



MPs Summon Ministers to Deliver Reports

KABUL - "We want the ministers to deliver their reports on the progress they have made and to explain their plans for next year," Ghafari said.

Members of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Saturday summoned a number of ministers and other senior officials from ministries to report on their work progress.

"We want the ministers to deliver their reports on the progress they have made and to explain their plans for next year," deputy speaker of the Wolesi Jirga Nematullah Ghafari said.

At the session, the finance minister Ekilil Hakimi said some of their achievements this year are an increase in government's revenue, spending of 80 percent of



their budget and others.

"We established a special committee to organize weekly discussions on how to deliver the commitments

we made at the Brussels Summit," he said. Meanwhile, Economy Minister Abdul Sattar Murad, who was also summoned at the

house, stated that they had good progress this year. He said the ministry will continue to eradicate the endemic corruption in the near

future.

"The ministry of economy will be free of corruption next year," he said.

At the same session, Commerce Minister Homayun Rasa said Afghanistan received the membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO) this year.

"Afghanistan got the permanent membership of the WTO in June this year and it was a big achievement," he added.

Meanwhile, deputies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD), also briefed the MPs on behalf of their minister which will recently dismissed by the parliament.

"The ministry [of foreign affairs] ... (More on P4)...(7)

Gen. Rahman Afghanistan Facing 'Undeclared War'

JALALABAD - Deputy Interior Minister Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahman has said Afghanistan has been facing an 'undeclared war' but the Afghan security forces have the ability to combat it. Rahman said this during a change of command ceremony that saw Col. Mohammad Ayub Hussainkhel swearing in as new border police commander in the east.

Deputy interior minister Gen. Abdul Rahman said Hussainkhel's elevation was due to his abilities.

He urged the new border police commander to do his best to strengthen cohesion among the force and resolve their logistics and training related problems.

In his address, the deputy minister said Afghanistan was currently facing an undeclared war, calling



on security forces, particularly the border guards, to maintain effectively security along and control over the border.

Nangarhar governor Mohammad Gulab Mangal said Hussainkhel was a good commander and his appointment was a wise decision of the Interior Ministry. Commander Hussainkhel, ... (More on P4)...(8)

Talks Ongoing Between Ghani, Noor on Coalition

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor has begun talks with President Ashraf Ghani on the Jamiat-i-Islami Party's coalition with the government, a public representative said on Saturday.

The talks by Noor on behalf of the Jamiat party have sparked argument among the party leaders.

Noor had said Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah could not represent the Jamiat party and that was why he had himself started talks with the president.

Meanwhile, some leaders of the party expressed their opposition to Noor's talks with the president and said they had not been consulted on the matter.

Several meetings between Jamiat leaders took place in recent days, with the latest meeting taking place in Ka-



bul where a large number of Jamiat workers were present.

Central leaders of the party, Noor and Abdullah, had also held exclusive meetings about the coalition.

A close aide of Noor and provincial council chief Dr. Mohammad Afzal Hadid said Noor was talking to the president on behalf of the party and the talks would continue for some time.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News during an exclusive

chat that a minor dispute occurred among the party leaders during a meeting at Ahmad Zia Massoud's residence over the ongoing talks. He said the talks were ongoing and no one had opposed the parleys. About any outcome of the talks between the Jamiat and the government, Hadid said any judgment in this regard would be premature. However, he said Atta Mohammad Noor could represent ... (More on P4)...(10)

Mullah Zaeef Says He Has No Personal Enmity

KABUL - Former Taliban envoy to Pakistan Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef on Saturday said he had no personal enmity with anyone, after unknown gunmen fired shots at his Kabul home last night.

Zaeef said he was no one's political rival and it was beyond his understanding why his house was attacked with grenade and gunshots. The former Taliban ambassador was not home when his house was attacked and one of his guards was killed. Pakistan arrested Zaeef in 2001 after the US and NATO forces ousted the Taliban's regime. He was handed over to the US and he spent three years in the infamous Guantanamo Bay detention centre in Cuba.

Zaeef returned to Kabul after his release from Guantanamo prison and later wrote a memoir "Picture of Guantanamo."

Mullah Zaeef told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview on Saturday he was not home at the time of the attack. He was with friends as guest when the attack occurred.

He said no group had claimed responsibility for the attack on his home. He said security forces were quick in reaching the scene and starting their investigation.

"I have no personal enmity or political rivalry with anyone. I cannot say who was behind it," said Zaeef, who revealed he had been threatened over the phone and through letters. But he did not know who these people were?

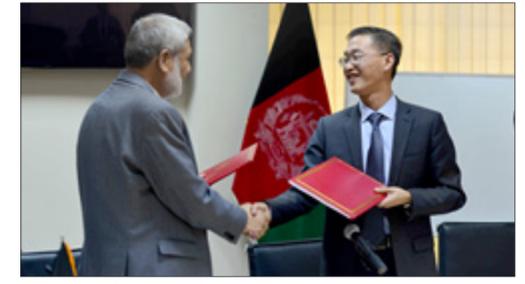
About last night's attack, he said the gunmen were on a motorcycle. They shot dead one of his security guards and lobbed a grenade towards a second guard who was knocked unconscious. Earlier a close friend of Zaeef, Mohammad Hassan Haqyar had said the former diplomat often offered evening and night prayers at a nearby mosque.

