

(1) Tens of

thousands more that are still protesting in the vicinity of the palace.

In the run up to the shooting incident, a number of demonstrators could be seen throwing stones - which was in marked contrast to an otherwise peaceful event.

Issuing a declaration, demonstrators called on government as well as the United Nations to ensure justice is served against those behind the beheading of the Zabul incident and that they ensure the safety of every Afghan.

Shortly after reading out their demands, a group of representatives from the organizers of the protest entered the Presidential Palace where they reportedly met with government officials over their demands.

Sources from inside the palace have meanwhile assured the demonstrators that President Ashraf Ghani will address them shortly.

The declaration included the following demands:

1. Launching proper clearance operations in order to arrest the abductors and killers of the Zabul passengers and to ensure punishing is meted out in accordance with the law.

2. Establish an active and equipped unit within the Afghan National Army to ensure security in areas where Hazara people live and to establish four units in four zones including Bamiyan, Daikundi, Jaghori in Ghazni and in the greater Ghazni province.

3. The formation of an independent administrative office for Jaghori and Ghazni province.

4. Increase the number of police force members in all insecure areas where Taliban militants are active.

5. In order to respect the martyrs of Zabul, a hill should be named after them and the seven beheaded hostages should be laid to rest there.

Demonstrators said that they want justice for all Afghans killed by militants - whether in Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Helmand or Kunduz.

They warned they would continue their protest until their demands are fulfilled. A number of analysts said the demonstration was possibly the biggest that Kabul has seen in the past 15 years.

The peaceful demonstrators also stressed the need for unity among all ethnic groups of Afghanistan and urged the government to bring the perpetrators to justice. (Daily Outlook/Tolnews)

(2) Ghani Addresses

investigation unit has however been established to find those responsible for the kidnapping and beheading of the Zabul Seven.

However, he said this latest incident was a bid on the part of the enemy to divide the nation.

He said: "The enemy is trying to damage our unity," adding that the nation's pain was a shared pain by all - himself included.

Ghani went on to say that government will show no mercy against the enemy and that it is committed to getting revenge for the latest atrocity. The president's address comes on the heels of a day long protest by tens of thousands of demonstrators who took to the streets of Kabul early Wednesday morning in protest over the beheading of the Zabul Seven.

By early afternoon numbers swelled to over 20,000 people, who were well controlled by marshals. However, by late afternoon, some demonstrators tried to breach the gates of the Presidential Palace but were forced back by security forces who fired off warning shots. (Tolnews)

(3) Afghanistan

change their laws to guarantee the rights of importers and exporters under WTO rules. Kazakhstan and Liberia also

recently agreed upon their membership terms, meaning the WTO is set to expand from 161 to 164 members. (AP)

(4) Deputy to

The dead bodies returned to Ghazni province but after being there for about 24 hours they have been brought to Kabul.

Thousands of angry protesters carrying the coffins of the seven victims in Kabul shout slogans against Daesh and Taliban who have been held responsible for the atrocity.

Protesters also shout slogans against government and urges President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah to step down for failing to maintain security in the country. (KP)

(5) Terrorists

Central Asia has seen a rise in violent religious extremist groups since the demise of the Soviet Union. Tajikistan's 1992-1997 civil war was fought between government forces and a range of Islamist organizations supported by the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Kyrgyzstan's security sources are keeping track of almost 2,000 extremists in the country, and most are affiliated with the international Hizb ut-Tahrir organization. (Sputnik)

(6) US Official

after Kabul revealed that Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar had died in a Pakistani hospital two years earlier. (AP)

(7) Kabul Protest

everything that they need," he added. "From the United States and coalition if we give something we are giving you lifecycle management. So you get the weapon, the ammunition, the maintenance, the training. Like many countries may say I give you ex but they do not follow up. And I haven't seen anything from Russia lately provided to Afghanistan other than what they did many many years ago when they tore up Afghanistan," Campbell said. (Tolo News)

(8) Pakistan Must

"President Ghani thanked the People's Republic of China for its assistance to Afghanistan in different areas and commended the efforts of China towards development and progress of Afghanistan and ensuring security in the country and region," according to the statement. (Agencies)

(9) Pentagon's

provide any relevant documents. A spokesperson told Quartz the Department of Defense continues "to provide complete and unfettered access to TFBSO documents" for the auditors.

