

(1) Single-Seat...

The statement said the single-seat system was carefully discussed and studied and different versions of the draft election law were shared with the Cabinet during the past two weeks, but the text of the law was yet to be finalized.

Danish said the delay in approval of the draft election law gave birth to the idea single-seat system. "Some important issues are not agreed upon so far; one of them is the single-seat system," he said.

Beside legislative and technical problems, the single-seat vote system had also some other problems that would be discussed soon, he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) Abdullah Says...

in Accumoli, close to the epicentre. Abdullah also discussed with Mogherini recent political developments in Afghanistan and thanked the EU for continued support to the war-torn country.

The CEO said he was committed to political stability which resulted from the unity government deal struck two years back.

Mogherini stressed political stability in Afghanistan and said both the leaders should work jointly which was necessary for the continuation of international support to Afghanistan. Tension between the two unity government partners, President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah resurfaced after the latter publicly accused the former of being sincere about what they had agreed upon in the unity government deal.

"We preferred patience, but I assure people their efforts would not end up in smoke," CEO had said. About his previous speech, Abdullah said: "Whatever I said was not my personal anger; it was the truth the people should understand."

NATO Resolute Support (RS) Commander Gen. Nicholson has warned any political instability in Afghanistan would derail security gains made over the last few months. During an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News the US and NATO forces commander had said they respected the political set-up in Afghanistan and had no involvement with them at any level. (Pajhwok)

(3) Saudi Arabia...

Abdullah Abdullah and Foreign Minister Syed Salahuddin Rabbani in Kabul. The conference is a good opportunity for Ulema to debate and make a decision about the ongoing un-Islamic war and brutalities in light of the Islamic injunctions, Dr Abdullah said.

The Taliban have rejected the conference and urged scholars from Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia and other countries to stay away from the conference as it would give a legitimate face to the Kabul regime.

This is the first time since the collapse of the Taliban regime and the US-led invasion that the OIC has taken any concrete steps to promote peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The Taliban stepped up its fight against the government and captured a key district in Kunduz province before it was retaken by government forces. Earlier this month, the Taliban surrounded the capital of Helmand province before being stopped by Afghan forces supported by US air strikes. This came as Afghan troops are stretched on multiple fronts across Afghanistan including eastern Nangarhar province where the Islamic State group is making inroads. (Agencies)

(4) Afghanistan ...

Afghanistan the peace they deserve," he said in a statement.

Carter said he is deeply saddened to learn one of US service members was killed and another wounded while engaged in their mission to train, advise and assist Afghan forces.

Six Afghan soldiers were also wounded in the IED blast.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of the service member killed and all those injured," he said.

The State Department Deputy Spokesman, Mark Toner, said the United States is committed to a successful, prosperous future for Afghanistan.

"We're aware this is fighting season; there's been some challenges. We've seen that certainly in Helmand province over the past - or recent weeks, where fighting has been quite intense," he said.

"Or efforts, in terms of security, remain focused on working with Afghan forces, making sure that they are capable, equipped, and able to confront and defeat Taliban on the battlefield," he said.

The US, he said, would like to see an Afghan-owned, Afghan-led peace process established between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban. "That remains our desire. The sooner we get there, the sooner we can have a settlement that's in the

long-term interest of the Afghan people and indeed the region," he added. The US, he said strongly support and continue to support the democratically elected Government of Afghanistan.

"We understand that there's challenges, work to be done, but we've also seen some progress. We're going to encourage the government and its leadership to work through current tensions and to continue to work for the good of the country," Toner said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Loya Jirga...

Liberty, Karzai said the traditional Loya Jirga should be organized to be find out a solution regarding the current political deadlock in the country.

Karzai further added that Afghanistan is a country of 'Jirgas' or gathering of local tribal elders to resolve issues such as the current deadlock between President Ghani and CEO Abdullah.

According to Karzai, the traditional Jirga could help resolve the issue which would be in the better of the two leaders of the unity government if constitutional Loya Jirga could not be organized.

