

### (1) Govt. will not ...

Forum in Kabul which was also attended by some high level government officials including Afghanistan's Attorney General Farid Hamidi and acting minister of interior Wais Ahmad Barmak.

Hamidi said that the security institutions should come up with the necessary security measures to ensure the protection of attorneys so that justice is implemented in the country.

"AGO requires relevant security Institutions to reinforce the attorneys protection to ensure justice across the country," said Hamidi.

At the forum, Barmak also pledged to work with the AGO to implement reforms in the ministry of interior.

In addition Ghani said that maintaining justice in Afghanistan will also help boost efforts for sustainable peace but called the ongoing war in Afghanistan an imposed war.

"We are facing an imposed war and need to defend ourselves. Next year we will be in an offensive mode and our security forces are fully ready for it," said Ghani.

Ghani also pledged to tackle the problem of illegal armed groups unless they lay down their arms.

In addition, he promised to increase funding to the Afghan legal and judicial system so that these institutions can leverage their legal performance in appropriate ways.

Ghani concluded that his government was firmly committed to fighting corruption. (Tolonews)

### (2) AAF to Receive 58 ...

to a statement by the alliance, the Ministers also agreed on the importance of funding for the Afghan security forces, and welcomed Afghanistan's intention to make further progress on reforms and reconciliation.

The NATO Secretary General ahead of the meeting had said the alliance will also review progress and discuss what more need to be done to enhance Afghan combat capabilities as he insisted that the alliance will stand united with the conditions-based approach. (KP)

### (3) No Preparations ...

He said the government had no will for holding transparent and fair elections and was instead trying to blame the election commissions for its failures in the area.

"Problems and weakness exist in the election commissions but those who want to fail these bodies have dangerous and big plans", he claimed, warning against attempts at delaying the elections.

"The scenario leading to the sacking of election commissioners was first explained by figures close to the president and the CEO, they even chosen their specific team for election commissions in advance," he said.

Ayubzada said it would be better if officials focused on reforms in election commissions and on holding the elections on schedule instead of sacking commissioners.

"If the election commissions are not reformed properly, the international community would not support Afghanistan election process," he said.

Mohammad Alam Ezdyar, first deputy chairman of Meshrano Jirga or upper house of the parliament, also said that the Independent Election Commission (IEC) chief had told him that some figures inside and out of the commission was hatching conspiracies against him.

He said such conspiracies would face the IEC with crisis and such moves should be prevented.

Insecurity, lack of budget, lack of political will for holding upcoming elections, low capacity of election commissions, lack of a clear program for polls, lack of transparency in spending budget and absence of cooperation between the two election bodies were problems the TEEFA pointed out.

However, Imam Mohammad Warimach, IEC secretary, said a committee had been created to assess the commission plans and provide suggestions for resolving all problems in the area.

He said serious efforts were underway for holding upcoming elections but lack of budget and government support delayed some tasks. However, he said the commission had a strong will for elections.

He rejected rumors about his and the IEC chief's resignations and said such statements came from those who did not believe in elections.

Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan, Hezb-i-Harakat Islami and TEEFA have shared their proposed draft plans with the IEC for holding the upcoming elections. (Pajhwok)

### (4) State of Prisons in ...

rights of the inmates were "seriously violated."

The study was conducted in the presence of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) officials, Afghanistan Justice Organization (AJO) and Afghanistan Independent Bar Association

(AIBA) members.

The report finds that crumbling of a building and fire in the prisons is a possibility besides poor healthcare services, lack of clean drinking water and food for the prisoners. The shortage of power and air was also observed in the three prisons.

Speaking to the media in Kabul, Sayed Ikram Afzali, Executive Director of Integrity Watch Afghanistan, said: "Corruption and embezzlement are the key factors behind the poor condition of the prisons facilities and its mismanagement."

He said there was a high risk of corruption in construction of prison facilities and 1030 items and portions of the building in the prison had not been installed or constructed despite being explicit in the contracts. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Taliban Key ...

"There is necessarily going to have to be an Afghan to Afghan conversation. President Trump was very clear that we're not there to micromanage how Afghans decide among themselves to live and to regulate their political life. This has been a remarkably open approach and by successive administrations including the Trump administration."

