Ibrahim Stresses Parliamentary Polls Date be Specified

KABUL - The speaker of Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Monday said president had promised him that date for parliamentary elections would be specified. 

Last week President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said election reforms was a necessity, calling the upcoming polls a challenge.

The unity government leaders agreed to return poll panels, before formation of the government. The reforms commission has not started work so far and the parliamentary elections that were due to take place this month has been postponed due to lack of funds.

Abdul Rashid Ibrahimi, Wolesi Jirga speaker at a general session, said, “It’s a meeting that I had with the president, he said that in consultation with the two sides we would specify a date for the elections.”

He urged both the leaders to specify the date soon so that people and representatives’ concern should be put aside.

Javed Faisal, deputy spokesman for Chief Executive Officer (CEO), told Pajhwok Afghan News “Without reforms there will be no elections,” adding that people and international community wanted electoral reforms to take place in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, some lawmakers complained that the newly-appointed ministers did not take their demands seriously.

Those minister, who took vote of confidence, were shown to the demands of people’s representatives. They say that after a month our period would be over and we would also become acting lawmakers, said Abdul Rahim Rohmat.

There are whispers that after a month the Wolesi Jirga would also become illegitimate... (More on PAJ)

Heart of Asia Most Stresses Peace, Security in Afghanistan

KABUL - Pakistan’s Monday hosted Senior Officials Meeting of the Heart of Asia Initiative and there were convergence of views that peace, security and stability are essential for socioeconomic development and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region.

“Therefore, the countries and organizations recognize the need to collectively strive for the achievement of these objectives to create a sustainable situation for all, a statement reads in the Pakistan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.”

The meeting was co-chairs by Amany Abid Chandrangi, foreign secretary of Pakistan and Hosam Kafiz Kabid, deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan.

“Twenty-day timelines were held on an assessment of security situation in Afghanistan and the Heart of Asia Region. Afghanistan’s peace and reconciliation process and role of the region in this process as well as regional priorities for economic connectivity, including regional projects like CAGA-III, TAPI gas pipeline and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,” the (More on PAJ)

Affirming the need for direct engagement with the Taliban, a representative of Afghanistan, Khan Aliene, (More on PAJ)

MPs Concerned Over Claims Govt. Arming Civilians

KARUL - Legislators in parliament on Monday claimed that government was arming civilians in some northern regions of Afghanistan in order to fight insurgents.

According to legislators, the government’s move could lead to some instances but the move could also create bigger challenges for government in the long term.

In response to these concerns, the Afghan National Interior Minister (Mul) has dismissed the claims saying there are false information.

“The ministry of interior doesn’t provide weapons to the civilians who don’t work in the structure of police and it is not part of the policy of the Ministry of Interior. We have enough...” (More on PAJ)

Ministry to Consider Next Move if India Cancels Mining Deal

KARUL - If the Indian concern cancels its investment in the Perajik mine, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has said that a decision will be made regarding their bank guarantee.

Officials at the Ministry of Mines have said that although there are rumors of the cancellation the contract the Indian group has not officially cancelled the agreement so far.

Meanwhile, economic analysts have said that the cancellation is due to lack of work from... (More on PAJ)

Quote of the Day

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

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Constitution

The central administration is divided into a number of administrative units, each of which shall be headed by a minister.

Article 136

Ahmad Zia Masood Wrangling Among Leaders Hampering Development

Ahmad Zia Masood, president’s special envoy for reform and good governance has acknowledged wrangling between leaders of wily government is having negative impact on development of the country.

Speaking to reporters here on Monday, he said: the officials were involved in distribution of resources on equal basis for the past eight months.

He said in other countries there was a system in which individual changes but the system remained intact but the case was different in Afghanistan where the system wasn’t grant changes with the new boss coming... (More on PAJ

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"The future is yours"
Four Killed, 73 Injured in Zabul Suicide Bombing

QALAT — At least four civilians were killed and 17 injured when a suicide bomber targeted a group of children and women working in a pomegranate orchard in the southwestern province of Zabul on Monday.

The attack took place in Qalat, the capital of the province, as a suicide truck bomber detonated his explosives near the provincial council building, district police chief Ghulam Jalil Babarkhel said.

"Most of the victims are children. Women and children were among the injured people," he said.

The explosion caused extensive damage to a building on the compound of the provincial council building, police sources added.

District police chief Joris Zareen confirmed that three civilians were among the eight people injured, including four children.

District police chief Joris Zendi confirmed that at least four civilians were killed and 17 injured in the attack.

The attack took place in the early morning hours as the security forces were in the area to conduct a search operation.

The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack.

Some Ghazni Newspapers Resume Publications

GHANJ CITY: Some newspapers have resumed publishing after a hiatus lasting two years due to security concerns in northern Afghanistan.

"We are happy to resume our publications," said Samiullah Bobi, the owner of the Afghan Times newspaper.

"We have decided to resume our publications," said Nematullah Nemat, the editor of the Afghan Times newspaper.

"We have also decided to resume our publications," said Ziauddin Zia, the publisher of the Afghan Times newspaper.

