

(1) US Encourages ...

for him even in months so that he can have one-on-one meeting with him.

Abdullah insisted that "if someone does not have the patience for discussion, then they are not fit for the presidency, either."

However the office of the president said Abdullah's remarks are not in line with the standards and spirit of governance, insisting that principles and legal criteria forms the basis of governance based on which the executive steps are taken.

The Palace also added that the government of national unity will continue to its work on collective basis and serious and effective discussions will be launched regarding the remarks of CEO Abdullah.(KP)

(2) Education,

would be responsible for supervising the courses and providing teaching materials.

Balkhi told the MoU signing ceremony that the illiteracy eradicating commission led by 2nd vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish had one and a half years back decided that organizations having working link to the literacy programmes' implementation should execute the programmes in coordination with the Ministry of Education and according to its policy and strategy.

He didn't provide information about expenses of the literacy programmes and who would cover them.

Abdul Basir Anwar said by signing the MoU, his ministry's illiterate employees, prisoners and children being raised at correction centres would be educated.

He hailed the signing of the MoU with the Ministry of Education as a good step and promised all out efforts at implementing the programme.

According to the education minister, currently 40 percent of the country's population form literate people and the rest 60 percent are illiterate, with 75 percent of women.(Pajhwok)

(3) US Urges ...

following its military involvement in Ukraine had prevented numerous donors from supplying Afghanistan with Russian-made aircraft or spares.

However, India was not constrained by any such considerations as it has no sanctions in place against Moscow, the US general pointed out.(Agencies)

(4) NATO Rejects...

commander was killed in today's #Kabul explosion, several ANA members were wounded only," the alliance said.

An explosion took place in the vicinity of Makroryan area of the city earlier today which is located close to the US Embassy in Kabul with the security officials saying only three civilians were wounded.

However, ISIS loyalists released a statement on the Amaq news agency saying that they had killed the US commander and two Afghan army colonels using a 'sticky bomb'.

The loyalists of the terror group claimed it happened outside the US embassy in the Afghan capital in Masoud Square.

The latest claim by the loyalists of the terror group come as the Afghan and US forces have stepped up raids against them in eastern Nangarhar province where they have been widely conducting insurgency activities.

The leader of the terror group Hafeez Saeed Khan was killed in a US drone strike in Nangarhar province late in the month of July.(KP)

(5) Taliban's Special...

Chardara district.

The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far.

Numerous senior Taliban commanders have been killed or detained by the Afghan forces since the group announced its spring offensive earlier in April this year.

The shadow district governor of the group for Imam Sahib was killed during an operation in this province last week.

"Yesterday evening, Afghan National Security Forces launched a joint clearance operation to clear armed Taliban from Now Abad village of Emam Sahib District of northern Kunduz province," Moi said on August 10th.

The Taliban militants intensified attacks in Kunduz after announcing its spring offensive with an aim to capture some of the key districts but the attacks were repulsed by the Afghan forces.

The militants of the group also kidnapped several passengers from the main highway of Kunduz province late in May and in mid-June this year.(KP)

(6) Security Forces

militants and 48 others were wounded in the clash.

Meanwhile, Zafar 207 Corps said in a statement that four of Taliban's key commanders were killed in the offensive.

The statement added that Qari Ehsanullah, Taliban's designated deputy coordinator for Taliban's operations in northern provinces and one of their key commanders were among those killed in the conflict.(Tolnews)

(7) Insurgents

and order situation.

He said Kham Aab, Qarqin, Faizabad, Muradyan, Mangajak, Aqcha, Khan Aqa and Khwaja Durqu districts had been cleared of insurgents during military operations, in which 245 militants were killed, 186 wounded and 117 others held.

Aziz added all roads in Jawzjan were open for traffic, calling rumours about the blockade of highways part of enemy propaganda.

"The Taliban claim capturing some areas from security forces after the military operation came to an end, but their assertion is wrong. Security forces are engaged in fighting against the militants in some areas," he said.

The governor acknowledged some insurgents were still active in Zar Aab and Qush Tepa districts, but the security forces were committed to flushing them out. More efforts would be made to establish rule of law and banish terrorists from the province.

Azizi said more than 100 development projects worth millions of afghanis were underway in the province. The projects, including road construction, dams, schools, clinics, mosques and a sport complex, will benefit the people.(Pajhwok)

(8) 95 Percent...

of Helmand, the long-term effect of this effort is next to nil. The terrorists often find refuge with local families who don't trust the government. There is a real war going on in Helmand where the government forces control a mere five percent of the province," Toufan Waziri said. He added that people had lost their trust in government officials, central and regional alike, who they believe are enmeshed in all kinds of corruption scandals.

