

(1) No Cooperation....

He said the establishment of the Electoral Reform Commission was illegal. "Through the media I heard that one of our brothers, the deputy secretary of the Meshrano Jirga, has been appointed as head of the commission. Anyone who comes illegally would be called illegitimate."

Senator Maulvi Muhiuddin Munsif said the unity government leaders had been wasting time in bringing reforms. Other senators urged the government to specify a date for the next parliamentary elections. Election watchdogs have welcomed the creation of the commission, but they are skeptical about necessary reforms. They say the commission is not independent and lacks technical expertise and most of its members are associated with President Ghani and CEO Abdullah.

Javed Faisal, the CEO's deputy spokesman, said both leaders of the unity government had complete agreement over the panel's composition.

He admitted the panel comprised representatives of the both leaders but said it also represented civil society and the UN.

Asadullah Sadati, a member of the reform commission, said the panel would work independently and impartially. He said the commission would start its work this week. (Pajhwok)

(2) Ghani Orders ...

tragic incident and pray for the quick recovery of those injured."

The statement quoted Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications that the US forces had initiated an investigation of the incident. "Alongside our Afghan partners, we will complete a joint investigation in a transparent, timely and thorough manner and will release further details regarding this incident as they become available."

"United States Forces-Afghanistan remains committed to assisting our Afghan partners in achieving sustainable security." (Pajhwok)

(3) Dostum Opposes....

the provincial capital. Following his war experience, Dostum - leader of Junbish-e-Milli Party - said he was directed by the president to visit the province and assess the security situation.

"We have a good experience [in war], particularly in north and north-east, also in Qalat, Kandahar, Kabul, Logar, Paktia, Paktika and Jalalabad. We are familiar with each and every part of these areas," said Dostum, a well-known commander in fighting Russia and also Taliban.

His remarks came days after the acting governor of Balkh, Atta Mohammad Noor, said three major parties in Afghanistan, including Dostum's party, had joined their hands together to fight insurgents in northern Afghanistan.

Over the past few months there have been constant attacks by the Taliban and other militant groups in northern Afghanistan that often resulted in the collapse of districts - which were then retaken by security forces. (Tolonews)

(4) US Spent....

the agency didn't have a facility inside Afghanistan where it could store materials and equipment.

In late 2010, the Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$13.5 million contract to two Turkish companies, which were required to finish construction by August 2011.

The companies, however, caused construction delays and didn't follow all of the contract requirements. That contract was eventually terminated.

In May 2013, a second contract award for \$844,526 was given to a U.S.-based construction company to complete the warehouse within four months. The contract was again extended and modified seven times until the warehouse was completed several months later. Those modifications cost the U.S. \$400,000 more, the report said.

The inspector general questioned why construction of the facility continued past August

2013 despite the Army's decision to pull the defense agency out of Kandahar as part of the U.S. withdrawal.

The defense agency accepted the facility in February 2014, more than two years after the originally scheduled deadline, but the report said "it never occupied or used the facility." An official said the U.S. plans to transfer the area where the facility is located to the Afghan government by Dec. 1.

U.S. Central Command, meanwhile, said it would investigate who made the decision to continue construction and why, despite the order to pull out. (Monitoring Desk)

(5) Logar Airstrike....

and they should be held accountable for that."

He wondered how could the US forces missed a target and mistakenly hit Afghan forces with their advanced technology.

Another senator Nisar Ahmad Haris said there was no difference between the Taliban, Daesh and the Americans when it came to killing Afghan soldiers.

He said it was not an attack that could be called a mistake, but the Americans regarded the Afghan blood as cheap and then extended mere apologies.

"If an American had got killed, today there would have been protests in America. But here the Americans only express their regret," he added.

Senator Syed Ahmad Akhundzada called the attack on the Afghan army outpost as intentional and an insult to Islam.

"The Americans have no good intentions here. The bilateral security agreement exempts them from prosecution," said Maulvi Muhiuddin Munsif, another lawmaker.

Munsif called the incident a war crime, urging the international community and the UN to prosecute its perpetrators. (Pajhwok)

(6) Paktia Governor....

to start more development and reconstruction projects," he said, adding that construction work on the Machalgho dam had been stopped for several reasons and he would try to resume work on the key project.

Five years ago, the Water and Energy Ministry awarded contract for construction of the dam to a joint Russo-Afghan company and only 20 percent of its work has been completed.

