

**(1) We Support ...**

or closed on election day as well as the reasons about the closures and the status of the missing and nonfunctioning BBV machines or those that were not used. She said that they welcomed the IEC's intentions to conduct all necessary anti-fraud measures before it announces the preliminary results. She said, "An accurate result is more important than a rushed one."

"In my meetings with president Ghabni and Dr. Abdullah, both leaders strongly affirmed the Independence of IEC and ECC including their support for the IEC's decision on matters including BBV voting and the timing regarding the announcement of the preliminary results. "The International community continues to expect all candidates to honor their code of conduct within the electoral process and do not make claims of election results in advance of the IEC." Wells said.

Referring to the widespread corruption in the country, Wells said, "To both the president and the CEO I under scored that Afghanistan needs to do more to counter corruption and strengthen governance." She said that the United States was committed to partnership with Afghanistan but the US government and the Afghan people expect that the government will use public and donors funds to provide public services, justice and economic opportunities. She said, "We are approaching a donor conference in 2020, and as we prepare for that conference it's important that the donors see the Afghan government taking practical and real steps to address corruption and increase accountability now." (Daily Outlook Afghanistan).

**(2) More Afghans ...**

Facing hardship in neighboring Iran, Afghan workers are leaving to seek better ways to support families left behind in Afghanistan. (TOLO News)

**(3) Etisalat Launches ...**

As a part of its social responsibilities, Etisalat Afghanistan has been committed to supporting Afghanistan in the areas of health, education and other key areas that lead the country toward a better tomorrow. (PR)

**(4) Supreme Court ...**

has the duty to interpret the law as per the Article 157 of the Constitution. Therefore, Dr. Mahdi says the Supreme Court cannot cancel the accepted principle of the 'Acceptance of biometrically verified votes' in this special case or to include an exception to it.

Dr. Mahdi further added that the former President Hamid Karzai inflicted an irreversible damage to credibility and impartiality of the judiciary by misinterpreting the 122nd Article of the Constitution which defines the limits of the executive's authorities of judiciary, engaging it in technical and special issues of elections and taking a political decision at the end.

He also added that all electoral teams have the right to lodge complaints but only to Independent Electoral Complaints Commission, not the Supreme Court.

The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission is obliged to respond to the complaints in the framework of the accepted principles including the principle of 'Acceptance of biometrically verified votes'.

Attempts to authenticate invalid votes: This comes as Rahmatullah Nabil, one of the presidential runners said Tuesday that the incumbent government is attempting to authenticate the non-biometrically verified votes with the help of Supreme Court.

Speaking during a press conference of the Council of Presidential Runners, Nabil said the council of presidential runners, supervisory bodies and other institutions prevented the entry of up to one million fraudulent votes into the system.

Furthermore, Nabil emphasized that the relevant authorities must review the biometrically verified votes as well in bid to prevent the count of fraudulent votes. (Khaama Press News Agency)

**(5) Japan Provides ...**

Dr. Mohammad Mirwais Balkhi, Japan's Chargé de Affaires Ad Interim Takahashi Yoshiyaki, UNESCO Representative Patricia McPhillips, Deputy Minister of Education for Literacy Dr. Sardar Mohammad Rahimi.

Balkhi welcomed the new phase of Japanese government funding to the education sector. "The governments of Japan and Afghanistan have been MoE's long-term partners since 2008."

He said the partnership had significantly contributed to expanding literacy and adult education services and supported DMOEL to strengthen its technical capacity both at the centre and in

provinces."

Takahashi Yoshiyaki remarked: "Japan believes education plays a key role in empowering the people and society. Through the effective execution of this programme, adult literacy rate will be enhanced further and graduates will be employed for pursuing a better life in Afghanistan."

Patricia McPhillips thanked the government of Japan for generous contributions and strong commitment to the literacy and adult education programme in Afghanistan.

She also thanked Japan and the Ministry of Education for the long-standing partnership with UNESCO to improve learning opportunities for the Afghans left out of the formal education system. Since 2001, Japan has extended more than \$6.6 billion in assistance to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Wolesi Jirga ...**

five meetings with agenda during the ongoing year. "It has negative consequences for the lower house and its members."

Lawmaker Gul Ahmad Noorzad from Nimroz province also called for some modifications to the internal principles and especially the attendance of members.

