

### (1) Unity Govt...

processes until flaws in the electoral regime were addressed.

He said positive changes had recently been made in the election reform process and the international community had pledged support to Afghanistan if the government showed commitment towards its people, Abdullah added.

He expressed concern about corruption and said: "Fighting corruption is one of the primary pledges of the government. Misusing the campaign would once again confront us with challenges and its roots would further empower, so no one would be then able to control the situation."

About Afghan forces situation, he said, security forces did not receive ration and equipment in-time and senior commanders were misusing their authorities. He asked the departments concerned to take decisive action against corruption in all areas of the government.

Abdullah said the Afghans were being tortured under different names such as Taliban, Daesh, Al Qaeda and others. He added some figures were intentionally backing the enemies of Afghans. However, he did not name any one. (Pajhwok)

### (2) No Hope ...

clearly: "Why are you lying? This [peace process] would not be in your favor. Terrorism will backfire against you, and it already has." My hope is that Pakistan thinks logically and pays attention to this issue," Atmar added.

The Afghan government was expecting to participate in direct peace talks with the Taliban group soon after the Quadrilateral Coordination Group comprising of Afghanistan, Pakistan, United States and China started work.

Several rounds of QCG talks were held and the participating members had agreed to take actions against the groups pursuing violence but the Taliban group rejected the calls by the QCG and Afghan government to participate in direct talks.

The group announced its spring offensive in mid-April and staged numerous deadly attacks with the support of the Haqqani terrorist network based in Pakistan, forcing the Afghan government to withdraw from the talks and opt strict military actions against the group.

The Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the Taliban group and Haqqani terrorist network leaderships to use its soil for planning and coordinating attacks in Afghanistan.

However, Pakistan has opposed to opt a military option to resolve the issue despite admitting that the leaders of the Taliban group are based in the country and Islamabad could use certain leverages to force the group to participate in peace talks, including the pressure the country could build on the group on certain facilities it uses such as health facilities. (KP)

### (3) Electoral Reform...

would be finalised in the next few hours.

Yamamoto appreciated Danish's efforts, particularly for electoral reforms. He said the UN was also trying to include the suggestions of all political groups and the Afghan people in the new election law.

The summer recess of the parliament ends on September 6. The president can issue legislative decrees only when the parliament is on recess. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Parliament...

place on Tuesday.

He said the upper house besides resuming the session had also specified the panel heads' agenda for tomorrow session.

Farishta Amini, a lawmaker from Nimroz province, confirmed the second annual session would begin from tomorrow.

President Ashraf Ghani was expected to avail from the recess and issue a decree on electoral reform and execute it based on the interpretation of the Independent Commission for Over-

seeing the Implementation of the Constitution (ICOIC).

Earlier today, second vice-president Sarwar Danish promised finalizing the long-awaited electoral reform decree within a few hours.

The president could issue a legislative decree when the assembly is on break under Article 79th of the Constitution that says: "During the recess of the House of Representatives, the Government shall, in case of an immediate need, issue legislative decrees, except in matters related to budget and financial affairs." The article adds: "Legislative decrees, after endorsement by the President, shall acquire the force of law. Legislative decrees shall be presented to the National Assembly within thirty days of convening its first session, and if rejected by the National Assembly, they become void."

President Ghani had issued two decrees on electoral reform, but both were rejected by the lower house or Wolesi Jirga.

However, the upper house or Meshrano Jirga approved the second presidential decree and then a joint delegation was established but the panel could not resolve the issue and the decree remains undecided.

The Wolesi Jirga can approve or reject the decree take with two-thirds majority vote. (Pajhwok)

### (5) 24 Killed, 91...

investigating.

Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani strongly condemned the attack and said the enemies of Afghanistan once again showed they were against the country's development.

In a statement from the Presidential Palace, Ghani said terrorists wanted to reach their nefarious designs by spreading terror and carrying out terrorist attacks.

He said the enemies of Afghanistan had no courage to enter a face-to-face fight with the Afghan defence and security forces and thus attacking innocent civilians on highways, in schools and mosques.