The remarks by Karzai came as President Ghani and CEO Abdullah are still at odds as the unity government has completed its two years since its formation.

CEO Abdullah accused President Ghani for remaining unfit for the office earlier this month as he alleged that the President does not have time for his CEO to discuss the main issues of the government.

The unity government was formed following a mediation by US Secretary of State John Kerry as the country was put on the brink of a political crisis following the controversial presidential election in 2014 which was marred by massive fraud allegations. However, Kerry said earlier in April this year that the duration of the Afghan National Unity Government is five years, ruling out speculations that the agreement ends at the end of two years since its formation.

"There is no end to this agreement at the end of two years or in six months from now. This agreement ends - this is an agreement for a unity government, the duration of which is five years," Kerry said in a press conference with President Ghani in April. (KP)

(6) AGA Working ...

around 300 security personnel and civilians were being killed on a daily basis.

He called the government as incompetent for losing control over a number of districts and areas to Taliban militants.

He said differences between the government leaders, law violations inside the government, militant threats to security and deceiving the nation by the leaders were other problems facing the country.

The former governor said the Afghans were losing faith in the government with each passing day because the leaders had failed to implement their pledges.

Pointing to the political agreement of the national unity government, Taqwa said: "The national unity government would be illegitimate after September 19, what would remain after that would be only two election campaign teams at the Presidential Palace and the chief executive office."

The unity government deal was reached between then presidential candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah in September 2014 after the disputed presidential election.

The agreement binds the unity government to call into session a Loya Jirga to bring about necessary amendments to the country's Constitution and create the new post of a prime minister for the Chief Executive in two years.

The president is responsible to open a debate on the prime ministerial post in the Loya Jirga and announce creation of the position, according to the agreement.

The two-year deadline for holding a Loya Jirga is completing on September 19, but there is no indication from both the president and the CEO to do so.

Taqwa said the AGA had been waiting over the past two years for the government leaders to implement their pledges, but they did not.

That was why the AGA has working jointly with national figures and political parties on an alternative to the current government in order to steer the country out of the crisis towards political stability, he added. (Pajhwok)

(7) 64 Officials ...

university lecturers.

Based on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Afghanistan and Japan, the programme would continue with little positive changes, he said, adding after the programme

was completed, another 250 officials would pursue higher education based on Afghanistan's requirements.

Japanese Ambassador to Kabul, Hiroshi Takahashi, who also participated in the press conference, called the programme as successful and said 443 Afghans had so far completed their higher education and had returned to their country.

"I believe Afghanistan's future is depended on its youth, Japan is also depended on youth," he said.

He hoped the 64 Afghan officials would be able to have sufficient improvement in their capacities and better serve their country after returning. (Pajhwok)

(8) TI Launches ...

representatives from the Afghan government as well as national and international experts. They had the opportunity to discuss the right approach to hold Afghanistan's National Unity Government accountable.

The German government supports this initiative due to Transparency International's extensive experience in countering corruption internationally.

Transparency International will closely monitor the National Unity Government. Thanks to targeted networking, public declarations and publishing, the NGO will contribute to ensuring the realization of the government's commitment facing corruption in Afghanistan. Thus, these organizations help promote civil society activities and public discussions. (Wadsam)

(9) Lashkargah City ...

even Lashkargah city is run by Taliban and the government," said Sultan Mohammad a resident.

Sharif Amiry and Abdulhah Hamim TOLOnews correspondents who are in Babaji 4th Zone of Lashkargah said that Afghan forces are in defensive positions.

"Taliban are in the Babaji area and every day we fight with them but there is no result. We call on government to put an end to this turmoil," said Saifullah Helamand a border forces commander in Helmand.

Khair Mohammad who lost one of his relatives in a Taliban skirmish said: "They are God's creatures and God will get upset at the loss of his creatures. We want both parties to the war to know that this is enough - people are really tired of the situation."

Even though Lashkargah city is under siege local residents are trying to keep up their spirits. (Tolnews)

(10) 5th Season ...

local time and fans will wear the colors of the country's flag, 12 young singers from Afghan Stars will also sing the National Anthem and many more surprises are in store for fans in the stadium.

