

(1) Political Parties...

national figures consider the current registration process as incomplete and a tool to pave the way for corruption and crisis due to the lack of inaccurate calculation and unprofessional implementation and called on the government and Independent Election Commission (IEC) not to waste the precious time of the nation and tens of millions of dollars."

The leaders called on the government and IEC to declare the process incomplete and start using biometric technology in holding transparent, non-fraudulent and acceptable elections to all parties as soon as possible.

In another part of the plan, they emphasized on changing the system from SNTV to MDR, saying in a multidimensional electoral system, for all residents of Afghanistan including refugees, internally displaced people those who were in insecure areas.

"We once again emphasize over establishment of political parties' monitoring institutions in order to monitor the process of elections and no decision and action of the IEC will be carried out without the supervision of the parties."

Political parties warned: "If the government, IEC and international community do not accept their demands and continue their defective process, we consider it a crisis for Afghanistan." (Pajhwok)

(2) WJ Again Task...

But a number of people in Faryab staged protests and demanded the release of Qaisari. Three supporters of Qaisari were killed and five others injured after the protest turned violent. Protesters also attacked government facilities and set fire to vehicles and the governor's house.

The protestors also shut the gates of provincial branches of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) in Faryab, Sar-I-Pul, Jawzjan, Balkh and Samangan provinces.

Mohammad Arif Rahmani, a Wolesi Jirga member told today's session of the house that Afghan security forces mistreated Qaisari's guards, an issue he urged should be investigated.

He said Qaisari's detention was ordered by a specific person or office and the Wolesi Jirga should not ignore that fact.

A number of other lawmakers had similar views.

However, Mohammad Yousuf Sabir, another lawmaker said that Afghan security forces did a great job in detention of Qaisari and his bodyguards.

Justice should be sought for those who were oppressed by Qaisari and his armed supporters, he said.

Wolesi Jirga speaker, Abdur Raouf Ibrahim, said that the lower house has previously decided about the issue but a delegation was not so far appointed for its assessment.

He said a joint delegation comprised of commissions of defense, internal security and justice should assess the detention of Qaisari, Afghan forces treatment of Qaisari's supporters and protests triggered by the issue in the north.

A day earlier, eight bodyguards of Qaisari were released from detention center but Qaisari and a number of his supporters were still in custody. (Pajhwok)

(3) Taliban Insurgents...

have been convicted of terrorist offenses including attacks on civilians, Afghan security forces

and American and other foreign troops.

Speaking exclusively to ABC News from their prison block, a group of Taliban fighters said that they had taken up arms because foreign forces had invaded their country.

Afghanistan has a long history of defying and sometimes overwhelming more powerful foreign armies. Although it is not an entirely accurate description, it is often referred to as the "Graveyard of Empires."

As American, British and other foreign forces expanded their presence and mission in the country so the insurgents responded with ever more widespread and ruthless attacks.

It is not only America's longest war but it has also come at great cost in blood and treasure. Almost 2,200 American troops have been killed and many more wounded. The war is estimated to have cost more than \$1 trillion.

The recent and unprecedented ceasefire by the government and the Taliban over the Eid holiday that follows the holy Islamic month of Ramadan has created a sense of hope that perhaps a lasting peace can be achieved. But the insurgents tell ABC News that they will not agree to end their fight until American and other foreign troops agree to leave. (abc news)

(4) Turkey Ready...

decision had been made in this regard," the envoy said.

The Turkish ambassador admired the support and love of the people of Afghanistan at time of coup and added that Ankara would continue its assistance to Afghanistan in various areas. (Pajhwok)

(5) NATO...

"We will have President Ghani here tomorrow and then we can, of course, discuss how we can develop, adjust, adopt the way we provide support to them," he added.

Instead of conducting big combat operations, the NATO troops were helping the Afghans to fight terrorism Taliban themselves, the secretary-general explained.

"That concept, I am absolutely certain, is the right concept. Then our presence now is conditions based and I think that's also one of the reasons why we have seen some progress in the efforts to find a political solution." I

He reiterated NATO was trying to create the conditions for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and send a message to Taliban that they would not win on the battlefield.