Arsala said apart from some localities in Samkanai district, other districts had better security. "Since I took office, coordination among local departments has improved, which has a positive impact on the security situation."

In the past, he recalled, gunmen would harass passengers on highways and that problem had been resolved.

The governor said he had started meetings with elders, civil society activists and residents to consult them on matters relating to the province's affairs. Arsala replaces Juma Khan Hamdard, who had been Paktia governor for almost nine years. (Pajhwok)

(7) Kabul Appellate....

The appellate court argues that there is no evidence to prove the murder of Farkhunda by the convicts despite numerous video tapes went viral on social media.

Farkhunda was brutally beaten, murdered and her body was set on fire by angry mob after she was accused of burning Quran.

At least 48 people including the custodian and the servant of the shrine were arrested by police after investigations revealed the accusations were false and no proof was found to prove the holy Quran was torched.

She was reportedly murdered after she spoke out against the superstitious practices she had witnessed with mullahs selling good-luck charms. Her brutal murder also sparked several unprecedented protests in Kabul and other major cities of Afghanistan. (KP)

(8) Kabul Imposes....

to collect these toys and prevent their sale," Seddiqi said.

He added the Interior Ministry was eager to work with the Ministry of Commerce and trader bodies to prevent imports of

such goods.

He said the toy guns would be collected and their imports banned until Eid al-Adha.

Also present at the press conference was Dawlat Waziri, deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Defence. He said 64 insurgents had been killed, 26 wounded and 24 more detained over the past five days.

The dead militants included 23 Daesh fighters who were killed in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, he added. (Pajhwok)

(9) Waziristan Refugees

Another refugee, named Salam, came up with a similar complaint, saying had become miserable for him and his kin. They are in need of urgent support, according to the distraught the man, who says he has no source of income.

"With the Eid festival around the corner, we are living as refugees, something that has landed us in privations, compulsions and other problems stemming from poverty. We should be given assistance, the sooner, the better," he remarked.

Another tribesman, who has come to Barmal from the troubled region, said assistance from the Afghan government would enable them to live a life of contentment.

Abdul Ahad added: "We have long been jobless and without help. We have little to eat. What will we do if this situation continues?"

But Mohammad Raza Kharoti, the Orgun district administrative chief, claimed the refugees had received aid on several occasions. About 400 families from Waziristan are living in Barmal and over 2000 households in Orgun.

Another 80 families had recently arrived in Orgun from the embattled tribally-administered area -- which has been home to militants of all stripes. They would be given assistance after the Eid, he promised.

Similarly, the governor's spokesman Nabiullah Pirkhel also said the Pakistanis had received relief items from the Department of Refugee Affairs and NGOs. The aid from the department included flour, cooking oil and other stuff.

According to recent media reports, the National Directorate of Security -- the Afghan spy service allegedly delivered aid to Daesh-linked families in Paktika. However, the agency moved swiftly to explain the aid was distributed to needy families from Waziristan. (Pajhwok)

(10) Windstorm....

either by armed men or heavy rains, asking the government to find a permanent solution to the issue.

In Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar, residents held similar complaints and hoped for an early solution to the issue.

Resident Rahat Gul said Nangarhar was a commercial area where power outages created numerous problems for residents.

Electricity to the two provinces remained cut off for eleven days during the fasting month of Ramadan after residents of the Ozbin area in Sarobi district cut down the cables.

The residents said they would not allow the cables to be repaired until they were extended electricity. Later government officials conditionally agreed to their demand. (Pajhwok)

(11) Afghan....

Every year, a large number of Afghan professionals come to India to improve their skills in IT communication and other areas.

"At present we have offered the basic courses to Afghanistan students, one is of course is proficiency in English course where these students come from very remote locations. They do not have opportunity in their country. With our courses they go back with a confidence of at least speaking English in their country. With our curriculum and as well as our teachers, we have been able to have their confidence build up," said Ravi Malhotra, Head of sales in NIIT. India has been using 'soft power' to help rebuild war-torn Afghanistan. Skill training to professionals is the major thrust for the country.

(ANI)

(12) US Lauds....

from all militants. He thanked the US for its continued support to Pakistan for its political and economic stability, and its efforts to bring regional peace and harmony. Deputy Secretary Blinken appreciated Pakistan's stabilising role in the region. He also lauded Nawaz Sharif's efforts to reach out to Pakistan's neighbours, and hoped that his initiatives would help bring peace and prosperity in the region.

