

(1) MPs Warn...

saying the current acting ministers and acting heads are not properly addressing people's issues.

"Afghanistan is in critical situation. The government needs to put an end on dispute on power sharing," Kabul resident Muhammad Ibrahim said.

But according to MPs who recently met with President Ashraf Ghani, the government intends to introduce the cabinet nominees during next 10 days. (Tolnews)

(2) Abdullah and ...

leaders of the Government of National Unity are busy to share power but the country is facing security and economic challenges as the new cabinet has not been formed and the national budget has not been approved.

An activist of the Social Justice Movement Ahmad Zaki called on the unity government to take immediate steps and reach to an agreement for the introduction of the new cabinet.

Zaki warned of a crisis if the cabinet was not immediately formed and insisted that the Afghan people are confused with the ongoing situation as the key ministries, specifically the security ministries, do not have ministers. (KP)

(3) Journalists in...

Shah Hamdard, the president of journalists' organization in the east, told participants that a journalist lived under constant threat. The gathering was aimed at formulating a strategy on how journalists could ensure their safety and report an event impartially.

"Journalists are living under the shadow of death round the clock," he reiterated, urging the warring parties to allow reporters to discharge their duty honestly and objectively. Babrak Miakhel, the journalism department head at the Nangarhar University, acknowledged journalists were faced with serious challenges in the east. He asked the journalists to adopt measures to ensure their security. (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghan War...

is stable and secure and is never again used to launch attacks against America," Obama assured.

Praising the sacrifices made by the American Soldiers, Obama urged all Americans to "give thanks to all our men and women in uniform" who make the "blessing in our own lives" possible.

But a senior U.S. senator, who is in Kabul on Christmas Day, has warned of deteriorated security situation as the Taliban have increased their attacks with the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan.

The republican senator met with Afghan president Ashraf Ghani and the chief executive Abdullah Abdullah in separate meetings.

The vast majority of American and NATO combat troops will withdraw from Afghanistan on Dec. 31, leaving the security responsibilities of the entire country on Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). (Tolnews)

(5) 150 Taliban ...

police chief, Abdul Hasib Syedkheli, said most of the insurgents were LeT fighters and Pakistani nationals. "The insurgents that were killed so far were identified as Pakistani nationals with most of them members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Al-Badr and other terrorists," Syedkheli added.

The sources said the mountainous areas and the forests

in Dangam have been making troubles for the security forces to conduct the operations more successfully.

Earlier this week, the ANA commanders demanded air support from International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to help in fighting insurgents in the mountainous areas. (Tolnews)

(6) US Chided...

Ali Gul, Abdul Ghani and Mohammad Zahir -- to the Afghan government.

Currently 132 more terror suspects, including eight Afghans, are held in the detention facility in Cuba.

Another TJCG member, Ahmad Shah Stanikzai, criticized the delay in formation of the cabinet and called it a reason behind the deteriorating security situation. "The cabinet should be formed without further delay so that people's concerns are diminished."

After being sworn in on Sept 29, President Ashraf Ghani promised he would introduce his council of ministers in 45 days, a deadline that already passed.

Presidential spokesperson Nazifullah Salarzai had said the cabinet picks would be introduced next week.

Worried by the unprecedented rise in civilian casualties this year, the TJCG asked the US to consider allegations of civilian deaths against its troops. The UN last weekend released a report showing a 20 percent increase in civilian casualties in Afghanistan in 2014. The report put death toll at 3,188, with another 6,429 civilians sustaining injuries since the start of the year. The civil society coalition issued a resolution urging the government not to hire people accused of human rights abuses and war crimes in its agencies. (Pajhwok)

(7) Illegal Refug...

killed almost 150 people, had awakened the entire nation and stirred the conscience of the world community to understand the real problem of Pakistan.

He viewed the presence of millions of Afghan refugees as the main reason for persistent occurrences of terrorism, unrest and crimes. They had also increased pressure on Pakistan's economy and resources, he reasoned.

The KP government, both at provincial and central level, would take steps to immediately expel all illegal refugees. However, he explained a procedure would be evolved for honourable repatriation of legal refugees.