The president extended his condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for early recovery of those injured. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Afghanistan ....

help to eradicate poverty problem that currently millions of people are suffering across the globe.

"SDGs are very important for poor countries, because this is an international framework and it studies all aspects of sustainable development and aims to reduce poverty and social progress", Hao Liang Xu, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific at the United Nations Development Programme said. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refer to an agreement of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20), to develop a set of future international development goals.

On September 25, world leaders from 193 nations including Afghanistan endorsed an ambitious agenda for global change called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs represent a fifteen-year agenda (2015-2030) to guide the international community in our shared efforts to achieve three objectives: end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the UN General Assembly, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan, committed to pursuing these goals together with Afghanistan's development partners. (Monitoring desk)

### (7) Afghan Insurgency ...

Of these, 39 per cent were girls, up from virtually none under the Taliban, when girls were not allowed to go to school. The number of children going to school has continued to increase over the past few years.

The minister also met representatives from humanitarian organisations and heard about the impact that UK aid is having in the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

UK support has helped clear

mines from 3.5 million square meters of contaminated land and enabled 106 communities to develop their own plans to prepare for and mitigate the effects of a natural disaster.

"I am delighted to be back in Kabul once again, for my first visit to Afghanistan as International Development Minister. It is incredibly important to support Afghanistan at this time," the minister said. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Watchdog ....

none of the suspects have so far been held accountable.

In reference to the allegations, the Herat attorney general's office has reported that it has launched an investigation into the reports in order to track down the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

"Corruption crime investigation department is presently investigating at least eight cases of corruption regarding Islam Qala and Torghundi customs officials including the investigation of 17 vehicles that allegedly slipped through customs while carrying iron ore,"

said Mohammad Arif Irfan, head of the crime investigation department of Herat's appeal court.

"I know several people were struggling financially but became very rich within six months or a year after working at customs. Now they have purchased very expensive houses in the most expensive parts of Herat," said Abdul Wali Khatibi, a resident of Herat.

Meanwhile, Herat governor's office has said that the provincial government is resolute in combatting corruption in the province.

"The provincial government in Herat is determined to fight corruption. There has been the issue of corruption, but now reforms have been put in place," said Farhad, spokesman for Herat governor.

Herat customs has meanwhile been run by an acting chief over the past year and a half. (ToloneWS)

### (9) Taliban Attack ...

4 others were wounded.

The Taliban insurgents group has not commented regarding the report so far.

Baghlan is among the relatively volatile provinces in north of Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in a number of its remote districts.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since the group announced its spring offensive earlier this year and the group attempts to expand its insurgency in northern provinces of the country. (KP)

### (10) Nangarhar MP ...

people used to share their problems with lawmakers who passed them on to provincial authorities who then referred the problems to central government but the central government again referred the same to the provincial administration.

"We wonder with whom we should share people's problems; neither the central government nor the provincial government is responding to our requests." Momand said they gathered on Monday to make joint decision how their issues could be considered by authorities.

CEO Abdullah Abdullah also on Monday acknowledged the unity government had failed in implementing its promises during the two-year period. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Taliban Launch...

areas.

Ghazni people and provincial police chief have repeatedly complained about the shortage of security forces to fight the militants, but the officials concerned have done nothing so far to address the complaints. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Pakistan Deals ...

each day during the 14-day closure of the border.

The border crossing was reopened on Thursday after a series of meetings and talks between officials of the two countries.

But a new problem has emerged --- the Rs300000 guarantee per

truck.

Kandahar fresh fruits traders union head Haji Nanai Agha told Pajhwok Afghan News that the export of grapes and melons to Pakistan resumed with the border reopening but stopped again the same day after Pakistani customs officials sought Rs300,000 per truck in guarantee.

Agha said he discussed the matter with Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry officials in Kandahar and the trader representatives had taken up the issue with the Pakistani consul general in Kandahar.

He said the Pakistani diplomat had been told that if the trucks were not allowed to proceed, the fresh fruits could decay and Afghan traders had already suffered millions of afghanis losses due to the border closure.