However, some newspapers have not resumed publishing.

Afghans Form Militias and Call on Western Allies

KABUL — As the Taliban's offensive continues in northern Afghanistan, the government is considering the option of forming militias to resist the communist-led insurgents.

The government has already formed a militia in Kabul, and there are reports that other provinces are considering forming militias as well.

The Taliban have recently claimed responsibility for attacks on Afghan security forces and civilians.

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Afghan Women Remains Vulnerable

By Hajijullah Zai

A recently released report has revealed that Afghanistan remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for women. The report, conducted by the Afghanistan Institute for Women (AIW), found that 33% of Afghan women have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. The report also highlights that women in Afghanistan continue to face systemic barriers to their education, health care, and economic opportunities.

The report notes that despite some gains made in recent years, Afghanistan remains a challenging environment for women. Many women continue to face discrimination and violence, and their rights are not always respected by the government or society.

The report suggests that efforts to improve the situation for women require a multi-faceted approach, including investment in education, health care, and economic opportunities. It also recommends the need for stronger legal frameworks and increased protections for women.

The situation for women in Afghanistan is particularly challenging in the context of the current political crisis. The report notes that women are often excluded from decision-making processes and have limited influence on political affairs.

The report concludes by calling for urgent action to address the challenges facing women in Afghanistan. It highlights the importance of continued international support to help bring about positive change and improve the lives of women in the country.
This is a summary of the key points from the given text:

1. **Afghanistan**
   - The Afghan government announced the death of Taliban leader Mullah Omar, marking a significant development in the conflict.
   - The death of Omar has been confirmed by the Taliban, indicating a potential change in leadership and strategic direction.

2. **Pakistan**
   - Pakistan has expelled 1,000 Taliban trainers from the country, which could impact the Taliban's ability to conduct operations.
   - The Afghan government is seeking the extradition of Taliban leaders to face justice, suggesting a new phase in international cooperation against terrorism.

3. **Regional Cooperation**
   - The Afghan government is considering the implementation of a regional security pact, which could enhance cooperation among neighboring countries.
   - The situation highlights the complexities of regional security and the need for multilateral approaches.

4. **International Response**
   - The death of Mullah Omar has sparked international discussions on the future of the Taliban and the Afghanistan conflict.
   - There is a growing consensus among stakeholders to address the Taliban's role and influence in the region.

The document discusses the implications of Mullah Omar's death on the Afghan conflict and the broader regional dynamics. It underscores the need for a coordinated international response to stabilize the situation and secure a peaceful resolution.
UN Chief Seeks ‘Global Action on Climate Change this Year’

Geneva - UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Monday called for "global action" on climate change during a summit aimed at boosting international efforts to mitigate climate change and address its impacts. The leaders of 80 countries - accounting for 90 percent of the world's population - are gathering here at the United Nations for the annual World Economic Forum meetings, which normally focus on business and technology but this year are also emphasizing climate change. Ban said that this was the first time the UN had convened a major international conference on climate change.

After the summit, Ban was to attend a three-day global warming conference in Copenhagen, where the world will try to agree on a new emissions pact to succeed the failed 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The conference is seen as the last best chance to agree on a legally binding international deal before the 2012 deadline.

"At the climate change conference, we will need to show that the world is not only ready to take action, but also ready to stand together to overcome the challenges," Ban said.

He cited efforts such as the Cancun agreement on climate change from last year's talks in Mexico, and the numerous commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions made at the 2009 U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen.

"The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has warned that the start of this year's "incredibly cold" winter in Europe could be a harbinger of a harsher global winter that could last into next year," the UN chief said.

He said that up to 20 percent of the world's population, or around one billion people, would be highly affected by global warming over the next two decades, and even more at the end of the century.

"The scientific consensus on climate change is strong, and the evidence for climate change is clear," Ban said.

"It is time for all nations to show their leadership in climate action by working together to put in place the conditions needed to reduce carbon emissions by 2050, and to support the development of long-term adaptation strategies that can help vulnerable communities adapt to the impacts of climate change," he said.

The Copenhagen conference, which is set to be held in December, is the most significant gathering on climate change since 1997, when the Kyoto Protocol was agreed upon in the Japanese capital.

"The conference in Copenhagen is the most important meeting on climate change of the last decade," the UN chief said.

UN Press Officer Christian Christmas said in a statement that the meeting will provide an "opportunity to build on the progress made in Cancun and to focus on the next steps needed to advance the global effort to address climate change." The Copenhagen conference is expected to produce a new, legally binding treaty aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

"We are moving closer to a point where the world can no longer afford to protract discussions beyond Copenhagen," Christmas said. "The Copenhagen conference is an opportunity to show the world that we have the political will and the ability to bring countries together to make progress on climate change, and to take the next step towards a comprehensive, legally binding treaty.

US-Turkey Agree on Air Support to Syrian Rebels: Turkey

An official said on Thursday that Turkey had reached a deal with the United States to provide air support to rebel forces in Syria, following a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries in New York. The agreement was seen as a significant development in efforts to provide aid to Syrian rebels fighting against the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power said on Thursday that the two countries had agreed to "provide unmanned aerial vehicles for transport, intelligence and surveillance.

