

(1) Int'l Community ...

Afghanistan and hoped the international community would once again express its support to the war-torn country in Brussels conference.

Abdullah also talked about the peace agreement between the government and the Hezbi-Islami Afghanistan, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, and about the unity government's efforts at bringing about electoral reforms. (Pajhwok)

(2) AWN Demands ...

important posts.

"Currently only four women are ministers, nine others are deputy ministers, four ambassadors and one woman is governor in the country," she said, adding 69 members of the Wolesi Jirga and 22 members of the Meshrano Jirga were women.

She said 296 members of provincial councils were also women, but their number in government institutions was very limited compared to men.

Six percent of staff members of the attorney general's office, eight percent of the Supreme Court and one percent of the Ministry of Defense are women, she said.

Roshan Siran, a member of AWN, said: "Women form more than half of the society in Afghanistan, they should partake in national process such as elections, governance, law enforcement and peace process."

AWN, an alliance of 132 civil society institutes, works for defending women's rights.

The international summit in Brussels is scheduled to take place on October 4-5 to discuss sustain economic cooperation with Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(3) Details of Peace ...

The second issue is the removal of names of Hizb-e-Islami members from the UN blacklist," said Khan. Despite the fact the transcript of the peace deal with the group changed fifteen times, the HPC has said that Hekmatyar will return to Afghanistan as a political leader and will advise government like other Afghan political leaders do.

"Mr. Hekmatyar will return to Kabul as the leader of Hizb-e-Islami and will revive his party, he will also give advice on important issues," said HPC deputy chief Ataurrahman Saleem.

Meanwhile, some lawmakers in parliament have sharply criticized both sides for not sharing the details of the agreement.

"The thing that they first sign the accord and then inform the people in-fact is an insult to the people of Afghanistan. The government of Afghanistan must take the people of Afghanistan and members of the national assembly into confidence about the text," said MP Ghulam Farooq Majroh.

President Ashraf Ghani and Hekmatyar are expected to sign the deal once the accord is signed between the delegations from the Afghan government and Hizb-e-Islami. (Tolonews)

(4) Noor Voices ...

accord, lay down their arms and accept the constitution of Afghanistan and work together with the government is a big achievement, therefore you (people) should support it," said Noor.

In addition, Noor talked about the issue of corruption in the country and said that wide scale corruption in Afghanistan is carried out foreigners.

"Our international friends who always suggest the Afghan government reforms itself and fight corruption, the question is how many corrupt elements were reformed by you (international partners) and curbed their involvement in corruption, why you (international friends) paved the way for corruption for them," said Noor.

Noor made the remarks during a gathering to mark the recent Martyrs Week in Afghanistan and the assassination anniversary of former Jihadi commander Ahmad Shah Massoud.

"Today once again Afghanistan calls on its true sons to mobilize against the conspiracies of the enemies of Afghanistan and regional intelligence to defend our territorial integrity and national sovereignty," said general Mohmand Katawazi, the commander of 209 Shaheen Army Corps.

"Ahmad Shah Massoud was always suggesting the enemy study the history of Afghanistan," said Afzal Hadid, head of Balkh provincial council. (Tolonews)

(5) Police in ...

"We are fighting against Taliban, but drug smugglers are unde-

clared enemy who are more dangerous than Taliban because they have endangered Takhar security. It is good that the interior minister has come here to closely assess our problems and take decisions," the deputy governor said.

He said the number of illegal armed groups had increased with the passage of time in Takhar. These illegal gunmen travelled in vehicles with tinted glasses and were involved in armed robberies, kidnappings and murders, he added.

Takhar provincial council head Roohullah Raufi said a number of illegal armed groups were affiliated with certain ethnic and political groups.

He lashed out at security organs for lacking coordination among them and warned the situation could further deteriorate if coordination among them was not created.

But Takhar police chief Brig. Gen. Noor Mohammad Hakimi listed low salaries of police, their fewer number and a lack of heavy weapons as challenges in improving the security situation.

Interior Minister Jahid spent two days in Badakhshan province before arriving in Takhar yesterday. He is expected to leave for Kunduz. (Pajhwok)

(6) 53 Congo Virus...

patient, said: "When I was slaughtering a sheep, my hands and feet were stained with blood. Some days later, I felt pain in my body and came to hospital. Doctors told me I have caught Congo fever."

Nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, sore throat and diarrhoea are some of the symptoms and rashes may also result from mouth and throat bleeding.

Five cases of the virus have also been registered in southern Ghazni province. Two of the affected people lost their lives in the province this year. (Pajhwok)

(7) Contracts for ...

three years.

"No compromise is acceptable on quality of the projects; we just want better execution of the projects and for the purpose we have strengthened the ministry's monitoring teams."

