

(1) Unmoved by ...

against the transport minister. As many as 112 MPs voted against and 85 for Hakimi. A minister could be unseated by 118-plus votes. (Pajhwok)

(2) Put on Hold ...

face a similar fate would provide adequate information in writing regarding their ministries' performance to the house soon," the presidential letter said. Attached with the letter to the lawmakers were annual reports on how development budgets for the ongoing solar year were spent by the ministries of finance, transport and education.

The house had earlier summoned Finance Minister Ekilil Hakimi, Transport Minister Mohammadullah Batash and Education Minister Asadullah Hanif Balkhi to brief MPs on their development budget-spending.

The house could dismiss any of the ministers who have failed to convince the lawmakers on development spending this year. (Pajhwok)

(3) Transparent...

The president also stressed distinguishing problems and said fundamental problems should be identified through assessing the capacity of government offices and then finding solutions to them.

He said ministers could not work properly when their ministries lacked clear structures and plans. Authorities and responsibilities should be clearly distinguished.

Ghani said the employment process in ministries was complex, a problem that has been resolved to some extent through Capacity Building For Results Program (CBR) process.

He also talked about problems in projects' implementation and said contractors in the past did not act in accordance with the contracts which changed hands resulting in poor implementation.

The president said the problem was now resolved with the national procurement management.

The national procurement had significantly advanced but problems in a number of budgetary units remained and needed to be resolved, he said.

About revenue, Ghani said the 22 percent increase in current year's national revenue was far from expectation and the country's economy would be developed by four percent next year.

The president also stressed transparent accountability and said the people and the international community demanded clear accountability, an issue the government was responsible for.

He asked lawmakers to press all Cabinet members and share their assessments with him and the CEO. "We need your advises and the nation also expects positive movements from us," he said.

The nation wanted a balanced development, social justice and economic mobility, he said.

CEO Abdullah Abdullah, who was present at the meeting, thanked lawmakers for their close cooperation with the government. He said budget could have been completely spent if the security situation was stable in the country.

He said non-spending of non-discretionary budget and long procurement process were reasons that prevented development budget spending.

Erfanullah Erfan, deputy secretary of Wolesi Jirga, welcomed joint meetings of government leaders with people's representatives and said such meetings had no example in the past.

About the budget, he said, "Reasonable spending of budget is very important for parliament and we want more transparency in this regard, because all people expect so." (Pajhwok)

(4) Demining ...

budget. Such programs rely on foreign aid and the lack of funds creates challenges in the way of implementing the ten-year plan of mine action in the country," said Mohammad Aslam Sayas, acting director of NDMA.

Meanwhile, CEO Abdullah Abdullah said since 2011 the MAO has lost 40 percent of its staff due to budget constraints and that the undiffused mines pose a serious threat to Afghan civilians.

"Undiffused mines, in addition to being a threat to peoples' lives, also prevents economic, development and livelihood activities," said Nasrullah Arsalai, general secretary of the Council of Ministers.

Deputy Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Mark Bowden, meanwhile said although MAPA and MAO have made valuable contributions, Afghans in many parts of the country are still at risk of falling victim to undiffused mines.

"By addressing 38 percent of the main contamination, more than 369 square kilometers of land is still contaminated with land mines and explosive remnants of war affecting 500,000 communities' livelihood and security," said Bowden.

The NDMA also said since 2010, nearly 1,621 MAO staff members have been targeted by insurgents of whom 88

were killed, 129 injured and 709 kidnapped and then released. (Tolonews)

(5) Islamabad Set ...

Roohullah Wakeel, Khalilullah Safi and some other political figures will attend the conference.

The source said former Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan Rostum Shah Momand, ex Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) director-general Assad Durrani, Aziz Khan and some other individuals would also take part in the event.

The source explained participants would not be representing their government. A joint committee of Afghan and Pakistani officials may be constituted to work for Afghan peace during the conference.

Pughwash has previously organised constructive dialogue on the Afghan peace drive in France, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). (Pajhwok)

(6) US Mission...

"Force protection is always a top priority for us in Afghanistan, and we will investigate this tragedy to determine any steps we can take to improve it," Carter said.

