

(1) Khalilzad Calls On...

revealed many details of his schedule or agenda but did say on Sunday, shortly after arriving in Afghanistan, that he was here to break the stalemate around the war and help broker peace.

Addressing the meeting on Monday, Khalilzad said he was leading an inclusive team from the US government, involving members of the State department, Pentagon, the White House and other security agencies.

Despite this, he emphasized that the process was "ultimately an issue between the Afghans."

"We can facilitate and be present in any format for peace talks," he said adding that "it's not easy, but there is a window of opportunity (for peace)."

He said it was time to end the war as there has been "enough bloodshed in this country."

Khalilzad pointed out that the result of peace should see more unity in the country but said: "War is difficult, but peace is not easy as well."

Late last month, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo officially announced the appointment of Khalilzad as Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation.

Pompeo said in a memo to staff that Khalilzad would lead US efforts to support, facilitate, and participate in a peace process between government and the Taliban.

"There is no one better suited for this duty than an expert diplomat like ambassador Khalilzad, who was born and raised in Afghanistan, and has previously served as the US ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, and the United Nations," Pompeo said in the memo. Pompeo also said he was confident in Khalilzad's ability to execute the mission.

"I am confident in Ambassador Khalilzad's ability to execute this mission, and we are grateful for his willingness to step back into public service. As we welcome him back to the Department, let us rededicate ourselves to achieving a durable peace in Afghanistan that will ensure security for the American people. This goal is realistic. We have a team in place to accomplish it. Let's get the job done," said Pompeo. (Tolo news)

(2) Abdullah...

"Last night (Sunday) with President Ashraf Ghani, his Vice President (Sarwar Danish) and other government officials met Zalmay Khalilzad, who has a mission and has been appointed as the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation. We welcome the US's focus on the peace process and peace is the wish of all Afghans," Abdullah said.

"The peace process has the support of all the people and the international community," he said.

According to Abdullah, "we hope that the opposite side (Taliban) also use this opportunity and we hope to reach peace which is the wish of all Afghans."

Khalilzad arrived in Kabul on Sunday as part of a 10-day journey to Kabul, Islamabad, Doha, United Arab Emirates and Riyadh.

He told TOLONews after arriving in Kabul that he has come to Afghanistan to break the stalemate regarding the war and to bring peace to the war-torn country. He did not give details about his plans, but he has solid knowledge and understanding of the situation in the country and in the challenges facing the peace process.

"I will cooperate with Afghan officials and other influential Afghans to reach a peace that ends the 40-year war in Afghanistan. We in cooperation want to make a peaceful Afghanistan where all tribes see themselves included, have the right to choose and will

try to achieve a result that should deserve the sacrifices made during the years," Khalilzad said.

"It is good that Khalilzad has been involved in Afghanistan issues in the past 40 years. He would have more success than others - as a person whose opinions have been heard while the US have been making strategies," Nasrullah Stanikzai, a university lecturer said.

Khalilzad said he will use all his abilities and regional and international relationships to break the stalemate regarding the war and bring peace adding that the achievements in the past years will be preserved in the peace process and all Afghans will be included in the process.

"I will use my experiences in international issues, the lessons learned, my relationships in the region and world and anything that God has given me for reaching peace in Afghanistan," he added.

He went on to say the memories of victims of war will be preserved in the peace process adding that it is his wish that Afghan children go to school without worrying about war and gunfire.

It is not known how long he will stay in Kabul or who he will hold discussions with.

"This delegation has come to make a report about the situation and Khalilzad will deliver his report to the US State Department and the State Department will make its politics on Afghanistan and region based on this report," Rahmatullah Bezhanoor, a political activist said.

Before this Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that there was a negative view in Pakistani media against Khalilzad adding that he should be sensitive to Pakistan. (Tolo news)

(3) Bring Taliban...

Gen Joseph L. Votel, according to Dawn newspaper, said Afghan fighters must not be allowed to move into Pakistan to get assistance or medical treatment.

He added: "And they need to do that by making absolutely sure that there are no instructions, direction, other things coming from Taliban leadership that remains in Pakistan to their fighters on the ground."

Gen. Votel asked Pakistan to exercise their influence with the Taliban and force the insurgent leadership to come to the negotiating table. "They can do this; they can put pressure on them to do this." (Pajhwok)

(4) Taliban Urge...

and Iraq, joined the U.S. State Department team in September.

