

**(1) 12-Member Govt...**

Deputy NDS Director Gen. Ebadullah Ebad, Wolesi Jirga Member Shahgul Rezaee, Ulema Council Head Attaullah Lodin, Paktia Governor Shamim Katawazai, Supreme Court Member Dr. Abdullah Attai, Foreign Ministry Cultural Affairs head Toryali Ghiasi and Abdul Ha-keem Munib, deputy minister for Hajj and Religious Affairs. Nafeesa Azemi, a lawmaker from Ghazni province, said the selected government delegation lacked the capacity to negotiate peace with the Taliban and the president should reconsider the team.

Jafar Mahdavi, a lawmaker from Kabul province, said: "Ninety percent members of the government delegation lacked experience and did not hold social ground. If the government really wants peace they should pay serious attention to the formation of its team and induct qualified persons who have the capacity to conduct peace talks with the Taliban."

He added the government launched the process for its own survival and it had no intention for talks with the Taliban.

He said wasting time caused loss of more Afghans and the two sides needed to put peace talks in priority in order to stop the bloodshed and establish peace in the country.

Amir Khan Yar, second deputy speaker, who chaired the meeting termed peace essential and asked the people to unite for peace in order to make it happen.

He asked the government to set peace as its priority because the people had tired of war and could not see their beloved ones to die anymore. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Afghan...**

come to an agreement with other airlines as well to increase the flights. And also we are working on enhancing goods packaging," said Rasa.

Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) meanwhile said the air corridors are playing a vital role in increasing the export of agricultural and other domestic products of Afghanistan.

The ACCI deputy head Khan Jan Alokozay said the value of the local products will increase to 50 percent if they are exported through air corridors to world markets.

"The air corridors have benefited farmers as well, because investors have sold the Afghan products with higher prices in world markets and the prices have increase here," Alokozay said.

An economic affairs analyst, Hasibullah Moahid, said that despite the vital role of the air corridors, government should accelerate efforts on expanding transit routes with other countries through land.

"Trade has grown well over the past few years, especially in the last few months and this is because of the air corridors. However, it can be a short-term achievement, but cannot be a long-term strategy for leading Afghanistan towards self-reliance," he said.

Officials said the inauguration and use of air corridors has been a plan of the National Unity Government to help Afghan investors to take their goods to world markets in a shorter time. According to Office of the Public

Relations Office of the Senior Advisor to the President in Banking and Finance, so far, 80 percent of transit costs have been paid by government as subsidies.

The office says that more than \$3 million was paid by government and private sector as transit costs for the goods which have been sent to world markets through air corridors.

The first air corridor was opened between Afghanistan and India last year in June. This was followed by other air corridors between Afghanistan and Turkey, China, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan. (Tolo news)

**(3) US Drops Nearly...**

US troop surge. AFCENT's figures include both bomb and missile strikes, 105mm shells fired by AC-130 gunships and strafing fire from 20mm cannons and up, read the report published by the local Tolo News.

These mounting assaults are said to be part of the US Administration's policy of pushing the rebels to the negotiation table.

The Afghan forces are complementing this surge with their own onslaughts from the air and ground while the Taliban too are on the offensives in a number of wars for turf in different provinces.

Caught in the conflict, the Afghan civilians are bearing the brunt of the conflict.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has this year recorded a sharp increase in civilian casualties from aerial attacks in the first nine months of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.

The 649 civilian casualties recorded between 1 January and 30 September 2018 is more than the number of civilian casualties from aerial operations recorded over every entire year since UNAMA began systematic civilian casualty documentation in 2009.

In the two incidents in Helmand province this week, UNAMA notes with particular concern that children were disproportionately impacted, comprising 55 percent of the civilian casualties. (AA)

**(4) Afghan Law Firm...**

The directory has said that "the Kakar Advocates team often goes above and beyond our expectations" and is "always proactive in terms of communication."

Law firms play a critical role for businesses in Afghanistan, where bureaucracy and corruption remain key challenges for this sector. (Tolo news)

**(5) Nangarhar Clerics...**

and all religious scholars together are releasing this fetwa," said Mohammad Daud Mujahid, the Provincial Director of Hajj and Religious Affairs.

Participants of the gathering said all acts connecting with poppy cultivation including drugs smuggling and its processing are against the teachings of Islam.

"The Almighty Allah has ordered in the Holy Quran that eat and use those things and foods which are Halal and He has forbidden us from using poppy, tobacco or hashish," said Mavlawi Ezatullah, a religious scholar.

Nangarhar officials said that based on their information, poppy is being cultivated in remote areas in the province.

"Shinwari and Khogyani districts are the areas where government has less control and we

are concerned about these areas when it comes to poppy cultivation," said Mohammad Idrees Sapai, head Counter Narcotics Department of Nangarhar.

"We have lunched alternative livelihood programs in eight districts of Nangarhar to tackle poppy cultivation," he said.

Tamim Arif Mohmand, deputy governor of Nangarhar, meanwhile said that the authority will act legally against any government official or individual who will attempt poppy cultivation in any part of the province.

The participants of the gathering called on farmers to stop poppy cultivation and cultivate wheat and other legal crops so that it addresses the country needs. (Tolo news)

**(6) Ghani, Abdullah...**

terms as vice-president to Ronald Reagan, but he suffered the ignominy of becoming a single-term president - defeated by Bill Clinton in the 1992 election amid a weakening economy.

In April, he was admitted to hospital with a blood infection but had since been discharged. Bush was also being treated for a form of Parkinson's disease.

He died seven months after his wife, Barbara. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Feeling Unsafe...**

Many of these families were forced to leave Parwan by illegal armed groups with some having connections in the government or top government officials.

