

(1) MPs Split...

from Ghazni province said the plan by the IEC to conduct zone-based elections in Ghazni is in contradiction to the law and it is "totally biased". They said the decision made by the election commission is unacceptable.

Ghazni MPs warned to resist what they described as a "discriminatory act" by the Independent Election Commission. either ensures security in the province or reduces the size of election constituencies.

The closure of IEC provincial office disrupted the voter registration process. But now the IEC has decided to divide Ghazni into zones ahead of October 20 parliamentary and district councils' elections. The IEC is planned to carry out voter registration center in accordance to a new electoral calendar.

Ghazni has 11 seat reservations in Afghanistan's Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament). But in the past elections, the entire candidates made their way to the parliament from a certain ethnicity after the polling was not conducted in some insecure regions.

IEC however clarifies that all zones have been divided based on the population and geography and a committee will carry on the process.

According to local officials, at least 14 districts in the province face serious security threats and 15 voter registration centers remain closed in the center of the province.

Afghanistan's parliamentary and district council elections are scheduled for 20 October. (Tolo news)

(2) Ailing Journalist...

and Pakistan. Doctors told her nerves had been damaged during the surgeries and her treatment was possible only in India.

Teacher Najia Qazizadah, mother of the 22-year-old, called her daughter's disease an agony that had broken her back. "She is a talented and hard-working woman. Besides doing her job, Azizi would help me with house chores. But now she is hospitalised," said Najia, looking at a photograph of her daughter. Her only wish is her daughter's recovery.

Mohammad Hashim, 50, father of MursalAzizi, claimed doing all he could for her treatment. "I have taken her to Kabul and Islamabad visited so many other hospitals and bought a lot of medicine. Although doctors assured she would recover, but her condition is deteriorating." Although he had spent all his wealth, the man said his journalist daughter was unlikely to regain health. Some doctors told him his daughter's treatment was possible in India. "This involves a lot of money that I don't have."

Hashim urged the philanthropists to help him treat Azizi, whose colleagues characterised her as a talented and brave young woman.

Mehnaz Moazin, who worked three years together with the ailing woman, told PajhwokAzizi was a skilled host of radio programmes on ethnic issues. The radio had many listeners.

She described Azizi as punctual despite suffering from a serious ailment like cancer. She asked her employers to support the journalist at this critical time in her life.

Ghulam Rassoul, an official at the Balkh Civil Hospital, believed Azizi's legs would have suffered no paralysis if she had got satisfactory medical care at an initial stage.

He explained a back tumour could be removed through surgery, but the patient could be paralysed for life in case of negligence.

But MursalAzizi is still optimistic of regaining health as a result of Allah's blessing and prayers from her compatriots. (Pajhwok)

(3) Taliban Bomb...

plans in Westminster.

The deputy assistant commissioner Dean Haydon, Scotland Yard's senior national coordinator for counter-terrorism policing, said "Ali was an incredibly dangerous individual who had returned from a training camp in Afghanistan with a determination to kill police officers, the military or parliamentarians here in the UK."

Ali, a naturalised British citizen, told his parents he was going to Birmingham on a plumbing job before he disappeared in 2011. "He left the UK and ended up in Afghanistan, in a Taliban training camp affiliated to al-Qaida, where for several years he helped terrorists make hundreds of bombs capable of mass murder," Haydon said.

The In depended also reported that in an interview with officers, Ali said he wanted to deliver a message to British leaders telling them to leave "Muslim lands", destroy the state of Israel and release prisoners of war.

"I would consider myself as a mujahid [Islamic warrior]," he added. "Jihad is what we do... and I am here to let you know the reason why I have come with the message, for you to make the right

decisions, if not... we have a lot of time. UK is next on the list."

Ali declared his loyalty to the Taliban and told how he made bombs and "pressed the button" more than 300 times in attacks targeting American and British soldiers spanning five years.

He denied terror offences but when asked why he was carrying knives on the day of his arrest, Ali replied: "I had the knives ready to kill, but only in self-defence." (Tolo news)

(4) UN Official Sees...

were flooded with photos of representatives from the two sides embracing each other. Local authorities also allowed Taliban fighters to return to their hometowns, while some Afghan soldiers visited areas controlled by the extremists.

Afghans, including Taliban fighters, clearly want peace - Tadamichi Yamamoto, head of UNAMA

Despite the developments, a government proposal to extend the ceasefire was not reciprocated.

