

(1) 400 More ...

students and teachers were poisoned, took place at around 8am. All those affected were hospitalised.

Last week, 190 schoolgirls were poisoned at the Habib Al-Mustafa School in Injil and another 160 at Babaji and Abdul Ali Tokhi Schools in Herat City. According to Herat Zonal Hospital officials, more than 500 schoolgirls and teachers have been poisoned this last week. Officials call the series of poisoning incidents a foreign conspiracy.

Deputy Governor Asiluddin Jame recently alleged: "Those who were previously kidnapping and terrorising people have now resorted to poisoning schoolgirls."

"We believe that foreigners are involved in such cases; it seems those who were previously kidnapping children and killing them are now poisoning schoolgirls," he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) Ghani Issues...

the Ministry of Justice and the Office of Administrative Affairs to take immediate measures to provide the legal grounds for the implementation of the seven proposals by the ERC, read the statement.

Ghani also asked the ERC to further research the legal, technical, implementation and practical aspects of the other proposals and to present a detailed plan to the Office of the Chief Executive and to the Office of the President.

He also called on the commission to complete its remaining tasks.

The Independent Election Commission is tasked in the decree to prepare the schedule to hold elections for the (Wolesi Jirga) Lower House of Parliament and District Councils in a way to ensure that the proposals of the Special Electoral Reforms Commission are implemented. (Tolnews)

(3) Nangarhar a...

and services to the people. He said "if government does not pay attention to the issue [of Daesh] we will start a war against them with the support of the people."

He said that the enemy threatens their families and that government is ignoring their plight. "It is clear for all to see the security situation is not good in the country."

"We are ready to go to every nook and cranny in the country by our own means and fight tit-for-tat against the enemies." Meanwhile, Wazhma Safi, another MP also expressed her concern over the rising insecurity situation and the problem of Daesh.

"The insecurity has increased in the country and we can't go anywhere." Safi said that Daesh activities have also increased in the country.

She urged the government to address the security issues.

Meanwhile, TOLONews has received footage showing that Daesh insurgents have torched a number of civilian houses in eastern Nangarhar province. (Tolnews)

(4) Gen. Sharif ...

which frustrated the rare peace talks.

The comments came after a series of recent deadliest attacks in Afghanistan that led to the cancellation of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Pakistan had brokered the first ever direct peace negotiations.

"I must highlight that the aggravating security situation in Afghanistan is a point of serious concern," the Pakistan army chief said at his speech to mark the country's Defence Day.

Afghanistan put a stop on the Pakistan-brokered talks after Taliban carried out some attacks. The talks were earlier postponed after the Taliban confirmed the death of their

leader Mullah Omar.

Pakistan was critical at Kabul's decision to leak out the news of Mullah Omar's death at a time when the second round of the peace talks were scheduled to be held in Pakistan on July 31.

"We have made concerted and sincere efforts for bringing peace in Afghanistan but certain inimical forces are bent upon undermining our efforts," General Raheel Sharif said. He said nefarious designs of such elements will never succeed.

"We have strong historical and blood ties with Afghanistan and no power on earth can disrupt this relationship," he said. (Xinhua)

(5) Clashes on,...

an official said on Monday. Brig. Gen. Abdul Basir Khpalwak, the 202nd Border Zone police commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News Taliban militants stormed Afghan border police posts in Muqbil Dara area of Dand Patan district last night.

"The firefight is still underway and both sides have suffered casualties," Khpalwak told Pajhwok shortly after 2pm this afternoon.

However, he did not provide figures for casualties to either side.

But a border police official, who wished to go unnamed, said Taliban militants took control of a police base and a police post in the district.

The militants also captured two policemen and a ranger pick-up, the source said.

A Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the fighters overran a border police base and their seven posts.

He said 18 policemen were killed, seven wounded and another two arrested. The Taliban destroyed two tanks and seized some ammunition, Mujahid claimed, confirming the killing of only four militants during the clash.

