

(1) Aryana Airlines ...

through e-mail between the two sides and official of the AAA signed the copies of all documents.

The AAA Head Nader Umar had asked the Deputy Financial Director Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai to sign two cheque of \$350,000 but Ahmadzai refused to issue the orders on copies of documents. Umar then order the finance department to issue the directives so the money could be transfer to the account of foreign company.

The source confirmed AAA transferred \$150,000 and \$350,000 to the account of UBC Investments on 18th and 19th October but the foreign company rejected receiving the amount.

Senior Advisor of the AAA Munir Ahmad Elyad said the money had been transferred to the account of individual who was tasked to negotiate and signed the agreement.

He said more detail could not be disclosed until the investigation into the matter is not completed.

The UBC Investments in a statement said the Aircraft was duly accepted by AAA. The Airlines as the Lessee is obliged to make respective payments at the amounts and terms stipulated by the Agreement. (Pajhwok)

(2) Iran, Pakistan ...

of Pakistan and Iran to the efforts of Afghanistan and international community for achieving lasting peace, stability and progress in Afghanistan, which is important for regional stability.

"Underlining that there was no military solution to the prolonged Afghan conflict, they emphasized the need for a credible political process owned and led by Afghanistan for an internal settlement," said the statement.

Pakistan stated that it attaches importance to engagement with Afghanistan in political, security, economic and people-to-people interaction to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Recognizing that terrorism was a major threat to global and regional peace, the two sides discussed that threats such as increasing terrorism and violence in Afghanistan, rising drug production and trafficking and expanding foothold of Daesh, especially posed challenge for Afghanistan and its neighbourhood.

They emphasized the need of concerted efforts and cooperation among all the states in counter-terrorism, border management and combating production and trafficking of narcotics. The two sides also underscored importance of dignified return and resettlement of refugees in Afghanistan.

The ways for deepening regional economic cooperation and enhancing connectivity between the countries of the region were also discussed.

This was the first round of bilateral consultations with Iran on regional peace and security with focus on the situation in Afghanistan. The two sides agreed to continue these informal consultations as part of their strong commitment to peace, stability and progress in Afghanistan, and the region. (IRNA)

(3) UN Chief Calls ...

is exactly the kind of information the public needs to know," said the UN chief.

In just the past few weeks, a renowned investigative journalist was murdered by a bomb that booby-trapped her car in Malta; another was dismembered in the course of researching her story; and a photojournalist was found dead after being forced to leave his home at gunpoint, he noted.

"On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, I call for justice -- in memory of all journalists who have been killed, and in recognition of the importance of free and independent media in advancing development and peace." (Xinhua)

(4) 48 Education...

financial support from the education department. Most projects are implemented by foreign organisations, which don't pay the contractors on time. As a result, the schemes remain incomplete."

Provincial Council Chairman Hussain Sanjani also confirmed most of education problems had been resolved in Kapisa, but schools in some districts still lacked boundary walls.

He informed the number of schoolchildren was increasing every year. The public representative promised building more girls' schools in the province.

A teacher from the Baba Ali area of the provincial capital, Ghafoor Ghafoori said work on a school building, which previously operated in a rented house, had been completed.

He acknowledged sprawling playgrounds had also been built in some schools, giving teachers and students a pleasant feeling. (Pajhwok)

(5) Abdullah Asks ...

or failed to properly analysed the situations and moved ahead with growing differences the ground would paved for the enemy to get maximum advantage," the CEO warned.

He said the situation was extra sensitive and the enemy had not renounce violence and continue to victimize the people of Afghanistan.

He hailed security forces and called on the politicians of the country that the minds of forces should not be confused but there was need to support them unanimously.

The CEO stressed national and public interest should be kept supreme from personal interest while referring to the statements from different corners recently regarding the unwillingness of government to hold next year Wolesi Jirga election.

Deputy CEO Mohammad Mohaqiq said the Political Parties Council stressed over reforms in election and asked the government to hear the suggestion of the council and implement reforms in the election bodies.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim asked militants to renounce violence and join government initiated reconciliation process. (Pajhwok)

(6) Afghanistan ...

have been recorded against 100 others.

"Still Afghanistan is a dangerous place for journalists. About 1,000 journalists have been killed around the world this year, and Afghanistan has the second highest total," Sediqullah Tawhidi, chairman journalists safety committee said. The committee noted that Syria was the worst.

UNAMA meanwhile also raised concerns over the increase of violence against journalists in the country and said the UN, especially the United Nations Security Council, is committed to supporting freedom of expression.

"Democracy cannot take root and flourish without public debate and without a strong and courageous media sector," Renaud Datelle, a representative of UNAMA in Kabul said.

Many analysts have said journalism, as a profession, is one of the most challenging in Afghanistan -- especially for women.

