

(1) Wolesi Jirga...

of the lower house, called the rejection of the decree clear opposition to democracy. He said if anyone worries about the president and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) sharing election commission seats, then they could suggest amendments to the decree. At the end of the session, of the 153 lawmakers present, 126 voted against the decree. Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim had delayed on Thursday voting as differences existed regarding the election of election commission members. Parliamentarian Fawzia Kofi alleged certain lawmakers were trying to prevent the approval of the legislative decree as they were against elections. Some days ago, civil society activists and political leaders had asked the Wolesi Jirga to approve the decree. They warned the country would face more problems if the decree was rejected. The parliament's five-year term ended on June 22, 2015. Under Article 83 of the Constitution, new elections were supposed to take place within 30 or 60 days. (Pajhwok)

(2) Kapisa Education ...

as teacher." He argued a bachelor's degree was the minimum qualification needed for these positions. Some candidates secured more than 80 percent marks in the exams, but the director gave jobs to applicants with 40 to 50pc marks. Gharwal revealed science scholarships were sold by the director to two students of journalism. He also showed Pajhwok Afghan News some documents in support of his claims. Another officer of the department, who wished not to be named, blasted the director for sacking 83 employees without any cogent reason and replacing them with individuals who gave him bribes. "He has even replaced some school principals and received 40,000 to 80,000 afghanis from new employees," the source said. Another worker of the department said: "The director has forced some new employees to bring him meat on a daily basis." The officers said the issue had been shared with the Kapisa governor, who promised resolving the problem within three days. They added the director was no longer acceptable and needed to be replaced with an honest person. However, Education Director Mohammad Nasim Safi rejected the charge as baseless and said: "I have been serving for two years; others could not stay in the post even for six months. "If anyone has evidence, I welcome them to come forward and share it," he said, acknowledging that a delegation of the Ministry of Education (MoE) had arrived in Kapisa to probe the allegation. Qais Qaderi, the governor's spokesman, said the issue was being investigated by a team involving officials from the governor's house and MoE. The investigation would take three days to complete, he added. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghan, Pak...

in the incident. "Afghan forces aggressively responded to the enemy," he said, adding they would defend their motherland until their last breath. Khogyani said Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi and provincial council head, Ahmad Ali Hazrat were getting live updates on the situation on the eastern border. Ten ambulances had been sent to the border area. On the other hand, President Ashraf Ghani ordered all security forces to defend their country.

A small number of travellers who wanted to cross the frontier were turned back due to the closure of the border. A security official in Torkham said Pakistani security posts and offices across the border had been torched as result of rocket and mortar attacks from the Afghan side. The source said more than 20 Pakistani militiamen suffered casualties in the incident. The Pakistan military has reportedly banned public movements in Torkham and Land-i-Kotalborder towns. (Pajhwok)

(4) U.S. may

timing of any decision by Obama remains unclear. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter flies to Brussels on Monday to meet NATO counterparts, with Afghanistan expected to be high on the agenda. One reason to decide on slowing the U.S. drawdown before the summit might be to encourage NATO allies to keep their troops in Afghanistan, where President Ashraf Ghani's government is battling a Taliban insurgency that has gathered fresh momentum. NATO allies seem less intent on cutting their troop presence, which could give Obama more time to formulate and telegraph his own plans. "We have been moderately, pleasantly surprised at the willingness to stay at current levels of most other allies, and some willingness to consider increasing," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Just because there is a summit doesn't

mean (you) need a decision," he added. To be sure, Afghanistan will be a major issue at the summit and Obama still could make a decision before then. "It does not have to happen by Warsaw but it certainly will be a topic there," said a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The size and scope of other nation contributions are a logical consideration in our decision-making." The White House has yet to receive the recommendations from its new commander in Afghanistan, General John Nicholson, who conducted a comprehensive security review during his first 90 days on the job. The review's results have not been made public. In a sign of his willingness to broaden the U.S. role in Afghanistan, Obama last week approved giving the U.S. military greater ability to accompany and to enable Afghan forces in offensive operations, including carrying out air strikes. Speaking on Friday, White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters the decision to broaden the remit "does not limit in any way our ability to follow through with the plan to draw down our troops at a level of 5,500 troops by the end of this year." Obama would consider changing the troop numbers if Nicholson recommended that, Earnest said. (Agencies)

(5) Jamiat, Junbish ...