"In the past four seasons we have witnessed the presence of new players in the national team of different age-ranges from Roshan Afghanistan Premier League (RAPL). We could select Afghan players who have the membership of national team from the premier league," said Keramuddin Karim, President of AFF.

"The league facilitates the selection of players for the national team. We also could select elite players from Roshan Afghanistan Premier League for national teams of 19 years, 21 years, and 23 years. The performance of these players is remarkable in national teams," he added.

After the ceremony, the tournament will continue with the opening match between the winner of the 4th Season and the Eastern Zone's team, De Spinghar Bazan, against Simorgh Alborz representing the Northern Zone of the country, according to RAPL officials.

"At Roshan, we are strong believers of supporting sport. Playing sport is about team work and at Roshan Afghan Premier League (RAPL) games, young Afghans of all backgrounds get to work together and grow stronger together. Our support for RAPL has already allowed young Afghans an opportunity to shine and represent their country on the world stage, bringing pride to all Afghans," said Karim Khoja, CEO of Roshan.

"The aim of holding the Afghan Premier League is for a healthy show for young Afghan and for the gathering of Afghanistan's young and the slogan of the Afghan Premier League is one nation one voice," Kargar said at a press conference on Tuesday. (Tolnews)

(11) Young Afghan ...

said Wednesday that the migrant had received wounds in his chest and the alleged man behind the attack has been detained.

This comes as a young Afghan man was arrested as he was attempting to reach to the western European countries by travelling almost 20 hours as he was tied under a truck.

The man whose identity has not been disclosed escaped a migrant camp in Greece with an aim to enter the country, police sources have said.

Scores of Afghan refugees have been stranded along the Macedonia and Greece border after Macedonia closed its southern border with Greece to Afghan migrants late last month.

Hundreds of Afghans left the country and are mainly heading towards Europe amid deteriorating security situation in the country, often risking their lives by passing through dangerous routes, specifically the Iranian territory and the Turkish coast. (KP)

(12) AAF Can...

said Afghanistan failed to develop and train a profession army and air forces in the past decade.

He did not go into details but said: "Unfortunately a huge amount of money was not spent in a proper way and we could not develop a strong army."

He said the AAF was incepted almost a century ago and it was Ghazi Amanullah Khan who bought two fighter jets from Russia.

He said the AAF officials were committed to protecting the Afghanistan air and territorial integrity at the cost of their lives. (Pajhwok)

(13) 21 of Karzai's...

signed by the attorney general (need to be reinvestigated). Also the corruption cases recorded in the capital and in the provinces, we will work on them," said AGO spokesman Basir Azizi.

In addition, sources on condition of anonymity have said that a number of present and ex-government officials, including ministers, governors, chiefs and mayors are suspected of being involved in corruption.

They said that the anti-corruption justice center has been asked to launch an investigation into all these elements.

"If the center is exploited for political purposes, then it would be a failed attempt," said Nasim Akbar, head of the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Evaluation Commission.

"People expect that those who are involved in misusing public assets and in embezzling millions are brought to justice," said Abdul Qahar Farukh Siar, head of the High Office of Oversight and Anti Corruption.

Fighting corruption has been a major challenge for the National Unity Government (NUG) as it has had to convince Afghanistan's international partners for continued aid.

The establishment of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Justice Center elicited positive reactions from the Afghan people. However Afghans fear that lawbreakers and government officials could interfere in the center's job. (Tolnews)

(14) ANSDF Suppressing...

militants launched a coordinated attack in Kunduz province last week and managed to take control of key Khanabad district as well as Qala-e-Zal district.

The back to back victories by the Taliban insurgents forced the Gen. Murad to visit the province and personally lead the clearance operations against the Taliban insurgents.

In the meantime, the local residents feared that the Taliban insurgents were on the verge taking control of the strategic Kunduz city once again as they captured it briefly last year.

The Taliban insurgents have been attempting to take control of key districts in Kunduz including the strategic Kunduz city since they announced their spring offensive earlier in April this year.

