

(1) Wolesi Jirga...

Ibrahimi told today's session: "The Wolesi Jirga has decided not to vote for the three ministers-designate until the nominees to replace acting minister are introduced."

He criticized the continuation of acting officials' duty and said: "We have repeatedly asked the president and he has promised so to introduce cabinet picks, but the president has so far failed to meeting people's legal request."

He once again asked the government leaders, particularly the president, to respect people's legal request and make the government credible by introducing candidates for vacant ministries.

A number of other lawmakers also asked the government to introduce ministers-designates to the lower house for a vote of confidence. (Pajhwok)

(2) Abdullah, ...

affairs, creation of a leadership committee, ensuring transparency in employment and reporting on the programme.

Based on the decree, the Population Registration Department (PRD) is responsible for the distribution of electronic ID cards and ministries of interior, telecommunication and information technology and finance will provide equipment and other facilities for the distribution of the cards.

Ghani has assigned a committee -- led by 2nd Vice-President Sarwar Danish and CEO Dr. Abdullah Abdullah -- with supervising the implementation of the e-Tazkira process.

Financial and executive affairs of the PRD would be audited by a reliable international organisation, the decree said. Trial electronic ID cards distribution, the first phase of operating plan, would be implemented in 90 days, starting from the day the decree was issued. (Pajhwok)

(3) Chabahar...

regulations, said Abdullah, who stressed improved coordination among ministries in this regard Chabahar port's commercial and economic agreement was signed between Afghanistan, Iran and India last year.

Economic experts believe the port could positively impact economy, politics, and security in Afghanistan and would solve traders' problems in transferring of their goods and Afghanistan could earn millions of dollars in revenue.

Chabahar port in Sestan and Balochistan of Iran has significant capacity in the region for imports and exports of goods.

Transfer of commercial goods through Afghanistan to central Asian countries can create jobs and reduce Afghan traders' reliance on Karachi port in Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

(4) Women's....

women are equal and of same grade in human dignity," Ghani added.

The president said Muslim women had an active role in social, economic and political areas in the Islamic history and mothers of former Afghanistan kings Mirwais and Ahmad Shah were educated.

But he regretted some Afghans currently did not allow their daughters to get education. The Afghan women have gained significant development in political, social, economic and cultural areas over the past 15 years and reasons behind the promotion was the rights and opportunities given to them by the constitution, Ghani said.

The number of women deprived of education is three times higher than men in Afghanistan and the main reason is the imposed war on Afghanistan, he said. He added most of the victims of the ongoing conflict in the country were women.

Calling women's role in peace and stability as important, the president said, "Women of our country were real supporters of peace in the past centuries. We should hear their views about peace in the current time too."

Ghani asked women taking part in the symposium to share their suggestions about peace with the government and the people.

"I believe this symposium will give strength to the peace process and peace culture and will send a clear message to the nation and the government," he said.

Acting Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani said that the symposium was part of a series of symposiums organized in Washington, the capital of United States, Oslo, the capital of Norway and Kabul.

He said the main goal of the symposium was to promote women's participation in different areas. "The aim of this symposium is to promote women's participation in the peace process, he said."

He said the government had taken many steps for women's empowerment over the past 17 years, but the gender needed more and continued support.

Rabbani said women's role in elimination of violence, promoting peace, friendship and educating a generation for a bright future was vital.

UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, said, "The United Nations stands in solidarity with Afghan women, and supports all efforts to ensure that women's involvement in peace is meaningful."

"This three-day symposium is an excellent opportunity for you to share your experiences, discuss your visions for the future and strategize about how women must play a leading role in building peace in Afghanistan," said Yamamoto, who is also the UN-AMA's special representative for Afghanistan.

He said experiences about peace from around the world showed the women should be involved in peace efforts from the outset.

"As half the population, the empowerment of Afghan women and girls is essential to ensure their full participation in the political and social life, and help realize Afghanistan's full potential."

"Women and girls also have a variety of roles in the home, community and nation that are critical to the promotion of peace," he said.

The Afghan government has pledged to increase the presence of women in government institutions to 30 per cent by 2020. "We hope that this goal will be achieved," Yamamoto added.

The UN in Afghanistan has been supporting the government's efforts to strengthen implementation of women, peace and security commitments in compliance with Afghanistan's international obligations, and Afghanistan's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, he added. (Pajhwok)

(5) First Indonesian ...