Meanwhile, a public representative from Baghlan in Wolesi Jirga, Obaidullah Ramin, during the signing ceremony, said the projects' implementation would positively impact people's lives in provinces they were being executed.

Maulvi Aminuddin, Saleh Ejaz Construction Company head, who was granted the contract for a 28km road in Baghlan, said his company would make every effort to implement the project efficiently and finish it within the stipulated time.

According to Minister Durani, since the start of the current financial year, nearly 11,000 projects, including new projects, had been executed at a total cost of \$292.7 million in spheres of transport, irrigation, provision of potable water, education and training, power and local development across the 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

Currently work on another 2043 projects nationwide costing up to \$145 million was underway, he added, claiming 62 percent of his ministry's \$258.8 million had been spent so far. (Pajhwok)

(8) Japan Vows ...

Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. Japan will begin issuing three-year multiple-entry visas to holders of Qatari passports. (Pajhwok)

(9) Hoped for...

shadow," Rafiee said.

Meanwhile, a number of analysts blamed government for hiding the facts, particularly that of the conditions and privileges that will be given to Hizb-e-Islami party once it has signed the peace deal with Kabul.

"It is a peace through government's intelligence channels and it provides the least information to the people," said political commentator Khalil Roman.

"The efforts to bring Hekmatyar is a game which has an intelligence issue. The people that are involved in this circle there is no difference between them and Hekmatyar in terms of thoughts and politics," said Asif Ashna, analyst in political affairs.

The Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah's office meanwhile assured the nation that no one person nor group will be allowed to stand against the Constitution and against the achievements gained over the past 15 years.

"Hizb-e-Islami will be mixed as an armed movement and will be registered as a political party. If the Hizb-e-Islami led by Hekmatyar

takes any illegal act they will be followed legally," said Abdullah's spokesman Mujib Rahman Rahimi. Reports indicate that the peace deal between government and Hizb-e-Islami party will be signed in the next few days by the party and the High Peace Council and later it will be sealed between President Ashraf Ghani and Hekmatyar. (Tolonews)

(10) Senate Denounces...

should not remain silent.

"We want condolence payments to families of the victims; otherwise the ministries of interior and defence would be held responsible by history and the people of Afghanistan," he said.

Afghan forces have been repeatedly targeted by US troops over the past 15 years, he alleged, urging the government to take necessary action to prevent such raids.

Mohammad Alam Ezidyar, another senator, said: "The attack on our forces fighting international terrorism should be thoroughly probed to prevent such attacks in the future,"

Mohammad Hassan Hotak, a Meshrano Jirga member, asked the US government to make condolence payments to families of the martyred police officials.

"Our eight policemen have been martyred by US forces; people should know why there was no coordination between Afghan and US trips before the attack," he remarked.

Senator Gul Mohammad Rasuli said silence of government leaders and security officials about the incident was a betrayal of the blood of police forces.

Nazar Mohammad Faqiri, another senator, said, "The government didn't utter a single word about the incident. The US forces can even see a needle on the ground, but they could not watch Afghan forces and flag?"

Second Deputy Chairman Eng. Hasibullah Kalimzai said the Afghan forces were targeted as result of negligence on the part of US forces; an issue that must be investigated. He asked the ministries of interior and defence to investigate the raids and bring those responsible to justice. The interior minister would be summoned on Sunday to provide information about the nature of the incident, he said.

A US Army spokesman, Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, said the airstrike took place when Afghan forces came under Taliban attack.

"We don't know who were firing at Afghans, but the Afghan and US forces have the right to take retaliatory action in self-defence," he said. (Pajhwok)

(11) Sharif Urges...

for addressing the root causes of ongoing large-scale displacement and forced migration to ensure the people fleeing their homes did not become victims of xenophobic attitudes.

The Associated Press of Pakistan quoted him as saying much of displacement had neither been voluntary nor orderly. People had been fleeing desperate conditions like war or poverty. The hapless people on the move deserved compassion, he remarked.

"Many of these protracted displacement situations have created complex political, socio-economic, security and environmental challenges for host countries and local communities," Sharif said, supporting the dignified return of all Afghan refugees to their homeland.

He hoped the global fraternity would provide necessary resources to UNHCR in a timely manner to support the sustainable return and reintegration of the Afghan refugees." (Pajhwok)

(12) Panjsher Women ...

officers. He noted Afghan culture did not allow men to deal with women's cases.

Two of the 13 police personnel are officers and the rest constables. They are serving at Panjsher central jail and police headquarters, according to the police chief.

Chairat added female police officers were provided with all necessary facilities such as transport, special rooms and trips. Police-women are recruited after attending a four-month training course. There are a total of 1,111 police personnel in Panjsher and women serving in police ranks are happy with their job.

