

(1) US Troop...

leaderships faced. He supported President Ghani's vision and his demands from the US.

Lambasting President Obama's decision of troops' pullout plan, McCain said the US should have gained its goals in Afghanistan before leaving.

He said the rise of ISIS and the distinct fighting season this year demanded a reassessment of the administration's current calendar-driven drawdown of US forces with a plan that must be based on conditions on the ground.

Barack Obama, at the height of tensions with former president Hamid Karzai, announced the gradual withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2016, with only 1,000 troops left behind as trainers

McCain said recent attacks Taliban showed they had not been entirely defeated.

Commenting over casualties among US and Afghan forces in the Afghanistan war, he said the use of force was not the only solution, thus the US must support peace efforts in Afghanistan to ensure that the country did not become a safe haven for terrorists again.

"We have always been hopeful about a prospect of dialogue between Afghanistan and Taliban. Without that I'm deeply concerned about Afghanistan's situation in the west, where Taliban have control over some areas and there are reports of Iranian weapons being sent to Taliban," McCain remarked.

He continued: "We are also concerned about some parts in east of Afghanistan. We face a new phenomenon like Daesh that have shown capability of attracting youth to its ranks. Some foreign fighters are also fighting alongside them."

He said recent clashes between Daesh and the Taliban could have a short-term advantage for Afghanistan but in the long-run it would not have any advantage for Afghanistan.

He called America's troop drawdown from Afghanistan a tragedy, saying it would enable Taliban to succeed. He said the Afghan people did not want a return of the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(2) Parliament ...

Stanezkai presented his future action plan, which was proven unsatisfactory to a total of 213 MPs present at the session.

If approved, Stanezkai noted as part of his platform that he would consider advanced training for the security forces.

Saying that war was imposed on the Afghans, he called on the political figures and former Jihadi leaders to get unified to fight terrorism. However after he was disapproved by the Parliament, the House Speaker Abdul Raouf Ibrahimy asked the government to introduce another nominee for the key slot as what he said lack of leadership in the important ministry had added to the rapid-growing insecurity across the country.

Nominees for three other key posts introduced last week are expected to appear in the House in the coming days to present their programs. Among those yet to get a vote of confidence from the Parliament is Khalilullah Sediq introduced as the head of the Central Bank, Anisa Rassouli and Sayed Yousaf Halim nominees for the Supreme Court. (Tolonews)

(3) India Sounds ...

provinces is reported to be growing recently. And, as the Nangarhar province lies next to Pakistan, Indian intelligence agencies fear that if the Isis spreads across these regions, India will face a serious security threat.

"The Indian concern is that Nangarhar province sits on the mouth of the Khyber pass, which has been the route to enter into the Indus Valley and the Gangetic plains. Also, Farah province shares borders with Shia Iran. If IS manages to spread in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia, then India faces a serious security threat," Hindustan Times quoted a senior intelligence official as saying.

The Isis has already established its presence in the AfPak region and this has been noted not just by India, but also by China and Russia. The confirmation that the Isis entered the AfPak territory was first received when the Islamic terrorist group claimed responsibility for 18 April suicide attack, in which 15 people were killed and many others were injured.

Following that day, at least six clashes between the Isis fighters

and Taliban militants have been reported in the two provinces, according to intelligence reports.

The intelligence reports also suggest that the Isis has named the AfPak region as the 'Islamic State of Khorasan' and former Pakistan Taliban commander Hafiz Saeed Khan has been appointed as its head. (Monitoring Desk)

(4) EU, Afghanistan...

fields such as rule of law, village development, education, anti-corruption, countering money laundering, preventing terrorism funding, combating organized crime and drug smuggling.

Meanwhile, economic experts have said that, given the problems the country has faced over the past fourteen years, the agreement is a crucial step toward a more well-functioning government and economy.

"The EU's commitments to Afghanistan deserves appreciation," university lecturer Sayed Qias Saeedi said on Friday. "But the important thing is the capacity of government institutions to implement the development plans and to recruit groups of professionals into government institutions."

