

(1) Sharp Increase...

to kill and maim Afghan men, women and children; destroy livelihoods; disrupt lives; and create terror among survivors. The report identifies the victims of these deliberate attacks as including midwifery students and students preparing for university entrance exams; players and spectators at cricket and wrestling matches; worshippers at mosques; humanitarian aid workers; education officials; civilian government staff providing essential services to Afghans, as well as civilians seeking to access those government services; and election workers, and men and women attempting to participate in the electoral process. Of grave concern, the report documents how medical personnel and journalists responding to suicide and other IED attacks were also targeted with such devices.

"Deliberately targeting civilians is a war crime and cannot be tolerated," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

"Beyond the immediate and direct harm caused to victims and their families, the long-lasting effects of suicide and other IED attacks on the wider civilian population cannot be ignored," said Yamamoto, who is also head of UNAMA. "The unpredictable nature of these types of attacks has caused Afghans unbearable suffering and forced them to live in fear of the next explosion, severely curtailing their ability to carry out normal lives."

Suicide and other IED attacks directed at the civilian population as well as the indiscriminate use of these tactics are serious violations of international humanitarian law. The widespread use of IED attacks directed against Afghanistan's civilian population, including religious or ethnic minorities, may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity, and requires investigation by competent authorities.

UNAMA maintains that all parties must immediately cease the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian objects, and provides recommendations in the report for immediate measures to be taken to prevent further civilian deaths and injuries from these attacks. (Pajhwok)

(2) Sayedabad District...

spokesperson at GMIC said. "Enemies attacked several security check posts in Sayedabad district, but the attacks have been repelled by Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF)," he added.

The fall of Sayedabad district to the Taliban was incorrect; he said adding that enemies suffered heavy casualties due to reciprocal assault of security forces.

Rahimi added that the Kabul - Kandahar highway had been reopened and the traffic moved normally.

Deputy spokesperson for Ministry of Interior stated about Alipour who is an irresponsible armed militia that has illegal armed men:

Alipour is under pursuit of security forces and will be sent to judicial bodies after arrest. Alipour and his illegal armed men are active in the highway of Maidan Wardak, Bamyan and Ghor province are charged to crime, robbery, murder, harassment, rape and banditry.

Meanwhile, Defense Ministry spokesman Sayed Ghafur Ahmad Javid said that the offensive

operations of the Defense Forces are currently being conducted in 14 provinces. He said the operations had great achievements. He also added the enemies suffered heavy casualties, Mullah Bari Jan a famous commander of Taliban in Farah province was among those killed by ANDSF. (Pajhwok)

(3)- IECC Chief's...

would be hiked in case of need, the police spokesman added. Deputy Chairman of Meshrano Jirga Mohammad Alma Ezidyar, meanwhile, condemned the assault and urged the government to take concrete steps for the security of the IECC boss.

Fazal Hadi Muslimyar, chairman of the upper house, also vehemently denounced the hand grenade attack. He asked the authorities concerned to ensure the official's security. (Pajhwok)

(4) Americans...

2011, a majority of Americans said the US would be successful. The survey, polling 1,754 adults, says Republicans are now more hopeful than Democrats that the US mission in Afghanistan has succeeded in achieving its goals. "Three years ago, during the presidency of Barack Obama, partisan opinions were nearly the reverse: 42% of Democrats said the US had succeeded, compared with 29% of Republicans." As 45% say the US made the right decision in using military force, 39% call it a wrong move. In 2006, 69% said it was the right decision and 20% said it was the wrong decision.

Republicans have expressed more support than Democrats for the decision to use force in Afghanistan, though support has fallen in both camps over the past decade.

About two-thirds of Republicans and Republican leaners (66%) now say it was the right decision to use force in Afghanistan.

