

(1) Congress Urged...

strategy, strengthen embassy security, and respond to relief and recovery needs, as well as provide additional humanitarian assistance for areas liberated from ISIL and other unforeseen needs." (Pajhwok)

(2) Selection Panel ...

Baqeri, Ghulam Dastagir Hedayat, Abdul Aziz Aryayee, Suraya Paikan, Saeed Murad Rahi, Hamir Haqmal, Abdul Basir Faiz, Sayed Ahmad Zia Khalali, Hazratullah, Ali Reza Rohani, Mohammad Ajmal Hodman and Shafiq Maabir are introduced to the president as commissioners-designate for the IECC.

Amanullah Habibi, Abdul Aziz Samim, Mohammad Ashraf Rasoli, Shala Farid, Abdul Basir Ummat, Amanullah Fasihi, Sayed Abdullah Ahmadi, Mohammad Farid Afghanzi, Rafiullah Baidar, Abdul Qadir Quraishi, Maazullah Dawlati and Abdul Hamid Fazlullah Mujahiddi have been introduced for the IEC.

Zakia Adili, Najibullah Ahmadzai, Maliha Hassan, Gulajan Abdul Baday Sayyad, Wasima Badghisi, Nor Ali Khan, Bibi Maryam Zarnati, Khwaja Aminullah Fazli and Ahmad Javid Habibi are other members of the IEC introduced by the selection committee.

The committee said the president would choose seven individuals from the lists as members of the IEC and five as members of the IECC.

Javid Rashidi, head of the selection committee, told a press conference here that the finalists were chosen from among 720 applicants and their names shared with the president on Wednesday evening.

He said the shortlisted individuals had been chosen based on their work experience, education, language, region and other specifications.

Abdullah Shefahi, a member of the selection committee, said the list had been by observing balance and transparency. The committee has tried to keep tribal and language balance in the selection process, he said.

Mari Akrami, another member of the committee, said there was a serious problem in the selection of women. Among the 720 applicants, only 93 were women, she said, adding selection of professional women from among the limited applicants was very difficult for the committee.

However, Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) head, Mubinullah Imaq, said all requirements, merit and standards were not observed in the selection of the election commissions' members due to pressure from a number of government officials and powerful individuals.

He said the people introduced were new for their positions and had no experience in the election process, an issue that would possibly create problems in elections.

However, selection committee spokesman, Mohammad Yousuf Rashidi, said all phases of the selection process were public and there had been no interference from any powerful individual.

He said if anyone had any complaint, they should present evidence so the selection committee could talk to them. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghanistan ...

internally displaced Afghans and Afghans living in "refugee like" conditions, are part of a group of people the United Nations calls "people of concern." The U.N. says this group of people has grown by 33 percent in 2015, and numbers more than 1.7 million people who are in desperate need of assistance.

The new arrivals will only add to those numbers.

According to Afghan officials, the refugees now returning are traveling from Iran and Europe but a vast majority are from Pakistan.

"This year until November around 800,000 Afghanistan have returned from Pakistan and Iran and we anticipate that the number will rise to a million Afghans by the end of the year, mainly from Pakistan," said Hafizullah Miakhil, spokesperson for the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation.

"Our strategy in regards to the returning refugees to Afghanistan has always been about volunteer, dignified, manageable and gradual return of the Afghan refugees from neighboring countries as well as Europe," Miakhil said.

Miakhil confirmed that there will be a substantial increase in the number of Afghan refugees returning to Afghanistan in 2016, but he said "putting the number at 1.5 million refugees would be stretching it a bit too far."

Afghan government readiness
Managing the influx of over a million refugees to go along with the Afghan government's conservative

statistics will still put the Afghan National Unity government in a difficult position as it tries to strike a balance between security needs and refugee resettlement programs. This at a time when the ongoing war with the Taliban and Islamic State has already displaced tens of thousands of Afghans across the country.

However, Hafizullah Miakhil of the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation told VOA that Afghan government is prepared for the influx to the extent that the process is in line with the governments overall policy and strategy at the ministry level.

