



Supreme Court Should Rule on Issue of Dismissed Ministers: CEO

KABUL - The Office of the Chief Executive on Saturday said the interpretation of Article 92 of the Constitution is needed and urged the Supreme Court to interpret the article and release its decision on the fate of the seven dismissed ministers as soon as possible.

"Government is still waiting for the Supreme Court to interpret Article 92 of the Constitution. Once the interpretation has been received, then the dismissed ministers' fate will be finalized," Jawid Faisal, deputy spokesman of the CEO said.

Seven ministers were dismissed more than two months ago by MPs after they failed to spend their development budgets; but government sent the issue to the Supreme Court to interpret



article 92 of the constitution that deals with the summoning of and dismissal of ministers.

Article 92 of the Constitution says if ministers cannot provide convincing explanations to parliament, MPs can con-

sider a vote of no confidence. "Government wants to misuse the law for its own interest against parliament. But it is not wise, the interpretation of article 92 of the constitution by the Supreme Court is nonsense," said Abdul Wa-

hid Farzaie, deputy head of Afghanistan's Lawyers Union (ALU). MPs however said the National Unity Government (NUG) has violated the law as it did not accept the decision by MPs - especially as

the dismissed ministers are still at work.

"Government should pay attention to this issue. The continuation of the dismissed ministers' work is against the constitution and against the law," said Sayed Sharifi Balkhabi, an MP.

Political analysts meanwhile criticized the NUG for allowing acting ministers to work for so long.

"They are dismissed and have not been appointed as acting ministers and their authorities are not known. Thus, it has created challenges in government and in the relevant ministries while taking decisions," Hamid Saboori, a political commentator said. According to MPs, the continuation of work by these ministers will create more challenges for the NUG in future. (Tolonews)

Jilani Expresses Pakistan Concern over Daesh Influence in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The Pakistan Ambassador to the United States has said Daesh has no concerted structure within Pakistan; however the country is distressed by the militant group's influence in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Jilani addressed media at the Pakistani embassy, mentioning that terrorist incidents in the country had diminished by 70 per cent over the last few years. Jilani conveyed that Pak-US cooperation would be further strengthened in the fight against terrorism by revisiting the sale of F-16s and Coalition Fund issues.

Instability and violence all over the world led to the formation of extremist and violent organisations, he said. He discussed the issues surrounding the Indus Water Treaty. He said Pakistan had appealed to the World Bank



to be in charge of the legal and technical issues raised by Pakistan on Kishan Ganga and Ratle hydropower projects in India. However, India had urged for a neutral expert to be assigned.

"Pakistan believes that the mandate of a neutral expert was limited," he said. He emphasised that Pakistan would like to engage in a sustained meaningful dialogue with India to resolve all the issues on peaceful terms. (Monitoring Desk)

AUAF Asks Taliban to Free its Professors



KABUL - The American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) on Saturday urged the Taliban to release immediately and safely two its professors who were kidnapped some months back.

Earlier this week, the insurgents released Kevin King and Tim Weeks, who requested incoming US President Donald Trump to negotiate their release and thereby save their lives.

In a statement, students, staff, trustees and faculty of the elite university said they were saddened and pained by what they had seen in the video the Taliban released using the captives,

"Kevin and Tim came to Afghanistan as teachers to help Afghanistan. These innocent people have done nothing to harm anyone and need to be reunited with their ... (More on P4)...(6)

Georgian Servicemen Celebrate Old New Year in Afghanistan

KABUL - Georgian troops serving in NATO Mission Resolute Support in war-torn Afghanistan celebrated Old New Year last night.

The celebration held in the capital of Kabul was joined by senior officials from the mission. Guests had an opportunity to taste Georgian food and watch a film describing Georgia's history, culture and traditions. Georgia is among a number of countries celebrating the second New Year's Eve date at midnight on January 13-14.

The celebration is a custom remaining from the historical era when New Year was marked according to the Julian calendar, which was substituted internationally in 1582 by the current Gregorian calendar. ... (More on P4)...(7)

UAE Delegation to Investigate Kandahar Bombing



KABUL - The Kandahar governor's spokesman said that a United Arab Emirates delegation has arrived in the city to investigate Tuesday's blast which killed 11 people including the deputy governor and five UAE diplomats. The governor's spokesman Samim Kholwakh, said that the delegation will investi-

gate the circumstances of the blast.

The victims of Tuesday's deadly guesthouse attack were all high-ranking officials and diplomats that had gathered to welcome the UAE ambassador Juma Mohammed Abdullah Al Kaabi.

The ambassador was visit-

ing Kandahar to officially open an orphanage when the explosion occurred.

