

(1) Parliamentary System...

researchers at the ceremony. He said he supports a semi-presidential system predicted in the Constitution, adding that this leadership system has components from both parliamentary and presidential systems. Meanwhile, Danish urged government to increase the authorities of provincial and district governments. The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) which conducted the research pointed out to some problems in the judicial and executive branches and meanwhile made some recommendations for the Constitution. The research also reviewed judicial and executive branches. The research center suggests that there are some contradictions between the two branches - judicial and executive; therefore, courts mostly pay attention to political issues rather than legal matters. The second vice president meanwhile pointed out to elections mentioned in the Constitution. He said holding seven elections, based on the Constitution, would be a difficult task. He said some challenges in the Constitution must be reviewed and amendments should be brought based on the requirements of time. (Tolonews)

(2) Trump Set to...

with him aboard in a military aircraft to Jordan. "The president has made a decision. As he said, he wants to be the one to announce it to the American people." On Friday, Trump met with his national security aides to review an array of options for the Afghan strategy but the White House said no decision had been made on whether he would commit more troops to America's longest war. However, Trump after the meeting tweeted on Saturday: "Many decisions made, including on Afghanistan". Quoted by Reuters, one US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Trump's top national security aides are backing adding between 3,000 and 5,000 troops and allowing them to embed with Afghan forces closer to combat, according to the report. (Tolonews)

(3) NPC Approves 3 ...

company. The NPC also approved air-services contracts and tasked the Civil Aviation Authority to train Afghan individuals for future responsibilities. The commission also awarded bandwidth internet package contract to the Afghan Telecom and an increase in fuel price for the ministry of defense at the overnight meeting. The commission rejected contracts of chairs and desks for Nuristan and Daikundi schools, security services for the Inter-Continental Hotel and referred them for further scrutiny to the authorities concerned. (Pajhwok)

(4) Hekmatyar Makes ...

fame by making such 'false allegations'. "The remarks which take root from humiliation and reprisal will never harm the status and the name of the martyrs," Abdullah said in the Council of Ministers meeting on Monday. "They will not achieve their goals and will not become famous by making such allegations." In a meeting with residents of northern Badakhshan province on Friday, Hekmatyar accused Massoud of relations with Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) - during the civil war in Afghanistan. "Someone asked (Ahmad Shah) Massoud that how you trust the Taliban? Massoud replied that our friends in the ISI have assured us that the Taliban will not create any problem for us," Hekmatyar said. Ahmad Wali Massoud, chairman of Massoud Foundation, termed Hekmatyar's remarks 'discriminatory'. "Perhaps it is not easy for some individuals to tolerate hearing the name of the national hero (Ahmad Shah Massoud) and they cannot witness that the people remember him (Massoud) in a good way," he said. "People know that who have been honored by God but those who have been given disgrace they will remain in objection." On the formation of the National Coalition for the Salvation of Afghanistan, Hekmatyar claimed that the founding leaders of the alliance were hoarding and building palaces. He said that the High Peace Council did not have any role in the peace deal he signed with the Afghan government. Hekmatyar made his first public appearance after at least 20 years in April. He signed a peace deal with government last year.

Late in June, Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor, the first vice president Abdul Rashid Dostum and the second deputy of the chief executive, Mohammad Mohaqiq announced the formation of the National Coalition for the Salvation of Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(5) Plan to Deal with

naming a place, Mateen said security forces in some areas remained engaged in firefight for 24 hours. He said the Taliban were now trying to fuel

sectarian and ethnic differences in order to widen the gap between the government and the masses. "Unfortunately some common people have started helping the Taliban," he said.

According to the governor, the Taliban attack mosques, cities, schools and kill innocent people. He asked people not to support Taliban for their atrocities.

He said he had finalized a strategy and submitted it to government officials to deal with the growing security threats.

The governor asked residents of Ghazni to support the government in maintaining security in the province.

Acting Police Chief Col. Mustafa Mayar said the Taliban wanted to spread violence and insecurity in Ghazni.

"The Taliban have closed main highways for public, they attack security forces check-posts, conduct explosions in public places and perform other tactics to spread insecurity," he said.

Mayar, however, said security forces worked day-night to foil Taliban's plans successfully.

Residents of Ghazni say insecurity is on the increase in the province. Mohammad Qasim, a resident, said targeted attacks had increased and the Taliban had reached the city's suburbs.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said most parts of Ghazni were in Taliban control barring some areas in security forces control. He said residents voluntarily helped the Taliban who never forced people into helping them. (Pajhwok)

(6) US Officials Expect a ...

The CBS also reported that labeling Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism is one of the more extreme choices that have been considered, along with lesser pressure points such as reductions in aid and no longer designating Pakistan a non-NATO ally. Officials in the region and Washington caution that until Trump announces his own decision, the plan could be further altered.

