

(1) Peace Process...

the achievements of the Afghan people means strengthening peace and stability. And ignoring the Afghan people achievements means continued instability," Abdullah added. Faiz Mohammad Osmani, Minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs, talking at the same event said the ministry has assessed the causes of violence against women and so far, has identified over 12 factors that subject women and girls to violence. "Deprivation from heritage is one type of violence, deprivation from proper alimony is another type of violence and forced marriage is another," said Osmani. "Both women and men should behave well," CEO second deputy head Mohammad Mohaqiq said. The CEO said some progress has been made in fighting violence against women, however, emphasized that more effort is needed. The 16-days campaign for saying no to violence against women is held annually in many countries to lower the volume of violence against women. (Pajhwok)

(2) UN Renewals...

said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. In a statement, the mission said the United Nations remains steadfast in working closely with all Afghan institutions in overcoming the remaining challenges, including a justice system that is able to fully implement the progress the country has made in legislative reform and in constitutional provisions guaranteeing women's rights and the elimination of violence against women. "Combating impunity and redress for victims of human rights abuses must be prioritized, as accountability for human rights abuses establishes necessary foundations for a just society," said Yamamoto, who is also head of UNAMA. "Protecting human rights relies on implementing laws so the most vulnerable are genuinely shielded from abuse."

The United Nations, noting that peace, reconciliation, truth-seeking, accountability and justice are key to Afghanistan's future, encourages the fulfilment of Afghanistan's broad-ranging commitments and pledges to continue to promote human rights and reinforce its national protection system, and will continue to seek assurances that all parties to the conflict respect and work with human rights defenders. "Human rights is at the heart of the work of the United Nations and is core to its activities in Afghanistan where we are privileged to work in support of the Afghan people," said Yamamoto. "The values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are especially important to protect in the context of any future peace negotiations; any setbacks in human rights are simply unacceptable and can compromise the sustainability of peace processes."

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(3) Iran's...

enemy, India, and India has been trying to corral Pakistan with hostile forces on its northern and southern borders. Hallinan added, 'Support for the Taliban has always been the Pakistan military's cat paw against India and they will not give that up unless they feel secure. That is why the role of Iran, China, Russia and Pakistan is so important. This has to be a regional peace, and only those countries can deliver it.'

Answering a question about US direct military presence in and any probable exit strategy from Afghanistan under Trump, he said, 'If they do have one, they are keeping it a secret. Keep in mind that the US originally went into Afghanistan because they knew they couldn't get away with invading Iraq. Afghanistan was always a stepping-stone to the real target, Iraq, so they were not thinking strategically even at the beginning.'

He said, 'The US even knew that the Taliban was discussing getting rid of Osama bin Ladin. This is not to say

that Washington didn't have interests in Afghanistan. It put military forces on the border of Iran, China and Russia, and the Pentagon sees that as a plus. But the US never really put the forces or efforts to transform Afghanistan, although it is not clear it could be done in any case.' 'Now they are flailing around. The Pentagon wants out, but doesn't want to just pull up stakes because they think the Afghan government might collapse. They tried to hand it off to the CIA, but there is no way the CIA is going to put this anvil around their necks. Afghanistan is not just the graveyard of empires, but the graveyard of reputations, and the CIA likes to keep its reputation intact. So the U.S. is pulling out its forward bases and concentrating on defending urban areas, essentially giving the countryside over to the Taliban. US air power keeps the Taliban from any major victories, but also enrages the local people caught up in these bombings. Essentially the U.S. has painted itself into a corner.' About the fact that Lt. Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, the incoming head of US Central Command, has told the lawmakers that he has no idea when US troops may fully withdraw from Afghanistan, Hallinan said, 'I think the American public is sick and tired of the war, and most don't even pay attention to it. Polls show that a substantial number of Americans don't know we are still fighting in Afghanistan.'

'As for national security: Afghanistan never posed a national security threat to the US. Osama bin Ladin was not an Afghani and most the 9/11 attackers were Saudi Arabians, the fountainhead of religious extremism in the world. The Taliban were always a local, and have never had a global outlook. Back in 2007 the Taliban pledged that they would have nothing to do with "outside" ideology and had no plans to attack the US or its allies. They just wanted the US and NATO out, he added. (IRNA)

(4) US, Uzbekistan...

sides noted with satisfaction the dynamic development of bilateral relations, the new rate of which was set during the visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the United States and his negotiations with President Donald Trump in May 2018, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Violence...

