

(1) Jalrez Incident ...

The statement said the president nominated a high-level delegation to assiduously probe the incident from every aspect within three days.

The president said any kind of negligence if found would also be addressed.

Ghani also appointed another delegation to extend the national unity government leaders condolences to families of the martyred security men.

The NSC decided to take all necessary measures for improvement in coordination among security organs to prevent such incidents in the future.

The NSC also stressed capacity-building of Afghan security forces and the creation of a mechanism to timely dispatch reinforcements to all parts of the country. (Pajhwok)

(2) Senate Closes ...

Wardak of neglecting the Jalrez killings.

Nearly 30 Afghan Local Police (ALP) force members were killed with their bodies allegedly desecrated after a number of insurgents stormed Jalrez district in Maidan Wardak last Thursday and seized all nine police checkpoints of the district.

"Negligence of the senior government officials and the interior minister are not acceptable to the representatives in the House," MP Abdul Qayoum Sajjadi said. "We want an immediate resignation by these officials."

He demanded the government to bring the Wardak Police Chief and other local officials responsible for Jalrez carnage to justice. President Ashraf Ghani has however assigned a high-level government team to investigate the Jalrez incident.

In addition, he called the desecration of the corpses of soldiers a "war crime."

However, the families and relatives of the victims claimed in a gathering on Sunday that the Jalrez battle was a conspiracy against the residents of the province.

"Today I understood that there is no one to defend us," Mustafa a slain soldier's cousin said.

Meanwhile, officials at the ministries of defense and interior affairs promised to hold accountable the officials responsible for Jalrez killings. (Tolonews)

(3) Law to Take...

verdict but he would try to ensure that justice was done to Farkhunda and her family members.

The 27 year-old Farkhunda Malikzada was brutally beaten to death, burnt and thrown into muddy Kabul River by a mob on 19 March in Kabul in the presence of scores of people after she was accused of burning a copy of Quran.

Earlier, the Kabul primary court convicted and sentenced four men to death for their role in the mob killing in March this year and sent another eight defendants to jail for 16 years each.

But the appellant court in its last week ruling quashed the death sentence and changed into 20 years imprisonment.

Safiullah Mujaddedi, the primary court judge, awarded capital punishment to Zain-ul-Abedin son of Gulabuddin, Mohammad Yaqoob son of Mohammad Yasin, Mohammad Sharif son of Sharafuddin, Abdul Bashir son of Abdul Shakoor on the charges of killing Farkhunda and burning her body.

The Afghan Women's Network (AWN) last Thursday denounced the appellant court decision to revoke the death penalty of four individuals accused in Farkhunda murder case.

Lya Jawad, member of the AWN, told Pajhwok Afghan News the court hearing was expected to take place in open, but it was conducted off-camera.

She termed the court decision unjust and warned of series of protests from next Tuesday if the decision was not reversed.

"We had doubt in the decisions of primary court and expected the appellant court would ensure justice," she noted.

Abdul Ali Mohammadi, President Ghani's legal advisor, pointed out that appellant court had filled the gaps left in first court decision. He emphasized the alleged persons did not have lawyers during first court trial. He said that finding killer of

Farkhunda was a main issue since according to the law the person who beat Farkhunda to death would be the original killer.

Cell phone videos and pictures were the sole evidences in Farkhunda case, Mohammadi said, adding that "the judges have confronted with issues due to the complexity of the case and also showed the shortcomings of existing Afghan law therefore, the case should be decided according to Hanafi sect of Islamic law."

The delegation urged president for immediate arrest of culprits involved in Farkhunda murder. The president said justice would be delivered in the case. The president reassured his complete support to Farkhunda's family and asked civil society to share their findings with him to improve existing law and performance of police to facilitate Afghans. (Pajhwok)

(4) As Investments ...

Independent experts have voiced similar concerns as Rasouli. Many have said the government's lack of support for investors and businesses is the main reason for dwindling investments in the country.

Hasib Muahid, a lecturer at Kabul University, told TOLONews that the government should do more to create a hospitable and attractive environment for investors. "Investors should be provided a safe environment for their investments," he said. "They will never invest in other countries if they are protected by the government."

Economic officials say investments in most sectors, including transport, construction, industries and agriculture, have shrunk over the past year. (Tolonews)

(5) Afghanistan Faces ...

(MoD) Dawlat Waziri told TOLONews. "But our forces will never lose their control."

