

(1) Danish Blames ...

compared to violations of some of its articles."

He said ethnic differences were being fueled in the country, which he called the most dangerous issue and a clear violation of the Constitution. He said the Constitution had acknowledged ethnic plurality in the country and granted equal respect to all tribes. In line with the Constitution, no ethnic community was superior to another and no ethnic group had the right to impose its viewpoint on others.

"With all the respect that we have for political and national leaders, it is kindly and seriously requested to act carefully and be futuristic while dealing with ethnic issues," he said. Danish alleged some 'ethnic extremists' were causing the delay in starting distribution of e-NICs and added that national identity, religion, tribe, language, name of the country, national flag, national anthem and others had been defined by the Constitution.

The distribution of e-NICs was expected to be launched last week but had to be delayed due to differences among some lawmakers over the issue. (Pajhwok)

(2) Poor Implementation ..

"When the elites are involved in violation of Constitution we should not except the existing crisis to come to an end."

He added most of the current problems in the country stemmed from constitutional violations and absence of the rule of law. "The government should strive to make sure the supreme law of the country is implemented and should not allow the Constitution to be violated."

Lawmaker Zalmai Zabuli also expressed concern over violations of Constitution and added government officials were involved in a majority of violations of the supreme law. But Jumma Din Gyanwal, a lawmaker, said the executive and judiciary branches of the government shared a major part of the constitutional violations, a process still ongoing.

Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Musliyar, expressing his concern over the situation, said all should respect the supreme law and no one should be allowed to violate the Constitution. He said the existing crisis in the country could only be resolved through implementation of the Constitution. (Pajhwok)

(3) Current Afghan ..

"If regional countries assist Afghanistan in its development, it would help improve regional security."

"Afghanistan has received \$900 billion for fighting against terrorism, but without any significant results, if this amount had been used for the development of Afghanistan, I believe we would not have these current problems," she said.

She stressed: "We had and are witnessing proxy wars in Afghanistan that do not belong to the Afghan people, we are in fact in the front line of the war against terrorism and we need regional cooperation."

The second Tehran Security Conference was held on Monday. Former Afghan spy chief, Amrullah Saleh and lawmaker Nahid Farid also attended the conference.

Iranian foreign minister, Mohammad Jawad Zarif, during the opening of the conference, said despite suffering defeats in the past two year Daesh and other rebel groups remained active.

He stressed no country should try to destabilize their neighbors in order to ensure security for themselves. (Pajhwok)

(4) Mol Hiring ..

Ghani also pointed out that bringing reforms in the police is needed in order for them to gain the people's trust.

"If police cannot be trusted businessmen will not invest in the country and reforms can't be brought which will have an impact on everyone's lives," Ghani said.

Ghani applauded the police for all their sacrifices especially as they are on the frontline and said they are "the ones people in danger turn to for help."

He talked about future plans to improve the security institutions.

"The (Afghan) Air Force will be tripled and the Commando Forces will be doubled. This will give the space for (Afghan) police to focus on rule of law," the president said.

Ghani said the police force members will have two big responsibilities: ensuring the security of the upcoming parliamentary elections and then the presidential elections. He said other security force members will help Afghan National Police in this respect.

At the same event, Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak assured the people that the Afghan police would stay impartial and would continue their duties in the framework of the law.

He promised to maintain gender equality in the Ministry of Interior.

"Recently, 15 women were appointed among the 45 newly-appointed officials in the Passport Department. More employment opportunities will be provided for women in the Interior Ministry," Barmak told the event. (Tolonews)

(5) Nangarhar Deadliest...

intensification of a counterterrorism campaign there that's been putting US troops alongside Afghan units on the front lines of the battle with a resilient Daesh. The group has taken root there in recent years, where the Taliban also operate, making it a three-sided war.

The US-led NATO mission is poised to follow suit elsewhere in Afghanistan by putting more advisers and their force protection troops with conventional Afghan tactical units battling the Taliban insurgency.

A new campaign launched in the southern province of Helmand last month has already stepped up the fighting with airstrikes and special operations ground raids against the Taliban-linked drug trade there.

It's all part of the latest shift in the US strategy in Afghanistan, which President Donald Trump announced in August, giving American forces here wider leeway to attack Taliban insurgents and has sent several thousand more troops to support Afghan fighting units.

There are around 14,000 US troops in the country this year, up from 11,000 through much of 2017. (Tolonews)

(6) Gailani Rejects ...

International Community also accepted this now," the statement said. But when reporters on Tuesday again asked Gailani for details over his claim regarding the whereabouts of Taliban leaders, he refused to comment and said "that was said a few days ago and now I have nothing to say about it."

Gailani's claims come after Rahmatullah Nabil, former Afghan intelligence chief wrote on his Facebook page that "the recent remarks of 'Gailani' is not new!"

"Frequently, army and Pakistan's intelligence members made such statements for misleading the minds of the international community. Only this time with the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, (Pakistan) want to say the same statements from the voice of Gailani to the world," he wrote.

