

(1) Danish Criticizes...

"The law will force the institutions to avoid discriminatory behaviors. In case of any discriminatory behaviors then the citizen can complain of such behavior in the institution", said Nader Naderi, the chairman of Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission.

Afghan governmental institutions are overwhelmingly criticized for the time consuming paper work, overlapping functions, nepotism, and not being responsive to the citizens. (ATN)

(2) Prominent ...

area so that our history's connection to present and future is clearer. And the fundamental point is that how we can ensure to be on the track for preserving national culture," President Ghani said.

In his address the president also said that Kohzad didn't differentiate among the different parts of Afghanistan and gave a message for the new generations of Afghanistan to make efforts in conserving the Afghan soil, which is the manifestation of cultural creativity.

"This great man of history also honored women's roles in history and as women had always been shimmering in Afghan history, Kohzad had recorded all of such women works and books."

"All of Kohzad's works should be either printed or digitized and also all of the articles written by Ustad Kohzad and other figures in Salnamai Kabul (Kabul's yearbook) should be republished or digitized."

Some of Kohzad's contemporary authors in their writings termed him a great personality and said that Kohzad by publishing his various writings in various arenas had greatly served Afghanistan, the upcoming generations and the country's future.

Ahmad Ali Kohzad, son of Mirza Mohammad was born in 1908 in an intellectual family in Chandaol area of Kabul city.

Kohzad initiated his primary education from Sayed Abdul Hamid School in Kabul and graduated from Estiqlal High School in 1929.

In 1931, he started working at the publication section of the King's court and was later posted as a secretary to the Afghan Embassy in Italy. He afterwards achieved acting leadership of the Kabul Museum and thereafter also assumed the responsibility of the Afghanistan History Association.

Kohzad died in 1983 and was laid to rest in the vicinity of Shah-i-Do Shamshira Shrine in Kabul city. (Pajhwok)

(3) IARCSC Finalizes...

"A procedure to determine the administrative authorities and important decisions does not exist, to regulate the status of an individual and his authority in an institution and to explain what is the area of his authority and how he can take a decision," said Danish.

The IARCSC chairman said the draft law will help to prevent the manipulation of certain groups and individuals in government institutions.

"The law authorizes the institution to prevent discrimination and ensure services are provided equally for all," said Naderi. Later in the day, Naderi said on Twitter it was "time to hold officials accountable". But, Danish stated that without the implementation of the Administrative Act, process will not work.

"The approval of the law on the administrative procedure will not work without finalizing the Administrative Act," he said.

The draft law includes four chapters and 72 articles and is expected to be sent to Cabinet for discussion within a week. (Tolonews)

(4) Leadership ...

According to election monitoring groups, on the basis of the law, the deputies of the IEC have been given special authorities and the absence of a chairman should not undermine the work of the election commission.

"If we consider national interests and use a political method, he (a new IEC chief) can be brought outside the list, but it is good to bring him through political consensus, political consultations with civil society and political elites, so someone should be brought in who is able to address the issue of poor performance and strengthen the political consensus when it comes to the elections," said Jandad Spinghar, chairman of Afghan Civil Society Election Network (ACSEN).

Based on the election law, a member of the election commission should be picked from the list that was submitted last year by the selection committee of the IEC commissioners at the time of Ahmadzai's appointment. However sources have said that President Ashraf Ghani is expected to issue a new decree on the appointment of a chairman.

"From a legal perspective, the list was finalized by the selection committee and other institutions, which also includes the Presidential Palace which issues the decree regarding the dismissal of the chairman; naturally the next chief is also expected to be selected through a decree," said legal expert Shah Mahmood Mal. But other legal experts have said the dis-

missal of the IEC chief and the issuance of another presidential decree regarding the appointment of a new IEC chief is in contravention of Afghanistan's laws.

"From the list of 27 candidates, which will be sent to the president, one of them must be appointed within a span of seven days," said legal expert Abdul Subhan Misbah.

"There are two ideas about it, the first is that that they wait until the national assembly leaves for winter recess and then issue a legislative decree, or they once again interview people and appoint an appropriate candidate," said former IEC chief Fazel Ahmad Manavi.

With only nine months to go before the scheduled parliamentary and district council elections, President Ashraf Ghani this week fired his own hand-picked Independent Election Commission (IEC) chairman Najibullah Ahmadzai.

"On the basis of the decision dated 21 Aqrab (12 November) and the demands of the Independent Election Commission about the membership of the commission, it is hereby directed that the concerned institutions introduce new candidates to fill the vacant post of one of the commission members," a presidential decree issued by the presidential palace on Wednesday read.

