

(1) ICC Prosecutor...

which has maintained a presence in the country since 2001.

The ICC has already launched a preliminary investigation into Afghanistan that lasted nearly a decade, which examined attacks against civilians, disappearances, summary and extra-judicial executions and arbitrary imprisonment.

"Following a meticulous preliminary examination of the situation, I have come to the conclusion that all legal criteria required to commence an investigation have been met", Ms Bensouda said.

While the U.S. is not a member of the ICC, Bensouda still claims jurisdiction because Afghanistan is a member. Jurisdiction extends to countries where crimes are committed, regardless of the perpetrator's status in the ICC.

This would mark the first time that the U.S. would be held accountable for war crimes committed in Afghanistan, although the U.S. has held its own soldiers accountable on extremely rare occasions. In 2011, Staff Sergeant Calvin Gibbs was sentenced to life with the possibility of parole for his role in the murder of three Afghan civilians that he called "savages." Gibbs led a "kill team" that collected body parts of murder victims as trophies. Major Rob Stelle, a military prosecutor, said to the court:

"Sergeant Gibbs had a charisma, he had a 'follow me' personality. But it was all a bunch of crap, he had his own mission: murder and depravity. No one died before Sergeant Gibbs showed up."

The Guardian noted at the time that Gibbs could be out of prison in less than 10 years if he were granted parole. (Monitoring Desk)

(2) Hekmatyar Shares...

wanted election be held under the existing system and structure, rejecting the idea of installing an interim government before going to the July 7, 2018 parliamentary and district council elections. "Elections should be held on due time, no delaying tactics should be adopted," said Hekmatyar, who called for thwarting attempts at postponing next year's polls.

"Polls should be conducted under the existing government and election bodies," the HIA leader said, apparently in response to demands by some politicians for changes in the electoral bodies.

Hekmatyar said there was not time to replace the commissioners who had been appointed after lengthy process and crisis.

"Although the current commissions were reconstituted in my absence, I had have my observations but still I suggest that the current election bodies should continue their work and the power transfer should be performed peacefully," the HIA head said.

IEC head Najibullah Ahmadzai hailed the HIA leader for sharing his election strategy and support to the IEC. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghanistan ...

ordered by the National Directorate of Security to thwart the use of the encrypted messaging services by the Taliban and other insurgent groups.

It was not immediately possible to confirm the reports.

The acting minister for telecommunications, Shahzad Aryobee, posted a message on Facebook saying that the telecoms regulator had been ordered to put a gradual block on the services to improve their functioning after complaints had been received.

"The government is committed to freedom of speech and knows that it is a basic civil right for our people," he wrote. The letter by telecoms regulator ATRA, dated Nov. 1 and signed by an official of the regulator, directed internet companies to block Telegram and Facebook Inc's (FB.O) WhatsApp services "without delay" for a period of 20 days.

However, the service worked normally this week and still appeared to be working normally on Saturday on both state-owned operator Salaam and private service providers.

On Friday, there were reports of interruptions but it was not clear whether they were caused by a deliberate shutdown or by the unrelated issues with WhatsApp services that were experienced in several countries.

Mobile phone services have been one of the big success stories in Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted from power by a U.S.-led campaign in 2001, but there are also frequent complaints from users about quality and coverage. (Reuters)

(4) Congressional ...

Objectives and Resources" on November 8, would also assess whether the budget request is meeting US priorities.

Alice G. Wells, acting assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia, has been asked to testify before lawmakers, along with Gregory Huger, assistant to the Administrator Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan in USAID.

Now that the administration has decided

to suspend a significant amount of aid to Pakistan, the hearing would allow members to review the \$1.1 billion combined budget request for the two countries, said Elena Ros-Lehtinen, chairwoman of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee.

Congressman Ted Yoho, chairman of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee, said South Asia presented some of the United States' most serious and enduring security challenges.

A productive US-Pakistan relationship is essential to bring stability to the region, but doubts persist about Islamabad's commitment to denying terrorists safe harbor.

"In this hearing, the subcommittees will hear the latest on US civilian efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan determine how they fit into the president's new plan and oversee the administration's resourcing decisions," he said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Government's Move ...

Telegram apps and some social media accounts.

The ministry has asked the regulator to act upon the orders till November 1 and examine the process for at least 20-days.

Reacting to the government move, a statement from the Kabul Press termed it a step against the law towards censorship of media and social media outlets.

"The freedom of expression has been formally recognized in laws of the country and the government cannot act against the laws", the statement said.