He said his message for those who carried out the attack was simple. "We will not be deterred in our mission to protect our homeland and help Afghanistan secure its own future." (Pajhwok)

(7) Govt. Interfering...

statement added the AGA strongly condemned such acts of the government and called on all political parties, civil society institutions, parliament and politicians to prevent government's illegal activities.

The selection committee created under a presidential order on October 4 launched its work on November 3 and completed the selection process on November 9.

The committee presented a final list of 36 individuals as commissioners-designate on the two electoral bodies — the IEC and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) — to the president for approval on November 9.

The president would choose seven individuals from the list for the IEC and five for the IECC. (Pajhwok)

(8) MPs Decision ...

three ministers after they failed to provide satisfactory reports on the spending of development budgets.

The ministers are Minister of Public Works Mahmood Baligh; Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled Nasreen Oryakhil, and Salahuddin Rabbani, the minister of foreign affairs. On Sunday the Wolesi Jirga dismissed another two ministers — in their absence — for failing to spend their development budgets. They are Education Minister Asadullah Hanif Balkhi and the minister of transport and civil aviation, Mohammadullah Batash.

Finance Minister Ekilil Hakimi survived his vote of confidence.

Parliament announced last week that it would summon ministers from Saturday over their failure to spend their development budgets.

A joint parliamentary commission said that every minister has to explain the reasons for not spending their budgets. Lawmakers warned they would move to dismiss ministers from the job unless they table convincing responses over budget issues.

Fifteen ministries have failed to spend their development budgets.

But the three summoned Sunday failed to appear before parliament — where they were supposed to give a report back on development budget spending. Balkhi received 68 votes in his favor but 131 against him. Batash got 51 votes of confidence and 142 against him.

On the other hand the finance minister Ekilil Hakimi with 85 votes of confidence and 112 votes against him survived.

This comes after President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah met with a delegation from parliament on Saturday night where they asked the MPs to delay their impeachment process.

However, MPs failed to heed the request and went ahead with their vote of confidence Sunday despite the absence of the three ministers.

MPs meanwhile also called on government to introduce new ministers for the now vacant posts. (Tolonews)

(9) Not on Collision...

lower house. At least a hundred countries had problems in budget spending but only a few had been able to address them, he added.

His administration had taken steps for utilisation of budget and improving financial budgetary systems, Ghani claimed. The president said budget spending in 1395 solar year was far better compared to last year.

"We are not in confrontation with the Wolesi Jirga as we conducted 30 consultative meetings with the parliament in the past two years," the president maintained.

CEO Abdullah said the 1394 solar year

was full of problems for Afghanistan. He stressed implementation of projects and spending of budgets was directly linked to stability of the country.

"We are concerned about your decision on summoning ministers, because it will further impede the spending of development funds. We should find a proper way of dealing with challenges," he suggested.

Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdur Rauf Ibrahim assured: "We know the government's intentions are good, but the lower house will act in accordance with the law in unseating cabinet members." He said the president had always cooperated with the lower house of the parliament and had forged close relations with the key pillars of the state. Ibrahim hoped consultative meetings would continue to take place. (Pajhwok)

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(10) Applicants ...

Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA).

A number of rejected applicants said that despite many having a good education, being well-known and experienced, they were not shortlisted.

"I do not see transparency in this process. Candidates were not shortlisted based on merit or the selection committee was influenced by political leaders and shortlisted their favorite candidates," said Habib Panjshiri, a university lecturer.

The institutions overseeing the election process asked the selection committee to share with the media the information of the shortlisted applicants introduced to the president.

However, the selection committee said they will release the reasons why applicants were rejected.

The presidential palace meanwhile said the new commissioners will be selected soon and their names will be released.

"President (Ashraf Ghani) is working on the list and will be probably until the end of the week, (when) the new commissioners will be introduced," said Shah Hussain Murtazawi, deputy spokesman for the president. (Tolonews)

(11) WFP Calls...

nutrition support is being scaled up in eastern Afghanistan, and support for the prevention of malnutrition is being provided to more than 23,000 toddlers from returnee families. In total, WFP will support 550,000 people through the emergency operation.

Operational costs stand at US\$66.8 million, the organization said. Thanks to timely contributions from Australia, Belgium, Italy and Norway, 12 percent of operational needs have already been met. (Pajhwok)

(12) Bamyan's ...

last year's price of 50 afghanis, the agriculture and livestock director said.