He is scheduled to visit Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar this week as he seeks to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table.

But the Taliban, who are fighting to expel foreign forces, topple the government and restore their version of hardline Islamic law, have repeatedly rejected offers to hold peace talks or support the polls.

The Oct. 20 vote, seen by international partners as a dry run for presidential elections next year, has been hampered by chaotic preparations, allegations of fraud and ever-present fears of militant violence.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's main spokesman, said the United States was using the elections for the sole purpose of legitimizing their presence and authority.

"People are given a deceptive feeling of having free right casting their votes for the malicious purpose of minimizing their resentment against the foreign occupation," he said.

With less than two weeks to go before the long-delayed elections, the Taliban and Islamic State have ramped up attacks across the country.

The fighting has underlined the struggle security forces face as the insurgents have steadily extended their control over the countryside even though they have been unable to take and hold a major city.

"The real solution of the ongoing Afghan crisis lies in the complete withdrawal of all foreign occupying forces and the restoration of a pure Islamic sovereignty," said Mujahid.

Western diplomats have said the fighting raises questions about the viability of the U.S. strategy to end the war, which for the past year has focused on forcing the militants, largely with more air strikes, to the negotiating table. (Reuters)

(5) Afghan Teacher...

the Taliban rule in the 90s Yacoobi set up secret schools where she educated girls.

She had left a comfortable job in the U.S., where she initially went to get a master's degree in public health and then lived as a refugee after Russia invaded Afghanistan. Fondly called "the mother of education", Yacoobi was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She also won Qatar Foundation's WISE Prize for Education in 2015.

Speaking about an encounter with the Taliban, she said that one day a group of armed men raided her school.

"When they [Taliban] said to me 'you are educating, that's not good' I told them that Islam said to educate women, Islam did not say to not educate women," she added.

Stating that she knew that she risked getting killed for her work, Yacoobi said it was her faith and belief that God protected her.

In her 27-year mission, she said she had become an "old lady" but the youth in Afghanistan was filled with hope despite an ongoing war. "Constantly I work with the young generation to really encourage them to be patient and really bring peace to Afghanistan because war is not going to be a solution, bring peace and the only way that we could have peace in Afghanistan is our young generations," she said. "Until peace does not come to Afghanistan we will suffer all the time," she added.

'Never give up' Speaking about the challenges which are still existing in the country, Yacoobi said that the main issue is security.

"Also another challenge is that there are areas where no school is available," she added.

Stating that the lack of education leads to false perceptions on educating women, Yacoobi said that access to education -- especially in rural areas -- could change this.

With a spark of hope in her eye, Yacoobi called on young women and men saying that it is important to "put a big mark on humanity to reach out for others and stand up for each other, work in teamwork and work in unity" to be successful in life.

"My message to young men and young women is to be strong against all odds. Do not give up, work really hard and be honest and also appreciate your culture, your religion and your country," she added. (AA)

(6) UK Veterans...

serving," said Dr. Sharon Stevelink from King's Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN).

Professor Nicola Fear, also from the IoPPN, said: "In previous phases of the study rates of probable PTSD in our military sample were broadly similar to the general population, but the rates now appear to have risen."

"More research is needed to explain the rise, but one possible reason PTSD is more common among veterans may be that personnel who are mentally unwell are more likely to leave the armed forces."

The study, funded by the U.K. defense ministry, was carried out by the King's Centre for Military Health Research.

It began in 2003 and this phase included 8,093 participants, 62 percent of whom had been in Iraq, where British troops were deployed 2003-2011 or Afghanistan (2001-2014). (AFP)

(7) Khost Police...

heavy weapons. Without naming anyone, he explained no hopeful could carry more than five light weapons.

The police chief warned of sending notices to the Independent Election Complaints Commission (IECC) against the candidates violating the decision.

Similarly, Gen. Noorzai asked the candidates not to canvass in unstable areas. The candidates themselves would be responsible if anything happened to them in insecure areas, he added.

A Wolesi Jirga hopeful, Akbar Jan Polad, welcomed the decision and asked all candidates to honour it. He told Pajhwok the move would help ensure election transparency. Polad suggested candidates should conduct their campaigns by visiting mosques and people's houses to publicise their plans.

Another hopeful, Qadeem Afghan, also hailed the decision. He urged the security organs to step up intelligence-gathering to prevent incidents of violence.

