

(1) Pakistan

Afghan government to come hard on Pakistan. President Ashraf Ghani accused Pakistan of allowing militant hideouts on its soil

Javed Faisal, deputy spokesman for the CEO, told reporters efforts were being made to defuse tension between Kabul and Islamabad through diplomatic channels.

He said Afghanistan had repeatedly asked Pakistan to be sincere in the fight against terrorism and considered the enemies of Afghanistan as its own enemies.

He said: "Our demands are clear and there is no ambiguity: Pakistan should meet our demands to help restore a friendly relationship between the neighbours."

Faisal added Afghanistan would make efforts for the revival of the second round of talks and that Kabul would no longer ask Islamabad to help facilitate dialogue.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani also asked the Pakistani government to honour its promises in a positive manner. (Pajhwok)

(2) Concerns on...

project is launched," he said.

"The ministry of interior has sent an official letter to the presidential palace to include e-NIC on the agenda of the next cabinet meeting in order to discuss the political and financial aspects of the project, as further delay will endanger the recuperation of the aid," he said.

Meanwhile, the Office of the Chief Executive (CEO) has also said that further delays in the project are not in the best interests of the country nor the people.

"Rollout would start soon, there is no way to delay the project as it does not support the people's interests. The political issues that caused delays were resolved and there is no more reason to delay the process. The issue is related to the future of every Afghan citizen and the rollout must be launched," said Jawed Faisal, a deputy spokesperson to the CEO on Monday.

In addition, Muhtat revealed that warranties for the equipment purchased for the e-NIC system are due to expire within a few months and it could create a new financial setback for the project.

"Dragging out the project will have major political and financial implications ahead and in that case it would be quite difficult to recover the loss," Muhtat said.

"Contracts for printing machines procured for the project will expire within one or two months. If the process is launched and a technical issue arises, then the company which has produced the machines will not take responsibility for them if they break down," he said.

The Afghan Census law, which ratifies the ID project and calls for its implementation, was approved over a month ago. (Tolonews)

(3) Afghan Peace...

concerns over the Haqqani network. "There was a frank, candid and intense discussion.... Both sides were open," the official said.

He obliquely blamed the Afghan government for its role in suspension of peace talks with the Taliban, saying Rice had been told the reconciliation process started in Murree on July 7 had stalled.

The fragile peace process was suspended a day before the second round of talks was to be held in Pakistan on July 31 because of the disclosure by Afghan intelligence of Taliban chief Mullah Omar's death.

While Rice appreciated Pakistan Army's counter-terrorism operations in the volatile tribal region, both sides agreed on closer coordination in efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(4) Iran, UN ...

in reconstruction of their motherland based on the experiences they have gained in Iran," said Araqchi in a meeting with Afonso in Tehran on Sunday. "The only way to Afghanistan's success is reconstruction," he said. Referring to Iran's hosting of refugees from regional countries specially the Afghan refugees for the last three decades, he said, "Even when we faced problems of Iraqi dictator Saddam's imposed war against Iran and the unjust sanctions against the country, we hosted millions of Afghan refugees in our country."

Commisario, for his part, hailed Iran's generous hosting of Afghan refugees for more than three decades as a shining and outstanding example of assistance and support for the international community.

The UNHCR Executive Committee head also urged Iran to actively participate in the Geneva meeting on Afghan refugees.

Iran is one of the most important donors to Afghanistan, which has kept its promises to help to the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

Iran has built several roads, power transmission lines, border stations and many other infrastructure projects in Afghanistan to better link the two nations.

Iran has also contributed more than \$50m annually to Afghan anti-narcotics efforts during the last five years. (FNA)

(5) Poll Watchdogs...

plan to make the upcoming elections transparent.

Mohammad Yusuf Rashid, the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) head, praised the ERC work and said the commission had been able to meet its task in a short span of time.

He said the ERC suggestions were mostly positive and their implementation would help execute transparent elections in the country.

Rashid expressed his concern over the decreased number of commissioners on electoral bodies, saying every commissioner had his own responsibilities and the move raised questions that who would discharge the duty of the removed officials.

The reform panel, after month-long discussions with political parties, civil society activists and people of the all zones, submitted its proposals to Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah on Sunday.

Some of the major suggestions include registration of voters, making the election bodies accountable, the presence of two foreigners in the Independent Election Complaints Commission (IECC), reservation of one seat at the Wolesi Jirga for Hindu minority, identification and shrinking of the constituencies.

