

(1) Ghani Issues...

activities that killed dozens also led to a public outcry among the Afghan people.

Responding to the recent casualties, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has also denounced attacks against the civilian populated areas in all its forms and manifestations.

"This return to the armed opponents whoever are behind such attacks. They [insurgents] should realize that their deeds are against Islam and the prevailing laws of the country and even against war laws," AIHRC spokesman Rafiullah Bedar said. Based on the Afghan constitution, the government has committed itself to provide security to the people.

According to the Afghan constitution, the government is obliged to provide security to the citizens and ensure their safety. Following a spate of deadly attacks in Kabul, this time the Afghan religious scholars also spoke out about the attacks on civilians and announced the killing of civilians was inhumane and against Islamic teachings. "These responsibilities basically related to government to abide by them and work for people's security," religious scholar Maulavi Abdul Hadi Hedayat said.

The scholars rebuked the Taliban over the killing of civilians and denounced their attacks against civilians and called it un-Islamic. This comes at a time that the UN in its recent report announced that the civilian toll in the Afghan war was rising with 70 percent of the deaths caused by the Taliban insurgency. (Tolonews)

(2) Ghani Not ...

Hashemi, the deputy presidential spokesperson, confirmed the president had started evaluating ministers' performances, but denied his dissatisfaction with the work of four ministers.

He said the president had been monitoring the performance of ministers as a routine practice, and he was currently discussing with the ministers future plans. Today (Saturday), Hashemi said the president met with ministers of border and tribal affairs, higher education, counternarcotics and women's affairs. (Pajhwok)

(3) New Kabul ...

were main causes of huge loss to the bank in the past six months. According to Afzali, the government should strive hard to regain the lost money of the bank.

Earlier, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) said more than 480\$ million of the embezzled Kabul Bank money have been recovered and over 50 individuals had been arrested. The acting Attorney General Noor Habib Jalal said out of total 227 accused suspects 50 had been Efforts were being made to recover all the money lost to the infamous Kabul Bank scandal, revealing another two accused in the case had been referred to the primary court.

He said the AGO had made it clear that not a single penny looted from the once largest private bank would go unaccounted for and that the 155 defaulters should be barred from leaving the country and their assets be frozen. (Pajhwok)

(4) India Rejects to...

according to the report. However, the report quoted Afghan officials as saying the delay in the SPC meeting is more significant, as India and Afghanistan have held only one meeting of the SPC in 2012. (Xinhua)

(5) CEO Set to....

election commissioners got nominated and would incorporate changes to the laws in order to ensure neutrality during elections.

The electoral reforms commission was formed following a presidential decree and officially started work last week. The panel

is headed by Shah Sultan Akefi. (Pajhwok)

(6) Kabul Asks ...

We want action against the groups that declare war against the people of Afghanistan," the Hashemi told TOLONews.

"Our stance is clear. Now its Pakistan's turn to take step in this regard," he added.

A number of Pakistani analysts have spoken out about rifts between Kabul and Islamabad, saying that there are a number of circles that are not in favor of good relations between the two neighboring countries.

"The relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan are very sensitive. There are lots of groups that are not in favor of improvements in Kabul-Islamabad ties, and they don't want the peace talks to be held between Afghan government and the Taliban," a Pakistani analyst in political affairs, Rahimullah Yousufzai, told TOLONews.

"There are rifts among the Taliban as well," he added. It is widely believed that the news of Mullah Omar's death adversely affected Kabul-Islamabad ties as his death was revealed only two years after the fact by the Taliban, immediately followed by an announcement by Pakistan of the suspension of peace talks between the insurgents and Afghanistan.

Another issue of concern is that of the reported split within the group - which is not united in its support of Omar's successor Mullah Mansour.

"There are rifts among the Taliban leadership which have not been solved yet," said Nazar Mohammad Motmaen, an Afghan analyst in political affairs.

"No doubt, challenges among the Taliban can end in favor of the Afghan government and army, and the Taliban will be weakened," he added.

