

(1) 'No Place...

for peace process and we could enter peace talks with new approach," said the Deputy of HPC, Attaullah Salim. This comes as the Taliban previously had stated that seeking a peace deal with the current Afghan government would be tantamount to a surrender to the "enemy". (ATN)

(2) Ghani Orders ...

and the office of the chief of staff of the president.

According to the office of the chief of staff of the president, the delegation will also investigate the affects of the alleged corruption on provision of services, circumstances surrounding the execution of the financial and administrative task executions, behavior of the directorate with the applicants, and changing the system of the pensions payment to banking system.

The delegation is expected to present its final report regarding its findings to the presidential palace, the office of the president said. (KP)

(3) UN Urged to Meet ...

committees on education, health, agriculture, refugees, repatriates and rule of law had been constituted of members from civil society organizations to discuss and work on Afghan government suggestions on how to bring UN programs in line with government priorities.

Tobi Lanzer, UN secretary general's special advisor and coordinator of the UN assistance to Afghan government, termed UN's activities in Afghanistan as important and said stability and security in Afghanistan was the word body's priority.

About the Afghan government's suggestions, she said the UN was ready to work in coordination with civil society activists and the Afghan government. (Pajhwok)

(4) Indonesia FM Due ...

Afghanistan to discuss the peace process with Afghan officials.

A spokesman for the ministry said Indonesia remained committed to playing a key role in the Afghan peace and reconciliation process.

The Indonesia minister is expected to meet President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and acting Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani.

Afghan Ambassador to Qatar Dr. Faizullah Kakar recently told reporters the Taliban office in Qatar would be moved to Indonesia or Turkmenistan.

A government source, who did not want to be named, said they had launched an assessment of the Taliban office in Qatar and a decision would be taken after the evaluation. (Pajhwok)

(5) MoD Probes Claims ...

Meanwhile, a number of lawmakers in parliament and residents of Chardara district in Kunduz have said many civilians were killed in the province during an air strike conducted by the foreign forces.

According to reports, several wounded people were taken to Kunduz hospital for treatment. These casualties claimed that civilians were also killed in the air raid.

However there are no exact numbers regarding casualties.

"The bombardment started in the morning and houses were destroyed," said one Chardara resident from Kunduz hospital.

"Four members of my family were killed, what is the importance of life for me now, where must I go now," said another resident of Chardara district.

"Fifty to 60 people were killed, all houses were demolished, nothing is left there," said another Chardara resident, Ghulam Rasul.

Kunduz residents meanwhile have said that heavy fighting broke out between Afghan security forces and the Taliban in at least four villages in Chardara district four days ago. They said that ongoing battles have left at least three hundred families homeless.

"There was a tragedy, at least 45 people were killed," senator Abdullah Qarloq said.

"The bombardment continued for the whole night, my niece and nephews were killed," said another resident Mohammad Tahir.

Officials at Kunduz hospital have confirmed that one body was taken to the hospital along with six wounded people. "Houses were destroyed and 350 people became homeless," said Khush Mohammad Nusrat Yar, a member of Kunduz provincial council.

"We have recorded one death and six wounded since last night," said Naem Mangal, head of Kunduz hospital. The defense ministry has claimed that the Taliban sustained heavy losses during an anti-terror operation in the area that was launched on Tuesday in Chardara.

But the Taliban has dismissed the claims and said none of its fighters were killed but that civilians lost their lives in the air raids. (Tolonews)

(6) IEC Not

and in line with research and interviews we conducted, unfortunately the commission is faced with two challenges in its work and in terms of preparations for the elections; the first challenge is within the IEC which takes root from the lack of cooperation and coordination between the commissioners and the lack of commitment within the government itself towards holding the elections," said Shah Mahmoud Mal, a member of the governing board of ETWA.

"The board of commissioners should act as observers over the work of the secretariat of the election commission; it is only the secretariat's office which can carry out the overall election operations," said ETWA member Habibullah Shinwari.

Meanwhile, a number of lawmakers in parliament and politicians have expressed deep concerns over what they call deliberate meddling by government in the work of the election commission.

"I don't call these commissioners professional commissioners, because they do not have the capability of holding the elections; their eight month term has proved their incompetency," said Sediq Patman, deputy head of the New National Front Party.

The National Unity Government (NUG) however said they are committed to holding the elections as scheduled in July next year, but said security voters list and challenges regarding the voter list were still serious challenges. (Tolonews)

(7) NATO Reaffirms ...

we offer our deepest condolences to the family of our fallen brother."

