

(1) Amid Af-Pak Rows...

During his daylong trip, Qureshi is expected to deliver an invitation from Prime Minister Imran Khan to President Ghani to visit Islamabad. "We hope the neighbours will opt for mending fences." (Pajhwok)

(2) BSA Behind...

He said the BSA had resulted in Afghanistan's enmity with its neighboring countries and had increased in insecurity and had surged the internal conflict. He called for the agreement to be reviewed and said the people of Afghanistan lost their authority and say after inking the agreement.

Allah Gul Mujahid, a lawmaker from Kabul, said: "If you want the killing of the people of Afghanistan to be stopped then revoke the BSA."

Shekaiba Hashami, a lawmaker from Kandahar province, said the US did not honor the BSA and did not support Afghan forces on the battleground.

A number of other lawmakers also demanded the government to reconsider the agreement on the account of growing insecurity and instability in the country.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said a review of the BSA was the authority of lawmakers and asked the public representatives to proceed with a written request regarding a review of the agreement.

He said the inclusion of the BSA in future agenda of the house required a legal document and if it existed, then it should be handed over to the administrative panel of the house. (Pajhwok)

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(3) MPs Seek Stringent...

It was an insult to the martyrs. Individual behind the rowdy scenes should be arrested."

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) says around 100 people have been arrested for disturbing the public order. Thirty vehicle and 15 weapons were also recovered, the ministry said. (Pajhwok)

(4) US to Threaten...

to have the court prosecute Israeli actions.

The Trump administration initially announced it would close the office last year for the same reason, but later reversed its decision.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has asked the international court to investigate and prosecute Israeli officials for "their involvement in settlement activities and aggressions against our people." (VoA)

(5) Details of Over...

"Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan will not boycott the elections at any cost, we are supporting timely elections and press for the common demand of the political parties," said Humayoun Jariri, a member of the leadership council of Hizb-e-Islami.

"I swear that over 50 percent of the voters are fake. If the president wants to remain in power for another five years, then the graves of all of us should be dug," said Mohammad Ismail, member of Jamiat-e-Islami leadership council.

"The commission is not undertaking the biometric system nor is any other body," said IEC commissioner Sayed Hafiz Hashemi. The IEC has decided to print more than 9.9 million ballot papers for the parliamentary elections in October.

"Considering the fact that over 9.1 million people have registered to vote, the commission has decided print 9.9 million ballot papers for 35 polling stations

countrywide," said Abdul Badi Sayyad, the IEC Chairman, as he addressed a press conference on Tuesday.

Based on IEC statistics, just over nine million Afghans have registered to vote across the country. Government's political opponents and critics have hit out at the IEC regarding the organization's claims that nine million Afghans across the country have registered to vote. This came after concerns were raised in the country of widespread ID fraud and ghost voters.

According to the IEC, the commission is in the process of entering the details, of all those who registered, into their database.

Critics however say that as many as five million are in fact ghost voters.

Political parties have called for changes to be brought to the electoral system, the suspension of the voter registration process, rolling out a biometric system for voter registration and declaring each province a single constituency. (Tolo news)

(6) Afghan Media...

been noticeably reduced following the deadly blast in April and last week's incident is likely to restrict coverage further, said Lotfullah Najafizada, head of Tolo News.

"The space is shrinking," he told Reuters. "We have lost colleagues in four separate attacks in two years alone. That demonstrates that the media is under immense pressure."

Afghanistan's vibrant media sector has been one of the comparatively few undisputed success stories in the years following the overthrow of the Taliban, with the appearance of stations like Tolo as well as an array of competitors including 1TV, Ariana News, Shamshad TV and Khurshid TV.

With international media presence in Afghanistan sharply reduced since the withdrawal of international troops in 2014, domestic media outlets have filled the gap but their work has become increasingly difficult.

"You have a lot of no-go areas, there is a long list of things you cannot do," Najafizada said.

