

### (1) Hundreds Protest...

morning that demonstrators are violating the law as they had not informed police of their planned action ahead of time.

The protesters said the Kabul Garrison chief, General Murad Ali Murad, had tried to stop them from marching and had asked that they send representatives to discuss the issue. However, protesters refused and continued their march.

Despite government having sent in reinforcement troops to some of the central areas, reports out of Malistan and Jaghori districts say security is not good.

Reports also indicate that in the past few days dozen of commando troops have been killed in the districts and the districts are under Taliban siege.

The protesters called on the National Unity Government (NUG) to clear Khas Uruzgan, Jaghori and Malistan districts of Taliban and to send in emergency humanitarian aid to displaced residents, along with extra, permanent, troops to the areas and to establish a military corps in the region.

The protesters said if their demands are not addressed they will continue their protest and will call for wide-spread action across the country.

This comes after Taliban last week launched group attacks from several directions on Jaghori district, one of Afghanistan's most secure districts in Ghazni province.

Ghazni has 18 districts, of which Malistan, Jaghori and Nawor districts have always been relatively secure. The other districts have often witnessed heavy clashes between government forces and the Taliban. (Tolo news)

### (2) New Era of...

government and a new government in the neighbouring country.

He said Uzbekistan kept its borders open for Afghan traders and has simplified visa issuance process compared to the past.

"Our traders import a lot amount of goods through Uzbekistan, they also export domestic products to Uzbekistan, the trade also led to strengthening of political and cultural relations between the two countries," he said.

He said Afghanistan had been facing a lot of problems in transit trade area with Uzbekistan in the past as the neighbour country would not issue credentials to Afghan companies, but the problem has now been completely resolved.

"In the past, Afghan traders would load their export goods in cargo trucks inside Uzbekistan after passing them through Amo River, but now they load the goods inside Afghanistan before being exported to that country," Qasemi added.

He said Uzbekistan played an important role in facilitating trade from Afghanistan with Russia and China.

Afghan officials earlier had said they would open a consulate in Termez City of Uzbekistan for further developing relations with that country.

Qasemi said relations between the two countries would further improve with the opening of Afghanistan consulate in Termez City.

An Afghan trader, Haji Khairuddin Mayel, said close relations between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan were good for economic development of both the countries.

He said his business improved after relations strengthened between the two neighbours and he could easily export or import goods.

Uzbekistan also facilitated Afghanistan improving its commercial relations with Kazakhstan, China and Russia, he added.

He said more efforts were needed to further strengthen relations between the two countries.

Cultural commonalities between the two countries also played an important role in developing relations with each other, he said.

Balkh information and culture director, Saleh Mohammad Khaliq, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Afghanistan and Uzbekistan enjoyed similar culture, which he said was a reason of good relations between the two countries.

He said cultural relations between the two neighbours further improved after President Ashraf Ghani's trip to this country and signing of 20 agreements there.

Presidential delegations and ordinary people also travel to each other's country for attending national ceremonies and music programs, he said.

Uzbekistan is also called a good neighbour of Afghanistan when it comes to politics.

Zabihullah Ehsas, a political analyst and head of Balkh Literature and Social Movement in Balkh, said Uzbekistan supported state-to-state relations with

Afghanistan.

He said Uzbekistan had a good will and emphasize on the Afghan peace process, something he seen behind good relations between the two countries. Close cultural and economic relations directly impacted Afghanistan's stability, he added.

"Despite some anti-government political parties and figures tried to become close to Uzbekistan and damage Uzbekistan's trust in the Afghan government, but the neighbouring country has repeatedly rejected such attempts and supported state-to-state relations instead," he said.

Sabawoon, a resident of capital Kabul, said he received Uzbekistan visa very easily to travel to that country few months back.

He said he travelled through land from Balkh province and visited several areas of that country.

Balkh governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad said relations between the two countries improved after signing of some agreements of cooperation.

He said hundreds of tourists, traders and investors visited Uzbekistan through the shared border without any serious problems. (Pajhwok)

### (3) FEFA Wants...

FEFA head Yousuf Rashid told reporters in Kabul that the vote recount was a good step towards ensuring transparency but the process should be conducted in presence of observers, witnesses, representatives of election watchdogs and political parties.

