

(1) Kabul, Tehran

Afghanistan has announced its agreement to work with Iran to restore the lake.

"We hope the two sides go ahead with the joint project smoothly and the project ends up in the interest of the region," she concluded.

Helmand River, originating in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush mountains, is the main source of feeding Hamun Lake. (Pajhwok)

(2) Wolesi Jirga

ministers-designate was against the law.

He said the lower house should start reviewing documents of the eight ministers-designate and set the government a deadline to introduce the remaining candidates.

A number of lawmakers agreed with Kalakani.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said adding the eight ministers-designate to the house's agenda was not against the law. He ordered the house higher education and internal audit commission to review documents of the eight candidates and then add them to agenda.

Hameed Tahmasi has been nominated for the ministry of transport, Mohammad Shafiq Gul Agha Sherzai for the ministry of border and tribal affairs, Tariq Shah Bahrami for defense, Abdul Latif Roshan for higher education, Faizullah Zaki for labor, social affairs, martyrs and disabled and Nargis Nehan for mines and petroleum.

Wais Ahmad Barmak has been nominated to head the ministry of interior, Shahzad Gul Aryubi the ministry of telecommunication and information technology and Yama Yari public works ministry.

The Wolesi Jirga speaker said: "We have several times told the government to introduce ministers-designate to the lower house, we once again call on the government leaders to introduce their candidates for the rest of the vacant Cabinet posts."

Ibrahim said serving in acting capacity beyond two months was against the law and the government should no longer violate it. (Pajhwok)

(3) Legendary Treasures

major crossroads of world civilisations. Cultural exchanges such as this one are an important pillar of the Afghanistan-China strategic partnership and will further strengthen friendship and understanding between the two peoples. (Pajhwok)

(4) Media Outlets

at informing print, audio, TV channels, broadcasting agencies, media websites, translating agencies and other media outlets working under MoIC about the income tax.

"Our recent estimations show some media outlets owe 300 million afghanis to the MoIC in unpaid taxes; but due to efforts by our ministry, fortunately the president forgave earlier tax penalties and set a seven years deadline for paying taxes in monthly installments."

Sancharaki said MoIC was making efforts at creating awareness among people about income tax through workshops, the Radio Television Afghanistan, media outlets and the Federation of Afghanistan's media Organizations and Journalists. (Pajhwok)

(5) Abrupt US Pullout

Noting that the goal of the new strategy is a sustainable political outcome that prevents the reestablishment of terrorist safe havens in Afghanistan, Bass said the US will make clear to the Taliban that it cannot win or outlast US on the battlefield; the only path to peace and political legitimacy is through a negotiated political settlement.

"As you have heard in briefings on the new strategy, our support for the Afghan government's efforts to combat Taliban violence and intimidation and resolve the conflict will be dictated by conditions on the ground -- not by abstract deadlines..."

"We are signaling support to the Afghan public and the entire region that the United States is determined to create the conditions that enable a political settlement. Those settlement talks, if and when they come, must remain an Afghan-owned, Afghan-led process," Bass said.

A key element of his diplomacy focused beyond Afghanistan's borders, he said. If confirmed, his first regional engagement priority will be to work closely with US ambassador in Islamabad to encourage improvements in the Af-Pak relationship.

"I intend to supplement this effort with equally focused work with my fellow ambassadors to ensure key regional countries with a stake in the region's stability -- including India, Russia and China -- are doing everything possible to achieve that shared objective.

"We must address and prevent the hedging among some regional actors that has empowered the Taliban and lengthened the conflict," Bass said. (Pajhwok)

(6) Kabul New

the National Coordination Affairs and advisor to the president, Mohammad Almas Zahid.

Zahid urged the governor to serve his people and the country honestly.

Haideri vowed to end land-grabbing in cooperation with relevant authorities and wrest back already grabbed lands. Reports say at least 1.3 million acres of land has been grabbed in 30 provinces of the country, including Kabul.

Haideri identified combating as one of his priorities, saying "administrative steps would be simplified in all departments."

"We will try to computerize all the affairs and take care of balance in development in Kabul."

The new governor vowed to work for improvement in health, training, social, cultural and construction sectors and bring about stability and security to Kabul.

