

(1) WJ Disqualifies ...

will be summoned in coming days to the Lower House of parliament over failure of spending development budget and few more of them might be disqualified on the same ground.

Summoning and sacking ministers by Wolesi Jirga is taking place at a time when militants loyal to the hardliner Taliban and Islamic State outfits have increased activities in the insurgency-riddled country.

President Ghani, in a letter delivered to Wolesi Jirga on Sunday, asked the lawmakers to further evaluate the performances of disqualified ministers in line with the constitution.

However, the move initiated by legislators to disqualify ministers has drawn mixed reactions among Afghans, according to local media reports.

"Members of parliament should work based on the national interest and they should consider the fragility of political situation in the country," an analyst Keramuddin Rezzazada told local media.

"Disqualifying ministers should not continue," another analyst Sayed ali Rezas Mohamadi said, according to local media reports. (Xinhua)

(2) Some MPs ...

could have a positive impact on the country.

"I think that the dismissal of those ministers who failed to spend their budget is a good move, because it helps the upcoming ministers in the future to spend their budget in a good way," said MP Daud Kalakani.

"We believe that the mass dismissal of ministers will be harmful both to government and the people," said legal expert Tawab Danish.

Experts believe that the move could create new challenges for the leaders of the national unity government. (Tolnews)

(3) Decreased Water...

relevant organs and equal distribution of the electricity among all citizens.

Mohib Rahman Momand said there were no rainfalls in the past several months, resulting in decreased water level in rivers and electricity production.

Mahipar, Naghlu and Sarobi dams have the capacity to produce around 120 megawatts of electricity but they currently produced only 18 megawatts due to the decreased water in rivers, he said.

Mahipar Dam which can produce 65 megawatts of electricity has dried up and cannot produce energy, Momand added.

The demand for electricity in Kabul has increased and the growing population in the city has also affected electricity distribution, he said.

Besides returnees from foreign countries, a large number of internally displaced people had also shifted to Kabul, arising need for more power in order their homes could be lighted, he said.

The extension in government departments and usage of modern air conditioners in winter and summer also needed more electricity currently not available, Momand added.

He said the shortage of electricity could be solved with more rainfalls that could fill rivers with Kabul needs 570 megawatts of electricity but only 300 megawatts imported from Tajikistan is currently used. (Pajhwok)

(4) 156,000 Children...

in Barmal district, Noorgul Wazir, said the six children contracted the poliovirus due to negligence of the health department. He said four of the infected children belonged to the Pakistani migrants and the remaining two belonged to local residents.

Deputy governor Attuallah Fazli confirmed the six polio cases in Barmal district, accusing health officials of negligence. He promised all-out efforts at preventing the disease in the province.

According to the Ministry of Public Health, 12 positive polio cases have been detected nationwide this year. (Pajhwok)

(5) Bagram Blast ...

quoted as saying by AFP. The attack underscores "what

we are all fighting for... stability, peace and the ability for people to live with tolerance and different points of view". (Pajhwok)

(6) Bank-E-Millie ...

welcomed the move and said that having mortgages available to the public is a step towards financial security for families and a solution to the housing shortage. "The duration for mortgage loans (to be repaid) must be approximately 20 years because people's buying power is low and poverty and the unemployment rate is high," said Mohammad Bashir Bashiri an economist. (Tolnews)

(7) Ghani Wants ...

delegation head, said: "We would consider the president's views regarding adding terrorists, including Mullah Haibatullah, names to the UN's Security Council sanctions list."

"We are ready for every kind of support with Afghanistan in the peace process and also in controlling the banking system through which terrorists are being funded."

He said a UN monitoring team would find out how black money was turned white and drugs financed terrorists.

The delegation sough President Ghani's views with regard to the peace agreement with the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) in order to take new and effective steps in light of them. (Pajhwok)

(8) Kabul Wants...

the statement said.

A statement from National Security Council (NSC) quoted Atmar as saying intra-Afghan dialogue was the only way of enforcing durable peace and stability in Afghanistan. He was referring to a recent peace deal with HIA.