Afghanistan Journalist Union (AJU) and Afghanistan Journalists Centre (AJC) termed the ban on social media outlets against the law and an attempt to restrict the freedom of expression.

Shazad Gul Aryobi, acting telecommunication and information technology minister, said the government decision to block the Whatsapp and Telegram was aimed at improving the services and the ban was temporary.

He said the ban on social media outlets never meant restricting the freedom of expression. (Pajhwok)

(6) Kabul Calls on ...

Jirga's internal security commission said. Jaish-e-Mohammed, Jundallah, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Al-Qaeda, Daesh and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan are the other groups that have been named in the list.

"I don't think that Pakistan simply brings changes in its politics," University lecturer Nasrullah Stanikzai said.

Reports indicate that the US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in his last visit to Islamabad has submitted a list of 75 terrorists' leaders to Pakistan.

Before this, the Afghan foreign ministry had sent a list of 32 terrorists' training centers in Pakistani soil to Islamabad. (Tolonews)

(7) Parliament Probe...

on corruption in parliament.

Based on the task-team's decision, Nusrat has also been suspended pending the outcome of the AGO investigation.

The head of the fact-finding team said they have not shared the details of their findings in order to preserve the respect and dignity of parliament.

"I have not read the details of the report in the name of the dignity of the parliament," Erfanullah Erfan, the head of fact-finding team said.

MPs have however banned parliament's first deputy speaker and two other MPs from attending parliament sessions in the next two weeks.

Parliament's speaker agreed to pay five 5.3 million AFs, and his first deputy and MP Lalai Hiamdzai also showed their satisfaction with the fact-finding team's findings and decision.

"I am ready to repay the money (spent on containers or walls) to preserve Afghan people's dignity," parliament speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said.

"I only accepted parliament's decision because we had approved the commission to probe the issue," parliament first deputy speaker Humayun Humayun said.

MP Obaidullah Barikzai and parliament head secretariat Khodai Nazar Nusrat however accused the fact-finding team of being involved in corruption.

"Mansoor had threatened me on the first day and on that day we understood what the result of the team will be," said Nusrat.

Head of the fact-finding team Erfanullah Erfan however rejected the allegations.

"Nusrat if you have any documents against me, please show and announce to the Afghan people. I am ready to go with you to the Attorney General's Office," said Erfan.

A number of MPs however came out in support of Nusrat on Saturday.

"This decision against Nusrat is very aggressive and we do not accept it," MP Arjan Youn said.

"Following TOLONews' report on corruption in parliament the issue was under investigation by the fact-finding team for one month," MP Razia Mangal said. (Tolonews)

(8) Land Grabbing ...

head of the institute.

MPs also said land grabbing was a major challenge in the country.

"The senior officials from the Ministry of Justice and parliament leadership will meet each other in Pul-e-Charkhi Prison if the truth comes out," said Ramazan Bashardost, an MP from Kabul. (Tolonews)

(9) Wolesi Jirga Official...

was also charged with recruiting a number of his blue-eyed boys to the Wolesi Jirga secretariat.

In Saturday session, Erfanullah Erfan, head of the investigative commission, announced the suspension of the director, return of 5.3 million afghanis by the speaker to the bank account of the lower house and a 10-17 days ban on the first and second deputy speakers from attending house sessions.

Erfan said the Wolesi Jirga speaker should return 5.3 million that he had spent on personal expenses. Deputy Speakers Humayun and Obaidullah Barakzai would be banned from the house for 10 days and Lalai Hameedzai for 17 days.

Humayun and Hameedzai were banned for entering the Wolesi Jirga Television facility without permission and assailing lawmakers Gul Pacha Majeedi and Barakzai.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, accepting the commission's decision, promised to return 5.3 million which, according to him, had been spent on the security of his home and office outside the Wolesi Jirga. Humayun and Hameedzai also accepted the decision and left the session. But Secretariat Director Nasrat rejected the verdict and accused legislator Hafeez Mansour of receiving \$10,000 in bribe.

Mansour, however, did not share his view on the allegation against him. (Pajhwok)

(10) Noor Hold ...

declare its presence in a large gathering in the capital.

But no further developments have been noted during the recent years with the first vice president and a key member of the coalition being out of the country for the past several months.

The new coalition was formed after a series of deadly attacks and political changes earlier this year and deadly attacks in the city. (KP)

(11) New Rules Hinder ...

goods trade between the two countries dropped \$1 billion year-on-year to \$1.5 billion in 2016, importer Ahmed Wali Zazai said while talking to The Express Tribune at the border.