Abdul Malik Sadiqi, deputy director of financial institutions at the Independent Administrative Organization, praised Kabul's former governor, Hamid Akram's work.

He said the new governor had work experience in civil and military fields and held a master's degree. (Pajhwok)

(7) Govt. Approves New

asphalt work from Qala Naw district of Badghis to Aab Kamari district, road construction of Bagh-e-Pul of Joi Ghulam of Farah province, 10 kilometer road construction Dahan-e-Aab Dara of Maidan Wardak province.

Other contracts approved during the meeting include second phase reconstruction of the road from Do Aab of Nuristan to Mandol area of Dahan-e-Payar, first phase road construction from Doshi to Bamiyan having a length of 21 kilometers which has been approved in principle demanding a reduction of price in the contract value by half million dollars.

The meeting also approved the recruitment of the consulting firm for the Trans Hindukush highway project as well as approving 100 million Afghanis for Kabul municipality for the purchase of asphalt material.

The other contracts approved by national procurement commission include construction of a pharmaceutical factory by Binai construction enterprise, security contract for Kabul intercontinental hotel, procurement of 23 clothing items for prisons and jails of the ministry of interior, and contract for the design of a database for the budget and expenses for 12 units of the ministry of finance. (KP)

(8) Abdullah Promises

security forces and jointly crush Daesh. Abdullah expressed his grief over atrocities the IS meted out to the people of Pachirag, promising he would discuss the issue with the National Security Council and soon an operation would be carried out against Daesh. He said the government was fully ready to suppress insurgents, especially Daesh. Abdullah said the government was taking fundamental measures for driving Daesh away and facilitating safe return of the displaced families to their original places.

Abdullah tasked a delegation at the head of the Cabinet's secretariat chief, Baryalai Arsalayi, to pay a visit to Nangarhar and provide needed aid to displaced people after assessing their situation. (Pajhwok)

(9) Swedish Govt.

she said, insisting that Sweden has one of the most legally sound asylum systems and offers strong rights for asylum seekers.

The Green Party's migration spokesperson Maria Ferm argued however that a legal solution should be found so that the young Afghans who came as unaccompanied asylum seekers in 2015 can stay:

"Afghanistan is one of the world's most dangerous countries, and there are very few opportunities to start any kind of normal life for those who return there without a network."

The Swedish Migration Agency's official stance on Afghanistan is that safety varies between the country's different provinces and that "it is still possible to return to several areas."

Ferm said that long processing times at the Swedish Migration Agency was a problem for the youngsters, with many turning 18 by the time their case was looked at, meaning they were therefore processed as adults despite arriving in Sweden when they were underage:

"We don't want to see thousands of young asylum seekers getting deportation notices, and we don't want them to get it this autumn after being made to wait several years for the decision."

Migration Minister Fritzon said she does not believe new legislation is required in response however. From the opposition parties, the Sweden Democrats and Moderates defended the current system, while the Centre Party argued that a new solution is necessary. "To date this year seven people from this group have taken their own lives,

roughly around 100 have tried. I understand that may sound macabre but from my perspective you can't start anywhere but there when talking about this group," Centre Party migration spokesperson Johanna Jönsson said. (Agencies)

(10) Tourism Union

between foreign and domestic airlines in the country and that foreign airlines have more flights into the country than domestic airlines have out of the country.

Massoud Bina, deputy head of Afghanistan's Tourism Union said in the past seven years five airlines have closed down after not receiving enough support from government.

They said, because domestic airlines did not fly to foreign destinations, the cost of tickets on foreign airlines has been on the rise.

"The inactivity of Afghanistan's airlines directly affects our work. Except one or two companies, the others are not operating. Government must support the domestic companies and then our work will increase," said Massoud, one travel agent.

Meanwhile, officials from the Civil Aviation Authority said there are agreements in place that should balance the number of domestic and foreign airline flights.

"We would be happy to have more foreign flights and also have more domestic flights. We can share the agreements in which it is stated that we would have the same number of flights to any country that flies to our country," head of the Civil Aviation Authority, Mahmood Shah Habibi said.

The Civil Aviation Authority also said if Afghans buy tickets early, they would pay less. But when they buy at the last minute, then the price is high.

Meanwhile, a number of economic analysts said poor management in the civil aviation sector is the key challenge in this regard.

