

**(1) Presidential Poll...**

resigned from their posts.

A reliable source wishing anonymity said four electoral alliances had been formed so far.

Mohammad Ashraf Ghani with Atta Mohammad Noor and Sarwar Danish as his deputies would be supported by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Mohammad Karim Khalili, Sibghatullah Mujadidi, Pir Syed Hamid Gilani, Arian Youn, Abdul Wahid Qatali, Shakir Kargar, Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, Ziaul Haq Amarkhel and Haji Almas as one electoral team.

Earlier, President Ghani has said he will contest the next presidential election.

During a recent interview with Bloomberg, Ghani said he wanted to contest the Presidential Poll in order to end the 17-year-old war in Afghanistan.

An individual close to Atta Mohammad Noor on the condition of anonymity told Pajhwok Afghan News that Noor wanted to enter the presidential race as an independent candidate or as first deputy to another candidate.

Noor had earlier said he was preparing for presidential polls and has launched discussions with his close aides and partners.

Nader Afghan, spokesman for the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA), said they had launched consultations with political parties, ulema and influential personalities regarding the presidential polls.

He said the HIA would take a decision after consultations with people whether or not to field an independent candidate or support another electoral team.

Dr. Abdullah with Khalid Pashtun, Mohammad Muhaqqiq as his second and first deputies has formed another electoral ticket supported by Gen. Dostum, Salahuddin Rabbani, Fazal Ahmad Manawi, Fawzia Kofi, Haji Zahir Qadir, Humayon Humayon, Abdul Hadi Arghandwal, Abdul Waheed Sabawon, Hikmat Khalil Karzai and Mirwais Yasini.

A source close to Abdullah said the CEO is one of the leading candidates for presidency, but his team is yet to confirm it.

Office of the incumbent First Deputy President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum could not be reached for comment.

Mohammad Hanif Atmar and Younis Qanoni, Abbas Noyan as his deputies and supported by Gen. Din Mohammad Jurat, Jamal Nasir Usoli, Bano Helli Ershad, Jilani Popal, Mohammad Umar Zakhelwal and Ghulam Farooq Wardak is another electoral alliance.

Mohammad Umar Daudzai with Mohammad Ismael Khan and Sadiq Mudabir as his deputies and supported by Hamid Karzai, Ustad Abdul Rab Rasoul Sayyaf, Ustad Mohammad Akbari, Fazal Hadi-Muslimyar, Zara Ahmad Muqbil, Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak, Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Eklil Hakimi, Mohammad Ayoub Salangi, Abdul Jabbar Taqwa, Dr. Ahmad Mushahid, Zalmaj Mujadidi, Mohammad Alem Sae, Rahmatullah Nabil and Abdul Karim Khurram is another electoral alliance to contest the presidential polls.

Syed Maisam Ihsani, head of Umar Daudzai's media office, confirmed that Daudzai would contest the presidential polls and would never become deputy to another candidate.

Besides the above four electoral alliances for presidential polls, Ahmad Wali Masoud, Anwarul Haq Ahadi and Shaida Mohammad Abdali have announced they would either create electoral tickets or may support another possible candidate.

Ahmad Wali Massoud, head of the Massoud Foundation, told Pajhwok

Afghan News: "I plan to contest the Presidential Election and the creation of our team is being mulled over."

Anwarul Haq Ahadi, head of the New Afghanistan National Front, said: "I will try to be an independent candidate but if the decision to support another candidate would be taken later."

Syed Jawad Hussiani, spokesman for the New Afghanistan National Front, announced Ahadi as their candidate for the upcoming polls and added consultations were underway regarding independently contesting the polls or supporting an alliance. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Agreement Signed...**

would be completed over a period of three years, ARG Palace said, adding that 1000 megawatts of electricity would be transmitted to Pakistan that would produce up to 100 million US Dollars in transit fees for Afghanistan besides receiving the required electricity for domestic needs. (KP)

**(3) Afghan Delegation...**

Russian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is set to address the participants before the meeting this Friday, Moscow added. (AA)

**(4) 'Govt Fails to Identify...**

bombers and those involved in explosions as the enemies of Afghanistan and asked the government to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of Baghlan incident.

Sayed Ali Kazemi, a lawmaker from Kabul and brother of Sayed Mustafa Kazemi, criticized the previous and current governments and said Baghlan incident was not followed despite the passage of one decade. "If you want to investigate that incident, families of the victims are ready to cooperate with you," he said.