One female journalist, Zahra Sutoday, who works for a media outlet in Kabul, said she travels to different parts of the country and often faces challenges.

"I have faced insecurity problems and also sometimes I have failed to get complete information from government institutions because of bullies," Sutoday said.

"We believe that a good government needs the full cooperation of the media," said the president's deputy spokesman Dawa Khan Menapal said.

In the meantime, the European Union (EU) also raised concerns over continued violence against journalists in Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

(7) Govt. Has No ...

Juma Khan, a resident of the district.

"Taliban's activities have no connection with religion. We condemn the moves by this barbaric group as they are trying to tarnish the image of Islam by their barbaric acts," said Mawlawi Feda, an Imam at a local mosque in Wardooj.

Meanwhile, Wardooj district governor Dawlat Mohammad said other districts will be under threat next year if government does not retake the district ahead of the upcoming winter.

"The (Wardooj) district fell to the Taliban in fall of 1394 (2015). All the documents and offices and everything which were kept and saved in past 20 years were destroyed and looted. There is no document in the district governor's office now. Meanwhile, the district police headquarters' building has been destroyed. In one word, all has been looted from government buildings in Wardooj district," he said.

Security forces in Baharak district in the neighboring of Wardooj said they are in a defensive mode in the area.

"The area is under the threat of the enemy from 6pm in evening to 4am in morning. We have extremely high morale to fight against the enemy," said Rawzatullah, an army officer.

Badakhshan governor Ahmad Faisal Begzad said the presence of the Taliban will threaten other parts of the province if Wardooj was not cleared of the militant group.

He said "retaking of Wardooj will not be possible unless government sends reinforcements and air support".

Badakhshan has 27 districts from which Yumgan and Wardooj are under the control of the Taliban. Insurgents are active in 11 other districts in the province, officials said. (Tolnews)

(8) Cabinet Approves...

was prepared on international standards and in accordance to economic compilation, jobs ration and on the bases of the principle of accountability from provinces.

He said the total budget money is predicted to be \$5,128,595,000 of which 267,076,932,000 Afghanis equivalent to \$3,829,360,000 allocated for general budget and 90,614,561,000 Afghanis equivalent to \$12,999,235,000 allocated for development budget.

Hakemi said during upcoming year 161.621 billion Afghanis accounted for \$2.317 billion would be generated from domestic revenue sources and 188.423 billion Afghanis accounted for \$2.701 would come from external resources.

He added the budget deficit is 7.646 billion Afghanis accounted for \$109.63 million which would be compensated from current cash and loans.

After deep discussion the cabinet thanked the Finance Ministry for its innovation in upcoming year budget and approved the draft. (Pajhwok)

(9) Some Countries ...

during the same period were unsuccessful because they failed to capture big cities.

According to him, most of civilian casualties resulted from Taliban attacks. He said foreign troops' air raids on insurgents had also been increased recently and the move helped Afghan forces on the ground to a great extent during fighting.

The NATO official claimed the US new strategy announcement and foreign forces' stay in Afghanistan had badly affected and lowered the morale of Taliban insurgents.

He said insurgents had sustained heavy casualties during attacks staged by them in some areas, adding Taliban might opt to sporadic activities in winter in order to show themselves active.

According to him, the Taliban devised new policy every winter and they might do so this winter as well.

"Daesh is active in some eastern areas of Afghanistan," he said," adding they had not seen any cooperation among Daesh and Taliban so far.

However, they were aware of clashes erupting among Daesh and Taliban in Sar-i-Pul province and some other areas.

He said Daesh had been unable to find a foothold for itself in Ghor and Jawzjan provinces like it had been unsuccessful in Nangarhar province. "Many Daesh affiliates in Ghor are Uzbekistanis."

He further went on to say that a number of Taliban leaders had come to Afghanistan this year for mobilizing and boosting morale of their fighters; however, he knew nothing about Taliban leader Mullah Haibatullah's visit to Helmand province. (Pajhwok)

(10) NATO Backs ...

ended and they now pursued only the training mission.

Zimmermann went on to say that NATO wasn't merely a defence organization but it also played an active role in supporting democracy, good governance and reconciliation.

"We support the Afghan unity government in every aspect. The government leaders should assume their responsibilities and honor their promises of bringing reforms."

Regarding corruption, he said the culture of impunity should be eradicated in Afghanistan; every person who indulged in graft must be punished.

Zimmermann welcomed the trial and punishment of corrupt and graft-tainted individuals by Afghanistan's judicial organs and courts; however, he called for more work in this regard. "Corruption is a danger for the whole Afghan society."

Zimmermann also announced NATO support to the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections, adding the polls should be transparent and inclusive in order to restore the confidence of Afghans'.

Zimmerman emphasized the important role of the neighboring countries in Afghanistan peace; however, he said, some regional countries didn't cooperate in this regard.

