KARUL - The government has launched a campaign to get approval on the second legislative decrees on electoral reform from the Senate or Meshrano Jirga, but at the same time incumbent commission members, on the two electoral bodies are demanding the upper house reject the decrees. 

Reforming the electoral regime is a key part of the unity government agreement between the presidential candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah after the 2014 disputed election. Therefore, the president issued two legislative decrees but both were rejected by the lower house of parlai

Kohst Custom Officials Accused of Blatant Corruption

KARUL - While the 26th June is marked as International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Afghan National Human Rights Commission (ANHRC) seized prisoners were still living tortured in the country's jails. 

Earlier the United Nations said that prisoners had been made to carry drugs in Afghan jails, but claimed some were alive and others Agency. 

Muhammed Nazarkhwa is a victim. He was in jail for five years during the civil war and was subjected to constant torture. "I had a stroke last year because of the impact of psychological and physical torment of servicemen. I have got a lot of torture injuries to my hand," victim Muhammad Nazarkhwa said. 

"Regrettably the government of Afghanistan has not made significant progress in ending torture. Perpetrators are not brought to justice," Afghan National Human Rights Commission (ANHRC) Spokesman Rahman Badror said. 

There was severe torture during the era of the Taliban regime as well as at the time of the Musharraf government," (More on P4).

Afganistan Still World's Largest Opium Producer By: Far Report

KARUL - Afghanistan is by a long way still the world's largest opium producer, according to some 70 per cent of global US opium production, according to the United Nations World Drug Report of 2016. 

Pakistan is the second largest producer of the drug at 14 per cent (90 000 tons) of the global total. 

According to the UN report, the total value of the illicit opiate economy in Afghanistan was $2.8 billion in 2014 -- equivalent to 15 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). 

The Ministry of Counters Narcotics (MoCN) said the income from illegal drug business in the country is at least $4.23 billion in 2016, but down by nearly 30 billion. 

"A limited budget and not enough facilities are among the main problems in our campaigns against the illicit production of drugs. Our budget is insufficient," it stated. 

It claimed the United Nations has so far spent $581 million USD to combat the drug trade. We want an explanation about the process through which the money was spent to fight drugs trade," said MoCN spokesman, Mohammad Haider Daneshyar.

He added: "We are not satisfied with the results of the campaigns and neither are the American and NATO forces." 

"Addicts that do recover and are considered to be no more addicts, in an Op-Ed published in New Indian Express newspaper, Maj. Gen. (Retd) D. B. Bhaduri, said, "Rapidly we capacity building of the Afghan army, so that it has military edge over the Taliban and can defend its territory against Pakistan's incursions." 

The retired Indian General further added that India should "Complete the Chabahar-Zahedan beltways in just a few years, and supply the 400 thousand men on the Afghan borders." 

The Retired Indian General further added that the US should"Complete the Chabahar-Zahedan beltways via Iran. Till then, supply tankers to Afghanistan, attack helicopters and trainer jets via Russia."

"Once the Chabahar beltway opens up, it will supply the 400 thousand men of our army, and those 1000 men field guns being in our depot stocks and saling camps."

"All of this should be done by the US army." (More on P4).

Government Slammed for Blatant Corruption

KARUL - The government has announced a campaign to get approval on the second legislative decrees on electoral reform from the Senate or Meshrano Jirga, but at the same time incumbent commission members, on the two electoral bodies are demanding the upper house reject the decrees. 

Reforming the electoral regime is a key part of the unity government agreement between the presidential candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah after the 2014 disputed election. Therefore, the president issued two legislative decrees but both were rejected by the lower house of parlai

State Accused of Neglecting Counter-Narcotics Duties

KARUL - A number of drug addicts in a drug rehabilitation center at Camp Phoenix on Tuesday accused the government of neglecting its duties by keeping silent about the increase of poppy cultivation, drug production and trafficking. 

They said the main reason behind drug addiction is the rise in poppy cultivation and trafficking, adding that Afghani residents will face a big crisis if the addictions were not stopped. "I want to re gain the respect and dignity I had among the people," said Mujahid Haftaul, a patient at the rehab center, who had worked as an interpreter with foreigners. Another Afghan citizen, Mohammad Omar Mirzaei, who was addicted to drugs after migrating to Iran, said he had a graduate in Dari literature, but due to his addiction to drugs, he had now been ostracized from society. "I was a drug addict when I was 18 years old. I could never quit my addiction. Due to a first time that I have come to the facility to recover," he said. 

Ahmad Zahir Shariati, head of the rehab center, said "addicts do recover and quit addiction are introduced to Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The ministry then provides them with job opportuni ties and skills." 

Sunday June 26 is the Inter national Day Against Drug Abuse."

Child-Mother Mortality Rate Down in Uruzgan

TIRKNOOT - Professional and skilled midwives and nurses have been appoint at 96 percent of health facilities in central Uruzgan province during the past one and a half decades, significantly reducing the child- mother mortality rate. 

Years ago, Uruzgan had been lacking lady doc tors, skilled midwives and nurses and people had to make their female patients to neighboring Kandahar province. During the past 13 years, six batches of midwives and nurses had graduated from various nursing and midwifery training programmes and as a result, the mother-child mortality rate has drastically decreased. 

Uruzgan public health director Dr. Shahr Agahi Mirakel said 130 nurses (More on P4).