

### (1) President Acknowledges...

Ghani hailed the role of women in the defence of the country and added the Daikundi girls made their contributions in every field and served country. He ordered the 215th and 205th military corps to launch military offensives in the instable areas of the province.

The president said 70 kilometres road was being asphalted in the province and order the Public Works minister to accelerate the survey of north-south corridor and allow funds for the construction of airport in Daikundi.

He said women prosecutors would be employed to the province and a special market for women economic activities would be constructed from special development funds of the province.

The president offered ownership documents of unplanned properties to five Daikundi residents and in return they admired the president as founder of safe property in Afghanistan.

Addressing the Provincial Council members the president said the Nelli City would be reshaped through proper plan and almond of the province would be considered top agriculture priority. In addition the transfer of Daikundi agriculture products would be facilitated through road and air.

The president also held meeting with ulema and teachers. He said government's strategies in the area of education and high education were result-oriented.

He said high education faculties should matched the available resources and conditions in the province which could help the promotion of handicraft industry and the almond trade.

Regarding the construction of school buildings the president said that the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Ministry was construction building for schools through citizenship covenant schemes.

He said this year, one technical school was being constructed in every province and next year one technical school would be constructed in every district. (Pajhwok)

### (2) New Move Aims to...

would be good for the development of a secure and cheap trade route with India and the world.

"Any action that can extend our transit and trade in the region and the world is in our interest, but the government must provide opportunities in this sector," said Mohammad Younos Salik an economist.

With the development of an Afghan shipping sector, an increase in the freight transport sector will also take place, he said adding that it would provide a more secure trading environment for Afghanistan and India through Iran.

This comes after the United States recently announced that for the development of Afghanistan's economy it has given a temporary sanctions exemption to Chabahar port. (Tolo news)

### (3) Progress in...

mind, a given," Aejaz, who came to Moscow to represent Pakistan at the talks, said.

Moscow hosted the second round of negotiations on Afghanistan on Friday. The talks involved the Afghan High Peace Council and, for the first time, the political office of the Taliban in Doha. Representatives from China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the United States have also been invited to join the meeting. (Sputnik)

### (4) Afghanistan's...

entitlement" when it came to changing his ways.

SIGAR claims Hamidi resisted these changes because of "a concern that more transparency will shine a light on his unproductive, corrupt, and patronage-laden office," Stars and Stripes reported Friday.

"The Afghans were not enthusiastic about going after corruption, ever," said Craig Trebilcock, formerly a US Army Reserve colonel in 2016 and director of rule of law in Afghanistan. "They were enthusiastic about NATO not pulling the money from them due to the high level of corruption."

The US mission in Afghanistan aren't the only ones fed up with Hamidi's

ways. UN officials and NATO's Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan both raise similar concerns about the decline of the Justice Center's performance, putting pressure on the body to perform better, but to little avail.

"Having utterly collapsed themselves in the face of concerted resistance by the kleptocratic network, having abandoned the few brave officials who took their anti-corruption rhetoric seriously, for interveners now to blame the attorney general for functioning the only way he really can within that intact kleptocratic system is a bit rich," Sarah Chayes, who lived in Kandahar for seven years and researched corruption as a senior fellow in Carnegie's Democracy and Rule of Law program, told Stars and Stripes.

The genesis of the ACJC came in 2015, when Resolute Support, the NATO-led mission to train and advise Afghan self-defense and police forces and oversee Kabul's nation-building efforts, realized the Afghan justice system needed streamlining to eliminate bureaucracy and gamesmanship hindering reform. The ACJC created a specialized jurisdiction for prosecuting high-level corrupt actors, building on the already-existing Afghan Counter Narcotics Justice Center (CNJC), a September 2017 report in Prism explains. The new ACJC would retain CNJC's practices of appointing independent prosecutors and judges that were insulated from bribery, intimidation and murder.

CNJC enjoyed an extremely high conviction rate of 95 percent, routinely handing out 20-year jail sentences to drug dealers. As such, officials had high hopes for the ACJC, too. However, earlier this year, SIGAR began raising concerns about Afghanistan's flagging anti-corruption campaign. A May 2018 SIGAR reported to the United States House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs warned that "key anti-corruption institutions such as the Anti Corruption Justice Center (ACJC) and Major Crimes Task Force (MCTF) lack the capacity, resources, or security they need to perform their functions." This, the report noted, was a major inhibition to the government's ability to continue combating corruption.

"The Center was portrayed and emphasized as one of the good things in Afghanistan," Vanda Felbab-Brown of the Brookings Institution told Stars and Stripes. "[The report] is pretty devastating for the government, or anyone who wants to argue that there has been important progress and we shouldn't give up on Afghanistan." (Sputnik)

### (5) Govt Upbeat About...

will meet with Afghan government officials and other interested parties to advance the goal of an intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations that include the Taliban and lead to sustainable peace.

