

(1) Senators Differ...

number of members of election commissions and increasing the presence of women on provincial and district councils up to 25 percent and others.

The Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament had already rejected the legislative decree and but if the decree is approved by the Meshrano Jirga then the issued is decided in a joint commission of parliament.

The article 100th of the constitution says "In case the decision of one house is rejected by another house, a combined committee composed of equal members of each house is formed to resolve the disagreement. The decision of the committee is enforced after its approval by the President.

In case the combined committee cannot solve the disagreement, the defeated resolution is considered void. And, if the resolution is approved by the Wolesi Jirga, it can be approved in the next session of the Wolesi Jirga by the majority of its members.

This approval is assumed as enforceable, after it is signed by the President, without submission to the Meshrano Jirga. In case the disagreement between the two houses is over legislations involving financial affairs, and the combined committee is not able to resolve it, the Wolesi Jirga can approve the draft by the majority vote of its members.

This draft is assumed as enforceable without submission to the Meshrano Jirga after it is signed by the President."

The article 79th of the constitution, says "In cases of recess of the Wolesi Jirga, the government can adopt legislation in an emergency situation on matters other than those related to budget and financial affairs.

The legislative decrees become laws after they are signed by the President.

The legislative decrees should be submitted to the National Assembly in the course of thirty days beginning from the first session of the National Assembly.

In case of rejection by the National Assembly, the legislations become void." (Pajhwok)

(2) ECSC Urged...

commissions should not be dependent on any party and the commissions should not be politicized," he added.

The chairman of the Selection Committee Din Mohammad Geran meanwhile said they will prepare the list of nominees through a transparent process.

"We have been assured by President [Ashraf Ghani] and Chief Executive [Abdullah Abdullah] that they will not interfere in our activities. We promise that we will work impartially," he added.

Meanwhile, a number of senators said the president's decrees on amendments in election laws should be included in the Senate's agenda in order to bring basic reforms in the electoral system.

"The two decrees by the president should be included in the Senate agenda in order to make sure that basic reforms will be brought in the electoral system," said Rahmatullah Achakzai, a senator.

The deputy speaker of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) also brought up the issue and said: "The senate itself should decide on whether to include the issue in its agenda or not."

This comes after Ghani last week announced that parliamentary and district council elections will be held between next summer and fall. (Tolo News)

(3) 4 Nations...

with the group. "Key differences in this round of the negotiation is that China, as a strategic

partner to Pakistan, also bound by close ties to Afghanistan, could help ensure outcomes will be constructive," political analyst Nasrullah Stanikizai said.

"If they really want peace to be restored in Afghanistan, in the first step they should seal a truce," senator Bahadur Wasefi said. (Tolo News)

(4) CoAS Orders...

support for the security forces, and said the main reason behind the delay in military operations is a lack of air support for the Afghan troops.

Meanwhile, a number of Nangarhar tribal elders and residents met with President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday evening where they shared their concerns over insecurity and activities of militia groups in parts of the province.

Ghani promised the tribal elders he would address their concerns as he said he feels their pain and understands the problems they are enduring.

He assured the residents he would send a delegation to the province to assess their problems and find a solution for them.

He said 2015 had been a challenging year and that it was the sacrifices of security and defense forces that enabled the country to overcome problems and defeat the enemy.

He said the international community has reaffirmed its support to Afghanistan.

He said he has directed the Ministry of Defense (MoD) to continue military operations against Daesh fighters in Achin district. (Tolo News)

KABUL - Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) Qadam Shah Sahim, in a visit to Achin district in Nangarhar, ordered Afghan National Army (ANA) troops to bring an end to militia group activities in the eastern province.

"We have bad experiences from establishing militia groups. We will not let anyone build militia [groups]," Shahim said.

"We welcome those who support the Afghan army and police force members in the framework of public uprisings, but we will not allow anyone to establish militia - privately," he added.

The governor of Nangarhar, Salim Khan Kunduzi, meanwhile said any move which is out of government's framework is not acceptable. But he said militia groups should operate within government's structures.

He said: "We support those who defend the people but those who defend the people should work in a proper framework."

Nangarhar residents also announced their support for the security forces, and said the main reason behind the delay in military operations is a lack of air support for the Afghan troops.

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against Daesh fighters in Achin district. (Tolo News)

(5) Education...

reports surfaced that millions of dollars had been embezzled in the country through ghost schools - sparking national outrage over the lack of transparency in foreign aid spending.

In addition, the Ministry of Education (MoE) said necessary reforms were introduced by the new leadership of the ministry in a bid to implement comprehensive reforms in the education sector.

"Reforms will be there and you witnessed a range of reforms within the ministry of education during last year at various levels. Reforms were also brought in the administrative affairs of the education system in Afghanistan," Mujib-Mehrdad, a spokesman for the Ministry of Education said on Sunday.