"As far as our readiness to accommodate these returnees is concerned, Afghans who are returning from Pakistan, Iran and Europe and who are registered with UNHCR will be given around \$400 per person along with some other resettlement assistance," Miakhil said. "Those who are not registered refugees, IOM will be providing them with help."

Miakhil said the Afghan government has allocated money for those returning to Afghanistan and based on a presidential decree, refugees will be provided with a piece of land as well. (VoA)

(4) Chabahar ...

is that there is no facility to deal with large container ships in the port. They have called on the Iranian government to take the initiative and resolve the problem.

Meanwhile a number of political commentators have said that the expansion of commercial and economic ties between India and Afghanistan highly supports the interests of the two friendly nations.

Although the process of commercial transactions in the port had officially started, Afghan officials speculate that the lack of capacity for shipping of goods has hampered the export of Afghan goods through the port.

"One of the problems is that the shipping facilities which exist in Karachi port do not exist in Chabahar, for instance ships cannot come there for shipment of goods, if this problem is resolved and standard port facilities are created, this would be one of the best alternative trade routes for Afghanistan, Atiqullah Nusrat, head of ACCI, said.

"We have a lot of potential for growth, but first we should identify the capacity, studies must be conducted to certify their usefulness and then we must consult the world for help or loans," said head of ACCI Azarakhsh Hafizi.

"In the first step the government should outline a working and comprehensive alternate plan for the imports and then implement it gradually," said economist Haseeb Mauhid. India has announced it will invest \$200 million USD in Chabahar port so as to get rid of the obstructions brought regarding the transfer of its goods from Karachi port to central Asian countries.

Chabahar port is 800 kilometers closer to Afghanistan than Pakistan's Karachi port. There is greater potential through Chabahar for Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(5) Ghani Warns ...

security forces and assured the president of their support in this respect. President Ghani said the government had been busy last year combating terrorism and improving foreign policy, but the government would focus more on economic and development issues coming year.

He said the views of people, particularly of parliament and provincial council members would be heard about economic improvement and development projects in the country. Independent Election Commission (IEC) acting head, Abdul Rahman Hotaki, said the responsibility of holding elections for provincial councils' administrative boards had been shifted from the IEC to the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG).

Under the new procedure, the IEC only provided technical support to the election process, he said.

President Ghani insisted no government official was allowed to interfere in provincial councils' administrative board elections. He ordered all governors not to attempt any meddling in elections or they would face justice.

Ghani also directed the Attorney General Office to monitor provincial council elections and take action against those interfering. (Pajhwok)

(6) Death Anniversary...

perpetrators to justice and said they will start their civil protests from 30 November.

"We will raise our voice for justice from 30 of November through civil protests and no one can prevent us. The Tabasum and Enlightening Movements have legitimate

demands and government must respond to them," said Ahmad Behzad, a member of the Enlightening Movement.

"After beheading Tabasum and six other passengers, President (Ashraf Ghani) said he will launch a clearing operation in the area, but nothing has happened," said Mustafa Azimi, a relative of the passengers beheaded in Zabul.

Those who attended the anniversary said government's action against insurgents is not sufficient and insisted that people are tired of inter-political disagreements between government leaders.

"Our educated sons and daughters were killed in Dehmazang square and no one probed that. Nine-year-old Tabasum was beheaded and it was not investigated. We do not want the innocent people to lose their lives anymore through conspiracy," said Ghulam Hussain Nasiri, a member of parliament.

Ahmad Wali Massoud, head of Massoud Foundation, said two years of national unity government (NUG) has left a power division and that the NUG itself is a problem.

"Many problems exist in the country and one of them is the NUG. Its name is unity, but it is about two years they are dealing with a power division," Massoud said.

Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum also remarked on the anniversary of the incident. His statement was read by Bashir Ahmad Tayanj, spokesman for the National Islamic Movement Party.

