

### 1) Concerns ....

in the country. The Independent Human Rights Commission meanwhile said that civilian casualties have increased sharply in the first six months of the year compared to the same period last year. They say there is a 30 percent increase in civilian casualties.

"Civilian casualty [toll] is catastrophic. In the past six months more than 3,000 civilians were killed and wounded in the country, which shows a 30 percent increase compared to last year. Many of them were children and women," said AIHRC spokesman Rafiullah Bedar.

Hostage-taking, domestic abuse and torture of prisoners of war and an increase in homeless people are also areas of concern, they said.

The Human Rights Commission adds that groups involved in the war have violated humanitarian laws of war and are continuing to attack public places.

"According to the report 75 per cent of civilian casualties were attributed to armed opposition attacks, 3.7 percent attributed to pro-government forces and 16 percent of civilians were killed or injured by unknown people," Bedar added.

Meanwhile, many families who have lost children in insurgent attacks have appealed to organizations working for peace to help stop attacks carried out in public places.

The recent AIHRC findings show that civilians in Helmand, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Faryab and Kunduz provinces are particularly at risk.

The Human Rights Commission's findings are in line with UNAMA's last report, in June, that noted 978 Afghan civilians had been killed and over 1,900 wounded in the Afghan conflict in the first four months of the year. (Tolonews)

### 2) CoM Approves....

that they have made all necessary arrangements to initiate the distribution process as swiftly as possible.

"We strongly support the decision of the Council of Ministers for the approval of our plan to launch digital ID distribution. We are ready to start the process," head of electronic ID distribution department Humayoun Muhtat said.

Based on the CM decision, the first phase will see 369,000 Kabul residents being issued IDs within three months. "The Council of Ministers has approved a plan today ... for the roll out of electronic ID cards that will be launched in Kabul in the first phase. This will be extended to other provinces later," Mujiburrahman Rahimi, a spokesman for the Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah said on Monday.

Digital IDs are expected to be distributed within the framework of the law of the country and ethnicity will not be included on the ID cards.

The description of holders will be included in the database of the Ministry of Interior Affairs.

"In line with the decision of the Council of Ministers regarding electronic ID distribution, the decisions which are made by the National Assembly will be implemented in the census law and the description of the holder will be registered," Rahimi further said.

This comes after USAID cut aid to the digital ID department over persistent delays in launching the plan. Recently, the European Union (EU) also warned that it would stop aid if the distribution process was not initiated as soon as possible. (Tolonews)

### 3) Insurgents Unable....

forces a great achievement for American troops.

"Newly independent Afghan security forces are taking the fight [against] the enemy and the insurgents are testing them," Gen. Campbell said. "Both the sides seek to gain advantage over the other before they consider reconciliation."

The RSM commander stated the Taliban, by continuing fight against Afghan forces, would further lose the people's support.

The insurgents had lost the little proper support they ever enjoyed and it was the real time for them to start working with fellow Afghans, lay down their arms and heed President Ashraf Ghani's call to come to the peace talks table, said Campbell.

The four-star American General hoped the current Resolute Support Mission - which is limited to only support, advice and training of Afghan forces - would result in further progress of the people and government of Afghanistan.

Currently, about 13,000 American and NATO forces are stationed in Afghanistan to lead the mission - which began at January 2015. (Tolonews)

### 4) Mullah Omar's....

talks," Abdullah asked.

However, some political analysts have criticized government's silence on Mullah Omar's death and say they should have used this as an opportunity, especially in terms of putting pressure on Pakistan.

They said that in the absence of President Ashraf Ghani, who is recovering from foot surgery in Germany, no one has the authority to take a stance on such issues - even matters as important as this.

"The government's political silence about Mullah Omar's death reveals that Kabul still follows the decisive policies of Pakistan," said Aziz Rafiye, head of Afghanistan Civil Society Forum (ACSF).

"On one hand, the Presidential Palace is on vacation, in the absence of President Ghani, while on the other, Afghanistan's politicians, by remaining silent about Mullah Omar's death, proved their inefficiency towards the people of this country," said Rafiye.

