

(1) No Govt...

had been transferred into foreign accounts by some lawbreakers and government officials and that the US is ready to help the country bring them to justice.

Meanwhile, corruption monitoring groups have said that the government of Afghanistan has failed to deliver on its commitments to fight corruption in the country.

"The posts which have more income sources are reportedly exchanged and sold out, in such a situation, when someone buys a post, definitely he will misuse all resources under his authority and he commits embezzlement and shares it with his colleagues," said Abdul Aziz Aryayee, a member of the Joint Anti-Corruption Evaluation Committee.

The Afghan government has come under mounting pressure by its international partners in recent years for not addressing the issue of corruption in Afghanistan systematically.

In a recent statement, former president Hamid Karzai said that he did not take action against corrupt circles so as to avoid chaos and uncertainty in the country. However, the national unity government under President Ashraf Ghani and his CEO Abdullah Abdullah pledged to deal with corruption solidly regardless of someone's official post or position.

As part of government's counter-corruption policy, last month the Ghani administration announced the opening of the anti-corruption justice center tasked to prosecute all government officials involved in corruption. But the center is yet to start work.

"National unity government is committed to fighting corruption in the country. Because of this, the government announced the opening of the anti-corruption justice center, soon you will see more coherent actions in this respect," said deputy presidential spokesman Shahhussain Murtazaawi.

"We need a justice-oriented system, a system that is committed to the implementation of justice and law," said Rafiullah Bedar, spokesman for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

The issue of corruption in Afghanistan not only affects infrastructure and economic development but also damages the country's image abroad. Back in May, then British Prime Minister David Cameron in a conversation with Queen Elizabeth called Afghanistan a fantastically corrupt country. (Tolonews)

(2) Atmar Off ...

confer with his interlocutors, including Qahhorov on ways of combating organized crime.

During his stay in Tajikistan, coming days after his trips to Iran and Russia, Atmar is scheduled to discuss Kabul-Dushanbe coordination in boosting security in border areas. (Pajhwok)

(3) No Judicial ...

Raza Yousafi, said in addition to the lack of judicial organs, there were no other departments in various districts.

He said judicial officials despite being offered attractive salaries were not willing to perform duty in districts due to security concerns.

"A policeman is given 12,000 afghanis in monthly salary and he performs duty in district and judicial officials receive high salaries but they sit idle in Ghazni City and do not go to districts."

Yousafi also confirmed people often approached tribal elders and Taliban militants seeking solution to their legal issues.

A resident of Rashidan district, Abdullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News there were no government officials except security forces in the district.

"For legal issues, people either go to Kabul or to Taliban," he said, adding most government workers of the district lived in Ghazni City and Kabul. Andar district chief Mohammad Qaseem Desiwal said there were no judicial officials in the town. "I have tried many times to make functional the judicial system here, but judicial workers are refusing to perform duty here."

But Desiwal said people did not approach Taliban to resolve their legal issues, but they Similarly, Rashidan district chief Mohammad Karim said: "When I became the district chief, there were no government workers here. I told all the departments to send their workers here or fire them."

The district chief said there were government employees who had never seen the district but they regularly pocketed salaries for years.

A resident of Deh Yak district, Mohammadullah, said he had resolved a land dispute with his cousin through the Taliban.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News the dispute lasted five years. "First there

were no judicial officials in the district, so I went to Ghazni city, but my problem could be solved."

The resident said in Ghazni City, sometimes judicial officials would demand money and sometimes they were absent from duty, forcing him to approach the Taliban who referred him to the Quetta Council.

"We reached Quetta and went to a Taliban place which was at the end of a long street. We were taken to a basement where Taliban judges were sitting. They decided our case in half an hour and we also accepted their decision," Mohammadullah said. (Pajhwok)

(4) Iran, Afg...

operation will help both countries grow economically, according to officials from the Afghan Ministry of Finance.

The officials said that the Afghan delegation will also try to attract Iranian investors to invest in various sectors in Afghanistan.

