

(1) Senators ...

been named national unity. They could not form the cabinet in 100 days, bringing shame to the unity."

Safi said not forming the cabinet was behind all the country's latest problems and the Afghans could no longer tolerate such irresponsible government, asking Ghani and Abdullah to resign.

Senator Arif Pashtun from southeastern Khost province said the president and the CEO should be given little more time to introduce cabinet nominees.

"During that little time, if they fail to introduce the cabinet, then they should come with respect and resign in public and acknowledge they cannot govern," he remarked.

First deputy chairman Mohammad Alam Ezedyar, who presided over the session, said: "The delay in cabinet formation has many negative outcomes for the country. I request the government to send cabinet nominees to the lower house for a vote of confidence without further delay."

A number of senators urged the president and the CEO to introduce their ministers-designate to parliament in order to end the issue of acting officials. (Pajhwok)

(2) Russia to ...

meeting with the Russian ambassador and insisted that Russia could play a major role in stabilising Afghanistan.

"Russian investors can invest in various Afghan sectors and we can benefit from the technology Russia possesses," he added.

Mantytskiy also promised scholarships for Afghan students in different fields of engineering. (Pajhwok)

(3) Obama Urged ...

progress in supporting our Afghan partners in securing their country and defeating our common terrorist enemies, the truth is, this work remains unfinished. Indeed, steady reports of Taliban offensives are a painful reminder of that fact," he said.

He said that in order not to squander the hard-fought gains that our fellow citizens have made in Afghanistan, the Administration needs to give the thousands of U.S. forces that will remain in the country beyond this year the authorities they need to train, advise, and assist our Afghan partners in finishing the mission.

The State Department said it is focused on growing capability of Afghan Security Forces and their growing leadership role.

"The President said yesterday that this ceremony marks the end of the combat mission in Afghanistan, and it's a milestone for bringing to an end the longest war in American history and bringing it to a responsible conclusion," the State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said. (Pajhwok)

(4) 228 Paktika...

there is raining," he noted. Another big problem, he said was the shortage of dedicated teachers with relevant qualification. Muhammad Aslam, principal of Aljihad High School in Sharan, the provincial capital, stressed the education department should increase the number of schools and ensure timely provision of textbooks.

Muhibullah, a 12th class student in the provincial capital, said that his school had no building and they were taking their classes under a tree.

Amrullah, a student of Ali Baba High School, said his

institution had buildings but the students did not get textbooks on time, which cost them wasting of their time. (Pajhwok)

(5) Thousands...

embracing the ex-insurgents. "Yes, we can defend and it is started from you people."

Welcoming the surrender of militants, Dostum called on the other anti-government armed oppositions to join peace and begin peaceful life with their families.

"I assure you that in next 20 days, thousands more insurgents will join the peace process," Dostum stated.

Previously fighting against the government in Darzab and Qush Tepa districts, these militants joined the peace process in a formal ceremony on Monday where many government officials including Dostum were present at the event.

Also present at the event, the provincial police chief, Faqir Mohammad Jawzjani, hoped the security situation of the province would be improved after the armed oppositions laid down their weapons.

"Joining of Nematullah to peace process who was the so-called governor of Taliban for Jawzjani can have positive effects on security situation," Jawzjani noted.

The officials at the event pledged to provide employment opportunities for all the militants who have joined peace process.

However, according to security officials, a widespread anti-insurgent operation is going to be launched soon in the northern part of the country. (Tolonews)

(6) Poppy...

were able to sell drugs with ease.

Shirzad said regions, where poppy was grown, suffered from insecurity as well as a lack of reconstruction and development activities.

Deputy public health minister Abdul Basir Sarwar said little efforts were being made to seize drugs by the authorities concerned. "Those who smuggle drugs in tonnes should be executed."

He said \$1.2 million allocated to the Ministry of Public Health for treatment of drug addicts was not enough. He said more than a million Afghans were addicted to drugs.

The Counternarcotics Ministry says its earlier capacity to treat addicts has increased from one percent to six percent, a percentage to be increased to 30 over the next five years.

Previously there were 50 rehabilitation centers for drug users nationwide, but the number has increased to 167, including 30 centers in Kabul.

