

(1) CEO Underlines ...

commitment to meeting people's demands.

During a meeting on last Thursday, the CEO hit out at Ghani's weak leadership, saying he had no option but to make public his differences with Ghani.

Abdullah had said essential pledges in the unity government agreement, such as convening a Loya Jirga, amending the Constitution to create the post of prime minister and introduce electoral reforms had not been honoured so far.

The CEO said he had been forced to change his modus operandi and the people could no longer wait for the implementation of the commitments.

"Our demand is total implementation of the agreement on unity government; we don't want anything more or less than that, because implementation of the agreement would lead to the survival and stability of the country," CEO said.

Speaking to the participants, he said that his patience during the past two years should be given marks. "Some people complain I should raise my voice during that time, but we should take action with patience" he added.

He said the implementation of the agreement was not his personal demand, but it was the demand of nation.

Abdullah said he would share people's demands during a meeting with the president. If problems still persist, he would take a consensus decision after consultation with people's representatives and public figures. (Pajhwok)

(2) Heavy Battles...

the Taliban took control of areas in Nawa and Garmsir districts of Helmand.

"Oppositions are advancing in the war, opponents have the war initiative but unfortunately the government is not organized (in the war) nor does it have experience from past battles," said Attiqullah Amarkhail a military analyst.

Parts of Helmand, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Laghman, Paktiya, Paktika and Uruzgan provinces are all currently witnessing heavy clashes.

A shortage of military hardware and the lack of good war management in terms of delivering equipment to security forces on the battle fields is also seen as reasons for the high number of battles. (Tolnews)

(3) Civilian Casualties:...

time for assessment.

The meeting also stressed coordination between international and national organizations compiling reports on civilian casualties and the Afghan security and defence forces.

The board decided that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the International Committee of the Red Cross and other such major organizations should help the Afghan government reduce civilian casualties by building capacity of security forces.

The meeting also emphasized the need for a review of security forces' education, curriculum, procedures and rules.

The meeting was attended by officials from Afghanistan Security and Defence Forces officials, NATO Resolute Support forces, UNAMA, RCIC, the Independent Human Rights Commission and some civil society activists.

The statement said the board has been established in compliance with a presidential order and it would hold meetings after every three months. (Pajhwok)

(4) Bariz Blames...

because the operational commander at the district police headquarter had left the area on Sunday evening.

He said Baghlan tribal elders and jihadi commanders decided to take action against the militants if the government did not pay serious attention to provincial security.

Dahna-i-Ghori is located 30 kilometres south of Pul-i-Khumri, the capital of Baghlan province. (Pajhwok)

(5) Baghlan's...

Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, in a telephonic message, said the fighters captured Dahna-i-Ghori on Sunday night at around 8pm.

He said the militants had seized 12 Ranger pick-ups and a tank

from the security forces. (Pajhwok)

(6) Roshan Award...

universities in the country. Yaraan's scholarships help them enroll in these universities and pursue their dreams."

The "Student of the Year" scholarship is one of several initiatives highlighting Yaraan's support of Afghan youth. It was launched last year to help students afford higher education. Thirteen universities from across Afghanistan nominated one of their top and most deserving students for the scholarship program, which covers the tuition fee of the student for the entire year.

Despite improvements in the last decade, Afghanistan's youth population continues to face issues ranging from a high unemployment rate to lack of access to education and other opportunities.

To help address these issues, Roshan revamped its Yaraan brand last year by combining products and services with opportunities to help Afghan youth realize their true potentials. This innovative approach has also set a new trend for Afghanistan's private sector to engage with the youth and support them.

Roshan first launched its Yaraan brand in 2008, becoming the first Afghan company to introduce an exclusive brand in support of the youth of Afghanistan. Last year, Roshan revamped Yaraan and renamed it "Yaraan by Roshan," supporting Afghan students to gain access to sports, music, arts, education and career development opportunities. (KP)

(7) Atmar Warns ...

started operations from the eastern Nangarhar province although the footprints of the terror group have been seen in other parts of the country, including the northern Balkh province.

Recent reports emerged from the southern Zabul province of Afghanistan where the local officials have said the terror group have started attracting fighters in southern Afghanistan.

The Afghan forces launched a major operation in eastern Nangarhar province nearly three weeks ago to suppress the insurgency activities of the terror group in this province.

The operations were launched amid concerns that the loyalists of the terror group are attempting expand operations in Afghanistan.