Already large parts of the countryside, much of which is under the control of the Taliban, are out of bounds for journalists, who have been regarded with suspicion and sometimes outright hostility by the insurgents. As the major cities still controlled by the government become increasingly dangerous, there would be more restrictions on coverage, less access and less support, he said.

"This is certainly creating another layer of restrictions for a free press which is worrying."

For the journalists and media workers themselves, the growing roll call of colleagues killed while working is an increasingly oppressive fact of life.

"It has been proved to the world that Afghanistan is not a safe place for people of Afghanistan and for journalists," said Soraya Amiri, a Tolo News producer.

"This is a clear and bitter fact that we have to believe and accept." (Reuters)

(7) MPs Level Serious...

increased insecurity and casualties to civilians.

"The defense minister and the spy chief were made Cabinet members by foreign intelligence agencies. They are the main obstacle to airstrikes and supply of reinforcement to security forces."

Lawmaker Mohammad Naeem Lalai Haedzai claimed without offering any evidence that Stanikzai had been involved in the murder of people, drug smuggling and supplying equipment to the Taliban.

He demanded the impeachment of the security bosses and said enough arguments were there to impeach them.

Ghaulam Hassan Naseri, a lawmaker from Maidan Wardak province, said: "The attack on Ghazni and handing some posts over to the Taliban was part of the process headed by traitors within the government. Some individuals within the government are striving to implement the agenda of foreign countries," he said.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim expressed concern over the deteriorated security situation and said: "We summoned the security officials to discuss the security situation because it is a highly important issue for the nation."

He said there was a need for at least 50 lawmakers to request impeachment of a minister after which the committee concerned would decide about the day of impeachment. (Pajhwok)

(8) 13 ALP Personnel...

and wounding 15 policemen. However, the militant group did not provide information about casualties among the fighters. (Pajhwok)

(9) Logar Residents...

many families had fled capital Kabul due to insecurity in their own areas.

He said, "I am living in Mohammad Agha district which is around 30 kilometers away from Kabul, but the district has security, thus people are leaving their homes."

"Crimes have increased compared to the past in the province", he concluded.

A number of other residents expressed similar views and urged the government to pay strong attention to Logar's security situation.

Meanwhile, Abdul Wali Wakil, the deputy provincial council chief, told Pajhwok that many people daily visited the PC office complaining about insecurity.

He also urged the government to take measures for improvement of security in the province.

However, provincial police spokesman Shapur Ahmadzai said rejected the security situation had deteriorated due to security forces' negligence. He assured police would take more steps to ensure security of people.

About the relevant issue, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the security situation was good in all areas under Taliban's control.

He said it were often security forces causing casualties to civilians during their nighttime operations. (Pajhwok)

(10) Germany...

incident has prompted calls for calm from German authorities, after the fatal stabbing of a German man in the eastern city of Chemnitz two weeks ago triggered violent far-right protests.

Holger Stahlknecht, the interior minister of the state of Saxony-Anhalt, has called for residents to "keep a cool head." At a press conference on Monday, he said the state of Saxony-Anhalt would "use all available resources to solve this case and do everything we can to make sure that shock [over the death of the man] remains shock about his death" and nothing more.

He stressed, however, that the majority of Sunday's protesters were "level-headed citizens." He said police were investigating exactly what kind of slogans were displayed and chanted in Köthen on Sunday to ascertain if they amounted to incitement. (DW)

More Than 30,000 Displaced in Syria's Idlib in Latest Offensive: U.N.

BEIRUT/GENEVA - More than 30,000 people have fled their homes in northwest Syria since Syrian government and allied forces resumed air and ground bombardments there last week, a United Nations official said on Monday.

Damascus, backed by Russia and Iran, has been preparing a major assault to recover Idlib and adjacent areas of northwest Syria from rebels. The area is the last major stronghold of active opposition to the rule of President Bashar al-Assad.

Russian and Syrian warplanes resumed their bombing campaign last week and the presidents of Turkey, Iran and Russia on Friday failed to agree on a ceasefire that would forestall the offensive.

