

(1) IEC Blasts Donor ...

from them yet. We told them (donor countries) that we need these devices and equipment that should be bought for us, because government does not have the funds to buy this equipment. They had promised to buy the equipment, but when asked to put into practice their promise, they said we cannot and said we can help you only in training. We appeal them to buy us the equipment to prepare the list," said Sayad.

The institutions overseeing the election process however said the international community's distrust in the National Unity Government's (NUG) leaders and election commission commissioners is the reason why donor countries are reluctant to help fund the election commission. "The commission should list its plans and send it to the international community in a letter. The international community would not support the election process unless the commission requests its needs in a letter and enhances its capacities," Naeem Ayubzada, head of Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan said. Currently the election commission is working to hold parliamentary and district council elections in July - as a paper ballot.

The commission said they are going to draw up a voter's list manually, which according to election watchdogs will take a year to finish.

"They (commissioner) do not know how to register the voters. If they were independent, if they had professional abilities, they could do this manually," Jandad Spinghar, head of Afghanistan Civil Society Election Network said. (Tolonews)

(2) NSC Reacts to British ...

Persian that in the eyes of the international community, the Durand Line is the official border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In a press release issued on Monday, Atmar's office stated that all foreign diplomats in the country should respect Afghanistan's historic rights and national values.

"Recently we heard about the stance of some diplomats about the Durand Line, our expectation from the diplomats and foreign envoys is that they should respect Afghanistan's historic rights including the Durand Line, they should realize Afghanistan's national and historic values and sensitivities of the people of Afghanistan and take a stance on the basis of these values," the press release reads.

Kay's remarks on the Durand Line sparked strong reaction among Afghans and a number of Afghan lawmakers in parliament asked government to clarify its position on the Durand Line.

In the interview the British envoy also said that the Taliban will not be able to enhance their grip on Afghanistan through war and violence, adding that the new war strategy recently announced by US President Donald Trump clarifies this fact. He said that the UK strongly supports the new war strategy.

He also called on Pakistan to prevent the infiltration of militants and terrorists into Afghanistan.

In answer to a question about the fencing along the Durand Line by the Pakistani military, Kay said that Pakistan maintains the right to undertake the management of its border with the method it believes will be good for it.

On the growing activities of Daesh in Afghanistan, he said that the only solution to tackle the threats of Daesh is that the people of Afghanistan should be united about the issue and that the regional and international community must come forward to support Afghanistan in this respect.

"Those who pledged allegiance with Daesh are operating in Afghanistan and there is concern that they increase their presence. I think Daesh is an enemy to all, Daesh is an enemy to the people of Afghanistan and many neighboring countries of Afghanistan. Daesh looks to create sectarian differences among the Afghans. They (Daesh) kill innocent Muslims and this is unacceptable," he said.

Afghanistan does not recognize the Durand Line as the international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Durand Line is a de facto border that was established in 1896 between Sir Mortimer Durand, a British diplomat and civil servant of the British Raj, and Abdur Rahman Khan, the Afghan Emir, to fix the limit of their respective spheres of influence and improve diplomatic relations and trade. (Tolonews)

(3) Next Year's Budget ...

expenditures and revenues, optional resource allocation, allocation based on money effectiveness, balance in long and short term spending, commitments of donors and domestic revenue.

He added 169 billion afghanis (more than 47 percent of all the accounts) was provided from government's revenue and the rest paid by donors.

Currently 60 percent of the international community aid is spent through the government and the percentage may be increased next year, Hakimi said. He said revenue collected in 1396 solar

year showed a 30 percent increase over 1395 year and the amount would increase next year.

The government's revenue reached 122 billion afghanis last year, the minister, adding security, infrastructure, education, health, agriculture and rural development sectors would receive most of the budget in the next fiscal year.

"In the next fiscal year, all budgetary units would be assessed for their spending after the first five months, if any of them was unable to spend their budget, their allocations would go to other departments," he said.

Hakimi said 42 percent of development budget of the current year had been spent so far and the percentage would increase until the end of the year.

One and half a month remain in the new fiscal year to begin. Seven ministers who spent less development budget last year were disqualified by the Wolesi Jirga.

Hakimi said the absence of detailed plans, low capacity of procurement sections, lack of a monitoring system, lack of punishment and award culture, administrative corruption and interference of powerful individuals were main problems in budget spending.

Mohammad Alam Ezdyar, first deputy chairman of the upper house, said the house would make its decision on the draft budget in the next 15 days.