The top US commander in Afghanistan Gen. John Nicholson earlier said the loyalists of ISIS have managed to establish direct links with the main group in Syria and Iraq. (KP)

(8) Demands Grow...

people are in detention doesn't mean that they have to be mistreated and it doesn't mean that they should be kept in indefinite detention," he told reporters in Brisbane.

"That's why Labor is leading the push to have a Senate inquiry."

Shorten said he still supported the offshore processing of asylum-seekers on Nauru and in PNG to dissuade others from making the dangerous journey to Australia, but that refugees should not be left to languish in Pacific camps indefinitely.

The leaked documents, which allege that asylum-seekers on Nauru, including children, suffer violence, sexual assault and degrading treatment, have prompted the United Nations to repeat calls for offshore processing to end.

"The allegations contained in the documents must be systematically and properly investigated and those responsible held accountable," said Ravina Shamdasani, spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

New Zealand's Labor opposition has also weighed into the debate, with David Shearer describing the policy as unsustainable.

"It's almost like Australia has lost its moral compass in terms of where it's going," he said.

The Nauru reports published by The Guardian allege incidents such as guards threatening a boy with death and only allowing a young woman a longer shower in return for sexual favors.

Mental stress caused by prolonged detention was deemed to be the cause of alleged cases of self-harm, including a woman trying to hang herself and a girl sewing her lips together.

Some 412 people remain on tiny

Nauru today and almost double that number on Manus.

In the latest incident, two Afghan men were reportedly attacked last week as they walked to a beach. The assault stopped when a local man intervened but one of the Afghans, who was bleeding from the head, later collapsed. (Tolnews)

(9) Khost Governor ...

them full participation in the overall political process.

He also urged the youth to concentrate on their studies and give their education more time if they wanted to reach their desired goals.

"I have firm belief that the government has the will to hand over the youth fundamental tasks and responsibilities and participation in the Afghanistan's rebuilding," the governor said.

But experts say the biggest problem the Afghan youth face is joblessness and the government has failed to resolve this key issue.

Gul Sharif, a youth in Khost, told Pajhwok Afghan News that thousands of students graduated from higher and semi higher educational institutes each year, but they were unable to find jobs.

"Nothing will happen by celebrating the youth day, practical and realistic work should be done for them, they need permanent jobs."

Gul Nabi, another youth, said due to widespread corruption in government departments and giving preference to kinship over merit were main reasons behind joblessness among the youth.

He said if the government did not pay attention to the mentioned problems, joblessness among the youth would further increase.

"Our demand from the government is that it should appoint honest people to key government positions in order to eliminate corruption and pave the ground for eligible and skilled persons to find jobs." (Pajhwok)

(10) Police Retreating ...

into the negligence had been launched and those found guilty would be punished.

Angar also alleged that some Pakistani military officers took part in the Helmand fighting and some of them had been killed.

He went on to allege that the insurgency in Helmand was being headed by Pakistani generals.

He said security forces had launched night raids on Taliban targets, forcing them to start fleeing the province.

Angar revealed ground and air offensive in Garamser, Nad Ali and Nawa districts would be launched to recapture areas lost to the rebels.

He also said night time operations would be launched in the provincial capital as well, in which foreign troops would also participate.

Angar said landmines planted by Taliban on the Helmand-Kandahar highway would be neutralized soon in order to enable people to travel on the route.

He said the Taliban had killed people in a number of areas for alleged cooperation with the government and this action had encouraged people to wage an uprising against them.

But his assertions were rejected by a Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, who said the fighters had not suffered losses as claimed and people staunchly supported the rebels.

"We cannot make progress if we don't have the support of people," said Ahmadi. Helmand has emerged as the most insecure province of Afghanistan as clashes in various parts of the province have been underway over the past three weeks, with the rebels capturing several areas. (Pajhwok)

(11) Telecom Firm...

trying to provide opportunities for other firms to come up with similar campaigns for students in the country," said Mohammad Amin Kamawal, head of private higher education institutes at the Higher Education Ministry. (Tolnews)

(12) Maimana ...

revenue-generating projects such as building a hotel, a market and recreation parks in the provincial capital.

Last year's revenue of the municipality stood at 10 million afghanis, but the amount jumped to 40 million in 2016, he added, pledging to improve capacity of cleanliness

teams and provide better services to residents.

Kaiwan said a small number of residents paid taxes in the past, resulting in lower revenue collections. But now law-enforcement has improved and more people are paying taxes.

