

**(1) Ghani-Abdullah...**

main reasons for the recent backlash between the president and his CEO.

"The best solution and the logical step is the implementation of the political agreement, bringing reforms in the election system, ensuring the rollout of electronic identity cards and appointments of the government positions in consultations between the two leaders," said Mohammad Natiqi, head of the political party.

"Centralization of power by the ARG (presidential palace) has caused the problem, not only the centralization of power, but a parallel government has emerged inside the ARG and authorities of the ministers have been reduced," said Rahimi.

Abdullah has also met the commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan general John Nicholson and a number of foreign diplomats in Kabul. At the meeting they have urged the CEO to settle the tension through talks and diplomacy.

"With consideration of current situations, there is a need that government leaders resolve their disputes, otherwise they will pave the way for the collapse of their government by their own hands," said MP Lalai Hamidzai.

There are some reports that Ghani's national security advisor and head of office of the president have met with the CEO, however outcomes of the talks have not been announced. (Tolnews)

**(2) Govt. Leaders'...**

said Ghani did not meet him during the past three months.

However, the Presidential Palace in a statement on Friday said politicians, governmental authorities, scholars, tribal elders and people, keeping in view the country's sensitive situation, should try their best for unity help address the current problems.

The statement said the national unity government under the leadership of President Ghani had managed the country's problems with full patience and had significant achievements during the past two years.

"We regret the statements of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, such statements from the CEO are against the norms and morality of the government, because governance is based on legal rules that we have to follow for our performances," the statement added.

Nazir Ahmad Hanafi, a lawmaker from western Herat province, told Pajhwok Afghan News "the conflict inside the government is like a worm which gradually eats up the tree." The lower house member insisted on solution to the dispute between the two government leaders through negotiations and said persistence of the differences was not in the interest of Afghanistan.

Pointing to insecurity and interference of neighbouring countries in Afghanistan, he said the dispute among the leaders in such a situation would create more problems.

Abdullah Qarlaw, who represents Kunduz province in Meshrano Jirga or upper house of parliament, said: "The government leaders should work for unity and law enforcement rather than indulging in disputes that empower our enemies and damage our people." He asked the unity government leaders to tolerate and understand each other because their dispute would destroy the country.

Waheed Muzhda, a political expert, said: "As the national unity government establishment was illegal, there also not exists a legal solution their differences, except negotiations."

He said the differences would fuel political crisis and people's distrust in the government.

Bashir Bezhani, a political expert, said "hostility between the leaders would leave a great negative impact on the people because people are still unable to understand realities."

He believed the government leaders had complete alignment, but they showed disagreement to keep people busy in order to hide their corruption. "If the unity government leaders abandon their dispute, people would think about an alternative government," Bezhani said.

Bezhani said during the past two years, the government leaders had been skipping their responsibilities and if the situation continued, it would increase the political tension that would ultimately overthrow the government. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Balkh Youths ...**

the prejudiced messages which are conveyed from the address of leaders of the National Unity Government (NUG) was an act of oppression against the youth of Afghanistan and that the youth should not be exploited for political purposes.

In a rare change of tone, Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive Officer of the national unity government on Wednesday lashed out at Ghani over what he described the reluctance of the president in addressing certain national issues in the country including the electoral reform process and the

much-needed electronic identity card rollout to the Afghans.

On Saturday, a special gathering marking World Youth Day was organized in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province where the participants highlighted the potential of the Afghan youth in leading the country.

They warned against exploitation of the youths for political purposes and ethnic division.

"As a youth of this country, I call on both leaders to de-escalate tensions and address the problems of the nation," said a resident of Balkh Fazil Fazli.

"Youths confront problems in every province, therefore they prefer to resort to illegal migration," said Basir Kawoshgar, a student of political science in Balkh.

"Our elders should not exploit the youths as political resources," said university professor Ahmad Rishad Jamal.

Participants also raised concerns over the deteriorating security situations in the country.

"Conveying biased, discriminatory and violent messages from the address of the two leaders is an act of oppression against the ability and identity of the youths, the youths need jobs, education and a presence in the political process," civil society activist in Balkh Najib Paikan said.

