

(1) Govt. Making...

Abdullah said all high-ranking officials had luxurious homes in Kabul and other major cities, thus lacking the sense of responsibility and only Afghan National Army soldiers and police laid down their lives in the line of duty while their salaries delayed and the families of martyred personnel longed for assistance.

The CEO said he held an exclusive session with provincial security officials besides discussing problems the provincial education department faced.

He said he had directed the ministries concerned about the construction of Helmand university building and health services.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Mirza Khan Rahimi said the insurgents had largely focused their activities on northern districts and as a result, the situation in those districts had deteriorated. He said the situation in southern districts was comparatively stable and their plan was to turn offensive from defensive mode.

The governor said the government should establish factories and develop the agriculture sector in order to find alternate income source for poppy growers.

He said 4000 tonnes of narcotics produced in Helmand this season, with the bulk of harvest ending up in hands of smugglers. He said the narcotics fueled the conflict in the province.

Provincial council chief Haji Karim Atal said their prime demand was security without which no one could govern.

He said joblessness was increasing in the province with the passage of time and as a result, the youth were turning to drugs.

He said a lot needed to be done in areas of health and education in Helmand and urged the unity government to appoint eligible persons in provincial departments.

Senator Hashim Alokozai said the security situation in districts had deteriorated, forcing local residents to flee. (Pajhwok)

(2) Afghan Forces ...

The US general said insecurity in Afghanistan increased after Pakistani forces launched their offensives in North Waziristan area forcing militants to flee into Afghanistan.

Campbell reiterated to the alliance's continued support for the Afghan forces and the national unity government.

"I hold meetings with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah and President Ashraf Ghani every week and we talk about various issues together," he said, adding that he held similar meetings Afghan interior and defence ministries' officials.

The Afghans supported their security forces who gained more power by each passing day, he said. "It is time for Afghans to get united and fight jointly against their enemy," he remarked.

Campbell welcomed the peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Pakistan and said President Ghani had taken important steps in this regard.

He also praised the unity government's improved relations with Pakistan and said both the countries should jointly fight their enemies posing threat to them.

Pointing to growing insecurity in northern region of Afghanistan, the NATO commander said both militants and criminals, including drug smugglers, were out to sabotage peace.

He pledged to strengthen the Afghan Air Force and the air force would soon receive more helicopters.

To a question about the number of IS fighters, he said, there was no member of the group in Afghanistan about six months ago. Afghanistan could not be compared with Iraq, he said, adding that the IS could not find a foothold in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(3) Dand-I-Ghori...

forces had retreated to Hajhda Kotal area. "After the fall of the last posts, Pul-i-Khumri's security is under threat and there is a possibility of Taliban getting to the doorsteps of the city."

Dand-i-Ghori's last section is a kilometre away from Pul-i-Khumri and Taliban have launched rocket attacks thrice on the city, wounding more than 10 persons.

Javed Basharat, police spokesman, said the military post in Wardaka was damaged during the heavy fighting and was not usable anymore.

He added security forces had positioned on the hills around Dand-i-Ghori and were planning to regain the area.

The provincial capital, he said, faced no security threats, adding that in the latest clash at least 12 insurgents and three policemen died, while 25 more insurgents had been wounded.

Taliban said on their website they captured the last military centre in Dand-i-Ghori after surrounding the area for days, killing two soldiers and wounding six more.

Unconfirmed reports said that some civilians have been wounded during the clashes and many families displaced.

Jang Gul, a resident of Wardaka locality, said around 150 families have left the area and moved to provincial capital. He said his wife and cousin were wounded in the fighting. (Pajhwok)

(4) 8 Billion Afghanis...

had been recovered from going waste following oversight and strict observation by NPC.

The president said the purpose of NPC was to ensure transparency in the government and particularly the defence ministry procurement contracts and concentrate more on logistic and expenditures of security forces.

He directed members of the NPC to hold meetings with anti-corruption officials of private companies and discussed with them the approved contracts and its implementation.

During the meeting, officials of the Resolute Support (RS) mission assured that they would provide \$200 million for restoring electricity supply to the military corps from the Afghanistan Breshna Shirkat (ABS). Earlier they were provided electricity form generators.

The NPC meeting for the first time approved the fuel contract for the Afghan Air Force which would be paid from the national exchequer. RS officials praised performance of NPC and said such efforts would help ensure transparency and good governance in the Afghan government institutions. (Pajhwok)

(5) WJ Urges...

with the Taliban in such situation will not produce results."