Reaffirming the alliance's strong support to Afghanistan, Gen. Nicholson said "Despite this tragic event, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the Afghan people and to support them in our mutual fight against terrorism."

The alliance in a statement said U.S. service member has died as a result of wounds sustained during operations in Logar province, Saturday afternoon.

No further details have been given regarding the identity of the deceased soldier, saying more information will be released as appropriate.

This comes as the US forces based in Afghanistan have stepped up counter-terrorism operations during the recent months.

Announcing the new US strategy for South Asia late in August, President Donald Trump also emphasized on continued counter-terrorism efforts of the US forces in Afghanistan. (KP)

(8) Afghanistan-India ...

alliance against the country and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This comes as India formally inaugurated exports to Afghanistan via Chabahar port late last month.

The Ministry of External Affairs of India in a statement said "External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani, through a joint video conference, flagged off the first shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan that would be transhipped through the Chabahar port in Iran."

The statement further added that the shipment is part of commitment made by the Government of India to supply 1.1 million tons of wheat for the people of Afghanistan on grant basis.

"The two Foreign Ministers welcomed the fact that this is the first shipment that would be going to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port after Trilateral Agreement on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Iran in May 2016," the statement added.

According to the Indian officials, six more wheat shipments will be sent to Afghanistan over the next few months. They also reaffirmed their commitment to continue their cooperation for the benefit and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan and the region. (KP)

(9) Wolesi Jirga Again ...

Rabbani, acting foreign affairs minister and Asadullah Hanif Balkhi, acting education minister, have been disqualified by the Wolesi Jirga. Abdul Bari Jahani has resigned as information and culture minister.

In today's session of the lower house, lawmakers strongly criticized continuation of acting officials' jobs.

Obaidullah Barakzai, a lawmaker from central Uruzgan province, said: "We do not know the reason why the government has been silent about ministries run by acting ministers for a long time." He said most of the acting ministers were busy doing personal activities and were little concerned about people and their representatives.

Eng. Zakaria Zakaria, a lawmaker from capital Kabul, said it was against the law to hold an office by an acting head beyond two months.

A number of ministries have been head-

ed by acting officials for more than one and half a years.

Zakaria asked the government to introduce its picks for the Cabinet portfolios as soon as possible.

Some other lawmakers held similar views. Speaker, Abdur Rauf Ibrahimhi also said continuation of acting officials' job was against the law.

"Please respect the law and respond to legitimate demands of people's representatives for ending the culture of acting officials."

He said the government had repeatedly been asked for introduction of Cabinet picks in the past and once again today.

Elections

A number of Wolesi Jirga members criticized Wasima Badghisi, deputy chief of the Independent Election Commission (IEC), over suggesting upcoming elections to be held on the old pattern.

Badghisi recently told media though paper based election voting would somehow pave the ground for fraud, but it was the only way to conduct the polls on schedule.

"I think the paper-based voting is more possible for upcoming Wolesi Jirga and district council polls in 2018, but we should be able to conduct presidential election using technology in 2019," she had said.

Some lawmakers demanded the upcoming Wolesi Jirga and district council elections to be held on July 7, 2018. (Pajhwok)

(10) Corruption...

said that corruption harms the critical missions to protect the Afghan people and borders "when corrupt officials sell ANDSF fuel and weapons to the enemy." Recognizing the "strong leadership" of the acting ministers to bring real reform to the Interior and Defense ministries, he stated: "We support and encourage their [ministers] continued efforts."

According to this U.S. diplomat, the Taliban remains a "resilient and demanding enemy", continued strong performance by the Afghan Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and continued implementation of the goals and outline in the security road map, remain "critical" to the eventual success of ongoing fight in the war-strife country.

In the meeting, Afghan Finance Minister, Iklil Hakimi said that the government was committed to fight against corruption.

This comes as President Ashraf Ghani has expressed concern regarding the widespread corruption in the state security institutions, particularly in the Interior Affairs Ministry as the president described Mol the "heart of corruption". (ATN)

(11) Balkh Officials

governor's office and if you say no then let me tell you the reasons," said Afzal Hadid, Balkh's provincial council head. Meanwhile, Abdul Rashid Halimi, the head of the Northern Zone High Office of Anti-Corruption, said there was a lack of cooperation between government officials in fighting corruption.