On Monday, a UN official indicated Pakistan could take any decision on dealing with undocumented refugees. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative Yoshimi Saits said they were responsible only for registered Afghans with Proof of Registration (PoR) cards.

About .6 million Afghans are currently living legally and one million without proper documents in Pakistan. One million refugees live in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). (Pajhwok)

(8) Abdullah Vows...

At least 29 journalists have been killed over the past two decades, but the people behind their murder continue to enjoy impunity. Seventeen more media professionals lost their lives to blasts and fighting.

Abdullah remarked violence of any kind against journalists and media activists was intolerable for government, which would deal with the perpetrators in a harsh manner. He also stressed respect for women journalists. (Pajhwok)

(9) Tribal Elders ...

children below five years of age had not been vaccinated against polio following the threats of Taliban insurgents in several districts.

Besides in Helmand, latest reports suggest the Taliban militants have also prevented polio vaccinations in different districts of eastern Nangarhar.

However, the acting MoPH minister said that efforts were underway to resume the anti-polio drive with the mediation of tribal elders.

Ahmad Jan Naem added most of the polio cases were found among the families recently repatriated from Pakistan.

"26 fresh cases have been registered, of which, 23 were found among returnees from Pakistan," Naem noted.

Saying that the anti-polio drive was halted in the unsafe areas, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoI) officials said efforts are underway to help resume the process.

"Taliban may change people's mindset in this regard but can't stop this large campaign," MoI spokesman Sediq Sediq emphasized. Criticizing Taliban's move against children, the MPs warned that politicizing the anti-polio vaccination would put the lives of Afghan children at risk.

Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria are still considered among the countries where the polio virus has not been eradicated so far. (Tolnews)

(10) Senators' ...

way to the provincial councils.

Last month, the provincial councils held election in which 34 members one from each province were proposed to the Senate for four years.

Mohammad Alim Ezediyar, the Senate deputy chairman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the new senators would be sworn-in next week. "Because of security reasons I cannot specifically tell you the day as to when the senator will take oath," he added.

But Farhad Sakhi, a candidate for the senate, said the new members would probably take oath next Sunday. (Pajhwok)

(11) Afghans...

battles and called it unacceptable to Afghanistan.

"This is totally against the Geneva Convention," AIHRC spokesman Rafiullah Bedar said. "This is illegal and unacceptable to send refugees to the third country for fighting."

According to reports, the Afghan refugees in Iran are paid on monthly bases to fight in Syria; however, the Iranian government has repeatedly rejected the reports as baseless accusations.

But some other reports suggest many Afghans, due to poverty and unemployment, willfully join the war in Syria to feed their families. (Tolnews)

(12) Dangam ...

commander of 201 ANA Se-lab Corpse on Thursday.

But most of all, the civilians have been the victim of these fighting as hundreds of families have evacuated their homes and moved to Asmar and Shigal districts of the province with no shelter and food.

The local officials say that about 500 families are displaced but according to displaced persons, more than thousand families are since the fighting started.

"It was midnight when Taliban attacked our village," said Shamsuddin, a displaced person. "We could only save ourselves and our children but our homes were totally destroyed." They called on the govern-

ment and aid agencies to help them and their children with food, clothing and shelter.

"Most of people were killed and injured in the last night's attack, the Taliban fighters set our homes on fire, now we are in open areas in this cold weather, we need shelter and food," another displaced person named Abdullah told TOLONews.

Acting governor of Kunar, Shuja-ul-Mulk Jalala said a committee has been formed to register the displaced families in order to begin the assistance program. (Tolnews)

(13) PC Members ...

representative and the board could not be held due to differences among the council members.

He said the IEC had set Sunday last a deadline for the council to hold the elections, but the voting was deferred until Wednesday due to incomplete quorum, but again the voting did not take place for the same reason.

Mohabat said the IEC headquarters in Kabul had recommended postponement of the elections for an indefinite time.

"As a last resort, President Ashraf Ghani has appointed a delegation to resolve the issue. But if the delegation too fails to resolve it; then absent council members will be replaced with their runners up in the April provincial council elections."