Also on Monday, the U.N.'s emergency coordinator said an all-out military assault on Idlib could provoke the worst humanitarian catastrophe of the 21st Century and must be averted. David Swanson, spokesman for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said that as of Sunday, 30,542 people have been displaced from northwest Syria, moving to different areas across Idlib.

About 2.9 million people live in the opposition-held area, which comprises most of Idlib province and adjacent small parts of Latakia, Hama and Aleppo provinces.

U.N.'s emergency coordinator Mark Lowcock said some 800,000 of those could flee their current homes in an exodus sparked by a major battle.

OCHA's Swanson said that since Friday's summit, mortar and rocket attacks had increased, especially in the northern Hama countryside and southern Idlib rural areas.

He said 47 percent of those displaced have moved to camps, 29 percent are staying with families, 14 percent have settled in informal camps and 10 percent are in rented accommodation.

Abu al-Baraa al-Hamawi, a rebel leader in northern Hama, said about 95 percent of people had left a number of villages in northern and western Hama province and in southern Idlib province in the last three days due to intensive air strikes.

"We are very actively preparing for the possibility that civilians move in huge numbers in multiple directions," Lowcock told a news briefing in Geneva.

"There needs to be ways of dealing with this problem that don't turn the next few months in Idlib into the worst humanitarian catastrophe with the biggest loss of life of the 21st Century," he said.

Christy Delafield of Mercy Corps, one of the largest organizations delivering aid in Syria, said it has been hard for aid workers and communities to keep up with the displacement.

"There is a lack of water storage capacity in many of the areas in which we operate, with just two or three days worth of water available to civilians," she told Reuters.

"The crossing points along the front lines between the government and opposition controlled areas have been closed, and as a result, food prices have dramatically increased."

U.N. Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura began two days of talks in Geneva on Monday with senior officials from Russia, Iran and Turkey on forming a Constitutional Committee in Syria, but which were expected to be overshadowed by the Idlib crisis.

Tehran and Moscow have helped Assad turn the course of the war against an array of opponents ranging from Western-backed rebels to the Islamist militants, while Turkey is a leading opposition supporter and has troops in the country.

More than half a million people have been killed and 11 million forced to flee their homes in the seven-year-old war. (Reuters)

Creditors Warn Greece on Debt Relief as Inspectors Return

ATHENS, Greece — Greece's lead creditor warned the country on Monday not to stray from reforms agreed upon before the end of its international bailout, as European monitors arrived to check the nation's finances.

The five-day inspection is expected to focus on government promises over the weekend to offer tax relief as well as plans to scrap promised pension cuts that are due to take effect in 2019.

Klaus Regling, managing director of the European Stability Mechanism, the eurozone's rescue fund, told Austria's Die Presse newspaper that Greece's needed to stick to its commitments.

"We are a very patient creditor. But we can stop debt relief measures that have been decided for Greece if the adjustment programs are not continued as agreed," he said.

"The debt level appears to be frighteningly elevated. But Greece can live with that as the loan maturities are very long and the interest rates on the loans are much lower than in most other countries." (AP)

Poland's Ruling Party Leader Says He Has No Plans to Retire

WARSAW, Poland — The 69-year-old leader of Poland's ruling party says he has no plans to quit politics, even as he's pushing judges to retire earlier.

Critics accused Jaroslaw Kaczynski on Monday of double standards. His Law and Justice party is forcing judges to retire at 65 — five years earlier than before — as part of a judicial overhaul that has put Poland at odds with European Union leaders.

Asked about a successor, Kaczynski said that being 69 in politics "is certainly a lot, but it is not yet retirement age."

He pointed to the example of former German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer who took the position in 1949 at the age of 73.

Kaczynski had recently been hospitalized for a knee problem that has raised questions over his health condition and who would succeed him. He is to undergo a knee surgery but is currently involved in a campaign ahead of the Oct. 21 local elections in which his party is hoping to strengthen its grip on power. Kaczynski founded Law and Justice with his identical twin brother, the late President Lech Kaczynski, who was killed in a 2010 plane crash. (AP)