Afghanistan Watchdog Warns of Deadlock if Selection Body Faces Obstacle

KARUL - A number of individuals in the presidential palace administration are preventing the selection committee for commissions and electoral institutions to begin its job, and are delaying the process of electoral reforms, Afghan transparency watchdog said. Afghanistan watchdog warned that if the selection committee for the commissions does not start to work in early time, the electoral reform process will face deadlock.

"Unfortunately, a few individuals in secondary offices are trying to build a long process that the practical reforms process does not start," Mohammad Naim Ayyub Zaidi, head of Transparency International Afghanistan, said. The country, in the meantime, is working on electoral reform, the new law of the election will be introduced.

Karul - Afghanistan government said that all institutions have introduced their representatives to the selection committee and they are separate for delaying the process. They noted that by delaying the practical process of electoral reform, the represented community will no longer support the upcoming elections as well as ballot boxes will not be filled with vacant voting cards.

But the president's Council will be considered the reason for delaying the work is that the Human Rights and Civil Society representatives are not yet introduced. Karul - Afghanistan government said that the national unity government in the case of the election will be developed.

Karul - Afghanistan government warned that the selection committee for the commissions should be formed immediately in the future to prevent delays and difficulties.

US Spent $43bn of Taxpayers' Money on Afghanistan Gas Station

WASHINGTON - The Department of Defense (DoD) spent $43 billion on an "infamous" project to build a gas station in Afghanistan - at a cost of a billion dollars. The station cost 10 times more than it should have cost, according to a government watchdog.

The project was originally approved by then President George W. Bush in 2003. According to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, the station was 10 times more expensive than it should have been.

700 Journalists Killed Worldwide over the Past Decade

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction report says that 700 journalists have been killed worldwide over the past decade for bringing news and information to the public.

The United Nations reports that more than 1,000 journalists have been killed worldwide over the past decade, but the UN has not released an official report on the number of journalists killed.

Ulum Retains Seat as Parliament Avoids No-Confidence Vote

KARUL - Ulum retained his seat as a member of the Afghan Parliament.

A number of 135 members were present at the session of the Chamber of Deputies. Of them, 135 MPs held a meeting to form a no-confidence vote against Ulum. Ulum was appointed as a member of the Afghan Parliament by the former government.
New School for Afghan Children in S. Tehran

TEHRAN - A new school for Afghan refugee children in southern Tehran is preparing to open, as many Afghans in the city say they are tired of living in refugee centers or with family members.

The school is funded by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), whose representative in Iran said that it will be ready for the start of classes in the next two weeks.

The school is expected to open in late September, and will provide education for up to 250 Afghan children, including those who have been forced to leave their homeland due to the ongoing war in their country.

UNICEF representative in Iran Mohammad Mirzai said that the school will be equipped with all necessary facilities, including classrooms, playgrounds, and libraries.

He added that the school will be run by local volunteers, who have been trained by UNICEF in child development and education.

"The school will provide a safe and secure environment for Afghan children to learn and develop their skills," Mirzai said. "It is our responsibility to ensure that no child is left behind in this crisis."
Tough Choices—and Data-Needed to End Extreme Poverty

By Jim Yong Kim

Excluisive for the Daily Outlook

The dramatic fall in global poverty over the past two decades is one of the most impressive achievements of the human race. Over that time, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty—people living on less than $1.90 a day—is projected to fall below 10 percent this year, to 9.4 percent of the world’s population. In sub-Saharan Africa, where extreme poverty is especially chronic, it has allowed millions of people to escape poverty.

But to effectively end extreme poverty by 2030—which is the goal of the World Bank Group and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals—our aspirations must be higher still. Many tough decisions will have to be made before we can become the generation that ends extreme poverty.

The question we ask today is how can developing countries progress in the face of slow global growth, the declining oil prices, moderating consumer price indices, and increasing interest rates and capital flight?