She added that the Taliban's demands were very high and the government must surrender and the constitution should amend to Taliban if they reach peace.

The Afghanistan Ulama Council had urged Taliban to at least cease fire during the holy month of Ramadan. However, Taliban rejected the request and increased violence.

Taliban and government officials had met in China, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Norway but both sides had said that the meetings were informal.

In recent event, Taliban and Afghan government representatives had met in Pakistan's capital Islamabad and both the sides agreed to meet in future. (Pajhwok)

(6) Minister Claims...

in Jalalabad, the provincial capital.

She revealed a joint committee of ministries to be headed by the president was being formed to work for reducing the unemployment ratio and creating jobs.

"The ratio of joblessness is high in the country. Until the unemployment issue is not resolved, peace cannot come even if we establish another four defence ministries," she remarked.

The Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled Ministry would run the joint committee's secretariat, Oryakhel said, adding the proposed joint committee's work policy was being mulled over.

About problems being faced by families of martyrs and the disabled, she said: "Budget for them is not insufficient, but some people have obtained cards in their name in the past. It means corruption is ongoing and we will stop it."

The minister said 200 students from families of martyrs and the disabled would be sent to India for education this solar year and that jobs would be found for skilled Afghan workers abroad.

"A large number of people are beggars and similarly widows and children work as hard labourers. Efforts are being made to find solution to these issues."

Nangarhar governor Salim Khan Kuduzi urged the minister resolve the same problems in Nangarhar. He said the Nangarhar government faced problems like the

increasing number of beggars, joblessness and resettlement of returning refugees and sought solution to them.

Dr. Nasir Kamawal, the provincial council deputy head, said all ministries, including the social affairs, gave insufficient funds to Nangarhar. He said the budget problem should be resolved because the population of Nangarhar had drastically increased. (Pajhwok)

(7) Arms Being...

Sheghnan, Khwahan, Rakh-o-Wakhan are among districts bordering Tajikistan.

Sauda urged government to allay people's reservations. He accused the government of not taking serious actions against 400 Daesh fighters and over 700 Taliban members operating openly in the area.

"In parts of Badakhshan, security forces face shortages of weapons and ammunitions. Nobody helps them but for districts that are safe the government distributes weapons," he claimed.

Fawzia Kofi, another MP from Badakhshan, expressed concerns about distribution of weapons in the province.

She alleged some groups inside the government wanted to incite clashes among groups for their personal interests. "If the hands of these groups are not cut short, we'll witness incidents that have not been repeated in the history of Afghanistan."

Kofi said the government should focus on strengthening security forces, rather than illegally arming people.

Abdul Qadir Zaheer, first deputy speaker, who chaired the session, said lawmakers should present evidence in connection of their claims. He promised the house would investigate those claims.

Sediq Seddiqi, spokesman of Ministry of Interior, rejected that the government had distributed illegal weapons to civilians. (Pajhwok)

(8) Any Threat...

and they should cooperate with Afghan security forces in fighting the menace.

"The way Daesh has activities in Syria it doesn't have in Afghanistan. Their personnel are just the former Taliban fighters that have changed their white flags to black," Waziri added.

Earlier, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) announced the death of Hafiz Saeed, Daesh leader in a drone strike in Nangarhar. (Pajhwok)

(9) UN Security ...

Reiterated that women have a vital role to play in the peace process, the Security Council recalled the need for the full, equal and effective participation of women at all its stages. (Pajhwok)

(10) Panjshir PC...

been remarkable since they were sworn in. We haven't seen anything they did for Panjshir or its residents."

He said the public representatives should have urged high government officials to build schools, health clinics, roads and other welfare and development projects.

Mohammad Asghar, a student, said: "The provincial council has not worked as much as people needed."

"They always think about their gatherings and meetings. Their monitoring right has been reinstated, but it seems they haven't utilised that authority. You can see how much problems people have," the 23-year-old said.

The national assembly once barred the provincial councils from evaluating the performance of local departments.

In response, the councils went on a countrywide strike until a presidential decree restored their evaluation right.

Asghar continued: "When people vote you to power, then they expect work from you no matter if less but honestly."

Haji Abdul Qudus, a local elder in the Hissa Doem district, said the now PC members would visit their homes on a daily basis during their election campaign.

He said their campaign promises included construction of roads and others, but they did nothing since taking office.

He added people needed roads and healthcare centres because in his locality there existed only one clinic more than 700 families.

"I swear we won't vote for these candidates next time if they come to our village during elections."

Rahela Attaee, the provincial council deputy head, however, told Pajhwok Afghan News the council was part of the emergency relief committee during winter avalanches and had taken part in relief efforts.