Wardak said as part of the 16-day campaign in Kabul and provinces, her ministry organized different awareness related events on women rights and their responsibilities. Asadullah Mohaqiq, a senior official of the Ministry of Education, said public awareness events were organized in six Kabul schools during the campaign period. He said women's and girls' harassment happened in all government institutions including the MoE, stressing a strong campaign in this regard. Farzana Akbari, head of the Gender Department at the Ministry of Public Health, citing a survey, said 80 percent of women inside their family environment were tortured and 70 percent men believed they had right to beat their women. She said the MoPH provided facilities to hundreds of women and girls who had been sexually exploited. Akbari said the MoPH also organized different awareness events regarding women's rights in Kabul and provinces.

Mohammad Qais, head of the Interior Ministry's Detective Department, said violence against women remained a huge challenge, which needed a strong and effective campaign to be addressed. "Efforts are being made to help the victims feel secure right at the time of reporting to police," he said. He said the Ministry of Interior conducted programs and seminars regarding violence against women during the 16-day campaign. (Pajhwok)

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(6) 3-Way Drug...

Planning Cell, According to Radio Pakistan, the three sides have also agreed to establish Border Liaison Offices to effectively counter the trafficking of Afghan opiates. (Pajhwok)

(7) Govt Announces...

the working committees of the peace process. If necessary, it should suggest an agenda and effective framework for

negotiations to the negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

- To monitor the implementation of the peace process.
- Meetings of the advisory board shall be attended by the leaders of national unity government, heads of both houses of parliament, the chief justice, national security advisor, president's chief of staff, the attorney general of Afghanistan, chairman National Directorate of Security (NDS), state minister for parliamentary affairs, chairman Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), head of Afghanistan Ulema Council and head of the secretariat of the High Peace Council (HPC).
- Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is tasked to take the responsibility for convening the meetings in coordination with members of the peace advisory board.
- Meetings of the supreme peace advisory board will be held on a monthly basis, but if necessary, emergency meetings will be called. Structure:

The cooperative structures of the advisory board as set out in paragraphs A to C of the decree, are as follows:

A: The peace negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

- The peace negotiating team consists of top and technical staff of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The peace negotiating team will be headed by the president's chief of staff.
- The peace negotiating team shall undertake the following tasks:
 - To take forward the peace process with the opponent's side on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in light of national interests of the country and according to the guidance of the supreme peace advisory board.
 - To report regularly about the progress on peace to the supreme peace advisory board, if necessary, ask for guidance from the advisory board.

President's chief of staff will have the responsibility of the secretariat of the peace negotiating team and its technical responsibility.

B: Working committees of the supreme peace advisory board of the peace process:

In order to collect views of the people and provide more awareness, the supreme peace advisory board will be supported by the following committees, consisting of representatives of various segments of society.

In order to better understand and collect the views of the people, the Supreme Advisory Panel on the Peace Process will be co-sponsored by the following committees, composed of representatives of various sections of the community:

- Committee of representatives of the political parties
- Committee of representatives of the Ulema and clerics
- Elite Women's Committee
- Committee of tribal elders and representatives of the tribes
- Committee of civil society and culture activists
- Committee of representatives of the private sector
- Committee of representatives of refugees and overseas Afghans
- Committee of representatives of the youth
- Committee of representatives of families of war victims

The list of members of the upper committees will be finalized after consultation with elites from various segments of society. The main tasks of the working committee will be the following:

- To gather public views about the peace process.
- To assess the views of the people and report back to the supreme peace advisory board.
- To provide information to the people about progress of the peace process.
- Each working committee will have one coordinator who will take responsibility for convening the meetings, preparing the agenda, guidelines and drafts.
- Meetings of the working committees will be called on a monthly basis, if necessary, the meetings will be convened on an emergency basis.

C: Secretariat of the supreme peace advisory board: The National Security Council will have technical responsibility for the secretariat in order to bring about more coordination and readiness for conducting meetings of the supreme

peace advisory board.

The list of members of the supreme peace advisory board will be the following:

From government:

- President Ashraf Ghani
- First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum
- Second Vice President Sarwar Danish
- Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah
- First Deputy Chief Executive Engineer Mohammad Khan
- Second Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Mohaqiq
- Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim
- Meshrano Jirga, the Upper House of Parliament, Speaker Fazl Hadi Muslimyar
- Chief Justice Abdul Salam Azimi
- National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib
- Head of President's Office Abdul Salam Rahimi
- Attorney General Farid Hamidi
- State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Farooq Wardak
- Head of National Directorate of Security Masoum Stanikzai
- Head of the Ulema Council Qiyamuddin Kashaf
- Head of the Secretariat of the High Peace Council Mohammad Umer Daudzai

Jihadi leaders and politicians:

