

### (1) Ghani Orders ...

the meeting and they all appreciated security forces' efforts at maintaining security for the Kabul Process conference.

National Directorate of Security (NDS) chief Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai briefed the session about the progress in investigating the suspect arrested during the funeral ceremony of Mohammad Alam Ezedyar's son. The session ruled and guided that the interrogation should be comprehensive. Meanwhile, Attorney General Farid Hamidi presented a special report about investigations into recent incidents in Kabul, saying his office was busy investigating the incidents and information would be shared with the people later.

The meeting praised sacrifices and performance of the 13 soldiers who were killed in last week's deadly truck bombing which left 150 dead and more than 450 injured. The Ministry of Interior was tasked to access and address problems of victims' families. During the meeting, security organs were also tasked with preparing and implementing a plan aimed at disarming irresponsible armed men as soon as possible.

According to the statement, the high-ranking authorities were also directed to make comprehensive efforts at ensuring security of Kabul, diplomatic areas and provinces. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Afghanistan, ...

electricity to Badghis province was finalised, the statement said.

The meeting also discussed the latest condition of electricity projects in Afghanistan's northwestern part. These projects included increasing the voltage of electricity to Heart province via the Sarhadabad route of Turkmenistan, distribution of electricity to parts of Badghis and Jawzjan provinces, electricity import on Shiberghan-Pul-i-Khumri route and the electricity supply project of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan (TAP) via Heart-Kandahar route.

In addition to the above issues, both sides have decided to provide reformative suggestions in the contract made for electricity trade between the two countries and would be made ready to be signed by the higher authorities from both neighbors.

Moreover, the improvement of 110 KV Badghis province electricity project was analyzed and Turkmenistan promised to finish the construction work of this project by the end of 2017. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Ghani, Iranian ...

Afghanistan has had good progress in water management and has presented some plans to be implemented in the near future to pave the way for water management.

Ashraf Ghani also added that Iran can be connected to China through railroads of Afghanistan and Tajikistan to give a momentum to the economy of the region.

The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister extended Iran's condolences to the Afghan president over recent terrorist attacks in Kabul, adding terrorism is a threat to the world and the region and the Kabul Process for Peace & Security Cooperation is an important step against terrorism.

Asraf Ghani thanked him for attending the Kabul Process meeting and hoped the relations between the two countries would expand.

In a separate meeting on the same day, Rahimpour and Abdullah exchanged views on a range of issues, including ways to boost bilateral ties between the two neighboring countries.

The Iranian diplomat also met with Afghanistan's national security adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar on Tuesday, discussing security cooperation between Tehran and Kabul.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of Kabul Process for Peace & Security Cooperation, in which representatives of 25 countries, the UN, the EU, and NATO participate to reach a consensus on combating terrorism and establishing peace in Afghanistan. (IRNA)

### (4) Iran's ...

have been killed in Wednesday's attacks while another 42 have been injured and admitted to 3 hospitals to receive treatment.

The Daesh Takfiri terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. The two sites of terrorist attacks of June 7, 2017 in the Iranian capital, Tehran, are shown on this map of the city. The attack on the parliament happened when at least four gunmen, disguised as women, entered the visitors' hall of the building, opening fire on the security guards there. According to an Interior Ministry statement, the terrorists were all killed before they could make it to the parliamentary office building.

The assault has forced a lockdown on the legislature. Tehran MP Elias Hazrati has said that the assailants were

armed with two Kalashnikovs and a handgun.

According to lawmaker Mehdi Kiaee, the situation is under control inside the parliament, while security forces are working to restore calm there.

As seen in the footage below, Anti-Terror Special Forces have been deployed to the Majlis. An Interior Ministry source said a bomber had blown himself up on the fourth floor of the parliament building, where he was holed up. (Presstv)

### (5) EU Foreign ...

that "there is a growing need, desire, to partner with the European Union. Part of this might be linked to a certain unpredictability of positions that, on some issues, our partners have seen in Washington."