"The impediments are foremost the unwillingness today of the Taliban to enter into negotiations with the government of Afghanistan whether privately or publicly," she said

Tillerson, she said, has been quite explicit that there is a role and a place at the table for moderate Taliban. "And we look for them to join this process. The task right now is how do we get the Taliban to the negotiating table," she said.

The United States, she said, will vigorously pursue international and regional efforts to build broad support among the region to increase pressure on the Taliban to come to the negotiating table.

"Pakistan of course is a central part of our strategy," she said. (Pajhwok)

### (6) US Working with ...

As such the US is engaging with the Pakistanis, he added.

"We're engaging a whole of government effort. We've got international efforts going on. And one of the reasons we brought it up here was to make certain we were all aligned about where we stood on this," the US defence secretary told reporters at the Nato headquarters in Brussels.

Referring to the discussions he had with other Nato member countries Mattis said, "It was remarkable alignment about us all working together to get Pakistan to do everything it can to cut the insurgents off, the terrorists off. (Agencies)

### (7) US Troops ...

US military officers, who spoke to Foreign Policy, said the approach of embedding American forces with Afghan units in the field is modelled on the US-led air war in Iraq and Syria, where American commandos dialed in heavy firepower while local Iraqi and Kurdish forces fought the Daesh on the ground.

While US special operations troops will continue to participate in this mission in Afghanistan, newly arrived American soldiers will also spread out with small Afghan units in the field, the magazine reported. (Tolonews)

### (8) Karzai Holds ...

grand council of the elders to discuss the critical issues of the country.

Karzai has stepped up efforts to convene the Loya Jirga specifically after the US President announced the new strategy for South Asia and Afghanistan.

He had earlier said that the new US strategy is against the interests of the region and the country.

President Trump announced the new US strategy late in August and said the consequences of a rapid exit are both predictable and unacceptable.

Trump further added "9/11, the worst terrorist attack in our history, was planned and directed from Afghanistan because that country was ruled by a government that gave comfort and shelter to terrorists. A hasty withdrawal would create a vacuum that terrorists, including ISIS and al Qaeda, would instantly fill, just as happened before September 11th."

He also added "I concluded that the security threats we face in Afghanistan and the broader region are immense. Today, 20 U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations are active in Afghanistan and Pakistan - the highest concentration in any region anywhere in the world." (KP)

### (9) Bahrami Reports...

He did not however give any further information in this regard.

But he said pressure has been ramped up against Pakistan to work with Afghanistan and not against it.

"If Pakistan takes one step towards us, we will take two steps," he said.

This comes after the NATO chief said last week that 27 nations have committed to in-

creasing troop numbers in the structure of the Resolute Support Mission in the coming months and the new commitment will increase the number of troops from 13,000 to 16,000.

The NATO chief also hailed the growing war capabilities of the Afghan Security and Defense Forces (ANDSF) and said that the conventional Afghan security forces have prevented the Taliban from taking provincial capitals this fighting season.

"In addition NATO allies and partners will continue to provide \$1 billion USD a year to the defense and security forces (of Afghanistan) until at least 2020," he added. In a question about reforms in Afghanistan in the election system and democratic institutions, Stoltenberg said that NATO has sent a clear message to the Afghan government about reforms.

He said NATO remains committed to supporting forces to develop capabilities, strengthen command and control, and to prepare the next generation of military leaders.

On the issue of ongoing security threats, he said that the situation remains challenging, but progress is being made. (Tolonews)

### (10) Most Area of...

facing huge problems.

"People cannot move freely in the city, the government should pay attention to the situation otherwise the district may fall," he believed.

The residents of the district held similar views and said the Unity Government was informed about the critical situation of the province but no positive response was received.

Saadi demanded the government to address the security challenges of Dasht-i-Archi Kunduz. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Corruption...

"It is the right of people to have access to justice and get benefit of all facilities available in the system, particularly services explained in the constitution," he said.

Signs of corruption can be also seen in some parts of the judiciary. Corruption should be totally eliminated and no one should have the ability to escape the law, the CEO said. "If the criminal or those who hasplan to commit a crime are in fear then we are successful, but if a criminal do not feel fear and can escape the law then we are fail (sic)," Abdullah said.

He added that the government should provide timely services to the public and the people should not be obligated to go to the Taliban courts. The influence of powerful figures on the judiciary is also a huge problem.

Attorney General Mohammad Farid Hamidi said that the people in remote areas of the country also needed services similar to the people in urban areas.