The police chief also said most of the candidates moved around the city in vehicles with tinted glasses -- something that undermined security. He said a drive to remove tinted glasses from vehicles would begin soon. (Pajhwok)

(8) Turkish Red...

Earlier this year, the Turkish Red Crescent sent 500 food packages and toys to Afghanistan to be distributed by Turkish soldiers to those in need.

Afghanistan's poverty rate and food insecurity have increased sharply over the past five years as the spreading Taliban insurgency has stalled the economy, with 55 percent of the population living on less than a dollar a day, the Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey (ALCS) said in May.

Prevailing drought conditions are affecting around 1.9 million people in 20 different provinces, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), increasing the need for food security, water, sanitation and emergency shelter. (Agencies)

(9) Videos Show...

Dr. Firoz in two separate video clips posted on social media urge people to vote for Mangal.

In the clip posted by Mangal's campaign team, Durani says: "Hi brave people of Paktia, I as a minister request you to vote for Razia Saadat Mangal."

"This sister shares a lot of problems of her people with us, she tries to solve problems with struggle, she loves her country and should be supported in her victory," the minister says in his video message.

However, Durrani said the video was from last year and his goal was not to campaign for the candidate.

"Mangal took a video clip from me about a year ago when there were no election activities, I just said that she is a powerful representative because she always tries to get more projects for her people," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Firozuddin Firoz, the public health minister, also in a video clip says: "The lawmaker, Razia Mangal, is really a hardworking representative, she supports the public health ministry and also works for improving her people's livelihood."

However, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said that the video was from last year and it was recorded during the inauguration of a hospital in Paktia province. The ministry said the video was not related to elec-

tion campaign.

Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) head, You-suf Rashid, said that participation of government officials and authorities in election campaigns of candidates was against the law and campaigning rules.

About the two ministers' support for Mangal, said: "If government officials publically and formally participate in candidates' campaigns or encourage people to support a specific candidate, it is a clear violation of the electoral law and electoral commissions should take action in this regard."

Meanwhile, Mirza Mohammad Haqqarast, deputy Independent Election Commission (IEC) head, also said the two ministers had committed a violation and they would face the law.

The Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) is responsible for responding to the issue. Ali Reza Rouhani, IECC spokesman, said, that participation of government officers in election campaigns was an electoral offense and the issue would be investigated.

If the two Cabinet members lodged a complaint against the candidate about the video clips or shared an evidence with the IECC, the issue would be investigated, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(10) Security Forces...

Moreover, a soldier contacted Aref Musavi, a TOLONews reporter, and said more than 10 security force members have been surrounded by the Taliban at a check post and "if air support is not provide, the soldiers will be killed or forced to surrender to Taliban."

The Taliban have also confirmed the attack. (Tolo news)

(11) Uruzgan...

Walidat, a commander of the forces, told Pajhwok that two years ago when the Taliban launched a coordinated attack on Tirinkot, they were asked by the governor and security officials to assist in securing the area. He said they helped the government and they were promised to be included in police ranks after the situation improved.

However, neither their salaries were paid nor they were recruited in the police, Walidat said.

He said most of his fighters had been killed and many others wounded or disabled in clashes with Taliban militants.

"Despite passing through all the legal procedures for receiving our salaries, but we are not paid for four months," he added.

Walidat said salaries of hundreds of ghost (nonexistent) policemen were regularly paid every month and were pocketed by some specific individuals, but the salaries of real policemen were not paid.

Uruzgan provincial council members also said they had received complaints regarding non-payment of police salaries and they had shared the issue with police officials. Abdul Karim Khadimzoy, secretary of the provincial council, said the salaries of hundreds of policemen were being taken by a few commanders.

The provincial council expressed concern policemen could quit their duties if their salaries were not paid and the province would again face with serious security problems.

Uruzgan police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Maruf Ahmadi, refused to talk to the media about the matter.

A large number of security forces in other parts of the country also faced with the same problem. (Pajhwok)

(12) Achin's ALP...

team leader Bilal Pacha to six years in jail and acquitting his two brothers for lack of evidence.

Bilal Pacha, son of Jalal Pacha, has been accused of misusing his authority, extortion and killings.

However, the judges said their verdict against Bilal Pacha was not final and could be challenged. (Pajhwok)