

(1) Teachers in...

He assured teachers that the leaders of the national unity government were decisive in keeping their commitments about the education sector.

"The government is trying to resolve teachers' problems regarding salaries, land plots and townships." (Pajhwok)

(2) Sharing Information ...

for the government, the country is not heading to positive paths, the future of the people is unknown, has caused over 200,000 Afghans to leave the country in the last year," said Murtazawi.

The information and culture deputy minister for publication Sayed Aqa Fazil Sancharaki meanwhile said people have a right to information and decisions should not be taken behind closed doors.

Sancharaki said democratic governments never hide information from the people. "In the democratic governments, the decisions are not made behind closed doors, but are made in front of peoples' eyes," said Sancharaki.

Government officials at the press conference said however that in order to overcome the psychological war they are facing and the issue of corruption in government bodies, there was a need to establish a high council of information and culture. (Tolonews)

(3) ALP Members

district last night.

Despite the Afghan national police and Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were stationed close to the ALP forces, they did not provide support in clash against the Taliban, claimed the ALP personnel who attacked the governor house.

They said that the governor of Badakhshan had several times promised in the last two years to launch a clearing operation in Warduj district, but he did not remain committed to his promises. The governor should resign or would be faced again with such attacks, they warned.

A Pajhwok Afghan News correspondent present on the occasion said that the ALP forces were angry and they refused to talk to media. The governor was not present at his office at the time of attack, he said.

Mulavi Mohayuddin, a local elder, said that Afghan and foreign Taliban militants provided safe havens for themselves in Warduj district and they forced people to arrange money and food for them. Those who refused to do so had to face severe punishment, he said. He added that the government did nothing so far on the issue and the negligence sparked the public and ALP forces anger. The ALP forces storm was broken with the mediation of local elders and Warduj police chief, but they warned to repeat their action if the governor did not resign and clearing operation in Warduj district not launched. (Pajhwok)

(4) Lawmakers to Grill ...

the army chief, he assured that unit of commandos was being dispatched and the situation was under control," he said.

Safi said the incident of Chora district should not be ignored, demanding a special meeting of the lower house on the issue in which defence minister and the spy chief should be summoned to answer questions from lawmakers.

Lawmaker Obaidullah Barakzai said it was eight military base to be captured by the Taliban. No one survived in the latest attack and all equipment were captured by the Taliban, he added.

He said 350 security personnel were present in Chora district while the number of Taliban gunmen reached 2,500, showing a huge difference of manpower between the two sides. "Before the attack, I told the defence minister and the interior minister that a catastrophe is on the way to come, but the Uruzgan governor told security bosses that it was not a serious issue and nothing bad would happen," said the lawmaker.

Zaheer Saadat, another lawmaker, said the lack of proper administration and a proper military strategy caused the fighting to prolong.

"The authorities concerned were fully aware of the 26 besieged security personnel but no action was taken to rescue them," he said.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the house would not take the issue lightly and would summon the authorities concerned to answer to lawmakers. (Pajhwok)

(5) US Wants NATO ...

a briefing in NATO headquarters in Brussels.

She said the goal "is for very quickly, in the next two weeks or so" to put forward specific requests.

"We have been more specific" in our requests and that "we are going to be much more efficient by asking people for specific expertise areas. So we're not just saying we want 50 more troops from Denmark, we're saying we want 50 more troops with technology or capability to fix machines or run tanks," she said.

This comes after US President Donald Trump last month unveiled his new war strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia. As part of this he said additional troops will be sent to the country. He did not specify numbers but it has been largely reported that the troop levels could increase by about 3,000 US soldiers. The exact number of US troops already in

Afghanistan is not known but official statistics put the total at 8,400 but the US recently stated there were as many as 11,000 already in the country.

Hutchison's announcement was meanwhile the first official statement regarding NATO's assistance in line with Trump's new war strategy.

In addition, another alliance official said: "NATO has committed to increasing our presence in Afghanistan."

"At least 15 nations have already pledged further contributions to the Resolute Support mission."

According to European media reports, this comes after NATO secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg's recent trip to Afghanistan with US Defense Secretary James Mattis. (Tolonews)

(6) Blue Sonic Launches ...

computer equipment and accessories meet international standards and are growing in popularity in the country - among both the private sector and the public.

A good service center offers quick solutions to any problems customers face, said one Blue Sonic employee.

One Blue Sonic computer user, Abdul Khalil Azizi said he was very happy with his computers.

"I've used these computers and tablets, their quality is really great," he said.

Meanwhile, Popal the advisor to the Ministry of Economy said government should do more to help the development of the private sector - especially manufacturing companies. He also said government should start purchasing and using locally manufactured goods as a way to support these companies.

