govt's...

winter.

He blamed the continuation of the conflict in Afghanistan on foreign factors, saying the comparatively low violence in Balkh was a result of foreign intelli-

gence agencies' support for the Taliban.

Though the rebels in Balkh have no exclusive address, the peace body has been able to reconcile dozens of armed militants with the government, Gharibyar said. He said militants sneaking into Balkh from neighbouring Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul and Samangan provinces had never been able to stand ground against the Afghan security forces.

He also said the insurgents could not operate in Balkh thanks to people's cooperation with security forces.

Gharibyar said nearly 100 militants in Chamtal district had left for Faryab province to carry out their activities there after failing to find a safe haven in the district.

Since the inception of the high peace committee in Balkh, 324 Taliban militants have joined the peace process, according to Gharibyar, who said the reconciliation had a positive impact on security on the Mazar-i-Sharif-Shiberghan highway.

He said about 100 of the reconciling militants had been recruited in the Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces.

There are rumours most of the surrendering rebels have returned to the battlefield, but Gharibyar said no such incident had happened in Balkh.

The peace negotiator did not reply to a question about ALP forces involvement in harassing residents in remote areas, but said the ex-fighters in the forces had not harassed people.

Gharibyar thanked the people of Balkh for their cooperation with the government in bringing peace and stability to the country.

He said the peace committee had launched eight different welfare projects worth more than \$200,00 in various areas during the past two years and some of the projects had been put into service after their completion.

About no major breakthrough so far in the peace process, Gharibyar said the government was responsible for that not the High Peace Council.

He said internal differences in the unity government had weakened military and political pressures on the insurgents. (Pajhwok)

(13) Kerry's ...

convening the Loya Jirga and the implementation of necessary amendments in the constitution, the continuation of the National Unity Government - after two years - would be unjustified on a legal basis. They said a Loya Jirga would need to be convened to resolve the issue legally.

According to MPs, Kerry's statements about the political agreement which brokered the establishment of the NUG was controversial and against the provisions of the political agreement.

Based on the political agreement, a Loya Jirga is scheduled to be convened within two years to consider a number of amendments to the constitution and formally announce the position of the Prime Minister.

With only six months to go before the two-year deadline, the NUG has not yet taken even preliminary steps to convene the Jirga.

"In no way does the agreement itself have some particular termination, the constitution has elected the president, the president has agreed to a unity government and the political agreement was made between doctor Abdullah and president Ghani for how they will go in a unity government. But it is our understanding that it is a mandate for five years and there is no termination what so ever in six months," Kerry said.

"This was the responsibility of the two leaders (Ghani and Abdullah) to inform the people of Afghanistan that the two-year agreement will be extended to a five-year term and that we are committed to convening the Loya Jirga. We strongly reject the message by John Kerry and call it a clear interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs," senate chairman Fazel Hadi Muslimyar said.

Amid the controversy, the Afghan Presidential Palace was

also accused of misinterpreting the transcript of Kerry's remarks about the NUG. This was in reference to a press release issued by the palace stating that the president keeps the authority to continue the government, while Kerry had said that the government leaders will determine the fate of the National Unity Government.

"The constitutional Loya Jirga needs to be convened. Amendments must take place in the constitution in line with the laws of Afghanistan. Otherwise, the continuation of the job of the National Unity Government has no legal basis and justification," MP Dawoud Kalakani said.

Meanwhile, a number of law experts have said that the constitution does not predict something about the establishment of a national unity government.

"A government which does not have legitimacy has committed a number of works against the constitution, already this government has reached a deadlock and has no option except taking decision from the US secretary of state," law expert Tahir Hashemi said.

Kabul residents have also shown disapproval over Kerry's assertions about the NUG. (Tolnews)

(14) 10 Top Drug ...

and eradicating poppy crops on 10,244 hectares of land.

Calling the 2015 anti-drug operations as successful, the official said 10 top and blacklisted drug dealers, including Haji Watan, had been arrested in those operations. Watan was on the blacklist of the counternarcotics department.

The MoI official said Watan was arrested from Ghanikhel district of eastern Nangrahar province few days back and he performed his drug trade and smuggling from Achin district. He said Haji Agha Mohammad, son of Haji Lal Jan Ishaqzai, a leading opium trafficker, was also among the notorious drug smugglers arrested last year and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

US President Barack Obama added Ishaqzai's name to a list of foreign drug kingpins in June 2011. Then Ishaqzai was arrested by the counternarcotics police, but was released two months later.