Her husband, suffering from a mental condition, did not allow

her previously to serve in police ranks, but she was permitted when their economic situation got worse. A mother of two daughters and two sons, she can help meet family requirements with her monthly salary of 13,000 afghanis (\$200). "I am happy with my job. Apart from receive salary, I'm also serving my people."

Zarina said a woman involved in a murder case did not allow policemen to arrest her. "But when I went to her house, I talked to her and she agreed to surrender."

Gul Andam, a widow who did not go to school, has managed to join the police force a year ago. A resident of the Panjsher capital, her job is to search women entering the police headquarters.

"Good security and available job opportunities helped me join police ranks. I am happy with my job and the salary I receive," she said.

Calling the presence of female officers effective, she said: "A girl ran away from her house in the Bazarak district of Panjsher."

"She did not let policemen take her to the women's affairs department, but when I spoke with her, she agreed to go with police," Andam recalled.

Andam added most women involved in criminal cases and their families did not allow male police officers to deal with cases of the accused.

"Women convicts do not confess to their crimes while being investigated by male officers. But they explain everything to female officers," she continued.

Alia Attayee, the women affairs director, said her office, in coordination with relevant state organs, was trying to boost the strength of policewomen in Panjsher.

Five more women have registered to serve in police ranks. A women's council has also been created to resolve women's problems, she added. Six policewomen would be sent to Turkey for professional trainings in the near future. (Pajhwok)

(13) Afghanistan Losing..

"We had no expectations from government leaders to undertake development programs. At least they should continue the work that was already in progress. After this, this government will be a failed government and a burden on the public's shoulders," said political analyst Sediq Patman.

"Disagreements within government resulted in us losing development projects and jobs and the performance of government institutions remained undeveloped," said MP Dawoud Kalakani.

After assuming office of president and chief executive, both President Ashraf Ghani and his Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah respectively vowed to work closely to revive Afghanistan's economic infrastructures, boost socioeconomic development and take solid steps for restoring longstanding peace and security in the war-ravaged country.

"The capacity of government cadres were more than what we have worked on, unfortunately work was not done as it needed to be done," said engineer Mohammad Khan, first deputy of CEO Abdullah.

This comes after Abdullah last month accused Ghani of trying to exploit the political agreement and monopolize power in ARG (presidential palace).

He said that the president was reluctant to address issues of national interest, referring to electoral reform deadlocks and electronic ID cards. (Tolonews)

(14) Paktika to...

criticized at international conferences over underage children performing duty in security forces.

According to him, President Ashraf Ghani had issued a decree under which all security personnel having not reached the legal age would be fired.

"Paktika officials should inform us in a month about the number of children they would remove from security forces ranks," he said. However, Abid didn't provide specific number of children working in security forces.

Governor Ilyas Wahdat said all recruits below the legal age would be removed in a month period.

"I would punish those who had recruited underage children in security forces," he said.

However, a resident of Sharana, the provincial capital, Najibullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News that unemployment and poverty had forced people into enrolling their children in security forces.

Many children were seen serving in security forces in different parts

of the province especially in the Afghan Local Police. (Pajhwok)

(15) Survey Finds...

is no censorship in the media and that they can publish whatever they want.

However, 58 percent believe that there is strict censorship in social media because of pressure and a feared backlash by authorities and powerful individuals who are exposed to their criticism, the survey finds.

According to the poll, a number of interviewed individuals said they have either been confronted or know of people who have been warned after criticizing some government institutions.

Also according to the survey, 14 percent of the participants have lost their motivation to criticize these institutions because of negligence and apathy on the part of government authorities, which they said have made no impression on them and have not changed the situation from a negative to a positive.

Nai Chairman Seddiqullah Tawhidi said that further obstacles against freedom of speech will increase the sense of dissatisfaction among civilians and that it can be very dangerous for government.

The survey shows that other participants in the poll pointed to a number of other reasons for their fears such as losing their jobs or being accused of racism or defamation. (Tolonews)

(16) Badakhshan ...

government had been in talks over the past 18 month and a peace agreement in three chapters and 18 articles was going to be signed soon. He said the ongoing war had been imposed on the people of Afghanistan and no Afghan wanted to be indulged in the conflict. (Pajhwok)

(17) ALP Personnel...

ALP had blocked the road in Masjid Sabz village for traffic. However, he said there was an alternative road people could use.

A local official, who wished not to be named, said residents of Balkhab were from the Hazara tribe and were not allowed to travel the road because the Taliban were creating problem for them.

But the governor's spokesman, Zabihullah Amani, said they were unaware of the road closure by ALP forces. He said Deh Morda area was under Taliban control and Balkhab residents should travel Zaree district roads.