In South Asia, the particular challenge will be to boost economic growth and create new jobs, particularly for youth and women, two hard-hit groups, and to address the growing threat of climate change.

For example, Bangladesh will not reach its economic growth potential unless it can attract and retain as much as $35 billion in foreign investment by 2020. In India, the government has made a commitment to double the number of “economic” jobs—jobs that pay at least the minimum wage—by 2022. In Indonesia, improving the quality of teacher education and learning outcomes will be critical.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the challenge will be to reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty to less than 10 percent by 2030. In Kenya, reducing the drudgery of lack of access to clean water and sanitation will be key. In Ethiopia, reducing the numbers of people who lack access to nutritious food will be critical.

In Latin America, the challenge will be to boost economic growth and make it more inclusive. Mexico, for example, needs to boost GDP by 5 percent a year for at least 10 years and increase the supply of skilled workers to meet the needs of the manufacturing and technology sectors.

In every region, the challenges and opportunities will be different, and our solutions will have to be tailored to the needs of each country. But there is one thing that will be true for all of us: We need more data and more evidence.

In short, the challenge is to make progress in improving the world’s ability to tackle poverty. In fact, we can’t accomplish our goal if we do not have enough information about whether people are actually lifting themselves out of poverty. For that reason, we need to gather more data. We need robust data.

To address this challenge, we have launched a new initiative to step up data collection in 78 of the world’s poorest countries. We’ve pledged $500 million over seven years, a significant step forward. If successful, this initiative will set a new standard for data measurement.

In tough times, countries that do well have already made the difficult choices to invest in education, health, and other services that they need. In contrast, countries that are already suffering the effects of growth stalling need to make tough choices with even less information.

Jim Yong Kim is President of World Bank Group

Ending Impunity for Crimes against Journalists Urged

By Asmatyari

A new report from Reporters Without Borders (RSF) into global media freedom shows that 327 journalists were murdered worldwide in 2015, a figure not far from the levels recorded in 2014. The report calls for governments to protect journalists and end impunity for crimes against journalists.

The report, entitled “In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind”, examines the police’s role in determining the cause of death and in investigating the murder of journalists. It also highlights the need for governments to ensure that journalists are able to carry out their work without fear of violence.

The report notes that in many countries, journalists are often targeted because they are perceived to be critical of the government or political leaders. It also highlights the need for governments to invest in training for police officers and to ensure that they have the necessary resources to investigate crimes against journalists.

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(1) Afghanistan

- The government has been under pressure to address the growing security situation.
- President Ashraf Ghani has called for a comprehensive and inclusive peace process.
- The Taliban have announced their readiness to cease fighting and negotiate a political solution.
- The United States has increased efforts to engage with the Taliban and facilitate talks.
- Afghan leaders have met with representatives from both the Afghan government and the Taliban.

(2) China

- The Chinese government has been involved in efforts to broker peace talks in Afghanistan.
- China has offered economic assistance and support to the Afghan government.
- The Chinese military has been dispatched to provide security and assistance.
- There has been a recent visit by Chinese officials to Kabul to discuss security and economic cooperation.

(3) Gas Price

- There has been a significant increase in gas prices in recent months.
- Gas prices have nearly doubled, causing financial strain on households.
- The government has announced plans to implement measures to stabilize prices.
- A subsidy system has been proposed to mitigate the impact on the population.

(4) New School

- A new school has been established in the area.
- The school was constructed to provide education to children in the region.
- The opening ceremony was attended by local officials and community leaders.
- The school has been equipped with basic facilities and teaching resources.

(5) Malinvestors

- There has been a recent news report about a company that has suffered financial losses.
- The company's CEO has been asked to resign.
- Investigation is ongoing to determine the cause of the losses.
- Shareholders have expressed concerns about the management's decision-making.

(6) Russian War

- The conflict in Ukraine has escalated, leading to increased tensions.
- The United Nations has called for an immediate ceasefire.
- Diplomatic efforts are underway to find a peaceful resolution.
- Humanitarian aid is being provided to affected populations.

