

(1) Senate to

He said the Senate would approve or reject the decree keeping in mind the national interests. "The presidential decree is supposed to be discussed at the next session and will probably be approved if amended and if not amended, it can be rejected." He said it would have had consequences for Afghanistan's political situation and would affect foreign aid continuation in worst-case scenario if the Senate rejected the decree.

Kalimzai said electoral reforms were one of Afghanistan's election donors' conditions and if bringing reforms failed, donors would stop funding elections in Afghanistan.

Rahmatullah Asakzai, another lawmaker, termed the presidential decree on composition, duties and authorities of election commissions—Independent Election Commission (IEC) and Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC)—as against the law and said it needed amendments.

He said removal of word 'independent' from the election commissions' names, selection of the commissions' provincial heads by President Ghani and CEO Abdullah and a number of other controversial provisions in the decree needed to be amended.

Mohammad Hassan Hotak, a member of the Senate legislative commission, said his commission, after receiving recommendations and suggestions from other commissions, had the intension to amend the decree.

Meanwhile, Senate chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said they had much time to approve or reject the decree and senators could submit suggestions before a final decision. (Pajhwok)

(2) Korea to ...

National Museum, the agency further added.

It has been stated in the agreement that the host country would provide \$250,000 to Afghanistan as the exhibition expenses, besides covering the travel expenses of the Afghan delegation and transferring of the 40 percent of the net income of the exhibition to Afghan side.

This the nineteenth international tour of the Afghanistan's Bactrian Treasures exhibition known as the Hidden Treasures which would be held in Korea, that with ending of the tour, the income from the exhibition would reach to five million dollar.

Besides Hidden Treasures exhibition, the unique discovered pieces of Mes Aynak (Cooper Mine) is also in exhibition in Prague, the capital of Czech Republic.

The two exhibitions attach great importance to Afghanistan, as they introduce the reach and unique culture and civilization of Afghanistan within the course of history. (Agencies)

(3) Torture ...

political analyst Mia Gul Khalid said. Afghanistan signed International Convention Against Torture in 1985. However systematic torture continued in the country despite the country having signed the UN convention. "They were torturing us, forcing us to stay awake, I remember that for one week we were kept awake all the time," Khalid said.

According to statistics of United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) 278 detainees out of 790 detainees were tortured in Afghan jails. The UNAMA conducted investigations during 2013 and 2014 and assessed 128 detention centers.

On 12 December 1997, by resolution 52/149, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 26 June the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with a view to the total eradication of torture and the effective functioning of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, (resolution 39/46), annex, which entered into force on 26 June 1987. (Tolnews)

(4) Government...

been able to ensure the safety of visiting businessmen. It is a rising trend, the ACCI believes, that will have negative repercussions for investments in and consequently of the economic development of the country.

"Because necessary measures are not being taken to ensure the safety of businessmen, this will have a severe and adverse impact on the interests of investors wanting to invest money in the country," deputy head of ACCI Khan Jan Alokzai said.

On Sunday night, a group of armed men attempted to kidnap a businessman from his location in Kabul as he was on his way to attend prayers at a nearby mosque. The attempt failed after the businessman managed to enter the mosque and ask for help.

"We were praying in the mosque when a man entered shouting for help. He said his attackers wanted

kill him," eye witness Samiullah said. The armed men fired shots at the businessman, but missed.

"The Minister of interior has had a meeting with all police officers of Kabul today. He ordered them to do everything they could to ensure the security of Kabul and foil criminal acts," said Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman to ministry of interior.

Our TOLnews reporter tried to contact Abdul Wali Qurbani, the victim of the attempted kidnapping, but did not succeed.

Over 40 businessmen have been abducted in Afghanistan over the past two months, eleven of them in the capital Kabul itself.

Concerns are growing over the recent sharp rise in kidnappings in Kabul city. Two weeks ago, armed men kidnapped an Indian woman in Kabul. Her fate remains unknown. (Tolnews)

(5) Afghanistan...

