

(1) No Group ...

Islamic countries were weak and unable to properly respond to the enemy even then they were not allowed to declare Jihad. "These private organizations provide platform of interference to the enemies of Islam." (Pajhwok)

(2) Security Personnel ...

businessmen. He said this phenomenon had long history in the province and the government had many times dismissed those individuals accused of illegal extorting; but government's measures were for short-term as the extorting practice had again revived after a short while. The ACCI provincial head asked the provincial administration to seriously address the issue.

Ziaul Haq Rahmani, the Poultry Union head in Herat, voiced apprehension about the extortion by security forces. A number of farm businesses had gone bankrupt as they were unable to send chicken meat to other provinces due to increased extortion.

"The fleeing by security forces of those transferring poultry in trucks to other provinces has surged recently. We transfer truckloads of poultry at night but we aren't allowed to do so until we pay the security personnel." He alleged if one refused to pay the illegal transfer of poultry products from foreign countries, including Pakistan and Iran. They said dozens of containers of chicken meat and eggs entered the country without payment of the customs duty. "The government pays no attention to the smuggling." They warned if the smuggling of poultry and eggs was not prevented, many poultry farms would be closed and rendered bankrupt.

However, the governor's spokesman, Jilani Farhad, said they had so far received no complaint regarding extortion by security forces and the smuggling of poultry into the country. He promised if such complaints were registered with the provincial government, they would address them at the earliest possible. (Pajhwok)

(3) US Senators ...

of whom were startled by the depth of the U.S. commitment in Niger and other parts of Africa. They've argued that the dynamics of the battlefield have shifted over the past 16 years and it's well past time to replace the post-Sept. 11 authorization with a law that reflects current threats.

Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., said last week he believed most Americans would be surprised by the extent of the operations in Africa that U.S. forces are involved in. Kaine and Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., are sponsoring legislation to install a new war authority for operations against the Islamic State group, al-Qaida and the Taliban. (AP)

(4) Planned Railway ...

line from Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province, through four provinces, to Herat. A main line and subsidiary lines would be built, said Seddiqi.

He said: "The line would extend from Neyababad in Mazar-e-Sharif to Herat on one side and to Kunduz on the other; Uzbekistan can be connected to the Afghan railway lines via this link," Seddiqi added.

The railway administration said that by establishing a north-west network, trade between Iran, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and China would increase and trade ties between Uzbekistan would also increase.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) meanwhile confirmed trade and transit agreements between high-ranking officials from Afghanistan and Uzbekistan would be signed in the near future.

"The president is expected to travel to Uzbekistan soon, and sixteen memorandums of understanding, including a memorandum (of understanding) to start building a railway network will be signed. Transit problems will be resolved, and trade relations will be developed. This is all good news for us and it will give us hope that we should invest more in Afghanistan," Sayam Pasarlay, spokesman for the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) said.

The north-west railway network is one of six major regional railway projects - and the total line will stretch 1,100 kilometers in the country. Officials from the railway administration said once this railway network is complete, five countries in the region, plus Afghanistan, will be directly connected. (Tolnews)

(5) Frontline Police ...

We buy these with our own money. But what can we do with only 12,000 AFs salary a month - when we have to support our families," another police soldier Nezamuddin said. Members of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) meanwhile discussed the issue on Monday and called on the ministry of interior to resolve this problem immediately.

"The food for Ghor police headquarters has been stopped. We asked the headquarters about this; the main people behind this move was the interior ministry, the Presidential Palace and the National Procurement Authority," Ghor MP Keramuddin Reza Zada said. "The food shortage for national police force members in the provinces has always been a concern. Parliament's internal secu-

rity commission should ask the responsible officials to come to parliament and answer questions," parliament speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said.

Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish meanwhile acknowledged there was a food problem but said they had recently started working on ways to overcome the problem. He said they had fired two procurement department employees at the ministry in relation to this issue.

Danish also said the food issue at Ghor police headquarters had been resolved.

"The lack of food is resolved. The interior ministry in relation to food shortages has fired two employees and introduced them to the prosecutor's office," said Danish. (Tolnews)

(6) Largest Industrial ...

land and already dozens of investors have been handed land.

The park boasts green zones, canalization and roads and according to officials 120-megawatts of electricity will also be supplied to the park.

According to the founder of the industrial park, Mohsin Amiri, they have also considered establishing vegetable farms and vegetable packaging factories in the park.

"First we distribute land to those who have established factories in residential areas and then we will distribute to those who want to transfer their factories from Iran and Pakistan to Afghanistan," said Amiri.

One official, Rohullah, who is responsible for distributing the land, said up to 30 investors enquire daily about purchasing land for their factories.

"Daily a big number of investors come here. We give them forms and show them the land," said Rohullah.

A number of factory owners and investors meanwhile said they are interested in the park.

