

(1) Ghani Asks...

was also concerned about the region's security situation and she. Also on Tuesday, high-ranking officials of Afghanistan and Pakistan foreign ministries held their first round of political consultations in Kabul. A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said the Pakistani delegation headed by Tahmina Janjua and deputy foreign minister Hikmat Khalil Karzai discussed and exchanged views on various issues, including Afghanistan peace process, security along the Durand Line and trade between the two countries. Both the sides stressed restoration of trust between the countries and said work should be done for expanding bilateral trust using different mechanisms.

The MoFA statement said foreign secretaries of Afghanistan and Pakistan agreed on providing facilities to Afghan and Pakistani traders, promising barriers harming business relations between the countries would be eradicated at the earliest possible. (Pajhwok)

(2) Govt. Approves 9 ..

The modification of the contract for the two central units of the ministry of defense belonging to the Afghan national army.

The meeting also returned the proposed contract for the construction of Pul-e-Bagh Jai Ghulaman in Farah province for further review.

The ARG Palace said the meeting of the national procurement commission was also attended by the second vice president Sarwar Danish, ministers of finance and justice, acting minister of economy, observers of SIGAR, SYSTICA, and representative of the Resolute Support mission as well as representatives of the financial and budgetary commission of the parliament. (KP)

(3) Mattis Says ...

president's frustration with how that campaign is going.

On Monday, Mattis defended Nicholson, saying he "of course" supports him. But Mattis could not say whether the White House similarly supported him.

"Ask the president," Mattis said. "[Nicholson] has the confidence of NATO. He has the confidence of the United States."

The new strategy for Afghanistan was expected about a month ago. Mattis said he was still confident a decision was close.

"We are sharpening each of the options so you can see the pluses and minuses of each one so that there's no longer any new data you are going to get, now just make the decision." (Pajhwok)

(4) Education ...

15 classrooms and 10 bathrooms in five schools in Nangarhar province and 96 classrooms in Kabul and Kandahar provinces.

Balkhi said four schools would be reconstructed in Logar province and 1,000 people would be provided education facilities in Kabul and Bamyan province by using the aid.

"The aid is allocated to these provinces because they are affected by war and their people are deprived of education facilities", he added. (Pajhwok)

(5) Indian Company ..

countries met in Tajikistan to discuss the project.

Economic affairs analysts said they are not very hopeful about the implementation of the project due to a lack of cooperation between the affected countries.

The analysts term the increasing insecurity in Afghanistan as another hurdle for the electricity transmission project.

"Insecurity is the biggest obstacle on the way of investments and economic growth in the country. If government can eradicate insecurity, especially on the route of CASA-1000, then we will benefit from the project," said Nabi Sadat, an economic affairs analyst.

CASA-1000 project will cost more than \$1 billion USD and if the project is completed, it will transfer 1,300 megawatts of power from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan through Afghanistan.

Afghanistan will get 300 megawatts of power annually from this project and at least \$50 million USD as transit rights per annum. (Tolonews)

(6) Mohaqiq Urges...

thanked Pakistan for supporting Afghanistan during jihad against the former Soviet Union and hosting millions of refugees. "Afghanistan would never forget that support from Islamabad," he said.

He alleged regional and international conspiracies had damaged relations between the neighbours, which should work together to thwart such plots.

Both Afghanistan and Pakistan were victims of terrorism and that was why misunderstandings had increased between the two nations, he said.

Pointing to recent deadly incidents in Kabul and Peshawar, he asked the two countries and the world at large to listen to their voice. He stressed joint efforts to improve security and political relations.

Pakistan Ambassador Zahid Nasrullah Khan welcomed the guests and spoke about historical relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He believed peace in Afghanistan was important for the stability of Pakistan and no one should be allowed to damage their bilateral relations.

More than 350,000 Afghans were offered Pakistani visas for education, medical treatment and business activities last year alone, he said, adding his country also cared for millions of refugees.