However, other experts believe that the Afghan security forces should use the opportunity of reported rifts within the Taliban to their advantage.

"Conflict among militant groups will result in their weakness and this will be a good opportunity for security forces to take serious steps in this regard which are in favor of the Afghan government," said Mirdad Khan Nijrabi, a member of the Internal Security Commission of the Lower House of Parliament.

Afghanistan meanwhile, remains adamant in its stance against Pakistan and will only soften once they take serious steps against insurgents, officials have states. (Tolonews)

(7) Iran's Services ...

will be insured free of charge and other refugees will be insured at the least cost.

The UN agency official also talked with refugees' families in Torbat-e-Jam city and got acquainted with their problems and ways to return them to their home land.

Director General for foreign immigrants and nationals affairs at Khorasan Razavi Governorate General said that currently more than 900 Afghan families resided in the city and there was not enough UN financial assistance for them.

Ahmad Ajami added that Dogharoun border point in the city of Taibad is the sole border entrance and departure point for Afghan nationals, so rendering desirable services to them is among the important programs of Iranian officials.

Torbat-e-Jam city has a population of 270,000, located 160 kilometers southeast of Mashad.

Currently more than 150,000 Afghan nationals are living in Khorasan Razavi rovince, who have legal permission and almost the same number of refugees are in the province illegally. (IRNA)

(8) Carter Rules...

fall, and obviously, that time hasn't come yet, the Defense Secretary said.

Carter praised the capabilities

of the Afghan Security forces in protecting the country from the Taliban attack this fighting season. "This was the first fighting season, and of course, it's not over yet, where the Afghan security forces have been largely been on their own," he said.

"They have largely in most places, and in most times, done very well. This without a lot of American support. That's a credit to the training and equipment that the United States gave them, above all to the circumstances we created in Afghanistan over the years of conflict there, and also I should say, to the National Unity government of President Ghani," Carter said.

"When there are special circumstances, wherein assistance by the coalition could make a material difference, we have said since we began the transition, that we would be prepared to intervene," he said. (Pajhwok)

(9) Kabul Rally...

civil society activist, told TOLONews.

"Our message is that Afghanistan can have an environment full of peace, kindness, unity and acceptance," he added.

Head of Kabul's PD9, Abdul Rauf Uruzgani, stressed the need for people's cooperation with the security forces, saying that it will go a long way in helping them.

"We cannot do anything without the support and help of the people. This is the people that help in maintaining security in the country," he added.

The rally comes as the capital city and several other parts of the country have witnessed a spike in violence over the past few weeks - which has caused growing concern among citizens; with many even fleeing the country. (Tolonews)

(10) Higher Education...

much of a difference.

Presidential Advisor on Cultural Affairs Prof. Asadullah Ghazanfar told the participants that education, not money, enabled a country to progress. For instance, he said, several Gulf countries had enormous oil resources, but remained backward technologically.

On the other hand, Singapore -- the size of one Afghan district -- was among the leading countries of the world, the advisor pointed out. "Your graduation is an encouraging sign of our future," he commented, addressing the students.

Chancellor Abdul Latif Roshan told Pajhwok Afghan News it was the first batch graduating from the university since its founding in 2007. He said 150 students had received Master's degrees in economics while 450 completed their graduation. At the moment 4,000 students are enrolled in the university.

Jamal Ahmad Kakar, one of the graduates, said he had studied under difficult circumstances. He had to support his family and continue education simultaneously.

The graduate urged the university administration to pave the ground for quality education in the country. He also called for the government to ensure jobs for the graduates. (Pajhwok)

(11) Strongmen's ...

different problems in realising income and property taxes from residents, notably gunmen and other influential individuals.

He adds they have shared with the central government and security organs the names of a large number of these strongmen refusing to pay taxes.

For instance, the official alleges, pump stations have been evading tax payments over the years. "In Kandahar, there are more than 100 pump stations that don't pay taxes."

But the revenue department are exercising various options to force these fuel stations into clearing their tax liabilities.

The director blames security institutions for failing to respond positively to a string of calls for

cooperation with his department in tax collections.