He called on the Administrative Board to share names of the absent lawmakers with the nation.

The Wolesi Jirga was to discuss and vote on the President's legislative decree on article 18 of the population registration today.

Mohammad Arif Rahmani, deputy head of security affairs commission of lower house, presented information about the decree and said that work on the article was yet to be completed due to the absence of several members of the Wolesi Jirga.

Ahmad Shah Ramazan, deputy secretary, pointing to the decree, said: "The Wolesi Jirga commission could not decide about an article in three months, mainly because the members do not work and put their own responsibilities on the Administrative Board."

Rahmani asked the house secretary to share the list of absent members with media. According to Rahmani, if lawmakers wanted to modify some rules of internal affairs, they should come to the house. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Initial Election ...**

date due to some technical problems in the process.

"The election result would probably be announced five days or a week later from the scheduled date," he said.

Around 2.7 million people participated in the presidential election. Two days back, the IEC said that the data of 1.7 million voters had so far entered into the central system. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Pakistan to ...**

Pakistan for allowing Hafiz Saeed to withdraw funds from his frozen accounts.

Largely because of support from Turkey, China and Malaysia, the task force decided not to put Pakistan on the blacklist.

Under the FATF charter comprising 36 countries, the support of at least three countries is needed to escape inclusion in the blacklist. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Parwan: 8 Election ...**

district chief claimed the workers' release had been delayed to differences among Taliban. "The elders met the head of the Taliban commission and pleaded for the release of the workers. But the Taliban leader refused to free them in return for money. He vowed to free them on Saturday, October 19."

Mohammad Hamza, a resident of Qauli-Her area, told Pajhwok the Taliban were holding the captives in Shinwari district and were treating them well. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Abdullah ...**

153 of the Afghan Constitution, a minister or a government official is not allowed to work for another institution.

"There is a need to clarify this issue in a transparent way to get to the root. Because those who work in the government-- including the ministers, the president, deputies of the attorney, members of the Supreme Court--have restrictions on their behavior," said legal expert Abdul Subhan Misbah. The Council of Presidential Candidates stated that President Ashraf Ghani will not allow an investigation of allegations against Qayoumi.

"There is no single government in Afghanistan. The president is an illegal president. Those around him want to manipulate the election results in their own favor and continue in their old, corrupt way," said presidential candidate Shahab Hakim.

Also according to the documents, in

recent years the Institute for State Effectiveness and the Afghan government worked together on several projects which increased the income of the institute.

The institute's earnings show a three-fold increase every year since 2016.

TOLOnews reporters made several efforts to obtain a comment from Qayoumi, but without success. (TOLO News)

**(11) 7 of A Family ...**

first such case."

Hotak added the government would again call the incident a mistake, but this time around, a similar statement would not be tolerable for the area people.

Mirwais Stanekzai, a resident of the area, confirmed the incident to Pajhwok and said the family members left their home last night and were targeted inside their garden.

But Mohibullah Sharifzai, the governor's spokesman, said they had been informed the security forces had inflicted casualties on Taliban militants in the area. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Huawei's ...**

revenue for the first three quarters of the year grew 24.4% to 610.8 billion yuan. Revenue in the quarter ended Sept. 30 rose to 165.29 billion yuan (\$23.28 billion) according to Reuters calculations based on previous statements from Huawei.

"Huawei's overseas shipments bounced back quickly in the third quarter although they are yet to return to pre-US ban levels," said Nicole Peng, vice president for mobility at consultancy Canlys.

"The Q3 result is truly impressive given the tremendous pressure the company is facing. But it is worth noting that strong shipments were driven by devices launched pre-US ban, and the long-term outlook is still dim," she added. (Reuters)

**(13) U.S. Carried out ...**

reported.

The U.S. strike appears more limited than other such operations against Iran this year after the downing of an American drone in June and an alleged attack by Iran's Revolutionary Guards on oil tankers in the Gulf in May.

The United States, Saudi Arabia, Britain, France and Germany have publicly blamed the Sept. 14 attack on Iran, which denied involvement in the strike. The Iran-aligned Houthi militant group in Yemen claimed responsibility.

Publicly, the Pentagon has responded by sending thousands of additional troops and equipment to bolster Saudi defenses - the latest U.S. deployment to the region this year.

The Pentagon declined to comment about the cyber strike.