Monday that he was not in favour of controversies between the two political groups and that they should learn from their past disputes and clashes. The VP said recently some misunderstanding between the Jamiat and Junbish parties had occurred and said he was not in favour of it. "I respect commandant Massoud and Ustad Burhanuddin Rabbani and Rabbani has also named me as his son; we have to avoid disputes and learn from the past differences. The disputes destroyed our country's huge cities and we shouldn't repeat them again." He said if there was a misunderstanding between Jamiat and Junbish, it shouldn't be linked to leadership of the parties because people of current era had awakened and they were not like they had been 15 years back. Dostum also said a security operation led by him was launched on Sunday night in southeastern parts of Shiberghan to drive insurgents and clear the area from them. He said Bayan Aghwar village of Shiberghan city, Almaghol Kohistanat village of Aqcha district were cleared of insurgents and their two hideouts were also destroyed as a result of the operation launched at about 3:00am last night. The VP said at least 15 Taliban fighters were killed, seven others wounded and 16 more were detained along with weapons. He said the Taliban two days ago attacked security forces on the Shiberghan-Sar-i-Pul highway, injuring one officer and setting ablaze a security forces vehicle on the road. "I am not interested in conducting operations in such a warm weather and in the holy month of Ramadan but they (Taliban) left me with no choice rather than to attack them. The operation is being implemented as planned and our soldiers with high morale stormed hideouts of the insurgents." Security officials say the operation would continue for another three days in southern areas of Jawzjan province. However, Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, claimed seven police were killed and another five wounded during the Dostum-led offensive. He said only three fighters were killed and as many wounded and said the 16 detained persons were civilians not fighters. (Pajhwok)

(6) Helmand ...

Meanwhile, quick reaction forces' commander in Lashkargah, Lt. Habibullah Paktiawal, told Pajhwok that in Babaji and Chah-i-Injir areas, there no police personnel existed in many security posts. "There are some policemen who don't take part in clashes against insurgents and they roam in civilian clothes that cause us serious problems." He said they had been maintaining security over the past six months despite lacking fighting equipment. Meanwhile, provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kentoz said he had launched efforts to resolve the issue of ghost personnel. He said from now on police would be supplied with all needed facilities and if someone committed negligence in duty, he would be handed over to the authorities concerned. He said he was in coordination with other security organs and had started visiting districts to bring reforms. Last week, Kentoz had said half of the police personnel in Helmand were non-existent and their salaries went into private pockets. The Chah-i-Injir area of Nad Ali district and Babaji are located 10 kilometres from Lashkargah. (Pajhwok)

(7) Afghans Ready...

an Afghan, I want to tell the government that all the people are ready to stand with their security forces in case

of need." Qadir added: "I have the ability to fight: My 5,000 militiamen - equipped with weapons and ammunition - are ready to fight against any external aggression." Mohammad Naem Hamidzai Lalai, a public representative from Kandahar, said Pakistan could not construct a gate on the Afghan border based on bilateral pacts. People were ready to deter Pakistani attacks, he asserted. Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said: "The parliament is firmly behind you (government). Pakistan has no right to construct any gate in the border areas." He claimed Afghans were ready to defend their motherland. (Pajhwok)

(8) Construction...

when Afghan forces tried to stop Pakistani border guards from constructing a gate and installing a fence along the frontier. Attaullah Khogyani, the Nangarhar governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash lasted two hours. However, he said gunfire in some areas continued for several hours. One Afghan border policeman was killed and five others wounded during the clash, he said. However, the 301 border zone police official Col. Ayub Hussainkhal said that six policemen were injured in the incident. (Pajhwok)

(9) Zahikwal ...