Ahamad Hamid Abdurrahim Zai, the spokesman for the Ministry of Finance, said: "The purpose of this meeting is how we can improve trade and economic relationships with Iran, and to implement what we are working on."

"We share many values with Iran, such as language. These shared values help us to have good relationships. Thus, we can have good cooperation in industry, livestock, agriculture and gardening with Iran," Said Azrakhs Hafizi, an economic analyst.

In this conference, delegations and managers of more than 50 NGOs, government organizations and public companies will participate. The conference will last two days. (Tolonews)

(5) US Favours...

and Jaish-e-Mohammad are not only a threat to Afghanistan but to the region including India.

Nicholson, who heads the US operations in Afghanistan, on his second visit to Delhi has met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar and Defence Secretary G Mohan Kumar and discussed a range of issues including situation in Afghanistan and terror threats to the region.

The US Commander said military training by India to thousands of Afghan security personnel has helped that country significantly which is in tune with the objective of the NATO and the US.

"I cannot speak for the Afghan government. But I know that they have requested more and would like more and I think there is an immediate need for more as these aircraft can immediately get into the fight," he said, when asked whether Afghanistan was seeking more military helicopters from India apart from the four Mi 25 choppers.

He said Afghanistan was struggling to get spare parts for Russian aircraft due to Western sanctions against Moscow and India can supply them, adding "the US favours India's military support to Afghanistan".

Referring to Pakistan, he said the Taliban "enjoys sanctuaries" in Pakistan and that the US has asked Islamabad to take steps to contain the terror networks operating from its soil. (Agencies)

(6) 35 Traders ...

He alleged some lawmakers and powerful individuals used to demand bribe whenever a company launched a project while government departments also openly sought kickbacks.

"In a such a situation, it is problematic for the private sector to make investments," he said, calling administrative, financial corruption, the lack of land and insecurity big challenges the private sector faced.

He said during the past one month, traders in Kabul had been fined 1.5 billion afghanis for unexplained reasons and the law in this regard did not come up with the present conditions.

Alokozai said if investors were not facilitated, they would withdraw their investments and move abroad.

"Yesterday alone, 2000 traders surrendered their licenses to the chief executive officer and told him that they could not do business in the present circumstances."

Alokozai expressed his concern over what he said growing incidents of kidnapping of traders and said 35 traders were kidnapped during the past one month in Kabul, Kunduz, Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar provinces. (Pajhwok)

(7) Pakistani...

releasing the abducted Pakistani officials had stopped.

The Taliban councils in Peshawar and Quetta were putting pressure on the insurgents in Azra to hand over the hostages to the Pakistan government, he said.

He said the government of Pakistan sent a delegation on Tuesday to Azra district to hold face-to-face talks with the insurgents.

Wakeel said the delegation was comprised of some tribal elders from across the Durand Line, some Afghans living there and a military official and some other persons. He did not say where from he got this information.

Meanwhile, Azra district chief confirmed the arrival of the Pakistani delegation in the district.

He said the hostages issue had divided the insurgents into three groups and due to that dispute, the insurgents stopped talking with the Afghan delegation. (Pajhwok)

(8) Naderi Appointed ...

of the relevant individuals.

The statement further added that Mr. Naderi has completed his higher education in the field of political sciences and law in Kabul University at Bachelors level and obtained Masters degree in the field of international affairs from George Washington University.

Mr. Naderi also completed his professional education in leadership at Kennedy faculty in Harvard University.

He has served as the representative of the youth generation of the country in peace negotiations of the United Nations organized for Afghanistan in 2001 at Bonn city of Germany, besides serving as spokesman and elected representative of the civil society for the Independent Commission of the Grand Council (Loya Jirga) which elected the leader of the transitional government in 2002.

His other prominent roles include service as the head of the independent human rights commission of Afghanistan, member of the global council for fragile states in global economic forum, adviser for the transitional government of Libya in 2012, and head of the international advisers mission for strengthening law and judicial affairs for Libya. (KP)

(9) NUG has...

is completing on September 8, but there is no indication from both the president and the CEO to do so.

