

(1) IEC Determined...

should not be affected," said Rafiullah Bedar, an IEC member.

However, the National Procurement Committee said the assessment of Prologix's application has not been finalized.

"We wait and see when the procurement committee completes its assessment and sends it to us so that we can send our comments if we had any observation on it," said Najman Bakh-tiar, an anti-corruption expert at the procurement committee. (Tolonews)

(2) Wolesi Jirga ...

without going into details. He suggested the tax collection had, therefore, been suspended.

Under his plan, the tax collection process should be suspended until a transparent system was implemented. Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai, second deputy speaker, asked lawmakers to vote on the suspension of the tax collection. Of the 119 legislators present, 110 voted in favour of suspending the tax collection.

A few days after the telecommunication services tax was approved, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) had said that a transparent recovery mechanism had been established.

Acting communication and information technology minister, Shahzad Gul Aryubi, had acknowledged a week ago that eight billion afghanis had been collected, but the system was not transparent. (Pajhwok)

(3) New Afghan Peace...

Last week, Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif told Voice of America the "quadrilateral arrangement will again be in operation" in Muscat in October.

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad did not comment for the report.

Talks and efforts to kick start negotiations have failed following the 2015 announcement of the death of the Taliban's founder and long-time leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, in 2013.

The United States wants Pakistan, which it accuses of harboring Afghan Taliban commanders, to exert more influence on the group to bring them to the negotiating table.

Pakistani officials deny sheltering Taliban militants and say their influence on the group has waned.

Two senior Afghan Taliban leaders, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the group's leadership council met on Tuesday and decided it would not send a delegation to Muscat even if the group was invited to participate.

"Till that time, we were not invited, but even if we received any invitation, our senior members decided not to participate in the meeting," said one of the Taliban leaders. (Reuters)

(4) Construction of Two ...

The teaching building will accommodate an academic lecture hall and 30 classrooms and the auditorium with a capacity of 1,490 people at one time, which will be the largest hall in Kabul University, would be built within 27 months.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Yao Jing said that China will continue to support Afghanistan's peace and reconstruction process to see a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. He also emphasized for more people-to-people contact between the two nations.

In April, Afghan and Chinese officials also launched construction of a new building for a vocational and technical institute at nearby Kabul National Vocational Institute that will provide new facilities to 5,000 students. (Xinhua)

(5) IEC Urges Stakeholders...

were irresponsible and untrue.

Flanked by other commissioners, Ahmadzai demanded political leaders refrain from statements that could harm public trust in the election bodies and the election process.

He urged political parties, civil society organizations and other groups to cooperate with the commission in conducting free, fair and transparent election.

Mazullah Dawlati, IEC commissioner, said previously they had some problems, but most of them had been resolved

The long-delayed elections to the Wolesi Jirga and district councils were scheduled to be held in 2015 but were delayed due to implementation of reforms, political differences, lack of funds and technical help.

The IEC head in today's press conference stressed that the Wolesi jirga

and district council elections would be held on the announced date.

He reiterated elections would be held on its announced date and no change would be brought to it. (Pajhwok)

Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga, Nazir Ahmad Ahmadzai. "In order to fight corruption, heed should be paid to all the sectors and it must be said that accusing [parliament] over corruption is illegal."

According to the law, ministerial nominees are allowed to share their working agendas and strategies with lawmakers. But seeking a vote of confidence from lawmakers in exchange for money is in violation of the law. (ATN)

(7) 85pc of Drinking ...

Health Organisation (WHO)'s definition, if 100 milliliters of water contain less than one microbe of E. coli, it is not harmful. If the level is higher than that, it becomes dangerous.

He said the water pollution percentage was lower in Badakhshan and Kabul provinces. However, the percentage was higher in Samangan and Balkh provinces.

The survey indicates very high risk is the one in which water is one hundred percent contaminated with E. coli. High risk is one that has 11 percent of the bacteria per 100 ml of water.

