

(1) IEC to Review...

of the country were among key challenges for the election commission.

"They will be sent to the site to talk with the people and civil society institutions for 40 or 45 days and will assess the estimated 7,000 polling stations in the country. They will report back to us and then the commission will take action based on their findings," said Warimach.

On Sunday, heads of the IEC's public awareness campaign and technical department held a meeting in Kabul to discuss ways on how to assess the polling stations and on training processes for new employees hired for this purpose.

"These employees will go their provinces on Saturday to provide training to other staffers, their work is to assess the polling stations," said Ezatullah Arman, IEC's training commission deputy chief.

"There are security concerns in some districts while we also have communication issues in some areas where telephones are not working properly, we hope that these problems come to an end," said Assadullah Zaki, head of IEC technology department in Zabul.

Some ex-IEC employees believe that the training of new staff would be helpful in tackling any possible political meddling in the election process.

"Insecurity is a major headache in our province, security institutions should provide security to our employees during the assessment of the polling stations," said Hamidullah Baloch, head of IEC public awareness department in Kunduz.

"There are no serious security problems in Daikundi, there could be some minor security cases in some districts, but overall we should not have any security problems in the province during the elections," said Masooma Amiri, head of the IEC's public awareness department in Daikundi.

"Using technology in the elections is helpful in identifying the polling stations, but in some remote regions, telecommunication coverage is quite poor, hopefully this would be resolved before elections," said Fawad Hamnawa, head of the IEC's public awareness department in Kapisa. (Tolnews)

(2) Around 150,000 ...

services, told a ceremony marking the World Hepatitis Day here that Hepatitis-B was a common but silent problem as its signs could not be identified for years. He said around 150,000 people were infected with the virus in Afghanistan and 36,000 positive cases were registered with MoPH during the last one year.

"World statistics show around 325 million people are infected with hepatitis, including 257 million with Hepatitis B and 71 million with Hepatitis C as of 2015," Paikan added.

He said prevention, treatment and diagnosis of the virus remained a global challenge as around 1.4 million people yearly died of the disease.

He said MoPH advisory and awareness services about hepatitis in 11 provinces of the country and vaccination of 10,000 drug addicts was expected to be implemented until the end of current year.

He said currently 70 percent of children were given anti-Hepatitis B vaccines and efforts were underway to expand the vaccination to all children in the country.

A message from WHO representative for Afghanistan, Dr Richard Peeperkorn, was read out by a technical officer of the organization at the ceremony. In his message, Peeperkorn said hepatitis was a deadly virus and people have to be aware of it for its prevention and timely treatment.

He said despite some developments, more efforts were required to prevent increasing deaths from Hepatitis B.

The WHO representative said his organization was committed to supporting MoPH in fighting the viral disease. (Pajhwok)

(3) NATO Praises...

where 11 percent population of Afghans lived. He claimed Afghan security forces control of territory was home to 66 percent of Afghanistan's population, while 23 percent was contested.

Salvin hailed the success of the Afghan Air Force as a great achievement and something that the Afghan people could be very proud of.

The AAF has conducted more than 1,000 air strikes this year and provided critical support to ANDSF troops on the ground, he noted.

"In fact, just this last week, the AAF conducted 100% of the strikes to support the ANDSF operation to retake the Taywara District in Ghor Province. Those strikes were planned, coordinated and executed 100% by the Afghan Air Force.

Again, this is a major achievement and a demonstration of the growing capability that the Air Force was providing the nation. (Pajhwok)

(4) Laghman Health ...

reopened and services had resumed as usual.

Governor's spokesman Sarhadi Zwak said the clinics had been reopened and issues regarding health facilities had been resolved. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the SCA-run clinics did not provide

proper services to people.

He said: "Due to the lack of medicines and professional doctors, the SCA has not been providing best facilities to people and just wants to earn publicity. The SCA was told to provide good services to people otherwise the Taliban would consider other options."

Earlier, residents of Alishang and Aingar districts had told Pajhwok Afghan News that the closure of clinics had created many problems for local residents. (Pajhwok)

(5) Women's Contributions ...

as contributing family workers, women's lack of access to assets and the need for gendered statistics.

The study's findings suggest that significant attention should be given to activities to which women contribution is exhaustive such as household agricultural economy, especially in the value-chains around livestock, horticulture and farming-related entrepreneurship. The study further adds that investing in women's skills development in the subsectors, through gender accountability in the technical vocational educational training system and technology-related education methods, is urgently needed.