But that answer may not satisfy Congress: Senator Chuck Grassley, the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told Defense officials in a letter yesterday that their refusal "appears to be a violation of the Inspector General Act" and demanded that all TFBSO records be handed over to his office by November 30th. They also added a request for a specific hard drive to be copied and delivered within 48 hours.

"We have received the correspondence from Senator Grassley and will work that directly with office," Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Sowers, a Defense spokesperson, told Quartz.

TFBOS has attracted skepticism almost since it was established during the US occupation of Iraq in 2006. The task force, led by Paul Brinkley, a former Silicon Valley executive turned Defense official, was designed to support economic reconstruction in an effort to complement counter-insurgency efforts, with the hope that jobs and opportunity would be a more attractive alternative to taking up arms

against the US. Attracting serious investment to war-zones proved no easy task.

Reconstruction efforts were hindered by turf and policy disagreements between the task force, the State Department and US AID, along with allegations of mismanagement and inappropriate behavior by the task force's leaders as early as 2007. Dreams of US WalMarts stocking Baghdad-made goods quickly fell apart. By 2010, the task force was operating in Afghanistan as well with remarkable latitude, but ultimately little to show in the way of results. When Congress decided that US AID would take the lead on economic reconstruction next year, Brinkley and his senior staff resigned.

"We do capitalism. We're about helping companies make money," Brinkley told the Washington Post at the time. "That mind-set cannot exist in a humanitarian organization. It's like asking General Motors to make potato chips."

Brinkley stepped down two months before the contract for the \$43 million natural gas station was awarded in August, 2011. But the controversial gas station isn't the end of inquiries into the task force's activities. Auditors are working on a second review of some \$488 million committed by the task force and US AID to bolster Afghanistan's extractive industries, from minerals to natural gas. A first review (pdf) found little planning around the investments or their future, "creating a risk that the data, equipment, and human capital that TFBSO invested in will be squandered."

The Department of Defense declined Quartz's request to interview Joseph Catalino, a former senior task force official who now advises the Secretary of Defense on counter-insurgency, or other former TFBSO officials. (Agencies)

(10) Afghan Refugee

350 Afghans arrived in Sweden.

More than half of the people coming from Afghanistan are unaccompanied minors, DN reports.

According to Michael Winiarski, foreign affairs commentator at DN, most of the Afghan refugees are Shia Muslims coming from Iran. He says that there is no clear reason as to why the figures are growing now.

Afghanistan expert Barnett Rubin tells Swedish Radio that one factor could be that young Afghans in Iran are afraid that they will be recruited by force to fight in Syria on President Bashar al-Assad's side.

"Right now, they're under tremendous pressure to be conscripted into fighting in Syria. And there are quite a few of those Afghans who have been killed in Syria, so they're trying to escape that," Rubin says.

Rubin explains that most of the Afghan refugees are well-educated and young people, so their departure will have bad long-term consequences for their country.

"That's because the international presence created a class of relatively educated and professional people capable of serving as local employees of those international organizations. And as those organizations leave, these people lose their jobs and there's no alternative employment that is available for them," Rubin says. (Agencies)

(11) Zabul

Kabul on Tuesday, where they were carried through the streets of the capital on Wednesday in a demonstration attended by tens of thousands of people protesting against government's perceived lack of attention to security and safety of Afghans across the country. (Tolnews)

(12) 150 Engineering

my skills in how to use sur-

vey instruments. What is even more important, I now feel I understand and can interpret the data I collect. This is crucial for proper management of infrastructure projects. I look forward to applying my knowledge at work."

