

**(1) Ghani Reacts...**

"A peace that our security and defense forces do not guarantee is not acceptable to us," Ghani added.

"Our security and defense forces are not one-day forces, one year and one decade and a generation, but forces that fight for hundreds of generations," Ghani added. Last week Stanikzai released a video in which he discussed Doha talks and hinted that the current army was illegitimate as it had been established with the help of the US.

He also said once the US forces have withdrawn there would be no need for an army. (Tolo news)

**(2) Govt Eyes Amending...**

reforms in the commissions.

The election commissions were sharply criticized by elections observers and members of the public as well as candidates for alleged corruption, poor management and fraud following the parliamentary elections in October.

Sources from government said most of the members of elections commissions who are accused of corruption have been banned from travelling outside the country by President Ghani.

The Independent Election Commission (IEC), meanwhile, said members of the electoral body have been appointed based on the law and that dismissing them without any legal reason "is not an appropriate move".

"Appointment and dismissal of the commissioners has been defined by the law and the law should be implemented. Making such moves without any legal base will be never be acceptable to anyone," said Sayed Hafizullah Hashemi, an election commissioner.

Other electoral body, the Independent Electoral Complaint Commission (IECC), welcomed reforms but said amendment of election law is not suitable in the current situation.

"The election system has its own specific concept and it depends on whether the law should allow its amendment. Basically, the amendment of the election law in the current situation is not 'logical'," the IECC spokesman Ali Reza Rouhani said.

This comes as a number of protesting candidates from Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul and Kunar on Saturday gathered in front of the IECC office in Kabul and accused members of the elections commission of fraud and corruption.

The candidates said the results of the elections in their provinces have been manipulated by the commissions.

They urged government to hear their voices; otherwise, they will use "any option" to achieve their rights. (Tolo news)

**(3) 'Unilateral'...**

for providing the budget of the Afghan presidential election which is scheduled to be held on 20th of July this year. (ATN)

**(4) UNICEF Seeks \$50mn...**

and some 600,000 children under the age of five years are suffering from severe acute malnutrition."

These resources will enable UNICEF to enhance its support to children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), expand the use of mobile health clinics in remote areas and in internally-displaced camps. It will also provide education support as well as child protection services to bring back a sense of normality to children's lives.

"With continued commitment of our partners, we can better support the government and people of Afghanistan to protect children during conflict, keep hope alive and begin to prepare children to shape peaceful futures for themselves and their communities.

"Without significant sustained support, UNICEF will not be able to provide critical lifesaving assistance to families in need, especially children", Khodr continued.

The statement said 2019 marks 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and 40 years of unrest in Afghanistan. Four decades of war have left an indelible impact on the country's children. The safety and wellbeing of Afghanistan's children was a collective responsibility, it concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Logar Records...**

unawareness about their rights in districts caused to increase violence against women this year," Zargar added.

She said some other minor cases of vio-

lence referred to her department were solved with their mediation.

"I have created women's councils in five districts, but women do not appear in the councils due to cultural restrictions and security problems," she said.

Atifa, a resident of Pul Jogi area of Baraki Barak district of Logar, said, "I have a painful life at home, my father-in-law and mother-in-law usually beat me, I was able to come to the women's affairs department and lodge a complaint after suffering long."

She said her father married her into a wealthy family in return for a high dowry but her in-laws beat her every day without any reason.

"I don't know my sin, they sometimes beat me until I fall unconscious, then they take me to hospital, I spent a very hard life with this family spanning three years," she added.

Atifa said many other women in Logar were in similar condition but they were unable to raise their voice and complain to relevant organs.

Abdul Wali Wakil, Logar provincial council's deputy head, told Pajhwok that no serious efforts could be made for elimination of violence against women in the province.

"Everything is done symbolically, the rights of only a limited number of women and they too in the provincial capital are protected but the women in rural and remote areas face many problems," he said.

He asked Islamic scholars and influential figures to work for women's rights.

On the other hand, many residents of Logar believe that the Taliban control most areas of districts of the province - a reason women are unable to complain to government organs about their problems. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Afghan Politicians...**

The statement says the delegation hopes that the Moscow meeting will be "complementary" to the US efforts for Afghan peace and for encouraging a national and regional consensus around this process.

News of the Moscow meeting was met with mixed reaction by Afghan politicians and analysts last week. Some said the summit was a "confrontation" between Russia and the United States on Afghan peace, while others said it was a chance for the peace process.