"The new leadership of the education ministry strongly believes in qualifications in recruitment."

"Each school must be equipped with a computer in order to enhance a close monitoring system on the current education system through a database so that reforms brought in the system include the education sector and other spheres," deputy of Kandahar education department Mohammad Ewaz Nazar said.

Although the fact finding team formally initiated its job in July last year, it is not clear why the findings have not been revealed. (Tolo News)

(6) Senior Officials...

among the people." "If there is no interference from abroad we can do our best in every era," said the Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Abdul Razaq Wahidi.

Meanwhile, other cabinet members said the recent victories of Afghanistan in sports will be written in the country's history books and will help unite the people.

"The youth can create pride for the nation. They have high morale," said Sayed Husain Alemi Balkhi, the Minister of Refugees and Repatriation.

"The achievements can show that our youth have high experience and talent in sports and sports is the main source for establishing peace and stability in the country," said Sayed Sadat Mansour Naderi, the Minister of Urban Development Affairs. On Sunday a group of senior officials and MPs traveled to India to support the national football team in its final match against India.

Gen. Ayub Salangi, Senior Deputy Interior Minister for Security Affairs, said Sunday evening on twitter; "Afghans look forward to the day when all our battles are fought on the sports field, not with bullets." Meanwhile hundreds of Kabul residents braved the rain to watch the match on big screens at parks throughout the city. (Tolo News)

(7) Air and...

commander of the US and NATO forces in Afghanistan Gen. John Campbell earlier said the loyalists of the terror group are attempting to establish a regional base in Jalalabad, the capital city of eastern Nangarhar province.

Gen. Campbell, said Tuesday that foreign militants from Syria and Iraq had joined the loyalists of the terror group in eastern Nangarhar province and are trying to consolidate links with the leadership of the terror group based in Syria and Iraq. (KP)

(8) NSP/MRRD ...

26 KW energy, extension of water supply networks at a capacity of 25,922 square meters and gravelling a number of rural roads.

Approximately, 13,900 families

in various communities have been able to gain access to basic human needs upon completion of these projects.

It is worth mentioning that NSP has been able to execute 112 development projects in various sectors in its second round of block grants disbursement while the work of tens of others is currently in progress in this province. (PR)

(9) Child Refugees ...

in a Taliban massacre in May 2000.

Along with his grandfather, 30 bodies were recovered and it discovered that many had been tortured after spending four months in captivity. All the bodies had bullet holes in their backs.

"My grandfather was a very helpful and respectable man," Habibullah says. "He would help people and would do it for free. For that, the Taliban killed him."

Habibullah's father gave him \$5,000 - though he doesn't know how his father got the money, as he is unemployed. But the teenager took the cash and after weeks of travelling is now in a refugee centre in Sweden.

He is now feeling the impact of the move at such a young age. He was initially keen to leave Afghanistan, but now doesn't want to be away from his family.

He says: "It's very hard for me because I'm so young - I should live with my father and mother." Does he miss his family? "A lot. A lot."

Habibullah's English is good, but there are gaps in his vocabulary - he knows the meaning of the word "hitman" but not "fear".

He is also worried that he won't get the education he travelled so far for, saying: "They don't send me to school. I just eat and sleep in the refugee centre - I don't do anything. It's very boring.

"I love English, I'm attempting to improve but here they all speak Swedish. I hope I will go to school, but I don't know what's going to happen."

Emma Eggink, an employee of local non-governmental organisation the Starfish Foundation, says that information they have received shows that the majority of young refugees are male and she says that it's much more common for boys to arrive on their own. "The data shows very clearly that people are leaving behind their daughters. You very rarely see teenage girls."

Eggink thinks this is because of the expense of being a refugee - it costs around \$1,200 to get into the boat from Turkey to Europe alone.

"It's really expensive to go, and girls above the age of 15 are marrying [and staying at home]. Most of the boys travelling alone are Afghan."

Shaya, 13, has also travelled without his parents. Coming from Afghanistan via Iran, he travelled in a car with 14 people crammed into it. His parents are working in Afghanistan, and he is travelling with a distant cousin and his wife.

"When walking through Afghanistan, some people got sick and died. I spent ten hours climbing through the mountains in Afghanistan," he says. He also tells of how the boat he had paid \$1,000 to get in sank off shore, but he swam to safety. Cocky and funny, Shaya pulls faces and flexes his muscles when describing his journey.

UNHCR spokesperson Boris Cheshirkov says: "It's very important for the unaccompanied children to be detected as soon as possible.

"Sometimes we see them with a distant family member - a cousin or uncle - but in principle most of the unaccompanied children will be going alone.

"Sometimes they'll join a fam-

ily they've been involved with, but it's extremely important to be provided with professional support and they have very specific needs."