Zahikwal insisted on diplomatic options and mutual agreements regarding the issues such as the Torkham and said use of power and unilateral steps would not help resolve the tensions. According to the Embassy of Afghanistan in Pakistan, the two sides have agreed to hold talks in coming days to discuss the Torkham issue and issues between the two countries. Local officials in Nangarhar said clash among the Afghan and Pakistani border guards erupted after the Afghan forces prevented the Pakistani border guards to install a gate in the area. A commander of the Afghan Border Police in east Gen. Ayub Hussain Khel confirmed that the clashes erupted over the installation of a door by the Pakistani border guards. He said an Afghan police lost his life and six others were wounded during the clash which lasted for several hours. There are no reports regarding the exact number of Pakistani forces casualties as the officials have said two soldiers have sustained injuries. (KP)

(10) Logar Appellant ...

thus been deprived of key services for the past one week. "I went to the attorney officer on Sunday but the policemen guarding at the main gate did not allow me entry," he complained, asking local officials to resume the hearing of cases so that people's problems were resolved. Syed Mohibullah, a resident of the Pangram village in Charkh district, has filed a case with the attorney office. "I knew the attorney office had been attacked but wasn't aware it would stay closed for a week." Provincial Council Chairman Syed Qaribullah Sadat confirmed the court and attorney office remained shut since the Taliban attack. "We have shared the issue with higher authorities, who say the offices will stay closed as investigations into the incident are underway." But the governor's spokesman, Salim Saleh, promised the judicial departments would resume work as soon as the investigation was completed. (Pajhwok)

(11) AAF Pilots...

Air Force is using is the PC-12 surveillance aircraft which has increased the capabilities of the Afghan ground forces, specifically the Special Forces who are conducting night raids. This comes as the Afghan officials said last year that the Afghan forces will start the new fighting season with increased capabilities due to the addition of new equipment to Afghan Air Force. The Afghan Air Force has received several fixed-wing aircraft as well as combat helicopters from the United States and India late last year and earlier this year. (KP)

(12) Ahmad Zahir's...

any other singer in the history of the Afghan music. Ahmad Zahir died on 1st June 1979 in an incident but there are many mixed views from critics for why he was killed, but according to his son Rishad Zahir, Zahir "was assassinated by the order of a communist general named Daud Taroon, who used one of Zahir's best friends as an accomplice to carry out his orders". Ahmad Zahir left behind two children, Ahmad Rishad and Shabnam whom currently live in United States along with Ahmad Zahir's sister, Zahira who is the personal hair stylist of Presidents Bush, Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and other dignitaries. His songs are mostly in Persian and based on well-recognized Persian poems, although a few are in Pashto and English. Zahir composed and

performed rock and pop music, in a similar style to Elvis Presley. His debut song "Ay Bulbuli Shorida" was performed at Hibibia High School and his schoolmates awarded him title of "Bulbul-e-Habibia" (Nightingale of Habibia). While in high school, Ahmad Zahir, Omar Sultan, Nabil Meskinayar, Farid Zaland and Akbar Nayab formed a band called "Amateurs of Habibia" By the late 1960s, Ahmad Zahir began to fully contribute to this new musical movement. Blessed with an extraordinary voice and acute musical instincts, Ahmad Zahir directed Afghan music to new depths. He also had the opportunity to work with the best individuals in the Kabul music scene such as the late saxophonist Ustad Ismail Azimi, trumpeter Ustad Nangalai and composers Naynawaz, Taranasaz, Mas'our Jamal, along with others. Zahir became a star in the years just before Afghanistan descended into more than 30 years of war. It was a happier time, though the government was rapidly becoming unstable. As the son of a former prime minister, he moved easily among Kabul's cultural elite. (KP)

(13) Ghani, Karzai ...

Karzai, who saw no justification for the killing of innocent civilians. "Whatever cause he had, whatever it was wrong for him to do it. (Pajhwok)

(14) Taliban Shado

shadow judge in Dand-e-Ghori where the Taliban militants were once looking to create safe havens. MoD said the operations, Naveed #1, are being implemented by the 209th Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. Dand-e-Ghori and Dand-e-Shahabuddin are among the volatile areas in northern Baghlan province where the Taliban insurgents have been attempting to expand foothold during the past several months. The Afghan security forces launched a major operation earlier this year in Dand-e-Ghori to eliminate threats posed by the group in this province. The operations were launched amid concerns that the group was looking to establish safe havens in Dand-e-Ghori and prepare for the spring offensive of the group to launch attacks in north using the area. (KP)

(15) Govt. Urged...