The High Peace Council (HPC) meanwhile on Saturday gave an update on its move to establish a negotiations team as requested by Khalilzad during his trip to Kabul last month.

"Discussions will be made and a suitable delegation and negotiators will be selected," said Abdul Rahim Bek, a senior member of the council.

Some MPs said they don't see any positive impact of meetings on peace as the war continues unabated.

"Taliban's pre-conditions are accepted and meetings are held trilaterally," said Daud Kalakani, an MP.

"No positive changes have been seen so far. The Taliban has continued their war and has reiterated their call for the withdrawal of foreign forces. I don't think that the peace talks will yield any results until they bring a change in their call for the withdrawal of foreign forces and agree to a ceasefire," said Abdulhai Akhundzada, an MP.

On Saturday the foreign ministry of Pakistan said the recent release of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar was at the request of Khalilzad.

"His release was facilitated by Pakistan at the US' request in order to move forward on this shared objective of pursuing a political settlement in Afghanistan. This decision was taken following the visit of US Special Envoy for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay

Khalilzad," said Mohammad Faisal, spokesman for Foreign Affairs Ministry of Pakistan.

Sources confirmed last month that Baradar, the co-founder of Taliban movement, had been released from a Pakistan prison after the intervention of Khalilzad.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, also known as Mullah Baradar Akhund or Mullah Brother, is a co-founder of the Taliban movement in Afghanistan and was the deputy of Mullah Mohammed Omar, the founding leader of the Taliban, whose death was confirmed in October 2016.

Baradar was captured in Pakistan by a team of Pakistan's intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and US's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officers in February 2010. (Tolo news)

### (6) Parliament...

Some other MPs meanwhile said when signs of puberty are seen in a child, then he is no longer a child and childhood has nothing to do with age.

"Any human being under 18 is considered a child, unless, under the children's law, the child has grown up sooner," Qazi Nazir Hanafi head of Parliament's Legislative Affairs Commission said.

Parliament speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim asked MPs to vote on the two different views on the definition of the age of children. Footage shows most MPs supported the first view. Parliament's administrative board however instead of counting votes, at the request of a number of MPs, left their seats and the law remained unapproved.

"We failed to make a decision about today's agenda," said Ibrahim.

A number of MPs in reaction to the administrative board's move accused the board and parliament speaker of betrayal over not counting the votes. The MPs said the board members based on their personal demands failed to allow the law to be approved.

"This is the fourth time that the Law on Children's Rights has fallen victim to conservatism and betrayal by the speaker," MP Massouda Karokhil said. Parliament's administrative board refused to comment in this regard.

A number of MPs said a government and international aid organization programs for children are waiting for this law to be approved. (Tolo news)

### (7) Taliban Seek...

He said the peace process and blacklisting were two conflicting things and could not go together. He said the Taliban representatives should be removed from the UN and US blacklist in order they could attend peace related talks anywhere. He said it was not fair when one side was restricted and the other given full freedom.

He said the US and its backed government in Kabul had imprisoned thousands of innocent Afghans and Taliban in overt and covert detention centers, which he called an anti-peace act and demanded their release.

He said the Taliban needed an office in Afghanistan to issue peace related statements and formally answer to people's questions, remove the concerns of the masses and the international community.

Demanding an end to what he said poisonous propaganda against the Taliban, Stanikzai said the withdrawal of foreign forces would pave the peace for peace in Afghanistan.

He said the peace process needed an international guarantee to be fully implemented. He said the United Nations, world powers, the OIC and other facilitating countries should provide guarantee for implementation of such an arrangement.

Stanikzai said the Afghanistan's current Constitution was not 'reliable' as it was copied from the West and imposed on the Afghans. He said the Taliban wanted a Constitution to be based on Islamic principles and which protected national interests, historic prides, social justice, national values and human rights.

He said another reason behind the continuation of the war in Afghanistan was choosing the path of war instead of peace by the US.

About women's rights, he said the Taliban considered women as builders of

a Muslim society and they were committed to women's rights as enshrined in Islam.

He said Islam gave women all basic rights from doing business to inheriting property, getting education, work, peace, healthcare and good life. (Pajhwok)

### (8) MPs Welcome...

However, Lawmaker Arian Youn from Nangarhar province hoped such meetings would establish peace in Afghanistan.

She urged the Afghan government and the international community to take practical steps for ensuring peace and supporting certain moots. Wolessi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the Taliban had intensified their attacks in some provinces in order to have leverage in peace talks, saying: "the Afghans support and welcome any peace meeting in each country." He also stressed the need for the Afghan government leadership in such summits. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Indian Ex-Envoys...

High Commissioner to Pakistan T.C.A. Raghavan. They will return to New Delhi on Saturday and are expected to brief the MEA on the developments at the conference hosted by Russia.

In his opening remarks at the conference, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia and the countries of the region will continue to do everything possible to launch dialogue between Afghan government and the Taliban, which is banned in Russia.

