

(1) NPC Approves ...

the construction of a 51km road from northern Sar-i-Pul city to Shiberghan, the capital of Jawzjan province, due to incomplete legal standards. The contract had been proposed by the Public Works Ministry. The Public Works Ministry was directed to approach a single source in case of emergency or benefit from strict bidding approach in the new procurement process. The meeting ordered cancelled the ministry's capacity verification.

The meeting also approved change in the timescale of the advisory company's contract for rehabilitation of the Greshk dam and the power distribution network in Greshk city, as proposed by Da Afghanistan Bareshna Shirkat.

The president ordered all ministries and organization to pay serious attention to development projects during their implementation.

The meeting was attended by second vice-president Mohammad Sarwar Danish, finance, justice, economy ministers and several other officials. (Pajhwok)

(2) WB Assists...

current amount would be used for controlling of water, mechanization of agriculture, prevention of floods and development of Afghanistan. Afterwards, the country's chief executive while praising the World Bank for providing the amount to Afghanistan said it was a good news that an Afghanistan's effective project which was reconstruction of Afghanistan irrigation and development one has found its financial budget for coming four years. Congratulating the country's Independence Day to all, the country's chief executive added martyrs of the country's independence and freedom led by King Amanullah Khan should be respected and appreciated and the day should be celebrated annually in splendour and good ceremonies. (Agencies)

(3) Russia Says...

the latest tensions erupted between the leaders of the national unity government.

The loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group and the Taliban militants reportedly ended infighting amid growing pressures as a result of the Afghan and US forces raids during the recent months. The infighting among the two militant groups which erupted over a year ago reportedly ended earlier this month as the loyalists of the ISIS terrorist group as well as the Taliban militants received major setbacks in the restive provinces.

The commandos of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces and the US special forces in Afghanistan launched a major operation against the loyalists of ISIS terrorist group in Nangarhar province nearly a month ago.

The operations were launched months after the Obama administration granted broader role to the US forces to target the ISIS loyalists in Afghanistan.

(4) Lack of ...

reported that soldiers had fought insurgents for days without any food. These soldiers have blasted government for not providing them with enough ammunition and food and have said the lack of coordination among the different security branches resulted in the fall of the district, and other parts of the province, to the Taliban.

"Two local police commanders were fighting each other in Khanabad district which allowed the insurgents to attack us and we lost the district", Mohammad Hashim, a soldier said. Rahimullah, another soldier said: "Helicopters came but did not attack the insurgents, instead they were firing somewhere else. No one helped us, our leaders are traitors and just the sons of poor people get killed."

Security forces retook control of Khanabad district on Saturday - after nine hours of heavy fighting. According to security forces, insurgents have burned down army bases and government buildings in the district.

Atiqullah, a soldier, said: "It has been three days of fighting for us - on empty stomachs. We do not have food and our supply route has been cut off by the Taliban."

Taliban have in the past few days closed off the Kabul-Badakhshan highway and have created their own check points, where they search passengers traveling to Mazar or Badakhshan, said soldiers.

Despite having retaken control of Khanabad, the Afghan National

Army is still embroiled in heavy clashes against the Taliban in Khanabad, Ali Abad and Qala-e-Zal districts. (Tolonews)

(5) Taliban's Shadow...

had set alight several security checkpoints in Khanabad. The militants also snatched office equipment and several vehicles after briefly capturing government buildings. (Pajhwok)

(6) Ghani, Abdullah...

Chayur. According to a number of sources, Ghani is expected to discuss Abdullah's demands during their next meeting. Sources have said the third meeting will be to reach an agreement. (Tolonews)

(7) ETWA Welcomes ...

presided over by Second Vice-President a positive step toward electoral reform.

However, the watchdog called as a major shortcoming the lack of civil society and political parties' participation in the review process of electoral law.

Chief Justice, Minister of Justice, Attorney General, head of the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution, Presidential Justice and Judiciary Board's Chief and head of Administrative Affairs Department of Presidential Palace have the membership of the committee.