More than \$7 billion has been spent on anti-drug campaigns during the last 13 years in the country, but Afghanistan remains the world's leading opium producing nation. (Pajhwok)

(7) 1,200 ANA ...

to officials from the training center, a full 1,100 of the graduates have been trained for basic combat operations. "The number of officers that completed their graduation is around 1,200 soldiers, from this figure, 1,100 of them pursued training in ground battle and another 100 soldiers in the field of medical treatments for wounded soldiers," Kabul Military Training Center Commander Aminullah Patyalai said.

During the ceremony, the formal end of NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan this week, along with transition into the new "Resolute Support" mission fo-

cus on supporting the Afghan government and its forces from a distance, was celebrated as a point of progress for the security forces and the nation.

"This is our motherland, and if we do not build our country, no one will build it," said Mohammadullah, one of the officers graduating on Tuesday.

Some graduates, who enter the military at a time when Taliban attacks around the country have increased and grown more brazen, emphasized their desire for peace.

"Regarding the Taliban, we must give peace a chance, if they refuse it, then we have to take a strong stance against them and eliminate the Taliban," a graduating officer named Nijat Mohammad said.

"I call on the offenders and the Taliban to join the peace process, words are not enough, now it is time for action," another officer Nadir Shah said.

The new graduates come from various provinces around the country and will be deployed in the next few days. (Tolonews)

(8) Civil Society...

He said there were many unregistered seminaries illegally operating in the country, asking the Ministry of Education to close such illegal madaris.

Another civil society member, Abdul Shakoor Najafzada, said the government should bring under its control all seminaries and if it could not control some of them, it would be better to ban them.

Nasiruddin Ansari, deputy head of Islamic Studies at the Balkh's Education Department, told Pajhwok Afghan News there were some seminaries in Balkh, which were yet to be registered.

He said these religious schools were out of their control and they were trying to streamline their affairs. (Pajhwok)

(9) German Army...

this year. Its participation in the mission was questioned by many in Germany, partly because it was seen as a return to the country's militaristic past. Jan van Aken, a lawmaker for the Left Party, called for a "comprehensive investigation" into whether information provided by the army or the foreign intelligence agency, BND, was used to kill specific individuals without trial.

"There needs to be swift clarity on whether the German army or the BND participated in targeted killings as part of the ISAF mission," Green Party lawmaker Agnieszka Brugger said.

An army spokesman said that while information collected by German forces in Afghanistan was included in the JPTEL, insurgents nominated by Germany were marked for detention only.

"In those operations where German troops had the responsibility for the use of military force, this occurred solely with the aim of detaining the person in question," Lt. Col. Markus Beck told The Associated Press. Asked about a Bild report quoting a German commander calling for an insurgent to be detained or "neutralized," he said that NATO defines the latter term to mean that a target is rendered "ineffective or unusable for a temporary period," not killed.

But Beck added that other NATO members may have drawn on the list, containing more than 650 names, when conducting their own missions.

"It can't be excluded that operations against target

persons in Afghanistan that didn't take place within the ISAF command structure used information provided to ISAF," he said. (Agencies)

(10) 12-Year...

They warned to avenge this inhumane act themselves if the government doesn't try the culprits.

"Some powerful groups are also behind these forces," tribal elder Abdul Qadeer claimed.

The protestors called on the government to award death penalty to the rapists same as the Paghman rapists were hanged to death in Kabul.

The Ministry of Interior Affairs (Moi) spokesman Sediq Sediqi admitted the incident, saying three people have been detained in this regard.

This comes as recently a woman was also allegedly raped in the same province and is now currently sheltered in a safe house of Kapisa. (Tolonews)

(11) Uprising if...

took place about 11 days ago in the Ghuchlan village. Six Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel allegedly rapped the 12-year-old, who was then hospitalised.

Abdul Qadir, the girl's paternal uncle, said the rapists were ALP men and the government should hang them. He said if the rapists were not executed, 5000 youth of the Paracha tribe were ready to launch an uprising against the government.

While crying, Qadir said: "I need to die. I don't want to be alive. I am a doctor and in the service of this government. My two sons are serving in security organs, they protect people's honour, but no one is protecting ours. O' God! I pass me away."

Abdul Basir, father of the victim, who was crying loudly, said: "I was in Kabul doing labour when my little daughter was sexually abused. God destroy them."