The courses are part of a joint programme by the German government's Regional Capacity Development pro-gramme (RCD) implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), funded through KfW Development Bank and implemented by Joint Venture Grontmij-GOPA-INTEGRATION, in partnership with Afghan ministries and provincial institutions. (KP)

(13) MSF Rejects

inside the compound.

The Pentagon said shortly after the attack that they intended to pay for the repairs and to make "condolence payments" to the families of civilians killed. The Pentagon also promised to pay for additional repairs after smashing the hospital with an armored vehicle. (Agencies)

(14) Finland
Finland recently stopped processing asylum claims from Afghans out of security concerns, but has narrowed asylum criteria for Iraqis and Somalis based on its assessment that the security situation has improved in both countries. (Reuters)

(15) Taliban

ing to media reports more than 100 people from both sides had been killed in the clash between supporters and opponents of Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor which lasted for four days in parts of Zabul province.

Normalcy has returned to Zabul and those supported Dadullah in the rebellion have surrendered, the statement further said.

Mansoor Dadullah who is closed to Taliban former leader Mullah Mohammad Omar's family and refused to made allegiance to Taliban new leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor, has yet to make comment. (Xinhua)

(16) As River

foreign aid and security assistance.

"People's expectations [during the 2014 vote] were high that they would be rich, and have a good economy, but they don't have it," says Najib Ahmadzai, a former election official who works for the president's office. "Thousands of people are leaving the country because of unemployment," he says. "Everything depends on security." (Agencies)

(17) Afghan War

of 2014, he'd been accused of intimidating a police officer and was released on bail. But on the night of July 31 that year, the empty home Fitzgerald owned with his ex-wife burned to the ground.

The Ontario Provincial Police claimed he was present and therefore in breach of his bail conditions, but did not accuse him of arson. They arrived at his parents' home early in the morning after the fire to arrest him.

His father said the family was awakened by a telephone call saying that the police were outside. After going out to see what was happening, Bryan Fitzgerald was approached by two police officers with drawn weapons.

He said Collin was behind him near the house, but at no point did he obstruct police before or after the arrest. He insists the only thing he asked was why Collin was being charged.

It wasn't until he went to the police station that one of the officers accused him of obstruction, but couldn't explain the basis of the accusation. Without his parents as a

surety, Collin Fitzgerald was forced to move out of the area until the breach of bail charge was dealt with.

The Crown is apparently in possession of cellphone tower records and witness statements that show the former soldier, who received the Military Medal of Valour in the Afghan war, was nowhere near the fire on the night in question. (Agencies)

(18) Turkey Calls

that the area would be cleared of both the Islamic State and Syrian Kurdish fighters, whom Ankara accuses of being a Syrian offshoot of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which has waged a bloody war for self-rule in Turkey's southeast. It remains unclear how the zone would be set up, although Turkish press reports have not ruled out a ground operation by Turkish troops. (Agencies)

(19) Assad's

began airstrikes in Syria six weeks ago after insurgents edged closer to government-held areas vital to Assad. It has also stepped up its diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced millions.

Hadi al-Bahra, a member of the coalition's political committee, said the main problem was Assad and any political process needed to tackle this with assurances and guarantees.

He also dismissed the idea of holding elections under the current system. "How can the elections be fair when the citizens inside Syria are afraid of retaliation from the security services of the regime?" he said.

The United States, its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council and Turkey, who have backed the uprising against Assad, have also all said he must leave power for there to be peace. (Reuters)

(20) France

US when Washington banned trade with Tehran in 2011.

