

(1) Ghani Orders ...

police department," said Mosa Akbar a military expert.

The ministry said so far more than one hundred Kabul police officers have been sent to provinces and the process will continue. (Tolonews)

(2) Team from Kabul ...

was a second delegation from the MoE visiting Kandahar to supervise the education sector.

Paiwastoon was appointed as education director based on open merit in 2014. However, he was accused by former governor Dr. Mohammad Hamayun Azizi of corruption in 2016 when he was removed from office.

After his removal, Paiwastoon was posted at MoE. Again he was appointed as Kandahar education director by the ministry after Zalmi Weesa was took over as governor the province.

The director claimed he had been sacked for rejecting by the former governor's illegal demands and a verbal clash with him. He promised bringing reforms to and preventing interference in the education department.

"The performance of all education officers, including myself, would be evaluated and the delegation would identify areas of corruption," he said, calling interference which more from powerful individuals the biggest challenge.

About ghost schools and teachers in a number of districts, he said the MoE planned to release salaries of nearby districts such as Dand, Daman, Arghandab, Zherai and Panjwae through banks.

Paiwastoon said the salaries of teachers in remote districts would be paid in line with a new plan devised by the ministry. But he acknowledged the problem of ghost teachers and schools could not be resolved by one or two people. The public should cooperate with the education department on ensuring a good future their children, he stressed.

He added a shortage of professional teachers still existed in many districts of the province. However, he assured the problem would be resolved in the next few years with the appointment of university graduates.

About plans for new academic year, Paiwastoon said education affairs would be strictly watched. He regretted there was no Internet facility in districts.

He said that a common critic against Kandahar education was limited number of girls graduates in the capital of the province and deprivation of almost all girls from education in districts of the province. "Around 13,000 to 14,000 girls are enrolling to schools each year, but only 200 of them graduate from school in a year," he said.

He linked low number of girl students to negative traditions that restricted them from going to school. Most of families did not allow their daughters to continue education after reaching adulthood, he added.

Paiwastoon said his department would work jointly with influential figures, local councils and civil society activists for resolving the problem. Another major problem is the shortage of textbooks.

Governor Zalmi Weesa, who met the MoE delegation, said the current education process was not acceptable. He believed the sector needed supervision and those involved in corruption would be held accountable.

A committee comprised of professional and experienced teachers would be set up to work for improving the capacity of staff, he said.

Haji Agha Lalai Dastagiri, deputy governor and advisor to the president on social affairs, said efforts for the improvement of the education process had been stepped up recently.

He said that the MoE delegation had told him they had identified obstacles to the education process in Kandahar. The team after completing its evaluation would share the problems with the MoE. Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Shinwari admitted some education officers, including the director, had been fired without ample justification. He said some of them were experienced and some inexperienced, but their sacking was illegal.

He said all those who were removed after finding their way to the education department on merit had been reappointed. Meanwhile, a general evaluation of their performance has been completed. (Pajhwok)

(3) MoI to Refer ...

The committee has reviewed 65 cases of contracts and has suggested paying money to 13 contractors according to their progress in work and full payment of seven other contracts, he said, without giving more details.

Tahmasi said the committee had withheld clearance of 45 contractors due to

corruption.

However, he told Pajhwok Afghan News that corruption cases of contracts would be reviewed by a delegation of the Audit Department of the MoI for more clarification.

If the Audit Department found no corruption in these cases, the MoI would pay the money related to them from the government's budget and those involved in corruption would be referred to judiciary organs, he said.

Tahmasi said the MoI should also pay three billion afghanis defaulted of 150 contracts relating to years between 2012 and 2014. The money for clearing the debts would be provided by the Ministry of Finance to the MoI, he said.

Negligence of officials who had executive authorities, contracts without approvals and corruption in projects and contracts were the main reasons that raised discussions of debts clearance in the MoI, he said.

He added the international community was committed of funding Afghan security and defense forces, but with condition of ensuring transparency and accountability in spending. (Pajhwok)

(4) Govt Asked ...

and brazen aggression of Pakistan." He asked government authorities to raise their voice because Durand Line was part of Afghanistan's soil and no one could fence it or dig trenches along it.

