

(1) IEC Blasts ...

amongst the new individuals, then the Election Law will be violated." He insisted: "This move by the government doesn't have a legal basis and it will bring under question the independence of IEC as it is direct meddling in the electoral bodies' functioning and the election process."

If the government did not stop meddling, the electoral watchdogs would be bound to expose something in this regard and question the continuation and transparency of the election process, he warned.

The deputy head of IEC has so far said nothing in this regard, but Shah Hussain Murtazavi, deputy spokesman for President Ashraf Ghani, said the Presidential Palace had not asked IEC to send a new list of names.

He said IEC members had failed to agree on the first three candidates; hence the issue of selecting a person from amongst them could not be finalised.

Najibullah Ahmadzai, the IEC head, on Sunday warned against interference from the government and politicians. He said such meddling harmed the independence of the commission. (Pajhwok)

(2) Senior Afghan...

protest against Kabul's failure to take action against terrorist groups living on Afghanistan's soil. (Pajhwok)

(3) Etisalat ...

Islamic firm, Etisalat has been determined to promote Islamic traditions. Organizing Quran Contest, conducting food distribution program during the holy month of Ramadan, rebuilding Majeds and sending customers for Umrah are some of the CSR initiatives undertaken by Etisalat.

'Pilgrimage to perform Hajj is something every Muslim is longing for and only blessed ones can have the opportunity to perform this important pillar of Islam,' said Dr. Salah Zerguerras, Etisalat Afghanistan CEO. 'We are delighted to provide you with the opportunity to go for Umrah and fulfill your dream.'

Dr. Salah further wished the customers a safe and full of blessing pilgrimage and asked them to remember Afghanistan in their prayers during Uramh.

Etisalat loyalty program is a way of saying thanks to customers and is designed to appreciate customers' loyalty. The program offers exciting rewards like; point redemption, free airtime and ownership of loyalty card. It also offers discount at numerous retailers and restaurants.

About Etisalat Afghanistan:-

Etisalat Afghanistan is part of Etisalat Telecommunications Group, headquartered in UAE, one of the largest telecommunications groups in the world. Etisalat Afghanistan launched their services in 2007 and has rapidly become the fastest growing telecommunications service provider in the country with an active base of 6 million subscribers. The company aims to be at the forefront of its market based on quality, innovative services and competitive pricing, with unsurpassed coverage in every province in the country. Since 2007, the company has invested US\$ 400 million in Afghanistan and is the first telecom company to launch 3.75G services in Afghanistan. (PR)

(4) Kabul Pushes...

over the spread of terror groups, including Daesh (outlawed in Russia), in Afghanistan, as well as the growth in drug-trafficking and the rise in crime.

"In this connection, (Russia and Tajikistan) have agreed to boost joint efforts aimed at protecting the Tajik-Afghan border, particularly to deploy the assets of Russia's 201st military base in Tajikistan," added Putin.

Tajikistani officials have said that in the view of Tajikistan's lengthy border with Afghanistan, Dushanbe needed to take measures to secure its border with Afghanistan.

"Special attention was paid to interaction in the struggle against terrorism, extremism, drug-trafficking and other types of trans-national crimes," Rahmon said at a press conference on the results of the meeting.

"We note the effective interaction of law-enforcement structures and have agreed on further coordination of our efforts in that direction," the president of Tajikistan said.

Russia has nearly 7,000 soldiers at its military base in Tajikistan. The Russian troops in Tajikistan were earlier also carrying out the security responsibilities along the Tajik borders with Afghanistan until 2005. However, Tajik troops are now conducting their duties independently. (Tolonews)

(5) Female MPs ...

other areas as half of the population was formed of women.

Deputy Wolesi Jirga speaker, Erfanullah Erfan, did not say anything when asked why female lawmakers were absent from the meeting.

He said the religion of Islam gave rights to women in a just manner. Some women's right organizations worked only to earn money rather than protecting their rights, he believed.