Last week, he recalls, the issue was raised with the finance minister in Kabul. He also suggests tasking security personnel within the department to help realise government levies from chronic defaulters.

Higher-ups have assured him of sharing the proposal with the Ministry of Interior, according to the official, who says the list of defaulters will be forwarded to the security organs and media outlets.

But despite problems, he claims, Kandahar's revenue for the current year is higher than 2014. He links the increase to an awareness campaign through media and institutional reforms.

The ministry had set the department a revenue target of 1.138 billion afghanis for 2014, but only 972 million afs were recovered, mainly due to the presidential election deadlock.

But in the first half of the current year, the department has collected 526 million afs in taxes -- a 42 million afs increase over the corresponding period of 2014.

He ties the revenue boost to the improving security and economic environment of the country, hoping continued stability will enable them to collect taxes from people in remote areas.

Currently, the Kandahar Revenue Department has branches in Spin Boldak, Panjwai, Maiwand, Dand and Daman districts. Better security will help it collect taxes in other districts as well.

Ahmadzai reveals they have rented out 59 government properties, yielding 17 million afs in revenue so far during the current year. In this area as well, gunmen pose a problem for the authorities. (Pajhwok)

(12) Half of Kabul...

access to potable water provided by the department. He said that 1,550,000 other families were using wells' water.

The CSO head Azizullah Faqiri said their estimates show that around 4.5 million people currently live in Kabul.

He said three million people from 2001 till now have added to Kabul population. Based on the estimate, around 44 percent of Kabul people have no access to potable water. (Pajhwok)

(13) Daesh Closes...

now animals are being kept inside clinics and school buildings," a resident form Achin said.

"Six schools including four high schools have been closed in the district which also led to termination of 40 teachers," the spokesman for Nangarhar education department said.

TOLONews reporter tried to get comment from provincial officials, but was not successful. The first step after capturing an area, both the Taliban and Daesh close down schools and use the buildings as a military base, say officials.

In recent weeks, Daesh militants have expanded their movements in some regions of Nangarhar province. Despite Afghan forces having launched several clearance operations in the province, Daesh still operate in the region. (Tolonews)

(14) Afghan Forces ...

were also hurdle in the way of reconstructing an important bridge that connects four districts with the provincial capital, Faizadab," he said.

The bridge was built during former president Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan's government. It was first blown up by militants and then hit by heavy floods.

A resident of Warduj district, Mir Ahmad, said passengers reaching the bridge had to disembark vehicles and walk for 20 minutes to cross it before sitting in other vehicles. (Pajhwok)

(15) Kabul Has....

among security forces and provision of services to the masses in accordance with the law. The movement would offer

the government suggestions on how to boost security.

"Initially, we ask the rulers through media to strengthen security in Helmand. If their call is not heeded, our youth will stage demonstrations in Kabul," the provincial council head warned.

Ahmad Shakir, head of the provincial council's security committee, claimed: "The central government is subjecting Helmand to step-motherly treatment. Small issues facing other provinces are taken seriously, but Helmand has been in flames for years, receiving no attention." (Pajhwok)

(16) Govt. Urged ...

eliminated a key hideout of Taliban in Kazda area of this district.

He said a clash broke out between the two sides leaving three Taliban killed and two others wounded.

"Heavy weapons were placed in this hideout from where Taliban used to target other areas," Firotan said.

However, another area of this district which is called 'Teer Giran' has been in Taliban control for nearly two months.

Firotan said in order to retake this area from Taliban, government needs to immediately launch a military operation in this district. (KP)

(17) Zabul Districts...

Haqbayan said he had shared his concerns with the leaders of the unity government, security officials and the National Security Council, urging them to increase the number of security forces in Zabul, especially in insecure areas.

He said government officials had promised measures in this regard, but nothing practical had been done so far.

The provincial council chief commended the performance of national security forces in Zabul, saying they had been able to effectively maintain security after the withdrawal of foreign troops from the province. (Pajhwok)

(18) Hundreds of

Ehssanollah Bayat said," the following hearing devices will bring positive changes into life of deaf people, and will enable them to join their family and society back, Starkey Hearing Foundation has been working closely with Bayat Foundation on decreasing deaf numbers from Afghanistan societies since two years."