"As a matter of policy and for operational security, we do not discuss cyberspace operations, intelligence, or planning," said Pentagon spokeswoman Elissa Smith. (Reuters)

**(14) Turkey Defies ...**

America's abrupt reversal pushed the Kurds to strike a deal with the Russia-backed government of Syrian President Bashar Assad, inviting its forces to return to regions of northern Syria it had abandoned at the height of the eight-year-old civil war.

Full Coverage: Syria

On Wednesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Russia is committed to ensuring security in the region as it works to mediate between the Syrian government and Turkey.

Russia already announced that it had deployed troops to the flashpoint town of Manbij to keep apart advancing Syrian government and Turkish-led forces.

Moscow will also continue to encourage Syria's Kurds and government to seek rapprochement following the U.S. withdrawal, Lavrov said in remarks carried by Russian news agencies.

Lavrov also blamed the United States and Western nations for undermining the Syrian state, saying this pushed "the Kurds toward separatism and confrontation with Arab tribes."

During a visit to Iraq last week, Lavrov met with the leaders of the Kurdish autonomous region and said that Moscow is sympathetic to their need for autonomy.

Now in its eighth day, Turkey's offensive against Kurdish fighters has increasingly strained relations with its NATO allies.

Late on Tuesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed he would not accept a cease-fire in northern Syria, despite growing pressure from the U.S. and Europe.

Speaking to a group of journalists late Tuesday on his return from a trip to Azerbaijan, Erdogan said Turkey would only consider a cease-fire once it had cleared the border region of Kurdish fighters that it considers a threat for

links to an insurgency within its own territory.

"It is not possible for us to declare a cease-fire until it is cleared," the pro-government Yeni Safak newspaper quoted Erdogan as saying.

Erdogan's comments came as Washington, which has announced limited sanctions on Turkey, said U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser Robert O'Brien are traveling to Ankara on Wednesday to try and negotiate a stop to the fighting in Syria's northeast.

Trump had announced on Monday new sanctions to try to pressure Turkey to accept a cease-fire.

But Erdogan told journalists that he had rejected U.S. offers to mediate. Referring to Syrian Kurdish fighters, he said: "We would never sit around (the negotiating) table with a terror organization." He also said Turkey was "not concerned" by the sanctions.

On Tuesday, the Kremlin said Erdogan accepted an invitation to visit Russia in the "nearest days," without providing further details.

France has suggested it will also work more closely with Russia in Syria.

French Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian said in an interview on French television channel BFM Wednesday that France is notably now looking to Russia, given their "common interests" in defeating the Islamic State group in Syria.

He called on European and other members of the coalition fighting the IS in Syria to regroup as the U.S. appeared to abdicate its leadership role in the region. (AP News)

**(15) Kim Rides Horse ...**

the road of arduous struggle he covered for the great cause of building the most powerful country with faith and will as firm as Mt Paektu," KCNA said.

North Korean documents say Kim's grandfather and national founder Kim Il Sung had an anti-Japan guerrilla base on Paektu's slopes during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The official biography of Kim Jong Un's father, Kim Jong Il, says the second-generation leader was born on Paektu when a double rainbow filled the skies.

The white horse is also a propaganda symbol for the Kim family, which has ruled North Korea for seven decades with a strong personality cult surrounding family members. State media have occasionally shown Kim, his sister and his father riding white horses. The symbolism goes back to Kim Il Sung, who according to the North's official narrative rode a white horse while fighting Japanese colonial rulers.

There have been other horse-riding leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was photographed riding a horse bare-chested, and Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow, who took part in horse races and erected a massive monument featuring his likeness atop a golden horse. KCNA said Kim also visited nearby construction sites in Samjiyon County and complained about U.S.-led U.N. sanctions imposed on his country because of its nuclear and missile programs.

"The situation of the country is difficult owing to the ceaseless sanctions and pressure by the hostile forces and there are many hardships and trials facing us," Kim was quoted as saying. "But our people grew stronger through the trials and found their own way of development and learned how to always win in the face of trials."

Kim also said "the pain the U.S.-led anti-(North Korea) hostile forces inflicted upon the Korean people ... turned into their anger," according to KCNA. "No matter what persistent efforts the enemy make, we can live well with our own efforts and pave the avenue to development and prosperity in our own way." (AP News)

**(16) Turkey Holding ...**

Erdogan has previously expressed a desire to boost Turkey's nuclear arsenal.