electoral reforms committee. "We have not seen any fundamental activity by government so far. The security situation has worsened and people are being abducted on highways. The situation is not normal at all," said political analyst Abdul Hameed Mubariz. Meanwhile, Quraishi, a resident of Kabul, said: "We are not happy with government. We voted but we are bearing the brunt of its negligence. We want a better situation and we want more efforts to be done by government." Analysts said they believe that fraud and intervention in previous presidential elections and delays in electoral reforms have affected people's trust in electoral bodies and that government should try to regain this trust. (Tolnews)

(16) 46 Insurgent...

and four suicide bombers. A number of other rebels were injured in the attack. But the Taliban have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(17) Mother of Slain

approved in principle the strategy to fight the ISIS terrorist group. The National Security Council also instructed relevant institutions to take all necessary steps to hit and destroy the terror group in Afghanistan and prevent the terrorist activities of the group in the country. (KP)

(18) Taliban Governo...

as a result of the night time operation. Gul Ahmad, a local resident, said the operation lasted about five hours. He said two civilians also suffered injuries in the raid. The Ministry of Interior in a statement confirmed that 13 Taliban militants were killed in the Logar operation. However, the statement has no mention of the Taliban governor. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said 15 security forces and three Taliban fighters had been killed and seven fighters wounded during the operation. He called the killing of Najib as enemy propaganda, which he said was not true. (Pajhwok)

(19) At Least 1...

left the district police chief dead along with 5 other policemen. The Afghan forces have stepped up counter-terrorism operations targeting the loyalists of the terror group amid concerns they are attempting to expand foothold in the country. In the meantime, Afghanistan National Security Council (NSC) approved in principle the strategy to fight the ISIS

terrorist group. The National Security Council also instructed relevant institutions to take all necessary steps to hit and destroy the terror group in Afghanistan and prevent the terrorist activities of the group in the country. (KP)

(20) Diplomacy, not...

year's nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCOA), reached between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries. In a Monday meeting with the president of Norway's parliament, Olemlie Thommessen, Zarif said the two countries can boost cooperation in different fields including fishery and energy. (Presstv)

(21) Iraqi Forces...

defensive lines, the source said without giving further details about casualties among the IS attackers and the security members. Meanwhile, heavy clashes continued in southern the IS-held city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, as the troops have been pressing to widen their foothold in Shuhada district after they made their first advance on Wednesday in the district and raised the Iraqi flag over some of its buildings, the source said. During the day, U.S.-led coalition warplanes bombed IS positions near al-Shemary mosque in Shuhada district in southern Fallujah, leaving at least eight militants killed and 14 others wounded, the source added.

The advance in southern Fallujah was slowed by IS militants resistance inside the city, with hundreds of hidden bombs believed to be planted by them. The security forces are also avoiding heavy casualties among tens of thousands of civilians who are reportedly trapped inside Fallujah. About 50,000 to 70,000 civilians are expected to remain in Fallujah. Earlier, said Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasoul, spokesman for the Joint Military Command. Early in the month, the UN children fund warned that at least 20,000 Iraqi children remained trapped in Fallujah where Iraqi security forces are fighting to drive out the extremist IS militants from the city. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced on May 23 the launch of a major offensive to claim Fallujah and surrounding towns and areas. Government troops and allied militias have currently been fighting for months to reclaim key cities and towns in Anbar from IS militants, who attempted to advance toward Baghdad after seizing most of Anbar province. Iraq has been witnessing a wave of violence since the IS controlled parts of its northern and western regions in June 2014. (Xinhua)

(22) Orlando Nightclub...

hoped himself up. More than three hours later, Mateen emerged through a hole that a police armored vehicle had made in the building to rescue hostages, and was killed during the gun battle with SWAT forces, Mina said at the briefing. "The suspect came out of that hole himself ... and engaged in a gun battle with officers, where he was ultimately killed," he said. "Rumors of multiple shooters are unfounded. The one shooter, Omar Mateen, is dead," the police chief added. A third weapon as well as some terrorism-related documents have been found in the shooter's car by the FBI, according to local media reports. The ongoing investigation in the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history is still in the early stage, the reports quoted U.S. Attorney Lee Bentley as saying. Florida Governor Rick Scott has asked President Barack Obama to sign a disaster declaration for the state following the shooting, the reports added. (Xinhua)

(23) Man with Gun...