Based on the framework of the agreement, all Afghan nationals will be able to share equally in business competition for contracts with the EU. But, according to EU officials, the agreement also focuses on women's empowerment, youth and the economically disadvantaged.

"There are some common issues between the EU and Afghanistan, which raises concerns for the EU, and money laundering could be one of them, especially drug smuggling, which enters European markets from Afghanistan," economic commentator Nasrullah Stanikizai said. "Now, if the government wants to implement EU programs, then it should develop its capacities."

The Cooperation Agreement will enable the EU and Afghanistan to jointly address questions of common concern, such as nuclear security, non-proliferation and climate change. Emphasis will be placed on holding regular political dialogue, including on human rights issues, in particular the rights of women and children, which are defined as essential elements of the agreement. (Tolonews)

(5) Senate Admonishes...

resort to taking necessary action against him and the commission will be in the lead."

Afghanistan Radio & Television Union (ARTU) has strongly criticized the contracting process for the TV digitalization program, claiming that the contract was signed abroad and without passing through a proper bidding process.

"Firstly, we want to know based on what law they are changing the broadcasting from analog to digital; secondly, it has created a kind of monopoly with the project and corruption exists in monopolization, and this could endanger our broadcasting," ARTU Executive Director Kumail Mirshad Baig said. "Therefore, the monopoly must be broken and the contract should be put for bidding again. The second and third companies could also come forward so that Afghan media can also be part of the agreement, otherwise, the process will fail."

ARTU has reported that it has still not received a copy of the contract signed between the ministry and the private company, the name of which has been withheld. (Tolonews)

(6) Governor Wants...

spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told Pajhwok Afghan News.

The governor expressed deep concerns over growing incidents of insecurity and asked the officials concerned to provide every facility to security forces for improved law and order in the province.

Ulumi assured the governor of his support. Security forces will ensure security of southern highway that passed through Wardak, he added. On Friday, at least 30 militants and 18 Afghan Local Policemen (ALP) have been killed and 18 other rebels wounded in Kabul-Bamyan highway clashes in central Maidan Wardak province.

The lawmakers claimed in a press conference that 30 security forces had been killed in fighting. Taliban also claimed killing scores of security forces and seizing several check posts.

Security forces, however, regained control of three security check posts and extended anti-militants operation in Jalrez district early Saturday, said Khogyani.

Separately, the Organization of

Afghan Youth for Reforms and Change claimed Taliban has burned bodies of some ALP in the Jalrez district.

Syed Maysam Ihsani, policy director of the organization, told Pajhwok Afghan News the burning of dead bodies was a criminal act, which was against the rules of war. He said a provincial council member belonging to central Bamyan and some other officials who fled Jalrez district had confirmed the incident.

Ihsani told reporters Jalrez fighting had lasted for 26 hours and no reinforcement had been reached to security forces from the central government. (Pajhwok)

(7) NUG Leaders ...

for the local forces.

Over 20 local policemen were killed in the Jalrez clash. The ceremony on Saturday saw 12 of their bodies moved into Kabul to honor their sacrifice and receive a formal funeral.

Mohammad Muhaqiq, the Second Deputy of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, spoke at the ceremony and said the ministries of defense and interior should be forced to explain for their negligence in dealing with the Jalrez clashes.

"Both the Taliban and the residents witnessed the incident; the public protection forces waited for their deaths for 20 hours," Muhaqiq said on Saturday. "When I asked them why you don't go further, they replied that the area was full of mines. But, when the check posts were retaken, a tank went to the end of the area and no one was killed by mines."

Meanwhile, Sarwar Danish, the Second Vice President of President Ashraf Ghani, echoed Muhaqiq's sentiment, saying that those who have remained reluctant regarding the Jalrez battle should be exposed. Former Vice President Karim Khalili also blamed the large amount of casualties on mismanagement by security officials. "Most of the casualties are because of inattention and irresponsible attempts by the relevant organizations and lack of coordination among security agencies," he said. "This is not acceptable to us."