ETWA called the on government to take advantage of perspectives of civil society organizations, in particular those of election observer organizations not only to enrich the electoral law but to enhance public confidence in electoral reform.

ETWA believed proposals made by Special Electoral Reform Commission (SERC) were largely reflective of the views of civil society and internal and external experts so that it could help bring necessary reform in the electoral system.

ETWA suggested that any reform of the electoral law contradicting with SERC's proposals should not be considered by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet on Saturday held deep discussion over the reformation of election law and decided to review the law again and present the reformed version in the next cabinet meeting. (Pajhwok)

(8) Pakistan's...

agencies and members of the judiciary from purchasing assets of Afghan nationals at dirt-cheap prices.

He prayed the court to order the refugees commissioner of Khyber Pakhtunkwa (KP) to maintain complete record of government officials who have purchased properties from Afghan refugees after Jan 1.

Known for pleading high-profile cases, Bhutta told Dawn his friends in Peshawar had told him due to harassment of refugees, they were selling their properties and vehicles at throwaway prices.

He also referred to an article accusing police and other law-enforcement agencies in Peshawar of refusing to comply with the federal government's order against the arrest or harassment of Afghan refugees.

Cabinet and foreign affairs secretaries, chief secretary, KP and Punjab police chiefs, as well as the director general of the Federal Investigation Agency and the Afghan refugees commissioner, are respondents in the case.

The petitioner suggested the government should extend the repatriation date by another five years for those refugees who have established businesses in Pakistan with an investment of not less than Rs20 million.

Similarly, the Supreme Court was prayed to order the government to allow the Afghan refugees who have immovable properties worth Rs10m to stay in Pakistan for another two years.

The petitioner has asked the apex court to order the government to extend the stipulated time for Afghan refugees to leave Pakistan, registered or unregistered, to December 2017. (Pajhwok)

(9) Our Needs ...

Ewaz Gul, an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier in the Bushran village of Babaji area, told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants had built strongholds on the main road and occasionally launched attacks on them.

He said that there was no problem for ANA forces in receiving food and equipment, but the area was full of gardens and farms that helped the militants hide and organise attacks on Afghan forces.

Beside Babaji area, Chah Anjir is another area that is home to hundreds of families, including the households Taliban and Afghan forces. The area has been the scene of frequent clashes. An Afghan National Army (ANA)

soldier in Chah Anjir area, Sher Ahmad, was preparing dinner inside an ambulance. He said they were fully capable of ensuring security of the neighbourhood.

"Taliban use night-vision binoculars, guns and roadside bombs. But they cannot fight us face to face," he asserted, saying: "Fighting or living near the enemy for a long time is difficult. It is the responsibility of our officials to resolve this problem."

Besides Afghan forces and the Taliban, many civilians also live in the locality. Resident Wali Jan remarked: "Standing behind a mud wall or constantly keeping a watch on fighters is playing with death. But I have no facilities to leave this area. I am a farmer living with my children here."

Capt. Mirza Khan, operation commander in Babaji area, said they had been fighting against rebels for the past 10 months. "Senior officials should grant paid leave to security personnel," he stressed.

An Afghan border police officer, Mohammad Rahi in Saifon area of Chah Anjir, said they had beaten back several Taliban attacks. "The Taliban wanted to capture our posts and find way their way Lashkargah, but we have acted professionally and pushed them back," he claimed, saying the security forces urged higher-ups to appreciate their efforts.

Provincial council head, Mohammad Karim Attal, called normality and peace in Lashkargah the result of sacrifices rendered by security forces. The council would share problems of security forces with relevant officials. Attal suggested a comprehensive operation be launched to purge all areas of fighters and enable residents to lead a peaceful life.

But Brig. Gen. Mohammad Hakim Angar, commander of the 505th Bost Zone, promised the security personnel battling the insurgents would be rewarded under a programme in the near future. He said operations to clear areas of the Taliban would be launched soon. (Pajhwok)

(10) Crisis Looms ...