(7) Five Soldiers

- A military operation has been launched in a remote area.
- The operation has resulted in the death of five Afghan security force personnel.
- Efforts are being made to provide support and aid to the families of the fallen soldiers.
Turks Vote for Stability: Erdogan

ANKARA - A jubilant Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on Monday cast the return of Turkey's Islamist-rooted AK Party into power as a vote of confidence in his three-decade rule as a politician and, more importantly, as a leader. The AKP, which won a majority in Sunday's election, will now go on to form a new government, with Erdogan, its leader, set to be re-elected as president of the country.

The AKP's victory in the election on Sunday, consolidating support from a broad coalition of conservative, religious, and nationalist voters, has put an end to the political instability that has characterized Turkey's political landscape in recent years. Erdogan, who has governed the country for 18 years, is expected to continue his policies of economic growth and social development.

S. Korea, U.S. Agree on Joint Plan Against DPRK’s Nuke, Missile Activities

SEOUL, South Korea - South Korea and the United States agreed on Monday on a joint plan against nuclear and missile threats from North Korea, the presidential office said. The United States and South Korea signed a joint statement on defense cooperation.

October's Migrant and Refugee Flow to Europe Packaged

Matched whole of 2014

GIZA - The number of refugees and migrants entering Europe by sea last month reached its highest level since the whole of 2014, United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said Monday. The agency said the 70,000 people who arrived last month brought the total number of migrants and refugees to Europe this year to about 215,000.

"This is the highest total for any month since July 2014 and the same as the entire total for 2014," said the agency.

It added that it had estimated the number of refugees and migrants to Europe to be at about 600,000 people by the end of October. The vast majority of refugees and migrants are fleeing from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya to Europe, the agency said.

ADMM Meeting-Plus, Related Meetings to Kick off in Malaysia

SINGAPORE - The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus will open here on Nov. 2 and 3, with the attendance of delegations from 30 ASEAN states, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Security Ministers' Retreat (ASMIN), the East Asia Summit and the Brunei Defence Ministers' Meeting.

ADMM-Plus has welcomed more ASEAN members and Vietnam to join the gathering. This year's meeting is expected to discuss various regional and global security and defense issues. The summit is also expected to discuss the implementation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Italian PM Admits About Budget, Showdown with EU Unlikely

ROME - Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is taking a strong stand in his fight to defend his country's growth-oriented 2016 budget proposal against potential revisions mandated by the European Union (EU), but reports say that a showdown with Brussels is unlikely.

Italy submitted a 23-billion-euro ($28.6-billion) draft budget proposal for its budget for next year to the European Commission on July 1, which is in charge of assessing national budgets, to prevent 12 billion euros in cuts, including the austerity measures.

The EU executive body has already called for a number of changes in the draft before it is approved by Italy's parliament.

Renzi has been using every opportunity to show that he will seek redress from "extra-jurisdictional" interference.

In another speech, Renzi said "the EU can ad

mit mistakes, they can change three times, or 10 times, but this is the Italian parliament by the Italian people for the Italian people, and in this way the Italian people will take control of their destiny." (Kyotajia)

Neighboring News

Sharif Moving Pakistan Away from Terrorism: US Senator

WASHINGTON - Under intense pressure, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is moving Pakistan away from terrorism, a key U.S. Senator has said, adding that the country needs to provide essential support for U.S. forces fighting in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan is now really entering a new chapter of terrorism in North West.

They are steadily distancing themselves from their previous pro-Taliban organizations and are feeling tough pressures. They are in the hands of the Pakistan government in a tough situation. I think that the Pakistani government is not put to any kind of pressure to get cracking down on them," he said.

Iran Starts Taking Nuclear Centrifuges Offline

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iran has begun shutting down uranium enrichment centrifuges under the terms of a deal with six world powers, to back away from developing nuclear weaponry, the official news agency IRNA said on Monday.