"After the border's reopening, we have sent 700 tonnes of grapes and melons to Pakistan since yesterday, but today the exports were brought to a halt. Transport companies are in talks with Pakistani officials on the matter to seek a solution."

He said the Afghan fruits were being sent to Pakistan by Pakistani transport companies and the problem was between them and the companies should pay the guarantee amount.

He said the new problem were affecting Afghan fresh fruits traders and hoped it would be resolved soon.

He said traders wanted the issue to be resolved soon in order to avoid further losses and the guarantee law should be held in abeyance until the fruit harvest season came to an end in Afghanistan.

Agha said a month was left in concluding the grapes harvest season and no export of the fruit took place for almost half a month due to the border closure.

ACCI head for Kandahar Haji Nasrullah Zaheer also told Pajhwok Afghan News the 14-day border closure caused heavy financial losses to orchard owners and traders and they could suffer further losses if the new issue was not resolved.

He said though the guarantee amount problem was between Pakistani officials and Pakistani transport companies, but Afghan traders were bearing the brunt.

He said the new issue had been discussed with the Pakistani consulate, the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad and the Afghan foreign, finance and commerce ministries.

He said the Pakistani authorities had been requested to defer the guarantee issue for a month in order the harvest season comes to an end in Afghanistan.

He said transport companies could not arrange the guarantee money per truck in such a short span of time because up to 30 trucks loaded with fruits daily crossed into Pakistan from Kandahar province.

Zaheer said talks in this regard were underway with Pakistani officials on Monday and the fruit exports to Pakistan had stopped pending outcome of the talks.

He said they were optimistic Pakistan would delay implementation of the guarantee law and would allow the trucks to enter that country.

The border crossing was closed by Pakistan after some Afghan protestors allegedly set afire a Pakistani flag near the border.

Figures from the Kandahar commerce department and other sources show Afghan traders and people suffered 12 million afghanis per day during the 14-day blockade. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Clashes in Ba...

had been damaged at two places in the area as a result of clashes in Bari Kala neighbourhood.

Sarhadi Zwak hope the tribal elders would be able to convince the insurgents into letting technicians repair the power supply line. At least two fighters were killed in the gunbattle. (Pajhwok)

### (14) 'Culture Invasion...

Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) chief for Nangarhar, Sabrina Hamidi, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 'inappropriate' TV programmes and telephonic contacts had resulted in

an increase in cases of women running away from their families. Himidi had no exact figures for such cases, but said almost three cases in which girls opted to flee home due to telephonic contact were reported to her department every week.

She suggested that parents should keep a 'check' on their children and not give them much freedom to have access to television, radio and mobile phone.

Civil Society Groups and Human Rights Center's Nangarhar chapter head Dr. Nimatullah Hamdard told Pajhwok Afghan News that the gathering was aimed at finding solutions to cultural issues affecting human rights.

"For resolving such issues, we plan to constitute a joint committee of civil society groups in Nangarhar and work together with the government in this regard."

Civil society activist Hayatullah Talibzada said people in Nangarhar were mostly illiterate and they quickly adopted negative norms from drama serials.

He asked media outlets not to air programmes that brought people under influence of a foreign culture. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Massoud Foundation...

each year firing off weapons.

The residents also called on these supporters to refrain from shooting and to respect their fellow citizens.

"Morning days can be commemorated by poetry and cultural sessions; not by firing," said Akhtar Mohammad a resident.

Members of Massoud Foundation have warned that anyone who fires off weapons indiscriminately will face legal action.

Ahmad Wali Massoud has also called on security forces to arrest anyone who breaks the law in this regard. (ToloneWS)

### (16) Kاپisa Residents ...

took charge as the provincial police chief.

He said local residents were happy with the police chief's performance and asked the government not to remove him from the post. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Woman Among...

persons had been shifted to the civil hospital in Sharana, the provincial capital.