According to the study, weightage is needed in policy to target specific communities and regions and channel women's occupational knowledge and labour with greater independence from men. The collectivisation and creation or widening of women's spaces through occupational grouping should be better targeted in institutional and financial government policy; gender-accountable projects and programmes targeting budgeting parity, localised and contextual financial inclusion.

Programmatic outputs are needed, as is the gender-sensitive monitoring or outcomes. The inclusion of women's domestic labour, informal household activities and unpaid family work in the calculation of the gross domestic product is also crucial.

The paradox is that women's labour, despite making a crucial contribution to agricultural production and incomes as well as food and nutrition security, remains invisible. Women's access to and control over land and assets should be strengthened by reviewing customary law and practices around miras and mahar, backed by wider and positive acceptance as well as implementable legal mechanisms. Significant buttressing is needed for qualitative and quantitative research and data collection on women's individual and collective participation in the labour market and agriculture economy.

The study was conducted by AREU with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). AREU is an independent research institute based in Kabul. AREU's mission is to inform and influence policy and practice by conducting high-quality, policy-relevant research and actively disseminating the results, and by promoting a culture of research and learning. To achieve its mission AREU engages with policy makers, civil society, researchers, and students to promote their use of AREU's research and its library, to strengthen their research capacity, and to create opportunities for analysis, reflection, and debate.

AREU was established in 2002 by the assistance community in Afghanistan and has a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of donor organizations, the United Nations and other multilateral agencies, and non-governmental organizations. (PR)

(6) Ghani Appoints ...
governors and boosting the ability of local institutions would be the top agenda," said Baig.

Referring to his work experience, Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, said Baig has held a number of posts and has been an honest employee. He in turn called on all IDLG employees to work with their new leader.

"Our young generation, which we hope will be the bet generation in our history are serving the people and the government in various spheres," said Ghani.

Baig has also served as an adviser to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and to the deputy head of National Directorate of Security (NDS) for provinces. Baig has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from an Indian university. (Tolnews)

(7) Govt, Officials...

Another DABS official, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok that first vice president, High Peace Council (HPC) chief, Wolesi Jirga speaker, former vice president and a number of parliament members and some jihadi leaders were among those owing millions of afghanis in unpaid electricity bills.

"One of the Wolesi Jirga members owes 44 million afghanis to DABS. Another lawmaker thrashed our officers for giving him the electricity bill" the source said.

The official asked government leaders to support DABS in collecting the unpaid bills from government organs and officials. "DABS is ready to collect the outstanding amount in installments to ease the process for the departments and individuals," he said.

"We have told a number of our defaulters that DABS is ready to collect their arrears in installments in next 10 years, they agreed

first but now they even do not respond to our contacts, if we cut off their electricity, they come to electricity towers and beat our officers," he said.

A year back, DABS published a list of 70 people owing more than 1.5 billion afghanis to the company. A number of defaulters paid part of their arrears after their names were shared with the media. (Pajhwok)

(8) Provincial ...

integration office at the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), told a meeting organized for introduction of the bill, said the bill was finalized with close consultations with provincial council members.

He said suggestions and ideas from provincial councils' members had been incorporated in the bill and the supervisory role of the provincial councils had been clearly defined in the councils' law.

The Wolesi Jirga or lower house denied supervisory role to the provincial councils with a majority vote in 2014.

However, the government decided to give back the role to provincial council following widespread protests by the councils.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, who also attended the meeting, said that the provincial councils' supervisory role was a step forwards in making system and the country sovereign and stable.

He said the bill opened new doors to reforms and said its implementation would help resolve all problems on provincial levels and bring a positive change to local governance.

Abdullah called provincial council members a bridge connecting people with the government and said: "The enforcement of Provincial Councils Supervisory bill would boost good governance and reduce problems."

"The authorities given to provincial councils in this bill should not be deemed as small and the council members should distinguish between interference and supervision for good results", he said.

The CEO said central and local departments should be held accountable about their performance in addressing people's sensible demands.

Parwan provincial council head, Ghulam Bahauddin Jailani, criticized what he said 'little authorities' given to provincial councils in the bill and said: "This bill has problems and may increase corruption in government offices if implemented." (Pajhwok)

(9) US Embassy...

challenges facing his ministry, saying the US cooperation in the legal sector will help the ministry to overcome its challenges.

