

(1) Mohaqiq Voices...

opening of an office in Doha is a critical first step toward peace negotiations.

Although a Taliban office was established in Doha in 2013, after strong objections from former president Hamid Karzai over the office's brandishing of the "Islamic Emirates" name, it quickly closed.

According to Taliban spokesmen, during Said Taib Agha's trip to Norway last week, demands were made for the reopening of the office.

"One of the demands of the Taliban is reopening the Taliban office in Qatar," Mohaqiq told TOLONews. "If this office is solely used for the purposes of peace talks, there is a chance that the government might agree."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), meanwhile, has reiterated that the meeting in Oslo was not anything that would qualify as peace talks. "The Taliban were also present in this global summit, where the Taliban and Afghan government representatives only presented their ideas, but no form of official peace talks were held," ministry spokesman Shekib Mostaghni said.

Over the past three months, Taliban representatives has met with Afghan representatives in Qatar, China, Norway and UAE. (Tolonews)

(2) Dostum-Atta ...

from Jamiat-e-Islami Party of Afghanistan, and Dostum, from Junbish-i-Millī Islami Afghanistan, reportedly held several meetings over the past week in which both sides pledged to put their differences aside and work together to tackle common issues, said Zabi Fitrat, deputy spokesman to Jamiat-e-Islami on Monday.

"One of the key reasons for the union is the deteriorating security situation in the northern regions. Security threats are on the rise in the northern parts of the country, an issue which persuaded the two influential political forces to make an alliance and jointly fight the threats," Fitrat said.

He said that the two leaders met in Faryab province and shook hands in an attempt to put aside their political differences and work for national peace and security.

In addition, prominent members from the two parties are holding talks in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, to discuss ways to fight insurgency in the north. In the meetings, both sides vowed to work together to fight for peace.

"The two political forces are determined to continue backing the security forces and ensure the defense of people's peace and security," he said. "The plan is firm, the two political parties will fight the enemy that is an enemy to the security forces." (Tolonews)

(3) ISIS Not Posing ...

involvement of the terror group's affiliates in atrocities, allegedly committed in Afghanistan.

Pentagon in a report released last week said "ISIL's presence and influence in Afghanistan remains in the initial exploratory phase."

The report further added "The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan has publicly expressed support for ISIL as the leader of the global jihad; however, the Taliban has declared that it will not allow ISIL in Afghanistan."

The United States of Department also released a report earlier this week also said "The Government of Afghanistan takes the threat of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) seriously. There were some reports of ISIL engaging Afghan insurgent groups to obtain allegiance in exchange for resources."

"In September, an ISIL newspaper in Dari and Pashto was reportedly distributed in Kabul and Nangarhar provinces promoting extremist ideology," the report said.

The report also added "In late October, pro-ISIL graffiti was discovered at Kabul University, sparking fear that extremist youth groups may latch onto ISIL messaging."

"On November 15, a suspected ISIL agent who had allegedly posted pamphlets at the Blue Mosque in Herat City was detained in Herat," the report said. (KP)

(4) International ...

liamentary polls.

The UN members assured the international community would financially support the parliamentary elections in Afghanistan.

Ghani said the Afghan electoral bodies should be developed more in technical area. He said any kind of reforms in the electoral system suggested by the commissions, relevant organs and the people would be acceptable.

"It is important that ulema and influential individuals also share their suggestions how to prevent fraud during elections," Ghani said, adding that Afghans' awareness about elections had increased and they also wanted transparency in the process.

"We don't want to impose our own options on people about elections, we want people to identify any electoral fraud and give their suggestions to us in correcting the system," he said.

The president added the election process should be completely secured by security forces and stressed reduced election costs. (Pajhwok)

(5) Govt. Has no ...

government, but another group would join them after some time. Obaidullah Barakzai from Uruzgan province expressed concerns about the security situation, saying the government had no strategy to fight Daesh.

He claimed earlier a Daesh fighter would receive \$500 per month, but now they were paid \$800 each.

He said roads to some Uruzgan districts had been closed by insurgents for the last 50 days, sending food prices soaring in Charchino, Khas Uruzgan and Gezab districts.

Maulvi Abdul Rahman Rahmani, an MP from northern Balkh province, claimed Daesh was a project aimed at destroying Afghanistan. He urged the government to take action before it was too late. (Pajhwok)

(6) MPs Summon...

on Saturday and also summoned the Minister of Interior to report on the reasons for delaying the distribution of IDs," House Speaker Abdu Rauf Ibrahim said.

