

### (1) Ghani Vows Not...

is not our culture and the Afghan women have never been excluded from decision making.

Currently six women served as Afghanistan ambassadors in foreign countries, the president mentioned, urging the female lawmakers to cooperate with the government in increasing women's role in various sectors.

The meeting comes days after the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament granted the trust vote to eleven Cabinet nominees, but rejected the only female candidate, Nargis Nehan.

The move to deny the trust vote to Nehan, President Ghani's choice for the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, angered civil society activists and some lawmakers.

The disappointed activists and lawmakers have demanded of the president to introduce female nominees for the remaining four Cabinet portfolios currently being run by acting ministers.

At Thursday evening's meeting with women lawmakers, the president said: "I assure you women's role and participation will increase day by day and the unity government has a clear cut stand in this regard."

"I assure you as long as I am in office, I will not allow any compromise on women's rights," Ghani said.

Referring to the land-grabbing issues, the president said those involved in the crime would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

"There will be reforms in all sectors, a small minority cannot block reforms," he said, but did not explain who was the small minority.

"We have good and friendly relations with all our neighboring and we are in talks one neighbor," the president said, in a relieved reference to Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Women Empowerment: ...

learn more about the problems faced in Indonesia," she pointed out.

"Not all conflict can be solved by men, but some conflicts can be overcome by women too," remarked Yohana Yembise, who added they were mapping out the needs of Afghanistan's women.

She said Afghanistan was studying various matters concerning Indonesia, especially Indonesian government's policy on women's empowerment.

"We are mapping the wishes of Afghanistan," she said, on the sidelines of her activities to accompany Rula Ghani.

According to Yembise, Afghanistan was interested in the Indonesian nation's ideology of Pancasila and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika or unity in diversity, as the slogan of the Indonesian nation, which trigger harmony in Indonesia.

The country was also interested in exchanging experiences with Indonesia on women's empowerment.

For the short-term program in 2018, Yembise noted that Indonesia will invite five representatives from Afghanistan to learn about women's empowerment in Indonesia. (Pajhwok)

### (3) US Calls for ...

United States effort to defeat ISIS (Daesh) globally, as well as our other counterterrorism efforts."

He also said that earlier Wednesday morning they had a productive discussion with Georgian Foreign Minister Janelidze. Georgia is a large contributor to our joint efforts in Afghanistan.

"In fact, they are the largest per capita of any contributing nation, and we strongly support Georgia's aspirations to become a NATO member," he said.

In the meantime, the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said that the partnership between the alliance and Afghanistan is very strong and that the NATO forces are working shoulder to shoulder with the Afghan security forces for peace in the country.

"We will review the security situation and the country's ongoing reforms which are bringing it closer to NATO. Our partnership is outstanding, our forces serve side by side in Afghanistan," said Stoltenberg. The US ambassador to NATO has said that Pakistan must give assurance to the US that it is not cooperating and providing financial assistance to the Taliban and the Haqqani network.

"I think it is very important that Pakistan hear the message from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who is there today, and from all of us in the administration that we need Pakistan's cooperation. And we can do so much more as a partner with Pakistan if they will assure that they are not giving aid and financial help to the Haqqani or the Taliban network or any other terrorist network," said US ambassador to NATO Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Diplomatic pressure on Pakistan has increased following US president Donald Trump's new war strategy involving Afghanistan and South Asia. (Tolonews)

### (4) US Forces in ...

"We're all in a 'one-hour notice to move' status right now," a military official said as quoted by the Military Times on condition of anonymity.

"Notice to Move is the third-rate QRF [Quick Reaction Force] they run here with

the Theater Reserve Force. We are supposedly able to move anywhere in Afghanistan or CENTCOM [US Central Command] if necessary, wherever air can take us," the soldier said.

This comes after Trump announced that he officially recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Trump described the decision as "a long overdue step" to advance the Middle East peace process.

The US leader said his country would support a two-state solution if approved by both the Israelis and the Palestinians.

"Israel is a sovereign nation with the right, like every other sovereign nation, to determine its own capital," Trump said.

Ahead of the decision, a spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas warned it will have "dangerous consequences" for the region.

President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, said this week that Jerusalem is the red line for Muslims. (Tolonews)

### (5) Joint Action Against ...

demand for joint military operations. However, Pakistan signaled its willingness to crack down on all militant outfits based on actionable intelligence from the US.

"Any foreign action on Pakistani soil is not acceptable," Mattis was told.