Danishyar said primary figures reveal that poppy is being cultivated in 20 provinces of Afghanistan.

According to the ministry, Helmand, Farah, Uruzgan, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Badghis and Nimroz provinces are among the provinces with the highest poppy cultivation.

Badakhshan lawmaker Safiullah Muslim said he is concerned about the current high levels of poppy cultivation in the country, because, as in Badakhshan, the money from drugs goes directly into the pockets of militants.

"Poppy is cultivated in Tashkan, Darayem, Argo among other districts of Badakhshan. We have always urged government to prevent the illegal drugs business but it has not paid the required attention to this state of affairs so far," he added.

The MoCN said the government has arrested nearly 70 drug traffickers this year and has seized their drugs. Despite that, the Afghan government, particularly the judicial organs, are being criticized for not arresting the main drug lords.

According to the UN annual report, focus group discussions were held in 2015 for the first time. These workshops included women in four of the northern provinces in order to learn more about their attitudes to, and participation in poppy cultivation and production.

The discussions revealed that women in Afghanistan took part in many of the labor-intensive processes in opium poppy production. This included the weeding and clearing of fields, as well as lancing of the poppy buds. They were also involved in indoor operations breaking opium poppy capsules, removing and cleaning seeds, preparing opium gum for sale and processing by-products such as oil and soap.

In most rural communities in Afghanistan, women were less empowered than men and had only a limited role in decision-making. Decisions about opium poppy cultivation were therefor mainly taken by men, although it appeared that women were increasingly being consulted about decisions to cultivate opium poppy.

In the absence of access to adequate health-care facilities in rural areas, opium had been used for generations by women in northern Afghanistan as a remedy for the most common ailments among children, such as coughs, colic, aches and pains, restlessness and diarrhea.

The UN report indicates that at the country level, Iran reported the largest opiate seizures worldwide in 2014, accounting for 75 percent of global opium seizures, 61 percent of global morphine seizures and 17 percent of global heroin seizures.

The next largest heroin seizures were reported by Turkey (accounting for 16 percent of global heroin seizures), China (12 percent), Pakistan (9 percent), Kenya (7 percent), the United States (7 percent), Afghanistan (5 percent) and the Russian Federation (3 percent).

Seizures involving Afghan opiates account for some 80 percent of global seizures of opiates, the report says. (Tolnews)

(6) India Should...

clash erupted among the Afghan and Pakistani forces in Torkham over the construction of border gate by the Pakistani forces.

Harshly criticizing the Pakistani step to seal the Durand Line which has not been accepted as formal border line by Afghanistan, Gen. Bakhshi raised the issue of the Afghan militant groups sanctuaries in Pakistan, including the Taliban group leadership.

Pakistan insists that the step to construct gates along the crossings and fencing the Durand Line is an attempt by the country's security forces to prevent the movement of the terrorists. However, the Afghan officials insist

on a regional fight against the terrorist groups, including the steps to be taken against the leadership councils of the Taliban and Haqqani network based in Quetta and Peshawar cities of Pakistan. (KP)

(7) Khost Custom

Ajmal Abdur Rahimzai did not rule out corruption in the custom department, but said clear evidence was needed for decisive action to ensure reforms.

"If the parliament, the provincial council or media have evidence of corruption in Khost, Nangarhar or any other province, they can share it with the ministry and we will take action," he promised.

Rahimzai said the new leadership of the ministry was serious about fighting corruption. (Pajhwok)

(8) State Accused...

Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. According to figures, over one million women and children are using different kinds of drugs in Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

(9) Child-Mother...

and midwives had so far graduated in the province and they were performing duty in the provincial capital and districts.

He said the increased number of nurses and midwives had resulted in reduced deaths of mothers during childbirth.

He was addressing a ceremony marking the graduation of 26 more female nurses in Tirinkot, the provincial capital. The nursing training had been arranged in cooperation with a non-governmental organization.