According to Homayoun Muhtat, the head of the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) department dedicated to the digital ID program, the persistent delays have led to financing issues and that forced them to dismiss 188 out of 296 employees. The dismissals have made a full rollout of the new ID cards impossible for the time being.

"At the moment, I can not comment whether foreign or internal pressures delayed the ID distribution, however, all preparations have been made to launch the distribution and we have informed the government regarding all aspects of our program," Muhtat said on Monday.

According to sources in the MoI's department, several letters were dispatched to the presidential palace asking for an explanation as to why the program was being delayed, but no response was made.

Of the total 1,083 employees working for the MoI on the new ID program, 296 of them have received super scale salaries provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other European donors over the past two years, but 188 of them have been sent home amid budgeting concerns.

While it is clear the downsizing of staff is partly to blame for the delay, it is unclear what initially led to the renegeing of aid commitments. It is also unclear when the government plans to get the program back on track. For now, the 787 employees the MoI's ID department keeps in site offices around the country are being paid by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for work they have yet to do. (Tolonews)

(7) Electoral Reforms ...

office and will not have any connection to the election commissions because the panels have lost their credibility," the statement added.

The Spanish ambassador assured the European Union commitment to financially support the election process of Afghanistan, but on condition of reforms.

Rubio hoped the elections reforms would take place soon at a specific time, saying his country was committed to stand by Afghanistan for long-term until

the country became strong and united, the statement concluded. (Pajhwok)

(8) 2 Civilians...

Rahman Rahimi said one of the attackers crashed his explosives-laden car against the front gate of the parliament.

Then the remaining attackers tried to force their way inside the parliament building, but security forces beat them back.

"Some fighters entered an under construction building east of the parliament but police chased them and engaged them in a heavy firefight," he said.

Rahimi said the situation was under security forces control and all the attackers had been killed after one and a half hours fighting.

The Wolesi Jirga was holding a general session where Masoom Stanikzai was introduced as the defence minister-designate for a vote of confidence when the attack occurred.

The Kabul police chief said all the lawmakers remained unhurt. "All members of the parliament were safely evacuated from the building," Rahimi said.

Lt. Gen. Sher Aziz Kamawal, who is responsible for the parliament security, also said all members of the parliament had been rescued. Kamawal said a rocket landed on the roof of the parliament building after its gate was targeted by a heavy explosion.

The security commission head of the Wolesi Jirga, Shekiba Hashimi, said some people had suffered casualties, but she had no figures. (Pajhwok)

(9) Overall ...

he said.

Other activities to be carried out as part of the 100-day plan included the creation of a high economic council and implementation and scrutiny of small economic projects.

Evaluation of poverty and the overall economic situation would be done as priority task because despite 13 years of development and massive amounts of money flowing into Afghanistan since 2001, the progress had been unsatisfactory, the minister said.

In the first stage, a technical committee would be formed and assigned with investigating factors behind increasing poverty and economic downfall, he said.

Murad said the proposed committee would compile a report which would be sent to the president for approval.

The economy minister said 36 percent of the country's populations lived under the poverty line and annual income of people had declined to \$780 while the economic growth during the last few years fell from 12 to 9 percent.

He said the assessment of the country's economic situation would help identify factors causing economic downfall.

In the coming 100 day, economic programs for provinces such as Herat, Balkh, Kandahar and Bamyan would be chalked out, the minister said.

He said the first-ever meeting bringing together heads of 1,990 registered NGOs will be held tomorrow as part of the 100-day plan.

The economy minister said financial and procurement programs of the ministry would be strictly followed to ensure transparency and good governance.

He said unlimited advisors hired by the ministry would be examined and those unnecessary occupying posts would be dismissed. He hoped the creation of a high economic council would help plan better economic projects, improve capacity of the ministry's officials, coordination among the employees and better observation of small economic projects. (Pajhwok)

(10) Attack a Heinous...

people of Afghanistan," she said in the statement.

The Kabul attack, which the Taliban claimed responsibility for, took place at about 10.20am Monday morning while MPs were in a parliamentary sitting.

A suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden car outside Parliament before additional attackers stormed the south entrance gate. However, parliamentary security forces were able to keep them from storming the parliament compound until security forces arrived.