Najibullah Shinwari has a pharmaceutical factory in Pakistan and has been producing and exporting medicine to Afghanistan for 10 years. He said if he can get land and build a factory in the park he will gladly move his business from Pakistan.

"I have been involved in medicine production for 10 years in Pakistan. Now I want to bring my factory to Afghanistan and produce medicine," said Shinwari.

The lack of land has always been a challenge for investors and has resulted in factories setting up businesses in residential areas.

Investors however urged government to distribute land to help promote local industries. (Tolnews)

(7) Management of Kabul ...

management department to Kabul municipality will benefit the people.

"According to the law of officers and police, Kabul Traffic Management Department officials will continue to carry out their responsibilities, only the management of this has been handed over to the municipality," interior acting minister Wais Ahmad Barmak said.

A joint board from the interior ministry and the municipality, under the leadership of Kabul's acting mayor, will manage Kabul's traffic. If the plan works, then it will be implemented in provinces to resolve traffic issues in other cities. The Minister of Urban Development Sayed Sadat Mansoor Naderi meanwhile said the move to hand over Kabul traffic management services to the municipality will help improve the traffic problem.

"Our aim is to offer better services to our people," said Naderi. According to the urban development ministry, 75 percent of Kabul city has not been built in accordance with urban planning standards.

The ministry's engineers said Kabul city needs a public transport system including a metro line.

Kabul residents however said the municipality does not have the capability to resolve the traffic problems.

"The municipality cannot even gather and remove garbage from Kabul city, so how will it be able to resolve the massive traffic problems," Kabul resident Sabir asked. (Tolnews)

(8) 93% of Afghan ...

professional affairs of journalists.

It said 93 percent of media workers did not receive monthly salaries on due date, with more than 50 percent unable to take leave holidays they are entitled to. Additionally, they are denied promotions. Almost all media workers do not have security outside the workplace, according to Nai Chief Executive Officer. The report urged the government to help overcome the situation by enforcing mass media regulations and labour laws to help journalists get their due rights. (Pajhwok)

(9) Peace, National...

"We are responsible to make Afghanistan stand on its own feet, even without the existence of the international forces."

"If we fail in our mission, an indefinite presence of foreign forces in the country is not what the Afghans would want; people know the need of their existence, this endeavor doesn't only relate to military or security issues, but to efforts made by all of us," he added.

Meanwhile, mentioning a report released by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC), he said vulnerabilities existed in the Ministry of Education.

He said the committee had not only identified the weaknesses but had offered suggestions as well, which were discussed in the Human

Resources High Council meeting yesterday. Abdullah said the findings, instructions and suggestions made by the MEC were important and the Ministry of Education must make serious efforts to stop and eliminate corruption.

He also called illegal recruitment of teachers as another dilemma, assuring support to the Ministry of Education in introducing reforms. The CEO said reports published about an organization must be studied carefully and solutions be offered to tackle challenges.

He added problems in an organization should be confessed and serious measures taken to bring reforms. He said it was the right of people to know the facts. (Pajhwok)

(10) Pakistan, US ...

believes "reconciliation" is the way forward to end the war.

"We have done our part [on our side of the border] and shall continue to contribute toward enduring peace and stability in the region, keeping Pakistan's interest supreme," said the army spokesman. Pakistan denies allegations of havens on its soil, saying its security forces have cleared the country of militants.

Other stakeholders, said Ghafoor, also need to adopt a "methodology" which encourages progress for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. He did not elaborate.

Officials in Pakistan say U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is also relying on its military might, like its predecessor did, to pressure the Taliban to come to the negotiating table, despite knowing the policy has not worked during the past 16 years.

Trump, in his recently unveiled Afghan strategy, authorized deployment of several thousand U.S. troops and more use of American military power in support of Afghan forces' operations against the Taliban.

"They [the United States] do want to go for reconciliation but they need to review their current strategy for achieving results," said a Pakistani government official while speaking to VOA on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

The official added that the Afghan government also needs to do "a lot" in terms of creating conditions to encourage the Taliban to engage in a peace process.

Pakistani officials maintain Kabul and Washington need to offer the Taliban a peace dialogue first and that the Qatar-based political office of the insurgents could be utilized for that purpose. It may help, they say, to separate those Taliban leaders who are in favor of talks from those who oppose reconciliation and, eventually, it will justify military operations against "irreconcilables."

Officials acknowledge that Islamabad and Washington continue to hold widely divergent views on how to kickstart an Afghan peace process and last week's discussions did not bring the two sides closer on the issue.