"Gailani has several times brought 'Shir Khan' from Islamabad who is one of the persons of Haqqani network with his vehicle with the cooperation and direction of National Unity Government's (NUG) key member in Kabul," he said, adding that "this comes while government knows exactly that most suicide attacks are carried out by Haqqani network in Kabul but their responsibility lies with so-called Daesh!"

But Gailani rejected Nabil's claim "totally" and said that he is not using vehicles when traveling to Pakistan which he says "shows clearly that is not true." (Tolonews)

(7) Pakistan Court ..

was set free on health grounds and the paperwork for his release was still being processed Tuesday.

Mohammad, imprisoned since 2009, is also known as the father-in-law of Mullah Fazlullah, the leader of the Pakistani Taliban who is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan.

Washington accuses Pakistan of turning a blind eye to militants. Pakistan denies the charge. Last week, Trump said that the United States had "foolishly" given Pakistan more than \$33 billion in aid in the last 15 years and had gotten nothing in return but "lies & deceit."

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Pakistan's ambassador to Washington, accused the Trump administration of ignoring the sacrifices made by Pakistan in the war on terror.

The claim is unfair, Chaudhry told

The Associated Press over the weekend, before heading back to Washington.

"We have been the victim of terrorist attacks and how can we tolerate the presence of militants on our soil," he said.

Ties between Islamabad and Washington could be further strained by the release of Mohammad, who back in 2001 issued an edict, or fatwa, for holy war against US-led forces in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has banned the Tehrik Nifaz-e-Sharia Mohammed, or TNSM, pro-Taliban group. (Tolonews)

(8) DABS Inks ...

equipment needed by DABS.

He said the companies would provide the equipment within two months and DABS would pay the costs from its budget.

Ghalib said 860 electricity projects nationwide faced shortage of equipment that included transformers and with provision of the needed material, these projects would be completed.

He said the purchase of safety equipment for Kabul Breshana would help save electricity from being wasted and residents of Kabul would be provided proper electricity.

Ghaleb said raw materials were being purchased for the establishment of two power pylon manufacturing plants in Kabul and Baghlan provinces to meet domestic demand.

"In Kabul, 40 percent of electricity would waste in the past, but efforts made to reduce this wastage to 33 percent this year and we would try to further reduce the wastage to 28 percent by next year," he said.

The DABS head said overloaded transformers and lack of equipment in sub-stations were main reasons of continued outages, adding that Kabul, Nangarhar, Balkh and Herat provinces were on a priority list of DABS to reduce electricity wastage and reform the system there.

Unpaid electricity bills

Ghaleb said DABS managed to collect 2.5 billion afghanis from 10.6 billion afghanis it owed to consumers. Of the arrears, 1.4 billion afghanis were recovered from common people and 1.13 billion afghanis from government institutions and religious places.

He said some government elites such as First Vice President Abdul Rahsid Dostum and Mohammad Karim Khalili did not pay power bills while some lawmakers had agreed to pay their outstanding bills in installments.

He said for the first time DABS rescued itself from a financial crisis and managed to collect 100 million in revenue on a monthly basis. (Pajhwok)

(9) US Continues 'to ...

trade and economic development and to fighting corruption and narcotics trafficking," he said.

"I am also committed to supporting Afghans to promote education, gender equality, human rights and the rule of law."

Bass succeeds US Special Chargé d'Affaires, Ambassador Hugo Llorens, who completed his assignment on November 16.

Bass most recently served as Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey (2012-2017) and Ambassador to Georgia (2009-2012).

His previous assignments have included positions in US missions in Iraq, Italy, Belgium, and Chad as well as service on Vice President Dick Cheney's staff, as Chief of Staff and Advisor to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, and as the Executive Secretary for the Department of State and Director of the State Department's Operations Center. (Tolonews)

(10) IEC Candidates..

Bilal Sediqqi, a member of the committee said.

Meanwhile, the institutions overseeing the election process said the selection committee has worked outside the law and that their representatives were not called to oversee the process of shortlisting and assessing the applications.

The institution said the selection commission has not shared the names of applicants and the process is being carried out secretly.

However, they said the selection committee should introduce the most competent applicants to government.

"Access to documents can be a prin-

ciple here to certify transparency. Thus, we have asked them to have an acceptable mechanism and transparent process," said Mohammad Naeem Nazari, the head of the Afghan Civil Society Human Rights Network.

"They (government) once again established the committee. It means they want to pave the way for their favorite candidate to become the IEC chief," Fazel Ahmad Manavi, former head of IEC said.

The selection committee was established one year ago to select commissioners for the IEC. At the time the committee sent a list of 21 applicants to government.

About six weeks ago, IEC chief Ahmadzai was dismissed by the president and based on the law, the president should have chosen someone within a week as IEC commissioner from the original list he got from the selection committee.

The president however did not choose anyone from the list, but instead issued a decree and ordered the selection committee to find new candidates.

Although the institutions overseeing the election process said the restart of the selection committee's work is against the law, but said they should introduce the most qualified and competent applicants to government. (Tolonews)

(11) Azerbaijan Increases...