BNP Paribas had to pay a record \$8.9 billion in fine in 2014 for facilitating transactions in Iran, Sudan and Cuba. (PressTV)

(21) Russia to

the situation remained unchanged, the government would stick to a regular plan. Noting that the anti-recession plan for 2016 includes measures to stabilize economic and social development, he said that there are already 60 paragraphs but it could be changed depending on the situation. (Xinhua)

(22) Moon Calls

the continuous obstructions at border points under any pretext has severely impeded the exercise of rights and freedom that Nepal is entitled under the international law as a land-locked country," the minister had said. As tens of thousands of victims of the devastating earthquake are awaiting rehabilitation in Nepal on the eve of the winter season, the UN Secretary General has said that acute shortages in fuel supplies has continued to impede planned deliveries to earthquake-affected villages. (Xinhua)

(23) OSCE/ODIHR

Islamist political organizations were tortured in Tajikistan. The United States' own reporting prior to their transfer to Tajikistan demonstrates that the US government was aware that torture was used during interrogations and that Islamist extremists were tortured in police custody. Based on these factors, ODIHR believes that the United States knew or ought to have known that substantial grounds existed for believing that the three detainees, who it accused of being members of an extremist Islamist terrorist group, would likely be subjected to torture or ill-treatment if returned to Tajikistan. (Asia-Plus)

Agreement with IMF Monitoring will Help Iraq to Overcome Financial Crisis

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Finance Minister HoshiyarZebari said that the agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) to monitor Baghdad economic policies will help Iraq to overcome the financial crisis by improving the performance of the country's monetary institutions, Iraqi official television reported on Wednesday. "The agreement with IMF is to improve the fiscal and monetary performance in order to stabilize the monetary situation in Iraq. This is a positive program which will help Iraq to overcome the (financial) crisis," the state-run Iraqiya channel quoted Zebari as saying.

Zebari's comment came after his ministry agreed with IMF on a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday evening in Amman, the capital of neighboring Jordan, which allows IMF to monitor the Iraqi economic policies in accordance with Staff-Monitored Program (SMP) for the remaining period of 2015 and 2016. A statement issued by the Finance Ministry statement after the agreement said "the program aims to assist Iraq in reforming its foreign exchange policy, financial management and banking supervision."

"The procedures that have been agreed upon aimed at implementing standards to maintain the stability of the financial sector," the statement said, adding that the agreement is an important step that would "strengthen Iraq's international status in the global financial markets" and paves the way for Iraq to obtain loans from international financial institutions and states. The agreement with IMF came after 10 days of talks between the two sides, and Iraq was represented by experts from finance, oil and planning ministries in addition to the governor of the Central Bank of Iraq, it added.

On Oct. 18, the Iraqi cabinet approved the budget proposal for 2016 with total expenditure of 106 trillion Iraqi Dinar (about 87 billion U.S. dollars), with deficit of 23 trillion Iraqi Dinar (18.852 billion U.S. dollars). (Xinhua)

Germany Seeks Clarity on whether Spy Agency Snoopd on own Diplomat

BERLIN - Germany's BND foreign intelligence service spied on a German diplomat, possibly violating the constitution, and on allies including French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, a German radio station reported on Wednesday.

Officials firmly declined to comment on the report, but the parliamentary committee that oversees intelligence agencies was due to meet later in the day with the issue to be discussed.

The report by the Berlin-based rbbInforadio was the latest twist in a growing scandal over the activities of Germany's BND stemming from revelations in 2013 by U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden.

Without identifying its sources, rbb said the BND had monitored German Hansjoerg Haber, from 2008-2011 head of the EU's observer mission in Georgia and then a senior diplomat in Brussels. He is now head of the EU's mission in Turkey and married to a state secretary in the Interior Ministry. The BND declined to comment.

A government spokeswoman, quizzed for about 20 minutes at a regular news conference, declined to comment on the report directly and said the oversight body worked "without discussing everything in public".

German citizens are protected by the country's constitution and not allowed to be spied on. Privacy is a sensitive issue in Germany due to extensive surveillance by Communist East Germany's Stasi secret police and by the Nazi era Gestapo.

Other BND targets have included France's Laurent Fabius and individuals at the International Criminal Court in the Hague, the World Health Organisation, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and firms in the United States, rbb - which stands for Radio Berlin-Brandenburg - reported. (Reuters)