The defense secretary met Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Kabul-Tashkent ....

to undermine Afghanistan's trade and transit sectors because of Afghanistan's dependence on Pakistan's Karachi port.

However, with the expansion of Afghanistan's relations with the central Asian countries, it appears that Afghanistan's dependency on Pakistani is decreasing and the country is now able to conduct economic relations with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

"The important thing for us is to transport our goods via roads, railway and air and use those goods trucks of third countries because Afghanistan has not its own railway trucks. The transit routes will help Afghanistan transport its goods through railways, saving money and time," said Musafir Qoqandi, spokesman for the MoCI.

According to Afghan officials, the volume of exports and imports between Afghanistan and China have increased and the new transit agreement with Uzbekistan will further boost it.

"The transit of goods via Pakistan was taking much time due to long distances. We are also facing problems at the Karachi port whenever there was political rift with Pakistan, because the political issues were also stopping the movement of our goods and we were suffering major financial losses," said ACCI spokesman Seyam Pesarlai.

"Taking the advantage of the transit corridor with Uzbekistan depends on the economic activities of various sectors in Afghanistan. One of the key elements of this is that the Afghan government have to adopt policies that could help increase the level of production," said Shabir Bashiri, chairman of the industrialist's high council Uzbekistan is also willing to connect itself with Iran through Afghanistan's transit corridor with the help of Herat-Mazar-e-Sharif railway line. (Tolonews)

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### (7) Afghan, US ...

and Jawzjan provinces from air and these hideouts will soon be targeted from air and ground.

Afghan Interior Ministry meanwhile said in these operations, the Afghan and US soldiers will eliminate Daesh operatives in the two provinces.

"Planning, investigative and intelligence process have been finalized in this respect," a spokesman for Interior Ministry Nusrat Rahimi said.

Although before this government officials rejected existence of Daesh in Faryab, but recent reports indicate that Qari Hekmatullah, a commander of a group of 145 armed men, carry out activities in support of Daesh group in Jawzjan's Qush Tepa district which borders with Faryab's Bulcharagh district.

"Foreign Taliban fighters, opposition groups to Uzbekistan and other counties who fight in Afghanistan, all exist here," Faryab Governor Mohammad Humayun Fawzi said.

Meanwhile, ANA Special Forces said they have launched special operations in Faryab.

"In a special night raid that we had in parts of Ghormach district, we killed four insurgents and wounded six others. Our operations are ongoing in north and north-east," Jawed Salim, spokesman of the ANA Special Forces said. (Tolonews)

### (8) Above 1000-Strong ...

addition to new Afghan Air Force capabilities would provide the regionally-aligned brigades of special operators with significant operational reach to pursue adversaries over Afghanistan's rugged terrain in all weather conditions."

The first commando mobile Strike Kandak would be ready in late spring of 2018 to go into action against the Taliban, ahead of the start to when fighting has traditionally in-

creased as winter recedes.

The impact of security sector reforms was more and more obvious on the battlefield, and the Commandos, along with the specialized counter-terrorism police units and the Air Force's Special Mission Wing, were an important component of the Afghan 2020 Roadmap.

"The Roadmap is President Ghani's vision and plan to build increasingly effective, affordable and sustainable Afghan security forces, an important element of which included doubling the size of the ASSF." (Pajhwok)

### (9) Interior Minister ...

their safety and the protection of their rights, in particular the recruitment and training of female police officers, the creation of a police town for women, the establishment of family response units of women police councils," he said.

The Resolute Support's Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan, Cornelius Zimmermann, meanwhile praised women's role in police and called for increasing their role in the Afghan police lines.

"Women had no easy time that they had to overcome resistance of their own families and that at times they even suffered from discrimination by their male colleagues... This group of female police officers stands for the resilience of the Afghan women who in spite of all obstacles have made it and who are actively promoting the case of women in this country and we need such credible personalities in this country if we want to drive Afghanistan forward," he said.

Why women have lesser role in Ministry of Interior and what are the programs of the new interior minister for boosting women's role in Afghan police were the questions raised at a ceremony in Canada Embassy in Kabul on Thursday.

Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak said improving women's role in police is his top priority.

"We want to have a meaningful participation. It means that women should have first, in terms of their roles, what roles they will play, what positions they will hold in the future. Everything should be meaningful no symbolic," Barmak said.

Ministry of Interior's information shows that at least 3,000 women are serving in the lines of police. This number forms at least two percent of Afghanistan's police.