Meshran Jirga chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar also called the Durand Line as part of Afghanistan, stressing no one had the right to fence or ditch the line. He asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to use diplomatic channels for solution to the issue. (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghan Forces ...

of Ammonium Nitrate, a key component used to make Improvised Explosive Devices," the statement by MoI said, adding that the Ammonium Nitrate was placed in a truck transporting goods to Afghanistan.

MoI also added that the police searched the truck and found the Ammonium Nitrate hidden under the goods in Torkham port, eastern Nangarhar province.

One suspect was arrested on accusation of this case and an investigation was underway into the case, MoI added.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to other insurgent groups frequently use improvised explosive devices as the weapon of their choice to target the security forces and government personnel but in majority of such attacks the ordinary civilians are targeted. (KP)

(6) Taliban Accuses ...

the lives of the civilians.

The statement further added that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has attempted and adopted political approach while preparing the new report.

This comes as the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released its latest civilian casualties report in Afghanistan on Tuesday, showing a two percent increase in civilian deaths as compared to the same period last year.

UNAMA said extreme harm to civilians continued amid a worsening toll from suicide attacks, and a greater impact on women and children.

According to the latest report, a total of 1,662 civilian deaths were confirmed between 1 January and 30 June - an increase of two per cent on the same period last year, citing the figures from the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The reports highlights that 40 per cent of all civilian casualties during the six-month period were killed or injured by anti-government forces using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), such as suicide bombs and pressure-plate devices, which were responsible for the deaths of 596 civilians and injured 1,483. (KP)

(7) Contracts ...

of diesel for the Da Breshna Sherkat in Paktia, Khost, and Kandahar.

The contract for the maintenance of the generators of the compounds belonging to the ministry of defense was also approved by the commission. (KP)

(8) Officials ...

Afghan National Police (ALP) in an effort to end the Taliban's ten-year domination in the area.

The Alingar village of Darah-e-Sangar, where they Taliban have hideouts, is a key route for the insurgent group into Nangarhar, Nuristan and Kunar provinces.

"We have outlined a very comprehensive security strategy for Laghman particu-

larly for Mehterlam city; this will save the city and its outskirts from threats," said Laghman police chief Fazel Ahmad Sherzad.

Mughal Khan, 50, is an ALP officer who has been fighting the Taliban for six years. Khan says he serves his country with pride and dignity.

"Why should I not be happy with my job, this is my country, I defend my motherland," he said.

The ALP forces battle the Taliban on the frontlines in many regions across Afghanistan. However there are still some challenges which to some extent undermine the effectiveness of these forces, such as the existence of ghost soldiers and late payment of their salaries in remote regions.

"To some extent the problems of the local police have been resolved, the priority of the ministry of interior is also to further boost local police," said Abdul Wali Noorzai, an ALP spokesman.

Despite their challenges, local officials in Laghman are also looking at ways to meet the needs of families of ALP soldiers.

"Our expectation is that the number of local police forces should be increased in the center and in a number of districts where there are no local forces; we shared our demands with the center (Kabul) eight months ago," said Laghman governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi.

Of the five districts in Laghman, three districts - Alingar, Alishing and Dawlat - are dealing with security threats. However the security situation in the provincial capital Mehterlam and its outskirts has improved over recent months. (Tolonews)

(9) Noor Says ...

was forcefully diverted as it was carrying the first vice president from Turkey to Mazar-e-Sharif city.

The office of the first vice president in a statement stated that all reports suggesting that the plane was forcefully diverted are false.

The statement further added that the vice president is still based in Ankara city and no decision has been taken regarding his return in the near future.

Dostum is in Turkey for the treatment with President Ghani earlier saying that the first vice president has left the country after receiving approval and permission from the Attorney General Office.

Reports regarding his return surfaced amid ongoing political issues and differences he has with the government, mainly due to the controversial abuse case of his political rival Ahmad Khan Ishchi.

The Attorney General Office said last week that the case of the first vice president has been referred to the court. (KP)

(10) Govt Exploring ...

- in Kabul, Parwan, Balkh, Kandahar and Baghlan - but over the years these were destroyed in the various wars.