"Some nations have missiles with nuclear warheads -- not just one or two. But [they say] I should not have missiles with nuclear warheads. I don't accept this," Erdogan said last month, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency.

President Trump announced on Oct. 6 that the U.S. would pull all troops from northeast Syria, clearing the way for a Turkish air and ground incursion. Erdogan's troops launched an assault on Wednesday and ground forces invaded later that day.

The Pentagon said Friday that U.S. troops near the border town of Kobane in northern Syria came under artillery fire from Turkish positions. No American troops were injured.

In an interview with Fox News, a senior adviser to Erdogan denied that Turkey had fired at U.S. troops.

"I think this is a first -- a country with U.S. nuclear weapons stationed in it literally firing artillery at U.S. forces," said Jeffrey Lewis, from the California-based James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, The Times reported.

Trump said Monday that U.S. troops in northeastern Syria will be withdrawn from the country as planned and redeployed "in the region to monitor the situation and prevent a repeat of 2014," when the Islamic State terrorist group (ISIS) made major territorial gains.

"After defeating 100% of the ISIS Caliphate, I largely moved our troops out of Syria. Let Syria and [President Bashar al] Assad protect the Kurds and fight Turkey for their own land," the president tweeted Monday. "I said to my Generals, why should we be fighting for Syria [...] and Assad to protect the land of our enemy? Anyone who wants to assist Syria in protecting the Kurds is good with me, whether it is Russia, China, or Napoleon Bonaparte. I hope they all do great, we are 7,000 miles away!"

A "small footprint" of American forces will remain at a garrison in southern Syria to continue to disrupt remnants of ISIS, the president said in a statement. It wasn't clear when the roughly 1,000 U.S. troops in Syria would be pulled back.

Russian military forces on Monday went to patrol near the Syria-Turkey border, indicating that Moscow is looking to fill a security vacuum following U.S. troops' withdrawal from the region last week.

Trump said in his statement Monday that the U.S. would "aggressively use economic sanctions to target those who enable, facilitate and finance these heinous acts in Syria."

"I am fully prepared to swiftly destroy Turkey's economy if Turkish leaders continue down this dangerous and destructive path," he said.

On Monday, European Union member countries vowed to suspend weapons exports to Turkey over its military operations in Syria. The move falls short of a formal arms embargo but halts arms export licenses to the Middle Eastern nation.

E.U. member countries denounced Ankara's incursion into northern Syria, which has killed hundreds and displaced thousands. (Fox News)

**(17) Court Holds ...**

matter "as per the law".

During the proceedings, Justice Minallah asked the petitioner what his demand was? To which, Rahi recalled that Fazal had announced a march against the government.

"Do you mean he does not have the right to protest?" enquired the chief justice. "You can protest against [a] policy, not against a democratic government," Rahi responded.

The chief justice said that protesting was a fundamental right of every citizen and could not be ignored.

The proceedings were briefly adjourned as the court ordered that all petitions against the protest be combined and heard together.

Following the break, along with Rahi, another petitioner against the march, Hafiz Ihtisham Ahmed, also appeared in court.

Justice Minallah reminded them that protecting the fundamental rights of citizens was the job of the state.

He said that the state should protect the rights of protesters; additionally, he said, the state was also required to protect the rights of those who do not want to protest.

Justice Minallah recalled that in 2014, the same court had allowed the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) to conduct a dharna - which went on for 126 days.

He asked one of the petitioners, Rahi, if he was there on behalf of the government, to which the petitioner said he was only there as an ordinary citizen. (Pakistan Today)

**(18) Brexit Talks ...**

within touching distance of a deal for the first time since a U.K. withdrawal plan fell apart in the British House of Commons in March.

But talks saw no deal materializing between experts from both sides held up late into the night at EU headquarters in Brussels.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office said the negotiations had been "constructive" and would continue.

Johnson is eager to strike a deal at an EU summit starting Thursday that will allow for the U.K. to leave the bloc in good order on the scheduled date of Oct. 31, fulfilling his promise to get Brexit done, come what may.

But both sides say gaps remain over plans for keeping goods and people flowing freely across the Irish border, the thorniest issue in the talks. (AP News)