"This agreement is a significant step forward in supporting the Syrian people as they continue to fight for freedom," she said.

The agreement was seen as a major boost to US efforts to support the Syrian opposition, which has faced a series of setbacks in recent months.

Germany Protests Russia’s Election of Conservative MP from Moscow

Washington - The US ambassador to Russia has raised concerns about the election of a conservative MP from Moscow as the country's new representative in the European Parliament. The US envoy, Robert Ford, has expressed concern about the new MP's support for Russian President Vladimir Putin and his policies.

Ford said in a statement that the US had "deep concerns" about the new MP's views on key issues, including human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

Ford said that the new MP's election was a "significant step forward" for Russian policies and that the US was working to ensure that the new MP would be held accountable for his actions.

The US ambassador also noted that the new MP's appointment was in line with Russia's long history of undermining democratic institutions and processes.

The US ambassador's comments come as the European Parliament is set to vote on the new MP's appointment in the coming days.

Pakistani Seek US Aid to Counter Taliban

In a major breakthrough, the US has agreed to provide $1 billion in economic and military aid to Pakistan as part of a broader effort to counter the Taliban. The agreement was seen as a significant step forward in efforts to support Pakistan in its war against terrorism.

US Ambassador to Pakistan Richard Holbrooke said in a statement that the US was committed to working with Pakistan to help the country counter the Taliban and other extremist groups. Holbrooke said that the US was working with Pakistan to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the Taliban's threat.

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Pakistan Sternly Warns Taliban to Call off Spring Offensive

ISLAMABAD - After a visible show in bilateral relations between Kabul and Islamabad, Pakistan came down hard on Taliban for launching a spring offensive against the Afghan security forces. (More on PAJ-39)

KANDAHAR CITY - Kandahar Police Chief General Abdul Raziq has criticized the Afghan government’s negligence of the ruin of Understanding (Mistakes) between Afghanistan and Pakistan, asserting that Islamabad has continued to try and expand its influence in Afghanistan while appearing as if nothing.

General Raziq is one of the most well-known and respected police commanders in the country. He is famous for his merger of the police in Kandahar and Taliban militants, and bringing fire into the heart of the government’s control.

"Some of the actions of the national unity government are not helping much to stabilize the situation as the month of security forces," Raziq told ToloNews on Friday. For example, the signing of the agreement with Pakistan will only result in the extension of the war in the country.

The accord would supposedly expand operational cooperation and information sharing between Afghanistan and Pakistan. While supporting efforts at peace talks is a fine line, Raziq once again referred to his strong distrust toward Pakistan. He said giving Pakistan a role in the peace process is a mistake.

"There are benefits to peace, but we don't want Pakistan to be involved in the peace process as a result of time. It is our mistake to entrust our country to any nation or anyone," Raziq said. (More on PAJ-39)

Kunduz to Get 1,000 Strong ALP Force

Kunduz City - The governor of northeastern Kunduz province on Monday said 1,000 strong Afghan Local Police (ALP) force would be deployed to the province under the security and law and order.

Mohammed Umar Safi told medi- al officers that the security force had been formed in the province under the security and law and order.

"Such gatherings have been held in Kandh-Ka-raz and Miqbad districts and would be held in other districts as well," (More on PAJ-39)

Analysts Criticize Secretive Peace Process

KABUL - Commentators on Monday expressed concern about the government’s handling of peace negotiations with the Taliban, which have been shrouded in secrecy despite official assurances to the contrary.

The minister comes in response to nu- merous calls by the High Peace Council in Kabul, which has been criticized by the Taliban for being secretive about the negotiations.

A spokesperson for the Taliban, speaking on behalf of the Taliban, said the peace process was "very important." (More on PAJ-39)

News 6

President Confers Baryal Medal on Gen. Reeder

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Monday conferred the Baryal Medal, Afghanistan’s highest award for police service on General Reeder in a ceremony held at the presidential palace.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said the president awarded the medal to General Reeder for his services in the circulation of Afghan forces.

President Ghani was decorated with the highest award in recognition of his serv- ice to the country and对 the president.

Residents Say Samangan PC Performance is Unsatistactory

AIABAK - A number of residents of northeastern Samangan province on Monday said they were unhappy with the performance of the provincial council members and terms of development and other uplift projects in the area.

A member of council, however, said the short term that they had been in power has made it possible for them to make progress.

The council has nine members, Moham- med Yaqub, Niaz Ahmad Tor, Shahbori, and Sardar Abul Ainin, and are members from the previous term. The fresh fac- es in the house include Rameez, Najibullah, Mohammed and Sharif.

Some residents said the new members also could not succeed in bringing major changes as per the expectations in the last five months.

"There is a lot of corruption in Chaghcharan locality in Aliabad, but the council has not yet per- formed the role of the people," he said.

Residents during the campaign promised candidates to help people to work on issues such as reconstruction, security, provision of water and electricity, and roads.

"Now we see that they do not do any work," he added. (More on PAJ-39)