Jhagra opined no one could divide the neighbours if they remained on friendly terms. Afghanistan and Pakistan had shared interests and needed to cooperate with each other, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) Balkh PC Member...

and the PC law.

"If two-thirds of the PC members agree, the council has a legal right to suspend a member's duty in case he/she is absent for three months," he said. "Of 18 members of our council, 14 signed the petition against Momand's suspension."

Hadid said formal letters had also been sent to the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) to stop Momand's salary and privileges and introduce his runner up in election to replace him.

However, Momand told Pajhwok people had elected him and no public representative had the right to suspend or dismiss him. He admitted not attending the council for three months.

Momand said he wasn't abroad but had been in Kabul due to his political compulsion. He said he had received the salary and privileges of the three months.

Momand accused Balkh Governor Noor of acting behind the scenes to get him suspended.

However, Balkh governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, said the governor did not interfere in the provincial council affairs. He said the PC was a separate organization and took decisions in light of law on its own.

However, Farhad said the provincial council had taken decision against Momand and the provincial administration backed it.

On the other hand, IEC Balkh chapter said they had received no letter concerning Momand.

IEC in-charge for Balkh said they had executive authority and if they received the letter from the provincial council, then they would submit it to the IEC central secretariat.

Asif Momand is a resident of Wazirabad village of Balkh district. He was elected to the council in the last PC elections.

He has been critical of the Balkh governor over the past six months and has accused him of land-grabbing and administrative corruption. Momand has been living in Kabul for the past four months. (Pajhwok)

(8) Taliban Spokesman...

are still underway between militants and Afghan forces in the area.

Aminullah, administrative chief for Qush Tepa district in neighboring Jawzjan province, said the Taliban had killed a Daesh commander in the district.

"Jabir who previously fought in Taliban ranks was recently disarmed by the rebel group, but he joined Daesh about a month ago and was killed last night in Sherbig village of Qush Tepa district," he said.

Sayed Rassoul, a resident of the area, said the body of the slain Daesh commander was still lying on the ground in the area. (Pajhwok)

(9) Daesh Claims ...

and finally on Monday evening the area was cleared of insurgents.

According to officials, so far around 40 insurgents have been killed, but the number may increase as troops advance forward.

Following the take over of the valley insurgents targeted civilians and killed around 54 villagers.

Taliban however rejected any involvement.

TOLONews journalist, Samim Faramarz, was the first journalist in the

area following the recapture.

Reporting from Mirza Olang on Monday night, Faramarz said the valley is mostly deserted but a few families stayed behind. Hundreds of families fled the area after last week's massacre.

Over 500 families were displaced after the attack and most of them were moved to capital of Sar-e-Pul and was appealed the government for help. (Tolonews)

(10) Taliban Letter

killed in the deserts and mountains of Afghanistan just to establish the writ of thieves and corrupt officials," the letter said.

The Taliban also accused Afghan politicians and generals of protracting the war and occupation for personal gains.

"A number of warmongering congressmen and generals are pressing you to protract the war in Afghanistan because they seek to preserve their military privileges, but instead you must act responsibly as the fate of many Americans and Afghans alike is tied to this issue."

The letter said previous experiences had shown sending more troops to Afghanistan would not result in further destruction of American military and economical might.

The letter comes as the Trump administration works to devise a strategy to handle the nation's longest war. About 8,400 US troops are currently conducting counterterrorism operations inside Afghanistan and also training and advising the Afghan forces fighting the Taliban insurgency. (Pajhwok)

(11) Lopsided ...

Provincial council head Mohammad Yaqub Nazari also said a balance should be struck in all development projects.

"No roads have been built in districts across the Kokcha River, while some districts have seen too many development projects," he said, adding only those areas where high officials lived had been developed. (Pajhwok)

(12) MoD to Probe ..

(Sardar Daud Military Hospital) to find out what medicines is not available there. The head of the finance department was ordered to provide the money for them (hospital staff) who would then purchase the required medicine from outside the facility," said Dawlat Waziri, the Defense Ministry spokesman.