Other proposals include distribution of the computerised Identity cards, a 25 percent representation of women in provincial and district councils and invalidation of the current voter cards. The ERC has also suggested that the number of Independent Election Commission (IEC) commissioners should be reduced from the current nine to seven and the IECC members from seven to five.

Rashid said preferring specialization over education was helpful and giving 25 percent representation to women in the provincial councils was another positive proposal.

But he said there existed some issues in the draft proposals which could raise concerns and their implementation could create problems.

Switching to the parallel voting from the non-transferable vote system would be better but it was not implementable due to the short time in the lead up to the Wolesi Jirga elections, he said.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan Democracy Watch (ADW) head Zikerya Barakzai also said the parallel voting had positive aspects.

But he said it was hard to implement the system because all political parties would be required to provide a list of their 80 members which was not possible. According to Barakzai, the registration of voters in a particular polling station before elections would be an expensive exercise which might not be implementable.

He said the permanent status of IECC was a waste of money and resources because the IECC had no duty when there was no election.

He believed creating constituencies in line with the population was not possible because this required the exact number of population which was not available. (Pajhwok)

(6) HRW Wants...

wrote in the letter: "Afghan officials and foreign donors need to put human rights front-and-center in all discussions of ongoing and future support for the Afghan government."

The official explained human rights gains since 2001 remained extremely fragile and had reversed in some areas, putting at risk the rights of all Afghans, particularly women and girls. The watchdog asked the Afghan gov-

ernment and its international donors to strengthen their support for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country through continued emphasis on the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework.

"However, there are indications of Afghan government's Realising Self-Reliance paper, presented by President Ashraf Ghani at the December 2014 London Conference, will be the centerpiece of the September 5 meeting's agenda.

It noted the document lacked specific goals and measurable benchmarks for progress on human rights. The group called for focus on updating and expanding the Tokyo Framework to include new, realistic, and measurable human rights commitments.

"Donors should press the Afghan government to ensure greater accountability of state security forces responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture and other abuses," the organisation continued.

Respect for the basic human rights of the general population was a crucial element of counterinsurgency operations, it remarked. Protecting the rights of women and girls would require the government to enforce the EAW Law.

Similarly, donors were asked to fund initiatives that helped promote the rights of women and girls, including earmarking funding to recruit and retain female police officers.

The Afghan government and foreign donors were also urged to take substantive steps to bolster the resources and capacity of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC).

Kine said: "The Senior Officials Meeting provides the Afghan government and its international supporters an important opportunity to recommit to specific, measurable steps for protecting the rights of the Afghan people." (Pajhwok)

(7) HPC Labels ...

was nothing more than a political message conveyed by the group's leader.

On Sunday, senior members of the HPC and civil society institutions gathered in Kabul to discuss the issue of stalled peace talks - which was sparked by news of the death of the group's late leader Mullah Omar.

Members said that regional rivalry fought on Afghan soil and the interference by some regional countries were among the two major issues deemed to have undermined the peace process in general. The participants were concerned that achievements to date by the HPC would be eroded. A senior HPC member also reiterated the need for Pakistan's honest cooperation, which he said was crucial to ensuring successful talks with the Taliban.

"US influence is critical in the peace negotiation process - so is China's role. The countries should come forward and use their influence on Pakistan to force Pakistan to cooperate in the process," Din Mohammad said.

Touching on the recent message of war by Mullah Mansour, Din Mohammad said it was a message conveyed with a political agenda.

"On one hand, Taliban conveys a negative response that they do not want peace. But I am confident it was a political message, not a resolute message. Finally they will abide by negotiations," he said.

The gathering was also addressed by Faramarz Tamanna, the chairman of the center of strategic studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). He rejected rumors that a proxy war was going on in Afghanistan. However, he expressed his frustration over the new threats emerging in the region. (Tolonews)

(8) ISI's Plots ...

LATED the people for it.

Dostum called on Kohistanat residents to unite, and work hard at maintaining SECURITY in the district. He also appealed to the locals to prevent the Taliban from making a comeback in the area.

"All nefarious ends of ISI will be foiled slowly. The people of Afghanistan will not let the Taliban adopt their plans here," Dostum said. "I congratulate this victory on all Sar-e-Pul residents including the youth, elders, religious scholars, women and those who go to school."

A number of tribal elders in Sar-e-Pul praised Dostum's efforts to stabilize the province. "Your move and your victory in Faryab and as well as in Kohistanat district of Sar-e-Pul is worth

appreciation. People were encouraged and their morale was uplifted after you [Dostum] entered the province," a tribal elder Sayed Ahmad told TOLONews.

