

### (1) Afghan Penal...

was a great development in the sphere of law and legislation of the country. "The Afghanistan Penal Law and Civil Law are 40 years old now and given the fact that criminal provisions scattered in different codes result in conflicts between laws, there was a need to compile all criminal sentences into a single code."

Danish said: "It is an innovation for Afghanistan as Penal Codes exist only in a few countries. It is a huge breakthrough in the country's legal system. Implementation of the revised code at judiciary organs will make the proceedings transparent and easy."

Minister of Justice Abdul Basir Anwar also spoke at the occasion. He said the Penal Code draft was endorsed by the Afghanistan Cabinet in March 2, 2017 and was later signed by the President.

"The code was published in the official gazette on May 15. It will come into effect within nine months after publishing." Anwar said the code was going to land soon at the National Assembly for approval.

He said the Penal Code preparation had been complex and time-consuming, hoping lawmakers would endorse the code with a lot of 'sensitivity' and more 'accuracy'.

Advisor to Justice Ministry and Afghanistan Penal Code Review group head Mohammad Ashraf Rasooli said earlier there were numerous laws which were different from each other and some even in conflict. "Therefore, bringing ease to judges, prosecutors, defendants and all legal workers, the Penal Code was prepared and brought together."

"Efforts were made to observe all international standards and principles in the revised Penal Code," he remarked.

Amendments were brought to serious felonies, he said, adding some other crimes – such as cyber crimes, Bacha Bazi, land grabbing, administrative corruption, corruption and rigging – which were not considered crimes in the previous version of the laws, were added to the new code.

Ashraf Rasooli said the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) was the only law excluded from the Penal Code due to some 'considerations'. "EVAW remains an independent law", he added.

The revisited Penal Code consists two parts – general and specific – and is compiled in 14 chapters and 914 articles. (Pajhwok)

### (2) MPs React to ...

on Saturday session.

"The war in Afghanistan is not an ethnic war; the war in Afghanistan is the war which is led by the remnants of this person (Hekmatyar) in different parts of the country, who have raised flags under the name of Taliban and Daesh," said Nazifa Zaki, an MP.

"All ethnic groups from Afghanistan are sacrificing in this war and we are all the victims of terrorism," said Mohammad Nazeer Ahmadzai, second deputy speaker of the Wolesi Jirga.

Meanwhile, residents of Kabul's Old City spoke out about the war which continued by different groups from four sides of the city.

Referring to a place on the top of a mountain in the Old City of Kabul, Saleh Mohammad a resident of the area said: "The area where you see belonged to Dostum fighters, the Sangtarashi area (in Kabul) belonged to Shurai Nezar, the Shuhadai Salehin area (in Kabul) belonged to Hizb-e-Islami fighters. We were on the first line of the battle and among all warring parties."

Other residents of the area, Ahmad Shah Marufi, who is an artist and makes paintings at his home, said he sustained injuries during the domestic wars in the country.

"It was an unforgettable era for the people, especially for the residents of Kabul. A large number of people either from Hazara, Uzbek, Tajik or Pashtun were martyred; but the goal was unknown," Marufi said.

"The power in Kabul was divided among many groups. Everyone was king in their own area," said Hekmatullah Shahbaz, a university lecturer.

This comes after Hekmatyar rejected the reports which quoted him as saying that the war in Afghanistan is a war between two ethnic groups.

Addressing the third day of Hizb-e-Islami's assembly on Friday, Hekmatyar blamed a number of media outlets for working for the interest of foreigners and fueling ethnic divisions in the country.

At the Hizb-e-Islami assembly last week, he pointed to the war in Afghanistan and said: "War is ongoing in every part of Afghanistan. This is the war which continued in the past. A big number of Ghor residents are involved in this war. Sit with them and ask them who is involved in this war? It is between two ethnic groups! In Taiwara, the conflict is not between security forces and insurgents; it is between two ethnic groups. It is the same in Kunduz, in Baghlan, in all northern parts of the country. The real situation of the war is like this across the country." (Tolonews)

### (3) MPs Allege Officials ...

copper deposits.

