

(1) Nicholson Refuses

in Afghanistan for a comment on Nicholson's meeting or lack thereof with Prince and have yet to receive a reply.

The proposal submitted to the Afghan government in March boasts an impressive array of combat aircraft for a private company.

The aircraft offered in the proposal includes fixed-wing planes, attack helicopters and drones capable of providing close-air support to manoeuvring ground forces, according to a copy of the proposal obtained by Military Times.

The proposal promises to provide "high speed response" close-air support and "the entire country can be responded to in under one hour."

The proposal states that weapons release decisions will still be made by Afghans.

The air frames are also outfitted with equipment to provide intelligence collection that includes imagery intelligence, signals intelligence and communications intelligence.

The aircraft would be operated by the private company's employees.

The Afghan air force is in the first stages of transition from its old fleet of Russian Mi-17 transport helicopters to US Black Hawks — a development Nicholson deemed as necessary to help break the stalemate in Afghanistan.

However, those helicopters won't be arriving in Afghanistan for almost two years, and training isn't expected to begin until later this fall, according to the report.

"President Ghani has told me he won't accept it," former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan Ronald E. Neumann told Military Times in an interview. "Afghans will never accept this." (Tolonews)

(2) Work on Homes for

blocks and 16 residential units would be constructed in the first phase and would take three months to complete, he said. The construction workers belonged to refugees and displaced families.

Each apartment would cost \$5,000 and their owners could pay the amount in installments to the government in 10 years, Hotaki said.

Toryali Rajabzada, Refugees Council head in Bagrami district, said the apartments would be constructed for 100 of 1,000 families who had returned from neighboring countries in 2003.

"The land of the apartments is allocated to refugees based on their immigration cards by the Ministry of Repatriation and Refugees (MoRR), he said.

He appreciated the government's efforts at providing residential facilities to affected families and said: "We had been in a bad condition for 14 years and no one helped us to build houses on this land." (Pajhwok)

(3) 21 Million Voter

Bidar to increase the number of polling centers due to the increase in population.

Gen. Mohammad Zaman Waziri, the 201 Selab Military Corps commander, assured the election commission of providing a safe environment to people during elections.

Provincial council deputy head Dr. Lal Mohammad Durrani and secretary Zabihullah Zmarai talked about shortcomings in the electoral process and called for preventing powerful individuals from setting up their own polling stations.

They called for a review of the constituencies in 22 districts of Nangarhar and a judicious designation of polling stations. (Pajhwok)

(4) Bamiyan Women

working in a handicraft factory," said Kobara, a resident of Bamiyan.

Uzra Lali, one of the founders of the Bazaar, says that five years ago she and a group of women borrowed some money from a bank and established the Art Bazaar.

Lali's husband also works with her in the shop. According to Lali, first they had 4,000AFs, but now they have hundreds of thousands of AFs. Lali has a handicraft factory named Salsal Handicraft Factory.

"One of our problems is that no one invites us to exhibitions overseas, especially in Europe where we ought to display our handicraft industries and needlework to show that we are women and we want peace by our needles," said Lali.

Zahra, another seller in the Art Bazaar, also has a Handicraft Factory in Dara-e-Azhdar outside of Bamiyan city where 40 women are making 60 types of hand-made items.

Her handicraft factory, named

Gawharshad Handicrafts Factory, sells its products in Holland, India and inside the country.

"When I returned from Iran and came to Bamiyan, there were lots of wrong traditions. One was that women were not allowed to go to the Bazaar. I was one of the women who opened shops in Bamiyan bazaar and we asked help from the women who had handicrafts and needlework. At the beginning a small group of women started handicraft shops and they were worried that their men would not allow them," said Zahra.

"In this bazaar, we sell the handicraft, needlework and handmade products for women," said Fatima Mohmmadi, another seller in the Art Bazaar.

In Bamiyan mostly those women are involved in handicrafts because their families are poor and do not have a good life.

For most of Bamiyan women, handicraft industries are the second source of income after the agriculture. (Tolonews)

(5) Pakistan Urges

looking to evolve a plan for the South Asian region involving different countries.