The Industrialists Union has said more than 30,000 people were at one time employed in these factories. (Tolonews)

(11) Army Generals...

According to the AGO, one of the generals arrested is the former chairman of deployment and administrative affairs of the ministry of defense and the case against the suspects have been sent to the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Center's (ACJC) court.

The AGO spokesman Jamshed Rasuli said the arrests were made as a result of investigations from two other officials of the ministry of defense including the former head of communications department of the MoD and a high ranking government official who is already in custody.

Those arrested include three generals, two colonels and two MoD officials.

"Accusations facing these individuals are involving embezzlement, misuse of the authority, forgery and violation of a series of regulations inside the institution," Rasuli said.

Based on AGO investigations, the seven officials are accused of embezzling at least 1.5 million Afs and some \$1.2 million USD.

"These cases of corruption were registered in the past in the ministry of defense. This issue also belongs to the past," the MoD spokesman Mohammad Radmanish said. "Our security sector is grappling with corruption. There is a need for a serious campaign against it," said Khan Zaman Amarkhail, head of Anti-Corruption Network.

This comes at a time that the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Center also prepares for the open trial of several officials of the Ministry of Education, Pashtany Bank, Ministry of Transportation and Civil Aviation and six cases against officials of the ministries of defense and interior. Last year, President Ashraf Ghani announced the establishment of ACJC as

part of government's crackdown against corruption cases involving high ranking officials.

The center includes specialized police, prosecution units and courts which are designed to be independent from political and other pressures in detecting, investigating and prosecuting corruption.

The ACJC so far has processed at least 300 cases of corruption. (Tolonews)

(12) Afghanistan...

was the highest for Singapore. He was followed by captain Janak Prakash and Ansh Bhargava who made 15 each.

Yousuf Zazai was the pick of the bowlers for Afghanistan as he claimed five, conceding 23 runs from eight overs he played. He was followed by Naveen-ul-Haq who picked up four wickets.

Chasing 93-run target, Afghanistan were 59 before they lost their first man Naveed Obaidi (30) in the 14th over. They reached it in the next four overs.

Earlier on Sunday, Afghanistan defeated Malaysia by eight wickets in the opener match. They are leading the points table which includes also Nepal.

Afghanistan will face Nepal in their next match on Thursday. (Agencies)

(13) Death of ...

Navy Capt Jeff Davis told reporters during an off-camera news conference.

This is the third time in the past year that US forces in Afghanistan have killed a sitting leader of ISIS-K, which is the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria's branch in Afghanistan.

Killed in a kinetic strike on July 11 in Kunar, Abu Syed was the overall ISIS-K Amir in Afghanistan for only six weeks, issuing operational guidance, financial management and acting as the primary decision-maker for operations with ISIS-throughout Afghanistan, he said.

"His death comes not long after that of his predecessor, Sheikh Abdul Hasib, who was killed by US forces in a raid on April 26 in Achin, Nangarhar province as part of ongoing efforts to defeat ISIS-K in Afghanistan," Davis said.

"ISIS threatens America and the west because of its commitment to plot, direct and inspire terrorist attacks and its ability to recruit, move and finance the terrorists who commit these attacks," the Pentagon spokesperson said.

The terrorists have been very clear in their propaganda magazine and other publications, that they want to recruit and attack globally, Davis said.

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, Khorasan Province, or ISIS-K as it is called was formed in January 2015 as a "deponent group" of several Islamic extremist organizations, loosely organized and committed to supporting the radical ideals of the Islamic State, the Pentagon official said.

The group, he said, is committed to establishing an Afghan presence on behalf of ISIS and furthering ISIS' Caliphate to the abolition of traditionally recognized sovereign borders.

"Their primary focus was on establishing a stronghold in Nangarhar Province but they maintain a presence in other pockets of Afghanistan. Their brutal tactics and social media use are in line with ISIS' messaging strategy and puts them at odds with fellow organizations," Davis said.

The Pentagon estimates that ISIS-K in Afghanistan numbers somewhere in the hundreds still at this point. "We don't think it's over 1000. They hold no meaningful territory in Nangarhar province. There are certainly fighters there but they're mostly spending their time trying to stay alive," Davis said.