Chief Executive Abdullah has told TOLONews that Riza, one of the local policemen who was killed in Jalrez, and who is a relative, was in contact with him in the last moments of his life. Riza allegedly asked Abdullah repeatedly to deliver his pleas for backup to top security officials in order to save lives. "He told me repeatedly to call the leaders to support them, and we called several officials, but they did not pay attention, despite that there was an army and public protection force base near them," Abdullah said.

Local accounts of the Jalrez battle have substantiated the claims made by leaders at the ceremony on Saturday. Azizullah, a resident of Maidan Wardak who lost his brother in the battle, says the fighting raged on for 72 hours, and only ended once the police officers ran out of ammunition. "The Taliban, after killing my brother, tied his body behind a vehicle and pulled him on rocks and dust," Azizullah told TOLONews.

It is said that one of the fallen officers is from the Chindawol area of Kabul, while the others are all from Bamyan province. (Tolonews)

(8) WJ Orders ...

forces had regained control of all check posts from insurgents, and the ensuing gun battle left 40 rebels dead. He said 24 Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel had also lost their lives in the fighting.

Sediqa Mubarez, lawmaker from Maidan Wardak, accused local officials of negligence and urged the government to punish those officials who did not provide reinforcement on time.

She said Jalrez was only 25 kilometres away from Kabul, but back-up forces could not be reached there in 72 hours.

Chaman Shah Etemudi, Ghazni MP, said: "In apathy and some officials who were in connivance with insurgents caused fatalities in Jalrez."

Arif Rahmani, another lawmaker, said 500 metres away from the district three public order police check posts located but no cooperation took place with local police.

"All those died are Hazaras, Sarwar Danish and Muhaqiq should either resign or should investigate the incident seriously to know why Hazara ethnicity is being targeted," he remarked.

Sayed Sadaat Naseri, lawmaker

from Daikundi, without going into details called Jalrez incident political. "Those who are sitting in Arg want to destabilize central parts of the country."

Haji Hazrat Ali, Nangarhar representative, said: "Government's indifference has caused instability. There is no command and coordination centre and not a single day goes without an army soldier getting killed or beheaded."

He added Mujahedeen had the potential of fighting insurgents and without them the unity government would fall.

House Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy said Jalrez incident was a shocking development. "The issue should be deeply investigated."

He tasked the internal security and defence commissions of the Wolesi Jirga to investigate the issue and share their findings with the house. (Pajhwok)

(9) MPs Push ...

the national unity government for failing to implement the ID program despite the fact that over nine months have passed since it came into power. The digital ID program was initially launched under the administration of former president Hamid Karzai.

"Unfortunately, a huge amount of money has been spent for this project, so the government of Afghanistan is responsible for the distribution of electronic ID cards in order to maintain rule of law," MP Abdul Qayoum Sajjadi said on Friday. "A single day delay in this respect is a great oppression against the people of Afghanistan and their national interests."

Although there are no legal restrictions standing in the way of implementation, the central government has gone through a year of delays when it comes to the program. And given the troubles of the 2014 presidential election, many see the digital IDs as a crucial solution to electoral corruption moving ahead.

"In wake of the current situation, it is quite important to launch the electronic ID distribution so that we can enter a new phase of citizenship," Afghan journalist Hussaini Madani told TOLONews. "The parliamentary elections are ahead and also there is no accurate census about the population." (Tolonews)

(10) Slow-Paced ...

completed five months earlier, but it had been delayed due to lack of funds.

According to the ministry, the second phase has been 85 percent completed and the rest will be completed in two or three months.

In April, Pajhwok Afghan News reported residents' frustration over the slow going work and corruption in the project.

The dam is being constructed on the Helmand River in Chahar Burjak district of Nimroz province. The construction work on the vital project had begun in 1973 but held in abeyance due to then political situation of the country.