He was unable to speak and continued crying. He just said the rapists were among the ALP men.

The girl, wearing plastic boots, a scarf around her head and wrapped in an old shawl, also attended the meeting with Azimi, but remained silent.

Her uncle told the participants not to ask her questions because she was not in her senses and would start crying.

Azimi said the Wolesi Jirga commission would jointly investigate the incident with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and would try to get the rapists hanged. (Pajhwok)

(12) Taliban Attack...

forces and Taliban is still in progress.

Security officials say foreign fighters including Uzbek, Panjabi and Wazirists are in the fight alongside the Afghan Taliban.

According to the security officials at least 170 Taliban have been killed so far the fighting. (KP)

(13) Afghans Fleei....

the families burn garbage to try to keep warm as the icy winds sweep down from the Hindu Kush mountains surrounding the city and temperatures plunge to below freezing.

"Violence has forced us out of our homes but here misery and poverty have made our life even more difficult," said Abdul Qayyum, 52, who fled here with his wife and eight children. "Such a life is not worth living."

Like the others in the camp, they fled their home in Sangin in the volatile Hel-

mand province, an opium-rich region where the British struggled for years to keep the Taliban at bay before withdrawing in 2010.

The insurgents are now once again on the move, and have extended the summer fighting season as foreign forces have handed over front-line combat responsibility to Afghan security forces. This week the U.S. and NATO are formally ending their combat mission, 13 years after the invasion that toppled the Taliban in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. (AFP)

(14) Noor Name ...

included up to 750 people at times, proves for the first time that NATO didn't just target the Taliban leadership, but also eliminated mid- and lower-level members of the group on a large scale.

Some Afghans were only on the list because, as drug dealers, they were allegedly supporting the insurgents, it added.

Noor, an ethnic Tajik and former warlord, had become wealthy through smuggling in the turmoil of war, and he was seen as someone who ruthlessly eliminated his enemies, the magazine added.

Noor was listed as number 1,722 on the NATO list and given a priority level of three, but NATO merely collected information about Noor, rather than placing him on the kill list.

It said that an Afghan, who has been given the code name "Doody," is a "mid-level commander" in the Taliban, according to a secret NATO list. The document lists enemy combatants the alliance has approved for targeted killings. "Doody" is number 3,673 on the list and NATO has assigned him a priority level of three on a scale of one to four.

The operations center identified "Doody" at 10:17 a.m. But visibility is poor and the helicopter is forced to circle another time. Then the gunner fires a "Hellfire" missile. But he has lost sight of the mullah during the maneuver, and the missile strikes a man and his child instead. The boy is killed instantly and the father is severely wounded, it added.

When the pilot, the magazine said realizes that the wrong man has been targeted, he fires 100 rounds at "Doody" with his 30-mm gun, critically injuring the mullah. The child and his father are two of the many victims of the dirty secret operations that NATO conducted for years in Afghanistan.

The documents, it achieved show that the deadly missions were not just viewed as a last resort to prevent attacks, but were in fact part of everyday life in the guerrilla war in Afghanistan.

The list, which included up to 750 people at times, proves for the first time that NATO didn't just target the Taliban leadership, but also eliminated mid- and lower-level members of the group on a large scale.

The 13-year combat mission in Afghanistan comes to an official end this week, but the kill lists raise legal and moral questions that extend far beyond Afghanistan.

It said that some of the Joint Prioritized Effects List (JPTEL) candidates were only listed as being under observation or to be taken into custody.

As one document states, Predator drones and Eurofighter jets equipped with sensors were constantly searching for the radio signals from known telephone numbers tied to the

Taliban. The hunt began as soon as the mobile phones were switched on.

Britain's GCHQ and the US National Security Agency (NSA) maintained long lists of Afghan and Pakistani mobile phone numbers belonging to Taliban officials.

It said that probably one of the most controversial decisions by NATO in Afghanistan is the expansion of these operations to include drug dealers. According to an NSA document, the United Nations estimated that the Taliban was earning \$300 million a year through the drug trade.