The statement meanwhile outlines the talks agenda and says the Afghan delegation will insist on the following principles:

- Protecting and strengthening the Islamic Republic system
- Afghanistan is the shared home for all Afghans
- Following Islamic and national values

• Insisting on maintaining (keeping) a powerful and democratic central government

• Strengthening national unity and ensuring social justice

• The principle of impartiality of Afghanistan in regional and world conflicts

• To ensure that policies match the modern world's measures while protecting religious and national values

The statement also said the delegation will insist on the following issues regarding the peace process and the next steps:

• Supporting the US efforts for the (Afghan) peace process led by (US Special Envoy) Zalmay Khalilzad

• Insisting on a ceasefire amid the start of intra-Afghan talks

• Insisting on continuation of intra-Afghan talks aimed at ending the war and bloodshed in the country

• Ensuring that Afghanistan is safe from threats and interference by foreign countries

• Assuring the international community that Afghanistan's territory will not be a threat (to other countries)

• Ensuring that women's right to education, work, political, economic and social activities is ensured

• Insisting on fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Afghanistan

• Insisting and getting assurance that sustainable peace and stability are ensured in the country

• Encouraging Russia and other countries in the region to create a political consensus on a regional and international level in supporting the Afghan peace process.

"We see the Moscow talks as an important opportunity for the start of intra-Af-

ghan talks and we are looking forward to positive achievements and continuation of this process," the statement said. The delegation has called on the Afghan government's leadership to play a "constructive" role in the peace process by having authorized representatives present.

However, the statement has not clarified at which talks the Afghan government representatives should be present. (Tolo news)

**(7) National Healthcare...**

around the world.

More than 18 million people in 2018 were infected with different types of cancer around the world while 10 million of them lost their lives this year, he added. Firoz said currently around 44 million people were affected by cancer globally and the disease mostly targeted people of less developed and poor countries.

The public health minister added that tobacco use, consuming polluted air and excessive surfing of oily foods were reasons behind cancer diseases.

He said breast cancer, throat cancer, stomach cancer and blood cancer were among 800 types of cancer that mostly infected people in Afghanistan.

The disease could be controlled by increasing cooperation on measures that halted the disease from spreading, creating awareness about its factors and early treatment, he added.

Firoz said some primary efforts had been made for diagnosing and treatment of cancer diseases, but they were not enough.

He voiced on the masses to engage in physical activities and sports and consume boiled foods, vegetables and fruits.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on fighting against cancer was also signed between the MoPH and a singer, Aryana Sayeed, during the ceremony.

The public health minister said he chose Ayana Sayeed as 'Goodwill ambassador for fighting cancer' who would be providing public awareness through National Cancer Control Program of the ministry as a volunteer.

Sayeed said she would utilize all her efforts for providing awareness regarding controlling cancer diseases in the country.

Meanwhile, National Healthcare Accreditation Board (NHAB) was also established under the framework of MoPH today.

Firoz, while inaugurating the board, said the aim of creating the body was to boost quality of health services and standard. He said all health activities in the country would be standardized in near future with the NHAB creation. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Some Politicians Ignore...**

Some sources in Kabul said former president Hamid Karzai, HIA leader Gulbaddin Hekmatyar, Mohammad Mohaqiq and High Peace Council chief Karim Khalili had been invited to the meeting.

The Foreign Ministry in Moscow says the talks were unrelated to formal negotiations that the Russian government previously hosted, including a November conference hosted by Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov.

Taliban representatives had also attended that event. An Afghan diaspora group in Moscow is organising the talks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Representatives from Taliban's political office in Qatar and all major political parties in Afghanistan have been invited to attend the talks. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Atmar Calls...**

close to the Taliban said a delegation from the group led by Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, former head of Taliban's Qatar office, will also attend the Moscow talks.

Atmar said in a tweet that they "will defend an Islamic Republic system, the values of the Constitution, achievements and legacies Afghans share".

"We will also insist on making intra-Afghan talks inclusive, but we call on government to not look at the peace process from a narrow window and respect the role of the political parties and the nation in efforts for peace and in safeguarding the system and national institutions," said Atmar.

The Afghan government has not been invited to attend the talks in order to pave the ground for Taliban participation at the event as a senior Russian government official put it last week - as quoted

by Reuters.

The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) meanwhile said on Friday that talks will help the peace process and that the Russian government should respect an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.

"Holding such meetings will not help us reach peace. We did not and do not see such meetings as necessary and will not attend this meeting," MoFA spokesman Sebghat Ahmadi said.

The High Peace Council acknowledged on Saturday that members of the institution were also not invited to attend the Moscow talks.

"Afghanistan High Peace Council is not officially invited to Moscow meeting and no one is attending on behalf of the High Peace Council," the HPC spokesman Sayed Ehsan Taheri tweeted. "We will wait to see the outcomes of the event and will make our views known afterwards."

In line with these efforts, former president Hamid Karzai, who will also attend the meeting as a key participant, said he met with John Bass, US Ambassador to Afghanistan, on Saturday.

"Exchanged views on the peace process and the Moscow conference on Afghanistan," Karzai tweeted.

This comes after the United States and Taliban officials last month agreed in principal on a draft framework for peace as the US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad put it.

The US and Taliban officials met in Qatar last month for the fourth time and for six days. However, the group has refused to talk with Ghani's negotiators. (Tolo news)

**(10) Work on Casa...**

the timeline of the project was affected and therefore seven to eight months of delay is expected."