The Afghan forces conducted 2,719 anti-insurgent operations during the past six months, the report indicates. In addition, the Afghan forces also launched 107 air strikes on insurgent hide-outs.

Helmand with 448 insecurity incidents during the period topped the list of most unsafe provinces, followed by Kandahar, Nangarhar, Herat, Kunduz, Uruzgan, Faryab, Ghazni, Sar-e-Pul and Kabul.

Bamyan with seven and Panjshir with only two incidents were among the safe provinces, the report stated.

"In general, the security forces had only responsive actions during the last six months," said Abbas Hussaini of TOLONews, who prepared the report.

The report saw 563 attacks by the insurgents, 341 incidents of mine explosions and bombings and 60 suicide attacks, in the past six months.

A total of 14,597 insurgents including foreign militants were reportedly killed during the period.

About 1,485 ANSF members, 917 civilians and four foreign soldiers were also killed in these attacks.

In addition, rise of fast-growing Daesh militants was the other major threat to the Afghan government. Daesh fighters have been sighted in a number of areas in the country, causing panic among the war-hit Afghans.

However, the security agencies recently formed a special unit to fight Daesh - in what appears to be government's first action against the group that has seized large areas in Iraq and Syria. (Tolonews)

(6) Some Media...

Independent journalist Abdul-Nizami urged the governor to fully cooperate with media representatives in order they could cover all events taking place in the province.

If problems, gains and social issues were reflected through the media, it would help keep inform people and pave the ground for accountability, the journalist opined.

Another journalist, Qarib Rahman Shahab, said many provincial departments, particularly security organs, refused to share information with reporters, a problem that needed special attention.

He said the problem could be re-

solved through organizing joint sittings of journalists and provincial officials.

Pajhwok correspondent Idrees Noori also championed the freedom of speech at the meeting and demanded that security officials should answer questions posed by journalists during security incidents.

He said Pajhwok Afghan News was committed to preserving national interests and would never publish reports that could incite political or tribal tension. The governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, asked media organisations to contact them for cooperation during their operations in the province.

He said other media groups should open their branches in Maidan Wardak and the provincial administration would fully cooperate with them. (Pajhwok)

(7) 22 Contracts ...

the meeting evaluated contracts of the ministries of mines and petroleum, public works, rural development, defence, interior, education, Kabul municipality, At the meeting, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum was directed to pay special attention to health condition of miners and take measures in this regard.

The meeting also approved a bypass road for western Herat province to reduce by 16 hours unnecessary journey for heavy vehicles and mitigate traffic problems in Herat City, the provincial capital.

Headed by second-vice president, the committee tasked with investigating contracts of the Interior Ministry presented its report to the meeting.

The meeting decided that a plan giving a six-month respite in the emergency contracts should be prepared and a bidding process reopened.

The Interior Ministry representatives said 72 experts had been sent to provincial departments related to the ministry for reforms in the procurement process. (Pajhwok)

(8) Govt. Echoes...

Sunday said that Afghanistan wants to see the foreign troop withdraw move forward on the basis of the country's national security conditions, rather than arbitrary date-setting.

While speaking at a press conference in Kabul on Saturday, Senator McCain, who ran against Obama in the 2008 U.S. presidential election, called the administration's calendar-based troop withdraw a mistake. At the moment, while Obama administration officials have said the American government is willing to be flexible on the basis of how things unfold over the next couple years in Afghanistan, Washington has effectively set the deadline for the troop withdraw as the end of 2016.

"The president of Afghanistan, in the past, had also said that it would be better that the United States make the decision about the troop pullout with consideration of the current situation and war inside Afghanistan," presidential spokesman Hashimi said Sunday. "However, it is the U.S. officials and U.S. government who will make the final decision."

For those who have advocated a more cautious and tactical approach to the U.S. troop withdraw, McCain's comments came as a welcome sign that there maybe more allies for their cause in Washington than previously thought. (Tolonews)

(9) Governor Stresses ...

Akbari said construction of the new Madrassa would help resolve problem of hundreds of Islamic students. The religious center has the capacity of 600 students to teach them from primary up to higher Islamic education.

Akbari told Pajhwok Afghan News the Madrassa contained 16 classrooms, a saloon, two libraries, three office rooms and a bathroom. The construction of the Madrassa took one year and its fund was donated by the Ministry of Counternarcotics. (Pajhwok)

(10) Laghman Teachers

few cold storages and I have initiated reconstruction work to make them functional so that farmers could utilize them," he pledged.

The governor also ensured that he would leave no stone un-

turned to start projects of public welfare.