The insurgents would have to negotiate with the Afghan government, he maintained, saying the NATO presence was needed to send that message to the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(6) Commandos...

some of his bodyguards had also been badly assaulted. Qaisari was however immediately flown to Kabul where he is still being held.

"You see in the footage and pictures that there are no commandos involved. But I want to tell you that a team has been appointed to search for every detail about these pictures and video," Radmanish said.

The pictures and video, which went viral on Facebook, showed the bound men, lying on the ground, being beaten by security forces. The troops involved appear to be wearing Afghan Na-

tional Army (ANA) uniforms. It is believed the men being assaulted could be Qaisari's bodyguards.

Meanwhile in a video conference on Saturday, President Ashraf Ghani addressed security and local officials in Faryab and asked the relevant departments to investigate the incident, the Presidential Palace said in a statement.

According to the statement, the president and officials also discussed the security situation in the province. Officials said the situation was "good" and that they have taken steps to improve it. Officials said they have also kept the protestors in the province calm.

Meanwhile, Kandahar police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq said in a statement on Saturday that the assault on Qaisari's bodyguards needs to be properly investigated.

"The footage was published on social media as breaking news, and shows the men who are not members of Daesh, Taliban or other insurgent groups, but who are being shot and kicked in such a brutal way. They (men) are our soldiers of yesterday or today who bravely defended the country and the treatment they have been subjected to will weaken the morale of other soldiers," read the statement.

Kandahar provincial council also discussed the issue in their Saturday meeting.

"We had an election and then a decision was made which divided (the power) 50-50 (between Ghani and Abdullah). They both own 50 percent of government, but no one consults the nation on issues," Nematullah Shirdili, a member of the council said.

Members of parliament also touched on the issue of Qaisari and the assault of his bodyguards on Saturday and warned that there could be negative consequences.

"The army and commandos' job is to stand against those who work against the government and create insecurity," MP Mohammad Yusuf Saber said. Qaisari was arrested about 12 days ago over claims that he had insulted security officials. Reports meanwhile indicate that about 20 of Qaisari's bodyguards were also arrested. However, seven were released on Friday. (Tolo news)

(7) Govt to Build...

certificates in order to find their way to Europe markets.

EU officials said the Afghan government should use the tariff privileges granted by the European countries to Kabul for expansion of its trade.

"We are working also very closely with the ministry in terms of setting up laboratories and setting up certification systems, because, of course as you know the European markets are very demanding, very exigent and some minimal requirements have to be met," Gonzalo Serrano-de-la-rosa, deputy head of EU ambassador to Kabul said.

Afghanistan has many types of goods for export that markets in the regional and international countries need them, but due to lack of standard packaging and quality certificates they cannot be sent directly to those markets. (Tolo news)

(8) MoPH Plans...

that should be discharged effectively and without any linguistic or ethnic discrimination.

Feroz said the meeting discussed how medical facilities for Ko-

chis could further expanded and contacts regularised between the community and the ministry.

AlamGul Kochi, a presidential advisor, termed the Kochis a deprived community. "The government should provide them more health facilities in line with the size of their population."

Public Health Ministry officials say 19 provincial mobile teams have been serving Kochis in different areas of health. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban Torch...

telecom companies to suspend their services for specific hours in daytime to escape harsh consequences."

Based on the Taliban warning, telecom companies operate only for two hours a day. Four months back, the militants had torched nine telephone towers in the province. (Pajhwok)

(10) Balkh Clerics...

men and particularly Taliban militants had no longer lawful reasons to extend war in Afghanistan.

He said, "Finally the voice of Afghans heard and the OIC proved that the war in Afghanistan was a proxy game imposed on Afghans."

Mohsin said that Ulema from some countries skipped the Saudi conference on Afghanistan which was questionable for Afghans.

"We hope Iranina and Pakistani Ulema who did not participate the Saudi conference would rethink and change their mind, they should not sacrifice Islamic rules for their own policies," he said.