Dostum said a few weeks back that he had donned his military uniform and joined troops in the north in a bid to eliminate insurgents, motivate security forces and ensure security.

Meanwhile, the locals said they want more security bases in the district in order to prevent insurgents from returning. "Vulnerable areas should be supported. The areas lack security forces. The local forces are not enough; other troops should be added in the area besides the local forces," head of Sar-e-Pul provincial council Noor Mohammad Rahmani told TOLONews. (Tolonews)

(9) 150 Insurgents ...

since returned to their bases, said the "Taliban insurgents created problems for residents in these areas. We were sent from different provinces to rescue our people."

"I have fought the Taliban insurgents face-to-face and the people," a soldier Ahmadullah said.

Another soldier, and resident of eastern Kunar province, Mustafa said that "the Taliban created problems for the people. I have killed a number of Talibs and as long as I am alive I will rescue my peoples from them."

Meanwhile, the Provincial Police Chief, Fazal Ahmad Sherzad, said that a number of police posts have been established along the Nangarhar highways.

"Sherzad borders with Pakistan so because of this the Taliban activities are more frequent and we have created a number of police posts to prevent insurgent attacks," Serzad said.

The operation was a joint campaign with police, military and the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and conducted in three districts of the province. (Tolonews)

(10) Disgruntled ...

and commended the reform panel's performance during the past one month.

He said the government would try to plan how to implement these suggestions and specify a date for the next parliamentary elections.

Earlier, Ahmad Yusuf Nuristani, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) chief, had said political differences and lack of budget led to the postponement of the parliamentary vote for indefinite time.

Asking the government to keep political wrangling away from elections, Nuristani said if the Electoral Reform Commission's decisions were not in line with the law, they wouldn't be acceptable to the IEC. (Pajhwok)

(11) U.S Criticizes ...

program to Islamabad on the back of their decision that Pakistan was not working at doing enough towards counter-terrorism operation in north Waziristan in a bid to squash Haqqani.

The US has been reimbursing Pakistan for operations and maintenance costs incurred in direct support of its operations in Afghanistan since 2001. So far \$13 billion USD has been reimbursed to Pakistan under this arrangement. (Tolonews)

(12) Mullah Omar ...

death had been kept under wraps for such a long time.

On Monday, the Taliban released a 13-page biography of their new leader Mullah Mansoor in five languages. They announced Mansoor's appointment. According to the Taliban, Omar died on April 23, 2013. However, the militants have said nothing yet about his ailment. They argued the news of his death was kept secret to prevent a possible negative effect on the fighters' morale. "The Taliban Leadership Council, religious scholars and Omar's close companions, who remained with him till his demise, have pledged allegiance to Mullah Mansoor," the movement said. (Pajhwok)

(13) Economists Call ...

commercial opportunities and challenges between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Representatives from at least 70 countries, as well as international institutions, are expected to attend the summit. Analysts say the summit will help Afghanistan to push the international community to fulfill their financial commitments to Afghanistan - commitments made during previous conferences. In addition to the evaluating

of commitments by the international community to Afghanistan, the commitments by government will also come under discussion.

"This meeting is very important to government which will discuss the commitments of the international community to Afghanistan," economic analyst Azarakhsh Hafizi said.

This comes at a time when Afghanistan's economic requirements are yet to be included within the framework of a national economic strategy.

"Government needs to attend these meetings with clear economic plans and recommend its programs to the donors, however focus shouldn't surround general topics," economist Haseebullah Mawhid said. (Tolonews)

(14) Fear of War...

to help them out of the situation.

Sahiba, a resident of Kobi village, said the Taliban had warned them to leave their homes so as not to be affected by the conflict. She had to move with six members of her family to a relative's house without food and clothing.

Khuda-i-Dad, a resident of Kunum village, said: "All villages of the Kunduz capital have been evacuated and people have flocked to Kunduz City."

He is a farmer from Kunum village but has to pay rent for the house he is living in in Kunduz City. "We're spending the money we've got left. I really hope to return home soon. Otherwise I have no choice but to look for some manual job here."

Abdul Salam Hashemi, refugees and repatriation department head, said a survey of the displaced was ongoing and after being identified, food and other aid would be distributed to them.

As a result of fighting this year in Kunduz, more than 18,000 families have been displaced to the provincial capital. Hashemi said a third of those families had received aid and returned home.

He said majority of the households that had returned were from Chardara, Aliabad, Qala-i-Zal and Imam Sahib and Gor Tepa districts. (Pajhwok)

(15) Farah PC ...

attorney office.

He demanded the government take serious notice of the ongoing killing spree and expose the perpetrators.

