

(1) Govt Using...

the current security situation of the country.

Earlier, the Cabinet has approved in principle a draft election law, underlining the imperative of a single-seat system at polling stations for the upcoming WJ polls

At a meeting chaired by President Ashraf Ghani, the election law was shared with the Cabinet by 2nd Vice-President Sarwar Danish and head of the Research Committee.

Danish had said the draft law was placed before the Council of Ministers after participants floated their suggestions about amendments and a full review based on international norms. Earlier today, Danish said the revised version of election law has been finalized, approved by the Cabinet and sent to the president for endorsement in last days of Wolesi Jirag (WJ) recess. A statement from Danish office said the 2nd VP believed after implementation of the revised version of the law, the selection committee would be able to resume its work and the ground for the electoral reform would be paved.

He said after deep discussions, it was decided that the election commission would decide about constituencies looking at population and areas in line with Article 83 of the Constitution.

He said the commission would be tasked to complete its work regarding the demarcation of constituencies in three months after deep studies and in coordination with local authorities and influential individuals.

He said the commission would then submit its report to the Cabinet for a review and would be returned back to the commission after being reviewed. (Pajhwok)

(2) Admin Affairs...

but it is not included in the agenda of the cabinet and the law committee. This has wasted our time," Ghanizada stated.

Meanwhile, a number of lawyers said government has failed to pass and implement the draft law on government's basic structure and that it has created a gap in government's administrative activities.

"If they approve and implement the law, it will prevent the need to spend more money and there will not be parallel offices anymore," said Gul Ahmad Madadzai, deputy head of Afghanistan's Lawyers Union.

"The law on government's basic structure is one of main laws after the Constitution which specifies the authorities and limits office of the three pillars of government," said university lecturer Nasrullah Stanikzai. According to reports, work on government's basic structure law was started during former President Hamid Karzai's government. However, it remains a draft. (Tolonews)

(3) The Only...

Ghori Shirzad, head of the provincial appellant court, was happy about a woman's appointment as a prosecutor. He said not even a single woman had been hired in the court as prosecutor since the time it was established. "We have contacted many women having received their degrees in law and we encouraged them to come to the court, fortunately now we have a female prosecutor in elimination of violence against women," he said.

Nimroz Governor Mohammad Sami said the country's Constitution stressed on women's partnership in all areas of the government, an issue he hoped would be implemented in all government offices.

"We fully trust Hasina Khairzad, she can successfully perform her duty and would closely follow violence against women cases which is a great problem of our society," he said.

He added the government had paid special attention to increasing women's and youth's presence in public sector offices during the past two years.

Nimroz women's affairs director Amina Hakimi said the number of women officers in her province was limited but hoped Khairzad's appointment would pave the ground for more women to join government workforce. (Pajhwok)

(4) Fire at Wood...

have suffered a loss of about 1.5 million afghanis. I would hardly recover from the loss if the government does not help us." Akbari said a number of shopkeepers were able to take their belongings out of shops.

Mohammad Yaqoob, another shopkeeper, said: "I was in my shop when flames rose from a number of nearby shops. All shopkeepers ran pell-mell."

A firefighter, Rahmanuddin, said their team arrived 15 minutes after the fire broke out and they were able to prevent the fire from spreading to other shops. A statement from the Ministry of In-

terior said the main cause of the fire was yet to be determined. An investigation into the incident is underway. Kabul has witnessed several huge fires this year. On August 4, a 12-storey market was completely gutted. At least one person trying to escape jumped to death. (Pajhwok)

(5) ANA Changes ...

that intelligence forces have confirmed this."

He added that Afghan security forces also had sustained casualties, but their numbers were less.

However, the Kohistanat district in Sar-e-Pul province has been under Taliban control for the past year while a few other districts in the province are under serious threat.

Asked why an operation has not been launched to retake Kohistanat district from the Taliban, Mohammad Zahir Wahdat, governor of Sar-e-Pul, said: "The reason why a large-scale operation has not been launched in Kohistanat, I think is because security forces, the president, the chief executive, ministers and other security sectors are busy trying to solve the problems."

However, he did not clarify what he meant by the word problems.

Officials have however urged the public to cooperate with security forces and to not listen to the propaganda of insurgents. (Tolonews)

(6) Five Big...

and will be sent to the court," said Baktash Azizi, head of the Attorney General's Office.

"We will soon receive other big [corruption] cases from Kabul and other provinces and they will be investigated by the center," he added.

Meanwhile, other anti-corruption institutions said the center will gain the trust of the people and the international community if it assesses the cases thoroughly and transparently.

"I am optimistic about the activities of the anti-corruption judicial center. Its activities will yield good results if it works based on the law and away from political pressures," said Ghulam Husain Fakhri, chairman of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption.