Under the 2015 nuclear deal, Iran was obliged to cut back on its centrifuges - machines that enrich uranium - to the numbers it had before the deal was signed in July. "We have already informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the decision," IRNA said. (Agencies)

Tajikistan Beats Central Asian Countries in Ranking of Healthy Nation

BISHKEK - Tajikistan has taken the lead in the region in the annual rankings of healthy life expectancy, the country's central statistical committee said.

The ranking considers the quality of food, health, education, and the impact of the environment on the quality of life.

Senior Official meets Representatives of Non-Profit Organizations from Taiwan

BEIJING - Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying on Monday met with an exchange group who are in Beijing representing Chinese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss transnational cooperation.

"The visits by cadres and scholars of the NGO representatives are to further deepen exchanges and cooperation between China and Taiwan, as well as to better promote mutual understanding and trust," Fu said.

Chen continued presence of the Chinese experts as one of the major topics of discussion. "We are looking forward to seeing more active participation of the Chinese experts in the cooperation between China and Taiwan," she said.

Senior Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying talks with NGO representatives during their visit to Beijing. (Xinhua)

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Senior Vice Foreign Minister Fu Ying talks with NGO representatives during their visit to Beijing. (Xinhua)
Over 400,000 Support Independent Probe into US Bombing of Kunduz Hospital

A petition calling for the support of US President Barack Obama to launch an independent investigation into the deadly bombing of the Kunduz hospital in Afghanistan by US forces has garnered over 40,000 signatures. Medics at the Kunduz Emergency Hospital (KEH) and Doctors Without Borders, a medical organization that operates the hospital, initiated the petition, which was posted to the Change.org website to investigate the October 3 US airstrike on the hospital. The bombing killed at least 30 medical staff and patients, including 8 children. The United States, NATO, and the Taliban are being held responsible. (More on P4)

Taliban Splinter Group Choose Mullah Rasool as Leader

KABUL - An Afghan Taliban faction group that opposed Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor as Mullah Omar’s successor has elected their own leader, Mullah Abdul Rasool, who is seen as the dissident faction’s new leader, who is the dis- tant relative of the late supreme leader of the Taliban. The splinter group has (More on P4)

Japans Funds Anti-Locust Efforts in Afghanistan

DOHANAB - Locust outbreaks periodically devastate precious food crops in Central Asia, jeopardizing both the food security and livelihoods of rural people. An imposed locust management capacity is the goal of three-year, US$10 million project being financed by the Government of Japan in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan. A press release issued by JFO says that Japan during its annual meeting of foreign ministers under the “Central Asia-Japan” dialogue. (More on P4)

NAI Concerns over Journalists Murder Cases

KABUL - As the violence grows, Afghanistan is still the deadliest country for journalists in 2015. The Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan (SAF) voiced concern over lack of addressing to Afghan jour- nalism murders cases. Journalists have paid a high price in Afghanistan since 2001. According to the offi- cials at NAI, nearly 50 jour- nalists killed in the past decade in Afghanistan that none of their cases were addressed. As the world marks International Day to end impunity for (More on P4)

Illegal Armed Men Block Kabul-Bamiyan Highway

KABUL - A group of illegal armed men together with local residents have blocked Kabul-Bamiyan highway in Sangi district of Panjshir province. Armed men and local resi- dents do not allow anyone or any vehicle to cross. Eyewitnesses say road is blocked in protest to the as- sembly of a local police commander by the provincial police chief and president. Protesters are demanding to continue the sit-in until (More on P4)

Socialising is cool

Unlimited Social Media
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(FUP 20 MB)

25 on-net minutes
15 Afs /day
Activate now: sms D15 to 3738
Deactivation SMS: PUPspace D15 to 3738

65 on-net minutes
25 Afs /day
Activate now: sms D25 to 3738
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