One to 10 percent contamination of water with the bacteria fell in the medium-risk category, he said, adding low risk included less than one percent of bacteria in water.

He urged families to make efforts to use clean pots for storing water and drink boiled water. Very high risk in water of cities was put at four percent and in rural areas at eight percent.

High risk is nine percent in urban areas and 28 percent in the countryside. Medium risk is 32 percent in cities but 30 percent in rural areas. Low risk is 55 percent in cities and 34 percent in rural areas.

Moihid billed the existence of the bacterium in water as worrisome, asking relevant organs to take the issue serious and initiate special programmes for resolving the problem.

He said all details of the survey were not fully analysed and studied and they would be published soon.

UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan Rolf Lubyenijk said the E. coli microbe caused many diseases, including severe and red diarrhea.

He said 10,000 children infected with diarrhea died every year in Afghanistan. The Afghan government should take measures for raising public awareness to bring down the level of water polluted with the E. coli bacteria. (Pajhwok)

(8) Qaderi Gets ...

Qaderi, brother of Qaderi said. Bawar Hotak, the head of the Afghanistan Bodybuilding Federation said: "This is an unprecedented honor in the history of Afghanistan's bodybuilding sector. This honor is not only for Afghanistan but it is also for the whole of Asia."

"Today the world is surprised that in such a country that is still at war, one of its sons wins a gold medal at an international competition," the head of National Olympic Committee Mohammad Zahir Aghbar said.

Qaderi won gold at the 9th World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships (WBPF) in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar on Sunday. He also won the "Mr Muscle" title.

Bodybuilders from 100 countries took part at this year's Ulaanbaatar contest. This comes two months after Qaderi won gold in the Afghanistan's championships to become Mr Afghanistan. Also in August he won gold in the 90kg weight category in the Asian Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships in South Korea. (Tolonews)

(9) New X-Ray ...

commercialization of the technology will also pave the way for the creation of X-ray devices that can scan full bodies.

"If we overcome the remaining technological hurdles," Samsung said, "it could lead to advances in X-ray medical imaging technology that cuts radiation exposure to one tenth that of existing machines." (Tolonews)

(10) Officials in Helmand ...

provincial council head, Mohammad Karim Atal, for his part said another insurgent commander named likewise Mullah Haibatullah existed in the province. "It's possible someone had reported to the Gen. Raziq of the fake Mullah Haibatullah."

On the other hand, the Taliban's spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News Mullah Haibatullah visited all the provinces in rotation to monitor the Taliban's affairs. "It's not a new thing, but the Islamic Emirate leader's works ordinary schedule of overseeing the Taliban in different provinces." (Pajhwok)

(11) Afghanistan ...

expired in 2015, there are fears the shaky political stability achieved since the Taliban government was ousted in 2001 will be undermined if the process is derailed completely.

"If elections do not take place, you go back to square one and you're asking, how do you actually do the division of political power?" said Pernille Dahler Kardel, deputy representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Afghanistan.

"It's to drive that longer term agenda that the international community is so absolutely focused on the electoral agenda."

Electoral reform was one of the centrepieces of the U.S.-brokered deal between Ghani and his former rival Abdullah Abdullah, who joined him in a national unity government after months of wearying negotiations in 2014.

Last week, Ghani pledged to meet the July date and the UN signed an agreement with Afghan authorities creating the legal footing for the UN and donor countries to support the process.

Imam Mohammad Warymoch, chief electoral officer of the Independent Election Commission, said the IEC was "committed to doing the election on time" but admitted: "At the moment, we are a little bit behind."

VOTER REGISTRATION

Warymoch said much of the assessment work on thousands of polling stations across Afghanistan, many in areas outside government control, had been completed. But there are still major worries over the rollout of a sufficiently robust voter registration system.

The commission has still not awarded the contract to manage a sophisticated biometric system that Ghani wants to identify voters and match them to allotted polling centres.