Mr. Yamamoto explained that because the Taliban's goal is to end the presence of foreign fighters in Afghanistan, it has shunned direct talks with the Government. But, as he told the Council, ending the long-standing conflict will require talks among all parties, which of course means the Taliban and the authorities will have to meet over the negotiating table.

"What we have learned is that both the Afghan Government and the Taliban have command and control over their troops. Afghans, including Taliban fighters, clearly want peace. It is also clear that President Ghani is taking courageous steps to seek peace through talks," he said.

Meanwhile, preparations continue for parliamentary elections in October and presidential elections in early 2019.

So far, more than 7 million people have registered to vote in what Mr. Yamamoto described as "a fully Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process".

The UN has provided 23 international experts to work alongside the Independent Election Committee, with additional technical advisers currently being recruited.

Civil society representatives have also committed to monitor proceedings at all polling stations. (Monitoring Desk)

(5) Pakistan Urges...

preconditions and the US support for a negotiated settlement.

"The ceasefire earlier this month has demonstrated that negotiations are not only possible but can produce a positive outcome," she said.

"The opportunity that has opened up by recent developments must now be seized and translated into serious and sustained efforts to promote a political settlement and durable peace and stability in Afghanistan," the Pakistani envoy told the 15-member Council.

Opening the debate, the UN envoy to Afghanistan also spoke about the "unprecedented opportunities" to seek peace and consolidate the country's political foundation.

Tadamichi Yamamoto, head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), briefed the ambassadors what he called the current politically dynamic period that has seen ceasefires by the Government and the Taliban and preparations for elections in October.

In her remarks, Ambassador Lodhi said Pakistan's participation in all regional and international forums on peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, including the Moscow format, was a reflection of its commitment to a peace process and Islamabad could support any agreed format for negotiations that enables all directly engaged parties to talk to each other.

"We feel that the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) consisting of Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, and the US, remains a useful format to pursue a negotiated settlement," she said, adding a QCG-Plus format can also be considered that brings all of Afghanistan's neighbours into the process.

"A negotiated peace and national reconciliation is all the more vital to prevent the threat posed to Afghanistan, its neighbours and the global community by the presence of Daesh and a conglomerate of terrorists, including the TIP, ETIM, IMU, and others groups that have adopted the umbrella of Daesh.

"They need to be defeated urgently and decisively," Ambassador Lodhi said. "We must not allow these groups to drive Afghanistan into another vortex of violence and instability, which would compound the threat to the region's security Pakistan's security, she said, was inextricably linked to peace and stability in Afghanistan and Islamabad had a vital interest in a peaceful, stable, united and prosperous Afghanistan.

Pakistan stood ready to support Afghanistan in addressing the multiple challenges it faces and Islamabad had engaged with Kabul in a comprehensive manner, in the political, economic and military spheres. A series of high-level visits by the two countries' political and military leaders

have taken place in recent months and helped create an environment of trust and inject a positive impetus to their bilateral relations.

The recently concluded Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS), she said, would provide a structured platform for engagement between the two countries.

To strengthen defence cooperation, Pakistan was working with the Afghan government on modalities to deploy military liaison officers on either side, to coordinate counter terrorism efforts, and complement action against terrorist outfits on Pakistani side of the border.

"We must secure our border to prevent the cross border movement of terrorists," she said.

The international community, she reminded, was unanimous in its view that sustainable peace was only achievable through a negotiated end to the conflict.

"Almost 17 years of war, waged by the world's most powerful military forces has not yielded a military solution," the Pakistani envoy pointed out.

The Afghan parties must now commit themselves to a negotiated solution to the conflict, she said.

"This offers the best chance to end the suffering of the Afghan people and restore peace to Afghanistan and stability to the region," Ambassador Lodhi added.

Afghan Ambassador Mahmoud Saikal speech was generally positive. Ultimately, he said, the success hinged on strengthening Afghan unity, keeping people involved, managing future ceasefires and negotiations, ensuring genuine implementation of the Afghanistan-Pakistan action plan for peace and solidarity, and improving consensus on international efforts in the country.

But the Indian Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin claimed that terrorism in Afghanistan was not a local problem. The Council must better tackle transnational drug, terrorism and criminal networks, as some continued to provide sanctuary to the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, ISIL, Al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, he said. (Monitoring Desk)

(6) Opportunity for...