According to a source, the explosives were placed in chairs in the meeting room of the guesthouse where the group of officials and diplomats had gathered.

The Taliban has denied involvement. (Tolonews)

Transformer Manufacturing Company Inaugurated in Nimroz

ZARANJ - The first-ever transformer manufacturing company involving a total investment of \$7.5 million has been inaugurated in southwestern Nimroz province, an official said on Wednesday.

Haji Zahir, in charge of the company, told Pajhwok Afghan News 80 people would work daily in the factory. The transformers produced would be used in Nimroz and sent to Kunduz, Takhar and Ghazni provinces.

The current level of investment would increase in near future from the current figure of \$7.5 million, he said, adding the company had the capacity to manufacture 25 to 400 kilowatt transformers.

In near future, it will be able to produce transformers with the capacity of 1,200 kilowatts. About 150 transformers were manufactured by the company ... (More on P4)...(8)

Afghanistan to Take on Ireland in their 1st Desert T20 Challenge

KABUL - Afghanistan will take on Ireland tonight in their Group A match of the Desert T20 Challenge at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

The two top teams among Associate member countries have clashed on numerous occasions with Afghanistan going in "well prepared", according to Asghar Stanikzai, the team's captain.

However, Ireland captain William Porterfield is wary of his opponents but at the same time confessed that they know each other's strengths and weaknesses. Speaking on the sidelines of their practice session at The Sevens ground in Dubai on Monday, Porterfield said his boys are ready and raring to go.

"Our first stop is Afghanistan, they are a good team. They were in UAE before Christmas and played the hosts, but since we play each other frequently there's no real surprise thrown in there," said the captain. "We got a big tour coming up ... (More on P4)...(10)

Daesh Fighters Return to Parts of Kot District

JALALABAD - Daesh insurgents have returned to parts of Kot district in Nangarhar after the area was cleared of militants during a large-scale military operation by security forces in July last year.

On Friday they torched at least 60 houses in the district, officials confirmed.

However, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the insurgent group will be eliminated in the district in the near future. "We cleared Kot [district] but the areas which were attacked by them [Daesh] are near the borders. They wanted to join the public uprising



forces pretending to help government. We will suppress them soon," MoD's deputy spokesman Mohammad Radmanish said. The MoD recent-

ly said the district and other parts of Nangarhar will be cleared of militants in Operation Shafaq 2. Meanwhile, the Afghan police were criticized

for not maintaining the cleared areas. "Clearance operations are conducted but due to lack of security check posts, Daesh returned to villages and areas. And then they fell to Daesh," said an official. Commenting on this, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said: "The enemy would change its location from one place to other sometimes, but they are under our radar. The main goal of the operations is to eliminate the enemy." This comes after President Ashraf Ghani said during a trip to Nangarhar last year that Daesh will be eliminated in the province. (Tolonews)

Mujahid's Remarks on Taliban Sparks Widespread Criticism



KABUL - Relatives of Yakawlang victims in Bamyan on Saturday lashed out at Abdul Hakim Mujahid, an advisor to the High Peace Council (HPC), for what they say were insensitive comments that showed disrespect to their family members killed by Taliban in 2001.

In 2001, Taliban opened fire on a gathering of people in central Bamyan province where they killed more than 300 residents of Yakawlang district.

"These remarks are a betrayal to the victims who were killed by Taliban in Yakawlang and other parts of the country," said a relative of a victim from Yakawlang.

This comes after Mujahid said earlier this week, in the wake of Tuesday's deadly bombings in Kabul, that the Taliban are angels of peace and the group is a sacred group. In addition, he said Moham-

mad Najibullah, the former president of Afghanistan, and leaders of the resistance front were traitors.

"Taliban is a sacred group who have fought against Russia and defeated them, then put an end to civil war and brought security to the country," Mujahid said.

Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and parliament members (MPs) also sharply criticized Mujahid for this remarks.

"Such remarks by people who have accepted the Afghan government is unbearable and according to law, they can be stopped," said Musa Mahmoudi, executive director of AIHRC.

Government also reacted to Mujahid's remarks and said those insurgents who kill civilians will be eliminated by security forces.

"Terrorist groups get orders from foreign countries to destroy ... (More on P4)...(9)



Horse riders attend Buzkashi in Mazar-e-Sharif on Friday January 13, 2017. Buzkashi which means "goat grabbing" is centuries-old traditional game in Afghanistan in which skilled horse riders of rival teams compete to take the slaughtered goat or calf and throw it in a circle fixed on the Buzkashi ground. (Xinhua/Yaqoub Azorda)