Embassy here, Afghan government, the European Union, and the United Nations, and thus, the visit of Minister Yohana holds great significance for the relations between Indonesia and Afghanistan," Arief affirmed.

In addition, he noted that the Indonesian woman ministers visit to Afghanistan was the first of its kind after the Taliban regime ended.

Arief said Minister Yembises visit to Afghanistan was a monumental event in the spirit of boosting bilateral relations between the two countries.

Arief stated that Yembises visit was a follow up to Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's state visit to Indonesia on April 5-6, 2017, thereby marking the first state visit in the history of the two countries bilateral relations since the past 62 years.

During the visit to Indonesia, Ghani urged President Joko Widodo to help Afghanistan in empowering the women in the country. (Monitoring Desk)

(6) US Strongly...

much experience. Ambassador Llorens hailed achievements of Afghan security forces and assured of the US continued support in spheres of training, education, military equipment, logistic supplies and managing of Afghan air forces. (Pajhwok)

(7) Australia Considers ...

Assistance Force (ISAF) mission. Across the Middle East the ADF is also engaged in Operations Accordion, Manitou and Okra maintaining regional stability and combatting the threat of ISIS.

The Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, recently met with both James Mattis and General John Nicholson, commander of NATO forces, to discuss the situation while visiting Australian troops in the Middle East. Addressing

the media in Sydney on Friday he said "we have been asked to consider additional resources, and we are actively considering that. We're open to that".

Defence Minister Senator Payne stressed Australia's existing commitments while emphasising that "It is in Australia's national interest to ensure that Afghanistan does not once again become a safe haven for terrorists."

Testifying to the US Senate Armed Services Committee last Thursday General Nicholson offered a stern warning of the situation in Afghanistan where NATO could face a "stalemate" if additional resources are not committed. Highlighting the high casualty rate within the Afghan National Army due to poor tactics and the ability of the Taliban to launch strikes from safe havens across the Pakistani border, he urged the American government to work with NATO and regional allies to cut the Taliban's support network and put more boots on the ground to support and develop Afghan forces. Time is of the essence, with winter coming to a close in Afghanistan marking the start of the more active fighting season.

On the subject of any expansion to the Australian contingent Mr. Turnbull emphasised that existing defence commitments, both in the Middle East and globally, would have to be reviewed before making any decision on deploying additional resources. It is expected that any extension would be limited to non-combat supporting roles as with the present deployment.

Responding to the reports, opposition leader, Bill Shorten said that he was also open to the measure, highlighting the convention of political bipartisanship on matters of national security, though he had not yet been briefed by the government on what the exact proposals were.

Former Labor Deputy Prime Minister, Defence Minister and most recently Ambassador to the US Kim Beazley has also come out publicly to support the proposal. "We have a lot invested in [Afghanistan]," he told Fairfax Media. Under the current deployment Operation Highroad is expected to remain in Afghanistan until at least 2020. The Afghanistan campaign has already overtaken Vietnam as Australia's longest war with 42 Australian servicemen and women being killed over the sixteen year campaign. (Agencies)

(8) NUG Leaders ...

ministers from their jobs over their failure to spend their development budgets, a move which added to the ongoing problems of President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah who had for months reportedly bickered over filling of cabinet posts.

"We should not conduct voting for the ministerial nominees unless government introduces new faces for the caretakers," said MP Abdul Qayoum Sajjadi.

"The government has sent the qualifications of three ministerial nominees to parliament, but we will not conduct voting for the ministerial nominees until the government introduces new faces to replace those sacked from the job," said speaker of the house Abdul Rauf Ibrahimini.

Later, Ghani challenged the legality of parliament's no-confidence motion against his cabinet ministers and instead referred the case to the Afghan Supreme Court to issue a ruling by interpreting the constitution. However, the supreme court has still not announced its decision.

The seven ministers fired were ministers of foreign affairs Salahuddin Rabbani, labor and social affairs Nasrin Oryakhil, public works Mahmood Baligh, education Assadullah Hanif Balkhi, transport and civil aviation Mohammadullah Batash, and minister of technology and higher education Farida Mohmand.

Currently the Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) and the Ministry of Borders and Tribal Affairs (MoBTA) are also run by acting ministers. (Tolnews)

(9) Ghani has not ...

failed to reduce tension. However, the Afghan ambassador said the impression about President Ghani's visit is untrue.