According to reports, over the past eight years thousands of stone and clay idols, gold coins, wood and metal has been recovered. The initial excavations of the site were conducted unprofessionally post which the authority of the site was transferred from the Mining Ministry to the Cultural and Information Ministry.

The Wolesi Jirga today summoned Ahmad

Javed Sadaat, Deputy Minister of Mining and Petroleum, Abdul Rasoul Bawari, Deputy Minister of Information and Cultural Affairs and Gen. Murad Ali Murad, Deputy In-Charge of Security at Interior Ministry to brief the house on the Mes Ainak contract, the process of excavation and the allegations of smuggling of historical items.

Lawmaker Kamal Naseri, head of the House Religious and Cultural Affairs Commission, said that the Afghan government has abided by its responsibilities as defined in the contract, but the Chinese company did not.

He added that from the historical site found at Mes Ainak, some artifacts have been looted because of a lack of attention from the government and smuggled to Pakistan. He blamed the government authorities to be involved in the looting and smuggling of the artifacts.

Without naming anybody, Naseri said that a number of officials in Kabul and Logar province were involved in the smuggling of the relics.

Some lawmakers also made allegations of massive corruption among the responsible authorities due to which the relics from Mes Ainak had been looted or moved.

Abdul Rasoul Bawari, the acting Deputy Minister of Information, said that since the excavation was handed over to the Ministry of Information around six months ago, approximately 1,300 items have been found at Mes Ainak. These items have been transferred to the national museum.

He added that some items were sent to Hungary and Italy for renovation and some were moved to other places due to their larger size. He said all the artifacts are being kept at a proper place.

Bawari also rejected the allegations of smuggling, adding that the smuggling of relics was reported some time ago, but the government quickly reacted and detained the involved individuals, who were then handed over to the Attorney General Office (AGO).

Gen. Murad said the Interior Ministry has tasked 1,750 security personnel in 134 historic sites in the country to ensure their security. He reaffirmed that the police is competent to stop illegal mining and smuggling bids from the mines and historic sites.

Deputy Minister of Mining Ahmad Javed Sadaat said the exploitation of Mes Ainak has been delayed due to excavation of the historic site and also accused the Chinese company of not abiding by their commitments.

He added that there are some points of disagreement in the contract. The Chinese company has pointed out 75 such points on which both parties will hold talks.

Initially there was no map for the excavation of copper from the site, but now the ministry has chalked out a map. But for the work to resume, an approval from the Economic Council is needed.

The Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) in its recent report claimed that illegal mining of natural reservoirs is underway at approximately 3,000 points across the country. The report accused armed non-state groups and powerful individuals with collaboration from the local government officials to be involved in illegal mining activities. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Ghani Hints at ...

improve the quality of education. For this purpose, there is need to work on different models to improve the quality of education," said Ghani.

He added the current structure of MoE was not affordable to go with and there was need for more specification of duties and responsibilities, asking for the help of Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and the Telecommunication and Technology Ministry's help to identify the exact number of teachers and available resources.

Councils created under the Citizens Covenant Program could also help the MoE in its reforms process, the president said.

Showing disappointment over the MoE performance, the president said:

"Despite a massive number of employees, the MoE is still unable to properly administer its affairs and needs downsizing to ensure proper management," he said.

He said the MoE should work on education system from grade first to 12th and technical, vocational institutes and teacher training centres should be administered by a separate authority. Mohammad Ibrahim Shinwari, deputy head of general education, explained programs and strategies of the education ministry to the president and briefed him about imminent reforms at the ministry. (Pajhwok)

### (5) NDAA Authorises...

conference report jointly released by the Senate and House Armed Services committees, NDAA authorises 3,500 visas for individuals who are eligible for special immigrant status under the Afghan Allies Protection Act.

The act will now heads to the Senate and House floor for formal passage before it is sent to the White House for President Donald Trump to sign it into law.

It envisages up to \$700 million in Coalition Support Funding to reimburse Pakistan for activities carried out in support of US operations in Afghanistan.