He promised the municipality would install a computerised revenue collection system that would lead to a significant boost in its income.

The mayor said all 57 vacancies at the department had been announced. Qualified candidates would be appointed through open merit, he assured. Recruitment on merit would help remove those appointed on the basis of nepotism.

He asked tribal elders and political parties not to interfere in the recruitment process and let the municipality appoint people on merit.

The mayor, 31 years, was appointed by President Ashraf Ghanitwo weeks ago after he passed an exam. (Pajhwok)

(13) Social Media...

dweller of Heart City, said: "Social media Apps such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have both positive and negative aspects."

"Some use them in for academic and educational purposes while others employ them for stoking ethnic tensions and other types of rifts." He believes the enemy could also use social media networks for spying.

Mohammad Rafiq Shaher, a political analyst, says the use of social media outlets depended on society and the level of differences existing in it. People should have the freedom of expressing their views independently, he stresses.

He recalls a big fuss was created over the use of "Pohantoon" and "Danishgah" for university in Pashto and Persian respectively. A heated debate ensued among students on choosing one of the words for the university signboard.

Faisal Karimi, mass communication and online media teacher at Herat the University, says one negative impact of using social media networks is fueling tensions and discussion of divisive issues.

He suggests public awareness and educating the people on how to use the facility and avoid stoking tensions among different communities. (Pajhwok)

(14) Special Forces...

"The Taliban consistently spread false information and inflate their own capabilities in an effort to intimidate Afghans," he said.

The Taliban insurgents have intensified attacks in Helmand during the recent weeks and briefly captured some parts of the province including Nawa district last week.

The Afghan officials were earlier saying the group has eyed to shift part of their leadership council, Quetta council, to Helmand province once they gain a foothold in this province. (KP)

(15) Would-Be...

capital, from Darzab district surrendered to police at a check post on the Shiberghan-Sar-i-Pul road.

Turkistani said the woman would be kept in a safe place and the case was being investigated by police. Najiba Qurishi, the women's affairs director for Jawzjan, also said the surrendering woman, 32, tied the knot with Qari Zia about two years ago and since she was being forced her spouse to conduct a suicide attack.

Qurishi said the woman had been taught the usage of Kalashnikov by her husband who kept telling her: "you're the wife of a jihadi, you should learn how to fire and use weapons."

It is for the first time a woman was encouraged to conduct a suicide attack in Jawzjan.

Separately, Maulvi Baz Mohammad, Daesh shadow governor for Jawzjan province, was arrested by security forces after a brief clash in Qush Tepa district.

The Jawzjan police chief said the Daesh shadow governor was arrested when he and his colleagues tried to cross into Jarqadoq village and security forces entered an armed clash with them.

"Baz Mohammad during the clash sustained injuries in the leg and was arrested with a Kalashnikov, a motorcycle and a satellite phone."

Daesh or Islamic State group has recently commenced their activ-

ities against the government in Qush Tepa district. (Pajhwok)

(16) 8 Closed...

are 62 schools and religious seminaries in Mohammad Agha and throughout Logar there are 307 schools, enrolling 150,000 students, 50,000 of them girls. (Pajhwok)

(17) A Dozen...

He said Wafadar was killed along with three accomplices in the operation.

Paktika deputy police chief Abdul Rauf Masood confirmed the airstrikes in Yusafkhel and the operation in Khoshmand districts. He said the rebels had sustained heavy casualties in the operations, but did not provide any figures.

In neighbouring Paktia province, airstrikes were carried out against Taliban militants in the Chamkani district.

Paktia governor's spokesman Naqib Ahmad Atal said four Taliban militants were killed and three others wounded in the airstrikes.

The Taliban have so far said nothing regarding these incidents. (Pajhwok)

(18) 2 Girls...

near the Durand Line close to the tribal regions of Pakistan and is also home to several hundreds of foreign insurgents including the Pakistani militants.

This comes as the Taliban militants launched a coordinated attack on Want Waigal district in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The coordinated attack by the Taliban militants forced the provincial government to request for additional forces in a bid to repulse the Taliban attack. (KP)

(19) Policeman Buries ...

included his father.

Now Mohammad regrets his deeds.

"I was told that the government is infidels and I must come and fight against the government," Mohammad said.

Meanwhile, Sayed Basir, Mohammad's father and local police commander, has welcomed his son's decision and is happy he is back home.

Basir said at some stage he decided to kill his son as defending his country was his duty. He said he would kill anyone who threatened his people.