"I confirm the Hon Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq's statement that Pres-

ident Ashraf Ghani has not rejected the invitation to visit Pakistan. Instead, he rightly responded that the last visit by a leader to each other's capital was made by him, visiting Islamabad in Dec 2015. It, therefore, was the Hon Prime Minister of Pakistan's time to visit Kabul and that he would visit next," Zakhilwal told Daily Times.

He said President Ghani has also endorsed the visit of a high-powered Afghan Parliamentary delegation to Islamabad following the visit by a similar delegation to Kabul from Pakistan headed by Ayaz Sadiq.

He threw weight behind bilateral visits and said, "sustained sincere and result oriented bilateral engagement between the government of our two countries is something that our government strongly believes in."

Zakhilwal said more important visits will take place from Kabul to Islamabad as this is the way both countries should move forward. He, however, did not share any specific visit and that when it will take place.

When asked about the tension along the Chaman border, he hoped that the border will reopen soon, adding that the positive aspect was that both sides were able to quickly stop cross-border shelling in 15-minutes talks.

"It did not escalate further and lives were saved on both sides," the Afghan ambassador said. "We are moving in right direction," he said while referring to the recent interaction between the two sides.

He opposed closure of the border, which he called Durand Line, under any excuse as it affects bilateral trade and movement of the people. "Pakistan is the loser when the crossing points are closed. Their opening is more important for Pakistan as Afghanistan imports from Pakistan and Afghanistan is Pakistan's market. When it is closed Pakistan loses and traders suffer," Zakhilwal said.

He pleaded for tension-free relations between the two countries and said both should use opportunities to avoid mistakes in the future.

"There had been a lot of mistakes over the past one year and both have learnt a lot. 2016 was the worst year for bilateral relations and we hope 2017 will be better for bilateral relations."

When asked about Afghan leaders' unwillingness to agree with Pakistan's quest for an effective border management, he said Kabul never shied away from discussions on issues.

"There are concerns in both countries about the presence of the armed opponents. Pakistan has concerns about India role in Afghanistan. There are any other issues and these need dialogue," he said. (Agencies)

(10) Afghanistan's...

of economic analysts said government's reluctance to send a team to the World Trade Organization originates from interventions in selecting the team members.

"Two issues are important in our joining the WTO. First, how and by what preparations we join the organization, and second what should we do after joining the organization and how to deal with regional and international partners," said economic analyst Shabir Bashiri.

Officials from the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) also said a technical and professional team should be sent to the WTO so Afghanistan can make the most of the opportunity. "Considering the complications in our relations with regional countries, we should send a professional team to WTO to benefit under WTO structures," the International Chamber of Commerce's country director Abdul Qadir Bahman said.

Afghanistan applied for WTO membership, with the help of the United States, 11 years ago.

(11) Experts Warn...

As a member, Afghanistan also pays \$46,000 USD in fees. (Tolnews)

Russia's ministry of the interior, Renault, Telefonica and China National Petroleum Corp. Russia, Ukraine, India and Taiwan were the most seriously affected countries, according to cyber security company Kaspersky Lab. The ransomware that has locked

up hundreds of thousands of computers in more than 150 countries has been mainly spread by e-mail, hitting factories, hospitals, shops and schools worldwide, the Financial Times reported.

Meanwhile, at Indonesia's biggest cancer hospital, Dharmas Hospital in Jakarta, around 100-200 people packed waiting rooms after the institution was hit by cyber attacks affecting scores of computers on Sunday, Reuters reported.

Chinese state media Xinhua meanwhile reported that 29,000 institutions across China had been infected by the cyber attack.

According to Xinhua, by Saturday night, 29,372 institutions had been infected along with hundreds of thousands of devices.

It says universities and educational institutions were among the hardest hit, numbering 4,341, or about 15 percent of internet protocol addresses attacked. Also affected were railway stations, mail delivery, gas stations, hospitals, office buildings, shopping malls and government services.

AP however reported that Microsoft's top lawyer is laying some of the blame for the massive cyber attack at the feet of the US government. (Tolnews)

(12) Agreement ...

step toward increasing national revenue, access to quality business items, fighting corruption, enhancing the capacity of custom and simplifying processes. (Pajhwok)

(13) Some Taliban ...

peace process. Saeed said the HIA could take responsibility for the reconciling Taliban and was ready for cooperation. However, he did not go into details.

The HIA spokesman said some Taliban groups had realized the war was not a solution to the Afghanistan conflict. He said the solution lied in intra-Afghan dialogue.