Blinken assured Fatemi of continued US engagement with the region. He also reiterated US support to Prime Minister Sharif's economic development plans, with special focus on energy and countering extremism and militancy. Pakistan's role in facilitating the reconciliation process between Afghan government and the Taliban was also lauded by the US side. Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Jalil Abbas Jilani accompanied Tariq Fatemi, whereas Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Dan Feldman assisted Tony Blinken. (Monitoring Desk)

(13) Two Afghan....

Afghanistan's Ministry of Counter Narcotics and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) showed that an estimated 224,000 hectares of land was planted with poppies in 2014. (KP)

(14) Dutch Turk....

helped the group between 2006 and 2008 and his activities are said to have taken place in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Jordan, the Netherlands, and France. He was arrested in Germany in January on an international warrant. (Monitoring Desk)

(15) 8 Militants....

period The Afghan army specialists had found and defused 17 roadside bombs and landmines, it said.

The Taliban-led violence continues in Afghanistan. Afghan security forces have pressed on with clearing the militants in restive provinces as they assumed the full security charges from NATO-led troops since Jan. 1.

The Taliban responds by bombing and armed attacks.

On Monday, Haji Salah Mohammad Hotak, a member of provincial peace committee of the eastern Wardak province, was shot dead by gunmen in the western part of Afghan capital Kabul, the Kabul police confirmed earlier on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

(16) 3 Children....

armed men to the central government, but failed to elicit a positive response.

"If the same situation persists, illegal armed men would become stronger and the government would be unable to disarm them," Amiri said.

On the other hand, public health officials said one person was killed in a traffic accident and another 285 people were injured in various kinds of incidents including traffic accidents, use of toy guns, firing into the air and others during Eid days.

Public Health Director Dr. Saad Mukhtar said 285 injured people were delivered at the zonal hospital in Kunduz City on the first, second and third day of Eid.

They included 150 people who were wounded in car accidents and the rest injured by toy guns and street fights.

Most of the injured were in stable condition as some of them were immediately discharged after first medical aid, Mukhtar said.

Meanwhile, Kunduz residents said the provincial capital had turned into a military zone making them uncomfortable during Eid days.

Asadullah, who resides in Kocha Turkmanha area of Kunduz City, said, "On the first day of Eid, heavy gunfire ranged out and we thought the Taliban had taken over control of the city." But later it appeared illegal armed men and pro-government uprising members had resorted to indiscriminate celebratory firing, he said.

In western Herat province, 19

children were wounded while playing with toy guns. Noor Hospital director in Herat City, Dr. Jamal Nasir, said children bought toy guns on Eid and fired shots at each other.

This way, 19 children got their eyes injured after being hit by plastic balls used as bullets in toy guns. Dr. Nasir asked government officials to prevent the imports of such toys to the country. (Pajhwok)

(17) Obama to

war best are receptive to the case that another war, this time with Iran, should be avoided at all costs.

Obama is also expected to address the recent killing of five US troops in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Four US marines and a sailor were killed after 24-year-old Mohammad Youssuf Abdula-zeez opened fire on two military centers.

Obama is also expected to tackle a multi-year crisis in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An inspector general report a year ago found "systemic" problems in health care for former combatants, with up to 40 veterans dying while waiting for treatment in Phoenix alone. (AFP)

(18) Iran Vow....

America" and "Death to Israel". "Even after this deal our policy toward the arrogant U.S. will not change," Khamenei said.

Several Gulf Arab states have long accused Tehran of interference, alleging financial or armed support for political movements in countries including Bahrain, Yemen and Lebanon.

Kerry said the U.S. believed its Arab allies had the ability to confront Iranian interference in the region.

"I think President Obama's belief and our military assessments, our intelligence assessments, are that if they organize themselves correctly, all of the Arab states have an untapped potential that is very, very significant to be able to push back against any of these activities," he said. (Reuters)

(19) UN Chief....

litigial dialogue that began last Wednesday to reach a compromise over points of disagreement on the forthcoming election. (Xinhua)

(20) Saudi-Backed....

stalemate in Aden last week by suddenly seizing the airport and then driving the Houthis out of their last redoubt in the west of the city.

Saudi Arabia intervened in Yemen's war in March in an effort to stop Houthi forces taking Aden, the last city nominally controlled by exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's government. Riyadh says it wants to restore Hadi to power in the capital Sanaa, which the Houthis seized in September.

