

**(1) Afghanistan will...**

that Prince has called for the use of contractors in Afghanistan. His mission turned controversial in Iraq as contractors working for Blackwater were accused of killing over 10 Iraqi civilians in 2007.

In an interview with the UK's Independent this year, Prince essentially proposed the privatization of the war. However, the Independent said he would prefer to call it "rationalizing and restructuring".

The Afghan parliament, the Wolesi Jirga, also reacted to the plan to privatize the Afghan war, saying it is not in Afghanistan's favor.

"The question is that how a private company will be able to ensure security in Afghanistan? This is certainly concerning," said Rauf Ibrahim, the Wolesi Jirga Speaker.

"How can a private company win a war which US, NATO and its allies could not end it in 17 years?" asked Ghulam Farooq Majroh an MP.

On August 28, US Defense Secretary James Mattis reacted to the plan to privatize the war in Afghanistan and said "it is probably not a wise idea".

"When Americans put their nation's credibility on the line, privatizing it is probably not a wise idea," Mattis told reporters. (Tolo news)

**(2) Senate House...**

The Senate House Chairman also urged Washington not to repeat the past mistakes and take practical steps regarding its commitments.

According to reports, the founder of Blackwater Erik Prince, presented its plan regarding the privatization of the Afghan war to the U.S. President Donald Trump nearly a year ago.

In an exclusive interview with a private TV few days earlier, the founder of the company once again said the war in Afghanistan should be privatized, emphasizing that the privatization of the war is the only way to end the conflict over a short period of time. (KP)

**(3) Contracts Worth...**

construction of Machlagho dam, allocation of budget for Ministry of Energy and water's Gabioni Projects as per the agreement of the Ministry of Finance, completion of the remaining work of road construction in Taloqan city, road construction from Yangi Qala to Chaab district and construction of road from Cheghcharan to Gardan Diwal, and award of authority to the deputy administrative and finance of Kabul Municipality for the process of documents.

The National Procurement Commission also approved the recommendations for the changes in working hours and completion of the contract as per the budgetary principles, construction of road in Dara Suf district of Samangan province and hiring of consulting firm for the legal affairs of Qaisar-Laman ring road.

The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the parliamentary commissions for budgetary, financial, and national economic affairs, SIGAR, and representatives of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission, ARG Palace added in its statement. (KP)

**(4) Abdullah Optimistic...**

"It won't be a 50-year engagement." The CEO praised efforts to reform the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Afghanistan's spy service, in terms of chasing ISIS Daesh leaders in Kabul. "They are making a lot of arrests. But out of 10, if one succeeds, then that is what makes news."

The Taliban continue to receive support from outside of the country, as Afghans were averse to them, Abdullah alleged, suggesting that Pakistan was still aiding the militants.

"The Taliban are operating there and using Pakistan soil as a sanctuary. Their leadership is there; their shuras are there. Their foot soldiers cross back and forth, receiving treatment (in Pakistan)," the CEO said. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Afghan, Pakistani...**

religious scholars do not have as much influence on the Taliban as the people think," said Nazar Mo-

hammad Mutmaen, a political affairs analyst.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Ulema Council hopes that the Pakistani clerics will declare the war in Afghanistan forbidden.

"So far, no religion and religious authority has recognized the Afghan war as legitimate," said Himmat.

The delegation will return home from Islamabad on Monday.

The council said it is expected that during the meeting the war in Afghanistan will be declared forbidden under the Islamic law.

The Afghan religious scholars and the HPC officials have attended many meetings on Afghanistan's peace held by the Afghan government and its allies in the country and abroad this year.

In June, more than 2,000 Afghan religious scholars from around the country issued a fatwa, saying the ongoing war in Afghanistan is forbidden under the Islamic law.

In May, Afghan and Pakistani religious scholars joined Indonesia clerics in a trilateral conference in Jakarta that declared suicide bombings against Islam and also called for direct talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

During the meeting, a 15-member Pakistani delegation had forced the Indonesian and Afghan scholars to remove the Taliban name from the declaration.

In July, Saudi Arabia hosted an international conference of Islamic scholars, who declared Taliban war as "forbidden in Islam" in a declaration.

Pakistani clerics had stayed away from the Saudi conference after the Taliban dismissed the conference as an "American plot to justify their invasion of Afghanistan".

According a report by Reuters on Sept. 29, Taliban representatives met an Afghan government delegation in Saudi Arabia in the last week of September to discuss security ahead of next month's parliamentary elections and a limited prisoner release.

Addressing an event in Kabul on Sunday, the HPC Chief Mohamad Karim Khalili Khalili rejected the reports on Taliban's talks with Afghan officials in Saudi Arabia.