He said the gunmen were waiting for Zaeef on the way to mosque. They wanted to kidnap or kill him. "When Zaeef ... (More on P4)...(12)

China Provides Humanitarian Aid to Afghanistan

KABUL - The Chinese government provided non-emergency humanitarian supplies to the Afghan government to assist the vulnerable Afghan families and boost bilateral ties.

"We appreciate China for providing the assistance, and the non-food humanitarian items such as blankets and tents will be distributed to Afghan returnees, war displaced families and natural disaster affected people across the country," said Afghan Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Nasir Ahmad Durrani. At the handover ceremony attended by Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan



Yao Jing, Durrani said that "much of the equipment had been transported by the ministry's personnel to 19 of the country's 34 provinces and the remaining items will be shifted to 15 provinces by the private transport sector."

Yao expressed his sincere wish of lasting peace and prosperity for Afghanistan. "China will continue to be Afghanistan's friend and we will continue to be your partner," Yao said at the same occasion. Durrani ... (More on P4)...(9)

Karzai Voices Concern over Afghanistan's Water Security



KABUL - Former President Hamid Karzai on Saturday said at a New Afghanistan Research and Studies Center (NARSC) conference in Kabul that a large amount of water goes to Iran and Pakistan and that those countries should respect Afghanistan's water rights. "The water that is for our neighbors is being given to them. If we have more water, we will give a part of it to our neighbors," he said. Karzai said he is worried about water security in future especially in light of climate change.

"We use a huge amount of underground water. In every house there is a deep well. For instance, in the past there was plenty of water in the Chaman-e-Babrak settlement in Kabul. But now that water level has dropped to only about 40 or 50 meters," Karzai added.

Some parliament members (MPs) however said water

resources are also being polluted because townships built during Karzai's tenure did not include sewer systems for waste water.

"Karzai should have paid attention to the issue during his own presidency. He should have planned in this regard during his 12 years in office," said Nasrullah Sadiqi Zada Nili, an MP.

According to data provided by NASRC, Afghanistan only uses 30 percent of its total annual natural water. "Iran does not give us money (for our water). Our water goes to Pakistan without receiving even one Afghani. But Pakistan everyday exports around six to eight thousand Afghan refugees," said Abdullah Hewad, founder of the NARSC.

Afghanistan has for years been plagued with problems regarding its water going to Iran and Pakistan. Only one agreement has to date been signed with Iran in this respect. (Tolonews)

Investigation Details Islamic State Destruction in Nangarhar

KABUL - Afghan investigators say Islamic State (IS) fighters destroyed more than 200 houses, mostly burning them down, after seizing the Pachir Agam district of Nangarhar province for almost 45 days.

According to a government fact-finding commission, more than 4,000 families fled during that period.

Nangarhar provincial spokesperson Attaullah Khogyani told Voice of America that investigations show IS militants stole supplies from medical clinics in the area.

"During the fighting, IS armed men destroyed 230 residential houses, two mosques, one ten bedded hospital, and three schools," said Khogyani. "More than 200 acres of fertile land were destroyed and about 5,000 livestock were killed." Residents in the district say militants stole all their belongings, including clothes.

"Nothing is left, militants stripped off our beds, took our dishes, and livestock," said Jaan Mohammad. He said IS fighters looted the local department stores in the area as well. IS militants attacked the Pachir Agam district almost two months ago, taking more than 70 local men as captives, authorities said. Residents say IS fighters are thought to be still holding 63 captives. (VoA)

3 Taliban Prisoners Flee Police Custody in Faryab

MAIMANA - Three teenage Taliban prisoners escaped from the jail on Saturday and joined the Taliban ranks in north-western Faryab province, an official said.

Deputy Police Chief Col. Mir Amanullah Zafir told Pajhwok Afghan News two were detained over alleged landmine plantation and another was caught in molestation case.

"The three were kept in Children Reform and Raising Centre, a place where prisoners under 18-year of the age are kept. They managed to escape from the facility in the early morning," he said.

Meanwhile, a Taliban commander during a telephonic conversation told Pajhwok Afghan News Mohammad Fahim, and Qari Sebgatullah, who escaped from police custody, joined Taliban.

He claimed giving \$5,000 to officials of the Children Reform and Raising Centre to help the escape of the two teenage Taliban. Separately, a woman has been ... (More on P4)...(11)

First Afghan Female Pilot 'Not Ready to Return Home'

KABUL - Rahmani said she does not feel comfortable or secure working in Afghanistan and her male colleagues treat her badly and insult her.

Nilofar Rahmani, an Afghan pilot who won an international bravery award for women in 2015, and went to the United States for training has said she is not ready to return home.

According to the New York Times she said due to the deterioration of the security situation in Afghanistan she is not willing to return home and work as a pilot. "The situation is not improving in Afghanistan but is getting worse," Rahmani said.

According to U.S media reports Rahmani applied this summer for asylum.

Rahmani said she does not feel comfortable or secure working in Afghanistan and her male colleagues treat her badly and insult her. Rahmani was supposed

to return home after 15 months of training last week but she has said to her trainers she still wants to be a pilot but not for Afghanistan and instead wants to fly for the U.S air force.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan Air Force members have complained about their salaries and working conditions and have called on the president to address their issues.

In 2015 when Rahmani was in Afghanistan, she said pilots and other air force personnel were fed up with the poor conditions they were expected to accept. The pilots claim their salaries are only 20,000 Afs a month, which does not go far, as they still have to pay for their own accommodation.

They have also complained about the unappetizing food they get. One pilot said that in Helmand, they are given a piece of bread, cold fries and burned meat for lunch. (Tolonews)