"The council has played a significant role in all spheres. In some cases we have resolved tribal disputes and refugees' problems," she added. (Pajhwok)

(11) Every Official ...

order the provincial departments serve the people in an effective way and win their trust, a plan was being worked out, the governor revealed.

"For increased people's trust in the government, every official from a high-ranking to a low-ranking has to be held accountable."

The governor said he had included the recovery of grabbed public land in his first 100-day action plan. "All those government and township plots which are illegally grabbed will be freed from the encroachers with the help of security forces."

He called as a key challenge to the rule of law the existence of unregistered vehicles and motorcycles and targeted killings.

On administrative graft, the governor said the menace would be discouraged with implementation of reforms through an exclusive mechanism.

But he said making people's minds to discourage bribes could play a key role and he would hold special meetings with civil society activists and media representatives in this regard.

"Currently a number of important departments are being run by acting heads. Similarly many key posts remain vacant, which all have negative impact on good governance and services."

The governor said to fill the vacant government posts and bring reforms, young and energetic individuals would be appointed.

"We also have the plan to announce an exclusive telephone number so that people's legitimate demands, proposals and criticism could be shared with the authorities concerned."

Under a special mechanism, the governor said, the provincial judicial and justice, security organs and all the civil departments would present their monthly performance reports.

Though all the mentioned tasks seem problematic to some extent, the governor said he had been assured complete support and cooperation by the central government.

"On the back of deep and improved ties with the central government, support of the president and the chief executive officer, I will do effective work for the development and prosperity of Khost province." (Pajhwok)

(12) Over 42,000 ...

refugees, accused of joining the Taliban ranks and, therefore, increasing the wave of violence SWEEPING the country.

Last month, the head of the UN-HCR, Antonio Guterres, requested the government of Prime Minister Nawaf Sharif to postpone the return process.

As part of its three-day visit, Guterres met with Sharif and his advisor on National SECURITY and Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz.

In both meetings, he addressed the repatriation issue, which the Pakistani authorities hope to conclude on December 31.

However, the Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Abdul Qadir Baloch, in those days reiterated the deadline adopted by the Cabinet.

Relations between Islamabad and Kabul governments are strained, among other reasons, because both accuse each other of supporting armed groups present in their respective countries. (Agencies)

(13) Stanikzai Failure...

in favor of proposed defense minister Mohammad Masoum Stainkzai while he was required to get 107 votes to win the seat.

On July 1, the government introduced defense minister-designate, the nominee for the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) and two members-designate of the Supreme Court to the Wolesi Jirga for vote of confidence. (Pajhwok)

(14) Liwal Vows...

his appointment as the deputy minister, Liwal had been serving as the Regional Studies Center of Afghanistan (RSCA) direct since 2006.

From July 2005 till March 2006, he served as director of Department

of Cultural and Social Affairs and Media Consultant with the Office of Administrative Affairs (Presidential Office).

Liwal had also followed H.H. Humphrey in Journalism from 2004 until 2005, the Humphrey fellowship program is an exchange program of the State Department of the United States of America in leadership and professional development.

From December 2004 -January 2005, he worked as Consultant (Curriculum development of Pashto Teaching) with the Center for the Languages of the Central Asian Region (CeL-CAR) in Indiana University USA.

Liwal had served on several other government positions and had worked with non-governmental organizations. (Pajhwok)

(15) Insurgents Seize ...

clashes began about two weeks ago in the district when insurgents carried out a coordinated attack on the security posts.

Earlier, the tribal elders had also warned collapse of the district.

Over the past few months, the insurgents have increased their activities in northern parts of the country and are targeting police posts. They have also captured a number of districts over the period. (Tolonews)

(16) Abdul Ghafar ...

collaborators, and, we hope, new friends."

"We welcome this passionate group to the Asia 21 family, and look forward to the contributions they make to the public good in the coming years," Sheeran added.

The 32 young leaders who make up the Asia 21 Class of 2015 represent 22 countries and are divided almost evenly between men and women.

According to the Asia Society, Fifty percent work in the private sector, 44 percent in the nonprofit sector, and 6 percent in the public sector.

The 2015 Class and Asia 21 alumni will gather at a special 10th anniversary Asia 21 Summit in Hong Kong, December 1-4. The summit will celebrate the achievements of the first decade, explore innovative ways to leverage the Asia 21 network for greater impact, and form special Asia 21 Task Forces to address critical issues facing the region. (KP)

(17) 350,000 Families...

education, refugees, labour and social affairs and agriculture ministries and natural disaster management authority have been formed in Kabul to monitor transparency in aid distribution.