Abdul Wahab Mohammadi told Pajhwok Afghan News last year's low prices caused a decline in cultivation of the crop. More than 10 types of potatoes could be grown in Bamyan, meeting 50 percent of people's requirement, he said.

More than 700 potato storage facilities have been built this year and each could store up to 30 tonnes. "We have storage capacity for only 10 percent of Bamyan potatoes. The rest of yield is at risk of being damaged by cold."

Afghanistan would no longer need to import potatoes if it enhanced its storage capacity for the entire crop, Mohammadi believed, listing lack of access to market, improved seeds and a microfinance system for farmers as the main problems.

The growers' economic situation would considerably improve if the ministries of agriculture and commerce draw up specific plans for promoting agriculture, the director hoped.

Mohammad Ali, a farmer who collected 10 tonnes of potatoes, was not satisfied with its current price. "Growing potatoes exacts a heavy cost, as we have to employ workers in the cultivation and collection process.

"We should also purchase fertilizers three times during the potato season. If the government distributes improved seeds and fertilizers to farmers, cultivating the crop will be more beneficial," he remarked.

Trader Nasim Haideri said: "Potatoes in Bamyan have one season and all farmers sell the crop at the same time that causes the price to go down. Earlier in the year, we bought seven kilograms of the crop for 110 afghanis but the rate later fell and caused us losses."

"Currently potatoes are sold inside the country while in past years, Afghanistan exported the crop to Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan," he recalled. (Pajhwok)

(13) Taliban Not ...

security personnel detained senior Taliban leader Mullah Nanai in Balochistan last month.

The arrest of Nanai, who reportedly opposed reconciliation with Kabul, was apparently aimed at sending a loud and clear message to the militant group to join the peace process or face a

crackdown. (Pajhwok)

(14) Dozens of...

had to take up guns alongside our husbands," Zarmina told RFE/RL's Afghan Service. "As the Taliban attacked a police post, I put aside my scarf and fired from different places."

"I had 21 bullets and killed seven Taliban," she claimed.

The latest uprising by the Afghan women in the North comes as an Afghan woman killed at least 25 Taliban militants late in 2014 to avenge the murder of her son who was a police officer in western Farah province.

The woman, Reza Gul, was forced to pick up arms after her son was shot dead by Taliban militants in front of her eyes.

Her son was leading a small group of police forces in a check post located in a village of Farah province. (KP)

(15) US Embassy in ...

— were killed in a suicide attack Saturday on the Bagram Airfield near the capital, Kabul.

Two days earlier, insurgents attacked the German Consulate in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing six people and wounding more than 100.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul regularly warns Americans against travel to Afghanistan, where a Taliban-led insurgency is in its 16th year.

The insurgency has become more virulent since most international combat troops withdrew in 2014. (AP)

(16) Parliament's ...

ministers and candidates for top positions have usually secured votes of confidence by MPs based on them having strong affiliations to political parties.

"It means that government is playing with the people and with the MPs. This should not continue," said Sayed Ali Reza Mahmoudi, a political commentator.

"The thing that happened yesterday should not have happened. MPs should work based on the national interests and they should consider the political situation in the country," said Keramuiddin Rezadaza, another analyst.

Talking on the issue, Farooq Majroh, an MP, said: "MPs used to vote based on ethnicity and political relations, but now the only measure for them is spending the budget by the ministers that are summoned to the house."

Meanwhile, addressing an event on Sunday, President Ashraf Ghani said a number of last year's projects were not ready to be implemented; therefore, the development budget of some ministries was not spent as expected.

Ghani stressed the need to put pressure on ministries, but said a change in the cabinet at the same time when the U.S. begins its new government will be dangerous for the country.

"Time matters a lot, especially after the election and the new government in the United States. We should bring fundamental changes in the upcoming two months as everyone wants it. But the price for the change in cabinet is huge at this time," he said.

Over the past two days, MPs dismissed Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani; Minister of Public Works Mahmood Baligh; Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled Nasreen Oryakhil; Education Minister Asadullah Hanif Balkhi and the minister of transport and civil aviation, Mohammadullah Batash. (Tolonews)

(17) 60pc of Berry ..