"We have been trampled on by the Taliban, our children have been trampled on; we lost our youths," said Basir.

Meanwhile Faryab provincial governor Syed Anwar Sadat said that Basir had fought his insurgent son on a number of occasions.

"The local Mullah told him that his father became an infidel and he is a local police commander hence he [Mohammad] was fighting against us," said Sadat.

District police chief Nazamuddin said that the reason for the Taliban joining the peace process was that he had mobilized them to do so. He also said that logistical support and spiritual help was being provided to insurgents who join the process.

"We are trying to provide facilities for those who join the peace process and we are trying to collect money so therefore they [Taliban] must come and join us," said Nazamuddin.

In the past three months, almost 70 Taliban insurgents have joined the peace process in Faryab province.

According to the provincial police chief Abdul Nabi Alham, all those who joined the peace process are remobilized to fight the Taliban. This move has had a positive impact on the security situation in Faryab province. (Tolnews)

(20) Trump Must...

report said Manafort and his business advised former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who was ousted in 2014 following bloody riots and street protests. (Presstv)

(21) G20 Needs...

roadmap that could show a way out of the predicament of low-growth.

The G20 started off as a forum featuring regular meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors of the world's major economies and was remodeled to a summit for leaders of 19 major economies and the European Union (EU) in the aftermath of the crisis. (Xinhua)

(22) Iraqi Parliament...

balance the divisions among the Iraqi parties, ethnic and sectarian factions, with technocrats, in order to end corruption and provide bet-

ter services. (Xinhua)

(23) G20 Summit...

financial governance, strengthen financial, tax, energy and anti-corruption cooperation and revitalize trade and investment at the summit, Li said.

The summit is also expected to focus on developing countries, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and support for Africa's industrialization. (Xinhua)

(24) US Plans...

and more in peak demand periods.

One of the critics of this proposal is Armando Travelli, who until 2005 headed the U.S. Energy Department's program to convert research reactors to safer uranium and bring bomb-grade uranium back to the United States. (Presstv)

(25) Iran, Russia...

in Damascus in its fight against a foreign-backed militancy. Iran has been offering advisory military help, and Russia has been conducting an aerial campaign against militant positions in the Arab country.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. The United Nations (UN)'s Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates that over 400,000 people have been killed in the conflict. (Presstv)

(26) National Australia...

debts in the last week.

"We continue to deliver on our strategy by getting the basics right, serving our customers better and keeping the balance sheet strong," NAB chief executive Andrew Thorburn said.

"The Australian and New Zealand economies remain resilient and continue to deliver growth amid heightened global uncertainty."

Expenses fell by 1 percent reflecting tight control of costs, owing to the bank's decision not to pass on the Reserve Bank of Australia's most recent rate cut in full to its home loan customers.

"These higher funding costs contributed to our decision to not pass on all of the most recent RBA interest rate cut to home loan borrowers. The decision reflects the responsibility we have to balance the needs of all stakeholders - borrowers, depositors and our 584,000 shareholders," Thorburn said. (Xinhua)

Europe's Biggest Hot Air Balloon Festival Concludes in Bristol

LONDON - Almost 160 hot air balloons from across the world have taken part in Europe's biggest balloon festival which ended in Bristol, Britain on Sunday night with a mass ascent.

Perfect weather conditions saw a dazzling display of balloons in all shapes and sizes take to the skies above the city, with tens of thousands of spectators watching the spectacle.

Improved weather conditions saw a number of mass ascents at this year's Bristol International Balloon Fiesta, the 38th to be organized in the city.

One team travelled from Thailand, with most heading to the festival from mainland European countries. Organisers said that in all, 267 balloon flights took place during the event, putting on a great show for the thousands of Fiesta visitors in Bristol and the surrounding areas. (Xinhua)

ECOWAS Commission Chief in Guinea Bissau to Seek End of Crisis

BISSAU - The president of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission Marcel Alain de Souza on Sunday began a three-day visit to Guinea Bissau to seek a solution to the prevailing political crisis.

"We are in Bissau to have a better understanding of the current political crisis," de Souza told the media. During his visit, the president is expected to hold talks with Guinea Bissau president, representatives of political and civil society organizations as well as heads of the ECOWAS forces stationed in the country.

"We shall not impose solutions. These will be found by the people of Guinea Bissau themselves," he said. Guinea Bissau has been going through a political crisis since the dismissal of the government led by former prime minister Domingos Simoes Pereira on Aug. 12, 2015. (Xinhua)