"I directed the departments concerned to assign deserving and capable people on around 400 vacant posts in the province," he added.

Strong coordination among security organs and other departments would lead to better law and order in the province, the governor stressed. (Pajhwok)

(11) Commission Formed

Brig. Gen. Dawlat Waziri, the spokesman of MoD, said a commission had been formed to investigate what caused delay in sending logistic, weapons and other reinforcement to the soldier.

He said the commission had launched work and individual who committed negligence in delivery of reinforcement would be punished and introduced to media as well in order to avoid similar incidents in the future.

Earlier, a number of civil society members and bereaved family members of Afghan Local Police (ALP) who lost their lives in Jalrez attack asked government and parliament members to strictly observe performance of security institutions and impeach their heads for demonstrating inefficiency.

The demonstrators told journalists in Kabul that parliament should adopt measures to punish those security officials who demonstrated lethargy after the bloody Jalrez incident.

They demanded the impeachment of interior minister and chief of National Directorate of Security (NDS).

According to Waziri, nine Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and 16 insurgents have been killed, while 17 rebels wounded and ten arrested in different parts of the country during the past 24 hours. (Pajhwok)

(12) Armed Strangers...

remind me of the civil war period 20 years ago."

He added the government was using these Arbakis to fight Taliban but they run away from Taliban and brought chaos to the city.

Sayed Reza, a shopkeeper, said: "These armed men come to our shops to buy clothes. If I tell them price of a good at 500 afghanis they would only pay 300 afghanis. If we ask for the rest of our money they would threaten us with guns."

He added the shopkeepers closed their shops earlier for fear of being looted by these people. Reza said now that few days were left for Eid celebrations they were supposed to be open until late night.

Abdul Maqsood, another resident, said: "Arbakis are roaming freely in the city, nobody can stop them."

He expressed concerns that presence of these armed men would one day lead to clashes and insecurity in the city. According to residents, earlier police chief had ordered all check posts to prevent these people from entering the city, but after security situation deteriorated they could easily enter the city. (Pajhwok)

(13) 'Top Security ...

hundreds of residents, civil society activists and members of the provincial council held a protest in Bamyan City the other day, accusing security officials, particularly ministers of defence and interior of negligence in the Jalrez incident.

Syed Alavi Rohullah, a provincial council member, told Pajhwok Afghan News 76 ALP officials had gone missing after the group attack by militants on security check posts.

Ahmad Shah Stanikzai, another civil society member, said the nation had been hoping the unity government would develop the country but the situations had further deteriorated.

The bereaved family members of the slain ALP men demanded the government appoint governor or police chief to the province from the Hazara tribe as they were in majority in the province.

They also demanded that the defence minister should be from the Hazara tribe, the fourth largest community in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(14) Congo Virus...

18 of Congo virus cases had re-

corded in 2013 and six of the cases were registered in 2014.

He added that there was no serious concern about the virus in Afghanistan, but the MoPH has started investigation to uproot the disease. (Pajhwok)

(15) US Soldiers...

the crowd. At one point, an Afghan man stabbed a soldier. The scene calmed only when Afghan security forces took control, witnesses said.

The investigation by an 11-person board of NATO officials concluded that it was extremely unlikely that US troops had shot any Afghans during the episode, said Brig. Gen. Wilson A. Shoffner of the US Army. Shoffner, the top military spokesman for the US-led mission in Afghanistan, said the review had concluded that one US soldier had "fired two warning shots from his rifle into the side of an unoccupied and obviously damaged civilian vehicle parked on the side of the road in order to warn off the crowd."

By that time, Shoffner said, the crowd of "agitated civilians" had been throwing rocks, debris and even chunks of metal at the troops. The warning shots prompted the crowd to back up. Shoffner said the investigation found that the shots were fired at a downward angle into the empty vehicle "and there was no reasonable way that the rounds could have caused any injury to anyone." (Monitoring Desk)

(16) Pakistan Still ...

comes to the Taliban insurgency. While informal talks looking to pave the way for peace negotiations have been arranged between Afghan officials and Taliban leaders, many experts remain incredulous about Islamabad's - but particularly the Pakistani military and intelligence organs' - commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan.

According to Raziq, Afghanistan's southern provinces are slightly more stable in comparison to other parts of the country. Taliban activity is reportedly concentrated in certain parts of Helmand and Uruzgan provinces. (Tolonews)

(17) Anti-Drug ...

said the civil society had the capacity to create awareness among people against the adverse effects of drugs so they could shun using narcotics.

