

(1) No Cabinet...

national unity government marked its first 100 days on Tuesday without a cabinet in place, a deadlock widely criticized all over the country.

Critics say both the president and the CEO have failed to govern and deliver on their election promises. (Pajhwok)

(2) Abdullah, UN

of ministers would be composed of professional and expert individuals.

The CEO said bringing reforms to the electoral system was inevitable and a top priority of the unity government. (Pajhwok)

(2) Millions of ...

is funding \$2.1 million to repair the power plant's electrical system, it said, adding that fuel point costing \$332,000 was never used as planned and a second fuel point costing \$1 million was built nearby, but the pumps there are also not being used.

It said that dining facility built for 280 Afghan soldiers is handling 1,600 soldiers and the inspection was hampered by lost records that have been a problem at other sites SIGAR has inspected. (Pajhwok)

(3) Govt. Approves...

approaches to fight terrorism and organized crimes. The statement by the Palace further added that the Afghan national security force use less power to eliminate the terrorist threats in less time and in a cost effective way and without incurring casualties to civilians or security forces.

The NSC members are also added that the special military raids will further increase the responsibilities of the Afghan security forces towards the Afghan citizens.

The Afghan national security forces were instructed to take all necessary measures to respect the Islamic values, the Afghan culture, Afghan constitution and other laws of the country while executing a special military operation.

The approval of the special military raids by the National Security Council (NSC) comes as the insurgency activities by the militant groups have been rampant during the recent months.

The militants are frequently carrying insurgency attacks in various parts of the country including capital Kabul. (KP)

(4) Afghanistan...

added that the government should be drawn "not just from the two teams, but from all parties in Afghanistan".

The Government of National Unity has considered to offer posts of the Ministry of Rural Affairs, the borders and Hajj and Religious Affairs, besides appointing Taliban governors to three southern provinces - Nimruz, Kandahar and Helmand.

However, a source close to the Taliban leadership has said that the offer has been turned down due to the signing of the security agreements allowing the foreign troops to remain in the country.

The government has not formally commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

(5) Ghani Rejects

Baheer, relative of Gulbaddin Hekmatyar.

Sources close to Taliban said the insurgent group had turned down the offer following inking of security pacts allowing foreign troops to remain in the country.

But Salarzai termed the reports baseless and far from reality. He did not speak on the subject in detail but simply turned down the reports. These reports emanate at a time when the president and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) miserably failed to achieve any breakthrough regarding naming of the new cabinet. On Thursday, the presidential spokesman said the cabinet's formation had reached its last stage, but a final decision was yet to be taken, pending standards set for nominations. Salarzai said he could not give an exact date for the announcement, which could come anytime.

He also did not comment on several names that were recently published in some media outlets as potential nominees. (Pajhwok)

(6) India Pledges...

The statement further added "India agreed to provide all necessary assistance to develop Afghan textile industry and assist in skill development, research and development, technical collaboration in product development and manufacturing, testing and certification and organize joint trade missions for mutual collaboration."

The Indian Ambassador Amara Sinha quoted in the statement said "Afghanistan has huge potential for development of textile industry since the country is endowed with very rich quality of cotton, silk and cashmere and this sector is a good source for jobs and employment."

The statement also added "Thus it is important to revive textile industry for economic development. Cotton can also be an alternate crop to move away from opium cultivation. He further added that signing of this MoU on textile cooperation in first week of the New Year is a good beginning and assured all cooperation from India to develop this industry and continued engagement with Afghanistan's economic development which is a priority of the new government."

India has been one of the main donors of Afghanistan contributing over \$2 billion in reconstruction projects in the country following the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001. (KP)

(7) UNODC Blam...

judicial branch.

"One of the main reasons behind the increase in production and agriculture of drugs is unfortunately extensive corruption in government institutions, and this corruption gives power to the smugglers," UNODC representative Hashem Wahdatyar told TOLONews on Thursday. The UN has been a major part of the international community's efforts to push the Afghan government toward reform that would curtail administrative corruption across the country. Mr. Wahdatyar said it is incumbent upon the new national unity government to take a stand against corruption if they hope for the growth in illegal drug production in Afghanistan to abate.