Mogherini cited President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the landmark Paris climate agreement as a prime example.

Referring to regional tensions over Qatar, Mogherini said "we are currently facing a very destabilizing moment around the Gulf." She said "the more we work together the more we can expect our messages to be heard." (AP)

### (6) MPs Warn ...

Shah Bahrami and the interior minister Taj Mohammad Jahid.

"You can see the Pakistani media, they are very happy about the situation here," said MP Nadir Khan Katawazai.

"The job of Haneef Atmar is only an advisory job, executive authorities are supposed to be carried out by others, how can he be fired from his job, he is a national personality," said MP Naqibullah.

But, some other MPs hit out over the remarks.

"Every lawmaker is allowed to speak out, but no one is allowed to be insulting, no citizen of Afghanistan is allowed to make insulting remarks," said MP Abdul Rauf Ibrahim.

"There are some people in this hall of the national assembly who are supported from other places, those people who did not show mercy on the protestors and opened fire on protestors have their supporters in the national assembly," said MP Zaheer Sadat. (Tolnews)

### (7) AGO ...

ceremony of the son of Mohammad Alam Ezedyar, deputy speaker of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament), who was shot on Friday, are ongoing.

The AGO's spokesman Jamshed Rasuli said they are making progress with their investigations.

He said they will punish any group or individual at any level if they are found guilty of charges related to either of the incidents.

"Our colleagues continue their efforts to assess the issue from all angles. Our colleagues will ensure justice is carried out regarding security officials and the incidents. They will remain impartial in this respect. We will share the results with you once the investigation is done," he said.

"The law will be followed regardless of the individual if he has done anything illegal at any level," he added. Meanwhile, a number of MPs said they are working with government and protestors to bring them to the negotiations table.

It is expected that 34 representatives from 34 provinces will talk with representatives of government and protestors to settle the issue.

"We have talked with protestors and they are ready to talk. And government is also ready to talk," said Ali Kazimi, an MP.

"The delegation will talk about the negotiations with government and the protestors and then we will select a head for the delegation and will carry on our meetings," said Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) speaker.

Sources say that the two incidents are being assessed by a high-ranking delegation from the AG's office - contrary to other incidents. (Tolnews)

### (8) Ghani Strongly...

against such scourge phenomenon". The Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah along with a number of parliament representatives and political parties on Wednesday strongly condemned recent terrorist attacks in Tehran.

In an apparently coordinated attempt, two terrorist groups attacked mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeini, southern Tehran, and the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) on Wednesday morning, killing 12 people and injuring 42 more.

One of the terrorist was gunned down by the security forces and another attacker, reportedly a woman, blew herself up outside the Imam Khomeini shrine.

The terrorist group of Daesh (the ISIS terrorist group) has claimed responsibility for the fatal attacks in Tehran.

Terrorists entered the Parliament building while they had dressed as women, said a security official.

Parliament operation ended by security forces who killed three of the terrorists, one of them had detonated himself before.

Meanwhile, according to an official at the Intelligence Ministry, several terrorist cells have entered Tehran to carry out terrorist operations, but members of one of the cells have been arrested. (IRNA)

### (9) Pul-i-Charkhi ...

a road which passed near the prison. Despite efforts, contact with Pul-i-Charkhi Prison could not be established. Lt. Gen. Abdul Haleem Kohistani, the director general of prisons, said he was unaware the Pul-i-Charkhi prison was tax defaulter, adding he would look into the issue. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Jamiat Official ...

The statement comes just two days after acting foreign affairs minister Salahuddin Rabbani, who is also the leader of Jamiat-Islami party, said his party was calling for the swift dismissal of all heads of security institutions including President Ashraf Ghani's national security advisor Haneef Atmar following a string of deadly attacks in Kabul last week that left over a 150 people dead and hundreds others injured.

But tensions between the presidential palace and Jamiat have deepened after the presidential palace defied Jamiat's call for Atmar to step down.