Mindful of the technical hurdles in rolling out an untested system in under nine months, some Western officials have urged using a simpler paper-based system. But whatever happens, a decision is needed urgently if it is to be ready next year.

"The key decision that needs to be made now is how you are settling the polling centre-based voter registration lists because it takes time," Dahler Kardel said.

Technical issues are not the only problem, however. Suspicions left over from 2014 have fed accusations of bias, disputes in parliament and angry battles over the make-up and independence of the commissioners supervising the vote.

Bashir Ahmad Tayanj, a member of parliament close to General Rashid Dostum, the vice president currently in exile in Turkey after accusations of severe human rights abuses, said public trust had been undermined by political "interference".

He said political movements critical of the government wanted a free and fair election but added: "We have our concerns and we are not sure the election will take place next year."

Ghani's spokesman, Shah Hussain Murtazawi, said election commissioners were independent and had been selected through a fair and transparent process. "There is no interference from the president or the government," he said.

For its part, the IEC says it has faced intense pressure from political interests opposed to holding elections on time because they feared losing power.

"There are groups trying to blackmail us. There is huge propaganda on Facebook, in parliament," Warymoch said. He said much of the discussion over the biometric voter registration contract, for which only one company submitted a bid, was aimed at deliberately delaying the process.

"There are people looking to kill time," he said.

Unless the issues are resolved, a repeat of the 2014 debacle would become a real possibility, dealing a severe blow to hopes of political stability, the Western official said. (Reuters)

(12) Af-Pak Transit Trade ...

received a formal letter in this regard," one official told the newspaper. The decision may induce a slump in

bilateral trade. Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan fell by 27 percent over the past year.

After reaching an all-time high of \$2.4 billion in 2010-11, Afghanistan's imports from the neighbouring country stayed above the \$2bn mark in 2011-12 and 2012-13 before falling to \$1.43bn in 2015-16.

Recorded at \$213.47 million in July and August this year, Qajistan's total exports to the landlocked country may account for \$1b when the figures for 2017-18 are finalised.

The postponement of the meeting has been tied to Afghanistan's demand that India be included in the bilateral and trilateral transit trade agreements. Kabul is eyeing access to Indian markets and those in the other member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Countries through the Wagah border crossing.

Rescheduling of the APTCA meeting was confirmed by Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria, who said the request for the postponement had come from Afghanistan.

"Afghan traders have suffered heavy demurrage, detention and overstay charges owing to the frequent closure of the Pak-Afghan border. They have called for a waiver of demurrage which has also created uncertainty." (Pajhwok)

(13) 13 Months Since ...

an Afghan businessman, told Pajhwok Afghan News due to the route issue in the past, goods used to be delayed from one season to another, adding that goods imported through the rail track arrived in the country in short time and economically.

He, however, expressed concern that since the inauguration of the rail link no export took place while only goods imported three times.

Mohammad Hashim Azemi, the provincial council member, said any issue in the export or import of goods from Herat Port was connected to Uzbekistan.

"The contract inked with Uzbekistan on railroad was not in the interest of Afghanistan. We can only import goods and don't have the right to export," he said.

Balkh Trade and Commerce Department director says the railroad between Afghanistan and China had not reached to the transit trade route level.

Kamela Sediqui, deputy director of the Commerce Department, said the railroad was connected with Afghanistan through Uzbekistan and both countries had issues on trade and commerce, adding talks in this regard were underway with Uzbek officials and issues would be soon resolved.

She, however, said the railroad linking Afghanistan with China was a vital project for Afghanistan, adding it was a long-term project and needed time to fully made functional. (Pajhwok)

(14) Women ...

incident of capturing drugs took place in western Heart province where police seized 16 kgs of opium from a stagecoach type vehicle. The driver was arrested. (Pajhwok)

(15) 27 Taliban Insurgents ...

military chief for Mizan Sediq Agha, and three of their commanders were among those killed.