He asked the election bodies to proceed with the recount of votes in close coordination with candidates in order to ensure greater transparency and fairness. Rashid stressed over proper management of the recount process and demanded a timetable through which candidates could send their observers.

He alleged the IEC lacked the resolve to conduct the presidential election and was seeking escape from the law.

Rashid asked the election bodies to expose names of powerful individuals who interfered in the Wolesi Jirga polls. FEFA also asked all groups and individuals to move according to the law while entering electoral alliances for the April 20 presidential poll and refrain from early campaigning.

He said the IEC should not behave like a spectator during election activities and should use its legal powers. (Pajhwok)

### (4) UNHCR to...

a report published by the UNHCR in April 2018, Pakistan hosted the large number of refugees in the world. Based on the report, as many as 1.45 million refugees belong to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Afghan...

of an education deal between the two countries, the foundation's Afghanistan Country Director Mucip Uludag said.

Turkey established the Maarif Foundation (TMF) in 2016, following a coup attempt, to take over the administration of overseas schools linked to FETO. The foundation also establishes schools and education centers abroad.

FETO and its U.S.-based leader Fetullah Gulen orchestrated the defeated coup of July 15, 2016, which left 251 people martyred and nearly 2,200 injured.

Ankara also accuses FETO of being behind a long-running campaign to overthrow the state through the infiltration of Turkish institutions, particularly the military, police, and judiciary.

As part of the deal, the foundation also took control of two more schools and two dormitories in the northern Jawzjan province, Uludag said.

"Let nobody worry about this: We will educate our Afghan brothers with a more qualified and more modern education system," the Turkish official added. (AA)

### (6) Interior Ministry...

Taliban launched group attacks on Ghazni and seized parts of the city.

On Wednesday the Taliban launched group attacks from a few directions on Jaghori district, one of Afghanistan's most secure districts in Ghazni province.

Violence has also gripped Uruzgan province over the past week.

Uruzgan representatives in the senate and parliament last week said hundreds of families have been displaced due to the clashes in the province. (Tolo news)

### (7) US Special Adviser...

conflict in the country.

In recent years, US officials became more receptive to the idea of direct peace talks with the Taliban.

"This is not going to be won militarily. This is going to a political solution," General Austin S. Miller, who lead the NATO mission in Afghanistan, admit-

ted last week. Khalilzad, meanwhile, reportedly met with Taliban officials in Qatar last month.

Despite the US' decade-long efforts to quell the militants, Afghanistan has seen an upsurge in Taliban activity in recent years. The US government's own estimates indicate that the Washington-backed government in Kabul has uncontested control of just over 57 percent of the country, while a recent BBC study revealed that the jihadists are "openly active" in about 70 percent of the nation.

Heroin production has skyrocketed, and frequent terror attacks continue to claim the lives of Afghan servicemen and civilians. (RT)

### (8) Taliban Ready...

direct talks with representatives of the Taliban movement on the sidelines of these Moscow consultations," he said. "The Taliban's leadership flatly refuses to talk with the current Afghanistan's government, considering it to be the puppet one brought into power in Kabul by the Americans."

The second meeting of the Moscow-format consultations on Afghanistan was held on November 9. Taking part in it were deputy foreign ministers, special envoys and observers from Russia, Afghanistan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Pakistan, the US, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. A delegation of the Taliban movement's political office took part in an international meeting of this level for the first time. (tass)

### (9) Trump Discusses...

Trump was heavily criticised for cancelling a trip to Belleau Wood battlefield in northern France on Saturday due to rain, with some critics accusing him of disrespecting America's war dead.

"Because of near-zero visibility, Marine One was unable to fly, as had been planned," Sanders said.

"A car ride of two-and-a-half hours, each way, would have required closures to substantial portions of the Paris roadways for the President's motorcade, on short notice. President Trump did not want to cause that kind of unexpected disruption to the city and its people," she explained.