Growing regional influence

Pakistan also points to the Taliban's growing contacts with countries like Russia, China and Iran, saying these countries are now better placed than Islamabad to influence the insurgents to engage in peace talks with the Afghan government. Islamabad's influence over the Taliban is "often overestimated" in Washington, according to a Pakistani Foreign Ministry official who also spoke to VOA on condition of anonymity. In his post-Pakistan visit comments, Tillerson said the United States is in contact with the Taliban through "back channels" and the Doha office, saying there is a role for the insurgent group in the Afghan government.

"Please come. Please come and take up your role, but you must come on the condition that you renounce terrorism, you renounce violent extremism, and you will never take up those efforts again," Tillerson said while speaking to reporters Friday in Geneva.

He went on to say the Afghan government has a special responsibility to create the conditions to invite the Taliban to the negotiating table. The Taliban has long maintained it will not engage in any peace talks until all American and NATO forces leave Afghanistan and allow Afghans to determine a political reconciliation process.

The insurgency has extended its control to more than 40 percent of Afghanistan since international combat troops left the country in 2014 and it continues to make battlefield gains. (VoA)

(11) Taliban Urged to ...

own members in captivity in exchange for the release of the professors in a video posted in June. The video showed the two professors pleading for their lives and urging the U.S. and Australian authorities to engage in talks with the militants for their release.

In its statement, the university said: "They are innocent victims of a criminal abduction. They came to Afghanistan to teach the Afghan youth and contribute to building a peaceful Afghanistan."

"They have done no harm to anyone. We strongly urge the Taliban to immediately release Mr. King and Mr. Weeks unharmed..."

"We will not stop trying to work for your release. We urge your kidnappers to release you at once."

Kidnapping of foreigners is a recurring phenomenon in Afghanistan involving both the militant factions as well as criminal syndicates.

Last month, the Taliban rejected allegations by the recently-freed Canadian hostage Joshua Boyle that the militants raped his wife and killed one of their infant children while the

family was being held hostage. Joshua Boyle and his pregnant American wife Caitlan Coleman were kidnapped while backpacking in Afghanistan in 2012. They were released from captivity in October in Pakistan's tribal area. (AA)

(12) Targeting Taliban ...

decision of Washington to target the Taliban leaders.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense Gen. Dawlat Waziri said Monday that the Afghan security forces will also increase operations against the Taliban militants.

Gen. Waziri further added that the Afghan security forces are currently conducting scores of operations, including airstrikes, special operations and night raids on militants hideouts. This comes as reports emerged earlier suggesting that the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is sending small teams of highly experienced officers and contractors to hunt and kill Taliban militants across the country.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo earlier also said that the United States wants to beat the Taliban in the battlefield first to force them to negotiate peace with the government in Kabul. This is also a key component of the policy US President Donald Trump announced in his address to the American nation on Aug 21.

"President (Trump) has made it very clear. We are going to do everything we can ... to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table in Afghanistan with the Taliban having zero hope that they can win this thing on the battlefield," the CIA chief said during his speech at a US think tank last week. (KP)

(13) 50pc of North...

The entire government will be reformed if reforms are brought to the Presidential Palace," MP Abdul Rahman Rahmani said.

The Presidential Palace has refused to comment on the remarks against the president. (Tolnews)

(14) 40 Badakhshan ...

provincial Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) office surveyed vulnerable districts such as Darwaza, Argo, Raghistan, Daryaim and Faizabad, the provincial capital in two years.

"The geologists found 40 villages in these districts as vulnerable and people there change their location because the mountains and hills around these villages contain water fountains and connected to the Hindu Kush mountains, the center of earthquakes," he said.

He added jungles in the areas had declined during the conflict, which could have reduced the risk.

Baidar said 30 percent of vulnerable residents were distributed land plots in seven townships prepared by ANDMA and aid organizations.

The rest of other vulnerable families would be also provided with land plots in safe areas in future as currently ANDMA has limited financial resources, he added.

"We have a very detailed map of avalanches and landslides provided by GIZ, we also developed a plan in 2016 and it needs to be reviewed and shared with the ANDMA's main office," he said.

He added 20 to 30 people were killed in spring and winter seasons due to avalanches, landslides and flooding in Badakhshan every year but efforts were underway to prevent human losses in future.

"We grew jungles in vulnerable areas and constructed retaining walls to reduce fatalities in most of the districts," he said.

A provincial council member, Mahbob Rahman Talaat, said more than 100 families from Yawan district affected by flash floods in recent years had been shifted to Faizabad city.

"We have repeatedly shared problems of these families with the officials concerned but they told us that they faced shortage of budget, we can provide them enough land plots if we receive enough budget for them," he said. Abdul Bari, one of the displaced persons from Kham Yalgak area of Yawan district, talking on behalf of others, said the lack of housing facility was one of their major problems.

"We are living in the sixth police district of Faizabad. Except food aid, we have received nothing in the past two and half a year, we cannot pay rent, and our problems double in winter," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(15) 90 Percent of ...