"Islam teaches us to protect the honor and self-esteem of the women, Islam also stresses justice to women not equal to men because equality is unjust with women, I am a farmer, if a woman works with shovel with men it is injustice," he said.

Dr. Sayed Sadiq, advisor to the UN Entity for Gender Equality, who also participated in the meeting, called approval of the women harassment prevention law an achievement.

He asked the Afghan government to remain committed to protecting women's rights. (Pajhwok)

(6) 30 Militants ...

a police commander in Qaisar district said at least five security personnel were killed and 12 others including drivers were wounded. He added at least 30 militants including a notorious commander were killed. Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesperson, said that 16 security personnel were killed and wounded and their five cars were destroyed in the attack. He said nothing about casualties to the fighters. (Pajhwok)

(7) Govt. Leaders ...

forward toward holding transparent elections in Afghanistan in the future. However there are some concerns that all Afghan citizens may not be able to get their cards by the time of the elections.

There is speculation that fundamental reforms have not been put in place in Afghanistan's election system in the view of current challenges facing Afghanistan's election management bodies - the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC).

"After the ratification of the census law and after the issuing of the legislative order by the president, practical steps for the roll-out process of electronic ID cards will be started," said Mohammad Hedayat, media advisor to Danish.

Three years have passed since politicians started grappling with the issues over the e-NIC roll-out. Constant delays have also followed because of major distrust between donors. (Tolonews)

(8) Pakistan Once ...

decision on whether or not to reopen the border is yet to be taken," the source said, indicating certain individuals like patients having appointments with doctors in Pakistan could be allowed entry.

In order to block unlawful entries, the official suggested border controls could be further toughened. Fencing was one option and work on the project might be initiated in a month or two, he added.

"Good ties, improved trade and a joint fight against terrorists are in the best interest of both countries," the source remarked. "The border has been shut because of security threats from Afghanistan."

He claimed not a single suicide bomber had crossed Torkham border into Pakistan since June when the border management policy was enforced. Data of the visitors maintained under the policy is cross-checked when a terrorist attack occurs in the country. (Pajhwok)

(9) Security ...

Kandahar, said the government's move to declare the 9th of Kab as national soldier day was commendable.

He said the celebration would increase people's love and support for security forces whose morale would boost up.

However, he said security forces should be given salaries in-time and they should be properly equipped and supplied logistics. Sher Wali said wounded soldiers should be timely and properly treated and families of those who had sacrificed their lives for the country should be looked after.

Dad Mohammad, a policeman in Kandahar, said he was happy that the day would be celebrated every year. He told Pajhwok Afghan News still the gap existed between security forces and the people in remote areas.

He said marking the day of soldier would help security forces create a place in people's hearts and gain people's cooperation in maintaining security. It would also encourage the youth to join security forces, he said. Paktika

Abdul Raziq, a member of the Afghan Special Security Forces, in southeastern Paktika province, said he was ready to protect the nation at the cost of his life. He said he would not allow anyone to create insecurity. The soldier said they had currently no problem to face and urged the masses to cooperate with security forces.

Takhar Policeman Akhtar Mohammad in Chal district of northern Takhar province, complained about the shortage of logistics and other equipment.

The 40-year-old said he joined the force a year back and had not yet gone home on leave. "We are not given equipment we need. I have purchased the boots myself."

"We are given one Kalashnikov each with two magazines and are asked to go to the battlefield. Can the war be fought this way? We are not given uniform and boots."

He said those having connection with higher ups enjoyed many facilities and they spent at least 10 days each month at home.

Herat

Abdul Saboor, a border police officer in western Herat province, said: "Police are servants of the people. We urge the government and the people to support police and give them respect." His demand was an increase in their salaries.

Helmand

In southern Helmand province, 215 Maiwand Military Corps service member Syed Ahmad said they received salaries in-time. He called on the government to increase its efforts at ending the conflict in order people could get a sigh of relief.

He said the Afghan security forces were fighting for the defense of their country, honour and frontiers at the cost of their lives.