"It is very good if we can have some other companies like this company in Afghanistan, in order to prevent imports to some extent and to create jobs in Afghanistan and provide facilities in the country," Popal said.

In another move to support the development of the country, Blue Sonic in partnership with ExOS, a financial institution, recently launched a program for university students to purchase Blue Sonic laptops and pay them off in installments over six months.

"If a laptop costs 10,000 Afghans, we will allow the customers to pay this off over six months," said Salim Khan Manger of the ExOS institution.

Launched in 2014, Blue Sonic manufactures some computer components in Afghanistan and also assembles all their products in the country. (Tolonews)

(7) Finance Ministry,...

last week, SIGAR will cooperate with the bank in this respect.

He said "it was 45kgs of gold and we gave it to the Central Bank with the help of SIGAR". Meanwhile, the finance minister said they have outlined a draft for three-year budget for the first time.

"In the next year, for the first time, we will provide you with a three-year budget which will include both the normal and the development budgets," he said. (Tolonews)

(8) MPs Caution...

said the Pakistan army chief's invitation to the president was against diplomatic norms and asked Ghani not to travel to Islamabad. Salama Khogyani, a lawmaker, said: "The invitation to the president should have been extended by the Pakistani president, prime minister or parliament not Gen. Bajwa. The president has accepted the invitation."

"Peace is the prime demand of the people of Afghanistan. President Ghani should not visit Pakistan and it would be better to send his second voice president or the High Peace Council Chairman."

Ghulam Farooq Majroh, another lawmaker, said praised the Afghan government's foreign policy and support of foreign allies, but asked Ghani not to visit Pakistan until Islamabad honored its pledges.

Lawmaker Ali Akbar Qasemi said it would earn disgrace to the president if he visited the neighboring country at the invitation of a soldier.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim accused Pakistan of "double-standards" and said the president should be cautioned in relationships with Pakistan.

"The Pakistani military delegation provided strong commitment to destroying terrorist safe havens on their territory, pressing Taliban who refuse to reconcile and to encourage Pakistani ulema to not to call the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan as jihad," said Ibrahim.

Ibrahimi said President Ghani's trip might take place in the next six months as he would be very careful in accepting the invitation. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban Splinter...

Arrested in March 2016 after fleeing infighting in Zabul province, Rasool is still in Pakistan's custody. The splinter lost powerful commanders Mansoor Dadullah last year in internal fighting.

In a week from now, representatives from 50 countries and international organisations will attend the International Contact Group's meeting in Moscow.

At the October 11 meeting, participants will confer on the Afghan-led peace process and talks with the Taliban, according to Russia's foreign ministry.

UN Special Representative for Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto recently said Russia could play a vital role in supporting peace

efforts in the region.

"Russia is a very important partner and player in efforts to peace internationally. And we certainly look to Russia to play very constructive role.

"They can play constructive role and they have the intention to play constructive role. And we hope that the efforts shall be very very fruitful to the international effort," Yamamoto told reporters in Kabul. (Pajhwok)

(10) MPs Slam ...

neglected to help soldiers should be punished.

"Government has everything including aircraft and commandos but why can it not reach (battles) in time? Whoever is responsible, whether he is the defense minister or the chief of army staff or the corps commander; they should be brought to justice in order to prevent a repeat of these incidents," said Iqbal Safi, an MP from Kapisa.

"We urge government to pay attention to this matter and become accountable for the lives of those who are sacrificed while defending the country," said Farahi Osmani, a lawmaker.

The Ministry of Defense last week confirmed that at least 20 soldiers were killed in Uruzgan after they were targeted during a coordinated attack by the Taliban.

The ministry said reinforcements did not arrive in time to save the soldiers. (Tolonews)

(11) Ghani's Comment ...

hour of work but with results. His (President Ghani's) job has been to create a rift inside the ARG (Presidential Palace), he has problems with his deputy, he has problems with his political partner (Abdullah Abdullah), he has fighting over the division of power, he has problems with his governor(s), with parliament," said Mawlawi Abdul Rahman Rahmani, an MP.

Meanwhile, other critics blamed the president for monopolizing power, saying that by taking on all the responsibility he had himself to blame for the pressure he is under.

"The president who has either the role of foreign minister, agriculture minister, president's role, governor's role, district governor's role and an MP's role; he will definitely have the worst job. Therefore the president (Ashraf Ghani) does not trust his team and he does not trust collective work," said Ajmal Balochzada, a political affairs commentator. Others have however asked that if he feels he has the most difficult job in the world, then why does he stay in power? (Tolonews)

(12) Ghani in Kandahar ...

with more than 120 helicopters until 2020. The president is also expected to deliver a speech in national agriculture University. (Pajhwok)

(13) Taliban Decide ...

