

(1) President Ashraf....

the dam. At the time, the ministry had said the dam would be constructed over the next three years, but so far only 20 percent work on the project has been completed. (Pajhwok)

(2) Shah Sultan Akifi....

commission and calling it a balanced body. However, hinting at continued differences over the matter of electoral reform, the statement reiterates that Abdullah wishes to see those accused of fraud during the 2014 presidential election step down.

"The structure of the commission is balanced and an equal body," CEO spokesman Mujiburrahman Rahimi said. "We want members of the commission to accomplish their national duty with honesty and faith and lay down the foundation of a transparent electoral system. They should think nationally, not on behalf of a group or faction."

But, in addition, Rahimi said, "there is a national and international consensus on the issue: those involved in electoral fraud or helped organized it must step down." It is unclear where President Ghani stands on this issue, but given the discord that enveloped the 2014 election over the issue of fraud allegations, it is not likely to be an easy process to pursue. (Tolo News)

(3) Officials Hope....

(ANA) will keep fighting insurgents until all militant elements have been eliminated from the country.

Although the ANSF is still facing threats by insurgents, this past week has seen a decrease in movement and activity on the part of insurgent groups.

"One of the reasons behind the fall of activities of the enemy is that we had launched several military operations and we are determined to continue the battle until a complete elimination of them," MoD spokesman Dawat Waziri said.

Over the past 24 hours, two Afghan National Police (ANP) officers were killed, which, according to the security officials this is a sharp decrease compared to recent months.

One of the fundamental demands among the general public is that the security forces be fully prepared to foil the plots of those destabilizing the country. However, many believe that both the government and political parties should consider comprehensive programs for strengthening security, said officials.

"Government is obliged to maintain nationwide security and more investment must be done regarding the security forces," first deputy of parliament speaker Nazir Ahmad Ahmadzai said.

This comes at a time that the ANSF is in the midst of full scale battles against insurgents - both domestic and foreign - in Faryab, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Helmand and Paktika provinces. But the coming days will show whether planned peace talks will have a positive impact on the security of the country. (Tolo News)

(4) MPs Seek....

and the chief executive [Abdullah Abdullah] to introduce the defense minister, the attorney general and other key nominees because they need a vote of confidence from parliament," said Nazir Ahmad Ahmadzai, the second deputy head of the Lower House (Wolesi Jirga).

"If the candidates for the key posts are introduced within the next week, we will not go for summer break because the country needs a defense minister and other key people. This is not our problem. This is the government's problem," he added.

Ahmadzai was speaking just 16 days before the MPs go on their official summer break of 45 days.

"The absence of a defense minister prevents better arrangements of affairs. Unfortunately, Mr. [Masoom] Stanikzai who failed to get a sufficient vote of confidence from lawmakers, is working as acting defense minister which is against the law," said Hafiz Mansoor, an MP from Kabul.

Meanwhile, NUG officials have said that they are preparing to introduce the nominees for a vote of confidence to the Lower House. (Tolo News)

(5) N.Political....

more sacrifices of our people," Noor said.

Noor also criticized the peace talk process, which kicked-off last week with historic talks between Afghan government representatives and Taliban leaders in Islamabad. The

acting governor said the negotiations must be held in consultation with the people of Afghanistan and their political parties.

"We should move forward - but not for the purpose of having countries come and invest in Afghanistan and hold a process for their own benefit, calling it the peace process," Noor said. He warned that the process could be used to legitimize terrorist groups backed by foreign powers. Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani's First Vice President, General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who Atta Noor referred to in his speech and who has been an outspoken opponent of the Taliban, has expressed hope about the peace process. Nevertheless, he has also bucked any possibility that they can subdue the Afghan government through violence.

"We support the negotiations, but we will not remain unaware of the situation. We aren't willing to see them negotiate from one side and impose pressure from the other," Gen. Dostum said. "Therefore, we also have the ability to put pressure and we will not remain silent." (Tolo News)

(6) Taliban Want....

"Our important message is peace and end to the bloodshed which is a demand of our people," the president said in his first Eid message.

Ghani welcomed Taliban's leader Mullah Omar's statement in which he had endorsed the peace talks. He said Taliban's problems were different from others as the group wanted to join the system and other problems with them would be resolved through talks.

But those terrorists coming from neighbouring and other countries would be given a befitting reply by the Afghan security forces, Ghani said.

"We want to get rid of the war which has been imposed on us and instead fight against poverty, hunger and injustices and lay the foundation of a society trusted by everyone."

Ghani also thanked his predecessor Hamid Karzai for always advising the government on the peace process, saying what he had initiated in this regard would be accomplished.

The president said negotiations with the Taliban were the only way to "end the bloodshed" and bring peace to the country. (Pajhwok)

(7) Mujahideen

their people and their country and they must not be ignored."