"I think it is very important to recognize that the corner stone of any government's responsibility to its citizens is to ensure rule of law. Well the US government through the Adalat 'Justice' program can provide technical assistance and financial support, the ultimate success of these efforts will depend on the government of Afghanistan to provide the resources and the access necessary to implement political reform," said Riley.

Riley said that every government a responsibility to its people when it comes to the implementation of the law.

"Unfortunately, in our institutions, the laws are not in a shape which could be accessible to the employees as a good collection, but the Adalat 'Justice' project will facilitate the ministry of justice in areas such as family law, the labor law, commercial and family act and the management of civil affairs," said Anwar.

"The ADALAT program is a major step forward for the Afghan people to have a fair and just legal sector that will recognize their basic and fundamental rights," said USAID Mission Director Herbie Smith.

"I applaud the efforts of the Ministry of Justice to work with USAID in this endeavor to provide their citizens access to the legal process."

"The ADALAT project will improve human resources capacity in Huquq (law) Directorate and simplify legal processes to provide better legal services for Afghans," added Anwar.

"The technical assistance and training provided by ADALAT will also help the Ministry of Justice and its counterparts to expand their legal services coverage in Afghanistan and improve transparency in justice sector."

In April 2016, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Assistance for the Development of Afghan Legal Access and Transparency (ADALAT) to improve citizen access to quality justice services by increasing effectiveness and reach of the formal justice sector, strengthening linkages between the formal and traditional justice sectors, and increasing citizen demand for quality legal services. (Tolnews)

(10) Signs, Lights...

of interior, telecommunications and information technology, culture and information, water and energy and urban development and housing.

Representative from local organizations, Kabul municipality and the air forces commander at the Ministry of Defense also attended the meeting that conferred on

installation of signs and lights above high buildings in the direction of flights and helicopters.

They called the installation as essential to ensuring and improving security of flights in the country.

Dr. Qasim said during finalization of the safety plan, solutions would be found to safety of flights in cities and areas close to airfields.

The participants of the meeting decided that all departments involved would present their opinions as soon as possible to draw up a final decision.

Based on information from civil aviation officials, the aviation safety plan is an important step towards implementation of international safety standards which would be implemented after views of the relevant agencies and the approval of the aviation department. (Pajhwok)

(11) FIFA Delegation..

problems in AFF and find a solution," he said.

Faizi said the current AFF head whose working term had completed about a year ago should pave the ground for transparent election of his successor.

He accused the football federation of high-handedness and said the body head had arbitrary removed and replaced federation heads in some provinces.

Hayatullah Logarwal, head of Kabul football federation, said they had also shared their problems with the government and other relevant organs, but to no avail.

"No one listened to our problems, so we complained to FIFA, fortunately our problems were heard by the organization that promised to send a delegation and find a solution," he said.

Provincial football federation officials shared a copy of the email they received from FIFA with the media, in which FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samba Diouf Samoura said they had received letters about problems in AFF.

She said they discussed the problem in a meeting on July 4 and decided to send a delegation to Kabul soon to help resolve the problems in AFF.

AFF spokesman Sayed Ali Kazimi rejected allegations against the federation and said the body was ready for transparent and impartial election. He said the election was delayed due to interferences from parliament members.

About removal and replacement of provincial AFF heads, he said, "Provincial football federation heads are removed or replaced by provincial football clubs."

Kazimi welcomed the FIFA delegation's visit to Afghanistan for resolving problems in AFF. (Pajhwok)

(12) Fresh Fruit ...

routes between India and Afghanistan were warmly welcomed last month but officials from the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Exporters' Association said the lack of proper planning in exporting fruit and vegetables has subjected them to big losses.

"Fruit has been stored in the airport's warehouses not in cold rooms. They told us that the plane will come in the afternoon, then the evening but its three days late. Yesterday we were told that today (30 July) the plane will come and now the traders are at the airport and their fruit is rotting and the warehouse smells bad," Akhtar Mohammad, a fresh fruit and vegetable exporter said.

Speaking at the inaugural flight to India last month, President Ashraf Ghani ordered the relevant officials to address all problems - but solutions are still not in place.

Meanwhile, Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) officials agree that numerous problems exist regarding the export of fresh produce.

"Sending goods to India through air cargo routes faces challenges and has been slow. But now the process has resumed and we can export to India by air," ACCI spokesman Seyam Pesarlai said.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) however said a private airline company would soon start cargo flights to India to transport Afghan goods.