The 15-member Khost council has been split into two groups having eight and seven members respectively.

One of the council members, Shukrullah Babkarkhel, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the seven-member group was not appearing to participate in the election because they knew it would not benefit them.

But a member of the second group, Abdul Wali Wahidzai, said some members of the other group had been involved in irregularities, a reason he cited for their reluctance to attend the voting.

"In the group, a female member, Hakmina Matlaq, is illiterate. Her participation in the elections had discredited the vote's legitimacy. If Hakmina is removed from the list, we are ready even right now to participate in the administration board election."

But Hakmina rejected the allegation, saying the period to submit complaints had gone and that her documents had thoroughly been examined in the stipulated time and they had no problem.

"They offered me money to join their group, but I refused. Now they are trying to prove I have committed fraud."

She claimed to have completed her 12th grade education in Peshawar when her family lived there as refugees.

To a question if the Education Ministry had assessed her documents on return from Peshawar, she said there had been no such condition that time.

The IEC official, Mohabat, said Hakmina's documents had been investigated. He said it was being said the IEC was investigating documents of some provincial council members, but he had no exact information. A Khost resident, Haji Gul Sherin, told Pajhwok Afghan News the differences among the provincial council members were based on personal interest.

"I swear these members have no concern for people. They have come through fraud and are trying how to reach a higher position." Two days ago, a number of

civil society members held a gathering in Khost and warned they would close the council's office if the administration board election was not held in accordance with the law. (Pajhwok)

(14) Tarakhel ...

acceptable so that we have more lovers of the Quran." Tarakhel said efforts would be made to increase the capacity of Quran learners in order no one from outside could dare issue decrees of jihad for Afghans.

"O cruel! O encroacher! How can you give fitwa for jihad against Afghan forces? May God destroy you."

He did not name anyone. But few months ago, Pakistan's Jamiat-i-Ulema Islam (JUI) leader Maulana Fazl Rahman and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan had called jihad in Afghanistan as legitimate.

Tarekhel said the Afghans had allowed foreign troops in their country under a series of urgencies. No Afghan was happy with their presence, he said.

He hoped one day all Afghans would join hands and put to an end the existing problems. (Pajhwok)

(15) Teenage ...

Pakistan has been repeatedly accused of running seminaries where terrorist actives are being trained. But these days, Pakistan has apparently boosted its anti-terror efforts after the Taliban militants attacked a military-run school in Peshawar killing over 150 people, mostly children. (Tolnews)

(16) Uzbekistna...

deputies elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis were elected in 113 electoral districts. From the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businessmen - Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan were elected 47 deputies, the Democratic Party of Uzbekistan «Milliy Tiklanish» - 28, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan - 21, the Social Democratic Party «Adolat» - 17 deputies.

In 22 electoral districts, none of the candidates receives half of the votes. In accordance with the legislation in these districts in the period specified by law will be held revote on the two candidates who received a large number of votes.

According to Article 45 of the Law "On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan" if the electoral district more than two candidates for deputies and none of them has been elected, the district election commission decides to hold a revote in the district between two candidates who received a large number of votes.

The Conference of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan was also held, where 15 members of Ecological Movement were elected to the Legislative Chamber of the Parliament by secret ballot from the number of nominated candidates at the conference, who are represented each administrative-territorial unit of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Executive Committee of the Central Council of the Ecological Movement. Elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan were held in compliance with all democratic norms and principles fixed in the Constitution and the electoral legislation, the statement stated.

It added that the work of domestic and foreign observers has contributed to transparency, openness of the electoral process. Monitoring of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan was

carried out by more than 300 observers from 50 countries and five international organizations missions - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Commonwealth of Independent States, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Associations of World Electoral Bodies and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, as well as more than 70,000 observers and authorized representatives of political parties that nominated candidates for deputies. In addition, more than 340 representatives of domestic and foreign mass media covered the election. In an effort to help journalists' activities were functioned Republican Press Center on Coverage of the Elections, where were created all conditions for them. There were conducted press conferences, briefings and seminars.

Currently, the Central Election Commission is considering protocols and other documents provided by the district election commissions and the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, it said.