"The civil aviation authority should give the domestic airlines more time to become able to compete (with foreign airlines). Otherwise, we will see airlines going bankrupt in the next few years," economic lecturer at Kabul University, Sayed Massoud said. (Tolonews)

(11) 70 Militants

National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) for hours.

The spokesman said that 70 militants were killed while 30 more wounded in the battle.

Shah Wali, administrator of the Bargi-Matal district, informed four security personnel also died and five others wounded fighting the militants.

The Taliban, on their part, claimed to have killed 20 security personnel in the assault.

Bordering Dir and Chitral districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan, Nuristan province of Afghanistan with its thick forest cover has long been used by the militants for sanctuaries and movement between the two countries.

Separately, one of the key commanders of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has been killed along with his two other comrades in eastern Afghan province of Nangrahar Tuesday night, Taliban sources told Anadolu Agency.

Commander Nazir Afridi was killed in an air raid by the Afghan Air Force in Nazyan area of Nangrahar province, they confirmed Wednesday.

Afridi was involved in several terrorist attacks including the deadliest 2014 attack on a military-run school in Peshawar city, that left more than 132 students and 8 teachers killed, a security officer, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on talking to the media, told Anadolu Agency.

"Afridi was a close aid of Omar Mansour, the mastermind of the attack on Army Public School in Peshawar and was wanted to Pakistani security agencies in several terrorist attacks," the officer added.

Mansour was killed in US drone strike in eastern Afghanistan in July 2016. (AA)

(12) Iran First Exporter

as governor-general of Semnan province as well as other officials and a parliament vice-speaker attended the inaugural inauguration ceremony of the festival.

It is predicted that this year 40,000 tons of pistachio to be collected from Damghan gardens. (IRNA)

(13) Khost: Displaced

hundreds of families had also been forced to flee their homes due to war. Hakim Faisal, an inhabitant of Janikhel, said most displaced families had moved to the capital of Paktia, Samkani district and Khost province. He lambasted the government and donor agencies for failing to provide them necessary assistance in time.

"What does the necessary help mean? If one is provided no aid in a fortnight, how can one claim distributing immediate assistance? I am very concerned about the conduct of the authorities; we have received no assistance yet".

Mohammad Hashim Halim, Khost director of refugees and repatriation, confirmed over 200 families had been displaced due to recent fighting in Janikhel district.

He claimed delivering immediate assistance to them after a survey, but the registrations process was still in progress. The remaining families would also receive aid, he promised.

The families without shelter would be given tents, toilets and food items. The war-affected households fear they will not see normality as the security forces' operation is ongoing in Janikhel.

A member of Paktia provincial council, Hafizullah Mubarez, told Pajhwok more areas of Janikel had been purged of militants and the situation had retired to normal.

"We call on the displaced people to return to their homes without any fear. The district centre was under the control of the government and war has ended," the public representative said. (Pajhwok)

(14) US Bombing

year. The release of these figures comes after US President Donald Trump recently announced his new war strategy for Afghanistan.

On Saturday, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein told Military.com that they are "in the process of doing the detailed planning [for] that strategy."

"And the discussion that we're having is - which is led by the supported combatant commander but supported also by the joint chiefs - and that is, what's the air-ground team that's required to be able to now execute the strategy that the president has laid out?" Goldfein said.

Last month Trump announced the US would send in additional troops, but he would not cite exact numbers. However, military sources have said that an additional 3,500 troops will deploy.

Military.com reported that Goldfein also said despite the August increase, the number of airstrikes in the country per month are relatively steady - in the hundreds - and that they were not exponentially increasing by the day. He did not elaborate on why the rate last month was higher than usual.

Even before Trump's announcement Gen. John Nicholson, commander of US forces in Afghanistan and the NATO Resolute Support mission, had already been increasing airpower in the region, reported Military.com.

In April, Nicholson approved the highly publicized drop of the GBU-43 Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) - nicknamed "mother of all bombs" - against Daesh in the Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province.

It was the first time the MOAB, the highest-yielding, non-nuclear bomb in the US arsenal, had been used in combat.