Zabul, Sar-i-Pul and other areas, inflicting casualties on each other.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmad says Mullah Habatullah travels to all provinces to monitor the movement's activities. "It is nothing new; the Taliban leader regularly monitor operations in provinces."

Ahmedi, however, declined commenting on Habatullah's instructions.

Asked why the rebel group had watered down their position against Daesh, political analyst Mohammad Hassan Haqyar replied the Afghan government and the US assisted the IS against the Taliban.

The Taliban, therefore, had decided not to fight against the IS, Haqyar argued, saying a halt to violence between the two groups was in the interest of Afghanistan. Musa Qala is controlled by the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(14) Gen. Bajwa's Visit ...

Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said that all the political parties should keep interest of their country supreme, keeping in view the prevailing diplomatic relations with India and Afghanistan.

He said that it was our responsibility to make CPEC successful as it was a gigantic project between the two countries and added that future of Pakistan was linked with it.

The QWP chief said that the line drawn by the British rulers in this part of the sub-continent would be eliminated by merging Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The people of FATA have raised concern over the unnecessary delay in merger of the tribal areas into the KP. He said the PJI government had failed to protect rights of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the chief minister expressed the same in his public meetings.

Imran Khan was least interested in resolution of the problems of the province and instead spent maximum time in Nathigali on excursion trips. (APP)

(15) Electoral ...

the commissions and until national consensus on the electoral process has been reached. The Cooperation Council includes the Coalition to Rescue Afghanistan, Mehwar-e-Mardum-e-Afghanistan, the Council of the Protection and Stability of Afghanistan and a number of other political parties and civil society organizations.

"Heads of the electoral commissions and the commissioners should be fired immediately. And government in consultation with political parties and influential figures should introduce and appoint other eligible people instead of them," said Massoud Trushtwal, a

spokesman for the Council of the Protection and Stability of Afghanistan.

Council members also sharply criticized recent moves that included the failure to bring fundamental reforms in the electoral commissions and the implementation of a new electoral law on the basis of a presidential decree without MPs approval.

"Involving the National Security Council and its personnel in the election affairs is a violation of the law and its stepping on the democratic process," Trushtwal added.

Members of the council warned that if government does not accept their demands, they will suggest an alternate option - regarding the national unity government - and that they will boycott the next elections.

"We have committed to ensure that the presidential and parliamentary elections will be held transparently and the president and MPs will be elected based on peoples' votes," Sediq Patman, a member of the council said.

"If government does not accept the demands of the cooperation council, government cannot hold the elections; we will not let it (be held) in a condition that has such deep influence on the election commissions," Haroon Muaref, another member of the council said.

The president's deputy spokesman Shah-hussain Murtazawi meanwhile said: "Members of the election commission and electoral complaints commission have been appointed based on the law and in accordance with a specific mechanism and will continue to work. Those figures and parties who criticize the election commission efforts, we want them to share their corrective views with the commission."

Parliamentary and district council elections are expected to be held next year - however questions have been raised as to whether the July deadline will be met. (Tolonews)

(16) Afghan-American ...

she received a warm welcome from Kabul residents.

According to Waiz, her trip had been planned for four years and the aim of her solo flight was to promote the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education - especially to girls.

Born in a refugee camp in Afghanistan at the end of the Soviet war, Waiz emigrated to the US with her family in 1987.

Waiz became the first certified civilian female pilot from Afghanistan and the first person in her family to earn a bachelor's and master's degree - both from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Waiz is now the youngest woman in history who has been able to travel around the globe alone in a single-engine aircraft. (Tolonews)

(17) Pakistan Army...

Separately, six people injured when a dispute between two families turned violent in Jalalabad City, the provincial capital. Governor's spokesman confirmed the incident and said the injured were shifted to hospital for treatment.

Khogyani said that a person was killed by his brother in another incident in the Gardi Kash area of Behsud district. The killer managed to flee but security forces launched a manhunt for investigating the incident and capturing the murderer. (Pajhwok)

(18) Kidney Diseases ..

dialysis three times a week in the country and most of these patients paid heavily for their treatment abroad.

"But fortunately such centers are now available inside the country where patients are treated free of cost", Feroz added.

The minister promised such centers would be increased across the country and would be opened in Kandahar, Herat and Balkh provinces in near future.

"We also have plan for next year to open such centers in Paktia, Kunduz, Parwan and Bamyan provinces," he said.

Four months ago, a kidney hospital was opened in Nangarhar province, benefitting many. (Pajhwok)

(19) National Futsal ...

anywhere as he was a refugee there. "Immigration has its own problems. When you are a refugee you cannot play freely everywhere and you cannot play in clubs," Nawrozi said.

His biggest achievement so far is attending the 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games where Afghanistan got fourth position.