But it makes the release of \$350 million conditional to Defense Secretary giving a certification that Pakistan is taking action against the Haqqani network.

Notably in the last two years, successive defense secretaries have not given a certification to Pakistan.

Congressional leaders reconciling the differences between the House and Senate versions of the act have asked the Pentagon to "demonstrate" to Pakistan the "consequences" of continued support to terrorists.

It also asks the Department of Defense to closely monitor US security assistance to Pakistan to ensure that the country is not using such aid to support terrorist groups.

The US and India "should work closely with Afghanistan" to promote stability in the region to include targeted infrastructure development and economic investment, means to address capability gaps in country, and improved humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

The conferees noted the authority allowed for reimbursement of Pakistan for security activities along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, including providing training and equipment for the Frontier Corps.

However, the conferees were concerned that Pakistan continues to delay or deny visas for US personnel that could assist with the provision of such training.

Given this situation, the conferees recommend that the Department of Defense condition reimbursements for training and equipment with appropriate access by US personnel, it said. (Pajhwok)

### (6) US Congress ...

the Haqqani network and LeT from using Pakistani territory as a safe haven and for fundraising or recruiting efforts.

The certification would also have to include a declaration that Pakistan is working with Afghanistan to restrict the movement of militants along the border, and that Pakistan had shown progress in arresting and prosecuting senior leaders and mid-level operatives of the Haqqani network and LeT.

Congress also said if handed over, the use of the funds would need to be monitored so as to ensure Pakistan was not using it to fund insurgent groups.

Meanwhile NATO has said without the support of neighboring countries bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan would be impossible.

"There cannot be peace in Afghanistan unless we engage Afghanistan's neighbors and we have to convince them to take on a constructive role on Afghanistan, its in their own interests as we would then move on from a lose-lose situation as we are currently facing to a win-win situation," NATO Senior Civilian Representative in Afghanistan Ambassador Cornelius Zimmermann said.

Afghan acting defense minister Tariq Shah Bahrami meanwhile said Pakistan will be subjected to more political pressure from foreign to take action against insurgents.

The Special Chargé d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Kabul Ambassador Hugo Llorens meanwhile said the US will stay in support of thousands of Afghan people who are fighting the insurgent groups to defend their country.

"We will continue to stand with the hundreds of thousands of Afghans fighting for their country against the Taliban and its terrorist allies. Together we will convince the Taliban they cannot win on the battlefield and together we will set the condition for the lasting peace settlement," said Llorens.

Llorens said maintaining security in Afghanistan is at the center of US efforts in Afghanistan to make sure the insurgents won't be able to threaten the world. (Tolonews)

### (7) Indian Wheat ...

has demonstrated the viability of the new route.

He added that India, Afghanistan and Iran agreed to operationalize the Chabahar port only a year-and-a-half ago.

"The ease and the speed with which this project is already working is evident from the fact that as we are receiving the first trucks of wheat here in Zaranj, the second ship from Kandla has already docked in Chabahar," Vohra announced.

He said there will be seven shipments between now and February and a total of 110,000 tons of wheat will come to Afghanistan through Chabahar. Vohra added the shipments are part of a promised 1.1 million tons of wheat as India's "gift" to Afghanistan out of which 700,000 has already been sent to the country. India is investing \$500 million in Chabahar port to build new terminals, cargo berths and connecting roads, as well as rail lines.

The Indian shipment arrived in Afghanistan days after U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, on a visit to New Delhi, allayed concerns the Trump administration's tough stand on Iran could pose a fresh stumbling block to India's plans to develop the strategic Iranian port as a regional transit hub.

The Indian ambassador also took a swipe at Pakistan, though he did not name the rival country.

"The logic of finding easy connectivity, assured connectivity for Afghanistan is also because you have not had the benefit despite being a landlocked country of having easy access to international markets. We all know that a particular neighbor of yours to the east has often placed restrictions on your transit rights," Vohra noted.

The shortest and most cost effective land routes between India and Afghanistan lie through Pakistan.