The interior minister said they are planning to double the number within a short time. (Tolonews)

### (10) Govt., Taliban ...

of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by the US and shifting of the US embassy to Jerusalem," the Presidential Palace said.

The Presidential Palace warned any unilateral move on the disputed city without participation of Palestine and a separate state solution would not yield a positive outcome.

According to the statement, the national unity government and the Afghans stood together with other Muslims around the globe in seeking to ensure the right of Palestine to having a sovereign state.

Al-Aqsa Mosque as the first kibliah of Muslims holds significance for other religions as well and its location should be established based on international laws, UN resolutions and the demand of millions of Muslims.

"Fortunately, there is global consensus that there can be no unilateral decision on Jerusalem," the statement said, adding the Afghan government continued to support the peace process in Palestine.

Chief Executive Chief (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah told a press conference here: "I and the president shared our concern through diplomatic channels and declared our clear stance after knowing about the US decision, we cannot agree with such decisions."

"The issue of Jerusalem relates to world peace, an international decision, particularly the decision of the UN is in place," he said.

Former president Hamid Karzai also condemned the US decision on Jerusalem and called it against UN conventions.

"It would definitely provoke emotions of the Muslim world, it would not help the Middle East peace process and instead create further security problems in the region," he said in a statement.

Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayyaf, head of Hezbi-Dawat Islami, told a press conference in Kabul: "The latest decision of the US is a major and irreparable mistake, the US should not make such a decision."

The veteran former jihadi leader said even the people of US were unsatisfied with Trump decision and the US government should rethink about it.

"The US government can cancel the decision and take a new stance considering the unwanted consequences of the decision," he said.

Najibullah Kabuli, head of Hezbi-Musharikat Milli, also condemned the US president's decision and asked the people and the government of the US to rethink over the decision.

Taliban militants under leadership of Mullah Haibatullah and a splinter group led by Mullah Rassoul also denounced the US decision in separate statements. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Trump's Jerusalem ...

"The issue of Jerusalem's status is complicated and sensitive. All sides should focus on regional peace and tranquility, act with caution, and avoid sabotaging the foundation for the settlement of Palestinian issues and triggering new confrontation in the region."

"China always firmly supports and promotes the Middle East peace process, as well as the Palestinian people's just cause to regain their legitimate national rights. We support an independent state of Palestine based on the boundary in 1967 with the capital of East Jerusalem that enjoys the full sovereignty."

"We call on all sides concerned to stay committed to solve the dispute through negotiation according to relevant UN resolutions and promote regional peace and stability," the Chinese official said as reported by the Associated Press.

Theresa May, British Prime Minister, May stopped short of condemning the move as requested by Labor Member of Parliament, Ben Bradshaw, but added that the position of the British government on Jerusalem had not changed.

"Well, I say to the right honorable gentleman that I am intending to speak to President Trump about this about this matter... We recognize the importance of Jerusalem and our position on that has not changed," she said.

Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman of the General Authority for Tourism and National Heritage in Saudi Arabia, said Saudi Arabia's policy regarding the Palestinians will never change.

"The message is clear, and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz has taken a clear stand during his telephone conversation with President Trump. Saudi Arabia's policy regarding the Palestinians will never change we have a clear policy and the Palestinian issue is the main case for us," he said.

King Abdullah II, King of Jordan, said there is no alternative to the two-state solution and Jerusalem adding that it is key to any peace agreement.

"Ignoring the Palestinian, Muslim and Christian rights in Jerusalem will only fuel further extremism and undermine the war against terrorism," he said.

Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, said the issue of Jerusalem must be resolved through direct negotiations between the two parties.

"From day one as Secretary-General of the United Nations I have consistently spoken out against any unilateral measures that would jeopardize the prospect of peace for Israelis and Palestinians."

"Jerusalem is a final status issue that must be resolved through direct negotiations between the two parties on the basis of the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, taking into account the legitimate concerns of both the Palestinian and Israeli sides," he said.

Ismail Radwan, a Hamas official, said they rejected the decision, calling it an act of aggression against Palestinians.

"We reject this decision which is an aggression displayed toward the people, the nation, the cause and the principles. It's also a dangerous shift in the conflict with the Zionist occupation," the Hamas official said. French President Emmanuel Macron said the status of Jerusalem is a question of international security.

"I made our position very clear to President Trump during our exchange two days ago. The status of Jerusalem is a question of international security which concerns all of the international community. I declare clearly in front of you that the status of Jerusalem shall be determined by the Israelis and the Palestinians in the framework of the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations," he said.