"We are determined to make every possible effort to facilitate the opening of a new page in the history of Afghanistan," he was quoted as saying by the state-run Tass news agency.

The US embassy in Moscow has also sent a diplomat to observe Friday's discussions at the meeting.

Indian government sources had told this newspaper earlier that New Delhi's non-official participation at the conference was linked to Afghanistan presence at a non-official level. India has also not been able to ignore the conference since it has had a decades-long time-tested friendship with host Russia.

Asked why India sent representatives to the meeting when the Taliban was participating in it, MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in New Delhi that India will be a part of any peace process which is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled.

"We will participate in any process which is consistent with the policy we have for Afghanistan... It was decided by the government that our participation will be at non-official level," he said.

To a question on participation of Taliban in the meeting, he said, "Where did we say that there will be talks with Taliban? We did not say that." Initially, the meeting was proposed for September 4 but it was called off after the Afghan government pulled out of it. India had also declined an invitation to the meeting then.

The MEA had earlier said, "India supports all efforts at peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan that will preserve unity and plurality, and bring security, stability and prosperity to the country."

Nevertheless, New Delhi is worried since Russia is seen to have suddenly gone soft on the Afghan Taliban and its main backer Pakistan. The Taliban has carried out several terrorist attacks in Afghanistan in recent times and had even captured power in Afghanistan with Pakistani support from 1996 to 2001 when it was driven out of Kabul by the US following the 9/11 attacks. (Agencies)

### (10) Three Policemen...

come down from the valley and ambushed a police Ranger and after the shooting fled back through the valley," said Zia an eyewitness.

"This is the weakness of the local officials who cannot take responsibility for the security of Faizabad; they must be held responsible and arrest

the attackers," said Jawed Majidi Badakhshan provincial council member.

Local residents also raised their concerns over Taliban activity in Faizabad city.

"We do not sleep at night, every night there is an attack and shooting. If the Taliban can attack Faizabad city then soon they can take control of the districts," said Hanan a resident.

The attack came in the absence of top leadership in the province. The governor has reportedly been in Takhar for days, while the deputy governor is in China. The province has no police chief after the most recent one was dismissed.

Taliban confirms the attack on Faizabad. (Tolo news)

### (11) 'Russia Meeting...

of initiating direct talks.

As per the agreement between Afghanistan and Russia and that the Taliban would not be allowed to make instrumental use of the summit in their interest. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Samangan...

and MTN 900,000 afghanis in electricity bills, he added.

Rasikh said a number of other government departments in Samangan also defaulted on power bills amounting to around 500,000 afghanis each.

The DABS has several times sent written requests to the mentioned offices to pay their bills but none so far cleared their arrears, he said, adding awaiting bills to be paid had faced the power utility with trouble in supplying electricity to consumers.

Basharullah Faizi, financial and administrative in-charge in the municipality of Aibak, capital of Samangan, agreed their office owed 2.3 million afghanis and said had not paid bills since 2014.

However, he said the municipality had allocated two million afghanis for payment of the electricity bills this fiscal year.

Faizi said the municipality this year paid its electricity bills worth 500,000 afghanis and would pay the remaining bills until December.

Meanwhile, Qari Massoud, financial and administrative in charge of Samangan Civil Hospital, said they would also clear their dues this year. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Firewood, Gold...

of one liter of petrol cost 57afis and the same amount of diesel 55afis, the same rates of last week's.

Ahmad Javid, a liquefied gas seller in Taimani area of Kabul, said the price of one kilogram of the commodity stood at 65afis.

In food items, the price of only ghee has slightly increased.

Food Traders Union head in Kabul, Fazal Rahman, said that the price of a tin of 16 liter of Khurshid ghee increased from 1,020afis to 1,050afis.

However, he said 49 kilograms of Pakistani sugar cost 1,740afis, 50 kilograms of Kazakhstani flour 1,340afis and 24-kg of Pakistani rice 2,020afis, the same prices of last week's.

Noor Ahmad Khairkha, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afis and the same amount of African black tea 300afis -- same prices as last week's.

Ahmad Wali Panjsheri, who owns a grocery store in Dahn-i-Bagh area of Kabul, sold a 50-kg sack of Kazakhstani flour for 1,400afis, a 49-kg bag of sugar for 1,800afis, 24-kg of Pakistani rice 2,400afis a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,150afis, one-kg of Indonesian green tea for 300afis and the same amount of black African tea for 350afis -- higher than wholesale rates. Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweler in Timor Shahi area of Kabul, said the price of one gram of Russian gold was increased from 1,900afis to 1,950afis while the same quantity of Arabian variety stood at 2,450afis.

According to Haji Mir Hussain Sadaqat, owner of Sadaqat Money Exchange Services in Kabul, one US dollar accounted for 75.65afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees 566afis against last week's 75.27afis and 572afis. (Pajhwok)