According to the law, if an IEC chairman resigns or is fired, government would have to review the previous list of shortlisted applicants and select a new chairman from there. If no one is found to be eligible for the post then the application and selection process would have to start again.

Ahmadzai was appointed as head of the IEC one year ago after he was picked by the election commission's selection committee and his appointment approved by government leaders.

Ahmadzai Defied His Dismissal as Illegal In response to his dismissal, Ahmadzai on Thursday accused the Presidential Palace of making illegal demands on the election management body and said that the Presidential Palace wants to manipulate the next elections.

"Independent election commission was asked to (conduct) illegitimate work, personal demands were made including the manipulation of the elections," said Ahmadzai.

But the Presidential Palace (ARC) on Thursday said government's decision to fire Ahmadzai was a positive move.

Ahmadzai also accused some members of the IEC of having political and ethnic affiliations. (Tolonews)

(5) Abdullah Addresses...

In his discussion at the Halifax Forum, Abdullah said the role of the US in Afghanistan's war today now has more clarity and more focus following the announcement of President Donald Trump's new strategy.

Abdullah said at one stage, when the US started focusing on Iraq, the government of Afghanistan had been worried, but it welcomes the new approach - especially as it is conditions-based opposed to timebound.

Abdullah said: "We need to get the job done and at the same time create conditions for talks and peace without setting a timetable."

He said bringing reforms was a priority for government and that there has been progress in certain areas.

He said elections are being planned for 2018 and although there have been some delays "we need to make up this time" that was lost. He stated presidential elections will take place in 2019.

Speaking to Halifax International Security Forum Senior Advisor Robin Shepherd, Abdullah said that a double game has been "played in our neighborhood" in regards to the fight against terror which attributed to the complications after the Iraq intervention.

"Also the 2014 drawdown of troops impacted the security situation in Afghanistan," he said.

But he went on to say that the door for talks is open to the Taliban.

He said with regards to the Taliban that his concern was "with their stubbornness so far and their belief that they should come back by force and their connections with terrorist groups in the sanctuaries and safe havens they enjoy outside Afghanistan."

Asked about Russia's involvement with the Taliban, Abdullah said he had met with Russian officials on a few occasions and recently one of their security officials visited Afghanistan. He said the perception among them was that Daesh, "especially Daesh in Afghanistan are US made". He said for Afghanistan this is strange especially as the country, along with its allies "are fighting Daesh days in and out".

He said Russia "needs to see things the way they are".

On the issue of Iran, Abdullah said Afghanistan has good relations with Iran and all other neighboring countries and that Afghanistan has made more efforts to improve ties with Pakistan.

He said that there have been reports that are cause for concern that show Iran has contact with Taliban, that in fact it is more than that, but that Afghanistan is working on this.

He did however say that Iran has supported Afghanistan in the past 16 years.

He said: "For Iran, Daesh is the enemy number one and we (Afghanistan) have no argument against that."

"But we are dealing with Daesh in our countries and we continue to see Daesh as the enemy," he said adding that NATO is supporting the Afghan forces in the fight against the insurgent groups.

Shepherd asked Abdullah what the status of women in Afghan society was today? In answer to this, Abdullah said a "lot has happened positively. There is no comparison between today and before 2001."

He said the Taliban had in those years been "treated as sub-humans" and had been deprived of everything.

He said in parts of the country under Taliban control, conditions are still the same for women but outside of that women play an important role in society and government.

"We still have some way to go. We unfortunately still have incidents of violence against women in some parts of the country."

In relation to this, he said much progress had been made in terms of reforms in the laws. (Tolonews)

(6) MPs Claim ...

to join the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) and said this is rooted in government's failure to address the problems facing soldiers.

According to lawmakers, not paying salaries on time, no days off, the lack of equipment and threats by insurgents against the families of soldiers are some of the reasons preventing the youth from joining the Afghan security forces.

Another problem is that of promotions, said one MP.

"Some (security force members) get promoted by three ranks in one year when they are not eligible for this. These are the reasons that have reduced the interest by people (to join the forces)," MP Mirbat Khan Mangal said.

According to the MPs, government has an obligation to address soldiers' challenges and needs, but government's negligence in this regard has created unhappiness among soldiers, with many unhappy about being there.

"No one addresses the problems of soldiers when they are injured, killed or surrounded (by insurgents). These are things that soldiers are facing," MP Abdul Wadood Paiman said.