"We confess that we have no prosecutors in many districts due to various reasons," he said without going into details.

"The message of this conference is to find a way so we can send our prosecutors to all districts of the country and make our services available in remote areas," he said. Hamidi also asked the participants of the conference to share their problems, views and suggestions so that the Attorney General's Office (AGO) can prepare resources to improve judiciary services in the districts.

He also attributed the lack of proper implementation of justice in remote areas over the past several decades as the reason for the increasing anti-government movements.

He added that the security agencies along with all other government sections should be actively involved for better coordination and protection of prosecutors in districts. Only the police and the Afghan National Army (ANA) cannot win over people's hearts in the remote areas until the law is fully enforced, he said. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Gen. Dostum ...

Sources privy of the development have said the seven security guards of Gen. Dostum were found guilty of the involvement in the torture and abuse of Ishchi by the primary court of the police district of the city.

According to the sources, each of the accused guard has been awarded a jail term of five years for their involvement in the incident. (KP)

### (13) Kunduz IDPs ...

from insurgents.

Chahardarah residents said no government institutions are operating in their areas and that the Afghan Air Force (AAF) and their foreign counterparts frequently fly over and conduct air strikes which makes it difficult for them to return home. Ghulam Mohammad 47 is one affected resident from Chahardarah. He fled the area along with his family months ago, but they have not been able to return home as they fear ongoing airstrikes will put their lives in danger.

Recently a foreign forces air strike in the same district killed at least ten civilians.

"Nothing is left for us, now we have sought

refuge here in Kunduz city and live in a rented house," Mohammad said.

"We have been left here helpless and we do not even have food to eat," said Zarmina, another resident of Chahardarah. (Tolonews)

### (14) US to Provide ...

months and also in late 2015 during the fall of Kunduz city.

However, the defense ministry has until now failed to disclose the number of vehicles stolen.

As winter fast approaches, which usually means less fighting on the part of the Taliban, security forces are still seriously concerned about the rise in insecurity.

"Changes in the war strategy and reviewing of the security and defense strategies is one of the priorities that should be considered," Mohammad Alam Ezadyar, first deputy speaker of the senate said.

The interior ministry's senior deputy minister General Murad Ali Murad meanwhile told the senate they have plans to prevent insurgent attacks in winter, but said police forces are not as well equipped as they should be.

"You know that 135,000 police force members still use Kalashnikovs and this has created serious problems for the police," said Murad.

According to the defense ministry, in August they were fighting insurgents in over 122 districts - but as the weather deteriorates, the battles have dropped and fighting is currently underway in 88 districts. (Tolonews)

### (15) MoD Rejects ...

saying that the ongoing conflict in the country has links with the ethnic violence. However, the party in a statement said the remarks of Hekmatyar have been amended and wrongly reported by the media outlets.

The statement further added that Hekmatyar in his speech at the central council meeting of the party had pointed out towards the conflict in Ghor province and had stated that the war in the province is between the two ethnic groups.

Hekmatyar had also added that the more than two thousand families were forced to flee the area in Teyora district belonging to a specific ethnic group led by a local elder loyal to Hezb-e-Islami, according to Hezb-e-Islami statement.

The leader of Hezb-e-Islami had also claimed that the opposite side belongs to another party and was misusing the government facilities. (KP)

### (16) US Approves ...

of 3,500 visas in the final bill, saying she hopes this is the "first of many" investments in the visa program, reported The Hill.

"Afghan civilian interpreters risk their safety and the welfare of their families to aid US forces," Shaheen said in a statement. "Their service to our nation and mission in Afghanistan has saved American lives on and off the battlefield. I'm glad to see support from Congress for my effort to authorize additional visas so we can ensure the protection of our courageous interpreters and support staff."

The visa program for Afghans started in 2009 with 1,500 annually through 2013. More visas were easily approved in 2014, but another increase became more of a fight in 2016 as anti-immigration sentiment grew. (Tolonews)

### (17) 4,256 Refugee ...

11856 individuals returned to the country from Pakistan via the Chaman-Spin Boldak border crossing.

He said the returning families belonged to various provinces and they went to their home areas after receiving the UNHRC cash assistance.

Last year, a total of 7933 families returned from Pakistan and they had received \$14.7 from the UNHRC.