Dana Gul, a soldier, said he has been looking after his colleague who lost his sight when he sustained injuries in a battle against militants in northern Badakhshan province.

He said some hospital doctors had asked his comrade to buy medicine which was not available at the facility.

"When relatives of (military) generals call, they order hospital officials to give them the best medicines, but no one is there to hear the soldier who is asked to bring medicine from outside the hospital. I am also an army soldier," he said, complaining about "inattention of medical staff and a lack of medicine" at the hospital.

"There is no justification to ask a wounded officer to pay money for his medical treatment. Government is responsible to ensure their treatment free of charge. Government is responsible to ensure their treatment either inside or outside the country," said Mohsin Mukhtar, a former military officer.

This comes after the former commander of US forces in Afghanistan Gen. John Campbell said Afghanistan was losing about 4,000 soldiers per month, but the majority of those come from soldiers abandoning their posts due to poor leadership in the ministries of defense and interior, not from casualties on the battlefields. (Tolonews)

(13) Humanitarian Group...

programmes to those in need." Aid workers in Afghanistan provide emergency trauma care, run nutrition feeding programmes for malnourished children, and assist families displaced by conflict and natural disasters.

"I call on all parties to ensure that those providing humanitarian assistance have safe access to the most vulnerable and can carry out their lifesaving work unhindered," Dr. Peeperkorn added. (Pajhwok)

(14) 10 ANA, 20 militants and everything was currently normal. Sayed Omar, a resident of Greshk district, said a fierce fight in Sarband area continued from 9pm to 12am last night. Later airstrikes took place, but he had no information about casualties. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf

Ahmadi, on his twitter account said the fighters captured a security posts in Band-i-Barq area of Greshk district last night.

He said 12 Afghan soldiers were killed and their weapons seized by militants during the attack. However, he did not comment on militants' casualties. (Pajhwok)

(15) Kabul Hosts ...

The Bodybuilding Federation says 14 bodybuilders will be selected to participate at Asian competitions on behalf of Afghanistan within a week in South Korea. (Tolonews)

(16) Jawzjan Woman ...

asked security and judicial organs to take decisive steps for the punishment of the perpetrators of such incidents.

At least nine women have been killed while one committed suicide in Jawzjan since the beginning of current solar year. (Pajhwok)

(17) 228kg of The drugs smuggled from Baghlan to Balkh province.

The cultivation of poppy and drug trafficking has been a concern for the people of Afghanistan where the number of drug addicts has reached three million. (Pajhwok)

(18) Momand Arrested..

former jihadi commander for northern zone, Jumma Khan Hamdard's son Gul Rahman Hamdard.

However, the trio were not allowed to leave the Balkh Airport's by security forces. Momand in a telephonic contact with Pajhwok Afghan News said the Balkh governor wanted to arrest him.

"I'm neither a thief, nor a murder. I am a political rival of Atta Mohammad Noor and I have protested and addressed press conferences against him. Now he is not allowing me to enter my own city," said Asif Momand.

Momand's brother Mustafa Momand on Tuesday morning during a news conference that his brother was held captive at around 1am in after a seven-hour siege by Noor's private militias.

His brother was directly taken to the governor's home where he was beaten by the governor and his two sons, the brother said. He added Mustafa after four hours of captivity was handed over to the National Directorate of Security (NDS) provincial department.

Mustafa Momand said his brother's two bodyguards were killed during the arrest of Momand and two of Balkh police personnel were also injured by firing from Noor's private militiamen.

However, Balkh governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, called all the allegations of Mustafa Momand as baseless. He said Momand's arrest warrants had been sent by the NDS prosecution office and major crimes prosecution office to the Balkh police headquarters three months back.

He said Asif Momand had been accused of forgery in documents in which the Administrative Office of the President Deputy head's signature had been fraudulently used.

Farhad said before Momand arrived at the Balkh Airport, about 30 armed men loyal to Gul Rahman Hamdard, Ibrahimkhalil and Khairdandish forced their way into the airport through two gates.