But due to long-running bilateral territorial disputes between India and Pakistan, Afghanistan and India are not allowed to do two-way trade through Pakistani territory.

Kabul, however, is allowed to send only a limited amount of perishable goods through Pakistani territory to India.

"We are confident that with the cooperation, particularly of the government of Iran, this route now from Chabahar to Afghanistan will not see any arbitrary closure of gates, any unilateral decisions to stop your imports and exports, and this will provide you guaranteed access to the sea," vowed Vohra.

Pakistan also allows Afghanistan to use its southern port of Karachi for transit and trade activities. However, Afghan officials and traders are increasingly complaining that authorities in Pakistan routinely indulge in unannounced trade restrictions and frequent closure of border crossings, which has undermined trade activities.

"With the opening of Chabahar Port, Afghanistan will no longer be dependent on Karachi Port," provincial governor Mohammad Samiullah said while addressing the gathering. The economic activity, he said, will create job opportunities and bring billions of dollars in revenue to Afghanistan, Iran and India.

Afghanistan's relations with Pakistan have also plunged to new lows in recent years over mutual allegations of sponsoring terrorism against each other's soils.

In its bid to enhance economic connectivity with Afghanistan, India also opened an air freight corridor in June this year to provide greater access for Afghan goods to the Indian market.

Pakistani officials, however, have dismissed suggestions the direct trade connectivity between India and Afghanistan is a matter of concern for Islamabad.

"It is our consistent position that Afghanistan as a landlocked country has a right of transit access through any neighboring country according to its needs," said Pakistani foreign ministry spokesman Mohammad Faisal.

Pakistan and Afghanistan share a nearly 2,600 kilometer largely porous border. However, Islamabad has lately begun construction of a fence and tightened monitoring of movements at regular border crossings between the two countries, saying terrorist attacks in Pakistan are being plotted on the Afghan side of the border. (VoA)

### (8) Artists Call For ...

and art programs can bring the people closer together.

The artists wrote messages to stop violence against women on their paintings.

"With painting art we can move Afghanistan to a better future," said Friba Parnian, one artist.

"Here the girls have put their paintings on show and the main aim of the move is to fight against violence against women," Ahmad Shekib Qaderi, another artist said.

Artists also called for an end to the war and put on a performance to this effect.

"We want to tell all that Afghanistan is one of those countries that wants peace and the youths are working towards peace," Nasrin Rasa, a participant said.

"The women's role should increase in society. Here also most of the paintings are from women painters," Sayed Mahmoud Hashimi, another participant said. (Tolonews)

(10) Karzai Claims their suffering, of violations. Nothing was done."

Karzai went on to say the US then used Daesh as an excuse to drop the Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) on Achin district in Nangarhar in April in a bid to destroy a tunnel complex being used by the group.

"And the next day, Daesh takes the next district in Afghanistan," he told Al Jazeera.

"That proves to us that there is a hand in it and that hand can be no one else but them [the US] in Afghanistan."

At the time, the US said had been designed to minimize the risk to Afghan and US forces conducting clearing operations in the area.

Karzai also condemned the attack at the time and said it was "inhuman and most brutal misuse" of Afghanistan as "testing ground for new and dangerous weapons".

Karzai also told Al Jazeera that he welcomed a recent call by the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor to investigate war crimes in Afghanistan.

"She's right to launch such an investigation," Karzai said.

Karzai also acknowledged that there were human rights violations during his government.

"Definitely, there were violations by the Afghan security forces, by the US, and by others."

Karzai said he would help with any investigation, even into his own potential complicity.

"I have been asking for this so that they come to Afghanistan and investigate as to what has happened in this country."

During the interview, Karzai was also asked to respond to claims by human rights groups that he was warned while in office that human-rights abuses were taking place.

"They are wrong," he said. "They didn't tell me. I told them."

"I told the Western human rights bodies as to what was going on in Afghanistan. They were hiding it. The Western press was hiding it. I told them. I raised it," he said in the interview. (Tolonews)

### (10) MPs Vote to Save ....

The commission also fired two employees of

the Wolesi Jirga Television and banned First Deputy Speaker Humayun Humayun and two other lawmakers from house proceeding for 10 to 15 days.