Pakistan Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi said her country always advocated for a negotiated settlement, which was the only viable solution to end the Afghan conflict.

Welcoming President Ghani's offer of talks with the Taliban without preconditions, Lodhi said the opportunity should be seized to help promote durable peace.

The onus rested on the parties directly involved, she believed, promising Pakistan would do all it could to assist the process. India's Syed Akbaruddin said those supporting the terrorists targeting Afghanistan had not been deterred. Despite efforts, some elements were providing sanctuaries to terrorists such as the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, ISIL, Al-Qaida, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, he alleged.

The same safe havens that sheltered Mullah Omar had also sheltered Osama bin Laden, he claimed, emphasizing terrorism in Afghanistan was not a local problem.

Amy Noel Tachco of the United States welcomed the Afghanistan President's "serious efforts" to end the conflict, but condemned the Taliban's refusal to accept an extended ceasefire.

Recalling the Eid ceasefire, she said if Afghans could pray together, they deserved a respite from Taliban violence that was longer than a weekend.

The United States called on the Taliban to enter into peace talks without preconditions. It is incumbent on those parties with close ties to that group to use their influence to bring it to the negotiating table, she asserted. (Pajhwok)

(7) Kabul Hosts...

same event, US Ambassador in Afghanistan, John R. Bass, stressed the need for Afghan women's empowerment.

"For this country to succeed, Afghan women must succeed and must have the opportunities to succeed in whatever they choose to do, and the United States remains deeply committed so supporting the rights and the empowerment of the women of this country and to help create opportunities for you, each of you," the US envoy said.

Meanwhile, a woman lawmaker, Fawzia Kofi, said women's participation is still low in many sectors.

"Despite the plans that are being implemented, women's participation in various sectors is 22 percent or less than that compared with previous years," Kofi said.

The Promote Musharikat 2018 National Summit is part of the promote program by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Promote is a five-year program targeting the education, promotion, and training of Afghan women. Promote strengthens women's participation in civil society, boosts female participation in the economy, increases the number of women

in decision making positions within the Afghan government, and helps women gain business and management skills. (Tolo news)

(8) Ghani Ready...

beyond EidulFitr and gave people happiness. It spurred hopes and showed this great nation remains proud of its identity and Islam," he remarked.

The president thanked the nation for sharing its happiness with the Taliban during the ceasefire. Afghanistan is a country known for consultations and consensus, Ghani added.

Accepting peace is Allah's order and shows respect for people's aspirations and national interests, according to him. He asked the people to share their suggestions with HIPC and the Presidential Palace.

Ghani remarked peace could not come about in darkness but was achievable in daylight and with efforts from all Afghans. He once again told the Taliban he was ready for talks in any part of Afghanistan and the militant group should also show its readiness for negotiations.

Ghani said there was complete consensus on peace and ceasefire in Afghanistan at national, regional and international levels. The Eid truce was enforced well, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(9) Highways...

Taliban emerged on the Kabul-Kandahar highway in Maidan Wardak province after 8pm on Tuesday night.

The group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid asked civilians not to travel till further orders. But the guerrillas have not yet commented on the reopening of the routes. (Pajhwok)

(10) Japan looking...

Japan to be over-confident against the Poles. "I don't think we can go into the game looking for a draw," he said, explaining that a win would help continue their momentum for a last-16 tie against Belgium or England.

Japan have only played Poland twice in the last 22 years, beating them 5-0 in February 1996 and 2-0 in March 2002, but they will be wary of the fact they have failed to score in four of their last World Cup games against European opposition. The last time they scored against European opponents was in a 3-1 win over Denmark in 2010.

Meanwhile Poland winger, Kamil Grosiki admits their time in Russia has been a struggle, but they must try and recover some pride in their final game after losing 2-1 to Senegal, before being totally outplayed by the Colombians.

"We couldn't even get the ball off Colombia, never mind counter against them. We've disappointed everyone, including ourselves. We came here with high hopes and huge dreams. Now we're playing the last match just for honor," Grosiki said. (Agencies)

(11) Germany Loses to...

three shots to Germany's two. The Germans, as they had in their first two games, bossed possession but struggled to create. Joachim Low had made five lineup changes in an effort to firm up his midfield and defense, with Mesut Ozil returning to the starting 11. But the result was still all a bit stagnant. Germany's best first-half opportunity came via a high press, but poor final-third decision-making preempted a clear look on goal.