Nawabi said 1178 Afghans had been arrested in Pakistan for lacking legal stay documents and after competing their jail terms, they were handed over to the Afghan authorities this year.

After their handover, the former detainees were given food and non-food items by the International Organization of Migration and were reunited with their families.

While last year, the number of Afghans detained in Pakistan was 9821 who were handed over to the local authorities via the border crossing.

Nawabi said the IOM was assisting Afghans who were unable to get registered in Pakistan as refugees.

The IOM has so far assisted thousands of such families during the past few years. As compared to the UNHCR and IOM, the Afghan government did little to assist them, he said, as he referred to the unfinished affairs of a refugee township.

He said during the past 15 years, not a single refugee family had been allotted plot in the residential scheme in Kandahar City, the provincial capital.

He said another refugee township was be-

ing built in Panjwai district on 600 acres of land. (Pajhwok)

### (18) 20 ANA Soldiers ...

instructors at the RS headquarters in Herat where they learned how to counter insurgent attacks in residential areas and how to track insurgents through mountainous areas.

"RS forces in addition to training Afghan security forces also provide us air support. Recently we carried out two air operations in coordination with the RS in Farah and achieved good results," said General Nasir Hedayat, commander of 207th Zafar Military Corps.

The graduates said following the intense training sessions they are now ready to fight insurgents in any situation.

"We received good training and now we are ready for any type of operation in any part of the country," Burhanuddin, a soldier said.

"We are ready to participate in any type of operation and are ready to defend the country against the insurgents until our last drop of blood," Haroon, another soldier said. (Tolonews)

### (19) Afghan Women...

unacceptable for women in most of Afghanistan to ride a bike, go for a run and, in some cases, pursue an education.

"When I saw boys, they were free, they can run, they can go everywhere and I [wanted] that too," said runner Raihanna. The 21-year-old grew up in a village in the mountains of Afghanistan's central Daidkundi province, the daughter of a sheep herder.

From a young age, she pushed her parents for the same rights as her brothers.

"They said this is our culture, a girl should be in the house and they should wash the dishes, they should [raise] children," she said. "My father was angry with me and said, 'You should have a long skirt' and, 'You shouldn't wear short clothes, you should be a wife.' But I didn't accept that because I want to be free."

Raihanna convinced her parents to allow her to move to Kabul and study at the university, where she cut her hair short, wore what she liked, and discovered another passion.

'Free to run'

It is dawn in Kabul and an unmarked bus has pulled up to Raihanna's home. She piles in with the other girls, all dressed for a morning jog. They're ferried to a safe place where they jump out and hit the road running.

These regular runs wouldn't be possible without a non-profit called Free to Run, started by corporate attorney turned human rights lawyer, Stephanie Case. "When I took a job in Kabul I was told I'd have to give up running," Case says.

She was training for an ultra-marathon at the time - confined to a secure compound with a half-mile stretch of road as her only training ground - raising money for victims of domestic violence in Afghanistan.

"Getting to know the women, I realized ... women didn't care about the money I was raising, they wanted to run," she recalls. "They wanted to do all the things that I just assumed was a Western concept - sports, running."

In three years, the group has expanded from a handful of women and girls to more than 100 today, and operates in three provinces, relying almost solely on donations from the running community outside of Afghanistan.

"You can see the transformation even from the first run or the first hike," Case says. "We see them get a lot more confidence, become a lot more outgoing and make plans for the future."

Defiance

"When I run, I feel strong," Raihanna says, running her first marathon at an altitude of 8,500 feet in Bamyan. The province is among the safest in the country, with a majority Shiite population and the country's first female governor.

Still, traditional ideas about women and their role in society remain. At the first marathon, some onlookers threw stones at female runners. At the second, a man on a motorcycle tried to run a woman off the road.

The marathon route was once overlooked by the ancient Buddhas of Bamyan, 150-foot statues carved into a cliff, but they were dynamited and destroyed by the Taliban in 2001.

"The Taliban say the woman can't go outside, the woman should be in the house, the woman should wash the dishes," explains Raihanna, saying some of the militants would kill her for daring to defy those customs.

This is hard for me, that I should go outside and run ... but I want to do it."She runs in a headscarf, sunglasses, and hat pulled down low, and stays close to other women and girls for safety in numbers. This year, 12 women and girls left the marathon starting line. All 12 finished, and not a single rock was thrown. (Monitoring Desk)