The participants asked the government to give the youth the chance to play a constructive role in the country so that the influx of youths abroad is curbed. (Tolnews)

**(4) NDS-ISI ...**

"It has already been known that this group (JuA) is somewhat indirectly being supported by the NDS," Aziz asserted.

This comes as reports regarding the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Afghan and Pakistani intelligence agencies sparked uproar in the country earlier last year. The MoU was apparently concluded with an aim to share intelligence and bolster cooperation in their fight against insurgent groups.

However, the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan's role in fight against terrorism and harbouring the militant groups fighting against the Afghan government security forces. (KP)

**(5) IS will Still ...**

last month that tore through crowds of minority Shia Hazaras protesters in Kabul, killing 80 people in the deadliest attack in the capital since 2001.

The devastating attack in the capital represented a major escalation for IS, which so far has largely been confined to its stronghold in Nangarhar province, where it is notorious for brutality including beheadings.

But officials denied that it marked a turning point for IS in Afghanistan, saying the group has been under heavy pressure from both US air strikes and a ground offensive led by Afghan forces. The US military says the group's nascent presence in Afghanistan has dwindled, with fighters largely confined to two or three districts in Nangarhar from around nine in January. But despite the offensive, residents of Nangarhar say the group is still maintaining its reign of tyranny in the region.

"The offensive is going on and the government says they are winning," a tribal leader in Hiska Mina, one of the worst-hit districts in Nangarhar, told AFP.

"But Daesh fights every night, and the insecurities have increased, not decreased," he added, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Local tribal leaders say the Taliban - a stronger group than IS - has forged an informal alliance with the jihadis after a year of fierce rivalry in order to effectively combat government forces.

"The Daesh and Taliban have stopped fighting each other and are both fighting the government," said Malek Haseeb, a tribal leader in Kot, a mountainous district from where IS militants were last month flushed out by government troops.

An army commander in Nangarhar confirmed the informal insurgent alliance but the Taliban have strongly denied joining hands with IS.

The Taliban have publicly sought to appear as a bulwark against IS' reign of brutality and as a legitimate group waging an Islamic war.

The NATO-led coalition estimates there are around 1,500 IS militants in Afghanistan - mostly disaffected Pakistani and Afghan Taliban, as well as Uzbek militants and local residents of Nangarhar.

The group has so far not announced a successor to Saeed. Afghan authorities erroneously believed Saeed had been killed in another strike in July 2015, when a US drone targeted dozens of IS-linked cadres in Nangarhar, close to the Pakistani border.

News of his death comes after former Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in another US drone strike inside Pakistan in May. (Agen-

cies)

**(6) Trump...**

in Afghanistan in 2009, years after the war began. He campaigned for the White House in 2008 on shifting focus from Iraq to Afghanistan.

Pierson attempted to push back on CNN after a commercial break.

"We're talking about ISIS specifically," she said, implying that Obama's new policy created the terror group and partially echoing the words of Donald Trump.

"I thought we were talking about the founding of ISIS. ISIS came out of the Obama side of the war. Is that not a fact?" Pierson said. (Agencies)

**(7) Taliban ...**

security queue.

Former Deputy Minister of MoI Mirza Mohammad Yarmand said, "Afghan security forces are fighting with high moral, but some reformation still needs to be done."

Helmand war have made thousands of the local residents to flee from their homes and find safer shelters in other parts Helmand or even in neighboring provinces. (Agencies)

**(8) 150 Afghan ...**

the traders to invest and will also other businessmen to invest their money because the following port is exempted from paying taxation."

Earlier one of the major problems which had discouraged the Afghan businessmen was having no proper space for the big and beast ships, to anchor.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Advisor AbdulSalam Kohi said, "1 out of 3 working phase of for investing in Chabahar port is done, this will provide more space for those ships to anchor within the port, Iran has promised for Afghan businessmen to provide lands, visas and some other necessary measurements which are needed to boost economy."

Chabahar port was inaugurated by the three Governments of Afghanistan-Iran-India months ago. (Agencies)

**(9) Pentagon...**

uses the area to train, equip, disseminate and control fighter pipelines, providing its commanders throughout Afghanistan with a continuous supply of enemy fighters from this province.