The three times checkups enabled officials in both Foundations to having correct frame of ears of deaf people and beginning the distribution today. (ATN)

(6) 19 Security

Wolesi Jirga appointed a panel to investigate the Jalrez carnage amidst claims by some lawmakers that those killed were "illegal gunmen."

The president recommended the delegation to review the casualties in Jalrez incident in coordination with governor, provincial council members, religious scholars, local elders and stakeholders and shared a detailed report with the presidency. (Pajhwok)

(20) 6 Policemen ...

anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

This comes as heavy clashes continue in Musa Qala district as the Taliban militants advance towards the district center, forcing the the US military to conduct airstrikes to support the Afghan security forces repel Taliban attacks.

Local government officials confirmed Friday that the airstrikes by US military were conducted to stop the Taliban militants from advancing towards the district.

The officials further added that nearly 150 Taliban militants were killed or wounded during the clashes on Friday. (KP)

(21) 1600kg of ...

suicide vest on Saturday morning from Wazir Qala area of Pul-i-

Alam.

"We had prior information about the presence of a suicide attacker whose target was the Kabul Bank branch in Pul-i-Alam. When we reached the area, the would-be attacker had fled, but we found his suicide vest."

Logar is among Afghanistan's volatile provinces. Taliban militants have active presence in various districts of the province. The rebels have closed the road between Azra district and Pul-i-Alam over the past several years. (Pajhwok)

(22) Uruzgan

tacked the convoy of officials in which Mawlawi Lal Mohammad and two other tribal elders were killed in the attack," he said. "The police security head was not hurt in the attack," he added.

No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack. (Tolonews)

(23) Suspect Planting ...

Macrorryan area of the city last week.

Scores of people were killed or wounded in a series of deadly attacks by the Taliban group in capital Kabul earlier this month.

A truck packed with explosives in Shah Shaheed area of Kabul city early on Friday morning on 7th August which left at least 15 dead and dozens f others wounded.

Two back to back explosions rocked capital Kabul late on the same day which left at least 27 police recruits dead along with a NATO service member and 8 contracted civilians of the Resolute Support mission. (KP)

(24) UN Chief Calls...

"When considering asylum requests, States cannot make distinctions based on religion or other identity, nor can they force people to return to places from which they have fled if there is a well-founded fear of persecution or attack. This is not only a matter of international law; it is also our duty as human beings," it said. (Xinhua)

(25) Commemorative ...

as violinist Maxim Vengerov," said Zhou, adding that there are musicians from Russia, France and the United States in the commemorative concert.

The concert, organized by the Permanent Mission of China to the U.N., also includes John Williams' score "Schindler's List", the soundtrack in the famous film about a German businessman who saved the lives of over a thousand mostly Polish-Jewish refugees during the Holocaust. (Xinhua)

(26) Hollande, ...

that the respect of a lasting ceasefire was a necessity given the situation of civilians in eastern Ukraine."

The two sides agreed in February to a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine parallel to a political process, including plans for local elections and establishment of a special self-management status for separatist-minded regions.

But sporadic clashes between the two forces, in which artillery and other weapons have been used and civilians, Ukrainian soldiers and separatists have been killed, have since undermined the February deal. (Reuters)

(27) Iran to Unveil ...

new drones, but refused to give details due to security reasons. Esmaili added that the secondary surveillance radar (SSR) system would also be manufactured and unveiled.

He also emphasized that Iran has succeeded in increasing the number of air defense sites from 3,600 to 3,800 and said the country plans to bring the figure to 5,000. (PressTV)

(28) Iranophobia ...

strike a balance between "resistance economy" and the inflow of foreign businesses in order to avoid a situation where Iran is flooded by foreign goods and services, the Iranian president said that, following the removal of the sanctions, it will want foreign countries to export investment and technology to Iran. (PressTV)