"They have their hands full settling their own disputes and stealing the people's money, they simply have no time to keep an eye on the terrorists who are seizing ever new territories without facing any serious resistance," Toufan Waziri continued.

MPs, representing Helmand Province in the national parliament, have tried to draw attention to this problem, but the government is doing nothing to improve the situation.(Agencies)

(9) Famine Threatens...

been suspended to Pasaband district.

He said a few days earlier some outpost security stations fell into Taliban hands, creating more problems.

"The injured are being shifted to the district clinics where no medicines are available. If the government does not reopen the main roads of the district and fails to deliver supplies, the security forces would lose courage which will have bad results in the end," he said.

Syed Ahmad, a resident of Pasaband, said most people had started eating grass. He said residents had nothing to eat while Taliban militants were forcing them into providing them with food and other things.

Separately, two Afghan National Army (ANA) troops and two Taliban have been killed during an overnight clash in Chalgazi locality of Qaisar district, police spokesman Abdul Karim Yurash said.

Elsewhere, some strategically important areas have been retaken by security forces from Taliban during a clearing operation in Faray province, the provincial police spokesman claimed.(Pajhwok)

(10) Taliban Splinter...

nephew Emdadullah has been appointed as the group new leader.

His appointed was declared in a grand gathering in Zabol province where dozens of his fighters and religious leaders could be seen.

Mullah Emdadullah pledged to continue fighting against foreign invaders in Afghanistan. He also promised revenge for the group's

slain leader.

Mullah Mansour Dadullah disagreed with Akhtar Mansour appointment as the Taliban new leader after the news of Taliban founder and long time supreme Mullah Omar surfaced.

Dadullah's group was stationed in Khak-i-Afghan district of Zabol where Akhar Mansour's group launched a massive operation against them and killed scores of the splinter group's fighters.

A security official, who wished to go unnamed, said last year the Taliban attacked Mullah Mansour Dadullah's home in Kalrghan locality and killed him.(Pajhwok)

(11) Several Uplift...

walls, parks and a school.

He said 26,000 people would benefit from the projects and hundreds would get work opportunities. The project will account for \$1.3 million, with \$965,000 provided by the United Nation Human Settlement Programme UN-HABITAT.

The remaining \$232,000 will be contributed by residents. The mayor added the projects were aimed to facilitate dwellers and increase city revenue.

Provincial Council member Israrullah Murad, who was present at the inaugural ceremony, stressed the need for transparency and quality of work.

Asadullah Khalil, a resident of the locality, expressed happiness over the launch of development projects in the city. He said the people would strive to protect the development work being carried out there.

Separately, a dyke constructed at a cost of 2 million afghanis was inaugurated in Dara-i-Noor district's Ansa locality. The facility was funded by the agriculture ministry. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok the project - completed in seven months would irrigate nearly 50 acres of land.(Pajhwok)

(12) 952 Kandahar...

facilities. he exam was overseen by a Higher Education Ministry delegation from Kabul headed by Prof. Hamidzai.

Hamidzai told Pajhwok Afghan News 1100 high school graduates had registered for the exam, but 952 appeared. The qualified students would be enrolled for night shift classes at the Kandahar University.

He said due some problems, the exam for night classes had to be postponed last year, but the problems had been resolved and the exam would take place every year.

The invigilator said he along with the Kandahar University leadership team had tried their best to ensure that the exam was transparent and no one was allowed to interfere.

Kandahar deputy governor Abdul Ali Shamsi said night classes were a good chance for those busy with jobs and household responsibilities during day time.

He expressed his happiness over what he said growing enthusiasm among the youth of Kandahar to get higher education. He said higher education facilities had increased in the province compared to the past.

The deputy governor thanked the higher education minister for fulfilling their demands in a short span of time and dedicating two more faculties to night classes.(Pajhwok)

(13) Public Reps, ...

he has several times asked such people not to interfere in his affairs but the interference continued.

He warned if these individuals didn't change their behavior, he would be obliged to reveal their names to the media.

However, a provincial council member, Naseer Ahmad Faqiri, told Pajhwok Afghan News Amarkhel should name those interfering in his affairs.

"No one has the right to interfere in police affairs because such interference creates problems for the nation."

A resident of Ghazni city, the provincial capital, Mohammadullah, said the government should pursue legally those creating hurdles for the police chief.

He asked the public representatives to help security forces ensure security instead of creating problems for them.

Recently the security situation has deteriorated, with clashes between security forces and Taliban insurgents taking place daily in Ghazni.(Pajhwok)

(14) Logar Residents ...

"The insurgents have amassed

thousands of kilograms of wheat in Ushr in our village alone this wheat harvest season."

Provincial council head Sayed Qaribullah Sadat alleges the Taliban had ramped up pressure on the people this year to give them Ushr. Given their stepped-up campaign, he believes, the fighters could bag a higher crop tax.