Under Article 98 of the Constitution, the general and development budgets are prepared in light with Meshrano Jirga's recommendations before being sent to the Wolesi Jirga for final approval. (Pajhwok)

(4) Kabul-Jakarta ...

scholars from the two Muslim nations.

In addition, Ghani expressed his gratitude over what he described as Indonesia's support and cooperation with Afghanistan and said Indonesia has great expertise in a number of fields involving economic development and women empowerment, adding that his government hopes that Indonesia shares these skills with Afghanistan.

Ghani also urged the Indonesian minister to encourage Indonesian investors to invest in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian embassy said in a press release that Marsudi also met with the Chairman of the High Peace Council (HPC), Mohammad Karim Khalili, and the acting foreign affairs minister Salahuddin Rabbani.

"We are thankful of your support to the peace process in Afghanistan and your willingness to contribute in this sphere," said Khalili.

In turn, the Indonesian minister voiced her appreciation for the hospitality she received in Afghanistan.

She said that the friendship between Afghanistan and Indonesia were bound by inter-government ties, adding the Indonesian and Afghan nations have experienced brotherly relations in various fields over the course of time.

Marsudi was also expected to visit the Indonesian Embassy in Kabul to meet the Indonesian community and to sign the inauguration of the establishment of Indonesian Islamic Center which is in Ahmad Sha Baba Mina of Kabul.

This is only the second time an Indonesian foreign minister has visited the country. The last time was when former Indonesian president Soekarno and then minister of foreign affairs of Indonesia, Soebandrio, visited Kabul in 1961.

This visit comes after Ghani's visit to Jakarta in April where a number of agreements were signed. Memorandum of Understandings were signed in five major fields of cooperation: namely education, finance, agriculture, statistics and governance reform.

In an earlier statement issued by the Indonesian Embassy in Kabul, officials said Indonesia wants a stable and peaceful Afghanistan. "Indonesia has adopted a soft power approach based on religious and cultural aspects," the statement read.

The statement indicated that following the establishment of Nahdhatul Ulama Afghanistan (NUA) in Afghanistan in 2010, Indonesia has continued to conduct exchange visits as part of the Ulema program.

"Since 2010, hundreds of Ulama of Afghanistan have visited Indonesia to share best practices and lesson learnt on moderation, justice, tolerance, balance, and participation. This year marks the 7th Anniversary of Indonesian - Afghanistan Conference on promotion peace and human rights."

The embassy said in the statement that Indonesia has also established the Indonesian Islamic Center (IIC) in Kabul. "We have built a mosque accommodating 2,500 congregates there, and soon we will build a district hospital. More developments will come into the complex. Hundreds of Afghan people (national figures, academics, teachers, students and youth) also already participated in the capacity building program in Indonesia."

In addition, the embassy said Indonesia and Afghanistan have promoted welfare and development by having exchange visits for businessmen, workers, technical experts, and business managers.

Indonesia also said it was "grateful to announce that 114 Afghan businessmen participated in the Indonesian Trade Expo in Jakarta, on 11-15 October 2017. Likewise, Indonesian businessmen are currently visiting Kabul to join forces in the promotion of business relations between Indonesia and Afghanistan in the field of infrastructure and mining projects in Afghanistan." (Tolonews)

(5) NATO Rules ...

NATO's capability of protecting citizens at a time of evolving security challenges.

"There will be a dedicated meeting with all NATO allies, plus all Resolute Support operational partners and Afghanistan's acting minister of defence," NATO's deputy spokesperson said.

In response to an email from Pajhwok Afghan News, Piers Cazalet said UN and EU representatives had also been invited to attend the meeting.

"Many Allies have already committed to deploying more troops to our Resolute Support Mission. We expect further progress on staffing the mission," he said.

The troop increase would help the mission we support the Afghan partners in the most effective way, he said, stressing: "That does not mean NATO will return to combat operations in Afghanistan."

High on the agenda is an expected decision to develop NATO's command structure - which is made up of the alliance's military headquarters - with additional focus on the North Atlantic, and on the ability to move troops and materiel across Europe.

As cyber attacks become more common, the defence ministers would discuss how the alliance could make the best use of allies' own cyber capabilities in NATO operations, he added.

Challenges to global security, including North Korea and the threat posed by its illegal nuclear weapons programmes, will also come up for discussion. (Pajhwok)

(6) PPF and BP ...

training and will be better equipped before starting their mission.