Ishaqzai and his two nephews were sentenced to 20 years in jail for smuggling of 391 kilograms of morphine. Some three million people are addicted to drugs in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(15) Policeman ...

been terminated twice from his job on corruption charges.

Meanwhile, the crime branch chief of the 101st Asmayee police zone, Brig. Gen. Faridoon Obaidi, confirmed the arrest. An investigation into the case had been launched, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(16) Farmers ...

said his eight acres wheat fields had been ruined by river water. The farmers appealed to the government for immediate compensation.

Meanwhile, Livestock and Agriculture Director Hamayon Omar confirmed the losses suffered by growers. He said 1,800 acres of farmland had been destroyed in Pul-i-Alam, Baraki Barak and Mohammad Agha districts.

"We have sent a report on the damages to the governor's house, Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture and the emergency aid committee. We are waiting for their response; we have nothing to help farmers," he said.

Salim Saleh, the governor's spokesman, said the emergency aid committee had launched a survey of the affected areas. He promised sharing the list of affected farmers with aid organizations.

The Livestock and Agriculture Department says 21,000 hectares of land in Logar has been cultivated with wheat, a staple crop in landlocked Afghanistan, which is heavily reliant on food imports. (Pajhwok)

(17) 3 Afghans...

however, stopped them to ascertain whether they were Sunnis or Shias, he claimed. The-

ranians had no problems with Shias but Sunnis were beaten and sent back to Afghanistan, the elder concluded. (Pajhwok)

(18) G7 Foreign...

Japan surrendered six days later.

Maritime security is also on the cards after China rattled nerves in the region with its controversial reclamation work in the South China Sea. (Reuters)

(19) Syrian Army...

the rebels. The recent attack wasn't the first of such. Last week, the rebels in Aleppo also attempted to make a breakthrough in the battles against the Syrian army in some areas.

The Syrian army then threatened to strike all those trying to attack military positions or civilian areas under government's control in Aleppo. (Xinhua)

(20) Saudi King...

some differences," Mehmet Seyfettin Erol, a professor of international relations at Gazi University, told Xinhua.

"The visit may serve an opportunity to better coordinate some of the policies between Ankara and Riyadh with respect to policies in the region," he added.

Both Ankara and Riyadh want Assad's departure as part of the peace deal that will follow the agreement on cessation of hostilities in Syria. (Xinhua)

(21) New Clashes ...

to seal off the so-called Balkan route.

Still more than 10,000 migrants remain in the camp Idomeni on Greek territory. They refuse to return in hope that they will be left to continue their journey across Macedonia towards Western Europe. (Xinhua)

(22) Sporadic ...

regularly bombed by coalition warplanes, was quiet.

Rebels and their allies exchanged mortar and artillery fire with pro-Hadi forces in the Sarwah region of Marib province east of Sanaa, an AFP correspondent said.

Coalition aircraft also carried out air strikes to stop rebels seeking to retake a military base pro-government forces had recaptured in late 2015, military sources said. (AFP)

(23) Islamic State...

claims the capture of the two villages and says a suicide operation targeted rebel fighters in opposition-held Kafr Shousha.

The Western-backed Free Syrian Army captured the border town of al-Rai from IS on Friday. (AP)

(24) Spain Sacks ...

of the leader of the mission ... and the total lack of internal communication."

The report also highlighted the ambassador's management style had created a hostile atmosphere where there was an "unusually high level of people missing work through depression." (Xinhua)

(25) Sixth S-400

new generation anti-aircraft missile system. It is capable of hitting an airborne target at a distance of up to 400 km with medium- and long-range missiles. (Xinhua)

(26) Cameron Releases...

Conservative Party, while the government has also been going through a tough patch over a senior minister's resignation, a u-turn on welfare cuts and accusations it is failing to protect Britain's steel industry.

After saying on Saturday that he could have handled the fallout from the Panama disclosures better, Cameron released a summary of his tax records for the past six years.

But any hope that this would draw a line under the row was short-lived, as the main Sunday newspapers zeroed in on a gift of 200,000 pounds (\$282,500) Cameron received from his mother in 2011, suggesting it may be a way of avoiding inheritance tax. A source at Cameron's Downing Street office said the suggestion was inaccurate, the gift had been declared and this was about a mother making a gift to her son in the same legal way that hundreds of thousands of Britons do every year. (Reuters)