The United Nations said on Tuesday that over 3,600 people have died during the almost four months of air raids and civil war in Yemen. The conflict has deepened suffering in the already impoverished nation, especially in Aden which has seen heavy combat.

A Houthi artillery barrage killed 43 people and wounded 173 on Sunday in Dar Saad, underscoring the fragile grip of the anti-Houthi forces. (Reuters)

(21) No Interest....

it freeze or dismantle its nukes unilaterally," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

"It is illogical to compare Iran's nuclear agreement with the situation of (North Korea) which is exposed to constant provocative military hostile acts and the biggest nuclear threat of the US," the spokesman told the North's official KCNA news agency.

Both Tehran and Pyongyang, allies since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, have been subjected to tough economic sanctions over their controversial nuclear programmes.

The deal reached with Iran was touted by some as a possible blueprint for eventual negotiations with North Korea, with US Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman saying she hoped it would give Pyongyang "second thoughts" about the nuclear path it was pursuing. (AFP)

U.S. 'Disturbed' By Iranian Leader's Criticism after Deal

DUBAI - The United States said on Tuesday it was disturbed by anti-U.S. hostility voiced by Iran's top leader after a nuclear deal, as both countries' top diplomats sought to calm opposition to the accord from hardliners at home.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said a speech by Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Saturday vowing to defy American policies in the region despite a deal with world powers over Tehran's nuclear program was "very troubling".

"I don't know how to interpret it at this point in time, except to take it at face value, that that's his policy," he said in the interview with Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television.

"But I do know that often comments are made publicly and things can evolve that are different. If it is the policy, it's very disturbing, it's very troubling," he added.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the highest authority in Iran, told supporters on Saturday that U.S. policies in the region were "180 degrees" opposed to Iran's, in a Tehran speech punctuated by chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel".

Under the accord reached in Vienna last week, Iran will be subjected to long-term curbs on its nuclear program in return for the lifting of U.S., European Union and U.N. sanctions. The deal was signed by the United States, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia.

It was a major policy achievement for both U.S. President Barack Obama and Iran's pragmatic elected President Hassan Rouhani. But both leaders have to sell it at home to powerful hardliners in countries that have been enemies for decades, referring to each other as the "Great Satan" and a member of the "Axis of Evil".

In the case of Iran, the deal must win final acceptance from the National Security Council and ultimately Khamenei, who has so far withheld final judgment, thanking the negotiators while saying the text must still be scrutinized and approved.

In the United States, Republicans who control Congress have lined up against the deal, but Obama says he will veto any attempt to block it.

Kerry also has the task of selling the agreement to skeptical U.S. allies in the region. Israel is implacably opposed, and Arab allies of the United States such as Saudi Arabia, ruled by Sunni Muslims, are suspicious of an arrangement that would benefit their Shi'ite, non-Arab rival Iran, which they accuse of fomenting sectarian conflict.

The Secretary General of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council of regional Arab states, Abdullah al-Zayani, said Khamenei's speech demonstrated "Iran's continued interference in the internal affairs of some Arab countries".

"Those statements don't help to build confidence for cooperative relations based on the principles of good neighborliness (and) non-interference in internal affairs," Zayani, a Bahraini general, was quoted as saying by Saudi news agency SPA. Dore Gold, director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry, described Israel's opposition to the accord as a "major disagreement" with Washington over "a central pillar of foreign policy", but nonetheless sought to play down the rift with Israel's closest ally.

"All you can do in these situations is just tell your story, tell the truth," he said, adding that the rift should be handled "in a very careful way" and with "mutual respect".

Hatred of the United States has been one of the underlying tenets of the Iranian ruling system since the 1979 Islamic revolution. But Iran's nearly 80 million people voted overwhelmingly for Rouhani in 2013 on a promise to end the country's diplomatic isolation.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, the foreign minister who developed a warm rapport with Kerry during weeks of unprecedented face-to-face talks, defended the deal in Iran's hardliner-dominated parliament. He said most of Iran's conditions had been met, including so-called "red lines" set by Khamenei.

"We don't say the deal is totally in favor of Iran. Any negotiation is a give and take. We have definitely shown some flexibility," the foreign minister said. "I tell you as I told the Supreme Leader, we did our best to preserve most of the red lines, if not all." (Reuters)