"The Afghan forces partnered with US forces are keeping constant pressure on them. We assess that they are most active in Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan. We've been putting pressure on them as they try to gain footholds elsewhere," he asserted. (Pajhwok)

(14) 14 ISIS Killed ...

anti-government armed militant groups including the ISIS militants have not commented regarding the report so far.

The Afghan forces are busy conducting counter-terrorism and clearance operations in some restive districts of Nangarhar as the ISIS loyalists have been attempting to expand their foothold and activities in certain districts of the during the recent years. The US forces based in Afghanistan have stepped up airstrikes against the anti-government armed militants in Afghanistan. The airstrikes were increased particularly after the former US administration granted broader role to the US forces to resume counter-terrorism operations, a step that was taken after growing instability in the country, mainly due to the insurgency led by the Taliban and ISIS militants. (KP)

(15) 5 Faryab ...

seven police personnel were killed at the Qazel Qala check-post in Chechektour area.

He added the police personnel were asleep when the Taliban attacked the post.

Additional security personnel have reached the site to collect the bodies. (Pajhwok)

(16) Balkh Farmers ..

men use wooden sticks to stop vehicles and demand tax."

The elder said farmers had to pay the same tax at least five locations until reaching Mazar-i-Sharif.

A farmer in Dawlat Abad district, Mohammad Karim, said they incurred losses after paying taxes at various points from the district to the provincial capital. "You need to pay the tax upon exiting the district. You pay again on reaching the square in Mazar-i-Sharif, again at the check points and once again after unloading the goods in the market."

He said a farmer could hardly generate 500 afghanis income from 4000 watermelons due to the taxes.

He said they would not complain about municipality taxes if the levies were legal and logical.

A tribal elder in Balkh district, Haji Abdul Qayum, said transporting everything from the district to the city was a daunting task.

He said people paid money in 'taxes' to everyone from security posts to municipality check points and traffic department.

Seeking justice, the farmer appealed to the president, the minister concerned, the provincial governor, the mayor and others to resolve their problems.

Provincial council chief Dr. Mohammad Afzal Hadid said farmers from the mentioned districts had visited the public representatives regarding the issue.

He said the farmers were complaining about taxes levied on them by the municipality and police.

He said the farmers also complained about the government's lease policy, saying the police approved by the centre had not taken into consideration problems in provinces.

The public representative said they would keep monitoring the issue and would seek solution to it through the departments concerned.

Mayor Nasir Ahmad Aini did not rule out money taken as ijara tax from farmers. "I cannot deny municipality's contractors are taking taxes from people more than the approved amount."

However, he said people should not pay more than mentioned in the government's policy. He also promised legal action against violators. (Pajhwok)

(17) Taliban Offensive...

36. Insurgents often exaggerate their claims.

Provincial council chief Asadullah Shabaz says the road between Baghlan and neighboring Kunduz province remains closed because of the fighting. Local schools and markets are also closed. He says several houses have been damaged and hundreds of residents have been relocated. (AP)

(18) Suspected...

five suspected individuals who were released on guarantee would be rearrested. He said those behind the release of the men would be also cleared by the NDS. Ali said he had no personal enmity with the Meshrano Jirga chairman, but the release of the suspects should be investigated.

"It should be made public as to who guaranteed the release of these men, what was the motive behind their attempt to enter the parliament building and why they used my name," he said.

The suspects probably had planned to attack the parliament because they were equipped with weapons and came in a tinted-glass vehicle to the parliament building, he said.

Ali asked the administrative board of the lower house to thoroughly investigate the issue.

Meshrano Jirga or upper house of the parliament has also appointed a delegation for investigating the issue. (Pajhwok)

(19) Civilians among ...

Taliban Spokesman, Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, confirmed the clash in Chashma area of Shindand. He said four ANA soldiers were killed when their fighters stormed security check-posts.

Ahmadi declined to comment about the Taliban casualties. (Pajhwok)

(20) Kabul Elevator...

building, he insisted.

But for a few months, it has not been used because of technical problems, explained Ahmadzai, who promised the device would be repaired soon. (Pajhwok)