According to another report, nine rebels were killed in Zarghon Shahr and Barmal districts of neighbouring Paktika province. (Pajhwok)

(6) Shakh Bazaar...

The Shakh area containing a population of 20,000, had been under the Taliban control for the past three years. However, it was recently retaken by Afghan forces as a result of an operation last month.

Local officials said Shakh bazaar, sharing borders with Badghis and Ghor provinces, had been a flourishing arms and drug bazaar as long as it stayed under Taliban's control. On Saturday night, the insurgents attacked the bazaar and seized it again, said the Qaisar district's administrative chief. Rahmatullah Qaisari confirmed the militants had seized both new and old bazaars. Fighting is still underway.

Qaisari told Pajhwok Afghan News two Afghan Local Police (ALP) members were killed, four others wounded and Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers besieged by militants.

"If reinforcements don't arrive in time, Qaisar district center -- 25 kilometres from Shakh bazaar -- will also fall to militants," he warned, seeking urgent action to wrest back control of the area from the Taliban.

Provincial council head Syed Abdul Baqi Hashemi said militants from neighbouring provinces also took part in the battle for the Shakh bazaar. Three ALP personnel and an ANA soldier were killed and 11 others injured during the offensive. (Pajhwok)

(7) Pakistani...

A team of the Ittehad-e-Tanzeemat-i-Madaris Pakistan (ITMP) is to meet the SBP governor on the issue soon. "If this issue is not resolved, representatives of seminaries will continue using accounts of people working for them."

But the SBP spokesperson insisted the central bank's in-

structions on opening a new account did not discriminate against any individual or organisation.

Abid Qamar said: "Anybody, including institutions and organisations, providing information mentioned in the SBP criterion, can get their accounts opened in any bank. We have a fair and open policy about it." (Pajhwok)

(8) Noor Promises ...

made the remarks while meeting with the families of the slain passengers. He said that the attack had likely been a plan by insurgents to escalate sectarian violence between Afghan ethnic groups.

He condemned the killing in the strongest possible terms and promised the family members of the victims that those responsible would be brought to justice.

"We do not see the incident as a small event as it directly links to the security of Afghanistan. It is an accident which relates to the dignity of the people of Afghanistan," Noor said.

"We are responsible regarding the matter, we cannot say that police were unable to do anything, the incident took place in an area where the insurgents came and accomplished their mission, we are determined to complete our task, detect them [terrorists] and address the issue," he said.

Meanwhile, family members of the slain passengers have again called on the Afghan legal, judicial institutions and the police to arrest the assailants and bring them to justice.

"The perpetrators, whether they belong to any government opposition party or structure should be arrested," Sayed Hayatollah, brother of one of the passengers said.

The Balkh governor warns that the killing seems to be an attempt to destabilize northern regions particularly Balkh province, urging that the security forces in Balkh stop allowing insurgents to infiltrate the region. (Tolnews)

(9) Bring Killer...

Zara and shot dead on Saturday. The bodies of the victims were handed over to their families a day later.

A representative from province in the Wolesi Jirga, Abbas Ibrahimzada, asked the government to bring the perpetrators to justice, saying all victims belonged to the Hazara ethnic community.

They were trying to share information with security personnel regarding the murder case, said the head of provincial council, Mohammad Ibrahim Khairandesh.

His brother Abbas was shot dead on his way to work, Mohammad Rahim said, while asking the authorities not to play with people's sentiments by not arresting the criminals. However, the provincial police chief, Major Gen. Syed Kamal Sadat, said they had launched an investigation into the massacre and would identify the killers soon. (Pajhwok)

(10) Afghan Officials ...

promised by the 65 countries for more aiding and supports, but Afghanistan only had 12 programs for those countries. Head of the civil society in Afghanistan Aziz Rafiee in SOM session said, "unfortunately Afghan Government couldn't convince the International community to fulfill the International expectations, if the Government doesn't do enough we will lose the International supports."