"Paying Ushr is an Islamic obligation. It has to be given to a legitimate Islamic government for distribution to the poor. It should not be paid to militants," he remarks.

Salim Saleh, the governor's spokesman, also verifies the forced collection of Ushr by militants in areas under their control. "This is a brazen cruelty," he adds.

Security forces would try to prevent the militants from browbeating the people into paying illegal levies, the gubernatorial spokesman promises.

Meanwhile, the Taliban acknowledge collecting Ushr, with their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid saying people voluntarily give them Ushr.

Residents of Ghazni, Laghman, Helmand, Kandahar, Paktika and other provinces also grumble about the insurgents fleeing them one way or the other, including Ushr collection.(Pajhwok)

(15) Fazlur Rehman ...

security situation in Afghanistan was not conducive.

The pro-Taliban cleric went on to remark: "We can take care of Afghan refugees for a year or more but cannot push them back to the valley of death."

Like the JUI- the Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) led by Mehmood Khan Achakzai also opposes the government's plan for the repatriation of Afghan refugees.

Pakistan has set December 31, 2016 deadline for the repatriation of Afghan refugees. In recent months, Islamabad has repeatedly ruled out any extension in the deadline.(Pajhwok)

(16) Marble...

would create work opportunities for people.

"Earlier the talc and marble stones were processed in Pakistan but now they will be processed in our own country," the governor said.

Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) head Farmanullah Bismal said the factories would pave the way for 400 people to find direct jobs and another 5,000 people to find indirect jobs. He would work together with government officials for resolving problems the investors faced, he assured.

The governor, police chief, chamber of commerce and industries officials, industrialists' association members, talc stone union and some others examined various factories.

Some 41 different kinds of stuff used in daily life are made from marble and talc stones. Talc stone deposits exist in eight districts of Nangarhar.(Pajhwok)

(17) Taliban Take ...

own areas.

Mohammad said it was his third son he lost to insecurity incidents. Javid, another protestor, said: "The second slain person is my brother, we came here so government officials hear our voice."

He said his brother was in grade 12th and he was going to Greshk district with his friends when Taliban took him hostage and then killed him.

"Is this real jihad what the Taliban are doing, they go to any extreme to achieve their goals, they terrorise people and spread fear," he said.

Najibullah, another resident of Helmand, said Taliban insurgents few days ago killed three butchers in Nawa district.

He insisted the government should prevent the Taliban from killing innocent people.

Governor Hayatullah Hayat expressed his shock over the incident and vowed revenge on the Taliban. "Taliban are committing murders on directives from foreign countries, particularly Pakistan and try to spread terror so people abide by their orders," he said.

The governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, said none of the four people killed by Taliban had any connection with the government.

He confirmed militants had unleashed atrocities on innocent people to create fears in different areas of Helmand.

There was no word from the Taliban about the civilian deaths. But the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the rebels had blocked the Kandahar-Helmand highway.

He said Afghan forces tried several

times to reopen the road, but did not succeed.

Also on Tuesday, one civilian was killed and another was wounded when a rocket fired by Taliban landed in Lashkargah City.(Pajhwok)

(18) Rupee Usage...

afghani and currently 1000 rupees are accounted for 623 afghanis in Kandahar money exchange markets.

Central bank officials say the reason behind the rupee's recovery against the afghani is that the ban on the Pakistani currency is limited to Kandahar only and domestic transactions in the Pakistani currency still take place in several other provinces.

Kandahar Money Exchange Market and moneychangers' union head Haji Qandi Agha told Pajhwok Afghan News it was for the first time in the past 16 years that the ban on Pakistani currency was seriously and completely implemented.

He said after the ban, all traders, shopkeepers and common people use the afghani and had shunned the Pakistani currency.

But he said except Kandahar the Pakistani currency was still widely used in other provinces.

When the ban was first imposed, all people thronged the money exchange market to sell their Pakistani currency holdings and buy the afghani and as a result the afghani greatly appreciated against the foreign currency, said Qandi Agha.

But he said now the Pakistani currency had regained its value against the afghani because the ban was confined to Kandahar only.

Dan Afghanistan (central) Bank official in Kandahar Mohammad Naeem Akbari also said fortunately the usage of the Pakistani currency in the province had hit a record low and the process was being monitored by a commission appointed by the central bank.

He said security organs were cooperative in the process and those violating the ban were being fined and punished.

He said it was due to security organs' cooperation that the central bank was able to ban the use of the Pakistani currency and make the process a success.

He said in the initials days of the ban, a large number of people converted rupees into afghanis and it resulted in the Afghan currency's appreciation.

The official said the afghani had appreciated enough against the Pakistani currency as before the ban, 1000 rupees were accounted for 650 afghanis and currently exchanged for 623 afghanis.