Mohammad Alem, 24, a resident of the Lababi village of Dara-i-Sauf district, told Pajhwok Afghan News he did not enroll his 12-year-old daughter because teachers did not deliver proper lectures.

"If I enroll my daughter in the school, she will learn nothing," he believed, saying teachers came and gathered students only when education officials inspected the school. On normal days, students and teachers stay away. But Rafiullah, 39, hailing from Mosam area, said there was no issue in his area and he had admitted his two daughters to school. He stressed the promotion of education, calling ignorance a big reason behind crimes and conflict.

He added one of his daughters, after completing school, graduated from a midwifery training course. She is currently serving at a local clinic. Rafiullah's daughter is receiving salary and serving her people as well.

Ziauddin, a resident of the Baghal Sheghaf village of Hazrat Sultan district, has five daughters - aged eight to 17-years. But he does not send them to school due to the absence of separate classrooms.

He does not like co-education. "We live in a mountainous area and sometimes the Taliban visit our area. Because of Taliban's threat, I did not enroll my daughters in school."

But Baba Basir, 61, belonging to the Kokjar village of the same district, has enrolled his two daughters in school. One is a student of 8th class and another of second grade.

"I enrolled my daughters in school because education is light. An uneducated person is blind. If a woman is educated, she can also educate her children in a better way," he remarked.

However, Abdul Hakim, a resident of the Qarghara village of Roi Duaab district, said people of his village did not send their daughters to school due to the bad security situation.

Another reason for people preventing their daughters from going to school is the shame factor, he said. (Pajhwok)

(16) Pakistan Unwilling ...

deal with the Taliban because many illegal activities were being conducted in their name. "If this platform is disorganized, then peace will be difficult to restore."

Another HPC member Azizullah Haji Din Mohammad said today's gathering sent a message to the people to collect their viewpoints regarding peace and then submit them to the HPC.

Governor Gulab Mangal demanded expansion of the provincial peace committee to accelerate its peace efforts in the province. He said over 900 rebels had joined the peace process in the province so far. (Pajhwok)

(17) Better Af-Pak ...

of terrorism, he said, stressing the need for mutual cooperation on addressing the issue of terrorism.

The former chief minister called for the Trump administration to revisit its policy and evolve a proactive Afghan strategy for the sake of regional stability.

He acknowledged the enormous sacrifices for the protection of Pakistan's borders. However, they were intentionally kept deprived of rewards and facilities, he lamented, urging abolition of the British-era Frontier Crimes Regulation. (Pajhwok)

(18) Kochis Raise Issue ...

Sar-e-Pul and Faryab provinces alone. At Monday's meeting, the Kochis also raised the issue of not having clean, drinking water. The deputy head of the technical and vocational training center for Kochi's, Mohammad Khan Salam, confirmed these issues and said the Kochis came together in Mazar on Monday to raise their problems.

Meanwhile, the deputy governor of Balkh, Mohammad Bashir Tawhidi, said the Kochis are facing problems resulting from land grabbing issues. (Tolnews)

(19) Road between...

Meanwhile, the governor's spokesman, Abdur Rahman Ahmadi, said one policeman was killed in the insurgent attack in Baghak area last night. The rebels went into hiding after the attack.

On the other hand, Ahmadi said that two girls in Punjab and Waras districts committed suicide by hanging themselves this week. He said the motive behind the incidents was yet to be known.

A suspect in one of the suicide cases in Panjab district has been arrested and a delegation sent to Waras district to investigate the second incident. (Pajhwok)

(20) Special Forces Kill ...

also destroyed three important centers belonging to militants.

The Taliban increased their attacks in southeastern provinces particularly in Khost after the US announced its new strategy on Afghanistan.

The rebels have so far said nothing about the operations in Khost. (Pajhwok)

(21) ISIS and Taliban ...

said late on Saturday at least eight militants were killed or wounded during the latest infighting among the Taliban and ISIS militants in this province. A statement by the government's office said at least five ISIS militants were killed and three Taliban insurgents were wounded during the clash. The statement further added that the incident took place at around 5 am local time Sprai area of the district. (KP)

(22) Explosives-Laden ...

in connection to the smuggling of the explosives and operations are underway in this regard, the provincial government added. (KP)

(23) 9 Police Killed, 5 ...

Khogyani district centre had long been under their control and the fighters overran two posts in Ghazni City as well. He said only two rebels were injured in the gunbattle. (Pajhwok)

(24) Maraston Inmate...

paint national figures, historic monuments and places besides hand embroidery. But she needed financial support from a government or non-governmental organization to start her business. (Pajhwok)

(25) Ex-Taliban Group

foreign interests and all their activities against the principles of Islam and the holy Quran. He said a Muslim cannot become a stooge to foreigners and for this reason he decided to defect from the Taliban ranks and return to a normal life. (KP)