The analysts also believe that on the back of confirmation of Mullah Omar's death, the government could clearly put Islamabad under pressure to stop supporting insurgent groups. Meanwhile, on Sunday a senior Afghan government official told TOLONews that Mullah Omar's death two years ago had not been a secret and that the CIA and the NDS had both known about it.

The government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that it had also been the Taliban who broke the news on Wednesday. He said the reason for this was that there had been an internal dispute among the Taliban over who would have the final say with regards to peace talks.

The news of the Taliban leader's death came only two days before the second round of peace talks were scheduled to take place in Pakistan. On Thursday, the day before the talks were to start, the Taliban reportedly requested a postponement. (Tolonews)

### 5) Consultations....

levels. The gathering in Jalalabad was attended by tribal elders, religious figures, provincial and high peace councils' members who also floated their suggestions.

The participants demanded changes in the electoral system's technical and legal areas and the appointment of eligible individuals as provincial Independent Election Commission heads. Miakehl, who headed a delegation, told the gathering: "We have been assigned the task to record people's views on provincial level about reforms in the electoral system."

He said the Electoral Reform Commission would benefit from people's views in its meetings to prepare a policy and strategy about reforms. He said the panel was working to resolve problems in the electoral system's technical and legal areas.

"We have been thinking what we should do in the first phase for a short period as parliamentary elections are before us. Then we have presidential election and in the third phase it will be mullied over how to permanently overhaul the system and prevent irregularities forever."

Earlier, Nangarhar Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi urged the gathering to share their views with the visiting delegation in order problems in the electoral system could be addressed. "You witnessed problems and irregularities in the previous elections. Therefore, your proposals are essential for reforms," the governor told the participants.

Provincial council member Humira Rafi said a policy should be adopted for the picture-less female voter cards. She said powerful individuals used to print such cards on Election Day to stuff ballot boxes.

Such electoral fraud created insecurity and questioned the vote's credibility, she added. She also said populations in districts should be made known and constituencies be created for elections.

Religious scholar Maulvi Abdul Zahir Haqqani accused the government and the election commission of committing fraud in the previous elections and thus disrespecting people's mandate.

He said basic reforms should be brought to the electoral system in order to restore people's trust that their votes were respected.

The Electoral Reform Commission's delegation is expected to hold consultations with different political and civil society groups on how to improve the electoral system. (Pajhwok)

### 6) Past Mistakes....

mistakes did not harm the previous elections the most, but by deals on votes by a handful of individuals," he said.

Similarly, tribal elder Janat Khan Mangal said voter cards had been distributed much beyond the voter lists in the previous polls.

"These extra cards created most of the problems in the previous elections. One person had polled more than 100 votes in the previous election," he claimed.

The elder said the authorities concerned should prevent next time bogus voter cards printed in Pakistan. A member of the provincial council, Shakeela Mangal, said efforts should be made to ensure that women fully participated in elections.

"Currently many women are deprived of their right to enfranchise as their votes are polled by their men who choose their candidates."

The Electoral Reform Commission representative, Kawon Kakar, told the gathering that they would share their proposals with the commission's officials and other relevant authorities.

He said the reform commission was trying to ensure that the past mistakes were not repeated in future elections. Kakar said the commission had started holding consultative meetings with people in provinces. (Pajhwok)

### 7) US Provides....

Hamminck signed the MoU for the New Development Partnership.

The New Development Partnership reflects the strategic importance of the U.S.-Afghanistan relationship and recognizes a new era of development cooperation between the two governments.

This initiative delivers on the commitment made during Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's March visit to Washington during which President Barack Obama pledged to support the Afghan National Unity Government's efforts to achieve its own ambitious reform agenda.

Afghanistan's Minister of Finance Eklil Hakimi thanked the US for its generous support with the New Development Partnership.

US Ambassador P. Michael McKinley remarked that the New Development Partnership represents a fundamental transformation in the nature of development cooperation between the two countries. It empowers Afghan solutions to Afghan challenges, by incentivizing and rewarding Afghan successes. (Pajhwok)

### 8) Taliban Holds....

was responsible for untold bloodshed and crimes in Afghanistan and those who participate in such ceremonies are party to these crimes.