The group has launched numerous attacks in Kunduz since then but the Afghan forces have managed to repulse the attacks. (KP)

(15) Indonesia Ready ...

Soekarno was his country's first president who visited Afghanistan in 1961. The ambassador said his country was deeply concerned about the prevailing situation in Afghanistan and said Indonesia would be pleased to play its part in the Afghan reconciliation process.

He said his country had provided scholarships to Afghan students and professional and vocational training to Afghan craftsmen. The diplomat said Indonesia was committed to assisting Afghanistan in diverse fields. Tajudin said Indonesia had been involved in Afghanistan's development since 2006 and it planned to build an Islamic centre here in the near future. Afghan Foreign Ministry official Adela Raz, while speaking on the occasion, said Afghanistan and Indonesia enjoyed friendly relations since six decades. (Pajhwok)

(16) More Women, ...

record their complaints by dialing 155 and informing us about their problems," said Breshna Orya, head of the public relations department of Kabul

Municipality.

The representation of youths and women to government jobs is said to be an important achievement by the national unity government.

Analysts suggest that the Afghan government by discussing such programs at the Brussels Summit can motivate the international community to continue its financial, political and technical cooperation to Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

(17) Insurgents ...

and the militants were driven from Chah-i-Injir area of Nad Ali district.

Hayat said the joint forces were engaged in an operation to reopen the Helmand-Kandahar highway.

"Insurgents can't put up resistance during face-to-face clashes with security forces but they instead plant landmines on streets and fields. Rebels open fire at security personnel in fear from faraway places and this issue will also be resolved soon."

However, a Chah-i-Injir area resident, Mohammadullah Dost, told Pajhwok Afghan News many people were forced to leave the area. He said some homes had been blown up with bombs and others set alight by insurgents.

Dost said insurgents remained stationed north of the Chah-i-Injir area of Nad Ali district.

However, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the fighters showed strong resistance to foreign and Afghan security forces.

He claimed the fighters in Sangin district and on the Helmand-Kandahar highway destroyed two tanks and killed five soldiers onboard.

Helmand is the most insecure province of Afghanistan and currently Taliban are in control of its four districts and only district centres of Kajaki, Sangin, Washir, Nad Ali, Marja, Nawa, Garanser and Khanshin are with the government. (Pajhwok)

(18) Burning...

remained closed for a sixth day on Tuesday and Afghan traders claim incurring a loss amounting to 60 million afghanis. The border closure has left stranded thousands of trucks carrying fresh fruits and food and non-food items on both the sides.

"No matter what their reasons for burning the flag, it was a condemnable act because the flag of a country does not represent any particular institution but an entire country and people," Zakhilwal said in a statement.

Afghan officials on Tuesday said talks were ongoing with Pakistani officials and it was expected the border would be reopened on Wednesday.

The spokesman for the governor of southern Kandahar province, Samim Khpalwak, told Pajhwok Afghan News talks took place on Tuesday between local officials and the Pakistani consul general in Kandahar.

At the central level, Khpalwak said, officials of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs also discussed the issue with Pakistani officials. He hoped the talks would yield positive outcome and the border might be reopened tomorrow.

Zakhilwal, also special representative of President Ashraf Ghani in Pakistan, acknowledged there were certainly grievances between the two countries.

"However, we the Afghan government neither believe nor condone this type of disrespect towards the people of Pakistan - in fact, to the very contrary."

Zakhilwal said the Friendship Gate was closed after some individuals disrespected and burnt Pakistani flag, causing enormous difficulties to people on both sides. He said traders whose goods, mostly fresh fruit had been stuck at the gate suffered considerable losses.

The traders in Kandahar said the volume of losses they incurred so far had reached 60 million afghanis. Fresh fruit traders' union head in Kandahar Haji Nani Agha said the border remained closed for a sixth day in a row on Tuesday and no export or import activity or cross border movement of people had taken place during the period.

He said before closure of the border, from 100 to 150 tonnes of grapes loaded in trucks would enter Pakistan from Afghanistan on a daily basis.