Faizullah Ghamkhor, another civil society activist, said the number of drug addicts was increasing with each passing day. "Snuff, locally known as naswar, should be banned because it is the main cause of addiction. Several hundred tons of snuff is sold on a daily basis in Khost alone."

Meeran Gul Taniwal, the anti-drug drive chief for Khost, said the increasing number of drug addicts showed drug trade was thriving in the province. "We along with security forces have initiated a drive against the addiction until we stop the menace."

Afghanistan produces 90 percent of world's drugs and stands first among poppy cultivating states.

The Counternarcotics Ministry says the population of drug addicts has reached three million and is fast growing. (Pajhwok)

(18) 12 Nangarhar...

take part in nation and country's building.

The chairman said the committee would pay 8,000 Afghanis a month for six months to each person and later "we would help them to find permanent source of income."

At least 605 armed rebels have joined peace committee so far in the province.

Meanwhile, Mustafa Wardak, chairman of Maidan Wardak peace committee, said that at least 31 armed militants have joined the peace committee in last three years. (Pajhwok)

(19) Helmand Residents

a person of affiliation with Taliban and sometimes with other militant groups only to get money from them."

The commander stormed a village by saying that he wanted to follow Taliban and then he carried all household items of the local residents with him. "Commander Noor Mohammad and his guards have seriously beaten two young men and old man to

death," he mentioned.

Pajhwok Afghan News tried to contact Noor Mohammad to get his version but he could not be contacted. (Pajhwok)

(20) 13 Militants...

killed in a clash with anti-state elements," he observed.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed killing commander of ALP in Mohammad Agbi district along with his guards last night.

Separately, 13 rebels have been killed in missile strikes by unmanned aircraft in eastern provinces. Col. Nouman Hatfi, spokesman of the 201st Sailab Military Corps, told Pajhwok Afghan News that foreign forces conducted airstrikes in Chappa Dara of Kunar province and Ghanikhel district of Nangarhar late last night. (Pajhwok)

(21) 10 Rebels...

during the operation, the official said.

But a Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said three US soldiers and as many fighters, and a civilian were killed in the foreign troops' raid.

Separately, four policemen were killed when Taliban gunmen stormed their check-post in the Khoshmand district.

The governor's spokesman, Nabiullah Perkhel, confirmed the killing of four policemen in the overnight clash. (Pajhwok)

(22) Stanikzai Denied...

Abdul Hadi Khalid, a former deputy interior minister and political expert, said Stanikzai failed to get enough votes due to differences between the two teams of the government.

He said the two teams were yet to reach an agreement on the defence minister nominee.

Khalid asked the government to introduce another person with enough experience in military and political affairs to the Wolesi Jirga as soon as possible. (Pajhwok)

(23) 3 Faryab Districts ...

He added two Afghan Local Police (ALP) members were also killed in Arklik area of Qaisar district.

"A meeting at the governor's house involving National Directorate of Security (NDS) and security officials discussed the situation in the districts today," he said, adding that additional security forces had reached the areas under attack.

Hashimi warned many districts could fall if the Afghan Air Force did not support the ground forces. (Pajhwok)

(24) Work on 20...

The schemes would be completed in one year at a total cost of 65 million Afghanis, he said, adding that it would benefit 10,000 families.

The residents welcomed the projects and hoped it would boost agriculture sector of the province.

Syed Mohammad, the resident of Lashkar Rah village said: "With the construction of three water reservoirs we would be able to grow our orchards." (Pajhwok)

(25) Seven Terrorists ...

Mubashirullah S/O Deena a resident of Badakhshan province, Hamidullah S/O Abdul Khaliq resident of Ghor province and Niamatullah S/O Sardar resident of Kunar province.

The group was arrested red handed with three magnetic bombs in Hazrat Bilal Madrassa (religious seminary) in Base Ekmalati area of Jalalabad city. (KP)

(26) Australia, U.S...

cant challenges in many parts of the world but particularly in the Middle East," Prime Minister Tony Abbott said when boarding the USS Blue Ridge in Sydney on Friday. (Xinhua)

(27) Saudi-Led...

exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power. Saba said the air strike targeted the Aahem market in Hajjah province, where preliminary figures showed that 30 civilians were killed and an unspecified number of people were wounded. "The Saudi enemy targeted citizens while they were doing their shopping at Aahem market," the agency quoted a security source in Hajjah as saying. (Reuters)