Speaker Ibrahim told lawmakers in today's session that 70 lawmakers had requested not to introduce Nasrat to the AGO.

Despite opposition from some lawmakers, the speaker called for voting on the suggestion. Of 119 lawmakers present, 117 agreed not to refer Nasrat to the AGO for investigation.

Lawmaker Erfanullah Erfan, who headed the investigation, said the decision not to refer Nasrat to the AGO was against the law.

"Every decision and order of the house is breakable after this. There is no need for you (Speaker) to return 5.4 million and Humayun and Barakzai can also come back and attend the proceedings of the house," he remarked.

He said he had no personal issue with Nasrat, but it was against the law not to introduce him. He said a two-thirds majority of the house should take decision in this regard. Mohammad Abduho, a lawmaker from Balkh province, criticized the voting and said: "The accused individuals cannot be cleared as innocent by raising red or green cards. The process is conducted against the law and is not acceptable."

He urged the speaker and the chief secretary not to bring further shame to the august house.

Nasrat thanked lawmakers for not referring him to the AGO and rejected his involvement in corruption. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Balkh Seminar...

it was linked to the people living on its both sides," he told the seminar which was attended by scholars, writers and youth.

Balkh University Lecturer Serat Noori drew government attention to irresponsible statements regarding the Durand Line. "It is Afghan government responsibility to react to inappropriate statements about Durand Line."

Javed Wak, a writer, stressed over the revival and the philosophy of Loy Afghanistan. He asked media and civil society to play role in this campaign. (Pajhwok)

### (12) 32 Militants ...

Taliban fighters still remained in the incident scene.

Around a week and half ago, 10 policemen were killed when the militants stormed the same post.

Noori did not provide information about Afghan forces casualties but said the Taliban were pushed back after air force was arrived. However, a resident of the area, Abdullah, said the clash begun on 10pm and continued until 3am.

"We could not sleep entire night, when we went out of home in the morning we saw an empty police post caught fire," he said. Afghan forces might also suffered casualties.

Taliban confirmed the attack. The group's spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid said the security post in Shahbaz Khan area was captured by militants last night. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Diesel, Sugar,...

Gas prices also stayed stable. Sharif Ahmad, a gas dealer in Kolola Poshta area confirmed the rate of gas remained steady at 60afts a kilogram.

The rate of firewood remained stable, a firewood seller in Shaheed square of Kabul city, Khan Mohammad, said the prices of 560 kg of each unpeeled oak and cedar was 6,800afts this week.

Food Traders' Union head, Fazal Rahman, said the rate of 50-kg sack of Kazakhstani flour increased from 1,160afts to 1,200afts, a 49-kg of Pakistan sugar from 1,780afts to 1,800afts and a 16-kg tin of Kurshid ghee from 1,060afts to 1,070afts.

However, the price of 24-kg of Pakistan rice remained steady at 1,850afts.

Meanwhile, Noor Ahmad Khairkha, a tea seller at Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afts and the same amount of African black tea 300afts, the same prices as of past seven days.

A slight difference could be seen in retail and wholesale prices, but in some areas, the difference is huge. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Kabul Police Arrest ...

The recovered Hawks have been handed over to the officials in Kabul zoo, the officials said, adding that the files of the detained smugglers have been referred to the Attorney General's Office.

This is not the first time the security forces have foiled a bid by the smugglers to illegally transport animals out of the country. (KP)

### (15) Jalalabad: Speech-...

enshrined in the Constitution.

Samiul Rahman, head of the speech-impaired people association in the east, explained their demands in sign language and an interpreter converted his gestures into corresponding speech.

He said officials had long been promising solution to their problems but no practical action could be taken.

"Are we not humans or out of the government framework and the Constitution, if not, then why our rights are long ignored," he said.

Rahman said the labor and social affairs department was denying to give 'help-letter for people with disabilities' to the speech and hearing impaired people. (Pajhwok)