Khan alleged that the National Unity Government (NUG) under Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah has failed to find resolutions to the issues facing the nation and instead suggested an early poll to replace what he described an incompetent system.

He said that it would be better for the international community to support the Afghan people rather than support an incompetent government.

"I hope that the international community stops supporting this incompetent and weak government of national unity and instead supports the people of Afghanistan; it is appropriate that the international community supports the people of Afghanistan; this system has lost its credibility and it has lost the trust of the people, therefore it is better that the international community especially the US stands alongside the people," he said.

But Khan said the removal of officials from their posts will not change anything and instead suggested holding early elections in the country.

"I hope that we get rid of this situation either through elections or a Loya Jirga so that these uncertainties come to an end," added Khan. He called on the government to swiftly act upon the demands tabled by Jamiat, warning that there would be fallout if government defies the party's recommendations and demands. (Tolnews)

### (11) Imam Sahib...

"The clashes started at about 4am on Sunday from Aqa Bay village and now heavy clashes are still ongoing," said Mohammad Yousef Ayoubi, a provincial council member.

"A few days ago, the Taliban attacked the Imam Sahib district. Unfortunately they have taken most parts of the district and the Taliban has taken control of Aqa Bay Rouz-e-Mubarezk and Koch-e-Bakhmal villages," said another provincial council member Saifullah Amiri.

Military officials however claim the Taliban has sustained a heavy casualty toll in the district.

"The enemies of Afghanistan have tried to destabilize Imam Sahib district but the security forces were able to hurt the enemy and they have suffered heavy casualties.

"One of their group's leaders was also killed in clashes with security forces and their two armored vehicles were also destroyed," said a military commander Sayed Baqir Musa. (Tolnews)

### (12) 30 Schoolgirls ...

been hospitalized and their health condition was said to be stable. A resident of the area, Mohammad Hussain, also confirmed the incident, saying the area wasn't that much hot to knock someone unconscious.

"Some kind of toxic gas has been sprayed around the school because other people have felt the smell."

Meanwhile, programs in-charge at the Ministry of Education, Kabir Haqmal, tweeted that 35 girls had been poisoned in Jaghori district. He didn't go into details.

Earlier, about 50 girls were poisoned in Khak-i-Ghariba High School in Ghazni city, the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Protest Tents

Khan diplomatic quarter of the capital. Two days later on Friday, hundreds of people took to the streets in the capital, demanding investigation into the security breach, days ahead of a conference in Kabul.

The protest turned violent and seven protestors were killed and 10 others were wounded in clashes with police guarding the Presidential Palace. Twenty-five police were also wounded.

Next day (Saturday), three back to back suicide bombings struck a funeral ceremony for the son of a lawmaker, who was among the slain protestors. The blasts killed seven people and wounded 119.

Since last Friday, the protestors have erected five tents in different parts of Kabul city. Their demands include investigation into recent Kabul incidents, resignation of government leaders and security chiefs and prosecution of those who fired at protestors. Hamida Ahmadzai, a Kuchi tribe representative in the Wolesi Jirga or lower house, called the protest as legitimate right of people but said "The protest tents have created serious problems for Kabul residents, we request the protestors to take away the tents from roads."

Besides creating traffic problems, the tents had also badly affected people's businesses, she said.

Munawar Shah Bahaduri, a lawmaker from western Herat province, also said there were only one or two persons in the tents, but they created problems for thousands of people.

He asked the government to remove the protest tents in which no one people were sitting.

Naqibullah, a representative from Laghman province, said: "A number paid individuals who sit in the tents are creating problems for six million population of Kabul."

The tents which served the interests of some particular individuals should be removed from roads, Saleh Mohammad Saleh, a lawmaker from eastern Kunar province said.

Nawab Mangal, a lawmaker from southeastern Paktia province, said patients were dying roads due to the protest camps.