Reports suggest that the White House is considering to send additional troops to Afghanistan. Trump is also upset with the current US commander leading the mission in Afghanistan and believed to have been seeking the removal of General John Nicholson for his failure to win the battle.

A senior official at the Foreign Office told media that Pakistan suggested the US administration that the use of force would not solve the problem in Afghanistan.

The official confirmed that Pakistan had given its input to the Trump administration for the Afghan review. (IRNA)

(6) Saudi has Evidence

Meanwhile, some reports claimed Doha had sought Afghanistan's support after its Gulf neighbors cut diplomatic ties with the tiny gulf sate.

The Saudi envoy strongly opposed the Taliban office in Qatar and said it was a source through which the Taliban established contacts with external elements and received assistance.

He said Saudi Arabia had suffered a lot at the hands of Al Qaeda and Daesh and thus they decided to launch a strong campaign against the terrorist groups. Earlier, Al-Harbi told the BBC that the Taliban political office in Qatar was working beyond its political parameters.

He added Saudi viewed the Taliban as armed opponent of the Afghan government and it was the kingdom's official stance.

In response to fresh comments by the Saudi diplomat, the Taliban in a statement said their regime had cordial ties with Saudi Arabia and the kingdom was one of the countries that recognized the Taliban government.

The Taliban statement added: "We expect the KSA to play an effective role in resolving the Afghanistan conflict in this critical juncture of history."

Last month Saudi and its allied Gulf States cut diplomatic ties with Qatar over its alleged support to terrorist groups, a charge Qatar denies.

Reliable government sources said the non-resident Qatari envoy in Kabul held a meeting with Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabani and sought Kabul's support against the KSA.

However, the sources said the Afghan government demanded closure of the Taliban office in Doha and prevention of their activities and financial resources. The Afghan government also demanded a halt to Pugwash conferences in return for Afghanistan support in the ongoing Arab conflict.

But the Afghan foreign ministry said it was unaware of the claims and that a formal statement had been released after the meeting between Rabani and the Qatari envoy Saqqar Bin Al Mubarak Almansouri.

In the statement, Rabani praised Doha's cooperation and its role in reconstruction of Afghanistan during the last 16 years.

The two sides reviewed ongoing problems and challenges in the Muslim World and ways to effectively combat against terrorism in the region as well as expanding trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The Qatari envoy extended sympathy and condolence to Rabani over recent terror attacks in Kabul on behalf of the government and the people of Qatar.

Rabani reiterated that Kabul supported all efforts and endeavors that could bring about peace and stability to Afghanistan, the gulf region and in whole

of the Muslim World. (Pajhwok)

(7) Mirza Olang

and fled of our house. My husband was killed and his body remains in the desert," said Fatima.

"They had blocked peoples' passage and killed them. 51 people have been killed and the number is on the rise," said Ibrahim, another war-displaced person.

Jafar, who along with one of his sons, also came to Sar-e-Pul center says that a number of their family members have been shot to death.

"Five people have been killed from my family, including my brother who had come to see his parents," said Jafar, a war-displaced person.

"One of sons has disappeared and don't know where he is," said Mohammad, another war victim.

"My daughter is in captivity, her father has been killed," said Bibi Hava, another war-displaced.

Meanwhile, Sar-e-Pul governor, Mohammad Zahir Wahdat said 300 families have been displaced from Sayyad district and dozens of others are held captive.

"Killings are ongoing in Mirza Olang and the people are held hostage. Currently more than 150 families are held captive," said Wahdat.

The families said they have been subjected to severe oppression and that government must bring in to justice those responsible for the civilian killings.

No group has claimed the responsibility of civilian killings in Mirza Olang village. Taliban in a statement has rejected civilian killings.

Meanwhile, the United States embassy in a statement condemned the killings in Sar-e-Pul province in which a number of civilians and Afghan Local police force members were killed.

"The U.S embassy in Kabul strongly condemns the reported August 5 killing of dozens of civilians and Afghan Local Police forces in the Sayyad district of Sar-e-Pul province," read the statement.

The embassy said the insurgents, by killing of innocent villagers, prove that these "terrorist groups are a force of evil in Afghanistan".