The Masjid Sabz village road was also blocked by ALP in the past, but it was reopened after people and the provincial council complained. (Pajhwok)

(18) Critics Slam ...

in its account of the security sector to convince its international partners of achievements.

As such there is a perception that the National Unity Government (NUG) under president Ashraf Ghani and his Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah has performed badly in the security sphere.

There has been a dramatic surge in violence and Taliban insurgency under the present administration and numerous reports have indicated that government forces retreated or lost several regions of the country to the Taliban in recent months.

Wardoj and Yamgan districts of Badakhshan, Dahna-e-Ghori of Baghlan, Kohistanat of Sar-e-Pul, Musa Qala and Nawmesh of Helmand are among the areas which have collapsed to the insurgents under the present government.

"It indicates poor leadership, if there was appropriate leadership, we would not have problems," said former deputy minister of interior Mirza Mohammad Yarmand.

But, defense ministry officials hit back at these claims. "We eliminated their (insurgents) command and control centers in Helmand and destroyed their prisons including their bomb making factories. Likewise we foiled their attempts to make new commands and control centers in Kunduz," said Mohammad Radmanish, deputy spokesman for the MoD.

Alongside other issues of common interest, the Brussels Summit will look at government's security policy, among other issues.

"The key element for rule of law is further consolidation of the legal and judicial institutions on which work has not been done and law-breakers were not handed over (to be prosecuted)," said Ainuddin Bahaduri, head of Afghanistan's Lawyer Association.

Kabul hopes to secure continued financial cooperation from the international community in the coming years.

But the international community also expects government to meet its commitments to the world. (Tolonews)

(19) Nangarhar ...

negligence.

Late on Monday, MP Hazrat met an accident on the same road. Ali was currently under treatment in a hospital in Kabul and his condition is stable, according to a relative of the lawmaker. (Pajhwok)

(20) Gen. Dostum...

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed killing Gen. Abdul Sattar, commander of Gen. Dostum's security gours, and other officials in the ambush.

But Sattar, in a telephonic conversation, told Pajhwok Afghan News he and his colleagues came under Taliban attack in the Rahmatabad area. They had a brief firefight with the assailants, he said.

Sattar said his colleagues and he escaped unhurt in the incident. Along with security forces, the guards chased the attackers into Majid Qodduq locality. (Pajhwok)

(21) ALP Commander...

mortar shell fired by Taliban hit a house in the Popalzai Khakh area of Greshk district on Monday.

He said three girls were killed and two women injured in the incident. The militants wanted to hit a security post but the mortar shell landed in a civilian house. (Pajhwok)

(22) With High...

Peter Thomson of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly said, "I will take forward the commitment of the membership to begin a process leading to a global compact on migration, as well as to support a global compact on refugees." (Xinhua)

(23) UN Chief...

He stressed the importance of ensuring refugees' sustainable livelihood and their access to land and financial services as well as freedom of movement. (Xinhua)

(24) S. Korean denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, normalized diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the United States and the agreement of peace treaty between the two Koreas. The May 24 sanctions were adopted in May 2010 by then Lee Myung-back administration after a South Korean navy corvette sank in waters by what Seoul claimed was a DPRK torpedo attack. Pyongyang has denied any involvement in the incident. (Xinhua)

(25) Hillary Clinton

points nationally. The latest poll surveyed 13,326 adults between Sept. 12 and 18 with a 1.2 percentage point margin of error. (CBS News)

(26) U.S., Iraqi

the IS will be driven out of Mosul "within the next few months."

However, Obama also acknowledged that it will be a tough battle to retake the IS stronghold.

"This is going to be hard. This is going to be challenging and will require resources," he said, adding that he will seek more support from Congress as well as other countries.

He also emphasized the importance of providing rapid humanitarian assistance to people in Mosul after the IS is driven out of the city. (Xinhua)

(27) India Successfully...

also successful.

The Barak 8 has a length of about 4.5 metres, a diameter of 0.225 at missile body, and 0.54 metres at the booster stage, a wingspan of 0.94 metres and weighs 275 kgs, including a 60 kg warhead which detonates at proximity.

The missile has maximum speed of Mach 2 with a maximum operational range of 70 km. The system also includes a multi-functional surveillance and threat alert radar for detection, tracking and guidance of the missile. (Xinhua)

(28) Iran Calls...

standards."

Rahmani-Fazli emphasized that the refugee crisis, which he explained as of a global nature, requires a global investment. "The international community as well as the developed countries should take full responsibility vis-a-vis this issue," he stressed. (Presstv)

(29) Solar Scale-Up...

900MW of power in Punjab's Bahawalpur district, said Muhammad Amjad, chief executive officer of the solar park, in an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation. (Monitoring Desk)