The head of the Supreme Court, which has come under fire for reported corruption, has assured that measures are being taken to address the problems in the judiciary. "We have taken control of all financial resources, some actions have been made to uproot corruption in the high court," Acting Chief Justice Abdul Rasheed Rashed said.

However, speaking on condition of anonymity due to

the sensitive nature of the issue, a senior member of the Supreme Court called Haji Lal Jan Ishaqzai's release a catastrophe.

Lal Jan Ishaqzai, who is on the United States' blacklist of global drug ring leaders, was arrested in Afghanistan and imprisoned in Kabul, but is now said to be held up safely across the border in Quetta, Pakistan. (Tolonews)

(8) IEC Influence...

we're trying so to retain their seats.

Abdoh believed it a conspiracy to pave grounds for fraud in next year's Parliamentary elections.

Earlier, the IEC officials opposed amendments in the law, saying it was unconstitutional in the last year of MPs' term.

Meanwhile, the electoral observer groups criticize the government for not practicing their campaign promises, warning of possible crises in the coming elections.

"Parliamentary elections will likely face serious challenges next year," said Fahim Naeemi, spokesman of Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FFEA).

Finally, Abdoh said a joint session of all Parliamentary committees will be held in next two days to finalize the matter. (Tolonews)

(9) Pakistan Role...

Campbell was also present in the meeting. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in his visit to Pakistan two months back sought the help of Pakistan to jointly fight the terror.

The cooperation of the neighboring country to fight terrorism has intensified after a group of Pakistani militants stormed a military-run school and killed more than 142 people, most of them students. During the meeting, both the officials discussed to improve Afghan air forces, urged on long-term Afghanistan-US forces' cooperation and extension of NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan if needed.

Bleedlove appreciated the Afghan government for its cooperation with NATO and stressed on multilateral cooperation between Afghan and American forces. NATO's combat mission ended after 13 years of fighting against insurgency in and started its new mission of training Afghan forces. (Pajhwok)

(10) Pakistan Not ...

The meeting also decided that those refugees living in urban areas would be sent back to refugee camps and for this purpose new sites for refugee camps would also be established. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government also suggested that the burden of refugees should be shared equally by all provinces. The government also decided to take the matter up to UNHCR to not to extend the deadline. It was also decided that the productive and skillful Afghan refugees could be offered an incentive to live in urban areas if they could be helpful in national economy.

The chief commissioner for Afghan refugees briefed the participants about current status of Afghan refugees. The meeting also decided that those Afghan refugees with illegal status would be sent back. The Afghan nationals living in Pakistan are categorised in 3 categories I) those living without any visa and registration card, ii) registered afghan refugees and iii) afghan nationals visiting Pakistan on medical and educational grounds.

The meeting further de-

clined to provide funds to facilitate NADRA to have a database of all refugees and the process is expected to start soon. This will protect registered Afghan refugees from any harassment by law enforcing agencies. The SAFRON secretary is expected to visit Afghanistan and Geneva to raise the issue of Afghan refugees in the light of recent developments.

The meeting was attended by the SAFRON secretary and defence secretary along with the KP home secretary, the additional home secretaries of Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan, the SAFRON senior joint secretaries, ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs and the Director General interior and the Foreign Office DG with officials from intelligence agencies. (Pajhwok)

(11) Many Senators...

nd the election commission of dropping them and some others from the final list in return for money despite their inclusion in the preliminary list among winning runners.

"All Senate members back our stance and support us in our legal campaign," Gul Afghan said, who insisted their demand was legal. "We are doing no illegal job."

He confirmed 30 to 40 senators spent last night inside the Senate building to discuss their rights and preventing the new members from taking oath.

"If necessary, all senators are ready to spend night with us in the national assembly," he said, revealing that they would soon meet the president on the issue. But Farhad Sakhi, a newly-elected senator from Kabul, said the swearing-in ceremony was scheduled for Saturday. "The Senate chairman has promised with us the ceremony will take place on Saturday," he said.