The assassination of national figures would continue as long as the perpetrators of serial killings remained at large, Kazemi added.

However, Qudratullah Zaki, a lawmaker from Takhar province, and brother of Sibghatullah Zaki, a former Wolesi Jirga member who was also killed in the bombings, said: "We no longer request the government because it has already proved its failure about investigation of Baghlan incident over the last one decade."

He said economic mafia was involved in the 2007 Baghlan bombings. "Regional countries do not want Afghanistan to stand on its feet, the national economy commission of the time understood that Afghanistan's economy should develop and they had the mechanism and plan for that, and that was the reason its members were killed," Zaki concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Violations...**

children in South Sudan have been recruited into armed forces and splinter faction by both sides in the conflict.

The study based on observations of children associated with armed forces in South Sudan since the outbreak of violence in 2013, and it includes children wearing military uniforms and carrying weapons, as well as children who are currently undergoing military training in different parts of the country. (Agencies)

**(6) Pompeo Allows...**

The sanctions, however, threatened India's ability to obtain financing for the development of Chabahar, which could potentially open the way for millions of dollars of trade for land-locked Afghanistan and end its dependence on Pakistan's port of Karachi.

Building Afghanistan's economy also could reduce Kabul's depen-

dence on foreign aid and put a major dent in the illicit opium trade, the main revenue source of the Taliban insurgency.

The sanctions exception granted to the Chabahar project aims to further US ties with Afghanistan and India "as we execute a policy of maximum pressure to change the Iranian regime's destabilizing policies in the region and beyond," the State Department spokesman said. (Tolo news)

**(7) No Cut in...**

chief said it was hard to comment on the summit because its agenda was yet to be clarified. He, however, said any efforts from Russia should support the Afghan peace initiatives.

NATO strongly supported an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, the chief said, calling on all actors to support the process.

Stoltenberg welcomed the ceasefire in June and initial talks between the US and the Taliban.

He said the US was the biggest ally in the NATO mission and it had such an important role to play in the Afghan peace process. The NATO chief welcomed the US recent efforts for the Afghan peace process.

When asked NATO limited its contact with Afghan security forces after the insider attack and killing of Gen Abdul Raziq in southern Kandahar province, Stoltenberg explained it was NATO's top priority to support the Afghan forces and there was no question of reducing their presence because of insider attacks.

He said though in some areas NATO changed its support and advice way temporarily but the plan would come back to normal soon.

When asked about the increase in civilian and security forces casualties, he said every casualty was a tragedy and conveyed his condolences to those who lost their loved ones.

He said these casualties should be reduced and he had discussed the issue with Afghan officials.

He called on all neighboring countries, including Pakistan, to support the Afghan peace process and deny safe heavens to extremist groups. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Afghan Pilot...**

apologize to my wife, and that was the first time I apologized to her," Rahmani said.

Taylor, 39, was killed last Saturday while on patrol when an Afghan soldier attacked him. Other Afghan fighters quickly killed the assailant, according to NATO.

A friend of Taylor's who serves in the same political circles as the North Ogden Mayor Adam Gardiner said the soldier was "100% for doing what he thought was right, all the time."

Gardiner said many times the two would start talking or texting about politics but would end up talking about their families.

"I know how much those kids and his wife meant to him," he said, calling Taylor's death "the definition of selfless sacrifice."

The body of the fallen soldier, mayor, husband and father returned to the United States as millions of Americans voted in local, state and national elections. In a Facebook post just days before his death, Taylor pleaded with Americans to vote, stressing that there was "far more as Americans that unites us than divides us."

'Only fitting'

"It seems only fitting that Brent, who in death now represents so much more, something so much greater than any of our own individual lives, has come home to U.S. soil in a flag-draped casket on our Election Day," Jennie Taylor told reporters as she received his body.

Gardiner, who is running for Salt Lake County recorder, choked up

when talking about Jennie's comments.

"How could you do anything but not try and do your best on Election Day? To sit around and mope or not focus is something that would be unrelatable to Brent," he said.

Thousands of miles away in Afghanistan, Rahmani told VOA he hoped the Taliban would see his letter and realize that the "bonds" of "unity" formed between U.S. and Afghan service members "would not be shaken by these kinds of incidents."

Rahmani, who has been wounded twice and has lost several family members during the war, vowed to persevere in the fight for his homeland.

"This country needs people to defend it. You know, if I leave this country, if I quit, who is going to take this responsibility?" he said. "I want to be one." (VoA)

**(9) Kandahar Exports...**

air corridor agreements with a number of countries, something he called a great achievement, but said the process needed to be accelerated.