Organization for Migration (IOM) - a sudden increase in numbers.

But according to the NRC, these people have not been registered as refugees in Pakistan and as such are not receiving the same support as registered refugees do upon return.

Most of the returnees are heading to Nangarhar, and families NRC visited there last week are clearly struggling to survive.

"It is heart-breaking to see the situation some of the families are living under. Children appear visibly malnourished and families are lacking clean drinking water, shelter and sanitation facilities," said NRC's Protection and Advocacy Adviser in Afghanistan Will Carter, after visiting the area.

A grandfather he spoke with in Behsud District had just returned with his family.

"My family arrived four days ago with nowhere to go, but found this compound that we share with three other families. There are 35 of us together, sleeping mostly in the open, with no drinking water close by. We don't know what to do, and have no money," said Abdul Qadir.

Between August 8 and 14, an average of more than 2,600 undocumented Afghans returned every day, according to figures from the Afghan Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation and IOM.

More than two thirds of the people arriving are children, reported the NRC. Estimates indicate that there are over one million unregistered Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

"The number of people returning has increased rapidly during the last weeks, and we fear that the crisis we are currently witnessing could only be the tip of the iceberg", said Carter. IOM has meanwhile warned that they are only able to support a small percentage of the people who have arrived with some very basic assistance, and current stocks for even these numbers will be exhausted in a couple of months.

"The International community must come together to respond to this suffering. Humanitarian agencies urgently need to assess and respond to the needs of returnees in eastern Afghanistan and donor countries must provide the necessary funding", said O'Rourke.

Norway is reportedly ready to help Pakistan for the housing of nearly three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Recently Borge Brende, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, visited Pakistan and promised to provide more aids to Pakistan. (Tolonews)

(11) Talks on Chaman ...

Afghanistan have also come to a halt. "Long queues of trucks and vehicles could be seen on both sides of the border," Attal Khan Achakzai, a res-

ident of Chaman, told Dawn.

One paramilitary officer said: "The border has been closed for an indefinite period of time and we cannot give any timeframe for the opening of the gate." (Pajhwok)

(12) Most Senior...

district but the local officials deny the Taliban claims as baseless.

Nangarhar is among the relatively volatile provinces where the Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are actively operating in a number of its remote districts.

The coordinated attack by Taliban in Hesarak comes as the Afghan forces launched a major operation nearly a month ago to eliminate the loyalists of ISIS terrorist group from the districts where ISIS terrorists are active including the restive Kot and Achin districts. (KP)

(13) 3 Afghan...

1 years. Taliban militants condemned the assassination of Afghan clerics in Peshawar.

A statement from Taliban confirmed three Afghan scholars including Mualvi Ghulam Hazrat, Mualvi Mohammad Nasim Hanafi and Qari Sayed Murad were recently killed in Pakistan.

The Taliban asked the Pakistani government to take care of Afghan Islamic scholars and punish the perpetrators of such incidents. (Pajhwok)

(14) Qarabagh ...

armed people wearing black clothes stopped me late in the evening."

Faridullah said the gunmen asked him where he was going. "I told them I am a laborer and taking the wheat home, then they allowed me to go," he said, adding that he had stopped working after sunset since then.

Faridullah said about three months ago, the armed men had warned military officers through night letters to leave their duties in Qarabagh district.

The emergency of unknown masked gunmen and night letters has worried people and some have shifted their homes to Kabul city, he said.

He expressed concern about the situation and asked the government to take action against the gunmen.

Shah Maqsud, a shopkeeper in the district center, said he had seen two groups of unknown armed men wearing black uniforms at nights during the past three months.

"Three months ago we had no problem going to our village located about five kilometers from the district center during nights, but now the security situation is of great concern," he added.

Maqsud added now he used to close his shop early in the afternoon to reach home before the darkness due to security concerns.

"This situation has affected the business of shopkeepers and all people. It is the responsibility of the government to ensure security," he said.