Dostum said: "I always have said in the meeting of National Security Council (NSC) to rename the Kote Sangi as the Tabasum Square."

Last year thousands of people carried the bodies of Tabasum and the six other beheaded passengers to the presidential palace protesting over what they said was government's failure to maintain security on roads. The Enlightening Movement has carried out large protests against NUG until July 23 when one of their rallies was targeted. A bomb blast killed 82 people and more than 200 were wounded. (Tolonews)

(7) October...

Hussaini, TOLONews researcher. Nearly 4,153 insurgents were killed and 2,000 others wounded in October - the casualty toll among them increasing by 23 percent.

The casualty toll among security forces also increased by 24 percent in October. In this month around 397 soldiers were killed and 83 others wounded.

Civilians also bore the brunt of violence in October with casualties up 55 percent against September. Around 125 civilians including women and children lost their lives due to violence and 617 others were wounded in October.

"The insurgents through the increase of their attacks tried to show they are powerful. But recently their attacks have been reduced and it is because they had lots of casualties," said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman of ministry of defense.

In the month of October, Nangarhar, with 125 security incidents, Helmand with 96 incidents, Farah with 95 incidents and Kunduz with 74 were the most insecure provinces in the country.

"This season is a good chance for security forces to attack insurgents and clear them from the regions they are active in," said Abdullah Qara Loq, secretary of Meshrano Jirga (the Upper House of Parliament). (Tolonews)

(8) Taliban Attack...

rammed his explosives-filled car into the front wall of the main building. NATO troops and Afghan security forces said they were securing the building and preparing to evacuate consulate staff. The operation apparently was prolonged by concerns that more explosives may have been planted by the attackers.

Afghan authorities said they sealed off the area around the German diplomatic compound, a former hotel. Reports from the scene said NATO helicopters were monitoring the fighting from above.

The Taliban said their assault was a "revenge attack" to retaliate for an airstrike earlier this month in neighboring Kunduz province. The insurgents said a bombing run by U.S. warplanes killed 32 civilians, including a number of children.

The airstrikes have triggered impassioned demonstrations in nearby Kunduz city, with victims' relatives displaying mutilated bodies of dead children in a parade of trucks through the streets.

U.S. authorities are investigating the circumstances of the airstrike, but they have said it "very likely" was carried out by American warplanes. The air raid came after a Taliban as-

sault that killed two American soldiers and three members of Afghan Special Forces.

The German government convened a crisis meeting before dawn in Berlin to gather information about the consulate attack. Germany has 983 soldiers serving with NATO forces in Afghanistan, most of them in Balkh province, whose capital is Mazar-i-Sharif. (VoA)

(9) Withdraw...

American people. "Ask the US generals what they achieved in the 15-year long conflict," he questioned. Hikmatyar asked the US leadership to let the people of Afghanistan to decide their future and resolve their own issues. (Pajhwok)

(10) Attack on ...

here Friday. Equally, the NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) mission in a statement also flayed the attack on German consulate.

"This attack by the Taliban once again shows that they use violence indiscriminately and don't care about the safety of civilians," Lieutenant General Sandy Storrie, Deputy Commander, Resolute Support, said in the statement.

"We condemn this attack and pledge that we will continue our mission to help the Afghan government and the Afghan people achieve peace, security and stability," the statement of NATO-led RS said. (Xinhua)

(11) Question ...

those guests, the Obama administration was largely in sync with Mr. Ghani even before this week's visit," the article added.

The article states that Ghani referred to Madeleine K. Albright, seated beside him, as his "mentor." He called Secretary of State John Kerry, the host, "a remarkable friend of Afghanistan." He joked that retired Gen. David H. Petraeus, who sat one table over, rarely slept while commanding American forces in Afghanistan.

The presidential palace has said that lobbying was routine in the world.

"Lobbying is a principle in all systems," said deputy presidential spokesman Dawa Khan Menapal.