But police chief Brig. Gen. Fazal Mohammad Samadyar rejected figures the PC members provided for the deaths in target killings. He said at least nine people had been killed in such attacks in the past three months.

He said intelligence officials had been trying to capture target killers to prevent such actions in the future. (Pajhwok)

(16) Thousands of...

around 6,000, 25 percent of them with girls. Abdul Qadir Niazi, deputy governor, said security forces were doing their best to clear Dand-i-Ghori of insurgents and bring normalcy to the locality. He promised schools would be reopened soon.

There are more than 500 schools in Baghlan province, where more than 300,000 students are enrolled.

Residents complain the insurgents have implanted landmines in some areas of Dand-i-Ghori. At least 350 families, they said, had been displaced to Zamankhail, Hussainkhail and Wazirabad areas of the provincial capital. Jandullah, resident of Postak area, said some houses had been damaged due to fighting and families had to move out for safety reasons.

He added his own 18-year-old daughter and six-year-old son were injured inside their house. "We live in our friend's house, waiting to return home soon." (Pajhwok)

(17) Iran to ...

and said Iran can also provide Afghanistan with an opportunity to find access to the high seas.

Karbasian said that Iran and Afghanistan have many common grounds for cooperation on mining industry, adding that there are many rich mines, including iron ore mines, on the joint border between Iran and Afghanistan. He also stressed that Tehran could provide Afghanistan with the opportunity to reach high seas through Chabahar Port in Southeastern Iran. Karbasian said that Afghanistan has signaled readiness to dispatch a delegation of economic and mining officials to Iran to explore ways for mutual cooperation. (FNA)

(18) Fewest ...

women government employees have

equal rights. Women have the right to submit documents for every vacancy through open competition. I assure you no discrimination will be committed against women, Inshah Allah," the governor said. The government blamed the lack of women employees in government departments on cultural issues and called for people's cooperation with the government in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(19) Power Bill ...

between 10,000 to 100,000 afghanis.

The Energy Department, he said, had informed these defaulters through formal channels many times but nothing happened as of now.

He warned if the bills were not paid off, Tajikistan might cut its electricity being imported to the province.

Khush Mohammad Nasratyar, a member of the provincial council, urged all defaulters to pay their dues without further delay.

Abdul Wadud Wahedi, the governor's spokesman, said the governor had directed all the departments to clear their bills and if they did not have sufficient budget, they should ask their relevant ministries. (Pajhwok)

(20) NDS Arrests

massive attacks that took place within 24 hours left more than 50 people killed and hundreds wounded, mostly civilians, earlier this month. (Pajhwok)

(21) Taliban

of the Taliban Shura decided to conceal the death of Mullah Omar.

According to the released information, this news was kept secret until 30th July 2015 after which majority of the Shura decided to announce Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour as the replacement for Mullah Omar. (KP)

(22) Supporters,

and Mullah Dadullah Akhund, who was the Taliban's senior military commander until he was killed by British and American special forces in Afghanistan in 2007. So far five fighters had been killed and five others wounded during the ongoing clash between the rival factions, the public representative said.

Zabul police spokesman Fawad Askari also confirmed the clash which he said left some 10 people killed and wounded. However, the Taliban in a statement rejected the clash as propaganda and said there had been no differences within the group in the Khak Afghan district. (Pajhwok)

(23) Taliban Comm...

said at least 521 civilian casualties were recorded from January 1 to March, mainly due to ground engagements between Pro-Government Forces and Anti-Government Elements.

The report also added that Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) are identified to be the second major cause of the civilian casualties in the report. (KP)

(24) Shah Shaheed...

oil could not resolve their problems and the government should avoid cheating people. Sultani, who has lost two members of his family, said it had been one month but the government was yet to honour its commitment.

He warned of blocking the Karta-i-Naw and Shah Shaheed roads if the government did not compensate them. Habibullah, another protestor who lost two sisters and mother in the incident, said food could be easily found but they faced problems living in ruined houses. He also asked the authorities to take urgent action to construct their houses. A week earlier, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah had said that a committee had been constituted to survey the losses and distribute recompense to the victims. (Pajhwok)

(25) Canadians...

Foreign Affairs Department, said consular officers in Riyadh are in touch with Saudi authorities "to gather additional information and are providing consular assistance to those affected and their family during this difficult time." Of those injured, 179 have left the hospital after receiving treatment. (AP)

(26) Britain ...

servative party increased its seats in England in the May election, helping return Prime Minister David Cameron with a majority, while the Scottish National Party surged in popularity to take almost every seat in Scotland. (AFP)