The embassy added they empathize with the victims' families of the oppression and believe Afghanistan deserves peace and security.

"We extend our deepest heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims of these inhumane and cowardly acts," the statement read. (Tolonews)

(8) Special Forces

This is part of government's four-year strategy to bolster the strength of the Afghan forces. Under the new plan, the current structure of police special forces will be increased from three to six units.

"The preliminary work for recruitment in these units has started. In the first phase, the programs related to the training of these units will be started. They will be included within the framework of special units," said Najib Danish, spokesman to MoI.

The Interior ministry says it will focus highly on the process of hiring new recruits who are willing to join the police special units. (Tolonews)

(9) 20 Balkh Women

Masooma, another investor, said besides working at home, women should also get advantage of their abilities outside. She said they offered quality cakes and cookies to the market.

Each of the shareholders earned around 4,000 afghanis a month from the factory, she said, adding they were certain their income would increase with the passage of time.

The factory has been opened in a special women's market in Mazar-I-Sharif where 56 shops are run by women shopkeepers. Habiba Amiri, representative of the market, told Pajhwok women sold their handicrafts and food products there.

She asked the government to find international markets for Afghan women's products. Afghan women needed to showcase their products in international markets, but they were unable to do so, she regretted.

Provincial Women Affairs Director Shahla Hadid said they supported women in their business activities. She said they facilitated exhibiting Afghan women's products in foreign countries. Problems in the advertisement area for domestic products need to be resolved, she concluded. (Pajhwok)

(10) IEC Re-Examining

He said currently 7,000 polling stations existed in the country and it could be

expected after the 14-day tentative practice that the number of polling station may increase.

The IEC secretary said over 1,000 trained individuals were tasked with carrying out the re-identification of polling stations -- first in provincial capitals and then districts.

He explained polling stations earlier opened in private homes, tents or land had been removed and all these polling stations would be transferred to government schools, clinics, mosques and other public installations.

Warimcah asked local elders, ulema, civil society activists and influential people to cooperate with IEC officials in completing the process in order to prevent rigging and fraud in elections. (Pajhwok)

(11) NDS Nabs

and assets are under threat. After three years I decided to come into Afghanistan for Jihad," said the suspect Mohammad Esmatullah.

According to NDS, the insurgent groups have bases in Pakistan and Pakistan sent these individuals to Afghanistan to fight against Afghan forces.

"They asked me to go the eastern part of Afghanistan. Some others were sent to the west and all of them were spread around. We travelled the whole night alongside our commander Mawlawi Masoom. In the morning, the battle started with Afghan security forces. The battle continued for 50 minutes and I was wounded, I was hit by a bullet," added the SSP member.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) has said that many of terrorists fighting in Afghanistan are being trained in Pakistan.

"Wherever the armed opponents are conducting operations against the government. Of every ten terrorists four or five of them are foreign fighters, especially when it comes to Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Pakistan Taliban." Said MoD spokesman Dawlat Waziri.

The Afghan government has always accused Pakistan's intelligence services ISI of harboring the terrorist groups and sending them back to Afghanistan to fight against the Afghan forces. (Tolonews)

(12) Pakistanis Among

He added they were moving well and more areas had been recaptured from militants. The Taliban have not yet commented on the sweep.

But the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, tweeted a roadside explosion hit the Afghan National Army's pickup in Khoshamand district.

He claimed four ANA soldiers were killed and three others wounded. Security officials have said nothing yet about the roadside blast. (Pajhwok)

(13) Local Government

are treating people with inadequate medical equipment and they complain of a shortage of medicine and medical tools.

"Even though we hear the sounds of battle every day, even the sound of the missiles, we continue to treat the wounded people. Our lives are in danger here," said Ali, a doctor.

"We face lack of medicine and medical equipment and therefore some the wounded are not treated. We want government to mobilize and equip us," said Shafaq director of the health center in Chahardara district.

It is almost two years that the security situation is bad in Chahardara and residents are frustrated.

"We are tired of war and we want peace," said Shikh Mir a resident.