"Despite the fact that America is one of the major allies of Afghanistan and has done enough related to the issues in Afghanistan, but the important thing is how we can take advantage of the opportunities," said university lecturer Tahir Hashemi. But with Trump's entry in the White House, it is uncertain that these lobbying could continue for Afghanistan in US. (Tolonews)

(12) Women-only ...

Director of Women Affairs Razmara Hawash hoped creation of the market would go a long way in promoting women's economic empowerment.

Hawash promised tight security around the market would be maintained to encourage women into launching processes and shopping here. She hailed the market a big step for businesswomen.

Meanwhile, a women-only park was inaugurated in the Ay Khanum area of Taloqan city. Some 40 women have opened shops in the park but many women could not visit the shops due to its distant location. (Pajhwok)

(13) Afghanistan Must ...

have raised concerns over government's inability to harness the potential of the youth in the country.

"Despite some friction in which some of our politicians believe, I see a high morale among the youth which indicates the love for a nation which can help us to be a united nation," said Sayed Khalilullah Anwari, acting chairman of Hizb-e-Harakat-e-Islami Afghanistan party. Daudzai stated that he has documents which reveal that some neighboring countries are trying to defame Afghan personalities who work hard for the establishment of peace and security in the country. (Tolonews)

(14) Security Positions...

bring up a serious concern," he said. In reference to the ongoing turmoil in Kunduz, Helmand, Farah and Uruzgan provinces, Salangi said that there is a need for an inclusive strategy to be adopted to investigate the challenges in these provinces in order to prevent further activities of the Taliban in these regions.

"When a delegation goes to a province and prepares a report on the security situation and returns, no one bothers to concentrate on his report," said Salangi.

It is said that the number of soldiers killed during the first six months of the current year is estimated to be around 5,000 and another 10,000

wounded. "Unfortunately, our government was not created on the basis of votes of the people, but made on the basis of a political agreement, because of this, today there is no harmony between our government institutions particularly in the security sector," said political analyst Zarif Naseri. The leaders of the national unity government had pledged to take robust action to keep the security institution away from the politics. (Tolonews)

the dam was canceled. I suggested the government to open the dam project again to procurement, but the suggestion was ignored," he said.

He said reconstruction of Dahandara Dam, the activation of Maimana water supply network and completion of an incomplete 100-bed civil hospital in Maimana city were other projects of 2016 which remained unimplemented. The implementation of these projects could generate jobs for hundreds of residents of the province and prevent the youth from migrating to foreign countries, Sadat said. But the projects were not executed due to negligence and incompetency of the ministries concerned.

The Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) had pledged to build medical and Sharia Law faculty in Faryab, but the ministry would not do so even in the next year, he said.

He said the governor's house had repeatedly contacted the central government and the president about the mentioned projects, but their demands were ignored.

"If the central government continued ignoring Faryab people's demands, I would travel to Kabul and formally complain," he said.

However, deputy water and energy minister said his ministry had been previously lacking enough capacity, an issue that had been recently addressed. He said the ministry was now able to implement projects approved for Faryab province.

He assured Faryab people contracts for Almar and Dahandara dams would be signed in near future. (Pajhwok)

(16) Herat...

be advertised so that educated and skillful youth could be appointed," he added.

Some Herat residents express concern over corruption in the transport and port departments and Ghulam Saeed, a driver, told Pajhwok. "I drive on the Islam-Qala road. We are charged toll tax beyond our income."

Fazel Ahmad, another driver, said: "We are being looted in this country, everyone takes money from us in one way or another, we are being charged at the gates, in parking lots and everywhere."

The driver said he had no idea what to do and asked the government to detain those unlawfully taking money from people and introduce them to the attorneys. (Pajhwok)

(17)6 Suspects ...

milicians several days back in Giro district of southern Ghazni from ANA soldiers.

The Zarghon Shar district borders Giro district. (Pajhwok)

(18)Road Renamed...

said the media and journalists were reflectors of the pain and sorrow of people and facts of the society. "Pursuing this, many journalists have lost their lives."

Ahmad Shah Saber, a journalist in Nimroz province, expressed his happiness about the government's move to name the road after journalists.