Panjsher residents express concern over the wastage of a high amount of berry due to the lack of necessary facilities for drying and collecting berries.

Togul Rahmani, a resident of Parakh city, told Pajhwok he has 50 berry trees but 75 percent of his harvest was wasted because collecting berries needed more time and hard work and they lacked necessary facilities.

He said the 50 trees produced around 30 tons of berries and a certain amount of which was used in making Talkhan, a local sweet, for his family. He sold the remaining berries and couldn't dry enough berry this year as there was no one to assist him and his wife was busy with household works.

According to Rahmani, reasons behind the wastage of a big amount of berries was open area for berry trees, livestock, office works and better economy of some people.

He, however, added that installing nets under berry trees and covering them could their fruit from being wasted and people would become more interested as the price of one ton of berry hovered between 400 and 1200 afghanis in the market.

Seema, a resident of Manjhor valley, said men only shook trees while women performed most of the needed works like collecting, holding nets and drying. She said they collected only 12 tons of berries from 33 trees and sold five tons — 450 afghanis per ton. They stored three tons and used four tons in making Talkhan. She would have dried more than 30 tons of berries if she had collected berries from all of the 33 trees.

Jan Agha, a resident of Anaba district, said, has thirty berry trees. Most of the berries in his garden were wasted due to a lack of necessary facilities.

He could only dry 10 tons of berries. "We historically plant berry trees on areas which don't have grass underneath them. The berries fall on dust, that's why most of the berries are wasted", he added.

He also said most in Panjsher lacked suitable places to dry berries. He said it was not appropriate to dry berries on roofs or in open places, a reason why people were not much interested in drying berries.

"Mostly women collect berries in other areas, but in our area, women cannot go to fields to collect berries because the main road has passed through here," he added.

Gul Mohammad, a shopkeeper in Anaba district who sells dairy products and fruits, said dried berries had good market in the province. "I sell up to 10 tons of dried berries daily. I pay up to 500 afghanis per ton and sell them for up to 800 afghanis", he added.

The people of Panjsher asked the provincial agriculture department to provide them necessary facilities to collect berries and dry them.

The provincial agriculture and livestock director, Mohammad Rauf Yaqoobi, confirmed the wastage of more than 60 percent of berries or up to 10 thousand tons annually. "This estimation has been done by a private company named 'Omed Bahar'."

He said the company with donation from USAID would purchase five tons of berries every day and transfer them to Kabul for making berry juice, but the company had ceased operating. (Pajhwok)

(18) MoE Announces...

to six in cold areas and provinces of Afghanistan — would start from November 15 and would last until November 20. Middle and secondary schools' exams would begin from November 21, lasting till December 5.

He said 17,700 government schools and more than 1,000 private schools existed in Afghanistan, imparting education to about nine million students. (Pajhwok)

(19) 2 US Troops, ...

For the family and friends of those wounded in today's attack, let me assure you they are receiving the best care possible, and we will keep them in our thoughts today."

Response teams at Bagram continue to treat the wounded and investigate the incident, the commander said, adding: "We will release more information as it becomes available." (Pajhwok)

(20) Paktia Jamiat ...

Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan party leader in Paktia and is a former jihadi commander.

Meanwhile, provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Qader Gul Zadran confirmed the incident and said it was being investigated and the perpetrators would be brought to justice.

"The car was from Ziauddin's family and the driver clashed with police over the removal of tinted-glasses. Gunshots were also fired from Ziauddin side but the perpetrators would be introduced to attorneys after being arrested." (Pajhwok)

(21) Attack on German ...

on how to fire a Kalashnikov and a pistol. Then, here (Mazar consulate) was specified to them as a target and they were sent to carry out the attack," he added.

A car bomb was detonated on Thursday night at the entrance to the consulate. The building sustained severe damage in the attack.

German troops reportedly destroyed what was left inside the building after the attack.

"The consulate offices were destroyed and the little things that remained were burned on Saturday. They (the Germans) have left the area and now the building is just a ruin," Sarwari said.

It has not yet been specified on how the insurgents reached the consulate. But Balkh police chief said they will be alert to prevent such attacks in the future.