Taliban insurgents reportedly collected money from Ghazni residents to cover the costs of the ceremony and made each person bring bread. The prayer ceremony was held in the Qarabaghi area - 15 kms from Ghazni city.

It is believed that Taliban commanders wanted to use the opportunity to speak out against government but security forces were reportedly deployed to prevent this from happening. While trying to break up the ceremony, Taliban insurgents opened fire on security forces and a gun fight ensued. Five Taliban members were killed and more than 10 injured. Other insurgents, including their commanders who were present, then fled the area, said officials. Ghazni deputy governor, Mohammad Ali Ahmadi, told TOLONews that all security forces have been directed to act against anyone who wants to hold a prayer ceremony for Mullah Omar.

"Taliban had planned to hold a prayer ceremony for Mullah Omar in Qarabaghi area of Ghazni with the participation of at least 3,000 people, but when the security forces were informed of the issue, they went to the area. The Taliban escaped after five of them were killed and others were wounded in a gunfight with security forces," he added. The Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs has not commented on the use of mosques for such prayer ceremonies but Iqbal Kohistani, a member of the Security Commission in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) said: "The government should seriously probe the issue and those who speak against the system and against the hopes and dreams of people, in mosques should be arrested."

"This issue that they try to hold anti-government speeches in mosques can prove very dangerous," he added. Hazrat Shahzada Mujaddidi, a religious scholar said however that "Islam is the religion of peace, love and cleanliness. Those who try to create horror have no awareness about religion."

"The Ulema Council should assess the issue." The Interior Ministry spokesman, Sediqqi said a large number of people have been killed by the Taliban on the orders of Mullah Omar, therefore holding a prayer ceremony for him is not acceptable.

"Using our mosques for a prayer ceremony for Mullah Omar is not acceptable for us, because Mullah Omar was the one who committed big crimes

against our people, and those who participate in such ceremonies and pray for Mullah Omar, are obvious to us and are part of the crime," Sediqqi said.

Such ceremonies were held in the past regarding the death of Osama Bin Laden. Security officials however, believe that such acts are organized by the groups that have always struggled to destabilize Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### 9) Gen. Dostum ....

criticized government.

"Yes your criticisms are right for the government and the insecurities have spread in the province and we will solve your problems and soon you will see your problems are solved," he said.

Dostum visited the insecure Qisar district of Faryab under heavy protection - protection that included land-based security and air support.

Faryab province has witnessed several heavy battles these past few weeks and insurgent activity has reached an all-time high in the area. As a result, many parts of the province have collapsed to the Taliban.

But Dostum's visit comes at a time when ongoing clashes rage across the northern parts of Afghanistan - battles many claim are being led by foreign insurgents. But Dostum said that a new push by Afghan security forces would help to stabilize the region.

Previously, Dostum issued an ultimatum to Taliban militants in Faryab province, warning them that they would have two days to either join the government or face serious repercussions. On Sunday he said government forces are ready to confront the militants with full force. (Tolonews)

### 10) Purported Video ....

devotion to Mullah Mansour. The video showed a person standing close to Mullah Mansour waiving a hand fan and requesting the crowd to give chance to others since everyone was eager to get close to their new leader.

The running of hand fan depicts that the video is recorded in areas with warm weather which could clearly exclude Waziristan and adjacent tribal areas of Pakistan where the weather has turned pleasant in last four days due to widespread rain there. Waziristan and tribal areas of Pakistan are long considered as safe heavens for militants for last few decades.

Taliban has also shared half an hour long audio message of Mullah Mansour who mostly emphasized on unity among Taliban ranks.