They wanted to escort Asif Momand from the airport to a specified area. Farhad said security personnel were bound to arrest Momand at the airport in compliance with the letters. Two policemen were wounded when the arrest of Momand turned violent.

However, Balkh PC member Ibrahim Khairandish, who accompanied Momand on the flight to Mazar-i-Sharif, denied some accusations by the Balkh governor's spokesman. He also remained besieged for hours with Momand.

He said no armed men had entered the airport before and after their arrival except a few guards with them. Khairandish said all gates of the airport had been shut down and no one was allowed to enter the airport.

He said due to last night's incident all passengers, including children and women remained trapped for three hours at the airport. He confirmed Momand was taken away to the Balkh governor's home after arrest. "You can later ask Momand, as far as I know, he was badly hit and suffered serious wounds." Munir Farhad said the Balkh governor was not personally involved in the arrest of Momand and neither he was taken to the governor's home, nor beaten. He said Momand was directly taken to NDS prosecution office, where he was under investigation. Mustafa Momand, in response to

Farhad's claim that the attorney office had ordered his brother's arrest said why his brother was arrested in Kabul. He asked the president to try the Balkh governor and warned they would not bury the slain guards and would take to the streets if no action against the governor was taken.

On the other hand, Balkh police spokesman, Shirjan Durrani, said they weren't involved in Monday's night incident at the Balkh International Airport. "We have nothing to do with last night's operation and also we haven't arrested Momand." Balkh police chief Sayed Kamal Sadaat had told other media outlets that when Asif Momand arrived at the airport, Noor had ordered his arrest.

Meanwhile, Murad Ali Murad, senior security assistant at the Ministry of Interior (MoI), said a delegation had been tasked with investigating the airport's incident.

Murad told the BBC that the delegation would soon reach Balkh and it was comprised of Attorney General's Office (AGO), the MoI and judicial organs members.

However, Balkh Governor Atta Mohammad Noor harshly criticized national security advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar and spymaster Mohammad Masoon Stanikzai after the clash at the Balkh airport.

In a short statement posted on his official Facebook page, Noor accused the two top security officials of hatching conspiracies to destabilize Balkh province.

Noor said Balkh had been among relatively calm and peaceful provinces and conspiracies involving plans and projects to destabilize the province should be refrained from.

National Security Council (NSC) spokesman, Qadarshah, termed the governor's allegations as lies and baseless and said the council would make it stance known after the probe into the incident was completed. (Pajhwok)

UNAMA renews support to Wolesi Jirga, district council polls

KANDAHAR CITY - United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) head Tadamichi Yamamoto on Tuesday said his organization backed Wolesi Jirga and district council elections to be held next year and would encourage donors to implement uplift projects in the country.

Yamamoto, at the head of a delegation, visited Kandahar province and met Kandahar Governor Zalmai Weesa and other provincial authorities, a statement from the Kandahar government's media office said.

The statement said Yamamoto called Kandahar as Afghanistan's important province and praised the performance and activities of the provincial administration.

He said the United Nations (UN) was working for overall peace, security and human rights across the globe and had conducted many activities in the areas in Afghanistan and would continue its activities.

According to him, UNAMA was committed to supporting the parliamentary and district council and fully backed the Afghan-led electoral process.

Yamamoto said UNAMA had paved the way for various reconstruction and development projects' execution through aid organizations and would continue to encourage donors to do so.

The statement said Kandahar Governor termed the UN as international peace-seeking humanitarian organization and lauded its assistances with the Afghans in time of war and crisis.

According to Weesa, the Afghan forces had enough ammunition now but some issues remained due to lack of proper leadership. He said needed steps should be taken in this regard.

The governor called insecurity, lack of jobs, electricity, potable water and bad condition of roads as main problems and said the government was sparing no effort to resolve these problems.

He said the government was responsible to pave the way for transparent elections and Kandahar provincial administration would make every effort in this regard. (Pajhwok)