Sanders further said Trump was "honoured" to be able to attend a similar event on Sunday at the Suresnes American Cemetery and was "deeply moved by the sacrifices of so many for the cause of freedom". (Agencies)

### (10) Afghanistan...

a financial cost of 4.5 million USD donated by the World Bank and USAID. He said the AMA was important for weather forecasts, atmospheric conditions and prior information about natural disasters in the country.

A number of ACAA workers have received training of working in weather forecast area and they can manage this center properly, Habibi said.

"In the past, there wasn't an organized strategy in the meteorology area and every department was using individual software, but reactivation of this center would create coordination among departments in terms of weather condition and they can make decisions based on our information," he said.

Nasir Ahmad Durani, agriculture minister, termed the AMA an important organ and said, "In the past the government would spend millions of afghanis on natural disasters but still failed to control the disasters and the money it spent was not helpful, but this center can help us have a defined plan based on forecasts."

He said programs for managing snowfalls, rainfalls, floods and drought as well as forecasts for agriculture programs would be created with the help of the center. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Malistan District...

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the fighters killed 24 commandos and other security personnel during clashes in Malistan district.

He claimed the rebels seized the district centre, the police headquarters and six defense posts.

He added two Taliban fighters were killed and three others injured during the attacks but they seized a large number of weapons and ammunitions. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Afghan Elite...

their position while they maintain contacts with U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad aimed at opening peace negotiations.

Khalilzad, an Afghan-born former U.S. ambassador to Kabul, met President Ashraf Ghani and other officials at the weekend, in his latest round of meetings following an initial meeting last month with Taliban officials in Qatar. But Sunday's fighting underscores the pressure on Afghanistan's over-

stretched security forces, suffering from their highest level of casualties ever, estimates from the NATO-led Resolute Support mission show.

The government no longer releases exact casualty figures but officials say at least 500 men are being killed each month and hundreds more wounded, a tally many consider an underestimate.

The Ghazni fighting prompted demonstrations in Kabul and Ghazni by Hazaras, who have complained bitterly of official neglect after a string of attacks on their mosques and cultural centres.

A suicide attack, close to where demonstrators had been gathering in Kabul, killed at least six people.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid denied fighters were targeting any particular ethnic group, reflecting concern that the fight in Ghazni was being interpreted as a sectarian issue.

The Taliban are a Sunni Muslim, mainly ethnic Pashtun movement but deny any sectarian agenda. However many Shi'ite Hazaras blame Pashtuns for the attacks against them.

Ghazni, briefly overrun by the Taliban in August, sits on the highway linking Kabul, the capital, to the major southern city of Kandahar. It is also a gateway into the mountainous central provinces of Hazarajat, home mainly to Hazara people.

Late on Sunday, Taliban fighters also attacked Farah city as well as checkpoints in the nearby districts of Khaki Safed and Bala Buluk, said Shah Mahmood Rahimi, deputy head of the Farah Provincial Council.

He said 45 Afghan police were killed in the fighting, along with five soldiers, but the militants had pulled back. (Reuters)

### (13) Kunduz Transport...

he said.

He linked the revenue increase to anti-corruption efforts and the appointment of professional individuals.

But provincial council member Toryalai Kakar said efforts to eradicate corruption had not been enough. He called for a stepped-up drive to eliminate graft.

Ismatullah Muradi, the governor's spokesman, said an effective campaign against corruption had been ongoing. Reform in the department had resulted in increased revenue, he argued. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Daikundi Girls...

He added his mindset changed after some girls in Daikundi earned titles in different sport events and brought the pride like boys and allowed his daughter to go and play sport.

Mohammad Hashim Alizada, another father who supported the girls sport, said: "I proud of my daughter because she got first position in all the events inside and outside the province."

Khan Ali Muwahidi, one of the religious scholar believed girls sport was not in clash with the teachings of Islam. "Sport is a positive thing irrespective of who is playing man or woman. They should play according to the Islamic rules and should observe the Hijab," he said.

Zahra Rastakar, a civil society activist, said some facilities were available for sport girls in the provincial capital, but in district girls don't have the right to play sport.

She said government has not paid attention to the issue and there were no immediate steps in this regard. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Iran a Crucial...

all the same and the sponsors are evident.