Analysts said delay in regional projects is a "big damage" for Afghanistan's economy in coming years.

"When government fails in such big projects, people suffer the main loss," said Taj Mohammad Talash, an economic affairs analyst.

CASA-1000 is one of the biggest power projects that transfer 300 megawatts of electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The CASA-1000 project will include:

- 500 kV AC line from Datka (in the Kyrgyz Republic) to Sugd-500 (477 kilometers away, in Tajikistan)
- 1,300 megawatt AC-DC Converter Station at Sangtuda (Tajikistan)
- 750-kilometer High Voltage DC line from Sangtuda (Tajikistan) to Nowshera (Pakistan)
- 1,300 megawatt DC-AC Converter Station at Nowshera

CASA-1000 project will start from Kyrgyzstan and it will reach Afghanistan through Tajikistan and onward to Pakistan's Peshawar city. The length of the project in Afghanistan is estimated to eventually run for 562km.

With the implementation of the project, 1300 megawatts of electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will be transmitted to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Afghanistan will receive 300 megawatts of power and the remaining one thousand megawatts will be transmitted to Pakistan via Afghanistan territory.

The CASA-1000 Project is an important step in building a functioning, efficient electricity system across Central Asia and South Asia. By facilitating clean power export revenues for the Central Asian countries and by alleviating electricity shortages in the South Asian countries, this project will enhance growth prospects across both regions.

This project demonstrates landmark cooperation among the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The modern and efficient CASA-1000 electricity transmission system will help transform the region and signify an important step toward realizing the planned Central Asia-South Asia Regional Electricity Market (CASAREM). The CASAREM initiative will help not only these four countries but also improve the electrical systems and develop inter-regional cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia.

Afghanistan will receive between \$40 and \$50 million in transit duties from the project annually. The project will also enhance the economic connectivity between the contributing nations and will boost Afghanistan's transit reputation in the region and entire Asia. (Tolo news)

**(11) Paktia to Hire...**

education in the province and urged the authorities to start work for its improvement before the start of the new academic year.

He said, "Education enlightens the society and it is our shared responsibility to work honestly for the bright future of our children."

Currently nearly 5, 000 teachers are teaching around 200, 000 students in 14 districts of Pakia province. (Pajhwok)

**(12) 'Complex' Peac...**

from government's side nor the US about what will happen. People have invested and now they are very concerned," said Momand.

According to some investors, they were hoping over \$1 billion would be invested in Afghanistan annually, but last year, only \$400 million was invested in the country.

"The current situation is very confusing, there is no hope that things will improve in one month or in one year," said Ghulam Hussain, a Kabul resident.

Last year, the World Bank said in a report that Afghanistan's economic recovery was slow and put it down to continued insecurity.

In addition, agricultural growth has been constrained by unfavorable weather conditions and while the fiscal position has remained strong, driven by improvements in revenue performance, the government remains heavily reliant on donor grants.

Poverty also increased amid the slow growth and services were disrupted due to security problems.

Economic experts say that uncertainty around the political and economic future of the country and the fragile security situation have discouraged foreign investors. (Tolo news)

**(13) Afghan Fighting...**

Similarly, the government has killed 13 militants and injured 12 others in Qaisar, Almar and Garziwan districts of the northern Faryab province over the 24 hours, said Mohamad Hanif Rezai, an army spokesman in the northern region.

According to Rezai, government forces operations against Taliban outfit have left 10 militants dead and injured over a dozen others in Chamtal district of the northern Balkh province since Friday.

Mohibullah Mohib, police spokesman in the western Farah province, reported killing of five militants and injuring of seven others in the relatively volatile province over the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Abdul Aziz Big, the head of Baghis provincial council, told Xinhua that the Taliban offensive on security checkpoints in Qadis district on early Saturday killed three security personnel and injured five others.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi in contact with media has disputed the claims made by security officials, and in counter-claim, insisted that scores of security personnel had been killed over the past 24 hours. (Xinhua)

**(14) Security Organs...**

about his house was not brought to justice.

He said the government should provide him reason why his home was bombed. He asked if his family was terrorists, then why they were evicted from the home.

Omari, who is doing his master's in India, said the government should compensate him and the person who provided wrong information to security forces should be arrested and brought to justice.

Pajhwok Afghan News contacted Maidan Wardak police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Wais Samimi who said the operation had been carried out by the army and they should be asked, but the Defense Ministry denied its troops were involved.=

The NDS media office said they were unaware of the incident. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Sugar, Flour...**

Ghulam Sakhi, a firewood seller in Charahi Taminai area of Kabul said the price of 560 kilograms of peeled oak was 7,200afis and the same quantity of cedar 6,500afis.

According to Haji Mir Hussain Sadaqat Money Exchange Service in Sara-I-Shahzada, one US dollar accounted for 74.95afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees 536afis against last week's 75.50afis and 537afis. (Pajhwok)