The nerviest moments might have come at the other end. Manuel Neuer spilled a free kick, and had to punch it out of the path of an onrushing Heung-Min Son. And just as Mexico and Sweden did, the South Koreans troubled Germany on the break.

Germany threatens, but stalls Germany came out of halftime firing, but still couldn't break the deadlock. Leon Goretzka had a free header saved: But the Germans were still somewhat out of sync. Ozil was once again ineffective. He couldn't connect with his fellow attackers. Thomas Muller's absence from the starting lineup loomed large. So did Leroy Sane's absence from the squad.

Mario Gomez was Low's first roll of the dice off the bench, and Muller his second. But still, the Germans stalled. By this point, Sweden was 3-0 up on Mexico. Germany, therefore, knew one moment of magic would send it through. But it couldn't find the elusive goal.

Meanwhile, against a more clinical opponent, the reigning champs might have been behind. They were susceptible to counters. South Korea broke on several occasions, but faltered at the final pass.

As full-time neared, though, it became one-way traffic. Mats Hummels joined the German attack, and ghosted into the box, but missed a free header from six yards out. Toni Kroos, the hero just four days ago, tried his luck from the edge of the box, but had his shot saved.

And then at the other end, South Korea took advantage of the Germans pouring numbers forward.

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(12) Attacks inside...

the Haqqani Network, ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

"The same safe havens that sheltered Mullah Omar also sheltered Osama bin Laden. Lest we forget, the terrorism problem in Afghanistan is not a local one," he said.

Akbaruddin asserted that it should not take a "catastrophe" again to remind the international community that Afghanistan requires strong and steady international support in elimination of what is a threat to global peace and security.

He noted that the focus of the international community in Afghanistan has been unremitting from the start of this year. Akbaruddin, however, added that "sadly", the markers of progress on fundamental concerns about the situation strike a sombre note - "whether it is in terms of the suffering of the ordinary people of Afghanistan, the senseless orgy of heinous killings by terrorists, or the displacement of a conflict-weary people."

Akbaruddin voiced concern over the Taliban's involvement in virtually all aspects of the opium trade, suggesting that it's not a mere political or terrorism problem but one of the organised crimes. He underscored the need for the Council to tackle linkages between extremism, terrorism, drug production and illegal exploitation of natural resources of Afghanistan. "It is time that this Council looks at options to better utilise the range of tools available to it to deal with these trans-national networks of drugs, terrorism and crime," he said.

He highlighted India's support as a development partner of Afghanistan in areas of connectivity, improving trade and investment relations, noting the significant developments in recent months on connectivity. He cited the example of the Chabahar port and as well as the India-Afghanistan Air Freight Corridor, which has gained momentum in the first year of its operation.

Cargo flights between Kabul, Kandahar, New Delhi and Mumbai have so far carried over 2,000 tonnes of exports from Afghanistan to India worth over tens of millions of dollars. "Encouraged by this, we have plans to expand the air freight corridor network to various other cities in Afghanistan and India," he said.

Akbaruddin also lauded the rise of Afghanistan's cricket team, qualifying for the next Cricket World Cup and making their debut as a test cricket playing nation earlier this month against India. He expressed optimism over the prospect of India's national cricket team playing on the Afghan soil in the future. (Pajhwok)

(13) 18-Member...

to NDS officials.

Commander Hassan said after the two sides announced truce, they visited the provincial city, Jalalabad, where they were welcomed by government officials and people.

The Imam of Harmain Al Sharifain in his Friday sermon prayed for peace in Afghanistan and declared a fatwa against the war in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan ulema have also called the ongoing war in Afghanistan as against Islam.

Malik Aslam, who started war against the government in compliance with a fatwa of his village's imam, but when he visited the city, he found mosques and seminaries and thus joined the peace process. (Pajhwok)

(14) Iklii Hakimi...

approved.

Without disclosing further information, Hakimi further added that he has stepped down from his post due to family issues.

This comes as Afghanistan's Trade and Commerce Minister and the Deputy Minister for Telecommunication and Information Technology had stepped down from their positions earlier.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing Syed Sadat Mansoor Naderi had also resigned from his position nearly two weeks ago. (kp)