On Sunday, the US Defense Secretary James Mattis said that Trump himself "wanted to talk to the American people".

Trump has decided on a strategy for Afghanistan that also takes a broad approach toward tackling competing interests in South Asia, CBS News said in a report.

The White House released a statement on Sunday saying that Trump will address the US troops and the American people on Monday evening from Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia, "to provide an update on the path forward for America's engagement in Afghanistan and South Asia". (Tolonews)

(7) NATO-Led Mission ...

military leaders participated in a ceremony to activate the country's Special Operations Corps.

Resolute Support Commander Gen. John Nicholson said during the event that Afghan forces will become "even more lethal" and bring an end to the Taliban movement (outlawed in Russia).

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(8) European Union ...

to support the Government of Afghanistan in creating growth and jobs and to ensure service delivery during a time of uncertainty that includes significant risks to the economy.

Eklil Hakimi, Minister of Finance said: "The approval of this allocation means that Afghanistan has been making significant progress in crucial areas such as public policy, macroeconomic, financial management and budget transparency and oversight. We welcome conditionality-based mechanism, such as the State-Building Contract, they give the Government of Afghanistan flexibility and fiscal space to respond quickly to our countries evolving development priorities and reaffirm our mutual commitments to see a prosperous, stable and self-reliant Afghanistan. I thank the EU, its member states, and the people of Europe for their generous support to Afghanistan."

Franz-Michael Mellbin, EU Special Representative and Head of Delegation, said: "The allocation approved today is a very tangible demonstration of the EU's long-standing commitment to Afghanistan and its people. Following an overall positive review of progress on key reform commitments, the EU's State Building Contract makes a direct contribution to the National Budget and provides the Government of Afghanistan with substantial financial resources and flexibility to allocate these where they are most needed. The purpose is to improve services to the population, boost economic growth and reduce poverty, at a time when Afghanistan continues to face major security, economic and political challenges."

The SBC supports the Government of Afghanistan to implement the reform agenda presented at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan held in October 2016, as set out in the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework and the associated National Priority Programmes, to promote effective governance, women's economic empowerment and basic service delivery (Citizens' Charter). (PR)

(9) Etisalat Celebrates...

road to progress and development. Speaking on the occasion, Obaid Alzaabi, Etisalat Afghanistan's CHRO, said 'On behalf of Etisalat family, I would like to send greetings and warm wishes to all Afghans and wish them a very happy Independence Day.'

He added 'Etisalat as a Muslim company has been very close to Afghans and has been determined to advance the progress made by the country.'

Independence Day in Afghanistan commemorates the full independence of Afghanistan from British Empire in 1919 and is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, picnics, family reunions and political speeches and ceremonies. It is a public holiday across the country and was often marked with military displays in the capital city of Kabul. (PR)

(10) US Must be ...

he would send thousands more U.S. troops into Afghanistan or exercise his authority as commander in chief to order that they be withdrawn from America's longest war. But signs pointed in the direction of Trump continuing the U.S. commitment there. (AP)

(11) Projects worth ...

Naeemi also claimed saving millions of afghans in project contracts through transparent bidding.

He warned contractors against any delay in timely completion of the projects. (Pajhwok)

(12) Rising Tensions ...

to spark tensions among the people. The Hezb-e-Islami party has not commented regarding the latest of Noor so far.

In the meantime, Noor warned that the people of Panjshir and Jamiat-e-Islami will not remain silent regarding the provocative remarks and any silence in this regard and desecration of the province and national hero Ahmad Shah Massoud will be considered as a major sin. (KP)

(13) Supporters Want ...

"We can see some government leaders and our foreign friends are unhappy with the alliance, but they should not be worried about our alliance which aims to rescue the country and reform the system."

He said some people were creating hurdles for the alliance, but they would continue their struggle for reaching the desired goals. "We want to establish real democracy in the country, strengthen the freedom of expression, pave the ground for development of the youth and suitable environment for elections," Batoor said.

Balkh provincial council head Dr. Fazl Haidid said millions of people were associated with the alliance and they wanted to show the handful individuals who had hijacked the Presidential Palace that it was the time to go for reforms.

Wihdat Milli Mardum Afghanistan party representative Sardar Ahmad Saedi told the gathering that the three-party alliance had presence in all the 34 provinces and its aim was to remove government's weaknesses and shortcomings.

"We want our proposals are given due attention and are welcomed, we want an early return of General Dostum to the country, we ask the president to return the first vice president his authorities." (Pajhwok)

(14) Pakistan Claims ...

the region of militants since 2013. He said the purpose of the latest operation was to prevent militants from crossing the border into either Pakistan or Afghanistan to carry out attacks.