Julie Bishop, the Australian Foreign Minister, said her government is committed to a two-state solution.

"The Australian government is committed to a two-state solution whereby the Israeli people and the Palestinian people can live in peace, side by side within internationally recognized boundaries and that remains our foreign policy objective in relation to the issues in Israel with the Israeli state and the Palestinian authority," she said.

Trump has recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital while paying little recognition to the Palestinian claim to the eastern part of the city. (Tolonews)

### (12) Country to Face ...

elections need an impartial monitoring. Those who administer the election process should be neutral and conduct the polls in a transparent manner," he said.

He added: "We don't want the militants to surrender like prisoners, the government and the nation should offer them an honest and respectable way to reconcile and renounce violence."

Regarding land-grabbing, Sayyaf said if one meter of land was found grabbed by his party, he was ready to take responsibility for that. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Pakistan Ambassador ...

has been cautioning for a long time that the unguarded spaces in Afghanistan will act as a magnet for the militants of the world," Chaudhry said. "I think the situation in Af-

ghanistan is deteriorating."

FILE - Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, speaks at an event in Washington, July 26, 2017. FILE - Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, speaks at an event in Washington, July 26, 2017.

He repeated Pakistan's claims that it is not harboring any terror groups despite President Donald Trump's insistence, as part of his new strategy for the region, that Islamabad must do more to crack down on extremists.

"In Pakistan itself, there is no organized presence of ISIS," Chaudhry said, criticizing Afghanistan's claims that Islamic State fighters are filtering in from Pakistan. "Don't create distractions by saying they come from Pakistan. We can never tolerate the presence of Daesh [ISIS] in Pakistan." (VoA)

### (14) Nearly 50,000 ...

in August.

He said in the last four months more than 482,104 Afghan migrants had been registered - 196,000 men, 170,000 women and around 116,000 children.

He added the process was being conducted by 21 registration centres across the country. About 1,900,000 Afghans were based in Pakistan, 700,000 of them without documents.

Shams said the Pakistan government, together with Afghan authorities, has launched the six-month registration process, which would be completed in 2018.

Twenty-seven Afghan government officials were dispatched to Pakistan in August to monitor the registration process. Shams said they worked in close coordination with the Ministry of Tribal and Border Affairs, NADRA and the Afghan Commissionerate.

He said currently about 10, 20,000 Afghan migrants living in Pakistan with legal documents. According to UNHCR, 52,000 registered and 93,000 unregistered Afghans have returned to their homeland this year. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Most Journalists ...

Nangarhar provinces, he said.

He added fearing further problems in the aftermath of investigation forced journalists into refusing investigation of incidents of violence they were subjected to.

Khelwatgar, however, said it was their responsibility to investigate every incident of violence against journalists.

He asked the government not to put in danger the families of female journalists while investigating incidents of violence against them. (Pajhwok)

### (16) 635 Unregistered ...

in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital.

The official said with registration of the 30 seminars, the number of documented religious schools in Balkh reached 65.

Amaruddin said 635 seminars were operating in Balkh without registration

Balkh Hajj and Islamic Affairs director Mohammad Danisho said they had started the process of registering seminars two years ago. (Pajhwok)

### (17) New Medical

of cancer and kidney diseases would be offered.

Karimi said high qualification courses for nurses, midwives and specialization for doctors were part of the five year plan.

High Peace Council chief Mohammad Karim Khalili, who attended the medical complex inauguration, said Afghanistan had achieved considerable progress in various fields, including the health, during the past one and a half decade.

"But problems and weaknesses remain," the top peace negotiator said, calling the medical complex a giant leap towards meeting the countrymen's needs.

Khalili urged the private sector to come forward and invest in the health sector in order to prevent the Afghans from spending about \$300 million on their treatment abroad.

He also asked the government and security organs to provide every possible facility to investors in order they could do business fearlessly. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Special Offices...

security forces has increased and currently at least 50 women serve in uniform.

Shakiba, who leads the policewomen section at Nimroz police headquarters, said, "We thank UNDP for helping female police officers in different areas in the past two years, now the program has provided us assistance for construction of these offices."

She said each building would contain three rooms, a bathroom, toilet and other necessary facilities. (Pajhwok)

### (19) 300 Daesh--...

and could easily target the district centre. Mohammad Salim (not a real name), a resident of Sar Dara village, said Daesh raised Salafi and Hanafi issues among the people and had asked scholars to support the group.

Daesh were against followers of the Hanafi school of thought and killed them if they violated the group's orders, he alleged. (Pajhwok)