Atmar reminded UNSC committee members the Afghan government would write them a brief letter seeking the removal of Hekmatyar's name from the blacklist, according to the

The advisor asked the committee to include in the blacklist the Taliban leaders involve in terrorist attacks against. He also called for freezing their assets.

Led by New Zealand Permanent Representative to UNSC Gerard Van Bohemen, the team welcomed the peace deal between HIA and the Afghan government. He assured Atmar of full support for the implementation of the agreement.

He said the UNSC Sanction Committee supported every effort towards peace and stability in Afghanistan and would assist in putting Taliban leaders who supported terrorist attacks against the government and people on the blacklist.

Separately, the UNSC Sanction Committee members met Interior Minister Taj Mohammad Jahid. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the two sides discussed security and international counter-terrorism efforts.

The visiting delegation's head agree manes of the Taliban leaders who rejected peace dialogue should be added to the UNSC blacklist.

Jahid highlighted Afghanistan's role in the fight against terror and said the scourge was a global issue. Afghanistan remained in the frontline in the war against terrorism, he added.

"Our police force continues to be in a state of war, rendering sacrifices day and night. We remain committed to making untiring efforts to restore peace and stability across the country," the minister concluded. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban Asked ...

ernment to launch a campaign in order to set a pre-condition for the Taliban's participation in the peace process. Kabul should not start peace negotiations with the Taliban until the group stops targeting journalists and accepts them as civilians," said Reza Moeeni, media officer for the organization for Afghanistan and Iran.

Meanwhile, a message sent by the Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish was read at the session. He said government has established a number of provincial offices in a bid to address journalists' complaints.

At the same event, President

Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman Shahussain Murtaazawi assured the people that Afghanistan's achievements in media and freedom of speech will not be compromised for peace.

"Freedom of speech, media and the values of Afghanistan are the things that will not be compromised. Maintenance of the values is a redline for Afghan government in the peace talks with the Taliban," he added.

Media supporting organizations meanwhile called on security agencies to add a section on the treatment of journalists into their training programs.

Talking on this issue, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said: "Our coordination offices have been established in all provincial police headquarters. We assure you that ensuring the safety of journalists is our top priority."

A number of journalists are also concerned about what they called their safety. They also stated that they faced challenges in carrying out their jobs.

"Journalists in Afghanistan are living under relatively bad conditions, because government makes promises but does not pay attention to fulfill them. Our colleague was killed during the day in front of a police check post in Zabul [province] but not one has assessed (the case) so far," said Mustafa Shahriyar, a journalist.

Another journalist, Shukrullah Adil, said: "I think violence against journalists will reduce if government assesses the cases properly. Access to information is another problem after insecurity for journalists in Afghanistan." (Tolnews)

(10) AAF Conducted ...

fixed-wing and rotary-wing equipment. The Afghan Air Force 3 Mi-25 gunship helicopters from India late in the month of December last year besides the delivery of light attack aircraft by the United States, starting earlier this year. The United States has delivered several MD-530 Cayuse warrior helicopters along with the A-29 Super Tucanos in a bid to improve the air capabilities of the Afghan Air Force.

MD-530 helicopters are designed for high altitude and/or hot weather operations to provide close-air support to the ground forces.

The US army awarded a contract worth \$13.2 million to add the seven-tube M260 launcher for the 70mm (2.75 inch) rockets to MD-530Fs nearly a year ago.

The A-29 is a multi-role, fixed-wing aircraft that will provide the Afghan air force with an indigenous air-to-ground capability and aerial reconnaissance capabilities to support the country's counterinsurgency operations.

The Afghan Air Force officials are saying the A-29s can carry out precise airstrike using laser technology and can four types of weapons, 250 kgs of bombs, guided and unguided rockets, and can fly with low speed and altitude to precisely find and attack the targets. (KP)

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improving diplomatic relations in order to share expertise in diverse fields.