"We hope that the interior and defense ministries work seriously in this regard," senator Safiullah Hashimi said.

Security department officials however reject these claims that there is little interest among the public to join the forces and said they are addressing soldiers' problems.

"Our process is normal and those who are eligible and want to join the police they can come to us," said the interior ministry's deputy spokesman Nusrat Rahimi.

"We held an exam last week. We needed 550 people, but 2,973 people sat the exam," said defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri. (Tolonews)

(7) HPC Delegation ...

receive them in the Presidential Palace in Bogor, Indonesia and the Vice President of Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Jusuf Kalla would also conduct dialogue with HPC delegates.

Their program also include to have a meeting with Governor of Aceh Province, convening dialogue with Indonesian Islamic Organization, visiting worship places and Darunnajaa Islamic boarding school, as well as the State Islamic University (UIN) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

As the world's most populous Muslim nation and have the deep-rooted historical friendship with Afghanistan, Indonesia remained committed to support Afghanistan in the peace process and reconciliation and stood ready to "offer whatever Indonesia can do to contribute to peace-building in Afghanistan".

This visit constituted the second opportunity for HPC to visit Indonesia after the first visit of High Peace Council led by (the late) H.E. Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, was made on 18-19 July 2011. (Pajhwok)

(8) Senate Approves...

On March 2, 2016 following protests, the president approved amendment to Article sixth of the law about distribution of electronic ID cards. Based on the presidential decree, nationality and tribes would also be mentioned in identity cards.

On October, 30 this year, the Wolesi Jirga rejected the presidential decree, triggering protests and prompting the government to call for a review of the decision.

Speaking at Sunday's session of the Meshrano Jirga, Senator Mohammad Hashim Alkozai, who heads the Senate security affairs commission, said in line with the presidential decree No. 242, words tribe and religion had been added to the electronic identity cards.

He said during meetings all members of the house permanent commission had approved the changes to the law and the

changes required to be approved by the house. All the 47 lawmakers present approved the decree.

Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimiyar thanked lawmakers for approving the law and independent status of the computerized identity card distribution organization. According to principles, if the two houses of parliament differ on an issue, then a joint commission is created to hold consultative meetings.

The Senate chairman introduced seven members of the house for the joint commission. (Pajhwok)

(9) Afghan U-19 ...

Afghanistan's most popular sports in recent years.

The International Cricket Council in this year inducted Afghanistan as its 12th full member, recognizing the strides the Afghan national side has made in the game.

The other full ICC members, are traditional cricket-playing nations: England, Australia, Bangladesh, South Africa, New Zealand, Pakistan, the West Indies, India, Ireland, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. (VoA)

(10) Necessary Steps ...

Pakistan first approach.

In his message on the first day of Eid Al-Adha, President Ghani said the Afghan government is fully prepared for the peace talks and negotiations with Pakistan for peace is on the agenda of the government.

He was apparently gesturing towards his previous remarks where he insisted that peace talks with Pakistan is important and should come first before holding talks with the anti-government armed militant groups.

The Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the Taliban and the notorious Haqqani terrorist network to use its soil for planning and coordinating attacks in Afghanistan, calling it as one of the major barriers in forcing the militant groups to participate in talks. (KP)

(11) Unlicensed Companies

quality petroleum at sea ports.

In the past two years, licenses of 58 companies involved in import of low quality fuel were canceled and another 15 companies would meet the same fate soon, said the official.

He said ANSA used to fine companies involved in import of low quality petroleum and in case of rejecting the fine, the particular company was referred to the Ministry of Commerce and Industries for canceling its license.

Faqe did not rule out corruption in ANSA, but said low quality fuel imports took place due to the impunity provided by the government.

He said oil tankers had been informed to refrain from importing low quality fuel otherwise they would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

Tamim told lawmakers a total of 261 companies had been awarded licenses for oil import but 87 percent of the fuel was being imported by companies with no license. He said a draft Petroleum Law had been prepared and the draft would land in the parliament soon to address the existing issues.

He said prices of petroleum products registered only one to two afghanis increase in the past one year in line with international market rates.

He, however, said the price of gas jumped five to seven afghanis per kilo, based on global price.

Commerce and Industries Minister Masjidi said the price of one ton of crude oil surged from \$129 to \$195 in the international market.

He said the ministry had enough storages for petroleum and necessary measures had been put in place for winter.

Currently one kilogram of gas was accounted for 60 afghanis in the market. (Pajhwok)

(12) 37 Pairs Enter ...

trying to remove bad culture by holding such programs in future.