Ghafoor says no organized terrorist network currently exists in Pakistan because of such military operations. (AP)

(15) 30,000 Afghans...

Syria on the side of government troops of these countries against Daesh," Amarkhel said.

Regardless of the reasons behind these Afghans leaving their country, one thing is clear, decades of conflict and poverty have forced them to abandon their homeland and travel across the globe in search of livelihood.

Millions of Afghans continue to live in neighboring Pakistan and Iran while the conflict at home continues to uproot thousands of lives in Afghanistan.

Apart from a strong hold on the country by the Taliban insurgents, the country also faces a failing economy, war on drugs, and presence of foreign troops and lack of security.

Russia's Federal Narcotics Control Service reported in 2015 that the drugs from Afghanistan generate profits estimated at \$150 billion annually for those involved in the operations with them. Large shipments of Afghan heroin were said to be transited into the Balkan states and on into the European Union.

In 2016 civilian casualties in Afghanistan were the highest recorded by the United Nations with nearly 11,500 non-combatants killed due to air raids and Daesh attacks. Amongst them one-third were children who were killed or wounded. (Sputnik)

(16) Pakistani Forces...

He said 50 of the rockets landed in Kachli and Zor Brol areas of Dandam and 35 others in Batash and Doli localities of Nari.

However, residents suffered no casualties.

"I strongly condemn this action which is against all international norms," Himmat said.

Safdar Khan, a resident of Kunar, said he and his family had been displaced from the Goriga area of Dangam district to Nangarhar province due to Pakistani rocket strikes about three months ago.

"Rockets hit our areas daily, displacing us to Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar," he said, complaining they had left behind livestock and farms, with no one to care about them.

Khan said consecutive rocket strikes from Pakistan had caused Kunar residents immense trouble and the government should find a lasting solution to the issue.

Pakistan has been firing rockets into Kunar, Nangarhar and some other eastern provinces for years. Besides causing casualties, the attacks have forced a number of people to flee their homes. (Pajhwok)

(17) AIHRC Urges ...

"The AIHRC urges the Afghan government, and in particular the justice and judiciary organs to investigate the incident of Balkh in a transparent, fair, and impartial manner, without any political, ethnic or other considerations, and publicly share the result of its investigation with the Afghan citizens," read the statement.

Meanwhile, the commission called on government to ensure the rule of law and human rights in lights of the international human rights conventions, the constitutions and in accordance with the country's laws. Mohmand was reportedly arrested on his arrival in Mawлана Jalaluddin Balkhi International Airport in Balkh province last week. Later, he claimed that he was arrested Balkh governor's bodyguards.

Noor's office however has rejected Mohmand claims and said he was arrested by the security forces on order of the Attorney General Office.

The Attorney General Office meanwhile has rejected the issuance of any order to arrest Mohmand.

Presidential Palace assigned a fact-finding team led by the AGO deputy head to probe the allegations against Noor. The team is back to Kabul, but it has not released anything about the incident.

A member of the fact-finding team said Mohmand was arrested by Noor's bodyguards from the Mawлана Jalaluddin Balkhi International Airport and was taken to the governor's house where he was subjected to violence.

Meanwhile, a member of Afghanistan's Lawyer Union, Abdul Wahid Farzaie, said based on the country's law, any type of torture and violence is considered as crime.

"Police and the NDS forces are the only departments which have the authority to arrest those who have committed evident crimes or the crimes that have been alleged as crimes by other institutions. No one including the presidential palace officials and the presidential palace special guards has the authority to arrest individuals," he said. "I ask the judicial institutions to investigate the issue impartially and send out their decision without any delay or condition. They should not accept any political pressures," said Mohammad Asif Sediqi, deputy speaker of Meshrano Jirga, the Upper House of the Parliament.

In a four-page report sent to the fact-finding team, Balkh governor has made at least twelve accusations against Mohmand. The accusations are from the provincial council election up to now.

In this report, Noor has rejected any kind of misbehavior with Mohmand and has said that if the team proves that any of his relatives misbehaved against Mohmand, he will bring them for investigation. (Tolonews)

(18) Taliban Overrun ...

confirmed 17 villages had fallen into the hands of Taliban. "I am in a village along with a number of security personnel. If the reinforcements don't reach soon, more villages would fall."

He added the current situation in Khamab district was not satisfactory and officials had been asked to resolve the problem.

Ismail, a resident of the district, said the Taliban were scattered around the city, where security officials were not visible. No steps had been taken yet to oust the Taliban, he complained.

He said public uprising members in the area abandoned their check-posts without putting up any resistance and escaped to an unknown place last night.