He said a patient from Paktia province lost his life on the way to hospital in Kabul due to the road blockade by protestors.

"Protest is the right of people, but it should not violate the right of others," Mangal added.

A number of other lawmakers also asked the government and protestors to shift away the tents from roads that created problems for residents of Kabul.

Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said a delegation of the lower house had met the protestors who might hold a joint meeting with the government to resolve the problem.

A number of lawmakers also criticized JIA's demand for removal of NSA Mohammad Hanif Atmar.

Lawmaker Hamida Ahmadzai, told today session acting foreign minister and JIA leader Salahuddin Rabbani had violated article 80 of the Constitution.

The article says ministers shall not use their positions for linguistic, sectarian, tribal, religious or partisan purposes.

Another lawmaker, Naqibullah said Atmar and many other officials in the National Security Council (NSC) had no executive role. He backed Atmar and said setting conditions would not resolve the problem. (Pajhwok)

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an illegal SIM card," he revealed. Police investigations showed the SIM card was registered in the name of an elderly man but it was used by someone else.

Mohammad Nasim, another resident of Takhar, said a registered SIM card was sold for 100 afghanis in the province. The sellers do not want to lose customers so they register the cards themselves before sale.

However, the deputy police chief, Col. Syed Kiramatullah Jahangir, said no one had so far complained to police about illegal SIM cards. "We would definitely take action if we receive formal complaints."

Jahangir urged ATRA to provide police evidence of illegal SIM cards being sold in the province. On the other hand, ATRA said it had collected around 2,000 illegal SIM cards in cooperation with police last year.

MTN, Etisalat and Roshan telecom companies were fined 60 million afghanis for similar violations. The sale of illegal SIM cards is also common in Kabul and other provinces of the country.

Despite the serious consequences of the illegal SIM cards, the practice continues unchecked. No serious steps have so far been taken by the government so far to prevent such sales. (Pajhwok)

(16) 6 of a Family...

Mehri, the governor's spokesman, said insurgents stormed security check-posts in Mazaar village and forces targeted the area from where the militants firing gunshots.

He did not give information about the civilian casualties, but said one ANA officer was wounded.

Separately, three militants, including a notorious commander, were killed and two others wounded in a blast caused by their own landmine in Sari-Pul province on Wednesday morning, the MoI said in a statement.

It said the blast in Charak area of Sozma Qala district happened when the militants were making a roadside bomb.

The statement added the slain commander, Qari Zekrullah, was involved in terrorist activities including planting roadside bombs in Sozma Qala district. (Pajhwok)

(17) 11 Insurgents ...

are actively operating in its various districts and often carry out insurgency activities.

Taliban launched numerous attacks on key districts of the province including Kunduz city during the recent years but the militants were pushed back after the Afghan security forces launched an offensive with the support of the US forces based in Afghanistan. (KP)

(18) Daesh Claims ...

opening fire on people inside and wounding a number of them.

The report said one of the assailants had been killed, another had blown himself up and a third one has been injured.

Press TV reported that a bomber's explosive vest had also been discovered and deactivated in the vicinity of the mausoleum adding that an ambulance belonging to the Welfare Organization of Iran was targeted when terrorists fired 16 bullets at the vehicle at the mausoleum. Nobody was injured in the attack.

Iran's state television quoted an Intelligence Ministry source as saying that the twin attacks in Tehran were being treated as terrorist incidents. (Tolnews)

(19) In Ghazni, ...

Those irrigating their farmlands through solar pumps were also tazed, he added.

"Taliban have been collecting money from landowners who own solar systems since three years, they take 3,000 to 3,500 Pakistani rupees from these people," he said.

A person who refused to pay tax in this area was severely beaten up by Taliban militants, he said.

A tribal elder from Ghazni city, Haji Abdul Manan, said that besides Ghazni city, the Taliban were collecting tax from many other areas of province.

He criticized the Taliban, saying the financial situation of Ghazni people was not good enough to pay illegal levies. He urged residents to rise against illegal activities of the militants.