"So far no official and direct talks has taken place between government and Taliban, between the High Peace Council and the Taliban. Anything that has been said so far are rumors," he said. (Tolo news)

**(6) Strongmen...**

civil and military officials also asked the governor and the Meshrano Jirga delegation to pay attention to the security situation of the province and resume development projects that had been suspended for the last few years. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Uzbek President...**

in Afghanistan is the latest in his initiatives. In March, he sought an end to the conflict through the formula of "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" political solution.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that India and Uzbekistan agree on key regional security issues and highlighted the agreement to conduct joint military exercise. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Dara-I-Suf Coalmines'...**

Meanwhile, Ahmad Ali Hassani, Dara-i-Suf district administrative chief, said illegal extraction, mining by local residents and lack of full control over the extraction process had negative impact on the income. According to him, about 12,000 residents of different provinces are currently working on more than 1,000 extraction tunnels of the two coalmines.

Coal extracted from these is transferred from the district to Balkh, Baghlan, Kabul, Kunduz, Khost, Nangarhar and Jawzjan province as well as Pakistan.

Experts from the former Soviet Union and Germany had estimated more than 150 million tons of coal in these mines.

According to officials, big coalmines are located in different parts of the Hindu Kush mountain range, which runs from Badakhshan province and extends to Takhar, Baghlan, Samangan, Bamyán and Sar-i-Pul and leads to Herat's Sabzak Mine. (Pajhwok)

**(9) 'Our Commitment...**

Afghanistan. When it had 160,000 troops in the country, it wasn't able to end the war, how can they end it now," said a military analyst Atiqullah Amarkhail.

This comes as NATO has about 16,000 troops in Afghanistan -mainly engaged in advising and training the local military forces under the Resolute Support Mission. (ATN)

**(10) Pakistan Expected...**

Information and Broadcasting Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain had said that Khan would be given a comprehensive briefing on the subject.

Of the 2.5 million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan, two million have been registered while half a million remain undocumented.

About 879,198 refugees have Afghan citizen cards but reside in Pakistan. Another 1394,000 possess refugee cards.

PM Khan has announced granting the Afghans Pakistani citizenship, but the move has drawn criticism from different parties, including government allies. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Some Candidates...**

A number of Wolesi Jirga members during today's session of the lower house also expressed concern about the use of government resources in favor of some candidates.

Ghulam Hussain Naseri, a lawmaker from central Maidan Wardak province, said that government resources were being used in favor of some candidates. However, he did not name anyone.

He said using government resources in favor of candidates was against the law and amounted to discrimination against other candidates.

He asked the IECC to be careful about candidates' violations and illegal use of government resources in favor of Wolesi Jirga hopefuls.

His colleague from western Heart province, Ghulam Farooq Majroh, also said a number of Wolesi Jirga candidates were possession of government vehicles and other facilities for their campaigns right now.

Abdul Sattar Darzabi, who represents Jawzjan people in the Wolesi Jirga, said: "Using government resources for election campaigns in any way is an electoral violation and it is responsibility of the IECC to stop it."

Abdul Sattar Khwasi, a lawmaker from Parwan province, said that the government and a number of foreign embassies in Kabul were trying to get elected their own people to the lower house.

He said some candidates obtained financial resources from government and some foreign countries.

Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibarhimi agreed with lawmakers' claims that some candidates used government resources for their campaigns and asked the IECC to review the electioneering impartially.

Campaigning for the Wolesi Jirga elections started on September 28. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Insecurity...**

Women candidates from Baghlan province worried individuals and mafia groups had threatened them with death.

Baghlan has eight seats in the lower house, for which 12 women and 76 men are in the race.

Nooria Hameedi, one of the Wolesi Jirga hopeful from the province, charged some unidentified people had been threatening her over the past few days.

"Due to security threats, I arrived in Kabul 15 days before the election campaign began. Security institutions have informed me about the danger to my life. I have received threats as well."

As a result, on the campaign trail, she is accompanied by a large number of security personnel. Hameedi has twice served as a provincial council member.

Asked about the nature of threats, she replied: "I was told not to contest elections because I'm a woman. They said women could not work properly. I was also warned of an armed attack on my campaign convoy..."

Wajeda Faisal Azizi, another candidate, claimed most of female candidates were being threatened with death by mafia groups and powerful

individuals.

"I have personally received phone calls from unknown individuals, telling me to cancel my plan for contesting elections and canvassing," she charged, grumbling that their worries had mounted and campaigns affected.

Without naming anyone, she said if warnings and threats persisted, most of women would not be able to run their election campaigns effectively. Tamana Shinwari, another Wolesi Jirga hopeful, held a similar view: due to insecurity they were unable to conduct their election campaign properly.

"Militants are knocking at the doors of Pul-i-Khumri. How would a woman candidate conduct her election campaign?" she questioned.

Shinwari did not speak about threats, but accused certain individuals of spreading vicious propaganda against women to damage their campaigns.

They asked security institutions to resolve the issues so that women aspirants could properly conduct their campaigns.

The IEC head for Baghlan province, Abdul Qahar Safi, confirmed female candidates faced security threats in the province.