"Khan's death affects ISIL-K recruiting efforts and will disrupt ISIL-K's operations in Afghanistan and the region," he said.

On August 9, a source in the Islamic State confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News the killing of Hafiz Saeed, the group's leader for Khorasan region, in Nangarhar.

According to the source, Saeed was killed in a US drone strike five days back in Mamond Aw Peshi locality. Last week, security officials claimed Saeed was among 30 rebels killed in Achin district.

Lt. Col. Mohammad Zaman Wazir, 201st Selab Military Crops commander, told reporters that 30 Daesh militants, including Hafiz Saeed, had been killed.

Saeed originally hailed from the Orakzai tribal region of Pakistan and was a member of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). He joined the IS after its emergence in eastern Afghanistan. Saeed was promoted as the group's leader for Khorasan region. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Foreign Ministry ...**

comes amid rising tensions between the presidential palace and the CEO.

Sources have said that the presidential palace has reduced the authorities of the minister of foreign affairs and the job of minister of foreign affairs are apparently carried out by people close to the president including the national security advisor, minister of finance and president's special advisors.

For instance, Afghanistan's foreign policy with the US and UK is moved forward by the president himself while foreign policy with Russia, China, India and Iran is tackled by the national security advisor.

"Regarding regional countries particularly the neighbors and regarding insurgency there is a need for a single policy and harmony," said Tawab Ghorzang, spokesman for the national security advisor.

Meanwhile, a number of analysts have criticized the ministry of foreign affairs for failing to tackle the nation's foreign policy.

"Unnecessary issues are referred to the ministry of foreign affairs, but the important works and the works that define Afghanistan's foreign policy is tackled by those who are appointed by the president himself," said MP Dawoud Kalakani.

Analysts have said that tackling Afghanistan's foreign policy by a few people close to the president will damage Afghanistan's reputation.

"The issue that the president has sidelined an important institution of Afghanistan or the ministry of foreign affairs will weaken Afghanistan's foreign policy in the long term," said political analyst Haroon Mir.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Presidential Palace and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) is yet to comment on this. However the CEO's office has confirmed that the presidential palace has reduced the authorities of the ministry of foreign affairs.

"The chief executive has said that the ministers in the cabinet can use their authorities given to them by the law, so minister of foreign affairs is also a member of the cabinet of Afghanistan," said Jawed Faisal, deputy spokesman to CEO.

Currently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in some cases has not the authority to approve or reject appointments. (Tolnews)

**(11) Acting Positions...**

other institutions, ministry of higher education also has a big number of acting staff. In this ministry, the office of the minister, directorate of plan and policy, directorate of quality assurance, directorate of Kankor, directorate of higher education abroad, directorate of

"We had seen national, linguistic, tribal, and religious oppression, but we had not seen team oppression which we have now seen in the national unity government. In this system, anyone who wants to work in the government institutions, even in managerial levels, need to be linked to one of the teams."

In addition to Kabul, we can see the same situation in the provinces. For instance, Kunduz was the first province for which government appointed a governor. After falling to Taliban, Kunduz needed good management to return to its previous situation.

However, its key directorates such as national security, education, urban development, and women affairs are still directed by acting directors.

In addition to this, Dashte Archi district, Qalai Zal police headquarter and Khan Abad police headquarter is managed by acting commanders.

Khalidudin Hakimi, a member of Kunduz provincial council said: "All governmental departments are conducted by acting managers."

Safiullah, another member of Kunduz provincial council said: "The reason for these acting positions in provinces and districts is security uncertainty."

As the national unity government reached its two year mark, political analysts say that internal disagreements and not considering key issues by government leaders, will add to current problems and this will affect the political administration in the future. (Tolnews)

**(12) Samangan ...**

of the gardeners from the Hussainkhel village of Aibak, said he had planted 600 trees of almond on six acres of land. He collected 1,295 kilograms of almond and earned 370,000 afghanisthis this year. However, he said the price of the fruit had edged down this year.

Each seven kilograms of almond cost 7,500 afghanis last year, but now the price has declined to 4,500 Afghanis.