The governor urged increased facilities for visa applicants and special education scholarships for Nangarhar students in Pakistan.

Pakistani consul general Farmanullah Yousafzai thanked the Nangarhar governor for stressing cultural, religious and academic tours between the two countries and said such tours would have a positive impact on the bilateral relations.

He said the Pakistani diplomatic mission in Nangarhar daily issued visas to 500 Afghans and the opening of new branches for issuing visas in other Afghan provinces would help resolve all types of problems in the matter.

The envoy also promised efforts at securing exclusive scholarships for Nangarhar students. He shared a number of issues with the governor for their solution.

After Pakistan banned Afghans entry to the country without visas, the number of people visiting the Pakistan consulate in Nangarhar has drastically increased. (Pajhwok)

(13) Parallel Anti...

The report said there were no indications from the national unity government to establish a politics-free institute to independently fight corruption.

IWA said the government was suffering from parallel organs as a large number of institutes that operated the same tasks existed in the government.

The report said the Independent Joint Oversight and Evaluation Committee, High Audit Administrative Office, Independent Reforms and Civil Services Commission, Special Anti-corruption Court, Special Anti-Corruption Attorney Office, Major Crimes Department, Administrative Office of Financial Information, 119 police hotline, interior audit section and financial control department of the Ministry of Finance were created before the national unity

High Council of Governance and Eliminating Corruption, Anti-Corruption Justice Center, Asan Khidmat (Easy Service), Administrative Complaints Section of the Presidential Palace, National Procurement Commission (NPC) and Oversight Commission on Access to Information (OCAI) were created by the current government, the IWA report said.

IWA head Sayed Akram Afzali told a press conference here that the report about parallel offices was prepared in the past six months.

He said the newly-created and old institutes about fighting corruption in the country were in conflict with Jakarta principles for anti-corruption agencies and UNCAC, because anti-corruption institutes must be independent and accountable.

There should be no interference from government or officials in the affairs of anti-corruption agencies which should work for punishment of criminals and public awareness, he said.

"Some institutes the government has formed such as High Anti-Corruption Council (HACC), are only symbolic and lack independence because members of these agencies are representatives of offices which are involved in corruption. The HACC is a collection of other anti-corruption institutes led by the president, it means the government is directly interfering in anti-corruption efforts," he said.

The government in 2014 London Conference had promised to form the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC) with representatives from civil society institutes, lawyers and former government workers, but the government did not do so, Afzali said.

He said HOOAC was not independent and had a politicized structure. The Anti-Corruption Justice Center was also created based on an urgent decision in the Warsaw Summit and after six months of its launch, the case it worked on was very unimportant, he added.

Important cases such as the Kabul Bank scandal, the case of the

Ministry of Urban Development, and the firing of 150 employees of Kabul municipality have been ignored, he said.

Afzali said fighting corruption should be a priority of the government because corruption in all institutes, particularly in parliament and police questioned the government's credibility.

Dissolving parallel institutes, creation of an independent commission for fighting corruption based on Jakarta principles and participation of lawyers and civil society representatives in anti-corruption programs were other suggestions of the IWA. (Pajhwok)

and that Afghanistan will have the support of international community," he said.

The Taliban militants, who ruled the country before they were ousted in late 2001, have renewed their armed insurgency, staging ambushes and suicide attacks, killing combatants as well as civilians.

Since Jan. 1, 2015, Afghan security forces have assumed full security responsibilities from NATO, and the United States' forces after the foreign troops switched their mission from a combat to a support role, which focuses on training, advising and assisting Afghan forces.

More than 2,560 civilians were killed and over 5,830 injured between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30 this year in conflict-related incidents across Afghanistan, according to the latest figures released by a UN mission in the country.

"We just want peace, education, sports and unity in Afghanistan," Khan said.

Since the collapse of the Taliban regime in late 2001, Afghan athletes have already taken part in several competitions at regional and international levels and started bringing medals and honors to the country.