About security forces' reaction against individuals and groups behind insecurity and threats in Parwan, the mayor said: "Sometimes security organs also commit negligence. The insecurity has caused a social distress and has badly affected the province's education and economy sectors." Having no exact figures and facts about incidents of extortion and robbery in recent years, the mayor said 20 shops were robbed in Charikar City last year and over one million afghanis stolen from a local bank by three armed robbers this year.

Haseeba Efat, a Wolesi Jirga candidate and a former member of the Provincial Council, said in recent years incidents of robbery, extortion and hurling of hand grenades into homes of government officials had happened, acknowledging some individuals fled the province due to insecurity and threats.

She expressed concern over the capital flight and lack of business activity in the province.

Had no option but to leave Parwan: Affected persons

Some individuals, who left Parwan due to security threats, have accused security officials of their failure to overcome security issues.

Baz Mohammad, 50, who headed Beradaran-i-Jamshid Construction Company in Parwan, said he left Parwan due to security threats and extortions two years back and shifted to Kabul with his family.

"Some individuals demanded money, I ignored their demand, but one day they tossed a hand grenade into my house, injuring my four-year-old daughter," he said.

He accused security officials of negligence and added tens of businessmen, government officials had left Parwan due to insecurity, extortion and other threats.

Ghulam Mohammad Ghiyasi,

head of Parwan Urban Development Department, said he had been living in capital Kabul with his family for the past two years after leaving Parwan due to security threats.

"I would daily travel between Parwan and Kabul, it had been a tiring journey, but we had no other option," he said.

Ghiyasi also said a number of other officials who faced similar problems as him had left Parwan with their families due to security problems.

"Intimidation is everywhere in Parwan, when a vehicle is stolen at gunpoint on a broad daylight in the heart of the city and when a child is kidnapped from an area just 100 meters away from the intelligence department, how can one live in such a province." He asked Parwan officials to improve security of the province so people and officials could live in peace here.

Mohammad Sabir Saffar, director of Ramz-i-Hasti Weekly and a civil society activist in Parwan, said he was threatened after reporting about land grabbing.

He said once gunmen attacked him in Charikar city, but he was able to escape unhurt. "For a second time some people tried to crush me under their vehicle, but this time too I protected myself and survived."

For a third time, Saffar said he was beaten by two men who wanted him not to expose land grabbers.

Without going into details, he said when he complained about the issue to government officials, the officials ignored him and advised him to refrain from publishing such reports.

"I was finally forced to leave Parwan and go to Turkey with my family, I currently live in Turkey," he said.

Civil society activists' concerns Ahmad Hanayesh, head of Kahkashan Media Center and Civil Society in Parwan, said presence of illegal armed men and poor performance of the government were factors behind the deteriorated security situation in the province.

He said threats posed by strongmen to traders and government officials were high in Parwan than any other province of the country.

"There are reports that illegal armed men who threaten people have links with local commanders and strongmen who have relations with officials in the central government," he said.

He added the government was taking no proper action against illegal armed people in Parwan where more than 2,000 Afghan forces are stationed who have not arrested even 10 illegal armed men so far.

"People do not feel safe in Parwan where criminals enjoy impunity on the back of strongmen," he said.

Parwan governor Fazluddin Ayyar, who took charge a year ago, said they had inherited some security challenges from the past in the province.

However, he said he had ordered security forces to act according to the law against illegal armed individuals and extortionists.

Without giving details, he said dozens of extortionists and armed robbers had been arrested in the province and some others being chased.

About alleged support of government officials with illegal armed men, the governor said:

"If illegal armed individuals and strongmen had no support, they would not have been able to commit such acts, we wish Parwan leaders get united against criminals."

Parwan police chief Mohammad Mahfoz Walizada said 30 illegal armed men, 18 robbers and 20 drug smugglers were arrested since he took charge five months back.

He said two kidnappers were also arrested this year and a child who had been abducted was rescued. (Pajhwok)

**(8) 37 Militants...**

vehicle went off and several rebels suffered casualties.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defense, said 37 militants were killed and 15 motorcycles were also destroyed in the bombing.

There has been so far no word from Taliban in this regard. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Illegal Armed...**

by Afghan forces since Friday afternoon and refuses to surrender, he added.

Asir said that Afghan forces did not use force against the illegal commander in order to avoid any damage or casualties inside the hospital.

"We are professionally dealing with this issue and trying to avoid casualties," he said.

He added that an emergency meeting was held this morning to reach a final decision about the issue.

Nawid aka Nawidak is a resident of Khanabad district of Kunduz province. He has the support of hundreds of illegal armed men. He was active in Khanabad and some districts of Takhar province.

Matinak, another illegal commander who had illegal activities in Khanabad district was previously arrested by Afghan forces and imprisoned. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Lawmakers Claim...**

claimed his arrest and stressed over his detention.

"Niyazi knocked every door and demanded money from Wolesi Jirga candidates to ensure their success now his friends had been striving to release him," he said. Mangal claimed he had enough evidence to prove that Niyazi took money from some candidates including some from Khost to support them with fraud votes.

Saleh Mohammad Saleh, a lawmaker from Kunar province, acknowledged that Niyazi had been arrested by the NDS personnel.

He said individuals who offered bribe to Niyazi for election rigging should be identified and punished.

He termed the Wolesi Jirga election full of fraud and asked the IEC to separate transparent votes from fraudulent votes.

Amir Khan Yar, second deputy speaker, termed the arrest of Niyazi a positive move in fight against corruption and asked the NDS to ignore all type of pressures and not let Niyazi to be released.

Zabihullah Sadaat, deputy IEC spokesman, said he was unaware of Niyazi's arrest and added the commission would declare its position till the end of the day in this regard. A reliable source in the NDS also declined to confirm Niyazi's arrest and added the organisation would release a press statement if any arrest had been made. (Pajhwok)