The insurgents, the document continues, "could not be defeated without disrupting the drug trade." According to the NSA document, in October 2008 the NATO defense ministers made the momentous decision that drug networks would now be "legitimate targets" for ISAF troops. "Narcotics traffickers were added to the Joint Prioritized Effects List (JPTEL) list for the first time," the report reads. (Pajhwok)

(15) Corrupt Bad...

"If any official that is involved in corruption and malpractices will be fired and introduced to judicial organs," he warned.

Stern action, he went on to say would be taken against land grabbers. He would stay in the province for two more days to hold meetings with provincial council members, Ulama council, activists and elders to discuss development, security and corruption. He would present the president with a detailed report.

Acting Governor Shah Wali Adeb, said 18 out of 28 districts had no proper buildings for government's departments.

He informed that 70 percent of Badakhshan residents lived below poverty line and educated youth had no employment opportunities.

Gul Mohammad Bedar, deputy governor, told Pajhwok Afghan News there was lack of coordination among security organs and they did not have much authority on affairs.

"If we have at least 50 percent authority in the province, then we can bring security in two weeks," he added.

Gen. Hisamuddin, deputy head of National Directorate of Security (NDS), Eng. Ahmad Shah, deputy minister of public works and officials from ministry of defence, attorney general's office, and directorate of local governance are part of the delegation. (Pajhwok)

(16) Rally Seeks ...

protestors issued a statement that said a latest video showed Iranian security officials insulting Afghan refugees and forcing them to bend their heads in respect of them.

They said the clip also showed a school in Iran, where children of Afghan refugees were shamelessly abused by their Iranian teachers.

The statement said banning Afghans in nine provinces of Iran and increasing by three-fold school fee for Afghan children were some of Iran's violations of Afghan refugees' rights.

The protestors wrote: "We (protestors, civil society activists and people of Afghanistan) want the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Afghan national unity government and particularly the United Nations to show a strong reaction in this regard."

They asked the Afghan government to adopt a political approach towards resolving the problems of

Afghans in Iran and investigate the latest incidents.

The statement urged the UN to mount pressure on Tehran to investigate the latest incident of mistreatment of Afghans.

Abbas Farazo, a civil society activist who took part in the rally, said Iran daily violated the rights of Afghan refugees. He said the demonstration was aimed at expressing solidarity with Afghan refugees.

Laila Mohammadi, another participant and a Kabul resident, criticised the Afghan government and said it was duty-bound to protect rights of Afghan refugees wherever they lived.

She said Iran had promised it would arrange jobs and vocational trainings for Afghans living there, but the country was yet to honour its pledge and instead trampled on their rights.

Mohammadi asked the unity government to raise the issue through diplomatic channels with Iranian authorities. (Pajhwok)

(17) Countrywide ...

Devises (IEDs) were discovered and defused along with confiscating a large quantity of weapons.

The Taliban, however, have not yet commented in this regard. (Tolonews)

(18) Uruzgan...

News that gunmen kidnapped three employees. He said militants severely beaten up the vaccinator and then set him free.

However, tribal elders had been tasked to ensure release of the men without further delay. (Pajhwok)

(19) Deforestation...

if the trees are cut down, the water would sweep away people's lands and homes as we witnessed in Darqad and other districts this year. Tribes should make decisions and prevent forests from being vanished," he said.

A resident of the Darqad district, Mohammad Salim, said it was problematic for the government to prevent forests from being cut down in every part of the country.

He said residents living near the forests should prevent their cutting because the trees served as a natural shield to protect them from disasters.

Forests development head at the provincial Agriculture Department, Nazak Mir, said acknowledged forests were being cut down in Darqad, Khwaja Bahauddin and Yangi Kala districts, but said deforestation had been controlled in other parts of the province.

He said forests were being harvested by powerful individuals and insurgents and police could not prevent them.

"Our officials keep care of forests in the region, but they cannot prevent forests cutting in the three districts, where powerful individuals and Taliban exist."

Takhar police spokesman Col. Abdul Khalil Asir told Pajhwok Afghan News vehicles coming from Yangi Kala and through the Kokcha River bridge were being checked for timber.

He said when timber was found in these vehicles, police referred the individuals responsible to judicial organs.

He said police were fully cooperating with forest officials. "If foresters give a list of individuals involved in timber-cutting, police will arrest them," he said. He said police detained dozens of people each year for cutting trees and referred them to prosecutors.