According to reports, fuel contracts for the Defense Ministry and ghost soldiers in the police and army, corruption cases in the Ministry of Urban Development, the Smart City Township case and the existence of ghost schools are among other corruption cases that need to be assessed by the center. (Tolonews)

(7) NPC Approves...

contract period, assessment of reconstruction of the Kabul-Jalalabad Highway (from Sapari to Sorkhrod) and extension in asphalted contract of a 15km road in Helmand.

Other contracts were about preparation and supply of two types of fuel, petrol and diesel to the public transport bus enterprise, provision of necessary furniture to universities in Kabul and provinces and provision of four fire brigades to the Defence Ministry's emergency department.

The NPC rejected two contracts because of their noncompliance with the procurement law including construction of a dining hall at the Ministry of Finance central building in Dara-ul-Aman area of Kabul and the General Directorate of Logistics' this solar year's necessary sports equipment project.

During the meeting, the National Procurement Commission was tasked with inviting bids for the projects by considering legal standards. The NPC once again stressed giving priority to domestic products and their usage and issued instructions to the organizations concerned in this regard. The NPC rejected three other projects due to technical problems. (Pajhwok)

(8) Suicide Cases...

were behind the growing cases of suicide in the country.

He demanded different government institutions, including the ministries of hajj, counter-narcotics, information and education help the MoPH in implementation of the suicide prevention strategy.

Every year, close to a million people take their lives across the world. (Pajhwok)

(9) Conclude Peace ...

Alam Ezediyar, also stressed continued negotiations with HIA and said the peace talks should be based on people's wish

He said the talks about weapons and ammunition the HIA possessed were ambiguous that was a matter of concern.

A number of other senators also demanded early finalization of the agreement or disclosure of problems the process faced.

However, two senators Nisar Haris and Gulalai Akbari said no rush was needed in addressing a national issue.

Meshrano Jirga chairman Fazal Haid Muslimyar said peace talks with HIA were not an issue of concern.

He said the talks had gone hot and cold many times, but both the sides would eventually reach a full agreement once their differences resolved. Muslimyar asked government leaders if any problems regarding the agreement existed, they should be shared with the public so the nation could itself make a decision. (Pajhwok)

(10) Peace Deal...

with Hikmatyar's group. Meanwhile, some sources within the government said CEO Abdullah Abdullah had showed disagreement with some points in the peace agreement with HIA and had shared his reservations in this regard with HPC Chairman Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani.

But President Ashraf Ghani had said he would not accept any illogical obstacle in the way of peace process with HIA and assured that a huge progress in the peace accord with the HIA delegation v had been made. (Pajhwok)

(11) Draft Plan...

commentator. A number of MPs also argued that Afghanistan will not become self-sufficient and will not receive international aid in future if it fails to present proper plans at the Brussels Summit.

"The international community will provide infrastructure aid to Afghanistan if the Afghan government succeeds in convincing the international community at the Brussels Summit," said Abdul Qadir Zazai, member of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament).

"We have not received aid to build our infrastructure over the past 15 years," said Nisar Haris, member of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament). (Tolonews)

(12) Efforts Ongoing...

He said the education process in the province was faced with many challenges as hundreds of schools were closed, many others did not have buildings and 80 percent of students lacked textbooks.

He said their campaign was aimed to encourage parents and families to send their children to school and ask the officials concerned to resolve the problems facing the education sector.

The relevant quarters should take practical steps for improving the education sector in Kandahar, he stressed, explaining that symbolic actions would not address the issue. Barani hit out at the education department and said the education process in rural areas left a lot to be desired. The department is responsible for reopening the schools closed in districts, resolve the shortage of textbooks and construct buildings for schools, he added.

The people are also responsible to encourage their children to get education and demand their rights, Barani remarked, promising his federation would continue its campaign to force relevant officials to deal with the problems.

Education department spokesman Nazar Mohammad Samimi confirmed to Pajhwok that 139 schools remained closed in different areas of the province. But 30 of them will be reopened this year.

In the past, insecurity used to be the main cause of closure but now a shortage of staff members is the key issue. He added there was not even a single school open in Registan and Shorabak districts due to insecurity and bad road condition.

However, Samimi said the construction of school buildings had recently started in many districts with the help of some donors. These schools -- called Local Classes -- are built in areas where people have no access to education.

Besides the shortage of books and personnel, 190 of 321 open schools were without buildings, he said, adding the Ministry of Education had promised to distribute books to schools in all provinces, a vow that is yet to be honoured.

He added 1,800 teachers were needed in Kandahar. One of the reasons for the closure of some school was absence of teachers, he continued.

The Kandahar Education Department has sent a plan for the construction of buildings for 40

schools to the ministry concerned, but no action has been taken so far, according to Samimi.

Pupils at schools without buildings study under tents in scorching heat. He said overcoming the shortage of teachers, preparing education-promoting programmes in districts, reopening 30 more schools and repairing buildings are among the priorities of the department for the current year.