US warplanes, meanwhile, dropped 460 weapons across Afghanistan that same month, more than the two previous months combined. The increase in strikes came from such aircraft as the F-16 fighter, MQ-9 drone and B-52 Stratofortress bomber, Military.com stated. (Tolonews)

(15) Ghazni: Female

She said some people harassed her through calls from unidentified numbers while others tried to defame her. However, Shamila vowed to continue serving the people of her province.

"I hear many negative things against myself on a daily. This annoys me a lot, but I ignore obnoxious calls that disturb my focus on work. Every young man's first expression is that he loves me, which is ridiculous," she said.

Khadija, a journalist with a private television in Ghazni, said that harassment would not change her goals or prevent her from working.

"I love my profession and it encourages me to tolerate and ignore propaganda," she said, adding people would not stop harassing her even if she stayed at home. Therefore, she preferred to continue her job.

Khadija said that her husband motivated her a lot. "As long as my family supports me. I would not think about other people's views," she observed. Female journalists and media workers were generally under security threat in Ghazni, but no one publicly spoke about the issue, she said. Khadija believed government support might provide them with a safe work environment.

A civil society activist in Ghazni City, Farzana, alleged even some government figures tried to harass female workers over the phone. When women reject their demands, the government officers create problems for them.

However, she did not name anyone. She said negative traditions also prevented women from working. "When a woman gets famous, many men try to find her telephone number and contact her. It is a bad culture," she remarked. Mohammad Arif Noori, head of the Ghazni Journalists' Association, confirmed the challenges facing female workers. He said many female media workers had to quit due to harassment.

For female journalists, insecurity is one of the major challenges. Social taboos represent another big problem for women, according to Noori, who asked the relevant organs to discharge their responsibilities.

Currently two private television channels and seven radio stations are operating in the province. A total of four women are working there. In the past, 15 women were employed in the provincial media sector.

Provincial Information and Culture Director Mohammad Bashir Moahmmadi also acknowledged there were certain problems haunting Ghazni women.

He has discussed the issue with security officials to help provide an enabling environment for female workers and take to task the individuals creating problems for them.

Female media workers in other provinces, including in the capital Kabul, also frequently grumble about harassment. (Pajhwok)

(16) Insurgents Attack

was shot dead in the Khwaja Bahaudin district of Takhar. Police spokesman Maj. Abdul Khalil Aseer said the 17 years old Fatima was killed inside her house.

On the other hand, the victim's family said the girl had committed suicide by shooting herself. However, police could not find any evidence to support that claim.

A resident of Khwaja Bahaudin, Sawabuddin, revealed the girl was shot dead in her house's bathroom. He accused Fatima's family of refusing to divulge details of the incident.

Elsewhere, a woman was gunned down in eastern Nangarhar province. The governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, said the woman was killed by unidentified gunmen in the first police district of Jalalabad on Tuesday evening.

"This woman, who was seriously wounded in the shooting, succumbed to her injuries at hospital," he said. No one has been arrested in connection with the murder, but a hunt for the killers is underway. (Pajhwok)

(17) Explosion Among

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)

(18) Kabul Police Arrest

from the detained individuals, the official said, adding that the suspects have been over to the relevant authorities for further steps to be taken against them.

According to the security officials, at least thirteen people sustained injuries from the stray bullets fired by the individuals to mark the week of martyrs.

This comes as the Kabul residents have long been complaining regarding the aerial firings by irresponsible armed individuals on various occasions including the supporters of Ahmad Shah Massoud who celebrate the week of martyrs and often carry out aerial firings.

The security institutions as well as the Ahmad Shah Massoud Foundation had earlier urged the people to refrain from aerial firings and causing disturbances to the residents of the city. (KP)

(19) Suicide Bomb

tournaments.

A statement in Bosnian on Islamic State's Amaq news agency said a suicide attack had been carried out on members of the Afghan security forces in Kabul, although it was not immediately clear whether the statement referred to the same incident.

The Shpageeza tournament, now in its fifth season, is one of a small number of Western-style sports competitions along with Afghan Premier League football that have grown up since a U.S.-led campaign toppled the Taliban in 2001.

A small number of foreign players are also taking part in the competition.

Cricket, which spread from refugee camps in Pakistan, has become one of Afghanistan's most popular sports and the national team has become increasingly successful, raising the profile of the game. (Reuters)