"A number of officials don't even pay attention to government letters," Halimi said.

Balkh officials acknowledge that there is corruption within the local government offices but have vowed to fight it.

"God willing, with the help of the people and the Ulema leadership we will be able to eradicate the phenomenon from our society and prove to the world that Balkh province can be a pioneer in all areas," said Bashir Ahmad Tawohidi, the deputy governor of Balkh.

Meanwhile, religious scholars in Balkh said corruption was unacceptable and that only with the help of the public and religious scholars will the problem be stamped out.

"If Ulema work together and with the people and make an effort, I can tell you there will be a hundred percent positive impact," said Zabiullah Hajjo, a religious scholar.

This comes after Transparency Watch recently stated that the main victims of corruption in the country are members of the public who fork out about \$3 billion USD a year in bribes. (Tolonews)

(12) 120,000 Afghans ...

Bur Dubai, Sharjah, Musaffah and Al Ain by mid-November.

For access to consular services at the embassy and the consulate, the expats would have to possess the new ID cards. Zikria said the embassy had inked a six-month contract with the US firm to complete the registration process.

The documentation is part of the Afghanistan government's initiative to create a database of its nationals in the Gulf Cooperation Council nations.

About 155,000 expatriates living in the GCC except in Saudi Arabia will be covered in the first phase. Some 200,000 Afghans in Saudi will be registered in the next phase. (Pajhwok)

(13) Govt. Advisors ...

differences. Akhundzada suggested the Meshrano Jirga must demand the list of all advisors

from the palace and the CEO office so their qualification could be checked.

"The government should use millions of US dollars paid to these useless advisors for empowerment of Afghan forces and helping families of martyred soldiers," he said.

Jummadin Gaianwal, another senator, also said most of the youth appointed as advisors in the palace and office of the chief executive were inexperienced.

"It is a shame when our leaders' advisors are unqualified, most of them are fueling tribal discrimination and receive high amount of salaries," he said.

Gaianwal asked the Parliament to prevent appointment of unnecessary advisors who pocketed millions of dollars from the national treasury every year.

"This practice should be excluded from the next year's budget plan", he said. Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar tasked the economic and budget commission of the house to assess the advisors issue in the presidential palace and in the office of chief executive and share its report with the Senate. (Pajhwok)

(14) Elders Warn ...

the addition of words "Afghan" and "Islam" to the ID cards.

In March 2017, the president approved amendments in the law and added the two words to the ID cards, but the lower house rejected the decree last week with a majority vote.

Now people have started protesting against the parliament's decision.

Abdul Khaliq Hussaini Peshai, who heads the council of eastern provinces, told a press conference on Sunday that they would strongly support the demand for adding ethnicity and religion to the ID cards.

"I ask one question from the Wolesi Jirga members, when they deny Islam as their religion and Afghan as nationality, so what is their identity?"

Peshai also opposed the idea of calling into session a loya jirga, saying without government's participation, the jirga would be meaningless.

Representing southeastern region, tribal elder Daud Shah Niazi said he could not understand the motive behind not mentioning Islam and Afghan in the ID cards.

"These two words we have won at the cost of countless lives, these two words should be written in the cards."

Speaking for the central zone, tribal elder Amir Mohammad said no Afghan would accept the ID cards if the two words were excluded.

He said the distribution of the computerized ID cards would resolve many issues, including fraud in elections.

The elders issued a resolution letter, saying the Wolesi Jirga by rejecting the presidential decree had betrayed the nation's wishes and the decision was not acceptable to the Afghans.

The letter said the incumbent parliament had completed its mandate long ago and lacked legitimacy.

The elders asked the president to dissolve the parliament and pave the ground for fair and transparent parliamentary elections as soon as possible.

They warned of launching a protest movement if their demands were not accepted. (Pajhwok)

(15) Lawmakers ...

called the remarks by Peter Kay as interference in Afghanistan's affairs, asking the government to prevent those ambassadors attempting to stir up differences within the country.

Another lawmaker, Mohammad Hassan Hotak, also held similar view, saying: "Accepting Durand Line formally is the right and mandate of Afghan nation not British Ambassador."

Misrhanoo Jirga member, Rahmatullah Asakzai, said: "If Afghan government has come to a secret decision with Pakistan, it should be shared with nation; otherwise it is the responsibility of government to prevent fencing along the Durand Line and not allow anyone to have comments on the critical issue."