The siege lasted just over an hour. At least five people were killed and 31 injured in the attack. Se-

curity forces also killed all seven attackers. (Tolonews)

(11) Afghan Hero ...

entrance to Parliament when insurgents attacked. However, according to him they had received intelligence a few days ago that an attack was planned against them so precautionary measures had been in place.

Monday's incident was triggered by a suicide car bomb before insurgents tried to storm the building. ANA troops were able to keep the insurgents at bay but Khan was responsible for personally killing six of the seven insurgents.

The incident took place at about 10.20 am just minutes before the second vice president Mohammad Sarwar Danish was due to introduce the minister of defense nominee to MPs for a vote of confidence.

A suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden car outside parliament. Additional attackers then tried to force their way in to the Parliament compound through the southern gate and opened fire on parliamentary security staff.

Parliamentary security staff managed to hold them off until security forces arrived. The siege lasted just over an hour before special forces killed all seven insurgents. Sadly five civilians were killed and at least 31 injured.

However, in this time a number of rockets and RPGs were fired off by the militants.

The car bomb rocked the area and caused extensive damage to cars and buildings in the immediate vicinity.

MPs were immediately evacuated to a safe place following the first blast. (Tolonews)

(12) Daesh 2nd ...

The Russian envoy assured of his country's cooperation with Afghanistan, saying the federation supported an independent and stable Afghanistan, according to Ibrahim.

Mantyskiy said his country had facilitated Afghan security forces in receiving training in the country, a process still ongoing. The envoy promised 20 scholarships for Afghan border security personnel to enhance their capacity.

The Russian ambassador urged the unity government to participate in the next Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit. (Pajhwok)

(13) Pakistan Strongly ...

incident.

In a statement, Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also strongly condemning the terrorist attack on Afghan parliament said parliament of any country represents aspirations of its people and attack on it is highly deplorable. (PR)

(14) Kandahar Clinic ...

24 hours services to patients who needed to undergo orthopedic, eye surgeries, childbirths, emergency and ambulance services.

Abdulbasir, a local resident, told Pajhwok Afghan News his old mother had been ill since long but he could not afford her continuous treatment because he worked as a daily wage.

He waited anxiously for the month of Ramadan so he could take his mother to the Momand Hospital, he said, adding his mother underwent free eye surgery and was receiving treatment for other diseases in the hospital where she had been admitted for the last few days.

Mohammad Akram, another resident, said no other health clinics in Kandahar had such facilities kile Momand Hospital.

He asked the government to reduce prices of edible items during Ramadan and urged other private hospitals to provide free of cost healthcare services to the poor and needy people during the holy month. (Pajhwok)

(15) Dasht-I-Archi...

province was captured by militants last Saturday. The worsening situation in Kunduz has posed a threat to security situation of the capital of the province. The residents of the province warned some other areas of the province were also about to fall to Taliban if the government did not improve security. (Pajhwok)

(16) Taliban Attack ...

added that targeting innocent people in the holy month of Ramadan (Muslim fasting month) is a clear act of hostility against the

religion of Islam and that the perpetrators are criminals who are bound by no creed or religion.

Joining the condemnation, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) also strongly condemned Taliban's assault on the country's parliament on Monday.

"The attack against the Parliament, for which the Taliban have claimed responsibility, is a clear and deliberate affront to democracy in Afghanistan, an attack against the Afghan peoples' democratically elected representatives," Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto was quoted in the UNAMA statement as saying.

The horrific attack on the parliament began with a suicide car bomb at 10:20 a.m. local time and followed by gun shots during which windowpanes of the parliament building and nearby houses were smashed.

Kabul police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi, in talks with media, confirmed that one of the attackers first detonated an explosive-laden car in front of the parliament building, killing himself and enabling five others to enter the parliament compound but the security personnel have blocked the way and shot them dead after a while.

Afghans from all walks of life, besides condemning the dreadful attack, have questioned "if the parliament of the country is not safe, how the ordinary citizen could live in peace?"

Although there is no statement from the interior and public health ministries on the casualties of the attack on the parliament, local media reported killing of five people including a child and of injuring 31 others, all civilians in the blatant offensive.

The attack on the parliament took place amid the Taliban advances in parts of the northern Kunduz province along the border with Tajikistan.

Taliban militants after fierce fighting overrun Chardara and Dasht-e-Archi districts in Kunduz province over the past three days. (Xinhua)

(17) India Stands...