"Journalists in Nimroz have been facing many difficulties and media defending institutions had never paid us enough attention."

He claimed in the past ten years, journalists in Nimroz had been once or twice invited to conferences or training courses in Kabul. No other attention had been paid to journalists in the province, he added.

Abdul Qayum Pedram Qazizada, the Journalists Center representative in Heart province, also appreciated the provincial government for honouring journalists. He said journalists hoped the freedom of speech and support for the media would be more fortified with the passage of time. (Pajhwok)

(19)Islamic ...

is being established in an insecure area that falls in the middle of Batkot, Rodat and Kot districts. But Nangarhar governor Gulab Mangal promised complete security during the university's construction and sought cooperation from local residents in this regard.

"Every resident of Nangarhar has the responsibility to cooperate with the government in providing security for national projects. Similarly, the security forces with their full resolve will

discharge their duty in implementation of the project."

Local residents said they were happy with the university project. Maulvi Nisar Ahmad Hashmi, a resident of Rodat district, said: "Our youth go to foreign countries in pursuit of religious education but there they are made enemies of their own country. The university project is indeed a great step," he said.

The Islamic International University is being established in front of the Ghazi Amanullah Khan Township in Rodat district on a land measuring 500 acres. Similar universities are established in Pakistan and Malaysia. (Pajhwok)

(20)7 of a Family...

the family was on their way home from a wedding ceremony. There has been no word from insurgents about the blast. Local residents said they were worried about a recent surge in landmine explosions. (Pajhwok)

(21)WHO Urges...

environment ministers to promote healthier environments for healthier people. (Xinhua)

(22)Turkey Starts ...

U.S. dollars, while its imports from the country stood at 5.6 billion dollars in 2015, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute. (Xinhua)

(23)G20 Members ...

of discretionary policies. If G20 members "wish to keep their pledge to build an open world economy, reject protectionism, and facilitate global investment, then they should review whether existing restrictions on foreign investment can be further reduced", added the report. (Xinhua)

(24)Damascus, Allies...

questions over how far he will follow through on suggestions such as cooperating with Russia - President Bashar al-Assad's most powerful military ally - against Islamic State.

One complicating factor could be Trump's tough stance on Iran, Assad's other main military backer. Trump has threatened to rip up the nuclear deal with Iran and heaped criticism on the sanctions relief it brought. Long-standing Republican aversion to Assad may also block any big policy shift, analysts say. Yet Trump has struck a different tone to current U.S. policy on some aspects of the multi-sided Syrian conflict, where the United States with allies Turkey and Saudi Arabia has backed some of the insurgents who have been fighting to topple Assad for more than five years. (Reuters)

(25)Close to...

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein deplored in a statement.

"The forced displacement of tens of thousands of civilians and their exploitation as human shields ... the extent of civilian suffering in Mosul and other ISIL-occupied areas in Iraq is numbing and intolerable," he added. (Xinhua)

(26)Russian State...

and Russia. The agreement also introduces norms for joint investigation of crimes at the request of the other country, and stipulates the exchange and joint manufacture of special equipment between the two countries.

The agreement is a follow-up to the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism, signed on June 15, 2001, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Convention on Counter-Terrorism, signed on June 16, 2009. (Xinhua)

(27)Georgia, NATO...

recognition of Georgia's commitment to strong defense," NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia James Appathurai said on his Facebook page.

It is the second NATO-involved military exercise launched in Georgia this year.

In May, Georgia, together with the United States and Britain, launched a three-week long joint military drill named "Noble Partner 2016" at Vaziani base near Tbilisi. (Xinhua)

(28)China to Deepen ...

economic and financial cooperation, has become irreplaceable in deepening strategic communication, promoting comprehensive cooperation and enhancing bilateral and multi-lateral coordination.

The dialogue, the first high-level one between the Chinese and British governments after the Hangzhou meeting, is also the first of its kind held after the British new cabinet took office, Ma said. (Xinhua)