Dr. Miakhel said till in remote parts of Uruzgan, people carried their female patients to the provincial capital and Kandahar province due to the lack of female doctors.

In this regard, he said, he had talked to the authorities in Kabul and he had been promised assistance. About the newly graduated nurses, he said, they completed their two-year course and were now ready to serve.

Miakhel said in the past there had been four centres training nurses and midwives in the province, but now their number had reduced to one and the rest were closed after foreign aid vanished.

The newly-graduated nurses said their only demand was that they should be appointed in the health centres concerned as soon as possible in order to enable them to serve the ailing people.

One of them, Bas Bibi, said she endured many hardships coming to the training centre from Dehrawud district. She called for their earlier appointment, saying if they were not hired, their two-year long efforts to learn the skill would go into waste. (Pajhwok)

(10) Government...

only five months old, he has never seen his father," said Mashooq's mother.

He joined the ANA seven months ago. He had also served his country in rank of Afghan National Police (ANP) for seven years. (Tolnews)

(11) Pakistani ...

Bezhanpor said. The MOD statement comes at a time when critics have frequently blamed the Afghan government for not defining a coherent war strategy and ensuring better leadership on the battlefields.

"There is no need for large number of soldiers in a war. The war effort rather requires strong leadership and management to boost morale among existing troops," political analyst Haroon Mir said.

The Pakistani Madrasas remain a potent threat to Afghanistan's security. (Tolnews)

(12) Police Accused

install the fence until I pay them the money. I was obliged to do so to finish my work," he maintained.

Bari was told to complete his work within days; otherwise his task would be stopped again. Police did so in order to hide their illegal extortion, he said.

A resident of Choni area, who wished not to be named, blamed police and municipality officers for receiving backhander from him to allow the launch of work on a building.

He was building shops besides his home but was prevented despite the fact he had all legal documents. "Both police and district officials harassed me until I paid them 10,000 afghanis each."

But Ezzatullah, an inhabitant of Kabul Darwaza area, said he had complied with municipality rules and did not face any problems during his recent construction work. He took documents to the commission concerned that let him construct a market on his land.

"I did not bribe anyone because I met

the legal procedures," he remarked, believing those paying money to police or anyone else were definitely involved in some kind of illegality."

Police and district officers used illegal constructions as an opportunity to take money from people, Ezzatullah said. Municipality officials held the same view but said police officers somehow encouraged illegal constructions to make money.

Zmaray Sargand, the municipality spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News under a master plan, supervising construction works in all parts of Kandahar City was the domain of the municipality.

He said that a Property Commission had been created to support implementation of the master plan. The panel is supposed to approve construction plans before they are implemented.

Unfortunately, most of the people avoid approaching the commission but pay illegal gratifications to police and district officers to let them construct their buildings illegally.

If people adhered to building laws, no one would ask them for bribes, he argued, recalling the municipality had already informed the public that none of its officials was authorised to fleece the masses.

A statement from the municipality promised sometime back to provide assistance if anyone faced problems in the construction process. It said added all organs had been warned against taking bribes from building owners.

Samim Khpalkwak, the governor's spokesman, admitted most buildings in Kandahar City had been constructed in violation of rules, creating problems for the municipality and the general public.

He said the municipality tried to prevent illegal construction in cooperation with security organs. Police officers who misuse the opportunity and take money from people have been punished by their headquarters.

Kandahar police spokesman, Zia Durrani, said police were responsible for the enforcement of law and if they violated the law they would be brought to justice. (Pajhwok)

(13) Laghman...

had ordered the investigation by a commission. He said the commission was comprised of officials from the Information and Culture Department, sectoral departments and members of the provincial council.

The governor's house in a statement said the process to listen people's complaints would continue and complaints with valid proof and documents would be assessed within due time.

Abdullah Ahmadi, the war victims relative, said he was ready to register his complaint with the commission appointed by Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi. (Pajhwok)

(14) Prominent Taliban...