"They will do the jobs that they used to do under the interior ministry, but the defence ministry has prepared a proper plan for them. They will be reconstructed completely," said Waziri.

The process of bringing over 15,000 border police under the army's umbrella kicked off on Sunday. Of the total number of border police, 4,000 will remain under the interior ministry's structure to secure customs, borders and airports.

Once the border police have been incorporated into the army, the Public Protection Forces will then be moved to the MoD. This should happen from 31 December 2017.

Meanwhile, the Afghan interior ministry said all the public protection forces, even those who maintain the security of individuals such as government officials and MPs, will eventually fall under the army.

"If the defense ministry can draw out those forces who serve for individuals and make them serve the nation, it will be a very good move," MP Sayema Khogyani said.

Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said the move to merge thousands of PPF and border police with the army will help maintain security in the country.

According to Danish, the process is also aimed at getting police to focus on rule of law opposed to military operations.

Danish said however that the number of Police Special Forces will increase in order for them to carry out special operations.

"The border police and public protection forces will join the defense ministry by the start of the transition process," said Danish.

Analysts however said despite the positive points in merging the forces, there will be challenges in maintaining security until the forces are trained and ready for missions.

"There are border police in some sections of the border, but other parts are open. We should have an agenda to close the open parts. It should be considered," Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former deputy head of the interior ministry said. (Tolonews)

(7) 33rd Flight Departs ...

of transferring goods to India via the air corridor program continued on a regular basis and program's success resulted in strong coordination and cooperation amongst government entities, the ACCI, and the private sector.

"We therefore, entered into the very optimal stage in which we have almost solved most of the challenges ahead of the program. The operation of the flights we recently conducted were in a very smooth and standard manner," the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghanistan...

Afghanistan.

The acting minister for telecommunications said last week that the telecoms regulator had been ordered to put a gradual block on the services to improve their functioning after complaints had been received from consumers.

Afghan media have reported that Afghanistan's National Directorate for Security

(NDS) wanted the ban to stop the Taliban and other insurgent groups from using encrypted messages. The NDS has not commented.

Throughout the controversy, the messaging platforms appeared to have continued to function normally in Afghanistan.

The episode, which attracted criticism from civil rights groups and furious comments on social media, underlined the importance of Internet and mobile services of all kinds have gained in Afghanistan, notably among government officials themselves. (Reuters)

(9) Talibanization...

had safe heavens in Pakistan and that the militants freely crossed the border and Pakistan did not take any action."

The source further added "At this stage we proposed to solve the problems bilaterally. We sought their suggestion as to what mechanism they had in mind that we could find out solution to the problems."

"We told them Pakistan was keen and serious to address and solve the issue. This is harming Pakistan too. We are trying to return to normalisation. We told the Afghan side they there were US, NATO, EU and the world communities in Afghanistan and they could check accusations supporting the insurgents?" the official said.

In the meantime, the official has told the paper that Separate groups of intelligence officials, military officers, diplomats, border management, trade, refugees and political level are being formed in line with the understanding reached between Gen. Bajwa and the Afghan officials. (KP)

(10) BF and SHE...

2,000 people affected by hearing loss received hearing aids and vital hearing care services.

The third Bayat Foundation-Starkey Hearing Foundation Hearing Care Mission was launched in August 2016. More than 1,000 children and adults from Kabul and Parwan Provinces received hearing aids, hearing care and after care services.

Now, once again in November 2017, The Bayat Foundation and The Starkey Hearing Foundation have joined forces to serve hearing impaired men, women and children here in Afghanistan. Launching on November 7, 2017, the fourth annual Bayat Foundation-Starkey Hearing Foundation Hearing Care Mission, which will operate from Kabul City, is expected to distribute more than 2,000 hearing aid devices to Afghans from Kabul and throughout the nation.

The 2017 Hearing Care Mission is organized in four phases:

- 1-Patient Registration and Washing of Ears
- 2-Customizing of the Ear Molds
- 3-Installing the Hearing Aids
- 4-After Care Services

Since 2014, The Bayat Foundation, and its partner, The Starkey Hearing Foundation have restored the hearing of over 6,000 Afghans, including many thousands of Afghan children, who represent the future and the hope of the nation. The ability to hear - for many, the first time in their lives that they have heard sounds of any kind - has brought positive changes to their lives. Bestowing the Gift of Hearing to Afghans who had been affected by deafness and other forms of hearing loss, fills them with new confidence.