Governor Mohammad Tahir Zuhair asked families to avoid fixing high dowries and unnecessary expenditures that forced the youth to leave the country in search of work abroad.

He said dowry costs were very high in Bamyan, asking families to put an end to the negative tradition and reduce the costs. Ali, a resident of Waras district of Bamyan and a groom, said most of the couples could not hold their wedding parties due to their economic problems after their engagements. He said some youth were even obliged to travel abroad for working and earn money and then held their wedding. (Pajhwok)

(13) MPs Blast Govt for...

Jan Mangal, another member of the upper house, also said that many people of Kunar have been displaced due to Pakistani shelling and the Afghan central government has done nothing so far in this regard.

Tayyab Ata, the Meshrano Jirga secretary, said, "The central government has neither responded to the shelling by Pakistani side and nor it has taken measures in this re-

gard." He added that hundreds of families from the bordering districts have been displaced. Najiba Hussani, another lawmaker, said, "If Afghan government cannot give a tit-for-tat response to Pakistan then it should register a complaint at United Nations against Pakistan."

She said that the Pakistani shelling should be documented and then shown as a proof of Pakistan's misdoings to the international community.

She added that Pakistan has never acted sincerely in supporting Afghanistan and combating terrorism, and therefore, Afghans shouldn't expect any support from Pakistan.

Meanwhile, some representatives of the house also criticized the government for its silence towards the fencing of the Durand Line and urged the government to prevent the fencing.

The Durand Line is the 2,430-kilometre Pakistan and Afghanistan. It was established in 1896 by a pact signed between Sir Mor , a British diplomat and civil servant of the British Raj, and then Emir of Afghanistan, Abdur Rahman Khan, to fix the limit of their respective spheres of influence and improve diplomatic relations and trade. (Pajhwok)

(14) Mustafa Zahir ...

relinquish his membership of the respective council, and another person replaces him in accordance with the law.

After district council elections could not be held, the president introduced provincial council members to the Meshrano Jirga as appointed members of the house last year.

A statement from the Presidential Palace received by Pajhwok Afghan News said President Ghani introduced Haji Mahmud Khakrizwal as another member of the Meshrano Jirga to replace Sher Mohammad Akhunzada.

"Based on the 3rd paragraph of article 84 of the Constitution, Haji Mahmud Khakrizwal is approved as member of the Meshrano Jirga to replace Sher Mohammad Khunzada," (Pajhwok)

(15) Govt. Offices,

remaining 60 percent dues soon.

Farooqi said some powerful individuals refusing to pay their bills in Kandahar would be introduced to the attorney's office soon. He, however, didn't name anyone.

The Kandahar power department has earlier complained about non-payment of power bills by government organizations and people, causing millions of loss to DABS on monthly basis. (Pajhwok)

(16) Daesh Restricted...

operations against Daesh affiliates in Maman Dara area of Achin district, in Aug-haz and Gorgori areas of Haska Mena district, Tora Bora area of Pachirawgan district and Wazir Tangi area of Khogyani district.

He said Daesh rebels after their defeat in Shinwari district moved to Tora Bora and from there they were driven to Wazir Tangi area in Khogyani where they were not allowed to regroup and were defeated.

He said the security forces had air support of Afghan and foreign forces in their operations against Islamic State.

He said Daesh militants had restricted their activities to limited areas in the four districts. (Pajhwok)

(17) 'Stop Iran from ...

conflict -torn countries and their graves were not known to anyone. "This act of Iran is driven by hate."

Hundreds of Afghan have been reportedly killed recently in Iraq and Syria sent by Iran. According to reports, the Iran government provides \$500 per month salaries to the recruits besides other credits.

The Afghanistan government or Iran's Embassy in Kabul has so far not commented on the issue. (Pajhwok)

(18) Former IEC Chairman...

Afghan political parties and figures broadly criticized the performance of IEC's commissioner.

Meanwhile, Jamiat-e-Islami leaders which claim the party as the main victim of fraudulent elections asks IEC to maintain its independence.

The Presidential Palace and Afghan Independent Election Commission are avoiding to comment about the issue. However, Mr.Ahmadzai, the recently fired chairman is claiming that IEC is not willing to hold elections and that IEC's officials are fully dependent on some circle inside Arg. (ATN)

(19) Daesh Destroys...

was superficially injured in the clash.

A local resident, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that Daesh militants have been involved in destroying two cemeteries where they wanted to create their base.

The insurgents, according to him, also destroyed the Khawaja Ashkar and its surrounding tombs last year. (Pajhwok)