"Fortunately it was discussed in the high economic council today and it has been decided that a plane with high capacity from Kam Air airline will transport the fresh produce," MoCI spokesman Musafir Qoqandi said. ACCI officials said it is hoped that at least one cargo flight will fly to India each week. However, since the inauguration of the route last month only two flights out of Kabul and Kandahar have taken goods to India. (Tolnews)

(13) Balkh Residents...

After arriving from Turkey, Noor told a meeting in Balkh that the coalition was needed for protection of the system. He had criticized the government and said only a few figures were in control of power.

Balkh civil society activists said forming such coalitions was normal in other countries, but not in Afghanistan.

Qadir Mesbah, head of the Khat-i-Naw Association in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, believed senior government officials pursued their own interests only.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News that politicians preferred personal interests over that of the country.

About the differences between Noor and the Presidential Palace, Mesbah saw personal interests behind the differences and said what was missing in the whole drama was the nation and their problems.

He accused Pakistan and Iran of interference in Afghanistan and said the neighboring countries wanted to misuse differences within the Afghan government.

"The two countries are trying to find points through which the Afghan government is plunged into problems," Mesbah believed. He said differences between the Presidential Palace and Noor had a negative impact on development affairs in Balkh and had hurt public trust.

"The government is questioned over such issues that also threatens the interest in investments, social coordination and commerce," he said.

Mazar-i-Sharif residents say they are worried the differences between the governor and the president may further deteriorate the security situation in Balkh.

Sayed Alam, a resident, said: "Balkh is not a foreign country and is part of the country. People definitely worry when their governor is in a dispute with the president."

He asked the president and the governor to make their decisions in favor of the people and the country.

Provincial council head Dr. Mohammad Afzal Hadid also said people were worried about the differences between Noor and the Presidential Palace.

"People are concerned about insecurity and instability in the province," he said, adding that senior officials had no right to play with their fate. Hadid said the president should deliver on his election campaign pledges. However, Balkh governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, told Pajhwok that the differences between Noor and the Presidential Palace did not affect the governance in the province.

He said all development activities and government affairs were ongoing in coordination with the central organizations. (Pajhwok)

(14) Young ISIS Fighter ...

operation conducted close to Tora Bora in Pacher Agam district, a young man was arrested before he manage to join the ISIS ranks.

The officials are saying that the young man is originally a resident of Kunar province in East of Afghanistan and has been identified as Izatullah.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the ISIS loyalists have not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

(15) Kandahar's ...

a young woman when her husband became paralyzed and was unable to work. With no income, and six children to feed, she decided to open a shop.

Bibi Gul said she has had her shop for almost 50 years and has kept the store going even during the Taliban regime.

"I have been a shopkeeper for almost 50 years. I faced many hardships during both the Soviet era and the Taliban's regime. But now there are no problems," she said.

"I buy my products and I sell them myself. None of my family helps me," said added. According to her she sleeps in her shop most nights but goes home to her house in the suburbs of Kandahar once a week.

"When my husband became paralyzed then I opened a shop," she said.

When asked about her children she said she lost one of her sons in a traffic accident, a second son was killed by unknown gunmen and one of her daughters passed away. She said this was her "greatest pain in life."

"I have a number of orphaned grandchildren, from one son and my daughter, and I have to look after them; I go home once a week because I have to work hard as there is no one to work for me and look after my family," she added.

Bibi Gul said she has never once given in to life's challenges and has continuously worked to provide a better life for her children. (Tolnews)

(16) 12 Taliban...

wounded. The [security] forces have also cleared four villages so far but the clashes are still ongoing in some parts of the district," Ghafoori said.

However, he did not provide further details. The Taliban has not yet commented. (Tolnews)

(17) Pakistan's MQM ..

the most critical times in their history and Afghan people deeply respect this.

Mohib said that strong democracy and education are the key for lasting peace and sustainable prosperity in the region and the incumbent Afghan government is committed to achieve this. (Pajhwok)

(18) Roadside Bomb ...

leader was heading to Jalalabad city. Meanwhile, a local hospital official said one of the injured was in critical condition.

According to another report, Nangarhar police spokesman, Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal, said security forces seized a motorcycle bomb in the 7th police district of Dowa Sarkey area of Jalalabad on Saturday night. The cycle was parked for terrorist attack.

No one has so far arrested in connection with the incident. (Pajhwok)