"Our security forces will be more alert after this to prevent such attacks," said General Sayed Kamal Sadat, police chief of Balkh province.

Six people were killed and 129 wounded in the incident. (Tolonews)

(22) Consulate Attack...

vicinity of two kilometers after the attack. Balkh police chief Brig. Gen. Syed Kamal Sadat said the dead included two persons who the German troops shot dead over suspicion.

He said it was a powerful blast that caused casualties and damage to homes, government offices, commercial buildings and the German Consulate within a radius of five kilometers.

Within two kilometers of the consulate, Dara-i-Sauf hotel official Jan Agha said there were 70 guests at the hotel last night and several of them were injured by flying glasses.

"Since last night, we have been busy repairing the damages which will cost 200,000 afghanis. We cannot afford it."

Agha Jan said the government should compensate all those people whose homes and commercial buildings suffered damages in the blast.

Attallah, a local resident with visible signs of wounds on his face, said his home was situated near the consulate. He said three members of his family were injured by broken glasses and his home was also damaged.

He said it was his right to demand the repair cost from the government.

Some residents of the city said offices under constant security threat should be relocated and shifted away from residential and commercial areas. (Pajhwok)

(23) Shinwari...

the delegation also held out special promises for ensuring security in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital.

Meanwhile, Mol officials said they had a plan to pave the way for establishing four more police districts in Jalalabad city next year and would also expand police formation there.

There are two police districts and seven police stations in the city, which are not enough to ensure security. (Pajhwok)

(24) Russian Warship...

Russian military operation in Syria and "increase human and civilian suffering."

The ship's commander was speaking to a presenter on Russia-1 television from inside the defence ministry for a news show that will air this evening in Moscow. (AFP)

(25) Trump's Election ...

president-elect's opposition to the deal. "(IPP) is certainly not gonna be brought up this year," U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters on Wednesday. "It would be up to discussions with the new president."

Trump had broken from the long-standing Republican orthodoxy in favor of free trade and embraced a protectionist trade stance throughout his presidential campaign, trying to appeal to angry and frustrated blue-collar voters who have seen manufacturing jobs loss in an increasing global economy. (Xinhua)

(26) Iraqi Troops...

century BC, and nearby temples on the site.

"Troops from the Ninth Armoured Division liberated Nimrud town completely and raised the Iraqi flag above its buildings," the statement said. The town of Nimrud lies 1 km (less than 1 mile) west of the ruins. (Reuters)

(27) Iraqi Forces...

U.S.-led coalition and Iraqi aircraft destroyed nine suicide car bombs before reaching their targets in the district.

Earlier in the month, hundreds of the CTIS commandos and Iraqi army made a significant progress from three directions at the eastern side of Mosul, locally known as the left bank of the Tigris River, and managed to recapture several out of about 60 districts on both sides of the city. (Xinhua)

(28) Turkey Issues ...

statement said, adding that "based on demonstrators' social media posts, it's clear the demonstrations will likely continue for some time."

The alert especially applies to New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami, Los Angeles, Seattle, Oakland and Portland. (Xinhua)

(29) EU Foreign...

become impossible, but it will become much more difficult."

"Donald Trump has been putting America first ... in defining his foreign policy and it seems he is taking a very transactional approach to international affairs. This is very likely to apply also to trans-Atlantic relations. He will value Europeans in so far as they can match his priorities." Grevi said. (AP)

(30) Rise in ...

which asylum seekers threatened staff members.

While in 2013, there were 1.4 incidents per 100 employees, in the first eight months of 2016 that figure was 2.6.

Since the Migration Agency changed its system for reporting incidents on September 1 this year, any figures recorded after that cannot be compared with previous ones. (Xinhua)

(31) Saudi Oil ...

that the agreement would come into effect. The Saudi minister was quoted as saying that a "fair and balanced" output deal would allow unrest-hit Libya and Nigeria, with a return of security, to raise production, while reaching agreement with Iran on a freeze. (AFP)

(32) Turkey, Turkmenistan

Indoor Games, the \$1.3 billion sea port in Turkmenbashi at the shore of the Caspian, energy plants, textile factories, residential buildings, schools and hospitals, and agricultural facilities. (Asia Times)