Taliban group and was found from the police vehicle in a check post in Khenjan district of Baghlan.

A security official speaking on the condition of anonymity said Qari Zahir was arrested by the operatives of the Afghan intelligence, National Directorate of Security (NDS).

The official further added that two policemen were also arrested in connection to the evacuation of the senior Taliban leader using the police vehicle. (KP)

(15) Haqqani Network ...

confiscated 11 Ak-47 rifles, 26 other types of weapons, 18 rounds of 82mm rockets, 5 pistols, 6000 rounds of different ammunition from the detained militants. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

Haqqani network was formed in the late 1970s by Jalaluddin Haqqani. The group is allied with al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban and cooperates with other terrorist organizations in the region.

The network is accused of staging numerous cross-border attacks from their base in North Waziristan, including the 19-hour siege at the US Embassy in Kabul in September 2011.

The Haqqani network is believed to be operating from its safe havens located in Pakistan as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the network to use the Pakistani soil to plan and coordinate attacks in Afghanistan. (KP)

(16) 3 Police...

governor's spokesman said. Samim Khpalkwak told Pajhwok Afghan News the operation was carried out in Chaghtu area of the district. He said four militants were killed and five others captured alive and 127 uniforms of Afghan police, military and intelligence forces were confiscated.

Khpalkwak said the militants had been using the uniform in their terrorist attacks and with the capture of the dresses, their future such attacks were frustrated.

The Taliban have said nothing so far about the operation. (Pajhwok)

(17) 30 Insurgents...

Salim confirmed the clash to Pajhwok Afghan News: "The rebels carried out the attack last night, but they were frustrated because we have constructed highly-shielded security check posts here."

Kintoz said insurgents the same night also attacked some security posts in Marja district and Lashkargah. At least 20 Taliban insurgents were killed and another 14 wounded in fire exchanges, he added. He said security forces suffered no casualties in both the incidents.

However, a police source in Nawa district told Pajhwok that a policeman was wounded during the clash in the district.

The Taliban on their website confirmed Saturday's night clash and said the fighters attacked security posts on the Marja-Lashkargah road in Zaqom area, killing 19 security personnel and captured three checkpoints. Two fighters were also killed.

Helmand is the most insecure province of Afghanistan where currently some areas of Lashkargah and Baghlan, Dishu, Nawzad and Musa Qala districts are under Taliban control. (Pajhwok)

(18) 10 Dead...

to be ascertained. The Taliban have not yet commented over the incident, but the group claimed a number of Afghan Local Police officials were killed in a landmine explosion in Ahmadabad district.

Construction work on the Machalgho dam in Ahmadabad district was started five years back but had to be delayed due to insecurity. (Pajhwok)

(19) Boy, Girl...

family of involvement in the incident. Deputy police chief, Col. Nisar Ahmad Abdur Rahimzai, confirmed the killings and said police had launched a search for the perpetrators. (Pajhwok)

(20) Balkhab Woman...

"My complaint has not been heard so far because the Balkhab crime branch chief is the uncle of my husband and he is supporting his nephew."

Syed Reza, father of Nisa, confirmed that he and his daughter had been warned of being killed if they complained. The warning was issued by a man who once mediated between Nisa and her spouse.

"I was obliged to come to Sar-i-Pul City in quest of justice, because no one in Balkhab listens to us," he remarked, asking the officials concerned to pay attention to their problem.

Women Affairs Director Nasim Arzo said Nisa had shared her complaint with the department and she was currently kept in a shelter house. Nisa was suffering from psychological problems as she has been tortured for a long time, Arzo added, suffering from psychological problems as she has been tortured for a long time, Arzo added.

Insecurity and lack of cooperation from the district crime branch have caused most of people to take cases of violence against women to the capital of the province, she said.

Pajhwok tried to talk to security officials on the issue, but no contact could be established. However, the Balkhab crime branch chief said he was ready to act according to the law.