The MoD said the militants have suffered heavy casualties in the past 24 hours during the counter-terrorism operations conducted in various provinces.

Heavy ammunition, explosives and together with some weapons and vehicles were also destroyed by the security forces.

However, the Taliban has not commented on the incident so far.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for 207th Zafar Military Corps Abdul Qayoum Nuristani said at least four key Taliban commanders have been killed in an operation by the Afghan commandos in western Herat province.

The operation was launched in the Gozara district of the province and the forces also "seized weapons during the operation," Tolo News quoted Nuristani, as saying. (ANI)

(16) Clash at Pul-I...

been brought under control, adding the clash erupted between prisoners accused on drug smuggling and robbery.

Mohammad Aref Ahmadi, deputy head of Pul-i-Charkhi prison, said the clash happened at around 12:00pm.

He said the number of injured people was yet to be ascertained while the identity of dead prisoner was not disclosed. (Pajhwok)

(17) Two Senior Tali...

Uruzgan to be a strategic province, and has previously said that it controls all areas of the province except for the district centers.

Uruzgan province was identified by U.S. commanders as a major priority for 2017 and there has been a big focus on bolstering Afghan forces with on-the-ground U.S. training teams. (ATN)

(18) Premature Explosion ..

National Army (ANA) forces in the East, the incident took place in Alingar district as the militants were planting an improvised explosive device on a roadside.

The officials further added that five insurgents including a commander of the Taliban identified as Mawlawi Qasim were killed and eight others were wounded.

The militants were attempting to plant improvised explosive devices on a roadside in Dara-e-Sangar area, the officials added.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far.

The anti-government armed militant groups frequently use explosives materials for the roadside bombings and car bombings to target the government staff and security personnel.

However, in majority of such incidents the ordinary civilians are targeted besides such bombings incur casualties to the security personnel and in some cases the Taliban militants themselves are killed or wounded.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in its latest reported highlighted that 40 per cent of all civilian casualties during the six-month period were killed or injured by anti-government forces using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), such as suicide bombs and pressure-plate devices, which were responsible for the deaths of 596 civilians and injured 1,483. (KP)

(19) Taliban Suffer

in Helmand province.

The statement further added that a total of 65 insurgents were killed during the period out of which around 23 of them were killed in Helmand.

The operations in Helmand province were conducted in Nad-e-Ali and Bashran area in the provincial capital of Lashkargah city.

At least 19 Taliban insurgents were also wounded during the same operations, MoD said, adding that the remaining militants were killed in Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktika, Logar, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Ghohr, Badghis, Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab, Kunduz, Badakhshan and Baghlan.

According to the ministry of defense, the Afghan national defense and security forces conducted a total of 14 clearance, 9 Special Operations, and 7 airstrikes.

No further details were given regarding the possible casualties of the Afghan security forces during the operations. (KP)

Taliban and ISIS Militants Suffer Casualties in New Airstrikes in Nangarhar

KABUL - The 201st Silab Corps of the Afghan National Army in a statement said the airstrikes were carried out on Tuesday in Bati Kot and Deh Bala districts.

The statement further added that a Taliban group member identified as Rohani was killed in an airstrike in Berekab area of Bati Kot and another member of the group was wounded.

In separate airstrikes conducted in Deh Bala district, at least eleven militants affiliated with the ISIS terrorist group were killed or wounded.

According to the Silab Corps, the airstrikes were carried out in Mariz Kand and Mia Jee areas of the district in coordination with the Afghan commando forces.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the reports so far.

The Afghan security forces are busy conducting counter-terrorism operations against the IS and other insurgent groups in this province.

The US forces based in Afghanistan also support the Afghan forces in their fight against the terrorist groups and often carry out airstrikes to suppress the insurgency of the terror groups.

The increased raids by the Afghan and US forces followed rampant activities by the IS and other groups to expand their insurgency in this key eastern province. (KP)