A dried fruit trader in Samangan, Haji Naqibullah, argued the price of almond had fallen due to higher production. Around four tonnes of almond have been sent to Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Naibullah added 40 percent of Samangan almond was sold inside the country and the rest exported to India, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Asfandyar ...**

when workers of the pre-partition Khudai Khid-matgar movement were fired upon by the provincial government on the orders of then chief minister Abdul Qayyum Khan.

Claims regarding deaths in the massacre range from 1,000 to more than 1,300 people while many protestors were injured. The ANP observes August 12 as a black day in memory of the killing of those workers every year. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Protestors...**

the highway and wouldn't open it until the security personnel and his sons were rescued and the siege broken.

Haji Wali, father of one of the soldiers in Janikhel, said: "My son serves in ANA, over the past four days he has been surrounded; but the government hasn't taken any action to rescue the soldiers."

The road blockage road left hundreds of vehicles and passengers stranded on the highway. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Roads to ...**

safe while travelling the road," he remarked.

In Kabul, a statement from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) also verified the road's reopening a week-long blockade.

Clashes between the Taliban and security forces recently increased in Helmand, causing residents many problems, including displacement. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Kabul Eagles ...**

three wickets apiece as their team cruised to a third victory in the tournament and marched to the semifinals.

The second match of the day was played between Spin Ghar Lions and Amu Divers. (Pajhwok)

**(17) WTO's Membership...**

adding that the landlocked country availing the opportunity can attract foreign investment, create job opportunity and ultimately alleviate poverty.

However, the economist who is a lecturer to a private university in Kabul cautiously observed that congested roads and poor communication infrastructures could negatively affect trade activities inside Afghanistan and with its trade partners.

The militancy-plagued and landlocked Afghanistan doesn't have standard roads, motorways nor railway linking the capital city Kabul to provinces onward to neighboring states or Europe. It is obvious that Afghanistan has very weak infrastructures, railroad, terminals and roads and also the private companies are not standard and globally accepted, the analyst argued.

But he also expressed optimism that the accession into WTO would facilitate the Afghan government to find solution for the problems.

"Accession to the WTO is a good opportunity for Afghanistan to increase its competitiveness, but the problem is that being a member of the world entity and signing some bilateral, trilateral or multilateral agreements is very easy, but fulfilling the commitments and also implementing these agreements will be very difficult," the analyst maintained. Afghan drivers and their trucks are not in a capacity to be accepted internationally and their services are not standard, the analyst said, adding that fear of drug trafficking and human smuggling by Afghan drivers could be another problem for Afghanistan's trade partners, according to analysts.

However, Mahrammi said that Afghan government can manage to overcome the problems by outlining comprehensive strategy to train drivers, send them abroad to improve capacity building and issue them license to operate on international highways.

Depending largely on foreign aid, cash-strapped Afghanistan is among the poorest countries in the world, with huge trade deficit and 36 percent of its 30 million populations living under poverty line.

Afghanistan's export, according to a report of Central Statistic Organization, was registered at 570.50 million U.S. dollars in 2015 against 514.97 U.S. dollars in 2014.

The country's export which includes carpet, rug, dried fruit and medicinal plants, has reportedly totaled more than 600 million U.S. dollars so far this year and the import in the consuming nation has reached to more than 5 billion U.S. dollars.

Afghan economic experts also believe that accession into WTO enables Afghan traders to export more goods to the member states.

"On one word, it is a very unique opportunity for Afghanistan to become part of WTO, to become part of the world economy and to make a contribution to the world trade, otherwise Afghanistan will be isolated as it was, being away from WTO means isolation, and isolation means weak economy, weak people and resources," the well-respected analyst observed. (Xinhua)

**(18) Russian Pilot ...**

has been released. The helicopter belonged to Punjab government, the crew was kept hostages since August 4 by a Taliban group as the chopper made an emergency landing in Logar Province. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Taliban Siege...**

and had said if serious attention was not paid, the district would soon collapse. Hundreds of people on Saturday blocked the Kabul-Northway for a second time to press the government to break the Taliban's siege of Janikhel in order to rescue the trapped security forces. (Pajhwok)

**(20) Power Transmission...**

said Usmani.

He highlighted the completion of Salma as one of the Ministry's achievements and said construction of the second phase of Kamal Khan dam was also completed and work on the third phase would soon begin.