Adil Khan Akakhel, a resident of Akakhel village of Qarabagh, and a provincial council member, confirmed security challenges in the district and said he personally was threatened to death by militants on the telephone.

He said militants had warned him to leave his duty with the government. A number of influential figures had also received similar threats from militants and they had been warned not to support the government, he added.

"But we have no fear from anyone or anything except Allah, we would support our people and the government," he said.

He confirmed the movement of unknown armed men in Qalabaz and Sabz Rang areas of Qarabagh.

Black uniform is usually used by Daesh militants, but Akakhel said such armed men have not been identified so far.

He added that two weeks back, a Taliban flag was also raised in Bagh-I-Alam area of Qarabagh and the militants planted bomb under it to target Afghan forces. The bomb was defused by security forces.

All these problems have been shared with the officials concerned, but no action has been taken so far, he said.

Anwar Khan Oryakhil, a lawmaker from Qarabagh, said besides Taliban involved in destructive activities in the district, a number of government officers were also contributing to insecurity there. However, he did not name anyone.

Oryakhil said the night letters were spread only for once three months ago, but Qarabagh people were united in their support for the government.

He security challenges in the district had been shared with the officials concerned, but practical action was yet to be taken due to government officials own involvement in insecurity.

However, Qarabagh district chief Abdul Sami Sharifi did not confirm the presence of unknown armed men in his district, but said Taliban militants rarely showed up.

He said two suicide attacks and a car bombing had taken place in the past two years. The Taliban also planted 12 roadside bombs, but most of them were defused by Afghan forces during that period, Sharifi said.

But he did not provide information about casualties in the incidents. He linked security challenges in Qarabagh to its neighborhood including Koh-i-Safi and Dara-i-Ghorband districts where security situation is not stable. (Pajhwok)

(15) 25 Killed, ...

He said they had repeatedly asked the government to send more security forces to the province, but no attention was paid.

Another provincial council member Asadullah Khuram said dozens of families had been displaced due to insecurity.

However, the Taliban rejected they suffered casualties in clashes with security forces and claimed capturing three check-posts in Sancharak district. (Pajhwok)

(16) Hundreds ...

strongholds and set fire to some of the houses," said another resident Rahim Khan.

Nasratullah, another displaced resident said: "We left all our possessions behind and came to Takhar province. I saw Taliban made many strongholds in the residents' houses and set fire to one or two houses."

These residents said that they have fled their homes with nothing and that shelter is now their main concern. They have appealed to government and other organizations for help.

"We ask the government to address our problems and provide shelter for us," said one displaced resident, Nawroz.

Afghan security officials meanwhile retook control Khanabad district late Saturday after it fell to the Taliban earlier in the day. (Tolonews)

(17) US Scrambled ...

contacted Russia, which has been bombing parts of Syria for nearly a year in support of President Bashar al-Assad, but Russian military officials said the planes were Syrian.

"This is very unusual, we have not seen the regime take this type of action against YPG before," Davis said, using the initials of the US-supported Kurdish militia fighting the Islamic State group in northern Syria.

No coalition injuries were reported in Thursday's strike. US forces were moved from the area and are in a safe location, Davis said without elaborating.

The coalition is now conducting additional combat air patrols in the region, he added.

The Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, are a key US ally in the fight against the IS group.

Washington regards them as the most effective fighting force on the ground in Syria and has provided weapons and special forces military advisers. More than 290,000 people have been killed since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011. (AFP)

(18) Trump Launches...

freely through the street. "Syrian refugees flood in. Illegal immigrants convicted of committing crimes get to stay, collecting Social Security benefits, skipping the line."

As the narrator continues, claiming that Clinton's White House would leave "our border open," a citation quickly appears at the bottom of the screen for the Center for Immigration Studies, a conservative, anti-immigration think tank, whose past reports have been deemed misleading by several leading nonpartisan immigration-research organizations as well as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In the ad, the words "border open" linger in large print above images of people riding atop a train and walking through what looks like the one of the many Homeland Security-sanctioned pedestrian ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border.