In accordance with the Law «On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan» all of them, and if necessary - the documents of separate precinct election commissions, would be once again carefully checked by the Central Election Commission. Only after that, the Central Election Commission would make a decision on the election results.

The press statement released by Uzbekistan's Embassy in Kabul further stated that in accordance with national electoral legislation information about the results of the elections and the list of the elected deputies of the Legislative Chamber will be published by the Central Election Commission in the press no later than 10 days after the election, i.e., until 31 December. Elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis and local representative bodies of state power, passed on December 21 demonstrated solidarity of the people of Uzbekistan on the path of building a democratic Law-governed state and a strong civil society, with the deepening of economic reforms aimed to improve the welfare and prosperity of the country. (PR)

U.S. Police Struggle to Uncover Threats on Social Media

SAN FRANCISCO/LOS ANGELES - U.S. law enforcement agencies are a long way from being able to effectively track threats of the kind a gunman posted on Instagram before his execution-style murder of two New York City policemen last weekend.

Police need more data analytics and mining software to monitor social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as trained personnel to make sense of what could be a deluge of data, say law enforcement officials and security experts.

"You can buy all the technology you want, but if you want to figure out clever stuff, you better have smart people able to use it," said Christopher Ahlberg, co-founder of Recorded Future Inc, which helps clients analyze social media feeds. The company is partly backed by In-Q-Tel, a venture capital firm that serves U.S. intelligence agencies.

According to the New York Police Department, Ismaiyil Brinsley posted anti-cop slurs on the Instagram photo-sharing site hours before

walking up to two officers in a parked squad car in Brooklyn and shooting them dead on Saturday.

Baltimore police said they discovered the Instagram posts after Brinsley shot and wounded his girlfriend earlier that day. But the NYPD did not learn of the posts - which included a photograph of a silver handgun and the message "I'm Putting Wings On Pigs Today. They Take 1 Of Ours...Let's Take 2 of Theirs" - until it was too late.

Monitoring social media for out-of-the-blue threats may be beyond the capabilities of most police forces including even the New York Police Department, which has a relatively extensive and aggressive intelligence operation, experts say.

Analysts at the New York and Los Angeles police departments routinely crawl through social media to keep tabs on individuals on their radar, such as gang members, or to prepare for high-profile events. But in an era of shrinking or stagnant budgets, buying high-end software and hiring trained data analysts can be costly.

Many police departments utilize fairly rudimentary tools. The NYPD uses common search engines, experts say. It is possible to program an algorithm to pick up threatening messages, but the sheer volume of data and the potential number of "false positives" would impede its effectiveness.

"It is like trying to take a sip from a fire hydrant," the non-profit Police Executive Research Forum said in a 2013 report.

TOO MUCH INFORMATION

In monitoring social media, most local police forces lag U.S. intelligence agencies, which despite their vast surveillance networks still struggle to prevent attacks such as the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

The National Security Agency had raw intercepts pointing to a person matching the 2009 "underwear bomber's" description, but failed to stop him from boarding a plane.

The Department of Homeland Security monitors about 100 social media sites, but there are restrictions that keep their agents from sharing all the information that they collect directly with local law enforcement. Social media monitoring by police tends to be reactive:

analysts hit the Internet when someone phones in a tip. Investigators use social networking sites to identify victims, look for witnesses and perpetrators, generate leads or search for evidence in the aftermath of a crime.

"Most of the stuff, honestly, we get is when people send it to us," said Los Angeles Police Department spokesman, Commander Andrew Smith. That's not to say there have not been some successes. The LAPD, which employs around 40 people to monitor social media manually, uses software from a startup called PredPol Inc, which stands for predictive policing. The software analyzes LAPD and other internal police databases to identify crime-ridden areas and determine the best times to patrol.

Ahlberg said Recorded Future can predict areas where social unrest will erupt with a high degree of accuracy, based on online commentary and other data, offering a glimpse of what may be possible. Rights organizations have criticized the increasing use of social media crawling by law enforcement as a potential violation of privacy. Others argue anything posted on social media is fair game. (Reuters)