Syed Ahmad was talking to Pajhwok Afghan News after attending a gathering that paid tribute to security forces in the capital of Helmand, Lashkargah. Deputy interior minister for administration Ikramuddin Yawar also attended the gathering. Yawar promised on the occasion that the government would resolve problems being faced by the families of martyred security personnel and people with disabilities. (Pajhwok)

(10) Taliban a ...

highway," said Farah police spokesman Iqbal Bahar. Those attacks necessitated retaliation by the government forces.

"It is very unfortunate that the security forces are suffering fatalities despite being in defensive positions," said Abdul Samad Salehi, member of Farah provincial council.

"Our and the activities and those of our colleagues in other civil society institutions have been curtailed in Farah," said Baryalai Ghafari, head of Farah civil society network.

Over the past two years, battles in various regions of the country dramatically increased with the Taliban managing to capture swaths of territory.

However, Afghan government officials have reported that the security forces were fully ready to tackle the Taliban insurgency next spring. (Tolonews)

(11) IEC...

disagreement of the IEC chief. An IEC official, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News the poll panel head, Najibullah Ahmadzai, was asked to introduce another six candidates for the slot.

But Amadzai asked government had to choose one of the three candidates in line with the election law, the source said, adding the IEC chief was not ready to introduce more candidates in violation of Article 22 of the law.

The Presidential Palace later asked the deputy chief of the commission, Waseema Badghisi to introduce another six candidates for the position, a request that was accepted by Badghisi.

The new candidates for the post are Abdur Rahim Daud Rahimi, Mohammad Reza Katib, Syed Jamaluddin Sahibzada, Khwaja Mohammad Asami, Abdul Aziz Samim and Ahmad Shah Zamanzai. (Pajhwok)

(12) Despite Threats, on and provide services to my sisters until my last breath."

She cited ubiquitous insecurity, low salaries and female prosecutors' positions held by men as main reasons behind women's unwillingness to work at the attorney's office.

According to her, a man is currently serving as head of the section for preventing violence against women. "I want women to serve in jobs reserved for them," the official added. Shakiba initially worked as a volunteer, but the attorney general's office

later appointed her to the position. Now she is the only woman judicial official across the eastern zone.

Shakiba said she had no problem with the work environment or male associates, but she would serve more freely and confidently in the company of female colleagues.

She asked the AGO and international legal aid organisations to pay greater heed to appointing female judges and prosecutors to see to it that women's issues were resolved by women.

Prevention of violence against women section chief Abdul Waheed Hakimi told Pajhwok Afghan News Shakiba could be assigned to probe women-related cases. But there is still need for more female prosecutors.

"Earlier, we used to investigate women's cases through female defense lawyers. After Shakiba's appointment, however, the issue has been resolved," he observed.

Provincial attorney Khalid Orya acknowledged female prosecutors faced a lot of problems in the past, but efforts were being made to encourage more women to serve as prosecutors.

Based on recommendations from AGO, he said, programmes were being carried out for professionally training women prosecutors. Around 40 law faculty female graduates will be trained for six months.

"Also, they would be also paid stipends during this period of six months and efforts will be made to create job opportunities for them by the end of the training programme," he promised.

Nangarhar attorney's office is not the only organisation that has only one female worker; the court of appeals and other judicial institutions neither have female judges nor women employees.

Nangarhar Appellate Court Judge Abdul Wali Qazizada told Pajhwok there was not a single female judge in the province, though some women defence lawyers were there.

Efforts are being made to hire female personnel to ensure gender equality, but no one has evinced any interest in such jobs, according to the judge.

"Security may have an impact, but the main problem is the salary and internship. Salaries are dismally low and women are not interested in working as they have to go through two years of judicial internship in Kabul," Qazizada argued.

Despite millions of dollars that have been spent on promoting women's rights in the country over the past 15 years, particularly in Nangarhar, no female judge/prosecutor has been appointed. (Pajhwok)

(13) ACB Announces...

key toward Afghanistan's entry to the rankings list of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The two teams will play five One Day International Matches (ODI), one test match and three T20 matches.