According to a survey conducted by The Bayat Foundation, hearing loss in Afghanistan can be attributed to three primary factors:

- War and Explosions
- Diseases and Natural Phenomena
- Intermarriage Within Families

The same survey stated that sixty-three percent of individuals who have received help from The Bayat-Starkey Hearing Care Missions, have experienced a complete recovery of their hearing ability, and are leading normal lives.

The Bayat Foundation and The Starkey Hearing Foundation are very pleased with the positive response to their joint hearing-care missions in Afghanistan. The Bayat Foundation and The Starkey Hearing Foundation will continue to work together in Afghanistan, striving to bring the gifts of Hearing Healing and Hope to the Afghan people. (PR)

(11) Hakimi and Aryobee...

this field. Negotiations and meetings on this matter were held in Kabul late 2016.

Trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Afghanistan stood at \$17.96 million as of the first nine months of 2017, according to Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee. The whole amount accounted for export of Azerbaijani products to Afghanistan. (Trend)

(12) Baghlanis Stage ...

current governor as "inefficient person", who had not yet served the province and should be replaced with an eligible person.

Ghulam Yahya, another protestor, said Baghlan was passing through a sensitive situation because of increasing insecurity and in such a situation the province needed a capable governor.

The protesters also claimed a few years

ago a hospital was to be built in the city, but the project was delayed due to interference of the governor and some provincial council members.

The protestors said these people wanted to shift the hospital project to in Hussain Khel area.

They accused the governor and other provincial authorities of racism and said the hospital should be built in Pul-i-Khumri because it was the capital and all people came to the city for medical treatment. (Pajhwok)

(13) Mega Project: ...

may be affected. But we will help them and the people should cooperate with us because the project is beneficial for all of them," he remarked. (Pajhwok)

(14) Bamyan Potato ...

potatoes hovered between 80 to 120 afghanis, while this year the price of the same amount of potatoes was accounted for 100 to 160 afghanis.

Haji Mohammad Ali, one of the farmers, said a small number of farmers benefited from storages constructed by NGOs. He asked the agriculture ministry to establish more storages under the farmer support scheme.

"Farmers direly need more storages because the facility helps and encourages them a lot. They don't have the capacity to store potatoes by themselves," he said.

Mohammad Salman, a resident of Shabar district, who has been provided with a storage house facility by the agriculture ministry, said he was able to store 25 tons of potatoes and take them out in spring to the market. (Pajhwok)

(15) Fire Breaks ...

the blaze were yet to be assessed, he said, adding firefighters from neighboring Parwan province had also been called in to help extinguish the blaze.

He said firefighters from Kapisa alone were not able to deal with the fire as fears had been raised that the fire could spread to an adjoining weapons depot.

The fire was however brought under control. (Tolonews)

(16) Afghans ...

he added.

"The main objective behind this move is to allow the students to benefit from education offered by Pakistani schools," the official remarked.

Of the 232 applicants, 183 have been issued the cards while the rest of applications are being processed. A special office has been set up in Torkham to allow the students easy entry and exit.

The cards are valid within the limits of Torkham and cannot be used for travel outside of the area. (Pajhwok)

(17) 7 ISIS Militants ...

incur casualties to the local residents and security personnel.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

This comes as the local officials said Sunday that the US forces based in Afghanistan carried out a series of airstrikes on ISIS hideouts in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, leaving several militants dead.

The provincial government media office in a statement said the airstrikes were carried out on ISIS hideouts in the restive Achin district.

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

(18) Abdullah Expresses ...

fire on the participants of the ceremony. The assailant has been identified as Devin Patrick Kelley with the local media reporting that the 20-year-old man was previously discharged from the US air force following a court-martial for assaulting his wife and child.

The main motive behind the attack on the church has not been ascertained so far with reports saying the gunman was shot dead by local citizen as he was leaving the church. The attack has reportedly left at least 26 people dead and around 20 others wounded. (KP)

(19) Teacher Held with ...

owned by Najib Danish, the Ministry of Interior's spokesman.

Najib Danish said he had not received any report regarding the issue. "If something as claimed has happened, the case should be investigated and the offender should be awarded severe punishment."

He added about 200 teachers taught at the university and that crime was a personal act. (Pajhwok)

(20) Kijran's Girl...

of residents of Kijran district said long distances from schools and insecurity were other reasons that deprived girls of schooling.

Fatima, a resident of the district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that schools in Kijran were fewer and many girls could not attend classes due to their remoteness. Taliban's activities in the district were another obstacle. (Pajhwok)