Akbari renewed the warning and said the central bank and the Kandahar administration were committed to the ban and the security departments were cooperative in this regard.

He said they were also pushing a ban on the usage of Pakistani currency in Helmand, Zabol and Uruzgan provinces, but the outcome was not satisfactory because security organs were not cooperating as required.

He said the afghani could be put on the path to stability if a ban was imposed on the Pakistani currency in the whole of the country.

He said the ban in Kandahar alone could not leave an impact on the bazaars across the country.

Kandahar residents also say the use of the Pakistani currency has almost ceased in the province.

A resident of Deh Khwaja area of Kandahar City, the provincial capital, Abdul Nafi, said before the ban, shoppers would demand the Pakistani currency but now they did not because they feared police would fine them.

He said people were happy with the ban, but the ban had created some problems as well.

Elaborating, he said, previously a shopkeeper would sell a product for 100 Pakistani rupees but now they sold the same good for 100 afghanis. The resident asked the authorities concerned to regulate the prices and prevent artificial price-hike.

A resident of Spin Boldak border town Allaudin, who owns an electronic equipment shop in the Wish bazaar, said the situation had changed in the district and now people had shunned the Pakistani rupee.

He said previously hundred percent domestic transactions took place in the rupee, but now only happened in the afghani.

Kandahar security officials say they are fully cooperating with the central bank officials in preventing the usage of Pakistani currency and the ban has been effective.

Kandahar police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq says Afghan traders in the Spin Boldak district alone paid \$150,000 to \$200,000 in taxes to Pa-

kistani banks because they had no option but to deposit their money in the Pakistani banks across the border in Chaman, Pakistan.

The Afghan traders who daily traveled to Pakistan to deposit their money in banks also faced abductions and similar threats and the benefit went to a foreign country, he reasoned.

He said it was no longer acceptable that the revenue of Afghans' trade and investment ended up in other countries and that was why the people could no longer do business in the Pakistani currency.(Pajhwok)

(19) Waziristan Refugees ...

motivated. He said he sees Afghans want peace and that they are Muslims.

Another refugee, Sher Mohammad said: "We are very happy with the Afghan people as we see that they are helping and cooperating with their Pakistani brothers. We want peace to be ensured in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

Meanwhile, Khost police department has confirmed these claims.

"Afghanistan's enemies particularly Pakistan's intelligence agency have always put out propaganda against Afghanistan. They have said that Afghans, especially the Afghan military, are infidels."

"Now that Pakistani refugees have come here and have lived here they have realized that Afghans are Muslims and now they realize Pakistan's claims as lies," said Khost police chief Gen. Faizullah Ghairat. Local officials in Khost said they are trying to provide facilities for the refugees.(Tolnews)

(20) 3 ANA Troops...

shared with him their problems.

The governor assured the displaced families that the government would utilise all its resources to help them. Zwak said the governor directed the authorities concerned to do everything possible facilitating the displaced people and provide them with every facility.(Pajhwok)

(21) Majority of...

latest poll by USA Today and Rock the Vote showed that young adults may reject the Republican nominee at an unprecedented rate during this election cycle. (Xinhua)

(22) U.S. Transfers...

Obama unveiled a long-stalled closure plan in his apparent last-ditch effort to seek cooperation from the Congress to close the Guantanamo prison.

According to the plan, some of the detainees still held in Guantanamo would be transferred to other countries, and the Obama administration would review the threat posed by detainees who were not eligible for transfers and identify those eligible for military trials. (Xinhua)

(23) Putin Thanks ...

committed to the restoration of full-scale relations with Turkey, and Erdogan's visit to Russia confirmed the mutual intention not only to restore but also develop them. (Xinhua)

(24) Russian Defense...

warehouses with weapons, ammunition, fuel and lubricants, three command posts and several training camps have been destroyed, and a significant number of terrorists have been killed in the campaign.

All Russian aircraft have successfully returned to their home airfields after successful completion of the combat mission, it said. (Xinhua)

(25) UN Agency...

ECLAC's Executive Secretary Alicia Barcena coauthored "Horizons 2030: Equality at the center of sustainable development," which was published in May. This is the fourth study by the UN body on the topic of inequality, which makes very clear that regional governments must find practical solutions to this growing problem. "In the 1990s, this idea of the need for equality was not commonplace. It was not that people did not care about it but that the situation then did not allow it. However, in the 2000s, it truly does," said Prado. (Xinhua)

(26) US Willing...

and partner. The whole world applauds the vision of a strong, unified, democratic, and prosperous Sri Lanka. We want to join hands with you and your government to help rebuild the economy, advance good governance, and ensure equal rights, equal opportunity, and the full benefits of post-conflict development for all, regardless of ethnicity or religion or gender," Keshap said. (Xinhua)