The Kamal Khan Dam construction costs \$100 million funded by the World Bank (WB). The initial work included the construction of a 3,400-metre wall --- 32 metres wide and 6 to 11 meters high.

In the second phase, a similar wall on the other side of the river would be constructed and the river's bed cemented.

In the third phase, power producing generators would be installed, the last stage to complete the project.

Nearly 40,000 acres of land would come under irrigation and 8.5 megawatts of electricity would be generated from the project.

Farida Hamidi, lawmaker from Nimroz, said people's major problem was high electricity tariff.

Currently 24 megawatts of electricity is imported from Iran for 20,000 residents of Zaranj, the provincial capital. With completion of the dam, more and inexpensive electricity will be provided to the residents.

Maulvi Salahuddin, a Zaranj resident addressing the minister, said: "There is massive corruption going on in the Nimroz energy department and people are fed up with that."

He added powerful individuals did not pay their power bills and it were ordinary citizens who bore the brunt.

Iran's ambassador to Kabul Mohammad Reza Bahrani, who accompanied the water and energy minister to Nimroz, announced opening Iran's consulate in the province. "We announce preparations for opening of our consulate in Zaranj city. The consulate would be opened in two to three months if

the agreement is reached."

Finance Minister Ekil Hakimi, who also travelled to Nimroz, said: "there are many challenges in the customs department. Based on our promises with lawmakers and people, these challenges should be resolved."

Reports indicate expensive goods are being taxed less by the customs officials in return for bribes. (Pajhwok)

(11) Jalrez Situation ...

Wali Noorzai said insurgents from Pakistan's tribal areas of Waziristan had also joined the local Taliban fighters in Jalrez fighting.

"Waziristani fighters had also accompanied the local Taliban," Noorzai said, noting that these militants could not confront the Afghan forces.

After the situation virtually came under control, the Interior Minister Noor-ul-Haq Ulomi and the Army Chief Gen. Qadam Shah Shaheen visited Jalrez where they promised the locals to avenge the brutal Jalrez killings.

During a meeting with the provincial governor, police chief and other local government officials, Ulomi ordered launch of a massive anti-insurgent operation throughout the province.

Reports suggest many corpses of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) members were desecrated by the Taliban. (Tolonews)

(12) Bamyan Protesters...

Afghans.

"The security forces suffering from hunger and facing acute shortage of weapons while the government was watching them as silent spectator," she said.

Khawari urged protesters to hold another gathering in support of security forces who sacrificed their lives for the motherland.

Around 20 ALP members who survived the clashes in Jalrez also participated in the protest.

Group leader of the ALP Mohammad Sharif told Pajhwok Afghan News that a number of their members were killed and some of them retreated to nearby posts after all their equipments finished.

He said he contacted Maidan Wardak police chief to send reinforcement but police chief was only assuring them of support.

Sharif said that more than 40 security personnel were killed during the clashes.

A civil society activist Mohammad Jawad Saday said the government itself was the cause of the killing of ALP members. (Pajhwok)

(13) Ghani Strongly...

checkpoints since the battle began, but hundreds of supporting forces, who reached the area on Friday and Saturday, had taken back at least seven of the checkpoints and secured the government buildings in central Jalrez.

The provincial governor on Saturday asked visiting senior officials from Kabul including the defence minister and the chief of army staff to thoroughly investigate the Jalrez incident. (Pajhwok)

(14) NRC Assists...

the building process, a female technical adviser also routinely checks on the construction to ensure standards and assist with any problems the women might face.

As a leading advocate for better humanitarian access, NRC is committed to providing assistance to the most vulnerable despite conditions that may make them difficult to reach.

NRC's Cash for Shelter program in Afghanistan initially commenced in 2007 and serviced all types of families ranging from male to disabled-headed households. Then in 2014, the Female Shelter project was created in response to the evident need to reach more women, who are oftentimes most in need of assistance. (Pajhwok)

(15) Stalled Work ...

districts soon. At least 25 projects were under process only in Khusshamand district which were halted because of worst law and order situation.