Samimi hoped 27,000 more children would be enrolled in schools across Kandahar this academic year. Currently 270,000 students, boys and girls, are enrolled in 321 schools in the province.

People have repeatedly grumbled about widespread corruption in the Kandahar education department. They insist on the accountability of all individuals involved in graft.

Education Director Abdul Qadir Pewastoon and his deputy Mohammad Ewaz Nazari were sacked about a month ago following a barrage of complaints of corruption in the department. (Pajhwok)

(13) 5 Congo Virus...

that the number of patients infected with Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) had lately increased in Ghazni.

He said so far this year five positive Congo virus cases had surfaced in the province and two of the infected persons had died of the disease.

He said three of the cases were reported during Eidul Adha days and the victims were from the same family and two of them had died. He said all the patients were farmers or worked at slaughterhouses.

"The number of patients with Congo fever is increasing and if preventive measures are not taken as soon as possible, a humanitarian tragedy is imminent," warned the public health official.

Dr. Mohammad Hussain Irfani at the provincial civil hospital told Pajhwok Afghan News the virus was transmitted from tick-bitten animal to humans who transmitted the virus to others by physical interaction or donating blood.

He said first signs included muscle ache, dizziness, stiffness, backache, neck pain and sore eyes. Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, sore throat and diarrhoea are some other symptoms and rashes may develop from bleeding in mouth and throat, and on the skin. Death may also occur due to kidney, liver or pulmonary failure after the fifth day of disease.

Dr. Irfani said the disease was treatable in initial stage and one with such signs should contact doctor as soon as possible. "The virus exists in meat so the meat should be intensively cooked."

A resident of Ghazni City, Mohammadullah, said his cousin contracted the disease on the Khost-Ghazni highway and now he was at hospital in Khost province, but they planned to shift him to Kabul for better treatment.

Another person, Sher Mohammad, who works at the slaughterhouse in Ghazni, said his nephew and three other persons had been diagnosed with Congo fever and the three had died.

He said if the virus was not contained, it would claim many lives in the province.

Ghazni public health director Zia Gul Asfanda told Pajhwok Afghan News that three persons had caught the virus recently in the province. She said two of the three patients, all shifted to Kabul, had died of the disease.

Public Health Minister Dr. Feruzuddin Feroz had said that Congo was a serious health issue and the disease had claimed so far 12 lives in the country.

He had put the number of Congo patients at 44 since the start of the current solar year and had warned against the spread of the disease during Eidul Adha days.

Congo, more correctly called Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), is an infectious disease caused by a tick-borne virus. The disease is named so because it was first described in Crimea (1944) and identified properly in Congo (1956).

It is transferred by ticks, mostly from Hyalomma genus, a hard-bodied tick, to both domestic animals and humans. It is similar to other viral haemorrhagic fevers, including Dengue and Ebola. (Pajhwok)

(14) Badakhshan...

some countries, particularly Pakistan, which had long been inimical to the Afghans. Many terrorists owned homes in the Khastak area of Juram district, he revealed. "The number of militants in some

areas has gone up and down because they change their locations from Jalalabad to Badakhshan. Currently Badakhshan has become a second Waziristan (safe haven for terrorists)," he remarked.

But he said the government had failed to target the extremist hide-outs in the province. Security threats would increase with each passing day if Warduj and Yamgan were not wrested back from militants, he warned.

Despite promises, the government had failed to seize control of the two districts, Bashir noted, saying only a few militant attacks were foiled in the past year.

"Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, National Security Advisor (NSA) Hanif Atmar and foreign military commanders promised clearing Badakhshan of Taliban after Kunduz, but they have done nothing so far and the militants have increased their activities," he alleged.

Provincial police Chief Brig. Gen. Ghulam Sakhi Ghafoori confirmed the two districts were still under Taliban control, where people suffered miseries. But he said there were some reasons why they could not recapture the districts.

However, he did not provide information about that reasons. "We have a joint plan with Afghan National Army (ANA) and intelligence forces for retaking control of Yamgan and Warduj districts, but we have no enough equipment, a problem we also shared with central government," he said.

He said the central government had shared a plan with Badakhshan security organs that would be implemented in the near future to clear the two areas of rebels.

The threat posed by the fighters was not a matter of grave concern, Ghafoori said, adding Afghan forces were in a better position to beat back rebel attacks in the province. The forces had purged many areas in a series of operations.

The militants launched 59 attacks on different districts of the province this year, but the Afghan forces beat them back, inflicting heavy casualties on the assailants in counterattacks, he added.

He explained 263 militant commanders, each leading up to 50 rebels, had been killed, more than 100 others wounded and over 80 convinced into joining the peace process this year.