On the other hand, the ad continued, "Donald Trump's America is secure." The desaturated, foreboding scenes of lawlessness under Clinton then give way to brightly lit shots of helicopters patrolling the border and happy non-Hispanic-looking families. Red, white and blue banners declare "the border secure" and "our families safe."

The commercial was released as the Trump campaign underwent its latest reorganization. Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort announced Friday that he would resign. Earlier in the week, Trump hired Breitbart executive Stephen Bannon as his campaign CEO and pollster Kellyanne Conway as his campaign manager.

The ad has already sparked a reaction from within the Clinton campaign, with press secretary Brian Fallon and deputy press secretary Jesse Ferguson taking to Twitter to dispute Trump's claims. (Agencies)

(19) Iraq Executes...

of soldiers who abandoned their posts in June, some 1,700 soldiers who walked out of an air base, known as Camp Speicher north of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, were abducted and killed by IS militants.

The IS group later posted video footage and images showing the execution of Iraqi government soldiers. (Xinhua)

(20) Maverick ...

European Union which had "practically become a failed company."

Hollande, whose approval ratings are the lowest of any French president in modern times, has said he will announce by the end of the year whether he will run again. Polls show he could still win the primary. (Agencies)

(21) IS Militants ...

second largest city in Iraq, has been under IS control since June 2014, when the Iraqi government forces abandoned their weapons and fled, giving opportunities for IS militants to take control of parts of Iraq's northern and western regions. (Xinhua)

(22) Tanzania to...

inspection at Katumba and Mishamo refugee camps in Katavi region should also target refugees in illegal possession of firearms.

"The only person that is legally allowed to carry a firearm in Tanzania is a policeman," said Majaliwa. He said border regions should be highly protected to ensure that refugees were not fleeing to the east African nation illegally.

"If we allow uncontrolled entry of refugees through our border regions we will create a horrible situation," said the prime minister. In 2014, Tanzania granted citizenship to 162,156 former Burundian refugees, marking the largest group in which naturalisation had been offered by a country of first asylum as a solution to their decades in exile.

In December 2007, the government of Tanzania announced its willingness to offer naturalisation to the former Burundian refugees in an effort to end protracted refugee situations in the country.

The refugees have historically lived in three settlement areas in Tabora and Katavi regions in western Tanzania since 1972 and had become largely self-supporting and taxpaying members of society. Tanzania previously granted naturalization to some 32,000 Rwandan refugees in 1982, and in February 2014 the country concluded the naturalization of 3,000 Somali Bantu refugees who had fled Somalia in 1991, after the fall of the Siad Barre regime. (Xinhua)

(23) Calls for...

attacks across Europe in the last year. Attacks on trains, in airports and in public places have caused chaos and hundreds of deaths.

In the UK, police forces became one of the world's first to deploy automated facial recognition technology to catch criminals in 2014. Company NEC (which makes the software NeoFace Watch says there is increased demand for their services as a result of the trial.

In a report it stated: "With the threats to international borders, governments are ordering reviews of their security arrangements at airports, seaports and public transportation hubs."

"Law enforcement agencies are also charged with identifying wanted individuals in public places.

"In addition, security and facilities managers need to keep known undesirables and unknowns off their premises. (Desk monitoring)

(24) Refugees from ...

get Long Term Visa (LTV) for five years. Also, they can now submit affidavit in place of renunciation certificate for their work-related things.

Children of refugees would now be able to apply in schools and colleges without taking permission from the state government and can apply for admission under foreign quota.

Other facilities include applying for Aadhar card, PAN card, driving license and also to take permission for self-employment.

This has come as a huge relief for the persecuted Hindus and Sikhs living in India on LTVs.

This announcement also stands in compliance with the pre-poll commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during 2014 Lok Sabha elections where he had mentioned about accommodating the non-Muslims who were living in India due to persecution. (Agencies)