He stressed Pakistan's role and cooperation in Afghan peace, saying the country could do a lot in this regard.

The NATO representative stressed intra-Afghan peace process and termed signing of peace pact by the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) with Afghan government as a 'good step'. "If well implemented the peace deal with HIA can serve as a model for possible reconciliation with the Taliban."

He said whoever abided by the Afghanistan Constitution and women's rights should be invited to peace and reconciled. (Pajhwok)

(11) Diarrhea ...

Poor sanitation and hygiene leave the already malnourished children more susceptible to infections that cause diarrhea.

It causes loose bowel movements that may lead to dehydration, and in severe cases, death. (AA)

(12) US Should do ...

the attack on senior investigative journalist of News International Ahmed Noorani.

He said it was a matter of concern that such an incident occurred in broad daylight in Islamabad.

The motives behind the attack on Ahmed Noorani needed to be ascertained, adding the incident was of sensitive nature and it should be completely investigated.

The Chairman handed over the stolen medal of Ahmed Faraz to his son Senator Shibli Faraz. These medals were recovered by Islamabad police in a shabby condition. (Monitoring Desk)

(13) Russian Company ...

produce 800 kilowatts of power and meanwhile it will provide drinking water to over 900 families in the province.

"It is a major infrastructure project in Paktia province which was approved by the National Procurement Commission this week on Sunday. The construction of the dam project will kick off within the next one month after the winner company presents the warranty letters and other required documents," Azimi told TOLONews.

Work on the dam project was delayed for three years after the contract with a foreign company was cancelled.

Economic affairs analysts said Machalgho Dam is crucial for the southeaster provides and that government should leave no stone unturned to pave the ground for a safe im-

plementation of the project.

"The Machalgho Dam which is located in Paktia province in the southeast of Afghanistan is important for the country for two reasons: first, for agriculture and second for electricity. The delay in the construction of the dam has created many problems for Paktia residents," said Ahmad Zia Zia, an economic affairs analyst.

Resuming work on construction of Machalgho Dam and connecting Paktia to the national electricity network were among the main promises made by President Ashraf Ghani during his recent visit to the province. (Tolnews)

(14) CIA Releases ...

insights into the plans and workings of this terrorist organization," according to the CNN.

Among them: the deceased al Qaeda founder's personal journal. Wednesday's document dump is the latest addition to the public collection, dubbed "bin Laden's bookshelf" by the DNI. The collection includes three previous releases since May 2015.

In addition to bin Laden's journal, the CIA said the release includes thousands of other documents as well as al Qaeda's potential promotional and planning materials.

the release also contained other items of significance, including what it determined are the first-known adult images of bin Laden's son Hamza bin Laden and documents about al Qaeda's relationship with Iran and its role in the Iraqi insurgency. According to the Foundation of Defence of Democracies' Long War Journal.

The CIA said some of the files it had not released would harm national security or contained copyrighted material, pornography and malware.

The agency said some of the copyrighted material it was withholding included the family movies "Cars," "Chicken Little," and "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs," as well as the documentaries "Where in the World is Osama bin Laden" and "CNN Presents: World's Most Wanted."

The release on Wednesday came less than a week after President Donald Trump's administration decided to release some but not all files pertaining to the assassination of John F. Kennedy. A 1992 law mandated all files had to come out by last Thursday, unless the President waived some from release. (Pajhwok)

(15) Unity Govt. Belongs ...

into session are currently not available. Therefore, if the Loya Jirga is convened beyond the law and its conduct is not feasible." The CEO spokesman said the system belonged to Afghanistan's people and no one had the right to threaten the system.

Meanwhile, Faisal informed about reforms at security, judicial, procurement and election sectors, saying: "Reforms do not come overnight. It is a process which is ongoing and there have been improvements in this process."

He said all people wanted "just, free, and transparent elections"

Earlier, Ismail Khan, a prominent Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan (JIA) figures, had said the electoral bodies needed reforms.

The former water and energy minister said Abdullah had been unsuccessful in previous two presidential elections and he did not need to test himself for a third time.

A number of influential figures have been mounting pressure on the government over the past few days to bring reforms, convene a Loya Jira, dismiss electoral commissions, establish an interim government and declare early presidential election. (Pajhwok)

(16) War-Displaced ...

of shelter, drinking water and food. Sharafuddin, another IDP, said: "If no one pays attention to our situation, we would be obliged to commit suicide."

The man became , emotional as he addressed government officials and said, "Our children, women and men are in bad condition, we live here without hope."

Another displaced man, Zulfiqar Shinwari, said: "We are passing our time on a sandy desert in Dasht-i-Laili area, we have no drinking water, if the government can do nothing, it should at least send us a tanker of water."