Earlier, media reported differences among Taliban leaders and also reported that Mullah Hassan Rehmani, Mullah Abdul Razzaq and Mullah Omar's brother Mullah Abdul Manan have opposed Mullah Mansour's leadership. (Pajhwok)

### 11) Amid Rifts....

a meeting of Supreme Council members, religious clerics including local people and experts to discuss the appointment of Taliban's new leader," the statement added. Mullah Abdul Manan, Mullah Omar's brother, in an audio interview, explained his family had refused allegiance to anyone amid differences. (Pajhwok)

### 12) Mullah Omar's....

Yaqub. The reality will be made clear soon," he said. In addition to this, Afghan security sources told TOLONews late Monday that in the past 24 hours three clashes between Taliban factions have been reported in Quetta city in Pakistan.

One attack was on a convoy transporting newly appointed Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour's deputy, the source said.

A source said that Maulvi Haibatullah Noorzai, Mullah Mansour's deputy, narrowly escaped an assassination attempt on his convoy by unidentified gunmen in Pakistan's Baluchistan province.

The source wishing anonymity said that former Nangarhar governor and Taliban head of the central committee, Maulvi Abdul Kabir, was also in the convoy.

Unidentified persons mounted the attack on the convoy on the outskirts of Chaman area in Pakistan, the source said, adding Haibatullah and Maulvi Abdul Kabir escaped unhurt but three other Taliban leaders were wounded in the attack.

The top Taliban leaders were in the locality to garner support for Mullah Mansour from local clerics when they came under attack.

Chaman is the hometown of Mullah Abdul Razzaq who has opposed Mullah Mansour's nomination as Taliban leader. Mullah Mansour has been appointed as Mullah Omar's successor. Two other attacks also occurred between Taliban factions in the past two days. Both were carried out on houses in Quetta city but it is unclear who the

residents are or whether any casualties were reported.

The news of Mullah Yaqub's death however comes just days after he and his uncle Abdul Manan, Mullah Omar's younger brother, were reportedly among more than a dozen Taliban figures who walked out of Wednesday's leadership meeting held in Quetta.

It was at this meeting that the Taliban named Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour as the group's new leader.

Reuters reported that the display of dissent within the group's secretive core is the clearest sign yet of the challenge Mansour faces in uniting a group already split over whether to pursue peace talks with the Afghan government and facing a new, external threat, Islamic State.

Rifts in the Taliban leadership could widen after confirmation of the death of Mullah Omar.

Mansour, Mullah Omar's longtime deputy who has been effectively in charge for years, favors talks to bring an end to more than 13 years of war. He recently sent a delegation to inaugural meetings with Afghan officials hosted by Pakistan, hailed as a breakthrough.

But Mansour, 50, has powerful rivals within the Taliban who oppose negotiations and have been pushing for Mullah Omar's son Yaqub to take over the movement.

"Actually, it wasn't a Taliban Leadership Council meeting. Mansour had invited only members of his group to pave the way for his election," said one of the sources, a senior member of Taliban in Quetta. "And when Yaqub and Manan noticed this, they left the meeting."

Among those opposing Mansour's leadership are Mullah Mohammad Rasool and Mullah Hasan Rahmani, two influential Taliban figures with their own power bases who back Yaqub. (Tolonews)

### 13) Mullah Omar's....

would be divided into more parts, Safi added.

"The people of Kunduz never accept Mullah Mohammad Akhtar Mansour as the leader of Muslims, because Akhtar is the killer of Afghans and his identity is also unclear," he said. (Pajhwok)

### 14) Ghazni Farmers....

produce to the absence of cold storages.

"At the harvest time, prices remain low and farmers do not sell their produce which gets rotten after some time."

Hamidullah, who owns orchards of grape, apple and potato in Deh Yak district, said if he timely sold his harvests, he would incur losses and if he kept the produce, it would decay.

Another grower in Qarah Bah district, Mohammad Ashraf, said since they lacked access to cold storages, traders should not buy their products at throw-away rates because they could keep the products in cold storages in other provinces.

These farmers urged the government to build cold storages in Ghazni so they could avoid losses in their harvests and promote their businesses. Ghazni Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation director Sultan Hussain Abasary told Pajhwok Afghan News that cold storages could not be established due to the lack of electricity in the province.