He went on to say that "neighboring countries are trying to make Badakhshan a Daesh base. "Big powers, a neighboring country including Daesh, al-Qaeda and other terrorist networks, even foreigners, are trying to position Badkhshan in the heart of north Waziristan," he said.

Meanwhile, provincial council and civil society members are concerned about the province's insecurity and say if government ignores the security issue, the insecurity in Badakhshan will have a detrimental effect on the entire security situation of the northern parts of the country.

"In some districts of this province we noted that insurgents have better equipment compared to security forces; unfortunately there is no strong will within the government to equip and strengthen the security forces in Afghanistan, especially in Badakhshan," civil society member Sayed Omer Baher said. (Tolo News)

(8) Ghani Seeks....

he is weighing his best military advice to U.S. leaders at the conclusion of this campaign.

About 9,800 U.S. service members are in Afghanistan today. Plans originally called for a reduction to 5,500 earlier this year, but Ghani appealed to President Barack Obama to maintain the level of troops through the fighting season.

"We're looking at the state of the national unity government and the state of the Afghan security forces," the general said. He will also look at the set and basing of American forces in the country, he said, and "then I have to look at the state of the insurgency."

His recommendation will go through U.S. Central Command to the Joint Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council before reaching the president. "I think it is still too early to make a recommendation," Campbell said.

The appearance in Afghanistan of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) aka Daesh is worrisome and puts a new wrinkle of his de-

liberations, the general said, noting that the terror group has attracted some violent and vicious adherents since it first appeared last year. (Pajhwok)

(9) Electoral Reform....

for the next parliamentary and other polls.

The mission also acknowledged the nomination of Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN secretary-general's deputy special representative for Afghanistan to the commission.

The statement said the UN would not be a voting-member of the commission, but to provide advice and technical expertise based on international best practices, while respecting the sovereign right of Afghanistan to make the final decisions on electoral reforms.

Yamamoto is the United Nations' focal point for electoral support to Afghanistan and will coordinate international assistance to the Electoral System Reform Commission. "Electoral reforms are essential to restoring the faith of the Afghan people in the democratic process and will lead to greater political stability," said Yamamoto. (Pajhwok)

(10) Ghani, Dempsey....

The chairman said he has asked Army Gen. John F. Campbell, the commander of NATO's Resolute Support mission here, to expand his assessment of the current campaign in Afghanistan to include the changing nature of the threat and "to give us his insights into what he thinks we should do."

Dempsey said Ghani told him in their meeting that Afghanistan should be a regional hub in a trans-regional network that includes the Levant, Iraq, North Africa and West Africa.

The chairman said Ghani's idea falls in line with his own thinking, but that he would like a discussion among American leaders on what the objective would be. "Once we have a clear idea of what we would like to accomplish ... over a 10 year period," he said, "then we should discuss what authorities would be needed, ... as well as what resources can be applied."

The long-term look is important, the general said, because this is a generational fight and the level of resources supplied must be sustainable over 10 years. "I don't want to do this one year at a time," he said. Afghanistan could be a coalition counterterrorism partner and a South Asia hub. Ghani also pointed out to Dempsey that other global actors - Russia, China and Iran - also are concerned about the rising IS movement and were looking to Afghanistan for help. Ghani believes Afghanistan could be an exporter of stability in this type of program, Dempsey said. (Pajhwok)

(11) Electoral Reform....

He admitted the panel comprised representatives of the both leaders but said it also represented civil society and the UN. "The commission's main responsibility is to suggest electoral reforms. The commission's doors are open to all organisations to share their suggestions." Election watchdogs welcomed the creation of the commission, but said they are not entirely optimistic about necessary reforms. They say the commission is politicized as its members are not independent and lack technical expertise. Naem Ayubzada, the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that what concerned them were political affiliations, lack of experience, technical expertise and under-representation of women and independent observers in the panel. He noted electoral reforms were itself a political process, but needed legal and technical expertise. Mohammad Yousuf Rashid, executive head of the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA), welcomed the commission, but said the majority of its members were affiliated to both leaders of the government. (Pajhwok)

(12) Number of Afghan....

too difficult, though some were unable to reach their homes in areas affected by fighting.

There are 1.5 million Afghan refugees registered in Pakistan and a further 1.3 million are estimated to be living there undocumented. "In today's situation where the fighting is spreading and increasing across the country, many returning refugees become displaced in Afghanistan," UNHCR spokesman Mans Nyberg told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Afghanistan. "They may not be able to go back their home village so

they choose to go to a secure place, which is usually a city or a larger town somewhere. That happens in many cases." Nyberg said the number of returnees fell sharply during Ramadan, which began in Pakistan on June 17, but the UNHCR expected it to pick up after the Muslim fasting month ended. Many of those crossing the border were born in Pakistan and were going to Afghanistan for the first time, he said. (Tolo News)

(13) Farah Residents....