Chahardara district is located 30km away from the center of Kunduz city where Taliban have establish their base. But the government has control only areas close to the district building. (Tolonews)

(14) NDS Raid

detained Taliban members had been involved in clashes against security forces and destructive activities in Kunduz. Separately, one policeman and five militants were killed during overnight clash in the Qadis district of northwestern Badghis province.

The clash erupted after rebels attacked security forces check-post in Langar locality, said acting district chief of Qadis. (Pajhwok)

(15) Residents Want

four decades ago. There are no signs of a road having ever existed, as far as the remaining 70 kilometres are concerned. Yaqub Ali Shah, a resident of Dara-i-Sauf Bala, says most people travel to Aibak through the Dara-i-Sauf-Mazar road, which is asphalted and short-

ends the distance.

Due to the the terrible condition of the Dara-i-Sauf-Aibak road, he argues, people have to go to Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province, covering a 117 kilometres distance, before travelling another 120 kilometres to reach Aibak.

He wants the government to pay immediate attention to resolving the issue. Yaqub claims the distance between the district and Aibak will shorten if the road is constructed.

Rafiullah, an inhabitant of Mosam locality, holds a similar view about the transportation system. He accuses the government of paying no attention to public welfare programmes.

Mohammad Pazeer Basij, a Provincial Council (PC) member, demands the construction of the road connecting Dara-i-Sauf with Aibak. This will be a huge facility for residents.

Currently 200 trucks carrying coal have to go to Mazar-i-Sharif, he confirms. If the Dara-i-Sauf-Aibak road is built, he says, the coal would be shifted to Aibak -- an economical benefit for Samangan.

Deputy Governor Ziauddin agrees the construction of Dara-i-Sauf-Aibak road is economically vital for Samangan and Afghanistan.

He promises the provincial administration will put the asphaltting of the road on the priority list and the project has already been included in the development plan for 2017. (Pajhwok)

In Khost, Malaria Incidence Down by 20pc this Year

KHOST CITY - A 20 percent decline has been recorded in the incidence of malaria this year in southeastern Khost province as a result of increased awareness among the people about preventive measures, public health officials said on Sunday.

Malaria and Leishmania Diagnosis and Control Centre Director Dr. Gulab Jan Mangal told Pajhwok Afghan News about 5,300 positive cases had been registered with them so far since April this year.

He hoped malaria cases would not exceed 9,000 this year as a total of 11,000 positive cases were recorded last year. "The main reason behind the decrease in the incidence of malaria is increased knowledge of people about prevention.

"We also have distributed mosquito nets to the people. Some other individuals have acquired such nets on their own," said Mangal, who explained most of malaria cases had been reported from Zazai Maidan, Alisher, and Ismailkhel districts.

"Malaria is usually prevalent in areas where the weather is hot, which provides a good living and reproduction environment for mosquitoes. The disease also exists in the Matoon area of Khost City, the provincial capital, but the level isn't that high."

According to other health officials, tens of thousands of people may contract malaria in Khost on annually, because most of patients go to private health centres.

A technologist at a private laboratory in Khost City, Fazal Rahman Jidi, told Pajhwok of all daily visitors, two to three were infected with malaria on average.

A resident of the Shadal area of Spira district, Sardar who had brought her daughter for malaria treatment to a private clinic in Khost City, called the disease a threat to the people of his neighbourhood. (Pajhwok)

5 Tonnes of Explosives, Weapons Handed Over to DIAG

KABUL - Kabul police on Monday handed over five tonnes of explosives and ammunition to the Defence Ministry's Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) programme, an official said on Monday.

Mohammad Sadiq Muradi, deputy head of security affairs at the Kabul Police Headquarters, said the arms and ammunition included 36 BM1 bullets, four anti-personnel mines, 10 anti-aircraft rockets and 2,100 kilograms of ammonium nitrate.

Addressing a news conference here, Murad said DIAG was also given 10 mines made of plastic bags, 140 RPG rounds, 5 hand-grenades, 22 magnetic bombs and 2,500 kilograms of explosives.

Without going into detail, he said police had recovered these explosives and weapons in the line of duty from different parts of the central capital. (Pajhwok)