"In the past, the number of Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel was 520, but it increased to 1,640 this year. The personnel were deployed to Tagab, Shuhada, Arghanj khwah and Yaftal districts and in the sixth police district of Faizabad," he said. Deputy Governor Gul Mohammad Baidar said 500 reserve ANA forces were stationed in Badakhshan in addition to 1,600 upraising members and a thousand ALP personnel.

He said a large number of forces in the province showed the central government paid special attention to improving the security situation there. (Pajhwok)

(15) Musharraf Defends...

circumstances in view. He dispelled the impression that he had kowtowed to America's threat of bombing Pakistan back to the Stone Age.

Musharraf vehemently denied surrendering to a telephone call from Colin Powell, then US secretary of state. "We simply joined the war on terrorism as it was in our own interest."

India was also willing to give the US military bases for its Afghan mission, he claimed. "The US would have invaded Afghanistan from India even if Pakistan had refused to do that." (Pajhwok)

(16) Major Anti-Rebels ...

forces weren't enjoying enough facilities and equipment.

He said security forces had put up stiff resistance against enemy's attacks; but they had never been encouraged.

While acknowledging Warduj and Yamgan districts' full control with Taliban, the public representative said Juram, Tagab, Shuhada and Raghistan districts were under serious security threats and being threatened every time by insurgents.

The provincial council head asked the interior minister to devise a plan and conduct an offensive against Taliban to cleanse the two districts of them.

Meanwhile, Jahidullah Payam, representing Badakhshan youth, said people were neither satisfied with the security situation and nor optimistic about military offensives.

He said operations in Warduj and Raghistan districts in early spring and mid-summer had faced with a defeat.

He cited as main reasons behind insecurity in Badakhshan the prov-

ince bordering of Pakistan and insurgents' free movement through it, the Lapis Lazuli's Mine in Karan-wa-Manjan district and the gold mine in Raghistan under Taliban control. (Pajhwok)

(17) 16 Insurgents...

was killed along with his three fighters.

A local Taliban commander, who wished go unnamed, confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News the clash in Khwaja Musa, but said no side suffered casualties. (Pajhwok)

(18) Taliban Commander

the head of Helmand's provincial council has also confirmed that Mullah Habash along with 19 armed men handed over their weapons to government and vowed to struggle for returning peace in the restive province.

Taliban militants are yet to make comment on the report. (Xinhua)

(19) It will be...

booming passion. "You want to give me a good send-off, go vote."

Obama also sought to blunt Trump's recent efforts to reach out to black voters, saying Trump at one point in the race had said there's never been a worse time to be a black person.

"I mean, he missed that whole civics lesson about slavery and Jim Crow, but we've got a museum for him to visit," Obama said, a reference to next week's opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. "We will educate him." (The Guardian)

(20) Hundreds of ...

consumer and environment protection standards in Europe, and lead to job losses.

Meanwhile, the business believed free trade deals across the Atlantic would benefit economies on both sides of the ocean as they could reduce red tape and lower transaction costs. (Xinhua)

(21) Pentagon Says...

aircraft from the international anti-Islamic State coalition carried out four airstrikes against units of the Syrian government troops surrounded by terrorists," the ministry's spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

The warplanes entered the airspace of Syria from the Iraqi border, the spokesman said. (Xinhua)

(22) 6 IS Militants...

predominantly Sunni provinces, but the oilfields were freed by the Iraqi forces in March 2015.

The extremist IS group repeatedly failed to regain control of Ajil oilfield. It used to be an important source of funding for the IS, which extracted about 10,000 barrels per day and transported to other areas under its control.

In the ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk, at least one worshiper was killed and four others wounded when a roadside bomb detonated near the entrance of al-Safa mosque in southern Kirkuk, as dozens of worshipers were leaving the mosque after the evening prayer, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. (Xinhua)

(23) UNHCR Denies...

Kenya was not giving the Somalis a real choice between being repatriated or staying, and that Kenya's repatriation program does not meet international standards for voluntary return of refugees.

The rights group said refugees described intimidation by the Kenyan government, silence over alternative options that would allow them to remain in Kenya, and inadequate information on conditions in Somalia. (Xinhua)

(24) IS Downs...

of supporting the IS, urging the international community to condemn the attack. The U.S. strike marked the first U.S.-led attack on Syrian army positions since the coalition started its operations in Syria in late 2014. The Pentagon said the U.S. strike has unintentionally targeted the Syrian government forces. (Xinhua)

(25) Explosion, ...

of a sudden I heard pop pop pop, I thought someone tipped over a shelf. All of sudden these people started running. I just saw everybody running our way," Harley Exsted, who was at the scene, told the local newspaper St. Cloud Times. (Xinhua)

(26) Chinese-Israeli...

of the NPC's Standing Committee, will certainly increase mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation, expand people-to-people friendship and push forward the development of bilateral ties in an all-round way. (Xinhua)