About a third of Democrats and Democratic leaners (31%) say the same. About half of Democrats (53%) say it was the wrong decision, compared with 21% of Republicans. (Pajhwok)

(5) Russia, India...

terrorist networks, their sources of financing, arms and fighters supply channels, to counter terrorist ideology, propaganda and recruitment. The Sides condemned all kinds of state support to terrorists including cross-border terrorism and providing safe havens to terrorists and their network."

"Recognizing the importance of adopting the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, pending in the United Nations, to become part of the international law, both Sides called upon the international community to make sincere efforts towards its early conclusion. ?? address the threats of chemical and biological terrorism, the Sides supported and emphasized the need for launching multilateral negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism," the Joint Statement further noted.

In an indirect reference to Pakistan-sponsored terror in Afghanistan, India and Russia called upon the international community to join efforts to thwart any external interference in Afghanistan, to restore its economy, contribute to sustaining peace and security, economic and political development of a stable, secure, united, prosperous and independent Afghanistan.

The two Sides will direct their activity to launch joint development and capacity building projects in Afghanistan. (ATN)

(6) Insecurity May...

said if I travel somewhere, the Taliban will ask me to show my tazkira and I may be in trouble," she remarked.

Iia Safa, a student of law and political science at the Faryab University who has got her ID card stickered, called participation in the poll her ambition. The deteriorating security situation was a major challenge to women's role in the elections, she agreed.

Inadequate security could deprive women of exercising their right to vote, Safa feared, asking the runners to steer the country out of the crisis and restore parliament's credibility without being influenced by sectarian, linguistic or ethnic considerations.

According to Safa, future public representatives in the Wolesi Jirga should comply with the law of the land and respect people's mandate.

Halima, 50, a resident of the 1st police district of Maimana, said: "A couple of months ago, some people motivated me to obtain my ID card and get it stickered because candidates gave 5,000 afghanis for each sticker."

She added a public representative gave her 2,000 afghanis after her card was stickered. The runner promised giving her the remained 3,000 afghanis after she casts her vote. "We are poor people and did this for money. I will be pleased to vote."

But female candidates for Wolesi Jirga demand people votes in favor of well-educated and young candidates to block the entry of powerful and wealthy individuals because they damaged the national interests.

Amina Mukhlis, a young from in Kunduz, viewed security threats, collapse of several districts, closure of highways, extortion by powerful individual and fraud endeavours as big obstacles to the election process.

She agreed the issues also hindered women's participation in the electoral process. The number of female voters and candidates for Wolesi Jirga and district council elections would have been double in case of adequate security, she believed.

Director of Women's Affairs Sharifa Azimi also called security threats, strongmen and illegal activities major challenges to women's political and social activities. Despite all hurdles, she claimed, Faryab's women had a strong presence in various fields. Haji Abdul Rahman Farid, head of provincial IEC office, admitted the election process was facing security threats and a large number of people had failed to participate in the registration process. About 200,000 voters - 40 percent of them women -- have been registered. The number may increase. (Pajhwok)

(7) Pakistan Reopens...

Nangarhar province, of which Jalalabad is the capital, of interfering in the consulate affairs. Kabul however had denied the charge. (AA)

(8) In Nangarhar...

would be addressed after the end of canvassing, the official explained.

Pasting photographs and posters on other candidates' or on state and private properties are the objections to the election campaign in Nangarhar.

Kamjo asked candidates to fully respect election campaign rules and regulations. The violators

would be dealt with under the law, the official warned. He asked people to present proofs regarding violations committed by any candidate to the commission, which would act in line with the law against the candidates concerned. (Pajhwok)

(9) US, Russian...

Senator Mohammad Alam Azedyar said that rivalry between Moscow and Washington was being shifted to Afghanistan and the government should be careful not to convert Afghanistan into a battleground for rival forces.

Other lawmakers shared similar views and asked the government to take steps to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a battleground for foreign forces.

Some senators expressed concern over the existing security situation of the country.

Gulali Akbari, a lawmaker from Badakhshan province, said that the Sayedabad district felt to the Taliban last night and fighting reached close to capital Kabul.

"Unless elders and Mujahidin are not fully made part of the government the situation will not improve," she believed.

Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said no one wanted that major powers to clash in Afghanistan and convert the country into the laboratory of US and Russian weapons. (Pajhwok)

(10) Teachers Dispatched...

Faez expressed concern over the lack of lecturers at the university and added a number of teachers had been dispatched to the foreign country for master studies. Meanwhile, a number of students also complained against the lack of lectures at the University.

Habib, the student of Journalism faculty, said: "Unfortunately this year most of our teachers had gone to foreign countries for master studies and we don't have quality teachers. We are being taught by teachers who recently graduated."

Niatamutllah, another student of journalism faculty, said: "This is a huge challenge and students most affected due to this, he added. (Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban Destroy...

spokesman, said the attack began late Saturday and appeared to be aimed at seizing the Sayed Abad district headquarters, in the Maidan Wardak province.

The Taliban said they overran the district headquarters, but local officials denied the claim.

Danish said reinforcements have been sent to the area and that "most areas in the district" are under control.

The destruction of the bridges cut off the main highway from Kabul to the Ghazni, Zabul and Kandahar provinces. The battle also cut off electricity to four provinces: Maidan Wardak, Logar, Ghazni and Paktia.

The Taliban have seized a number of districts across the country in recent years and regularly attack security forces. The latest assault comes just two weeks before Afghanistan holds parliamentary elections. (AP)

(12) A Dozen Policemen...

by a Taliban attack on a check-post in Khashrod district on Saturday evening, a police spokesman said.

Wali Ahmad said the fighters with modern weapons attacked the check-post from several directions and wanted to capture it. The attackers, however, faced strong resistance from the security forces.

He said the rebels were forced

into retreating from the area after the arrival of additional forces in the area. The Taliban have not yet commented on the clash. (Pajhwok)

(13) Wardak Battle...

been cut off due to clashes. The supply remained disconnected for months in at least one instance.

The Syedabad police chief was killed and the district's administrative head captured by Taliban early on Sunday.

Sharifullah Hotak, a member of the provincial council, told Pajhwok Afghan News that hundreds of militants stormed the district centre late Saturday night.

He said the district centre fell to rebels, who left later on. Several policemen, including the district police head, were killed in the overnight clash, Hotak added. (Pajhwok)

Political Parties Insist on Proper Use of Biometric System

KABUL - Political parties have warned that they will not accept the outcome of elections if the biometric system is not used properly on election day so as to ensure people only vote once. The political committee of the coalition of parties said the groundwork for the use of the biometric system has been laid and that the election commission should allow all registered voters to cast their ballots. The committee also suggested that where possible the biometric devices should be connected to the internet on the day of elections.

"The use of biometric technology in cities and centers (of provinces) and the areas which have internet services should be done online because the use of the system offline will be recorded repeated and invalid votes and to discard these votes will be extremely difficult," said Noor Rahman Akhlaqi, a member of Jamiat-e-Islami. (Tolo news)

DAB, DABS Sign MoU on Public Credit Registry

KABUL - Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) and Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the use of Public Credit Registry system aimed at providing regular credit reports, a statement from the power utility said on Sunday.

DAB Governor Khalilullah Seddiq and DABS Chief Executive Officer Eng. Amanullah Ghalib signed the MoU, the statement said.

DAB would provide electronic access services to credit information of the 24-hour public credit registration system and network interruptions, the use of credit reports for DABS, distribution of free credit reports for DABS clients And DABS clients can report their credit reports (without their rating) once a year free of charge from the DAB's Public Credit Register Office in accordance with the procedures.

As per the provisions of the MoU, DAB has a duty to provide free practical training programs for the effective use of the public credit registration system and, upon request, to provide educational services to the provinces, to regulate the provision of durable services to solve the technical problems of DABS related companies to the system, by visiting the Public Credit registry office, mail, telephone and, if necessary, the DABS company, providing technical and corrective solutions, creating the user to the designated employees of DABS in the center and provinces. (Pajhwok)