The border closure has not only brought to a halt the fruit export to Pakistan but also rendered thousands of orchard and transport workers jobless, Agha said. (Pajhwok)

(19) Afghan Travels ...

from Turkey to Spain, said they had been unaware of the stowaway and were allowed to continue their journey.

In an interview with Sky TG24, the Afghan man said he had paid 900 euros (\$1,017 USD) to a trafficker who had attached him to the truck on a ferry from Greece, where he had spent six months in a migrant camp. He had been on his way to the Italian port of Brindisi.

He said his 22 hours under the truck

were tough but not unbearable. "I have been through much more dangerous things in Afghanistan than this journey," he said. (Tolnews)

(20) Power Returns...

militants on the outskirts of Kunduz City and other areas.

One of them said: "We were without electricity for the past one week, we faced many problems, but the electricity was restored last night." He asked security forces to clear Kunduz City of militants.

Another resident, Zabihullah Majidi, said he was happy that the power supply had been restored but was worried about the increasing insecurity.

"We had no electricity for one week and clashes that occur close to our city terrify us. The power could be cut off again and again if the current situation continues, we want the government to clear areas surrounding Kunduz City of militants," he said. (Pajhwok)

(21) Achin Elders...

not to dispute over minor issues and would remain committed to their promises made with the government against the insurgent elements.

He said the elders had formed a new council which would look into issues of the district and would work in coordination with the government.

Governor Kunduzi told the visiting elders they should remain united and follow a leader who could address their issues quickly.

He said the Presidential Palace had pledged continued operations against insurgents in Achin until the last terrorist was eliminated there. (Pajhwok)

(22) 11 Militants...

Ghazni province with Ghazni city as its capital 125 km south of Kabul has been the scene of increasing insurgency over the past few years. (Xinhua)

(23) Top Kunduz ...

Amarkhel told the press conference that the major operation launched on Wednesday morning against insurgents was aimed at clearing areas on the outskirts of Kunduz City.

He said the targeted areas included Kanam, Hazrat Sultan, Zarkharid, Talwaka and the highway to the entrance to Kunduz city until the Alchin Bridge area.

He said the Alchin Bridge had been partially damaged but small vehicles could cross it and the bridge would be repaired over the next three days.

Police chief Brig. Gen. Qaseem Jangal Bagh said at least 30 insurgents were killed and another 18 wounded on the first day of the operation which was ongoing.

The provincial National Directorate of Security (NDS) chief, Sayed Amirshah Sadaat, said recent assaults by insurgents, numbering around 1,000, were neutralized by security forces and the rebels themselves had confirmed their defeat. (Pajhwok)

(24) 10 Dead...

Pasaband district. Pasaband district, 170 kilometers south of Ferozkoh, shares border with Helmand province.

Its roads to Ferozkoh have been blocked as a result of heavy clashes over the past four months. (Pajhwok)

(25) S. Korea Slams...

irreversible manner. The statement came as South Korea's military said the DPRK tested-fired a SLBM earlier in the morning off the eastern coastal town of Sinpo in South Hamgyeong province.

The launch was seen as a success as the DPRK missile flew about 500 km, longer than a flight distance of 300 km which Seoul's military had reportedly regarded as successful. (Xinhua)

(26) Humanitarian Aid...

toward suburban neighborhoods and nearby villages, the spokesman said. In addition, more than 25,000 people have been displaced from Hasakeh to cities and villages north of the city since Aug. 18, following clashes between government and Kurdish forces, he noted. (Xinhua)

(27) Russia Might...

Beginning on Aug. 16, Russian bombers took off from the Hamadan base in western Iran for three consecutive days to strike terrorist targets in Syria.

It was the first time Russia has used the territory of another nation, apart from Syria itself, to launch such strikes since Moscow started a bombing campaign against IS targets inside Syria last September. (Xinhua)

(28) China, Japan...

said. China is also willing to carry out exchange and communication with Japan in various areas to maintain the momentum of improving bilateral ties, he added. (Xinhua)