Armed Forces of the Republic of Turkey and under the general command of NATO structures" on December 29, 2017.

The Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, in cooperation with the relevant state structures of the country and the NATO command, has completed all necessary procedures in respect with the increase in the number of the Azerbaijani peacekeeping contingent.

Thus, in order to ensure international peace and support of partners, the number of Azerbaijani peacekeepers has been increased from 94 to 120 servicemen since 2018, including six Azerbaijani officers, who will be represented at various headquarters of the Resolute Support mission, as well as two military doctors. (Trend)

(12) 118 Militants ..

Gen. Mohammad Ayub Hussainkhel, 301st zone commander in the east, said the operation also involved border police, public order police, NDS personnel led by Afghan National Army.

He informed border police problems had been on the decrease since the Defense Minister took their command from the Interior Ministry two months ago.

Police spokesman Abdul Jamil said civilians were protecting areas which had been cleared of militants. He said more security posts should be established in the cleared areas. Public Order Police commander Brig. Gen. Naseer Ahmad Safi told the press conference that Daesh presence had reduced and the group could not stand ground. (Pajhwok)

(13) Daesh Night ..

Meanwhile, Ghazni provincial council member Abdul Bari Shilgari said they had also received reports about night leaflets from Daesh in Qarabagh. "IS militants are trying to change people's minds and find a foothold in areas where Taliban are dominant."

Maj. Gen. Shoor Gul, 303rd Thunder Military Corps Commander, in this regard said there were no Daesh in Ghazni. He said a widespread operation would be conducted in all parts of Ghazni and all areas under insurgents' control would be retaken.

On the other hand, Taliban's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the leaflets were not distributed by Daesh but by the National Directorate of Security (NDS). "There are no Daesh in Ghazni and if it is found here, we would resist them and eliminate them." Qarabagh is one of insecure districts of Ghazni, where many parts are under Taliban's control. (Pajhwok)

(14) Bamyan Counter..

supported by the international community.

She hoped Bamyan people, who supported the government in every sphere, would also cooperate in preventing drug addiction in the community.

She called the culture of counter-narcotics as important and urged all people and families to help combat

the phenomenon.

Deputy governor of Bamyan Mohammad Asif Muballigh appreciated the counternarcotics ministry's cooperation with the provincial department in executing several development projects.

He hailed the people of Bamyan as peaceful who always helped the government in countering drugs. (Pajhwok)

(15) Insurgents ...

Police have launched an investigation into how the militants torched the vehicles.

Another security post would be deployed in the area during the next one week, promised Brig. Gen. Mohammad Nader Fahimi, who hoped the security situation would improve.

The Shabashak Coalmine in Dara-i-Sauf Bala districts is one of the major income sources for the government, which collected more than 2.8 billion afghanis from the mine last year. (Pajhwok)

(16) 5 Police Killed ..

suffered wounds in the incident.

Provincial security officials have so far said nothing about the incident that comes a lull in attacks in Panjwai district. (Pajhwok)

(17) Undocumented ...

wrap up their businesses and return to their country within the next one month, creating unrest among them. Shinwari argued it was difficult for them winding up businesses involving investments of billions of rupees within a month. Afghan businessmen regularly paid taxes and provided job to locals, he said.

Pakistan, Afghanistan governments and UNHCR should stick to the agreement on the voluntary return of refugees, he said, warning the fresh deadline would harm relations between the neighbours.

Flanked by heads of various camps across, he claimed the refugees had already begun returning to Afghanistan. He also stressed the need for the protection of the properties, assets and loans of the refugees. (Tolonews)

(18) Three Key Members ..

groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far.

Paktika is among the relatively restive province in southeastern parts of the country where the Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other groups including the notorious Haqqani terrorist network are actively operating in some of its remote and restive districts.

Earlier, at least one insurgent was killed and six others were wounded during an airstrike in Barmal district of Paktika. (KP)

(19) WFP, UNICEF..

players for 30 afghanis. Sportspeople have started using this food," he said.

Habibur Rahman, one of the club members, said he had been consuming food containing peanuts instead of protein, eggs, potatoes, etc.

This food stuff, largely made of protein and manufactured by Kako Industries, is packed in plastic bags to preserve it for a long time for children. In addition, Kako products could be found in most stores in Khost City, but Dr. Abdul Wahid Niyazi said he was unaware that common people had access to them.

"These food items are prepared only for children suffering from malnutrition. I don't think they are available in the city. I go to the market but have not found them," he added.

He warned the RUCF and RUTF malnutrition food had been manufactured specifically for children and its intakes by adults could be harmful. He recalled the issue had been raised with health officials in a series of meetings. All participants had been directed to distribute the food only to needy children. Ahmad Wali Mangal, provincial head of OHPM, denied the sale of UN-donated food items in the open market. "We have checked serial number of food items being sold in the market. They are clearly different from the serial numbers of food times with us," he argued.

Mangal believed the Kako food items being sold in the market might be the one distributed to the people. Health officials said after every three months 4,000-5,000 cartons of Kako food arrived in Khost City. Each every carton contains 150 Kako packs. (Pajhwok)