Addressing a press conference here, NNF chief Anwarul Haq Ahadi said holding Wolesi Jirga elections and implementing reforms in the election system were not possible until September 8 as the unity government was faced with several other challenges.

He asked the government to convene a grand meeting of politicians and influential personalities because the unity government deal could not give legitimacy to the currently set-up.

"We are not in favor of chaos, but to give the current government legitimacy, for which calling a meeting of politicians and influential personalities is mandatory," the former minister believed.

No government official could be reached for comments about Ahadi's remarks despite efforts.

Refugees The NNF head denounced Pakistan's treatment of Afghan refugees and termed it inhuman. He said the six-month deadline set by Pakistan for Afghans to leave was illogical as repatriation of all refugees in this period was not possible.

He said Afghanistan was not prepared to afford a large number of refugees and asked Islamabad to extend the stay of Afghan migrants there.

Ahadi asked the international community to talk with Pakistan about the situation of refugees and compel Islamabad to respect international laws. (Pajhwok)

(10) Reinforcements ...

Zwak said the two ministers pledged to send reinforcements to Helmand and intensify airstrikes against militants.

However, Nawa district chief Agha Mohammad Takra said except the district building, all other areas remained captured by Taliban militants.

"We have not received reinforcements so far, the district building is under fire from militants," he said, adding that no areas had been recaptured from militants. Currently heavy clashes are underway in Ainak area located between Lashkargah City, the provincial capital, and Nawa district.

Abdul Majid, a policeman in the area, told Pajhwok: "We can recapture areas lost to rebels in a very short time if we receive reinforcements and order."

An Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier, Munir Mohsin, also said they could recapture all the areas if they received military equipment, otherwise the militants would advance. Taliban's shadow governor for Helmand, Mullah Abdul Manan Akhundzada, told the media that militants

were able to capture 50 security posts, 10 bases and five departments. He said except the district building, all other areas of the district were seized by militants.

Intense fighting in Helmand has forced a large number of residents to flee their homes. (Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban ...

e-Ghori will fall into the hands of Taliban."

Members of the Provincial Council have also said that so far no reinforcements have been sent into the districts and "the government should send reinforcements by air otherwise the Taliban will continue to advance." (Tolonews)

(12) Afghan Refugees ...

returned to Afghanistan.

He added: "They told me I could go to Afghanistan and make a better life there if I returned alive from the war. I told them that I was not interested to make troubles in another country while our country itself is dealing with lots of challenges."

Iranian officials allegedly train Afghan refugees to fight in a suburb of Tehran and then send them to Syria as part of a special unit, called Fatimion, which is made up of Afghan refugees, said return refugees.

These young men said that they had friends who had been sent to Syria by the Iranian government, but only one of them returned alive - albeit wounded.

"One of my colleagues and his friend were sent to Syria war by an Iranian organization in Tehran. He was wounded in the war and he returned to Iran, while his friend was killed there in Syria," said another Afghan refugee, Mohammadullah. (Tolonews)

(13) 917 Smugglers, ...

Airport in Kabul in four months and the illicit substance was concealed in 1,507 capsules.

During the period, security officials confiscated 141 vehicles, 109 weapons and 119 mobile sets from smugglers and detected four drugs processing laboratories in Nangarhar and torched 42.1 tonnes of drugs.

Ahmedi said one policeman of his department was killed and three others wounded during four and a half months period.

He did give information about drugs produced this year but said the production might have been increased as more poppy was cultivated this year due to insecurity, compared to last year. (Pajhwok)

(14) Afghanistan ...

also rallying support in Congress. Brennan has been lobbying lawmakers, military officials and others for what some say is an uphill battle: a new memorial on the nation's front lawn, even though there is a law banning new memorials there.

Memorials are built to remember people and events, but the nation's efforts to ferret out and eliminate terrorist networks are ongoing. In fact, there is a law that requires a conflict be over for 10 years before a national commemorative work can be considered.

The group wants to change the law to allow for the consideration of a memorial in the case of conflicts that extend beyond a decade.