"Owing to tense relations and frequent border closures (to cope with security threats), the bilateral trade volume, which was worth \$3 billion a couple of years ago, has fallen to just \$500 million in early months of 2017," he said. "It will receive a further jolt if India and Iran step up trade ties with Afghanistan." Customs Clearing Agents Association President Hayatullah Shinwari decried that the government enforced new rules and regulations only at the Torkham border crossing, which hampered a smooth flow of goods trade. The rules were not applicable to the Chaman border.

The Customs Department at Torkham has issued a notification, asking importers and exporters to produce proper documents for shipments being received from and sent across the border.

"Since then thousands of shipments have been stranded on both sides; the government should implement a uniform policy for trade with Afghanistan to avoid hurdles," Shinwari said.

"How is it possible for an Afghan farmer, who have just harvested a potato or tomato crop in Nangarhar province, to sell the produce in Khyber Agency when the Customs has made it mandatory to produce export documents before trade," asked another clearing agent Nishad Khan Shinwari. (Agencies)

(12) Eshchi Case: ...

Saturday in written form.

Ahmad Eshchi, who had accused Dostum of ordering his men to rape and torture him, said he was not satisfied with the progress in his case. "I will be content when Dostum, the main criminal, and his chief guard are tried," the 63-year-old said. Dostum, who denies the allegations, has been in Turkey since May. His office had said the issue was a conspiracy against him.

The government has so far not accepted the return of Dostum from Turkey. (Pajhwok)

(13) Barmak Threatens ...

asks where he found it the officer asks the complainant why he wants to know, and says at least your phone is found," said Barmak. Barmak also said the attack on Paktia police headquarters and on a police post in Kunduz's Khanabad district should be investigated.

According to Barmak, the crime levels have been increasing in Kabul and po-

lice forces have been involved in some instances.

"Two officers told two men who were detained to go and steal that phone from that boy, otherwise we will put you behind bars. Then the men stole the phone and submitted to the employees and everything ends here," Barmak added.

Barmak called on the nation not to give bribes to police forces and urged the people to help the interior ministry identify corrupt officials.

"From one province several hundred thousand AFs comes to five to six bank accounts daily (belonging to a Public Protection Forces employee). He is a very ordinary employee and perhaps it is about five to seven years that he works there. But today he is a millionaire and speaks of millions of AFs. From where does this money come? It is the money of the police, those police who do not receive bread. Why do the police not receive bread?" asked Barmak.

The interior ministry's counterterrorism department head Najib Aman meanwhile said easy access to weapons is one of the reasons that crime has increased in Kabul city. He also said thousands of weapons licenses were being printed outside the country.

"The licenses (for carrying weapons) are very low quality and the program used was leaked and now the cards get printed outside of the country," said Aman.

In recent weeks incidents of crime increased dramatically in Kabul city - including that of kidnappings, which has raised serious concerns.

Only in the last week, more than 10 kidnappings have been registered in Kabul city. (Tolonews)

(14) Balkh student dies

came two days after a student of the school, Ahmad, allegedly died of complications that arose after he was severely beaten by a teacher for not having done a haircut.

Security officials kept the media in dark about the mysterious death of Ahmad during official school time in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital

The teacher, named Shafi, and the headmaster have been arrested following the incident that came to light after the student's family requested the provincial council to implement law on the detainees.

Besides the public representatives, Saturday's emergency meeting was also attended by the deputy governor, security officials, family of the slain student and his classmates.

A classmate of the student said two days ago when Ahmad came to school, he was worried about his imminent punishment over forgetting his hair cut.

"We thought Ahmad will be punished a little. But we never thought he will be killed due to severe torture."

Father of the dead student said his son was a normal boy. "My son had previously complained against the same teacher, but I ignored."

He said his son had been killed, asking the government to seriously punish him. Deputy Governor Bashir Ahmad Tawhidi promised law would be definitely enforced in this regard.

He ordered suspension of the school's headmaster and the accused teacher.

"The incident will be investigated thoroughly in line with the law till the end." Balkh provincial council head, Dr. Mohammad Afzal Hadid, thanked the student's family for showing trust in the provincial council and sharing the issue with them.

He called such incidents as against a teacher's dignity, asking the education authorities to deal with the matter legally. (Pajhwok)

(15) Balkh Students...

added.

Asked about where it can be used, Joya said: "When there are multiple helicopter targets and you want to target one of them, the time is controlled manually, and it has a camera that allows you to identify your target from a distance."