Stanekzia was being introduced to the MPs.

At least nine explosions were heard within a span of half an hour along with sporadic gunfire. Security forces were deployed to the area to try to bring the situation under control, said the Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi.

All seven attackers involved were killed by the special forces after a siege that lasted over an hour. (ANI)

(18) Taliban Advancing..

over the district to Taliban against some privileges. Provincial Council Member Ghulam Rabbani Rabbani said people were extremely worried about security situations after the collapse of two districts. The next target of the militants would be the provincial capital, he added.

He said Taliban were three kilometres away from Kunduz City and the sound of firing could be heard in parts of city.

Amruddin Wali, deputy head of the provincial council, criticized the leadership of security forces and said if better command was not provided to armed forces the fighting would reach to the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

(19) Women Brave ...

brave problems during their participation in elections in Paktia, Paktika and Khost.

He said women's participation in elections had been low due to lack of awareness and cultural barriers.

He said a fewer number of female workers to perform election duty also impacted women's turnout as men did not allow their women to be searched by men.

The lack of awareness among women about elections was another main hurdle as women did not know the importance of vote, he said. Additionally, he added, cultural sensitivity and barriers prevented women from casting their votes.

Hamidi proposed the inclusion of elections, their importance as a subject in the educational curriculum so that the new generation avoid elections related problems. He said civil society, elders, election officials and other departments concerned should jointly work to facilitate people's partici-

pation in elections. (Pajhwok)

(20) New Paktika...

said strengthening security, bringing peace, increasing coordination among security organs, narrowing the gap between the government and the people and upholding merit would remain his top priorities.

He said his focus would be on services to the people and empowering government entities.

The introduction gathering was attended by Wolesi Jirga members, provincial council members, civil society activists, government officials and tribal elders. (Pajhwok)

(21) Khost Museum...

international partners, to extend all possible assistance to us."

Many of the precious pieces could be lost or smuggled with the passage of time if the authorities did not pay special heed to ensuring the museum's security on a priority basis, the official warned.

Meanwhile, Information and Culture Director Mohammad Amin Shah Ulfat said they had launched efforts to construct a secure building for the museum. "We have already done what we were supposed to do, including the museum sketch.

"But the Ministry of Urban Development is yet to be paid funds for the project," said the director, who recalled that the Indian government had promised in 2013 to construct a building for the Khost museum. He hoped the Indian embassy in Kabul would remind New Delhi of its commitment. (Pajhwok)

(22) Nuristan PC ...

members visit far flung areas to know people's problems and they have to stay for few days in the remote areas, therefore they do not come to office on regular basis".

Saadullah also mentioned the council's achievements and said they had effectively monitored projects concerning education, health and development and had been able to resolve several problems and tribal disputes.

Eng Ajmal, a local resident, said the provincial council members were performing well as compared to their predecessors.

"I don't know about their absence but I can say the council members go to far-off areas to meet people and try to solve their issues."

Ajmal confirmed the council members used to monitor projects and hoped they would continue to do so. (Pajhwok)

(23) Paktika Ulama...

extend their all possible help for peace and security in the country. He said: "The recent insecurity is an ample proof that war is imposed on us and the neighboring states want to secure their interests by killing innocent Afghans.

The religious scholars want peace in the country and support peace over war in Afghanistan." They urged world religious scholars to speak against the killings of innocent civilians. All Afghans are Muslims and Islam does not permit Jihad against Muslims therefore Afghans want peace in the country, he added.

Pacha Khan, a tribal elder, said: "Our schools, hospitals, roads have been destroyed while we have been killed by the name of Islam. It is time to give a clear message to our opponents to stop using name of a religion for carrying out dirty activities." (Pajhwok)

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(24) Denmark's ...

try to get the far-right Danish People's Party (DPP) to form a coalition government, or the Liberal Party will form a government on its own. The latter scenario will put Rasmussen in a difficult situation, according to Tim Knudsen, a political science professor at University of Copenhagen. (Xinhua)

(25) Iraq Treads...

Baghdadi, some 200 km northwest of Baghdad, the source added.

Earlier in the day, the source told Xinhua that Iraqi warplane carried out an air strike on suspected positions of IS militant group in the city of Fallujah, leaving at least six people killed and nine others injured.

The IS group has seized most of Anbar province and tried to advance towards Baghdad during the past few months, but several counter attacks by security forces and Shiite militias have pushed them back. (Xinhua)