Meanwhile, Sayed Mohammad YazdanParsat, a civil society activist, termed the Saudi conference and NATO summit as beneficial for the country's stability. Balkh clerics and civil society activists asked the government to accelerate efforts for pace and reducing Afghan forces casualties. (Pajhwok)

(11) 20 Afghan...

QariYousafAhmadi, Taliban's spokesman claimed heavy casualties had been inflicted on the soldiers and the bodies of 15 troops were still lying at the site of the clash.

But Nasir Mehri, the governor's spokesman, rejected the Taliban claim and said four policemen and five rebels were killed and six police personnel and seven rebels were wounded in the clash. (Pajhwok)

Blackwater Founder Makes New Pitch to 'Privatize' War

KABUL - Blackwater founder Erik D. Prince, this week laid out a road map for Trump which he said could end the ongoing war.

In a commentary this week for Real Clear Politics, Erik D. Prince, the founder and former CEO of Blackwater security company, wrote that it was time for the US President Donald Trump to take a closer look at how to end America's longest war and suggested, once again, that the Afghan war should be handled by private security contractors.

Prince said Afghanistan was never about troop levels; it is about how troops are utilized.

"After 9/11, a few hundred CIA and Special Operations personnel, backed by airpower and Afghan militias, devastated Taliban and al-Qaeda forces. That effort has since turned into a conventional Pentagon nation-building exercise and gone backward," he wrote.

He points out that BBC stated recently that the Afghan govern-

ment firmly controls less than 30 percent of the country.

"If the US goal in Afghanistan is to deny terrorists sanctuary, then we—with the most expensive military in human history—are losing to a band of largely illiterate Taliban and ISIS (Daesh) fighters wearing sandals astride motor bikes while armed with improvised weapons," he said.

He goes on to say the Pentagon now classifies the bleak and unsustainable Afghan casualty counts and has resorted to measuring effort, such as how many bombs were dropped, instead of actual outcomes.

He also raises the issue of budget and says the Trump administration plans to spend over \$60 billion—more than the UK's total defense spending, or our annual Homeland Security budget—on a failing Afghanistan effort in 2019 alone. "That excludes another \$1 trillion in future health care costs for wounded vets."

Prince blames the US military leadership for the failing efforts and says they are "unable to adapt to irregular warfare," and a Congress that blindly continues to fund failure.

He says for the last 17 years, the Pentagon deploys units that spend a few months acclimating, then become productive only to be turned over.

"Experienced personnel return home, many of them never to come back, replaced by new units. The process repeats. Each new unit must deploy, embed, forge relationships and learn the terrain. It's impossible to effectively transfer that information between transient units.

"The US has repeated this insanity for over 30 troop rotations, while rotating the top commander in the country 16 times since 2001," he points out.

He also says "the US is still getting played by Pakistan".

"We have no real leverage since we're entirely dependent on the logistic lines crossing that nation, feeding the Pentagon's expensive footprint in Afghanistan," he added.

In Prince's opinion, Trump should immediately change course and implement a Trump Economy of Force using "proven and cheaper unconventional warfare methods to defeat the terror malignancy plaguing Afghanistan".

This "Trump Doctrine" would cost less than 10 percent of what the US spends in Afghanistan and by utilizing the right blend of Western contracted veterans and Special Forces, it would insert a mentor team into every Afghan ground unit, provide blanket air coverage and ensure process controls are in place to prevent pervasive corruption in Afghan supply and personnel systems, he said.

He went on to say a contractor based system would decrease the manpower to under 16 percent of what is currently in the country and this alone would immediately save American taxpayers over \$50 billion per year.

Prince did say the idea would not be to have a private army, but rather a "long-term contracted skeletal support structure for the Afghan security forces".

He warned that continuing the failure of the last two decades was both politically and financially "irresponsible" and that it would eventually necessitate a complete withdrawal of US support in Afghanistan.

This is not however the first time that Prince has called for the expanded use of contractors in Afghanistan. (Tolo news)