Babrak, an internally displaced person from Helmand province who lives with his family in a tent in Kabul, said every morning he went looking for a job but came back home empty handed. (Pajhwok)

(18) 23 Insurgents...

wounded in the firefight.

The fight has been ongoing in Zard Kamar, said. The residents of the Khwaja Ghar district said Taliban wanted to control the district center and five districts in the province.

Najibullah, a resident of the locality, said over 100 of families have been displaced from the era. The location of the Zard Kamar is six kilometers away from the khwaja Ghar district.

Since last a few days, the area was in control of Taliban but later Afghan security forces recaptured the district after heavy fighting. Separately, in Gilan district of Ghazni province, insurgents and Afghan security forces were engaged in fierce fighting amid claims from both sides of heavy casualties.

Asadullah Insafi, a senior security official, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 18 Taliban were killed and 21 others wounded in the clashes. He added one policeman was also killed and three others wounded.

Six dead bodies of Taliban were still lying in the area, he added. (Pajhwok)

(19) Pakistani Fighters...

past four months in the Shinwari region. However, recent reports say the clashes have subsided.

Nangarhar governor Salim Khan Kunduzi told a press conference on Saturday that some civilians had been killed and a number of houses torched during yesterday clashes between the two groups.

"Simultaneously in the same area, foreign troops have carried out

an airstrike that killed 30 fighters from both the groups," the governor said.

To a question from this scribe, the governor said they had no exact figures for the civilians killed and the houses set ablaze, pending an investigation.

"The infighting has also left 15 militants killed and several others wounded. We are investigating the figures, but I can say the fighting has come to a close now."

The governor for the first time acknowledged that fighters from Pakistan had joined the IS group and from provinces, including Logar, had joined the Taliban in the Shinwari zone, but he had no figures.

Kunduzi said the clashes between the two groups were in the interest of the government because all those killed were opponents of the regime. (Pajhwok)

(20) Floods Leave...

including flour, ghee, milk and black tea to the affected families.

Dehqan added that 100 tents donated by International Organization of Migration (IOM), 50 other tents distributed by the PNDMA department and family packages contained dishes and cloths by UNICEF.

Abdul Maroof whose five-member family was affected by the floods said: "I lost all my belongings. I just survived with my three children and wife."

He confirmed receiving a tent and some food items. Some families were living with their relatives and tents were in urgent need for them, he added.

The director said that new trucks full of aid items were ready to arrive in the affected area. (Pajhwok)

(21) 4 Civilians Dead...

commander, said the wife and husband were traveling when their motorcycle struck a roadside bomb in Baghavi village of Sar-i-Pul City, the provincial capital.

The slain couple got married three months ago.

According to Dardman, the main target of the bomb was Zia-ul-Haq, police commander of the N0.1 Sar-i-Pul City-Shiberghar road. (Pajhwok)

(22) Suicide Blast ...

earlier this year and carried out numerous attacks across the country including capital Kabul. This comes as the anti-government armed militant groups launched coordinated suicide attack on NATO troops convoy and the Afghan intelligence compound in capital Kabul last week.

According to the security officials at least three people were injured in the attack on NATO troops convoy while a security guard of the NDS compound was killed along with three suicide bombers in the second attack on the intelligence compound. (KP)

(23) Bombing and...

eni government in exile had not asked it to pause, according to a news flash on Saudi-owned Arabiya TV. Yemeni government officials were not immediately available to comment.

Air raids pounded Houthi and Yemeni army units in the capital Sanaa and in the embattled southern cities of Taiz and Aden, where residents also reported intense artillery exchanges between the fighters and local militiamen. (Reuters)

(24) Hezbollah...

side the regime's forces, Nasrallah noted that the party's fighters who are dying in Syria are making sacrifices for the sake of "resistant Syria, Lebanon and Palestine."

He urged local sides to never bet on regional or international situations, reiterating that Syria is still strong and will survive to win finally.

He added that "we side with Syria and we support Syria and the Syrian popular needs. We are against destroying the Syrian state." (Xinhua)

(25) Attack on...

sandar Vucic had just laid a flower at a monument for the thousands of victims identified and buried there when the crowd started chanting 'Allahu Akbar' (God is Great) and throwing stones, forcing the Serbian leader to run for cover shielded by his bodyguards. Serbia's Tanjug state-run news agency said Vucic was hit on the head by a stone and had his glasses broken. (AFP)