There are other complications, as well. The phrase "War on Terror" is contentious. Coined and popularized by President George W. Bush, the name has been derided by those who say the U.S. fight is with specific terrorist networks. The Obama administration largely retired the phrase.

Brennan, however, notes that the phrase "Global War on Terrorism" is written on service medals authorized by the Department of Defense. And he says the men and women who fought deserve recognition.

In many ways, this is a war of firsts: the country's first all-volunteer military campaign, the first time American women have served in combat, the first time service members have faced so much upheaval in their lives, enduring multiple redeployments. It is the first time U.S. service members have fought abroad in response to terrorist attacks on U.S. soil, on 9/11.

U.S. casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to Department of Defense records, total nearly 7,000 dead and more than 50,000 wounded. Petraeus, the retired general who commanded forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, supports the memorial. "I understand the criticism of the term 'war on terror' very well. And I am certainly not wedded to it," he said in an email. "The key is to have a memorial to the service and sacrifice of those who served in the wars of the post-9/11 period."

Brennan knows this sacrifice. As he went through training in Fort Polk, La., a warrant officer told him that the trauma of war is different for the aviation community than it is for

ground troops. Aviators often do not witness death in the same way; they wake one morning to suddenly find the guy in the cot next to them isn't there.

Sure enough, many months later, in August 2011, Brennan left his tent one morning to find the U.S. flag flying at half-staff. Then someone told him: After midnight, a Chinook helicopter had been shot down. Thirty Americans died that day, along with seven Afghan soldiers and an interpreter. One of them was pilot Bryan Nichols, one of Brennan's friends whom he had worked with to plan raids and supply missions.

"I wear a KIA, Killed In Action bracelet for him," said Brennan. "Every day." (Agencies)

(15) US Citizen...

and opened the hotel on Sep 1, 2012. "The problems had begun even before we opened the hotel," says Omnia owner and CEO Leah Tedrow.

"They still had not paid us for the remaining amount on the first contract and paid us absolutely nothing on the second contract. We had to essentially sit outside their offices for them to meet with us, demanding and begging them to complete their work so we could open the hotel on 1 September."

He said the owners only ordered the kitchen equipment 3-days before opening, despite their request to order it a month before and they were still installing it on opening day.

"It was then we began to hear the rumors they had no money, were in serious debt and had signed our contracts knowing they could not pay us. They were doing everything on credit and favor all over town and it was a mess."

Twenty-eight days after the hotel opened and the signing of the 5-year management contract with Omnia, the Qasemi's issued a termination letter demanding that Omnia vacate the premises in 18-hours with no explanation, violating the terms of the contract.

"We had 28 guests in the hotel at the time, with conferences scheduled with several NGOs and embassies. We tried to reason with the Qasemi's but then found out they had given Etisalat a tour of the building and had been offered \$4.2 million up front to lease the building for three-years, even though our projections for the hotel had net incomes at around \$6 million plus per annum - but they wanted the lump sum, with complete disregard to the current contract and guests, some of whom had just moved in on 12-month leases."

He said they met with Etisalat official and showed them the contract, but they had no idea about the contract, hotel guests and leases, nor it needed a further \$1.2 million in renovations for the entire building to be functional. "They (Etisalat) had been told we were 'employees' working for the Qasemi's during the tour and that the building was fully operational. They were livid they had been lied to, especially as it had just been approved by their board, and immediately wrote to the Qasemi's pulling the deal off the table and refusing any further business dealings. Once that happened, it got pretty western," says Tedrow.

Court documents show the Qasemi's then began a campaign of terror against OMNIA staff and guests, removing plumbing so there was no hot water in the hotel, refusing food deliveries, draining all the kitchen cooking gas, changing internet passwords to deny them outside communications and access, and issuing death threats to OMNIA staff.

"We had to send all of our female Afghan staff home as the Qasemi's began threatening them and their families, and then they began the death threats against the expat staff and trying to have me arrested every morning."