- Hamid Karzai, former president
- Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, former president of Afghanistan and head of Jabha-e-Nejat Milli party
- Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, head of Tanzim-e-Dawat-e-Islami
- Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hizb-e-Islami
- Mohammad Yunus Qanooni, member of Jamiat-e-Islami leadership
- Sayed Hamid Gailani, head of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan
- Mohammad Karim Khalili, head of Wahdat-e-Islami party and head of the High Peace Council
- Salahuddin Rabbani, Jamiat-e-Islami leader
- Sayed Mansoor Naderi, head of National Solidarity Party
- Sheikh Mohammad Asif Mohseni, head of Harakat-e-Islami party
- Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, head of Hizb-e-Islami
- Haji Din Mohammad, head of Peace and Development party
- Atta Mohammad Noor, member of Jamiat-e-Islami leadership
- Amina Afzali, politician
- Sediqa Balkhi, a senator
- Mohammad Ismail Khan, member of Jamiat-e-Islami leadership
- Amrullah Saleh, head of Afghanistan Green Trend

This comes as those who have been named in the list - from political parties and former Jihadi leaders - so far have not commented that whether they will accept their membership in the advisory board. (Tolon News)

(8) Officials Warn...

moves being made by the group. Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said the Taliban have made their last moves to target Afghan forces and during the winter, the war will ease as the weather gets cold. "We will start winter operations in the next few days which will be implemented in all Afghanistan. The operations plan has been prepared and will start about 10 days later," said Danish.

Reacting to officials' claim over weaponry support to the Taliban, by circles outside Afghanistan, the Taliban has said they seized the weapons from Afghan forces during attacks on security outposts. A spokesman for the Taliban has said they do not receive weapons from outside Afghanistan borders. (Tolo news)

(9) 2 Thousand Kilograms...

the farm a year ago which for the first harvest around two thousand kilograms of dates, producing a revenue of around 65 thousand Afghanis. According to the local officials, around two thousand and seven hundred plants of palm dates consisting seven various types of palm date trees were imported from United Arab Emirates and were planted in the farm.

The officials are also saying that the amount of dates harvest will likely grow in coming years. (KP)

(10) MEC Report Lists...

MEC head Bari Salam, while unveiling the results of the research,

said the MoMP had also made some achievements like hiring of employees through the Independent Civil Services and Administrative Reform Commission (ICSARC), signing some Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with concerned government institutions for greater cooperation.

However, he said the mining ministry still faced many issues such as lack of understanding between the authorities concerned, lack of capacity within the ministry and its provincial branches.

Vulnerabilities and danger of corruption

Bari Salam said weaknesses in the anti-corruption system, poor governance, unsatisfactory connectivity of the ministry with provinces, political influence in decision making and some other areas were vulnerable to corruption in the ministry.

He said the MEC during its report refrained from naming corrupt individuals and only focused on reasons behind the corruption and its vulnerabilities.

Lapses within the contract process and illegal mining

The MEC report says many lapses take place in the process of warding mining contracts and these lapses cause corruption.

Bari Salaam said many procedures of contracts remained unexplained and the required scrutiny did not take place. Before awarding contracts, all necessary documents of the company concerned should be scrutinized carefully, he said.

He said the MEC findings showed the process of contract provision was lengthy and weak and this problem allowed external interferences in the process.

He said event today most of the illegal mining involved powerful individuals, members of Parliament, illegal armed groups and the Taliban on a large scale.

Weak internal audit

The MEC report said internal audit did not happen on a high standard and auditors were badly affected by personal benefits, gifts and other presents offered to them by the institutions being audited.

Salaam said the mining ministry's audit had been weak and not up to standard and the auditors were bribe-fed. He said the ministry has nine auditors and of them two would be retiring. Revenue Collection

The MEC report says local officials and different government institutions without any legal authority were involved in revenue collection of the mining ministry or involved in illegal mining.

"No report about available deposits, their exact rates and average production is available and there is no monitoring of the production, this is why the revenue could not be properly collected," he said.

Low salaries and meddling in hiring process

The MEC report say low salaries of employees force them to misuse their authorities in personal interest. (Pajhwok)

(11) 2 People...

with Iran and Pakistan. Some of Nimroz residents say that insecurity and joblessness in the country were the reasons people are forced to migrate.

Gul Ahmad, a resident of Zaranj city, said that no one would leave the country if the government improve the security situation and provide job opportunities for people. (Pajhwok)

(12) Villages Not...

in some homes there is no television and no one is there to inform them about it. If the next parliament works like the previous one, there will be two bad people if there are 10 good people," said Habib.

Over 700 people cast their votes in the October 20 parliamentary elections, of which, 360 are women. But, the controversy which erupted over the election results has left a bitter experience for the villagers.

"Women waited until 8:00 pm to vote through the biometric system," said Dil Agha Ahmadzai, a village elder. Youth who voted in the elections still remember the election day.

"I worked hard, I voted, I invited my family members and my friends to vote and they voted," said Qayoum, an athlete.

"Most people voted through the biometric system and some not," said Obaidullah, a resident of Kabul. (Tolo news)