This comes as the Pakistani military is busy fencing the Durand Line despite objections by Afghanistan side.

Several other public representatives of the house also hit out at British Ambassador, insisting that Afghan government should present a clear stance in this regard.

Meshrano Jirga chairman, Fazal Hadi Muslimyar, also criticized the British envoy's remarks. "We were against the fencing in the past and we opposed it now as well. It's government duty to prevent the fencing along Durand Line at any cost."

He while addressing the ethnic groups living on both sides of Durand Line, said: "If government decides to remain silent, the nation must not allow the fencing to cut through their hearts."

Muslimyar also asked the Afghan government, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to share its formal position towards the fencing on the hypothetical line with the nation. (Pajhwok)

(16) UNHCR, World...

return home.

The UNHCR representative said: "This data-sharing agreement will help to create a common understanding for better investments in the future of returning Afghans and the communities they return to."

Fathiaa Abdalla added: "UNHCR is using data to inform projects such as our project in Mazar-i-Sharif for returnees and host communities. It links female carpet-weaving artisans to the global market to foster their self-reliance for the future."

Shubham Chaudhuri, World Bank country director said: "This collaboration builds on the efforts over the last year to bridge the humanitarian-development nexus here in Afghanistan."

By combining UNHCR's frontline humanitarian presence and data collection efforts with the World Bank's analytic capacity, Chaudhuri hoped they provide timely and evidence-based inputs to support the Kabul's National Action Plan for the integration of returnees and internally displaced populations. (Pajhwok)

(17) Key Taliban ...

A local Taliban commander, who declined to be named, confirmed the incident and said the assassinations took place due to personal enmity and the perpetrators were wanted.

He added Abdul Hadi was also a tribal leader of the Taimani area of Badghis. He commanded a lot of respect among area people. He had recently shifted to Shakh area. (Pajhwok)

(18) 10 Militants ...

Noori informed one ANA soldier and a policeman were wounded, but the attack was beaten back.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied airstrike in Andar district on the groups' members. He said the airstrike targeted a house in which a woman had been killed. (Pajhwok)

(19) 4 Die, 6 Injured..

Dr. Noorullah, an official at the Provincial Civil Hospital, said four dead bodies and six injured had been delivered at the hospital. The injured were in better health condition. (Pajhwok)

(20) Forced Marriages...

administration had conducted programme for promoting women's rights, curbing forced marriages and spreading awareness about the elimination of unfair traditions.

Raihana Muradi, in charge of investigations into incidents of violence against females at the Women's Affairs Department, said last year 12 cases of forced marriages were recorded. However, the number fell to three cases this year.

Efforts made by women's affairs department and role of institutions concerned and media were cited as main reason behind the decrease in the incidence of unjust tradition.

"Our department, in collaboration with religious scholars, women's rights activists and media, has conducted programmes for spreading awareness among people about the consequences of forced marriages. Fortunately, our efforts have yielded positive results." (Pajhwok)

(21) Dawi Gets Over...

of the criminal code, Abdul Razaq Zulalai is sentenced to two and half years in prison and 6,000 AFs fine, Abdul Ghafar Dawi sentenced to six years and eight months in prison and 6,000 AFs fine, and Mohammad Asghar Ghiyasi sentenced to five years and eight months in prison and 6,000 AFs fine," head of ACJC appeal court Anisa Rasuli said.

The men however rejected the allegations against them.

"I was caught in political conspiracies and that is why today I am standing in front of you," said Dawi.

Dawi and his deputy were also found guilty on charges of embezzlement in fuel contracts, ignoring court orders and failure to pay taxes. (Tolonews)

(22) US Airstrikes...

added that the foreign forces targeted the ISIS hideouts in Mamand, Sapari, Chenar, Nargis and some other areas, leaving at least fifteen militants dead.

At least one civilian was also killed in the airstrike, the statement said, adding that at least 13 mortar rounds also landed in Lalpur district from the other side of the Durand.

According to the provincial government, the mortar did not incur any casualties to the local residents.

The Afghan security forces are busy conducting counter-terrorism operations against the IS and other insurgent groups in this province.

The US forces based in Afghanistan also support the Afghan forces in their fight against the terrorist groups and often carry out airstrikes to suppress the insurgency of the terror groups.

The increased raids by the Afghan and US forces followed rampant activities by the IS and other groups to expand their insurgency in this key eastern province. (KP)