Police chief, Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Turkistani, said the rebels had not yet reached the district centre. The uprising group members had vacated their posts without any resistance, he confirmed.

The police chief said the district chief, Eng Ahmand, was leading the uprising members. He allegedly left the area along with his fighters.

Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed the fighters had captured the entire district. The group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the militants had captured some weapons from the security forces. (Pajhwok)

(19) Taliban Seen ...

Ajmal Omar, a member of the provincial council and elder in Sherzad district, however, said the clash was not over the mountain but was a result of a long-running en-

imity and the current conflict occurred over water.

Showkani stones processing factories association head, Haji Wali, a resident of Sherzad, also said the clash was not over the stones, but was a plot to pave the ground for smuggling of the mineral.

He added the war was apparently between two tribes, but militant groups were behind it in order to harm the stone's trade.

Meanwhile, Haji Wardak, a tribal elder in Sherzad, confirmed the clash and said the government had fail to control the situation. Mulagull, a resident, also said the Taliban were behind the clash. He said the government should establish check-posts and prevent the stones from being smuggled.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, endorsed the clash between the two tribes and said the Taliban were encouraging the tribes to fight against each other.

He said the local government was planning to carry out an operation against the Taliban in the area.

The Taliban have so far said nothing in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(20) ANSF Thwart ..

Iraqi embassy in Kabul nearly three weeks along with a suicide attacks on foreign forces convoy that left several people dead or wounded, including ordinary civilians. (KP)

(21) Prices of Gold...

The prices of flour, sugar and ghee went up, said Food Traders Union head, Fazal Rahman. The price of a 49 kilograms bag of Pakistani sugar rose from 1,900afis to 1,920afis. Similarly, the rate of a 50 kilograms sack of Kazakhstan flour increased from 1,170afis to 1,180afis and a 16 litres tin of Khurshid ghee from 1,120afis to 1,130afis.

Rahman linked hike in food item prices to the reduced value of the afghani. A 24kg bag of Pakistani rice sold for 1,800afis, the same price as last week's.

Noor Ahmad Khairkhwā, a tea merchant, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afis and the same amount of African black tea 300afis - same as last week's.

Ahmad Wali Panjsheri, who owns a grocery shop in Dahn-i-Bagh area, sold a 50-kg bag of Kazakhstani flour for 1,350afis and a 49-kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 2,100afis.

He sold a 16-litre tin of Khurshid ghee for 1,320afis, a 24-kg sack of Pakistani rice for 2,000afis, a kilogram of Indonesian green tea for 300afis and the same quantity of African black tea for 350afis, higher than wholesale rates.

Gold prices also increased. Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold increased from 2,350afis to 2,400afis and the same quantity of the Russian variety from 1,900afis to 1,950afis.

However, fuel prices remained steady. Abdul Hadi, a worker at the Wazirabad Fuel Station, said diesel and petrol rates remained unchanged 42afis and 44afis respectively.

Ahmad Javed, a liquefied gas dealer in the Taimani neighbourhood of Kabul, said a kilogram of gas accounted for 60afis. (Pajhwok)

(22) ANA Troops...

running of food and munitions. The Taliban in a statement claimed ANA forces had fled six check posts in Abgarmak area of the district and the check points were currently controlled by the group.

Ghormach district fell to insurgents for a fourth time on August 13; however, no operation for retaking the district has been launched and hundreds of ANA personnel are besieged by Taliban in the district.

On the other hand, a clash between security forces and insurgents along the Maimana-Mazar-i-Sharif highway in Shirin Tagab district left 10 Taliban insurgents dead, including commanders, and six civilians injured.

Governor's spokesman, Baidar, said a security forces convoy en route to Maimana city, Faryab's capital, from Balkh was ambushed by Taliban in Gorzad and Tapa Qashlaq areas of the district.

He said the clash was still ongoing and security reinforcements would reach the area through Khawaja Sabz Posh district.

Meanwhile, a security official, who wished to go unnamed, said six civilians, including women and children, were also wounded in the clash. However, the Taliban denied their casualties in the clash, saying a severe clash happened in Tapa Qashlaq with security forces at about 9am on Monday. The group said its fighters killed two security members and wounded three others.

But Faryab officials denied security forces' casualties in the clash. (Pajhwok)

(23) Paktika Residents...

resources of people," the policeman remarked.

Another policeman Seg, Khan Mohammad suggested the Kabul Bank should open more branches or salaries of government servants be paid through the revenue officer.

Ahmad, a teacher from Khairkot district, said he had been in Sharana for the past six days to get his salary from the Kabul Bank. He said he could not attend his classes in the past six days. But Pir Mohammad, head of the New Kabul Bank in Paktika, said there was problem in the government system as they were not provided salaries of public servants in-time. (Pajhwok)