He said there were two cold storage facilities one each in Ghazni City, the provincial capital, and Maqur district, but the facilities were not functional due to the absence of electricity. (Pajhwok)

### 15) Balkh Residents....

a member of the reform commission, told Pajhwok Afghan News on the sidelines of the gathering that members of their commission had started holding consultative meetings with people in provinces.

The consultations were aimed at recording views of civil society activists, the youth, tribal elders, provincial council and parliament members on how to bring about inclusive reforms to the electoral system, he added.

He said the reform commission's primary task was to bring introduce changes to the election law and the composition of the two electoral bodies.

Prior to a decision in this regard, he said, the commission wanted to record people's views.

Lawmaker Haji Mohammad Obda, who attended the gathering, told Pajhwok Afghan News the creation of the electoral reform commission by the government was commendable.

He said the job of the panel would be acceptable if it was able to bring about positive changes to the election law and the composition and authority of the electoral bodies.

He said people had lost faith in the

electoral bodies and the reform commission had been tasked with restoring that trust.

Obda said changes to the electoral system should be brought keeping in view the country's current situation. He said utmost care should be exercised in the appointment of commissioners on the electoral bodies.

Balkh University teacher Mohammad Nazari said holding consultative meetings with the public regarding reforms in the electoral system was a positive step.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News elections in Afghanistan were often marred by not properly understanding the technical and political process. He said no elections in the past had matched the country's situation, something that needed greater attention as part of the reforms. (Pajhwok)

### 16) Baghlan Projects....

the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).

The projects resolved problems of more than 4,000 families, he remarked. The residents expressed satisfaction by saying that the projects helped resolve multiple problems such as transportation and prevention of floods.

Abdul Azim, a resident of Nahrain district, said that their rice and wheat farms were protected from damages of floods after construction of a two kilometers embankment wall in their area.

Last year, 50 acres of rice and wheat farms were destroyed by floods," he recalled.

Sultan Mohammad, another resident of Kroi village of Dushi district, said that an eight kilometers road was also part of the project implemented in their area that facilitated them. (Pajhwok)

### 17) Former Jihadi....

governor for Dara-e-Sof and Nematullah, Taliban commander in Dara-e-Sof were also killed in the clash with the jihadi leader," he said.

The reason behind the clash is not yet clear, said officials.

The incident happened in Zeraki village - which was the scene of last month's clash between police and insurgents - where five local policemen died.

The Taliban has yet to comment on the incident. (Tolonews)

### 18) Tribal Leader....

succumbed injuries in the hospital.

Three weeks ago, a local leader was killed in a similar incident in Faryab province. No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Meanwhile, two robbers were arrested in Posht Koh district of Farah province.

Provincial police spokesman Iqbal Bahir said the robbers Mohammad Askar and Bahdar were the residents of Tiraki area. (Pajhwok)

### 19) Anti-Pakistan....

those who intervene in Afghanistan's affairs." Dost Mohammad, another protester, said that Afghans were ready to sacrifice their lives for safeguarding of their motherland. "We demand President Ashraf Ghani to respond harshly to Iran and Pakistan as they give our children with guns and weapons," he added. (Pajhwok)

(20) Consensus on also showcases the joint efforts of the international community to underline the importance of protecting the environment while promoting economic advancement and social progress. (Xinhua)

### 21) Obama Poised....

Planet Earth" ("I am Planet Earth & "Climate change is not a problem for another generation. Not anymore," Obama said in a video message foreshadowing the formal announcement.

Anticipating stern opposition from the Republican-controlled Congress, Obama warned that climate change is a threat to the economy, health and security of America. (AFP)

### 22) Community....

with strengthened political, economic and cultural unity, said Xu. The community building will particularly provide more opportunities in investment and infrastructure construction cooperation, as ASEAN states are expected to enhance communication and transportation within the community, said Xu in a recent interview. (Xinhua)

### 23) Iran Urges....

Tehran. A Saudi-led coalition has waged an air war on Houthi rebels since late March in an effort to restore the authority of exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who is now based in Riyadh. The airstrikes and fighting between warring parties in Yemen have left almost 4,000 people killed and thousands wounded, while more than one million people were displaced. (Xinhua)