He said what Gul Afghan was saying and doing was his personal matter. He said if new senators faced with such a situation, they would take a unanimous stance.

The provincial council elections were held simultaneously with the first round of presidential election on April 5.

But the presidential ballot did not produce a clear winner and a run-off race was called on August 14. However, the run-off election was marred by widespread fraud allegations, triggering a stalemate that lasted several months.

After being put on hold for seven months, the PC election results were announced on October 25 last year, with 97 women and 458 men winning seats on the councils nationwide. (Pajhwok)

(12) Herat Offici...

Meanwhile, the acting governor, Aseeludin Jamee, said it was beyond his authority to touch matters belonging to security institutions but the vacant administrative positions have been filled up.

Earlier on Wednesday, Ghani also ordered dismissal of Police Chief of western Ghor, a big reshuffle since assumed office last year on September. (Tolonews)

(13) Taliban Kidnap of the locality, said deminers had been working in Daudkhel area close to Pul-i-Alm, the provincial capital, since last one year. Some locals were working in the NGO and two of the abducted drivers were the resident of this area, he said. Another resident who wished to go

unnamed said: "Taliban torched three vehicles of the NGO."

Maj. Abdul Wakil Haqyar, police chief for Mohammad Aghi district, said security forces could not get to the area because of insecurity. (Pajhwok)

(14) Air Pollution...

government to fight the phenomenon with serious will.

"It is a serious issue in Afghanistan but unfortunately there is no strong will to eliminate it," said Mustafa Zahir, head of NEPA. "Even after a decade, this problem has not been solved so far."

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) officials have also expressed deep concerns regarding the matter, linking the increased air pollution to the population growth in Kabul.

"The population is growing as the people are leaving the farms and moving to the cities," UNEP country director Andrew Scanlon said.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has also acknowledged the issue, saying air pollution was causing respiratory illnesses among the citizens. According to World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution is a major environment-related health threat to children and a risk factor for both acute and chronic respiratory disease. (Tolonews)

(15) Illegal Armed ...

Razai said Ghor had 9,000 armed men divided in 182 different small groups. Local officials acknowledged the presence of 4,500 illegal armed men who were a constant source of insecurity in the province.

"Illegal commanders pose great threat to law and order. They have virtually formed a parallel government, which put residents of the province into immense trouble," he added. He demanded the government should work out a comprehensive policy to deal with the armed men in the province, which would help improve the law and order in the area. (Pajhwok)

(16) 60 Inmates...

in compliance with the 39th presidential decree. He said 60 prisoners, including 17 women, had been released as part of the process.

Some freed prisoners, wishing anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News rights of prisoners were being violated inside the prison.

But Azizi rejected if prison guards mistreated inmates, but confirmed space problem.

Earlier, prisoners held at the facility have repeatedly gone on hunger strike for what they alleged misbehavior of jail officials. (Pajhwok)

(17) ANA Well ...

alled upon the people to support the ANSF as the public support was key factor for morale boost of the armed forces.

Currently, the number of ANA soldiers has reached to 200,000 and police to 150,000.

Separately, religious scholars praised scarifies of ANSF rendered for the defence of the country. A gathering in support of ANA was held in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital of northern Balkh province.

The gathering was arranged to celebrate the birth day of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) which was attended by the religious scholars, provincial council members, tribal

elders, government and security officials.

Azizullah Balaghi, head of the ulam council, said that Muslims should proud to be the follower of Prophet Mohammad. He said contemporary issues of the country could be resolved to follow the teachings of Prophet Mohammad. (Pajhwok)

(18) Ghani Con....

religion.

Meanwhile, an Afghan journalist Parwiz Kawa also strongly condemned the Paris attack, saying attack on media is equal to attack on humanity. (Pajhwok)

(20) Two Taliban...

regarding the report so far. Badakhshan is among the relatively volatile provinces in northeastern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating in a number of its districts and frequently carry out insurgency activities. (KP)

(21) Regional ...

praised Moscow for pledging continued to support to Kabul after the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

He believed Russia, China and India could play a crucial role in reviving the stalled peace process. (Pajhwok)

(22) Landmines ...