"In order to prepare our cricketers, we have also undertaken practice matches in India for a week to get our boys acquainted with the climate and conditions in other countries," said Abdul Wali Amin, a member of the selection committee.

The announcement of the teams comes a few days after Afghanistan played five ODIs in Harare. The Afghan squad won the series 3-2 against their strong rival Zimbabwe. The performance of Afghan cricket has been hailed widely in the country and abroad. (Tolonews)

(14) Pul-i-Charkhi ...

were not given religious books for study and accused the jail authorities of foot-dragging in establishing a seminary.

He also claimed the jail officials were not giving the government food to inmates free of charge.

Another inmate, Mullah Abdul Manan Akhund, confirmed the claims and said ailing inmates were not taken to hospital for treatment in-time and many prisoners had lost their lives due to the lack of medicines.

"When an ailing inmates cries for help, the jail guards don't come to him and if they take him to hospital, the inmate is charged 500 afghanis for a packet of tablets and 1500 afghanis for an injection," he claimed. Mullah Akhund said most of the prisoners lacked access to clean drinking water and electricity, confirming about 700 inmates had gone on hunger strike.

Akhund, a political prisoner, was arrested by security forces in southern Helmand province three years ago. He and several others inmates said if their problems were not resolved, they would continue denying food. But the jail's commander, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Tawab Ahmadzai, told Pajhwok Afghan News that no one

in the jail had gone on hunger strike. About the demands of the prisoners, he said there were no such problems as mentioned by the inmates.

He said no inmate was treated unfairly and all received their rights on time. "I am right now at the jail, no one has staged a hunger strike."

Afghanistan prisoners director Abdul Halim Kohistani said they had not received any report about hunger strike by the Pul-i-Charkhi inmates. (Pajhwok)

(15) 1 Policeman ...

hours after a dozen policemen were killed in a Taliban attack in Lashkargah.

Helmand is one of the most unstable provinces of the country where six of 13 districts are under Taliban control. Afghan forces control only some of the restive districts centres. (Pajhwok)

(16) Accused ...

border check-posts were falling to Taliban, Haqyar with a number of forces in frontline had gone to a soiree assembly.

According to the documents, the fall of the check-posts to a Taliban's shadow governor named Khyber, a relative of Haqyar, was fixed in advance.

"If he has committed any of the actions he has been accused of, he will be taken to judicial centers," Paktia governor, Zalmai Wesa said.

The matter was brought to the attention of Parliament's Internal Security Commission and their findings show that the falling of the check-posts were fixed in exchange of money.

The documents say that the forces under command of Haqyar are unhappy with his activities and that his appointment as security head for Paktia province should be prohibited.

"Intelligence and security departments shared the information with the commission and then we shared the information with the ministry of interior and judicial centers," said Mirdad Nejrab, head of the parliament internal security commission.

Haqyar has been appointed in this position twice. The Commander of the second brigade of border police also has said Haqyar lacks leadership capabilities, is a corrupt and has ties with armed anti-government groups.

The documents indicate that Haqyar is Khyber Mangal's uncle son, a key Haqqani Network commander and that they studied together in Pakistan.

"The accusations are being investigated by us and intelligence departments. If the accusations are proved to be true, he will be punished," said Najib Danish, deputy spokesman of interior ministry.

According to the documents, when Haqqani Network militants attacked on police check-posts in Dand-e-Patan district last year, Haqyar did not backup the border forces. (Tolonews)

(17) 174 People...

find a proper solution to the matter." Meanwhile, Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, Herat regional hospital spokesman, said about 50 people who were gunned down had been registered with the hospital this solar year. He said they had received 300 people with bullet wounds at the hospital during the period.

"Military personnel were among those killed and wounded but most of the victims were civilians."

Abdul Ahad Walizada, police spokesman, said nearly 270 individuals had been arrested in the past one month in connection with terrorist attacks, armed robberies, kidnapping, murder, smuggling and moral corruption. According to him, different kinds of weapons were also seized from the detainees.