Earlier, the Taliban's political office in Qatar had reported contacted the HIA leader, but Saeed said he was not aware of it.

After arriving in Kabul, Hekmatyar in his address to a gathering in the Presidential Palace called the Taliban as brothers and invited them to join the peace process. (Pajhwok)

(14) Taliban ...

contacted the party and indicated their interest in joining the peace process.

He said the Taliban had contacted the HIA to benefit from its peace agreement with the government. Saeed promised his party would facilitate the Taliban returning to the national mainstream.

But Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid spurned the HIA claims about the group's interest in reconciliation with the government. He emphatically denied the movement had contacted the HIA on the issue. (Pajhwok)

(15) UN Urges....

in seconds - this horror is just one of too many incidents documented at the onset of this fighting season." The explosion took place in Mehtarlam city, Laghman province. The first four months of 2017 witnessed the highest recorded number of child civilian casualties resulting from conflict-related incidents in Afghanistan, including the highest number of children killed, for the same comparable period since the Mission began documenting cases. Between 1 January and 30 April 2017, UNAMA preliminarily recorded 987 child casualties (283 deaths and 704 injured), a 21 per cent increase in child deaths compared to the same period in 2016. (PR)

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(16) US to Hand...

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(17) Ghani Confers ...

According to the presidential decree recited during the events, Major General Howell was hailed for his services in commanding and controlling the US forces special forces in Afghanistan as well as the NATO troops stationed in the country.

The head of the DFID Mr. Austin was also hailed for his services in better management and coordina-

tion of the United Kingdom's aid to Afghanistan.. (Pajhwok)

(18) 3 ISIS Hideouts

are conducting regular airstrikes against the terror group in Afghanistan.

Nangarhar is among the relatively calm provinces in eastern Afghanistan but the anti-government armed militant groups have recently increased their insurgency activities in some parts of the province during the recent years.

The US military used the world's largest bomb, GBU-43 on ISIS-K's network of caves in Achin district nearly last month which resulted into the deaths of scores of ISIS insurgents, including their senior leaders. (KP)

(19) Suicide Attack ...

provinces in eastern Afghanistan but the anti-government armed militant groups are attempting to expand their insurgency in this province during the recent years.

The Afghan security forces are busy conducting counter-terrorism operations against the anti-government armed militant groups in this province. (KP)

(20) Suspect ...

before the incident Mahbub brought me the explosive device and I placed the mine under Hanafi's cushion and as the result of blast, Hanafi lost his life," said the suspect in his apparent confession.

According to the NDS statement, Ahmad and his group had planned to assassinate other religious scholars and tribal elders, but had been arrested by the NDS before he could carry out further attacks.

At the time of the explosion, Hanafi had been teaching a class at the Charikar city Madrassa. (Tolnews)

(21) Shpageeza...

domestic and international level during the recent years.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) awarded First Class and List A status for the domestic cricket competitions earlier this year.. (KP)

(22) 5 Ideas from ...

through vast consultations with citizens across Europe.

SHARED BUDGET

One of Macron's most controversial ideas is a shared budget for the countries that use the euro currency.

Macron says such a budget would allow for joint investments, provide emergency financial help, and help the eurozone better react to a financial crisis. It would be managed by a newly created joint finance minister for the eurozone.. (AP)

(23) France's Macron ...

has indicated that he favors helping Macron. His appointment could draw more defectors from The Republicans.

On the other side of the political divide, Macron's decision not to put up an REM candidate to oppose former Socialist prime minister Manuel Valls in his constituency ties Valls closer and makes it hard for a divided left to re-unite. (Reuters)

(24) Russia Moves...

sectors of its economy, restricted access to foreign financial resources and technologies, and creation of international economic associations without participation of Russia. Internal threats include the vulnerability of the information infrastructure of the Russian financial and banking systems, low rates of economic growth, high crime rates and corruption in the economic sphere. The strategy will be implemented in two phases, said the document.

During the first phase, until 2019, the Russian government will develop organizational, regulatory and methodological measures to provide mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the state of Russia's economic security. (Xinhua)

(25) Germany Says...

for security flaws.

German rail company Deutsche Bahn's platform displays were hit by the global "ransomware" cyber-attack.

Tom Bossert, a homeland security adviser to U.S. President Donald Trump, says the recent global cyberattack is something that "for right now, we've got under control" in the United States. (AP)