"The Memorandum of Understanding on Kajaki Dam has been signed with an international company and the final agreement will be inked in the upcoming months," said Usmani.

Funded by the Afghan government, the power transmission line project in Deh Sabz district of Kabul city is implemented by Al-Hashim Construction Company and Iran's electricity supplies manufacturing company (IMB) at a total cost of USD 4.3mn.

Work on the project kicked off on January 07, 2012. The project consists of 19 transformers with various capacities (400, 315, 250, 160, 100, 639 KV ampere) which is equivalent to a total capacity of 4.6MW. (Agencies)

**(21) Nangarhar Residents...**

Nangarhar.

Participants at the gathering issued a resolution where they called on the Ulama Council of Afghanistan and other relevant organizations to take the issue seriously.

"We urge the three pillars of government to take a serious stance against this un-Islamic phenomenon. Perpetrators should be sent behind bars," said Irshad Raghband, another activist in Nangarhar.

Meanwhile, the human rights commission in Nangarhar said that the bad dadan practice has decreased in the country's eastern parts.

"Bad dadan practice was on the rise between 2003 and 2009, but it has recently decreased," said Sabrina Hamidi, chairperson of Human Rights Commission in eastern provinces.

This comes after Khan Wali Adil, a civil society activist from Paktia, who is conducting a sit-in protest in Kabul over the past few days in protest over the bad dadan practice in the country, said he has not received any clear response from government for his demands so far.

"I will commit suicide if government does not address my demands. If my demands are not addressed, the suffering of girls who have been the victim of this wrong practice will continue," he said. (Tolnews)

**(22) 48 Rebels ...**

The police chief also said dozens of insurgents stormed the Zeruk district centre last night in an attempt to capture it, but they faced strong resistance from security forces. In the ensuing battle, Ziaee said 28 militants were killed and another 18 were wounded. A security official in the Zeruk district said hundreds of local and foreign militants attacked the district centre last night.

He said an intermittent clash had been ongoing in the district for over the past one week, but the rebels were pushed back after additional security forces reached the district.

The Taliban have said nothing about the Zeruk district attack. (Pajhwok)

**(23) Children Among...**

An official at the Uruzgan Civil Hospital, who wished not to be named, confirmed the incident and said the injured child was under treatment in the hospital.

Uruzgan security officials did not comment on the incident. (Pajhwok)

**(24) IS Kidnaps...**

Local dignitaries between the IS and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which mounted a wide-scale offensive to flush out IS from Manbej in June, according to the Observatory.

The UK-based watchdog group said the deal was not officially declared between both sides, but it could be explained, as it's impossible for 500 vehicles to leave Manbej without being targeted by the SDF. (Xinhua)

**(25) Turkey Sneers...**

U.S.-based cleric Gulen.

Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Tanju Bilgic said Zeid's comments were unacceptable.

"It is at best an unfortunate statement for an UN official tasked with guarding human rights to say 'he has no sympathy' for coup plotters instead of condemning these terrorists who have attempted a bloody coup," Bilgic said in the statement. (Xinhua)

**(26) UN Names...**

of the global financial and economic crisis, with declining numbers of youth able to find decent work.

In developing countries, underemployment in the informal economy and working poverty remain the biggest employment challenges facing youth. (Xinhua)

**(27) WHO Reminds**

rubella was interrupted in 2009. In 2015, the region was certified as having eliminated rubella and congenital rubella syndrome.

However, unimmunized travelers from countries where these viruses still circulate could reintroduce them into the hemisphere. (Xinhua)

**(28) Iraqi Ambassador...**

emphasized that there are highly trained professionals among the asylum seekers. "Please. Treat them well, as guests are treated. They are not bad people," he said.

The statement by the ambassador followed reports that Iraqis had been experiencing increasing difficulties in obtaining permit to remain in Finland. The magazine reported that in June and July less than one in six asylum applications were accepted. In 2015, over 85 percent were approved. (Xinhua)

**(29) S. Korea ...**

a blind eye to growing public opposition over the deployment of the missile defense system.

Tensions between Beijing and Seoul have reached unprecedented levels after the latter finally decided to deploy the THAAD system on its soil, despite repeated opposition from China. (Xinhua)