Afghan nation and the unity government is not acceptable to the Afghans. "Danish warned the government would collapse if it did not change its policies, resolve personal and coalition differences and failed to honour its promises with the people. Another political activist, Naqibullah Nikmal, said the unity government was unconstitutional and had been formed by US foreign secretary John Kerry at the US Embassy in Kabul, not on the basis of public mandate. He said the security situation had deteriorated in Farah province, where dozens of people had fallen to prey to terrorism during the past few months. He said the Taliban were able even to kill an attorney in the heart of Farah City, the provincial capital. Nooruddin, who has completed his engineering from an Indian university two years ago, said since then he had been searching for a job. (Pajhwok)

(14) Analysts Chide....

According to Haqyar, the mujahideen had a major presence in the unity government. "Some want to use jihad's name to get privileges from the government. They scare the government to give powerful positions to their men." Haqyar said it was illegal for Rabbani to hold two positions at the same time and should have resigned as the head of Jamiat party the moment he was appointed as foreign minister. Atiqullah Amarkhail, a military and political commentator, said: "Fighting the Soviets was correct and there is no problem if they stand against a foreign invasion today. But when they talk about their role in security matters is not correct because now we have an army and police and they are all mujahideen and the sons of mujahideen." Amarkhail said at the moment people needed unity and such remarks should be avoided. Bashir Bezhani, another analyst, said jihadi leaders had the right to meet people and listen to their problems, but when they held a government position then they should talk and act within the ambit of laws. "Unfortunately some government officials still don't know about their responsibilities and say things that have no benefit," he added. (Pajhwok)

(15) Schools Sans....

teachers at the Kanda Neik Girls' School in Neili, the provincial capital.

But Provincial Council Member Hadi Rahimzada said there was acute shortage of teachers in majority of Daikundi schools and that was why one teacher had to discharge duties of two persons. He said a total of 3,200 teachers had discharged their duties out of which the contracts of 1,500 non-permanent teachers were revoked and the province was facing now shortage of teachers. He expressed concern over small number of girls in schools and said poverty, mountainous terrain and negligence of officials concerned to promote education were main causes of problems. In addition, majority of the students have not distributed with curriculum books. Ali Raza, a student of 8th class at the Sang Mom Boys High School said: "Since my childhood, I have been studying under open sky and our school was still without building." He said the school did not have other facilities such as chairs, books, labs, black board, chalk and duster. But Ali Wasiq, head of education department, said due to lack of funds Daikundi education department was faced with numerous problems. (Pajhwok)

(16) Operations....

reforms would be introduced in district offices. He said the decision came at a security meeting presided over by the governor. "According to the decision, reforms will be introduced on district levels following security operations. It seems that officials who had problems in their affairs will be sacked or replaced," he elaborated. However, he did not say when the reforms would be initiated. Operations are underway in various areas and it

is unclear if these operations are part of the proposed reforms. The governor's spokesman, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, also confirmed problems in local governance. "On district level, problems exist in governance. The governor has recommended reforms in meetings with security departments." (Pajhwok)

(17) 8 Afghan Soldiers....

He added the two helicopters attacked the post when a hoisted Afghan flag was clearly visible at the post.

He said military vehicles and other signs indicated it was an army post. He continued the American troops had committed such mistakes in the past and had later apologised. Sapai said he had submitted a report to the officials in Kabul about the incident, accusing foreign forces of dragging feet when called for help in the time of need. The official said the district chief's convoy was attacked by Taliban on the way to the post. The ensuing clash lasted half an hour, but nobody was hurt, he said. Earlier, Mohammad Rahim Amin, the Baraki Barak district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 10 ANA soldiers had been killed and four others wounded in the friendly fire. (Pajhwok)

(18) Insecurity Growing

had long been pledging to dismantle illegal armed groups, a promise never materialised.

He did not know the reason why illegal armed men could not be controlled, but a local official, who wished to go unnamed, said illegal armed groups enjoyed the support of high-ranking government officials and security forces were unable to disarm them. Earlier, foreign troops in a nighttime raid destroyed an arms cache belonging to a Jamiat-i-Islami political party leader.