supply any details. Some unnamed police officials noted that there were explosives in the car. "Any possible nexus with this individual and the Pride event in West Hollywood is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation," said the sheriff's department. "In light of the unfortunate shooting incident in Orlando, Florida, the Sheriff's Department is fully prepared to respond to a similar situation," said Sheriff Lieutenant Edward Ramirez. He said the security forces have been increased to ensure people are safe at the Pride Weekend. "We, as a department, are in heightened awareness, and our Criminal Intelligence Bureau has been activated today to gather and disseminate information, as they receive it." (Xinhua)

(24) Greek Civil...

country, seven are in the islands of the northern Aegean Sea and 47 in the mainland. According to the UN's Refugee Agency UNHCR, the conditions in some of the centers do not meet the standards and in many cases the numbers exceed the capacity. About

73.5 percent of refugees live in tents without mattresses. In the former international airport Hellinikon in Athens' southern suburbs, 1,400 people are crammed in the old departures/arrivals halls. Addressing the conference, KEDE president George Patoulis characterized the situation as "marginally manageable", urging municipalities and regions to be given direct access to EU funds so they can run plans to receive and integrate refugees.

Regardless of the financial difficulties each municipality faces, numerous efforts and initiatives have been undertaken to support the refugees. A few days ago, a solidarity concert under the title "The Journey of our Life" with free entrance was held as part of a series of events organized by the Attica region to help the most vulnerable group among the people in need, the children. (Xinhua)

(25) Over 47,000.....

search of life-saving assistance in Sudan.

According to the UN, new arrivals are mostly coming from South Sudan's Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap states due to heightened food insecurity and ongoing conflict.

The report says distribution of shelters will begin once families are relocated to a new site, where erection of shelters will be permitted.

"The plot of land previously agreed upon for the new site can no longer be used as local land owners require the area for agricultural activities," the report says.

"This recent influx, with large numbers of South Sudanese refugees arriving in new areas, was not anticipated. This unforeseen emergency is unfolding in an underserved area where partners and resources are limited," the UN agencies said.

The report says the influx is critically stretching the available resources and operational capacity of partners carrying out the ongoing response in White Nile State, where the flow of new arrivals from South Sudan continues. Additional funds are needed in order to meet the needs of this refugee population. (Xinhua)

(26) Philippine Military ...

kidnappers. In April, Canadian mining executive John Ridsdel was beheaded by the group as the government did not pay ransom.

Hall and Ridsdel were among the four hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf Group in a resort in Samal Island, Davao del Norte in September last year.

The other two were Norwegian national Kjartan Sekkingstad and female Filipino Marites Flor.

The Group reportedly asked ransom of 300 million pesos (65.1 million U.S. dollars) for each hostage.

The Abu Sayyaf Group, founded in the early 1990s by Islamic extremists, is operating in southern Philippines and notorious for a series of kidnappings, bombings and beheadings over the decades. (Xinhua)

(27) Florida Gunman...

at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, US, June 12, 2016. - Reuters He was a body builder and a security guard, a religious man who attended the local mosque and wanted to become a police officer. Mateen had no criminal record, and purchased at least two firearms legally within the last week or so, according to Trevor Velinor of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Early Sunday, 29-year-old Omar Mateen opened fire at a gay nightclub in Orlando, leaving 50 people dead and 53 wounded, police said. Mateen was the son of an Afghan immigrant who had a talk show in the United States, the nature of which was not entirely clear. A former Afghan official said the program was pro-Taliban and a former colleague said it was enthusiastically pro-American. (Dawn)

(28) Americans Condemn...

hosting events on Sunday, including block parties in Boston and a festival in Washington, police strengthened security. In Los Angeles, about 100,000 people marched in a planned Gay Pride parade in defiance of the bloodshed. U.S. President Barack Obama denounced the Orlando shooting as an "act of terror and an act of hate," in a national address in Washington on Sunday afternoon. He said the country must spare no effort to determine whether the killer had any ties to extremist groups.

In the presidential race, the two hot presidential candidates, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, also aired their views on the killings in hopes of attracting more voters.

Trump called for Obama's resignation for refusing to use the words "radical Islam" in his address, adding that his rival Clinton should quit from the presidential race for the same reason. (Xinhua)