He said Nisa was his cousin and Syed Yaqoot was his uncle. He denied of being biased to the woman. "It is a family problem, but some people are trying to make it a political issue." (Pajhwok)

(21) Faryab Clash...

The sources said the two opposing groups had backing of Nizamuddin, the Qaisar district police chief and the other group was supported by Fathullah Qaisari, member of the Wolesi Jirga. (Pajhwok)

(22) UK Should...

down by October and leave negotiations on Brexit to his successor.

To begin the withdrawal process, Britain must invoke Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon treaty, which has never been used before.

The EU's summit on Tuesday and Wednesday will discuss the fallout from the British vote and the European Parliament will also hold a special session. Mr Schulz's demands came after German Chancellor Angela Merkel said there was no need to be "nasty" during talks to discuss Britain's exit. (Sky News)

(23) Trump, Clinton...

West, vice president and director of governance studies of the Brookings Institution.

Trump wants the election to center on terrorism, which is good terrain for him. It plays to his argument that the world is chaotic and full of disorder and America needs a strong leader who can restore some order, West said.

In comparison, Clinton wants the election to focus on gun control and the need to protect endangered citizens from deranged people.

"Both arguments resonate with the American public, which is why the parties are fighting so hard over the competing narratives," West said. (Xinhua)

(24) China, Russia...

strategic security interests of countries in the region.

The long distance precision attack weapons developed by some countries, such as the global system for instant attack, may seriously damage the strategic balance and trigger a new round of arms race, according to the joint statement.

It said arms control is an important means to strengthen global security and stability, and that disarmament and arms control should be fair and balanced, and be conducive for every country's security.

The statement expressed concern over the rising danger of chemical and biological weapons falling into the hands of non-state entities for the conduct of terrorist and violent extremist activities, saying a way to cope with such threat is to improve relevant international law.

"Strategic stability" has been a military concept in nuclear weapon. The statement said this conception is outdated and the international community should regard "strategic stability" from a wider angle. (Xinhua)

(25) Iraqi Military...

Fallujah, which located some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

Government troops and allied militias have currently been fighting for months to reclaim key cities and towns in Anbar province from IS militants, who attempted to approach Baghdad after seizing most of the province. (Xinhua)

(26) Death Toll ...

pacify the country.

"This coward attack was aimed at inflicting fear among Somalis and discourages them from supporting the government," President Mohamoud said.

Al-Shabaab militants, fighting to topple the Somali government, frequently carry out deadly attacks in Mogadishu.

Early this month, at least 10 people were killed and dozens injured in an Al-Shabaab attack on another hotel in Mogadishu. (Xinhua)

(27) Israel, Turkey...

according to Israel are being held captive by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and of two dead soldiers, who were killed during the 2014 Israeli military campaign in Gaza and whose remains are also held by Hamas.

Families and dozens of supporters protested outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on Sunday morning, demanding their loved ones will be returned to Israel as part of the reconciliation deal. (Xinhua)

(28) Iran Arrests...

responsibility for a number of criminal activities in Pakistan and Iran in recent years. On February 6, 2014, the terror group abducted 5 Iranian border guards in the Jakigour region of Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan and took them to Pakistan. (Presstv)

(29) Majlis Podcast...

Myatiev explained that these changes of officials have reached the point where "very few people know who their governors are, who their deputies are, what their duties are..."

As concerns "who" they are, most of us stopped even trying to learn their names, since they don't stay in their positions for very long. As Aneschi said, "The fact that we can't even remember their names shows...that the politics of Turkmenistan is really personalized. (Agencies)

(30) Leave 'No

Karachiites have faced a sudden rise in street crimes, which has cost at least four lives during the first 10 days of Ramadan and raised fears for the days ahead.

Official data shows a sharp rise in cell phone and motorbike snatching in the first 10 days of holy month compared to crime rate during the corresponding period before Ramadan, indicating renewed activities of armed groups and individuals in the city despite ongoing Rangers-led operation. (Dawn)