"The government and people should extend complete support for successful implantation of the projects in the area," he urged.

RRD had plans to kick-off around 184 projects under Sabat Program whereas only 60 projects had been taken off, the director said, adding that the remaining projects would be initiated through NSP.

The schemes would be implemented from NSP budgets. Paktika is one of the remote provinces where residents mostly complain of shortage of reconstruction projects. (Pajhwok)

(16) MSF Condemns ...

This serious event puts at risk the

lives of thousands of people who rely on the centre for urgent care."

MSF's centre is the only facility of its kind in the whole north-eastern region of Afghanistan providing high level life- and limb-saving trauma care. In 2014, more than 22,000 patients received care at the hospital and more than 5,900 surgeries were performed. MSF has a strict no weapons policy in all its facilities. The threats to MSF personnel and patients and the inability to provide medical care in a safe environment, forces us to temporarily suspend activities at Kunduz Trauma Centre. "We have requested urgent meetings with the Ministers of Defense and Interior to seek official assurances that our medical work will be respected and such an incident will not occur again," the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(17) 16 Rebels...

Omar Zwak, the governor's spokesman, said three children were killed and as many wounded when a landmine went-off with big bang in Grishak and Mullah Izat areas. "Militants plant roadside bombs, which cause casualties among civilians specifically children," he added.

Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, Taliban spokesman, said a Taliban fighter and 11 security forces men were killed in a landmine blast. (Pajhwok)

(18) 3 School Girls...

to hospital who were attacked with chemicals on their faces. "Not three, but two girls were brought here. It is still not clear whether they were attacked by acid or other chemicals."

He added the girls were students of Mahriya Herawi High School. After four years, this was the first acid incident of its kind in the province. (Pajhwok)

(19) Bangi District ...

Meanwhile, Sunatullah Taimoor, the spokesman for Takhar acting governor, said district executive chief Mohammad Yonus was killed and his 12 year-old son wounded when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went-off.

Najmudin, a local resident, said that militants could not openly do anti-state activities but they secretly targeted government and police officials. Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, claimed killing the Bangi district chief executive. (Pajhwok)

(20) Kunduz, Baghlan...

Meanwhile, Taliban claimed killing 12 security officials in the Shikhabad village of Dasht-i-Archi.

Separately, four insurgents were killed in the Baghlan-i-Markazi and one more in the Burka district of Baghlan province, Police Chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Jabbar Purdil said.

He said seven more insurgents were wounded in the clearing operation on Friday.

Arbab Ghulam, a resident of the locality, said heavy fighting was ongoing in the area between rebels and security forces. He said two children were wounded due to rocket attack that hit a residential compound.

But Taliban claimed the rocket landed in military base, killing a number of soldiers. In addition, they claimed killing three policemen and wounding four others in another attack. (Pajhwok)

(21) Syrian Forces...

areas in Damascus adjacent to the clashes sites.

The rebels' offensive was coupled by heavy mortar shelling against districts and squares inside Damascus, where plumes of dark smokes were seen below different areas as a result of the mortar shelling, which also left many cars ablaze inside the heavily-fortified capital. (Xinhua)

(22) Pakistan Military...

pockets of terrorists in Shawal Area. The army chief was informed that the fighting troops have just successfully completed the preliminary phase of Shawal operation and cleared all peaks around this valley, the military spokesman, who accompanied the Army Chief, said.

As the Taliban and their allies are now under mounting pressure and on the run, the security forces have stepped up attacks on their hideouts to quickly clear the remaining areas ahead of the winter. Tribesmen familiar with the areas say the militants could flee either to the other side of the border into Afghanistan or the nearby areas. (Xinhua)

(23) Prime Minister...

character. Following the visit, it planned to adopt the Joint Statement of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of India, to sign a number of intergovernmental and interdepartmental documents aimed at further strengthening multifaceted bilateral cooperation. (Agencies)