The Taliban had outlawed a series of sports activities as well as forcing athletes to grow long beards and wear long shirts and trousers during matches.

"We have a great honor today to receive our sport champions. We must pay tribute to your efforts for sending out a strong message to the people of the world by cycling such a long and challenging trip," Director of the National Museum of Afghanistan, Fahim Rahimi, told the audience.

"And we really appreciate you offering the pair of precious bicycles to the national museum. It is a great gift for all Afghans and we will put them on display as a symbol of peace in this historic building," he said.

Nangarhari, a father of seven, also told Xinhua that he and Khan wish they could one day ride from Kabul to the Great Wall of China and have a chance to further enhance ties between the two neighboring countries. (Xinhua)

The two top MAFIA leaders, Habib Istalif and Raees Khudaidad, were executed late in 2014 and early in 2015 after they were arrested by intelligence operatives.

In the meantime, a provincial council member was sentenced to death by a primary court in western Herat province of Afghanistan after he was found guilty of kidnappings and murder.

The provincial council member, Askar Anwari, was sentenced to death during a court hearing last month as he was present with his four other colleagues. (KP)

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"We (the government) are still in a defensive position because Taliban including foreign militants outnumber us and they want to sneak into central Asia through this district."

However, provincial police Chief Col. Masoom Hashimi said the Taliban were unable to face security forces in Kunduz province as they had suffered defeat.

"We have strengthened our check-posts; security forces will not allow Taliban to reach the city. Our winter operations will start soon and we don't want people to be worried about the situation", Hashimi said. (Pajhwok)

(17) Deadly Car...

use the weapons for executing attacks against the Afghan forces. The cache included 10 rocket launchers, 400 rifle grenades, 12 hand grenades, 54 BM-16 rockets, 200 PK machine gun bullets, 5 motorcycles, one radio handset and some amount of explosives. (KP)

arrested in connection with the incident as an investigation went on.

An eyewitness, Abdul Khaliq, said two policemen at the scene didn't react to the attackers who were able to escape. (Pajhwok)

actively operating.

Over 30 civilians were shot dead after they were caught by the militants in Ghor province late last month.

According to the local officials, the civilians were initially abducted and were executed by the loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group. (KP)

(20) 2 of a Family ...

condition of two of the injured was critical.

Officials say most of the accidents on the Kabul-Kandahar highway result from drivers' negligence, violation of traffic rules and bad condition of the road. (Pajhwok)

(21) Tens of...

Detroit, Minneapolis and others. More than 200 people, carrying signs, gathered on the steps of the Washington state Capitol. The group chanted "not my president" and "no Trump, no KKK, no fascist USA." (AP)

(22) Erdogan Vows...

Deputy prime minister Numan Kurtulmus also slammed European Parliament President Schulz on Monday for signaling that the EU could impose sanctions on Turkey following its anti-terror arrests.

"It is impossible to understand Mr. Schulz's threatening remarks," he said. (Xinhua)

(23) EU, Britain...

freedoms of movement," said Fico, adding that the EU mustn't be aggressive, but neither should it be naive.

Fico described Slovakia's presidency of the Council of the EU as extraordinarily fruitful. (Xinhua)

(24) Danger and...

house closer to central part of the district. A man lay dead in the dirt next to the house. Saadi confirmed he was an ISIS fighter. (Ap)

(25) German Foreign...

most popular politicians. While normally studiously diplomatic, Steinmeier strongly criticized U.S. President-elect Donald Trump during the American election campaign.

Asked in August about the rise of right-wing populism in Germany and elsewhere, Steinmeier slammed those who "make politics with fear." He cited the nationalist Alternative for Germany party, promoters of Britain's exit from the European Union, and "the hate preachers, like Donald Trump at the moment in the United States." (AP)

(26) Trump "Saddened"...

incident is the alleged robbery of a Muslim student at San Diego State University by two men who "made comments about President-elect Donald Trump and the Muslim community" before stealing her purse, rucksack and car. (Xinhua)