Eng. Abdur Rahman Mahmodi, deputy Jawzjan governor, said 4,000 families had been displaced from Faryab and Sar-i-Pul provinces and Qush Tepa, Darzab, Aqcha and Khanaqah districts of Jawzjan to Sheberghan.

"We have taken some measures for resolving primary problems of these 4,000 families like distributing bread and water to them, but sporadic residence of these families makes it difficult survey them for aid," he said.

About IDP deaths due to diseases, he said some of the displaced families had reported to them about their losses but they did not provide exact figures.

"We have the plan to gather all IDPs in a single area and pave the ground for distribution of aid to them and surveying them," Mahmodi concluded. (Pajhwok)

(17) MMA Demands...

Other participants also stressed the need of transparency in election and their timely conduct.

Dr. Niamatullah Niamat, MMA head,

said: "People took part in past elections to strengthen democracy but unfortunately the government learned nothing from past experiences and is moving in the negative direction."

He claimed some circles inside and others outside the government were busy right away planning to rig upcoming polls.

He said security organs were yet to be given a green signal about making plans for election security while the election bodies were engaged in attending parties and people with no positive outcome.

Nimati said the government's silence over a recent SIGAR that Afghan forces continued to lose territory to insurgents indicated its unpreparedness for upcoming elections.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) report said 54 of the country's 407 districts were under rebel control.

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) has already declared July 18, 2018 the date for holding upcoming Wolesi Jirga and district council elections. (Pajhwok)

(18) Afghan Journos...

Anja Niedringhaus, Khalid Agah Yaqobi, Palwasha Tokhi, Aqil Mohammad Weqar, Zabihullah Pashtonyar, Amanullah Atayee, Ali Mohammadi, Hussain Amiri, Jawad Hussaini, Mohammad Hussain, Mahri Azizi, Maryam Ibrahim and Zainab Mirzayee were other journalists killed during 17 years. Zubair Khaksar, Yaqob Sharafat, David Gilkey, Zabihullah Tamanna, Niamatullah Zahir, Nasir Mudassar, Noorullah, Faridah, Abdul Latif, Mohammad Amir, Abdul Ghani, Zainullah, Habibullah Hussainzadah, Mohammad Nazir, Aziz Nawin and Omar Arghandiwal were also among those killed. (Pajhwok)

(19) Uruzgan Women ...

The latest campaign was launched at the Malalai High School in Tirinkot, the capital of the province, on Wednesday. The event was attended by women from the city and a number of districts.

Local officials requested women not to allow their men to grow poppies.

Deputy Governor Abdul Wahid Patan told Pajhwok Afghan News that poppy not only affected youth but women were also addicted to it.

He urged all women to prevent their husbands from cultivating the illicit crop and discharge their responsibility of building a healthy society. (Pajhwok)

(20) Paktika Families...

Janikhel, Khairkot, Urgon, Sarubi, Waza Khwa, Warmami, Terwa and Yahyakhel districts ranged from 800,000 afghanis to two million afghanis.

"Many men and women despite increasing age remain unmarried in these areas due to high dowry cost," he said.

The high dowry cost negatively affected the youth and forced them into migration, joining militants or addicting to drugs, he said.

A girl from Sarobi district, who wished to go unnamed, said her father took 1,500,000 afghanis as dowry from her finance. (Pajhwok)

(21) Bus Passengers

magnetic IED against a fuel tanker was detonated in Charikar city on Wednesday night.

Most of the wounded were on a bus which was near the fuel tanker when the explosive device was detonated.

The bus had been traveling from Kabul to the northern provinces and many of the victims were Faryab residents who were on their way home after being deported from Iran.

"The fuel tanker was 100 meters away from our bus when it exploded and the whole street was on fire (as fuel poured out of the tanker). Our bus tried to reverse but it also caught fire," said the assistant bus driver Den Mohammad.

The head of Parwan hospital Mohammad Qasim Sangin said: "Eleven people are being treated at Parwan hospital. They are in a stable condition."

The head of Istiqlal hospital, Mohammad Sabir Naseb, said the patients with over 60 percent burns were sent to Kabul.

TOLONews journalist Karim Amini visited some of the wounded in hospital who told him they had been returning to Faryab when the incident happened.

Malik is one victim, who is from Faryab provincial capital Maimana. He said he had been in Iran for three years, where he had worked to support his family. He said after his father died he became the breadwinner but had been returning home when the explosion happened.

According to him, the driver failed to open the main door of the bus when it caught fire. "The driver did not open the door, if he had opened the door, we could have fled from the bus. He only opened the front door and escaped himself. The smoke came in and we were not able to escape," said Malik.

Another Faryab resident, Zaman, lost three members of his family in the fire and two others were wounded. "My cousin's three sons were in the back seats and they all died," Zaman said.

Out of the eight who died, the bodies of four have not been identified as they were burnt so badly. Their bodies have been sent to the forensic medical facility to help with identification. (Tolnews)