Fahim Amarkhel, provincial police spokesman, accused the Taliban of forcibly collecting money from people in Ghazni. But security officials were trying to prevent the illegal activity, he said.

"People should also support us and they should understand that Taliban are not their well-wishers. Therefore, they should avoid paying money to the rebel group," he added.

Meanwhile, the militants acknowledged collecting taxes from people. The group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said they had imposed a tax

on some shops in Ghazni.

"The tax ranges between Rs500 to Rs3,500. Poor shopkeepers with are exempted from this," he said, warning against the extortion of money from people under different pretexts or by force.

Ghazni is one of the provinces where transactions are made in Pakistani rupees. Nawa district and many areas of the province have been under Taliban's control for the past several years. (Pajhwok)

(20) Jalaluddin ...

Haqqani group, the statement added, citing the preliminary information received by the government regarding the incident.

A number of the Taliban insurgents were killed or wounded during an infighting among the militants of the group in southern Uruzgan province of Afghanistan.

According to the local government officials, the incident took place late on Sunday night in Chora district.

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(21) Power Struggle ...

who he identifies as Sheikh Aslam Farouqi, has been chosen to lead the group and suggests Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence is behind the rumors.

"Even if this information is true, then it's the ISI of Pakistan behind this function and we don't accept it, because we all fight for Allah and his religion," the letter says, warning against "infidels, intelligence services and the deceitful" acting from "behind the scenes."

Militants belonging to allied groups said Central Asian fighters as well as Afghans want the leadership of the group taken out of Pakistani hands, even though the founder of IS in Afghanistan, Hafiz Saeed Khan, was a Pakistani tribesman. Khan was killed in a U.S. drone strike in July 2016.

The rift seemed to widen with a recent IS meeting in Pakistan's Orakzai tribal belt, from where Khan originates, according to two people familiar with the meeting, which was said to have been attended by 40 senior IS commanders.

The council appointed Saif-ul Islam, a close Pakistani ally of Saeed, as the new leader. With the many names used by insurgents it wasn't immediately clear if Aslam Farouqi and Saif-ul Islam were the same person. Sheikh Abdul Qadir Khorasani, an Afghan from the eastern Kunar province, was appointed deputy, they said. The militants all spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief reporters.

There has been no official IS confirmation of a new leader and in Washington intelligence officials refused to comment.

More than 16 years after the U.S. invaded Afghanistan to end Taliban rule and flush out al-Qaida, the mountainous regions along the Afghan-Pakistani border are still home to an array of extremist groups. Pakistan's spy service is said to have connections to some, including the Afghan Taliban, even as it battles other groups that threaten its own citizens.

The growing assertiveness of the Uzbek militants within the IS affiliate is particularly worrying.

Uzbek fighters were so vicious in Pakistan's South Waziristan province that they drove the area's fractious tribesmen to unite to push them out in 2015. They then based themselves in North Waziristan before being driven across the border by a Pakistani military offensive. They have since clashed with the Taliban in different parts of Afghanistan and claimed responsibility for brazen and deadly attacks in Kabul, including a daytime assault and siege of an Afghan military hospital that killed 50 people earlier this year.

Arkady Dubnov, a Moscow-based expert on Central Asian militants, says the Uzbeks' reputation for brutality is likely rooted in the fact that they are "aliens" in much of Afghanistan and Pakistan, which are dominated by other ethnic groups. Dubnov also noted that the son of Tahir Yuldashev, the powerful Uzbek leader of the outlawed Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, who was killed in a U.S. missile strike in Pakistan in 2009, is leading efforts to help expand IS influence in Afghanistan.

Central Asian fighters are now a key pillar of support for the IS affiliate, according to Anatol Lieven, a regional expert at Georgetown University's Qatar campus.

"They have been encouraged to move to IS because of the longstanding Taliban declaration that they are not an international jihadi force," he said. (AP)