He said three alleged assassins were detained by police recently before they could achieve their goal.

However, local residents accused security forces of incompetency, saying they have no programme in hand to ensure security of the provincial capital, Herat City.

Mohammad Qasam Faqiri, Guzra district people's council head, said security situation was deteriorating day by day in the province. "Recently there were murders every day, but still no security measures have been taken."

He while accusing the governor and security forces of incompetency, said: "Our neighbors also don't have good intentions towards our country."

Ismail Rahimi, a resident of Herat city, said: "People are tired of denouncing untoward incidents, now is the time to take a serious action." He asked the government to take prompt action curbing assassination incidents.

Meanwhile, experts and analysts said the increasing murder cases in Herat showed the weakness of secu-

rity forces and judicial organs.

Abdul Qader Kamil, a political analyst in Herat, said: "Security forces' duty is law enforcement, ensuring the law and order and combating terrorism. But when security forces fail to do their duty, assassinations increase."

He said the increasing murders had further eroded people's confidence in security forces. (Pajhwok)

(18) Trump to...

they will be implemented. On Friday, Trump pledged that he will oversee "one of the greatest military buildups in American history." (Xinhua)

(19) Russia Looks...

Trump's election campaign and Russia to see if there were any inappropriate communications.

Relations between the two nuclear powers are strained over a number of issues, including Ukraine, the war in Syria, and relations with Iran. (Reuters)

(20) Turkey Targeting ...

Daesh and give it back to its original owners."

He once again ruled out cooperation with the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party and its military wing, the People's Protection Units, which are controlling Manbij but seen as terror groups by Ankara, in the upcoming battle for Raqqa held by IS, also known as Daesh by its Arabic language acronym.

The Syrian Kurdish militias, however, are regarded by the U.S. as reliable partners on the ground in the fight against IS.

Turkey launched a military offensive in northern Syria in August last year backed by the rebel Free Syrian Army, taking Jarabulus and al-Bab from IS. (Xinhua)

(21) Europe Sees...

central Mediterranean Sea passage linking North Africa with Italy.

A further 41 have died on eastern and western Mediterranean routes. A record 5,079 migrants and refugees died last year while crossing the Mediterranean Sea, up from 3,771 fatalities in 2015. (Xinhua)

(22) Britain and ...

space, while the movements of Russian naval ships near British waters have garnered widespread media attention. (Reuters)

(23) EU's Juncker...

the next decade. "President Juncker will go to the European Parliament to present the White Paper on the future of the union" on Wednesday, after commissioners approve it on Tuesday, Juncker's spokesman Margaritis Schinas told a briefing in Brussels.

"Ahead of the Rome summit, we will give the EU leaders the chance to launch a process of reflection on the avenues and options for unity and cooperation of the 27 in the future." (AFP)

(24) China, Singapore...

Singapore welcomes Chinese companies to participate in the bidding of the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail program, he added. Singapore is willing to maintain close communication and coordination with China in regional and international affairs, and jointly safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea and the region, he said. (Xinhua)

(25) Pakistan Wants

adding that the ECO has signed 45 documents with the United Nations and other International organizations and these are at various stages of implementation.

Officials said the foreign ministers' council is expected to approve the ECO Vision 2025 and the Islamabad Declaration, recommended by the senior officials of the members during their two-day deliberations.

The Islamabad Declaration 2017 is expected to contain the salient points of cooperation among the members of ECO in connectivity, trade, transport and energy fields. (Xinhua)

(26) Iranian FM ...

Tuesday. "The Islamic Republic has tried its best during its term of presidency to utilize the organization's benefits towards the gain of all of its member states. We hope that such endeavors will be continued by Pakistan," added Zarif. (Presstv)

(27) Tajikistan, Russia...

fuel and radioactive waste management; rehabilitation of tailing storage areas and utilization of decommissioned uranium mining and reprocessing facilities; production of radioisotopes; use of nuclear technology in industry, agriculture; education and training of highly skilled personnel for the nuclear power industry, etc. (Monitoring Desk)