The civil society Institutions demands were improving of human rights ,combating corruptions, Good Governance ,reformation in Government systems,from the International community on Senior Officials Meeting SOM, members of the civil society also said abolishing of the high peace council

committee which used pave the way for war continuation was the other demand of civil society from the International community representatives in SOM session held in Kabul.

Miss Zarqa Yaftali said, "abolishing of the High peace council is one of our key demands from the International community."

President who has attended the SOM insisted on his Government boosting economy, therefore reformation on civil services,justice and judicial,improving of private sectors, customs, and reviewing of the Kabul bank are in his priority list of activities. (ATN)

(11) Nuristan Needs...

acting governor, who recently arrived in Nuristan from Kabul, said he had important meetings with officials of some ministries and informed them about serious problems the people of the mountainous province faced.

"Survey, designs and other pre-construction formalities to reconstruct some roads have been completed, but graveling and asphaltting work on them could not be launched due to a non-serious attitude of the Ministry of Public Works."

According to the top provincial official, budget had been approved for roads' construction in Waigal, Barg-i-Matal, and Kamdesh districts but practical work could not be kicked off as yet.

He added the parliament should increase development budget for Nuristan to help reconstruct its dilapidated roads. The Ministry of Finance annually presents above 400 million afghanis budget to the parliament for approval and lawmakers approve or reject the draft budget with recommendations. Nuristan Provincial Council chief Eng. Saadullah Painsa also demanded immediate reconstruction work on the road connecting Paroon with Kunar province. (Pajhwok)

(12) 17 Policemen ...

had been carrying out a counter-narcotics operation at the time of the air strike.

In addition to those killed, four policemen were also injured. Another source confirmed the attack but would not give any details.

NATO has yet to comment. (Tolnews)

(13) ISI Picks ...

is opposed to Mullah Mansour, the current Taliban leader, said Taliban militants who are under the control of Pakistan are fighting his supporters in southern Zabul province.

"They [ISI] proposed their recommendations for me which one of them was that I should kill people they want dead. They had other similar recommendations as well which were against Islam," said Mullah Mansour Dadullah.

He said: "They agreed to continue their financial, logistical and technical aid to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan - the Taliban's so-called government - but I rejected their suggestions and I returned to Afghanistan."

The former leader of Taliban's Jaish-ul-Muslimeen wing, Syed Akbar Agha played down the statements, saying any comments that originate from Taliban parties opposed to each other are questionable.

"In don't think it will be trustworthy because such comments - whether from Mullah Mansour Dadullah or from Akhtar Mohammad Mansour - will be the result of rifts among them," he said.

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Rahil Sharif meanwhile voiced his concerns over the situation in Afghanistan, saying that no force can hamper the historic relations between Kabul and Islamabad.

At a ceremony commemorating Pakistan's Defense Day on Sunday, he said his country would

honestly fight terrorism.

"We are concerned about the situation in Afghanistan. We have historic and blood relationships with Afghanistan. No force can break these ties," Sharif said.

"We have honestly struggled for stability in Afghanistan but a number of enemy groups are trying to damage our struggles. They will not succeed to reach their aim," he added. (Tolnews)

(14) Seeking Jobs,...

around 10am on the Darul Aman Road before the protestors gathered in front of the parliament. They were trying to set up tents in front of the parliament, but police expelled them from the area.

Having chained their hands, the demonstrators asked the authorities to put them behind bars or let them erect tents in front of the parliament to draw the attention of relevant officials to the issue of joblessness. The demonstrators were chanting slogans 'We want jobs, joblessness creates insecurity, unemployment is a melody; it's forcing us to go abroad, 13 million Afghans are jobless.'

One of the protestors, Ahmad Jawad Taib, told Pajhwok Afghan News he had received the bachelor of social science degree from the Kabul University four years ago, but he had not got any job yet.