The terrorists are still being fed by their supporters, Ahmad Noor said.

He also stressed the importance of regional cooperation and building trust among the neighboring countries, as well as prevention of outsiders' presence in the region.

The diplomat expressed hope that Iran-Afghanistan relations be strengthened, particularly with a new parliament in the latter.

Afghanistan's October parliamentary elections were the first in the past eight years being cancelled once in 2014 due to unstable security situation in the country. (IRNA)

### (16) Elections Rigged...

He alleged 10 to 15 candidates had struck deals with Independent Election Commission (IEC) staff and police who adopted different means to give these candidates advantage in elections.

He demanded the government dispatch a powerful delegation to inspect and recount all Kandahar votes.

Another candidate Shabir Ahmad Qayyumi said elections were a national process and those who committed rigging were national traitors.

He alleged the elections in Kandahar were systematically rigged and demanded strict monitoring and inspec-

tion of the votes.

He accused election officials of negligence and making deals and demanded their trial. He also demanded invalidation of non-biometric votes.

IEC head for Kandahar Niamatullah Wardak, while referring to the allegations of candidates, said these claims were nothing but a waste of time.

He said they had acknowledged technical problems during elections and even rigging in some cases, but complaints had been registered which would be investigated in line with the law.

He said the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) had launched work on addressing complaints.

A few days back candidates in Kandahar did not allow inspection of vote recount at some polling stations. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Torkham Residents...

"One of the big problems for children in Torkham is that they do not have any schools. But this year, a school in Torkham was decided on, but there is still no building. We are trying to get the approval for the construction of a school that will have 60 classrooms," said Haseebullah Shinwarai, head of Nangarhar education department.

School children living in the Torkham area walk across the de facto border every day to get to school and back.

One student, Faridullah, said: "We study Pakistani books, they are in Pashto; history and all other books are Pakistani."

They also said they had to sing the Pakistani national anthem at school instead of their own country's anthem.

Another student, Kashmir, said that in total there are between three and four hundred children who go to Pakistani schools.

"We are about three to four hundred students, we learn their Pakistani history," said Kashmir.

"We have to learn our Afghan history, we have nothing to do with Pakistani history, we are going there for school, because here in our own area, we do not have schools," said another student, Navid.

USAID has said that decades of conflict has devastated Afghanistan's education systems and institutions.

In 2002, only an estimated one million children, mostly boys, attended school, while women and girls were almost completely excluded from educational opportunities. Since then, the Afghan government, USAID, and international donors have worked together to rebuild Afghanistan's education sector.

USAID has trained thousands of primary and secondary school teachers, produced and distributed tens of millions of textbooks, helped thousands of Afghan girls and boys in remote provinces attend community-based education classes, and supported the Afghan government to design the systems and infrastructure in order to administer a nationwide education system.

Today, due to the efforts of USAID, other international donors, and the Afghan government, more than 9.2 million children are enrolled in school of which 39 percent are girls, according to the Afghan Ministry of Education. (Tolo news)

### (18) Media Violations...

with increase in complaints every week. Siddiqullah Tawheedi, a member of the commission, said the commission took every decision based on the constitution and the procedure of the commission, which is a majority of votes.

Zia Bomya, another member of the commission, said: "The commission is determined to address complaints based on the country's laws and the procedures of the commission."

He assured complaints and violations would be addressed and each crime would be referred to the judicial organs. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Taliban Claim...

resident of Bagh Pul area who wished to go unnamed said the Taliban attacked police check-posts and captured eight policemen on Sunday night.

He said two policemen were killed in Barankot area and three arrested by the Taliban.

Mehri, however, acknowledged the killing of four policemen in Barankot and Bagh Pul areas.

Another source on the condition of anonymity said the Taliban killed six ALP officials during attack on their check-post in Gulistan district.

Mehri was unaware of the attack in Gulistan but claimed the Taliban suffered casualties in last night clashes.

The Taliban claimed killing 46 security personnel, injuring nine and arresting nine others during their attacks in Khak-i-Safai, Gulistan and parts of Farah city.

One Taliban insurgent was killed and three injured in the attacks. (Pajhwok)