He said besides security problems, unhealthy competition between women candidates was another problem in Baghlan.

"Some circles or supporters of some candidates may threaten other candidates to terrify them and get them bowed out, but no such a complaint is so far made to us, we refer such issues to security organs, if we receive any complaints," he said.

Baghlan police spokesman, Zabihullah Shuja, told Pajhwok that it was police responsibility to protect people including candidates.

He said security organs had adopted special measures for security of the election process in the province.

About threats to female candidates, Shuja said: "No one has complained to us on this issue, we share such issues to detective organs and those involved are chased arrest taken to justice."

Female candidates in Farah province also face serious security problems. They say they could not campaign in districts, except the provincial capital.

Belqis Roshan, a candidate from Farah, said she could not campaign as per her own desire.

"We cannot spread our message to all people in all areas due to security problems, we have started our campaigning and will see what happens," she said.

Roshan accused some security and civil officials of supporting some specific candidates.

She said two Wolesi Jirga candidates were flown to Anar Dara and Purchaman districts by Afghan National Army (ANA) helicopters for campaigning there.

"We have no access to such facilities and we cannot go to districts due to security threats," she said.

Sharifa Sadat, another candidate, echoed Roshan's concerns and candidates were not provided level playing field in Farah.

Laili, 20, a resident of Farah city, said no one from her family took voter cards as they would not participate in the elections fearing their own security and cultural restrictions.

A civil society activist in Farah, Nabila, agreed with Wolesi Jirga candidates' concerns and asked the government to pave the ground for women candidates to effectively campaign for themselves.

She said female candidates wanted to go to other parts of the province for electioneering, but they could not do so due to security woes.

Mohammad Munir Parsa, the IEC head for Farah, confirmed security and cultural problems existed in the province, but said no candidates had complained to them in this so far.

He said had put in place measures to facilitate women candidates in their election campaign in other areas of the province.

Mohibullah Mohib, Farah police spokesman, said security organs had taken full measures for the elections and women candidates could campaign safely.

In Balkh province, 22 women are contesting the Oct 20 Wolesi Jirga

elections.

A number of women candidates in Balkh say security problems and lack of awareness about the election process are two major problems.

Gulalai Noor Safi, a candidate from Balkh, told Pajhwok that female candidates had been offered limited facilities for campaigning compared to male candidates.

She said security situation in a number of Balkh districts was not stable and it could affect women's participation in polls.

"Militants control large areas in Chamtal, Chahar Bolak and Dawlatabad districts of Balkh and candidates cannot go there for campaign", Safi added.

A large number of people from some areas of the province would also be deprived of casting their votes if security situation was not improved, she said.

Meanwhile, Shekiba Shekib, another candidate from Balkh, also said she could not campaign the way she wanted due to security problems.

She said women in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, had some awareness about elections but women in districts were least informed in this regard.

She asked the government to improve security situation in areas under the militants' threat, so people could feel safe on the election day.

Candidates also asked the IEC to accelerate its public awareness program so more people could turn out on the polling day. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Afghan Girl to...**

Begham said her application was selected by the summit organizers from among 200 applications.

"This year, representatives from over 196 countries will attend this summit from Pakistan, Europe, US and Africa and other countries. This is the first time that a representative from Afghanistan will attend the event," said Begham.

Begham is from Kabul and it is around seven years that she teaches over 100 girls in a charity organization in the city.

Begham has graduated by Science Department of Sayed Jamaluddin Afghan Institute in Kabul and can speak in four languages. She said she will tell the world that Afghanistan is not only knotted to violence and insurgency, but there are people and young leaders who work for a better and war-free future.

"Afghanistan's name is mentioned when there is a discussion on terrorism or Taliban. I want to show to the world young leaders that Afghan youths can do lots of things," said Begham.

Begham is 25 years old and she every day travels for a few hours the distance between her house in Qargha and the education center in Deh Sabz area in Kabul to teach the girls.

"Girls and women are deprived in Afghanistan and Aziza will represent them in the summit and will tell the world about them," said Hasib Rahmani, Begham's uncle.

Begham's family said they are happy that their daughter managed to attend a global summit and that it will provide her a chance to make the young leaders at the event aware of the problems the Afghan women are facing.

"My sister Aziza can be a good role model to all Afghans, especially to women and girls," said Khadija, Begham's sister. (Tolo news)

**(14) 3 Bodyguards...**

to his house is not yet asphalted. He said he was told to ensure the security of the road leading to his house. Safi acknowledged security forces killed his three bodyguards during the operation. The security forces have not yet commented on the raid.

Separately, two unarmed campaigners of Wolesi Jirga candidate Bilal Sarwari were wounded in an armed attack in Khas Kunar district. Sarwari said his campaigners were slightly injured and were shifted to hospital.

Some suspected had been arrested in this connection, the governor spokesman said. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Taliban Deny...**

condemned the incident and said their office had registered 25 cases of suicide and murder involving women this year. (Pajhwok)