She said the Qasemi's openly bribed police and would wait outside the courts and Attorney General's office trying to bribe the people he had just spoken to, to have the case thrown out or delayed. (Pajhwok)

(16) Rocket Attack...

where Taliban militants and government forces were engaged in fighting. One Taliban fighter was also killed in firefight.

Taliban militants attacked Dahna-e-Ghori district outside Baghlan provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri on Wednesday morning triggering heavy fighting which has been continuing. (Xinhua)

(17) Many War ...

house during the clash. Razia's brothers-in-law took care of her and her four children for one year after the incident.

"My elder brother-in-law then asked me to marry him or leave his home. I rejected the proposal and came to Farah City along with my 13 years old son and two daughters. Here we live in an old house of our relatives."

Razia has no option other than begging to feed her children. "My children are scavengers, rummaging through heaps of garbage. We are in deep trouble. I want my children to attend school, but I can do anything by begging to protect my family, people do not help us, if my children do not work we would have nothing to eat."

Gul Pari, 33, another widow from the Khushkaba village of Khak-i-Safid district, has also been displaced to Farah City. Her four minor daughters and a son are living in a tent.

While begging with her two daughters in Sharwali Square of Farah City, she admitted: "Most of our men support the Taliban. My husband, also a Taliban insurgent, was killed during a clash in Bala Balok district two years ago."

She spent one year with her brothers-in-law after her spouse's death. But she moved to Farah City after both her two brothers-in-laws were also killed in a gunbattle. "My father-in-law is old and cannot work. People don't help us as there are too many women like me.

"I'm really ashamed of begging, but I have no choice. If I don't beg what would my children eat?" she asked. She takes her children with herself to make people show her mercy.

Sharafudin Ashrafi, a resident of the Khost village of Khak-i-Safid district, confirmed a large number of widows in Farah had been forced into seeking alms. (Pajhwok)

(18) Victim of...

the case to be investigated thoroughly," said Ruzia Naeel, Ghor MP.

"Government failed to address cases of violence in Ghor including the stoning of Rukhshana, we have always warned that if the same situation continues, more tragedies will occur," said former governor of Ghor Sima Joyenda.

"I want to call on all people to stand against violence, we also urge the government to investigate all those cases which have been transferred to Kabul and serve justice on those involved," said civil society activist Weeda Saghari.

"My lovely daughter told me that she loves her cousin and wants to marry him, so I decided to conduct their marriage, but they forced my daughter to do heavy labor and later informed us that she had immolated herself," Zahra's mother Arifa said. (Tolonews)

(19) Turkey Establishes...

General Staff and his Russian counterpart have established a direct line," Kalin said. "They are in talks on this." On Tuesday, Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin held lengthy talks in St. Petersburg to normalize ties after nine months of tension.

The talks focused on Syria, as the two sides decided to establish a mechanism to exchange information on the country, Kalin said, adding that the Russian chief of General Staff was also part of the discussions. (Xinhua)

(20) Rebel Attacks...

Turkistan Party, Failaq al-Sham, and Jabeh Fateh al-Sham.

Jaish al-Fateh, an alliance of several rebel factions, was reportedly formed in March 2015 under the supervision and coordination of Saudi cleric Abdullah al-Muhaysini. (Xinhua)

(21) Business Leaders...

together on technological innovation, economic development and employment.

Robin Li, chair of the B20 employment taskforce and CEO of Baidu, said the initiative includes exchange programs, an innovation foundation and technology sharing. (Xinhua)

(22) U.S. Slams ...

senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson, wrote in an article published Tuesday on The Wall Street Journal. Turkish authorities have accused U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen of orchestrating the coup attempt in coordination with a faction within the military. (Xinhua)

(23) Russian Airstrikes

also carried out 12 other strikes on positions of Jaish al-Fateh, or the Conquest Army, in the province, which is largely under the control of the rebel group, the source added.

The source said the airstrikes achieved direct hits. He did not elaborate.

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(24) Philippine President...

making joke about the rape and murder of an Australian missionary during a jail riot in Davao in 1989. Duterte took offence of Goldberg's statement. (Xinhua)