The raid sparked angry protests by hundreds of individuals who took to the streets in Charikar, shouting slogans against foreign forces. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah had termed the foreign forces raid an action against Mujahidin and said he would not allow anyone to plot against mujahidin. Qari Ewaz, a resident of Pashan locality in Charikar, said: "The security situation is deteriorating with each passing day. Clashes often erupt between rebels and security forces twice in a week in the provincial capital." (Pajhwok)

(19) Greenhouse

the projects but they are also investing in it. "The greenhouse produce is very good. Our statistics reveal that they produce one ton of vegetables in every 800 meters," Lotfullah Rashid, spokesman for MAIL, told TOLONews. He said the greenhouse export about 80 percent of their produce - particularly cucumbers - to neighboring provinces. "It is expected that the greenhouse owners will earn \$10 million USD from their harvest (this year)," he added. Meanwhile, a number of farmers say their greenhouse produce is well received by markets locally and internationally and that they are earning a good income. "We cultivate several kinds of vegetables in the greenhouses no matter what the season. This is good for the people. It prevents the import of vegetables from abroad," Abdul Matin, owner of a greenhouse told TOLONews. He said these greenhouses also create job opportunities for the people and are a good source of income for investors. Officials from MAIL say they are considering training programs for those working in greenhouses in order to develop the sector in the country further. (Tolo News)

(20) Toy Guns....

who heads a health clinic, said 42 children were brought to the clinic on the first day of Eid, 34 on the second day and 30 on the third day with injuries.

He said one of the children had his one eye badly wounded by a plastic ball used as bullet in a toy gun.

He lamented the huge increase in buying and selling of toy guns on this Eid. He said 40 children had been wounded during the previous Eid and the number of injured children increased threefold this Eid.

Another official at an eye hospital, Abdul Rahim Majid, expressed concern over the increase in use of toy guns and other dangerous playing materials that caused injuries to children.

He said injuries caused by toy guns were curable, but there was chance of losing an eye if badly hit with plastic bullet. Majid asked parents to prevent their children from using toy guns as their use could develop passion among children for having

real guns. (Pajhwok)

(21) 40 Injured....

told Pajhwok Afghan News a fuel carrier had plunged into the river in Awland locality of southern Salang after a head-on collision with a truck. The driver of the fuel carrier, he said, lost his live and two others wounded.

Dr. Eshaq Naemi of Parwan hospital said the wounded were in stable condition. He added during three days of Eid celebrations around 40 people were injured in 15 traffic accidents that included women and children and were being treated in the hospital. (Pajhwok)

(22) Angoor Ada

of the boundary between the two countries, staged a protest against the construction of the border gate by Pakistani security forces. The construction work kicked off two weeks ago.

The protesters chanted slogans against Pakistan and handed over a letter to Pakistani paramilitary forces across the border. In the letter, the protesters asked Pakistan to immediately halt construction of the gate on the Afghan territory. An Afghan security official, who wished to go unnamed, said they had informed the authorities concerned about the construction, but there had been no response.

He said Pakistan had doubled the number of border forces from 2,500 to 5,000 in the area.

President Ashraf Ghani has already assigned a commission to investigate the issue and provide him a report in this regard. The protest comes about three weeks later Afghan and Pakistan forces traded weapons fire in a deadly overnight border clash in the area. (Pajhwok)

(23) UN Resolution....

adopted a resolution endorsing the historic deal on Iran's nuclear program and cleared a path to lift sanctions crippling its economy. Provided Iran respects the agreement to the letter, seven UN resolutions passed since 2006 to sanction Iran will be gradually terminated, the text of the resolution says. But many in the Republican-led US Congress are less enthusiastic about a deal, saying it rewards Iran's bad behavior. Obama is battling hard to convince allies in Congress that the deal is a good one. He is expected to garner enough support to uphold a veto over any vote to scupper the agreement. (AFP)

(24) India to....

an international seminar in Singapore. Prime Minister Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif met in Ufa, Russia on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit on July 10. They agreed upon a number of steps to re-engage each other, including arranging meetings of Border Security Force Director General and his counterpart from Pakistan Rangers and a dialogue between the national security advisors of the two countries. (Xinhua)

(25) UNSC Endorses....

structure, among others. Once the council has been assured that these tasks have been fulfilled, the Iranian sanctions regime, established in previous UN Security Council resolutions since 2006, will be terminated, though restrictions will remain. (Xinhua)

(26) Iran FM....

also said the deal "does nothing to prevent ... the U.S. military option."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been harshly critical of the deal, asserting that it clears the way for Iran to build nuclear weapons that would threaten Israel's existence and ultimately diminish U.S. and global security. He has also strongly hinted that military action remains an option. (AP)

(27) China Poses....

improve the safety of vessels passing through the areas and provide shelter for fishing vessels evading typhoons. That was intended to improve the freedom and safety of navigation, not to hinder," the newspaper quoted Ma as saying. "Because those islands belong to China, like any other country you have to build defensive facilities," Ma was quoted in the article. "But those facilities are for the purpose of defense and anybody who has territory has the obligation to do something for the defense of that country. This is Chinese territory. We say that the construction on those islands is reasonable, justified and lawful." (Xinhua)