He adds that the same story is told over again: "Many of the Afghan boys that I've spoken to have told me the same story: that their family, concerned with a very volatile security situation, pools all of the resources they have and trust that the boy will be able to make the arduous journey to Europe."

Cheshirkov points out that the situation is difficult for refugee children wherever they are from, as they are escaping hardships that many Europeans will find difficult to even understand.

He adds: "If you're a Syrian child that would have been a first grader in 2011, chances are you'd have never been to school."

Habibullah climbed across mountains, undertook a dangerous boat journey, and is living thousands of miles away from his family - all in order to attempt to get an education. His story is far from unique. (Agencies)

(10) Taliban...

Taliban group using the Pakistani soil has been the main source of tension between Kabul and Islamabad with the officials continuously criticizing Pakistani for providing sanctuaries to the anti-government armed militant groups, specifically the Haqqani Network and Taliban group, accused of major terror attacks in the country. (KP)

(11) 21 Militants ...

Jowzjan, Kandahar, Oruzgan, Ghazni, Paktika, Paktiya, Herat and Helmand provinces, the statement asserted.

The statement didn't say if there were casualties on security personnel. Taliban militants fighting the government to regain power haven't commented.

Both the Taliban militants and government forces, according to local political observers, have been doing their best to gain more grounds before entering the proposed peace talks probably held in the coming weeks. (Xinhua)

(12) Drone Strike...

insurgent groups are active in various districts of Kunar. A commander of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was killed in a similar strike in Shegal district earlier in the month of November last year. (KP)

(13) Army Helicopter...

killed and two others sustained injuries due to the crash of MI-17 helicopter in Logar province on Sunday.

Waziri also blamed technical problems for the deadly air crash. However, he did not comment on the casualties, saying the case would be investigated.

Meanwhile, an official on the condition of anonymity said that three people were killed and another was injured in the incident. (Xinhua)

(14) Yemeni Govt...

men deploy in the area and hearing clashes between the militia fighters and government forces.

All officials and residents spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters or feared reprisals.

Yemen has been embroiled in fighting pitting the country's internationally recognized government based in Aden and a U.S-backed Saudi-led coalition against Shiite rebels known as Houthis, who are allied with a former president.

Al-Qaida and a local Islamic State affiliate have been able to take advantage of the chaos, expanding their reach in the chaos of Yemen's larger conflict. The local al-Qaida branch

has seized territory in Yemen's south and east, and has a growing presence in Aden.

President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi appointed Aidarous al-Zubaidi as the new Aden governor last month after a Dec. 6 bomb claimed by a local Islamic State affiliate killed a former Aden governor. (AP)

(15) 5th Gunman ...

of militants suspected to be operatives of the Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based group blamed for the December 2001 attack on the Indian parliament that killed 11 people.

Indian Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi said the attackers failed to destroy the airbase assets due to timely action by security forces. (Xinhua)

(16) Merkel's ...

number of migrants. We are at the moment a long way from this goal."

Seehofer hosts Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron at a meeting of his CSU party this week in the remote resort of Wildbad Kreuth and refugees will be a big topic.

A magnet for migrants partly due to generous social benefits, Europe's biggest economy is taking in more than any other EU state. It registered 1.09 million migrants last year, a newspaper reported last week.

The CSU has long called for a cap and has repeatedly threatened to take action, such as sending refugees back to other countries. So far it has not acted on those threats and toward the end of last year, Seehofer's tone had softened. (Reuters)

(17) British PM ...

caused by flooding, and the work of repairing and improving flood defences is vital.

"We are already spending 280 million pounds over the next six years to protect thousands of houses from flooding in Yorkshire as part of our 2.3 billion pounds investment to protect 300,000 houses across the country," he said.

The new funding package will fix flood defences and make them more resilient to further bad weather, he added.

So far, the total government's investment in recovery from Storm Eva and Storm Desmond amounts to nearly 200 million pounds.

The prime minister also appointed Transport Minister Robert Goodwill as the Flooding Envoy to oversee the flooding response in Yorkshire. (Xinhua)

(18) Syrian Rebel ...

concentrate efforts on bringing down the Aleppo region, we are giving priority to supporting revolutionaries in the Aleppo area," the statement, posted online, said.

"We therefore announce our exit from the Army of Conquest operations room, which has finished its mission in the battle to conquer Idlib."

The statement did not indicate any tension with other groups within the Army of Conquest. While pro-government forces have advanced in the southern Aleppo countryside and in the western coastal province of Latakia, rebels have managed to advance in other areas including Hama province, where anti-tank missiles supplied to insurgent groups have been used effectively.

Pro-government forces have in recent days also tried to push forward against insurgents in Hama province, Britain-based monitoring group the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. (Reuters)

(19) Netherlands...

other countries of the EU. Although worded in rather general phrases, the general aim of the Dutch program is clear. It is to desperately muster public support, both internally and among member states. (Xinhua)