Nawrozi was born in Sar-e-Pul province where he started dreaming about joining the national team. He says he has many dreams but one of his dreams, he says, was achieved when he was selected for the National Futsal Team last year. "Mahdi Nawrozi is very good in technique. In short, he is a technical player and he always tries to improve," Nawrozi's coach Abdul Razaq Mamrak said. His coach said Nawrozi played against Tajikistan in his first international match where he performed well.

Nawrozi plays in a defense position in the national team. He has played in 13 matches for the national squad in which he has one goal in his record.

"In one of the matches against China, I left the goal and Mahdi defended two goals so I can say that I am thankful for this. He is one of the best players (in our team)," said Ali Reza Qorbani, another member of the national team.

Nawrozi said that his role model is Aicardo Collantes, a defender in the Barcelona Futsal

Club. (Tolonews)

(20) 13 Women Graduate...

for qualified technicians in the Afghan medical sector that can deliver high quality diagnostic services. Having more qualified females will increase access to much needed medical services for all Afghan women", said Susan Decamp, USAID Gender Office Director.

This year alone, nearly 100 young women in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, and Mazar-i-Sharif have enrolled in, or have graduated from ultrasonography, CT scan, and other medical technology courses through WIE's Forward Together Scholarship program.

WIE also coached its graduates to find jobs or residency programs in clinics and hospitals. Since the start of the WIE program in 2015, 880 beneficiaries have either completed internships in the healthcare sector or have full-time jobs in 200 medical facilities in 30 provinces.

"Today, we congratulate these young women. Our country needs more qualified women medical technicians", said Dr. Abdul Wahid Sidiqi, the owner of Ariana Hospital. "They can now provide valuable medical services to our patients. (Pajhwok)

(21) 93 Rebels Perish..

security men and injuries to nine others, saying the security forces were able to retake Zunbali and Adam Khan areas and were advancing in Malgir area. "Taliban tried their best to capture Gereshk but they were unsuccessful and faced defeat every time."

Meanwhile, Greshk district chief Mohammad Salim Radawi said the operation was progressing with achievements in the district, leaving many insurgents dead.

A resident, Mohammad Nadar said: "Taliban's successive attacks had worried people, but security forces were able to crush them."

The Taliban rejected casualties to their fighters in the Greshk operation, with their spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi claiming no area was lost to governmental forces. He also claimed the fighters inflicted casualties on the soldiers. (Pajhwok)

(22) Kandahar Woman...

ensure accuracy, Afghan showed each page of the cloth to a religious scholar before she embroidered it. She has embroidered the Quran with a yellow silk yarn.

Asked why she chose Urdu translation of the Quran, the woman replied she had lived as a refugee in Pakistan, where she had no access to the Quran with Pashto or Dari translations. Afghan said she completed the embroidering the Quran in seven years and six months and worked daily from morning to late night.

She added her mother and other women in the neighbourhood asked her to quit the challenging task, but she continued. At times, she would work secretly because she felt relaxed doing it that way.

The woman said her job was really hard, but its completion had truly amazed her. Afghan has embroidered each of 30 Surahs (chapters) in separate volumes.

Although she has received no assistance from the government or NGOs, she is ready to hand over her work to the National Museum.

She said peace was her aspiration, which would enable people to send their sons and daughters to school. She does not want Afghan children to be deprived of education.

Mathullah, her brother, commended Afghan's work as a source of pride and happiness for his entire family. He said his sister had used 270 metres of white and green fabric, 630 metres of yarn and other materials to produce the marvellous work.

Shafia, a resident of Kandahar City and embroidery expert, praised Afghan's work as unprecedented and difficult in terms of elegance and innovation. She said Kandahari women's handicrafts were specific in art as they put in a lot of efforts.

Writing every word of the Quran with thread is far more difficult needing patience, according to Sharifa, who said it's out of the ability of many people.

She asked the government and cultural organisations to acknowledge the trail-blazing endeavour of Zemar Afghan and extend her richly-deserved support. (Pajhwok)

(23) 42km of Roads ...

need of the people whose long term needs would be met with implementation of development programs.

He urged people to cooperate with the government in executing and maintaining development projects. (Pajhwok)

(24) 200 Badghis Families...

and women and burnt our houses and there were some copies of the Holy Quran which were burnt. Where should we go?" asked Mullah Mohammad, another displaced resident.

The displaced families said they are now living out in the open with no shelter.

"All my belongings and my wife were in the house when the Taliban came and set alight everything," said Bibi Roshan, a member of a displaced family from Ab Kamari district.

"The only reason that the Taliban attacked our villages is that we support government and we would not bow to the terrorists," said Qari Rahmatullah, a resident of the district.

Mirza Ali Bedar, the district governor of Ab Kamari, confirmed the incident and said at least 200 families have fled their homes in search of safety. (Tolonews)