A woman was killed and another resident was injured during clashes with militants, he said, adding the Taliban had torched several civilian houses and forced 500 families to flee. He also said eight Afghan troops lost their lives to clashes, which left another 15 security personnel wounded and their three vehicles damaged in explosions.

On the other hand, a resident and commander of the uprising group, said they were assisting security forces against rebels for the last 25 days, but they lacked weapons and bullets.

He said before the arrival of security forces, they had seriously suffered at the hands of insurgents. He urged the government to deploy Afghan forces near the Durand Line to protect Dangam residents from being attacked.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid had claimed dozens of Afghan troops were killed and wounded in clashes with the fighters.

He had rejected civilian homes were torched, saying the residences set afire belonged to government officials and their supporters. (Pajhwok)

(23) Training...

untrained workers led to loss of minerals.

Khodzhan Ulumi, another mining sector analyst, believes mineral resources should be excavated by professional individuals through modern machineries. There are skilled manpower inside the country but they cannot work in the given deteriorated security situation.

He alleged some warlords were illegally exploiting mines in an unskilled way and with the connivance of the ministry concerned.

Dr. Najmudin Tareen, geology expert and Afghanistan Academy of Science's deputy head, says mineral resources in the country can be wasted if their extraction continued in an unregulated way.

He said launching of programs for labor of mines an important task to be carried out and the ministry concerned should concentrate on training of the workers.

But Khan Afzal, head of Al-Afzal Firm, insisted that most of the companies hired professional manpower to train unskilled labors.

He said that training of workers would help improve production level of a mine.

Mohammad Reza Khoshk, in charge of Bradara Khoshk Company, said: "They excavate a coalmine in Karokh district of Herat province and have allocated a budget for training their labors with the support of foreign experts."

"The individuals we recruit shall have at least five years of experience. Newly hired labors start work after getting relevant trainings," he added.

Shaiq Romani, acting head of human resources department at the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, acknowledged mining workers needed extensive training workshops. (Pajhwok)

(24) Businessman...

had also been detained in connection of the drugs. (Pajhwok)

(25) Magnetic ...

personnel. A fake Afghan National Army (ANA) ID, ANA uniform, four remote controls for blowing up bombs and 10 explosive capsules were also discovered from the position of this terrorist, according to the statement.

The arrested terrorist is named as Mohammad Asif. NDS statement further adds that two other terrorist who were planting landmines in Kabul were also detained in Khwaja Noor area of 7th police district of Kabul city.

These two terrorists are named as Hidayatullah with a call name of Khazan and Qasim.

The arrested terrorists have accepted that they have attacked the Afghan National Army soldiers several times before they were arrested.

The NDS statement also adds that different types of ammunition were also seized in the 5th police district of Kabul city.

Yesterday NDS issued a statement regarding the arrest of a guide of suicide attackers in Kabul city. (KP)

(26) Fuel, Food ...

at 1,650 afs. Money exchanger Ahmad Shah said the buying rate of one US dollar was 58 afs while 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 571 afs.

Last week's exchange value of the dollar stood at 58.20afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 577afs. (Pajhwok)

(27) Brawl ...

sympathizers of the rival party did not allow him to speak. He said that exchanging harsh words between the parties led to physical attack on each other, which left several people injured.

Dr. Haya Gul Paktin, director of Paktia Civil Hospital, confirmed receiving a number of wounded people in the hospital but they were stated to be in stable condition.

Maj. Gen. Zalmay Oryakhel, police chief, said police rushed to the scene and control the situation, with the arrest of several people. (Pajhwok)

(28) Illegal ...

Khan, a shopkeeper, said that officials of traffic department were in connivance with the individuals who established illegal bus stands.

In charge of the unlawful bus stands collect 25,000 to 30,000 rupees daily and the amount goes to the pockets of high-ups, he alleged. (Pajhwok)