He said only his father was working as a government officer for a small salary to feed his seven members family. "If I had got a job, we would have no financial problems."

Most of the protestors were educated youth, including Shakib Ahmad, who said: "I have been jobless for one and a half year, but the government has not helped us. It's government responsibility to generate jobs for the people."

He claimed some of youths had joined Taliban and Islamic State (IS) rebels due to joblessness while others travelled long distances to abroad for work, putting their lives at risk.

The demonstrators issued a resolution, warning of continued protests until their call were heard and action taken to resolve their problems. (Pajhwok)

(15) Poll Observers ...

transparent and efficient.

Last week, the Electoral Reform Commission submitted its suggestions to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The sixth article of the proposed suggestions states: "A member of the Supreme Court, a member of the Civil Service Appointments Board, a member of the Independent Committee Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution, civil society representatives, women's representative, media representative and a member of the Independent Human Rights Commission be appointed as members of the (selection) committee."

The list shows that among the proposed members of the Selection Committee, representatives of the media, women and a member of the civil service appointments board have been added, but membership of speakers of both houses has been scrapped.

Mohammad Naem Ayubzadad, the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) chief, said he welcomed the proposed changes to the selection committee, but said government representatives still dominated the panel.

"Adding media and women's representatives to the committee is a praise-worthy step, but not much details have been shared about the authority of the committee and what changes being brought to its authority," he remarked.

Ayubzadad said the current committee had been under pressure from the government in the previous elections over

the selection of election commissions' members, thus necessitating care in reforming the panel.

Mohammad Yousuf Rashid, the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) executive head, also welcomed reforms in the Selection Committee, saying it would ensure independence and efficiency in the body's duties. (Pajhwok)

(16) 70 Rebels ...

14 other ANA soldiers wounded during three days of the offensive, he said.

"We caused heavy losses to enemies during the ongoing operation and seized weapons, explosives and remote-controlled mines from them," he added.

A Taliban notorious commander, Qari Burhan, accused of killing civilians and officials, was among those killed during the operation started a few days ago, the district chief, Syed Naem Sultan, said.

"Hundreds of soldiers and tanks have come to our village to fight Taliban and the area people are confined to their homes," a resident of Zarghon Shar area, Gul Agha, said, adding that more than 10 civilians had been killed in clashes between the warring sides.

However, a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, confirming the operation, acknowledged the death of only three fighters and injuries to a fourth.

He claimed 11 security personnel were killed, several others injured and four vehicles of security personnel were destroyed during clashes. (Pajhwok)

(17) 9 Taliban...

during these operations by the security forces.

Security forces and civilians did not suffer casualties in the operations. (KP)

(18) BF Rebuilds ...

Providing vital health and human services to a population that has suffered greatly in recent wars.

In particular, the foundation focuses on developing clean water infrastructure, building and repairing schools and orphanages, and constructing maternity hospitals. Through these contributions, the foundation and its founder, entrepreneur Ehsan Bayat, have assisted in setting the country back on the road toward progress. (ATN)

(19) 25 Civilians ...

and Taliban insurgents were still ongoing.

He said the Taliban had expanded their influence to Dand-i-Ghori and had also captured some areas in Dahan-i-Ghori.

He said in the last two months, 25 civilians including women and children who were caught in the crossfire had lost their lives in the two areas.

The minister said they met provincial council members, lawmakers and local elders and they all insisted on clearing operations against insurgents and deployment of permanent security forces to the insecure areas.

"Our meetings and evaluations are ongoing and very soon we'll prepare our report on the security situation and submit it to the leaders of the unity government," he added.

Haji Nazir, a resident of Niazullah village in Dand-i-Ghori, said in the last two months, hundreds of houses had been damaged due to fighting. "We're fed up with this kind of war. We want security and a break to breathe."

Other residents said they did not trust the government's representatives, saying their visit brought to changes to the situation. (Pajhwok)