Their missile measures one meter long and weighs 16 kilograms.

"Through our computer, we can control the missile and track the target, and the program has been developed by me," said Sayed Noor Hussain Hussaini, one of the group's members. The group said they are trying to work towards positive changes in the country and that they could be successful if the government supports them. "Attention should be paid to young people and we are confident that we can make the most advanced weapons by young people at the earliest opportunity and defend our own homeland," said Ali Milad another member of the group. Joya said he has already built a robot to detect mines and other security threats. He said his robot is capable of detecting a moving device from ten meters. (Tolonews)

(16) President Trump ...

Bergdahl would be dishonorably discharged and that he would have his rank reduced. News reports said Bergdahl was tense and shaking when he entered

the court room.

After he pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior on October 16, he faced life imprisonment. Prosecutors had sought 14 years of imprisonment for him.

Despite pleading guilty to misbehavior before the enemy and desertion, Bergdahl will not serve any prison time for his misconduct in Afghanistan, said Senator Jim Inhofe.

"This is beyond disappointing, especially given that three service members were grievously and permanently wounded as a direct result of searching for Bergdahl," he said.

"I am pleased his separation will be under dishonorable discharge conditions. His actions rightfully disqualify him from receiving the privileges he literally walked away from when he abandoned his fellow service members and his post. Under this discharge, Bergdahl will not have access to any veteran benefits," the senator added.

Congressman Ron DeSantis, chairman of the National Security Subcommittee, also expressed his disappointment over the court verdict.

"Bowe Bergdahl deserted his unit and endangered the lives of his fellow soldiers. To receive a sentence of zero confinement will strike many Americans as an outrage and will lead many to question the efficacy of the military justice system," he said. (Pajhwok)

(17) Militants, Civilians ...

to collect fighters' bodies and the injured. The civilians came under attack when they evacuated the dead and injured fighters."

He added his brother and cousins were among the dead.

Dr. Fahim Mangal, local hospital head, said one body and six injured people had been brought to the hospital from the site. On the other hand Special Forces official Javed Aslam rejected the claim of civilian casualties. He said 35 militants had been killed and many others wounded.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, without commenting on the bombardment, claimed many security personnel had been killed and wounded during the operation in Chahar Dara district. (Pajhwok)

(18) A-29s Pound Foreign ...

parts of Afghanistan, borders the tribal regions of Pakistan and is home to several terrorist groups.

The Afghan Taliban insurgents as well as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group's offshoot, ISIS Khorasan, operate in some of the restive districts of the province.

At least twelve people were killed or wounded during a clash between the Afghan security forces and the ISIS militants in eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan.

The 201st Silab Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces in the East said late last month that the incident took place late on Saturday night in the vicinity of Kunar Bain area.

A statement by the Silab Corps said at least eight ISIS militants were killed and four others were wounded during the clashes.

The statement further added that two weapons, eight magazines of ammunition, 2 rocket launcher missiles, 1 communication device set, and 3 mobile phones together with the dead bodies of the two militants were left in the area in the aftermath of the clashes. (KP)

(19) Baran Modelling ...

"When we show such clothes in the city, it brings the people closer and promotes national unity," model Tamana Ahmadi said. "Afghanistan citizens used to wear mostly western clothes, but now it has changed a lot (they wear Afghan clothes)," model Mohammad Asim said. Theater and music was another part of the Sunday show by Baran Modelling Group. (Tolonews)

(20) Nangarhar: ...

over an eight-year old boy to his father after police rescued him from his captors and arrested two suspects.

The boy was shifted to Chaparhar district after kidnapping where he was recovered, he said. He said the busted group of kidnapers had earlier kidnapped a 17-year-old son of Qazi Ansarullah. The kidnapers took 1.5 million afghanis in ransom and also killed the teenager. (Pajhwok)

(21) Diesel, Sugar...

who owns a grocery store in Dahn-i-Bagh area, sold a 49-kg bag of sugar for 1,950afs, a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,150afs, a 50-kg sack of flour for 1,220, 24-kg rice for 2,100afs, a kilo of green tea for 300afs and the same quantity of black tea for 350afs. The price of gold also remained unchanged. Haji Fawad Ahmad Saleh, a jeweler in Timor Shahi area, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold cost 2,300afs and the same amount of Russian 1,850afs. According to moneychangers' union in Sara-i-Shazada, one US dollar accounted for 68.45afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 637afs. (Pajhwok)