The blast took place a month after a similar blast killed two persons on a tractor-trolley in the same district. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Afghanistan Loses...

their second goal during the final minutes of the second half with a penalty shootout and ended the game in their favor 2-0.

The Afghanistan squad for the friendship game included Ovays Azizi, Ahamd Zohaib Aseel, Hamidullah Wakili, Mohammad Hashemi, Faisal Shaista, Miod Popalzay, Mustafa Zazai, Modjib Jamali, Jasef Shirdel, Msif Saighani, Zubay Amiri.

Khaibar Amani, Abassin Alikhil, Mohammad Anwar Akbari, Fardin Hakimi, Omid Homaouni, Roheed Samandari, Qsmat Ahmadi, Ahmad Arash Hatif, Mohammad Saber Azizi, Edriss Houshmand, Anoush Dastgir, Milad Intezar, Noor Zadrin, and Mohammad Hasan Rahmani. (KP)

### (19) Kandahar-Helmand...

opened and currently only military vehicles used it.

There has been no word from Taliban about the highway's reopening. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Obama, Putin...

Sunday for Syria talks, launched a fresh round of negotiations on Monday morning, but ended without agreement, U.S. media reported. (Xinhua)

### (21) UN Calls...

two experts wrote in the report. While established organic exports like coffee and cocoa benefit most from the access to finance, the UNCTAD survey notes that crops like organic pineapples, mangoes, bananas and even potatoes have enormous export potential.

"Our work highlights the fact that limited credit-guarantee mechanisms and insufficient capacity of commercial banks to integrate the specifics of organic agriculture are major hindrances on the ability of organic farmers and ex-

porters to finance their activities in Africa," said Kane. (Xinhua)

### (22) North Korea...

Japan's defence ministry said that the three missiles are estimated to have fallen into the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Sea of Japan, according to a statement. (Monitoring Desk)

### ASEAN and Related Summits to Focus on Community Building Efforts, Cooperation with China

VIENTIANE - The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and related summits are scheduled here in the Lao capital on Tuesday, with the main theme of "Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community."

Community building efforts, ASEAN's cooperation with dialogue partners, as well as a commemorative summit of the 25th anniversary of ASEAN's dialogue relations with China will be on the agenda of the three-day meetings.

According to the Foreign Ministry of Laos, which is holding the rotating ASEAN chairmanship, the meetings will include the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits, ASEAN+1 Summits, the Summit on Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, ASEAN+3 (China, Japan, and South Korea) Summit, as well as the East Asia Summit.

The 28th ASEAN Summit will discuss ASEAN Community building efforts, especially the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, while the 29th ASEAN Summit will focus on ASEAN's external relations and future direction as well as exchange of views on regional and international issues of common concern.

The ASEAN+1 Summits and ASEAN+3 Summit will review cooperation between the ten-member bloc and its dialogue partners. The East Asia Summit, a forum of leaders from 18 countries (10 ASEAN members, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and the United States) will review and discuss future direction of cooperation as well as exchange views on regional and international issues. (Xinhua)

### U.S. Urges Nepal to Consider Settling Remaining Bhutanese Refugees Internally

KATHMANDU - The United States has urged Nepal to consider settling around 10,000 Bhutanese refugees locally who have remained in Nepal, Nepal's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

Nepal hosted over 100,000 Bhutanese refugees since early 1990s in seven camps in eastern Nepal until a third-party resettlement began in 2007. Over 103,000 refugees have been resettled in different countries so far with the United States being the largest recipient.

Beside the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, Britain and the Netherlands were among the countries to receive Bhutanese refugees from Nepal.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Nisha Desai Biswal, who is visiting Nepal, asked Nepalese Foreign Minister Prakash Sharan Mahat if Nepal would settle the remaining Bhutanese refugees internally, according to the Nepalese Foreign Ministry.

In response, Mahat said that Nepal was in favor of honorable repatriation of remaining Bhutanese refugees to Bhutan and the international community should support in this regard.

"Nepal has given refuge to Bhutanese refugees on the humanitarian ground only and respected their rights," the minister said. (Xinhua)