Bina said Afghanistan's fresh fruits' exports still hugely relied on Pakistan and also complained about lack of protection equipment for fresh fruits. He said they lacked cold storages to keep fresh fruits for a long time.

"If the government builds cold storages, it would help gardeners and traders keep fresh fruits preserved for a long time and offer them to the market when the demand is high", he added.

Horticulturists and traders also say despite drought in Kandahar this year, the pomegranate production is high against expectation.

Haji Niamatullah, a pomegranate gardener in Tabin area of Arghandab district, told Pajhwok that despite lack of water this year, pomegranate produce was high after the trees were protected from pests.

Haji Aminullah, who has leased his pomegranate garden to a trader against two million afghanis, he was happy for the high yield of pomegranate as he earned more this time compared to the past. He said the reason of high pomegranate produce was the fruits' protection from pests this year.

However, Aminullah said the government should help horticulturists and resolve their water scarcity problem by building dams and taking other measures.

Haji Nanai Agha, head of Fresh Fruits' Traders Association in Kandahar, said that on average, 30 to 35 trucks of pomegranates were exported to foreign countries on a daily basis since the fruit ripened.

He said traders faced no problem in exporting fresh fruits this year. Chamber of commerce and industry officials this year met with Pakistani diplomats about the fresh fruits export to that country and problems in this regard had mostly been resolved, he said.

Dozens of trucks loaded with fresh fruits are daily sent to Pakistan and India from Kandahar province, Agha added.

On the other hand, Kandahar agriculture officials also said the pomegranate produce was good in terms of quality and quantity this year in Kandahar.

Sayed Hafizullah Sayedi, provincial agriculture director, said that 150,000 tons of pomegranates were collected from Kandahar gardens this year, compared to 125,000 tons last year.

He said pomegranate gardens were expanded to 8,000 hectares more land in Kandahar in cooperation with local people and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in recent years.

Sayed said currently more than

10,000 horticulturists were engaged in pomegranate farming and harvests in Kandahar.

He said the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock created new pomegranate gardens on 250 acres of land in Kandahar this year. (Pajhwok)

**(10) 7 Police Personnel...**

Mohibullah Mohib said two security forces were killed and two others wounded in the overnight clash.

He said casualties also inflicted on insurgents but he was unaware of the exact figures.

Taliban claimed capturing the check-post and said more than seven policemen were killed in the clash. The militants rejected their fighters' casualties. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Pul-I-Khumri Dam...**

there was a plan to rebuild the dam, but the reconstruction work was delayed until farmers collected their harvests.

He added as farmers had now reaped their crops, the reconstruction work should be launched.

Meanwhile, Haji Mohammad Zahir Ahmadzai, the provincial development councils head, urged the government to take measures for reconstruction of the dam as soon as possible.

He said hundreds of houses and thousands of acres of land around the dam would be inundated if the dam's spillway fully destroyed.

He said the first spillway was destroyed, the water put pressure on the second power dam, which could also become inactive.

He expressed his concern over the dam's condition and said if destroyed, thousands of hectares of land would be also damaged and people deprived of electricity as well.

Sultan Ahmad Azizi, the provincial power department director, also confirmed the issue and said they had shared the issue with ministry officials and received promises about reconstruction of the dam. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Carbon Monoxide...**

Meanwhile, an official of the provincial civil hospital confirmed receiving bodies of four children and a woman from the scene site.

About a year back, a newlywed couple also lost their lives in a similar incident in Paktika province. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Afghan Refugee...**

to see (refugees), because they've been through a lot and some tough times, but now they can be whatever they want."

Wazir beat Soucy 907 votes to 718, according to unofficial election results.

The Concord Monitor reported that the race generated national attention after Wazir defeated incumbent Dick Patten 329 to 143 in the September primary. Patten, who held four terms as a state rep and is a lifelong Concord resident, was critical of Wazir and the refugee and immigrant population saying "a lot has been promised to minorities," and that those communities have been taking all the affordable housing from senior citizens.

Later, Patten said he would support Soucy because he was also a longtime resident of the area.

Wazir's family fled the Taliban when she was young, and she spent several years in a refugee camp in Uzbekistan before moving to Concord in the US, where she learned English and worked at Walmart and Goodwill, worked on the high school yearbook committee, ran track, and helped support her family after her parents became ill and could no longer work.

That story resonated with voters, the Concord Monitor reported. (Tolo news)