

(1) Youth's Mission

Referring to recent comments by neighboring countries on Afghanistan waters, Ghani said Afghanistan will continue to manage its own water resources.

"If they (neighboring countries) think that we are not managing our waters, they should think again," he said. He also pointed to the issue of land-grabbing and said he will legally safeguard people's properties. "If they (land grabbers) think that we will not legalize our lands and not provide legal property rights to every Afghan, they should think again," he emphasized.

Referring to the war, the president said he appreciated the sacrifices of the Afghan forces in their giving their country hope for stability in the near future. "As the defense minister represents new thought and knowledge, other generals and the chief of army staff will also use their expertise and knowledge. The combination of these two will hopefully bring security to the people," he added.

Presidential Palace said the International Youth Day was aimed at bringing reforms to the country with the help of Afghanistan's young generation. (Tolonews)

(2) Failure in

of the U.S and NATO forces in Afghanistan, General John Nicholson, said failure in Afghanistan will embolden extremist groups in the West.

Nicholson said they should and will defeat the insurgents to safeguard their own homeland.

"If we fail in Afghanistan, we will invite terror attacks on our homelands. Failure with unleash millions of migrants out of this region and the rest of the world. Failure will embolden terrorists and jihadists globally to include those already inside our own countries. That is why we are here and that is why we must win," said Nicholson.

The sacrifices of the Afghan and foreign soldiers who have injured in the war against insurgents were appreciated by NATO chief in Kabul.

"The country has a right to rely on us and you, if we sacrifice our lives for the country, that is still not enough," Nasir Ahmad, a former Afghan National Army officer said.

Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani also admired the bravery of Afghan forces in defending their homeland. "I thank our new generation, for their bravery and sacrifices they make in the Afghanistan's defense and security forces," said Ghani.

Nicholson remarks over defeating insurgents in Afghanistan were expressed as the United States president Donald Trump recently said he had inherited a mess in Afghanistan and that announcing his strategy on Afghanistan's war is a big decision for him. The new US strategy is expected to be announced soon. (Tolonews)

(3) Govt. Supports

government officials emphasized the need for regulating of the public uprising forces.

The number of uprising forces in Khanabad district of Kunduz province has risen to a thousand armed men who have pushed back Taliban attacks on the district many times.

Khanabad local officials said in addition to insecurity, they are worried about not having control over this big number of armed men.

"The number of armed men has grown greatly and we need the support of the central government," Hayatullah Amiri, Khanabad district governor said.

Uprising forces commanders also said their men should come under the structures of security departments to legitimate their activities.

"When the government needs us, they use us. But when their needs are addressed, they regard us as expendable," Mohammad Omar Aqtash, commander of the public uprising forces said.

The public uprising forces dates back to 2013 when a number of residents of Andar district of Ghazni province took up arms against the Taliban. After that, especially in the recent months, the movements have been on the increase in numbers.

Since 2013, at least 17 provinces of the country have witnessed the activities of uprising forces against insurgents. However, still no one and no organization have an exact number of the public uprising forces in the provinces.

"In the specific situation and in the specific region, government urges people to help, to take up arms and cooperate with the government to defend their

soil. But I say that it is better to increase the number of security forces to maintain peoples' security," Sayed Ikram, an MP said. (Tolonews)

(4) Afghan and US

a key role in bring vital reforms both in the civilian and military sectors of the country.

According to the Office of the National Security Council, Mr. Atmar also discussed the current political situation and areas of cooperation in the region. He said Washington can play a key role in establishing an environment of regional cooperation in a bid to maintain peace and stability in the region.

In his turn, Gen. McMaster reaffirmed Washington's full support to the legitimate stance of the Afghan government in the fight against terrorism and said the American government and nation will continue to support Afghanistan. (KP)

(5) Central Bank

accepting the affected notes. People have no idea what to do," said Mohammad Reza, a money exchanger in Kabul's Karte Se area.

"Government should review and address this problem. The defaced and damaged banknotes must be collected from all the markets," said Abdulwaddood, a shopkeeper in Kabul.

The Central Bank set its first deadline for the banknotes in February and extended it in March. However, reports indicate that large numbers of the banknotes are still being used in routine transactions by the people. (Tolonews)

(6) TAPI Project

and education. The Pakistani envoy pointed out the active cooperation between the two countries, which is based on common history, culture and traditions of the two peoples.

TAPI will make it possible to deliver gas from Turkmenistan, which ranks fourth in the world for its gas reserves, to large and promising markets of South and Southeast Asia. The pipeline will run from Galkynysh - the largest gas field in Turkmenistan - through the Afghan cities of Herat and Kandahar, and finally reach the Fazilka settlement located near the India-Pakistan border. (Trend)

(7) Afghan Senate

his government had evidence to prove Qatar was supporting the Afghan Taliban and other terrorist groups.

The deputy Senate chairman urged Saudi clerics to issue decrees against the activities of the Taliban and other such groups.

He said the Taliban were misusing religion to serve their own interests. Sed-eqi lashed out at countries who were politicizing the hajj.

He said Afghanistan fully supported services the Saudi government offered to pilgrims. He said the Meshrano Jirga was strongly opposed to internationalizing the pilgrimage.

He said no country could match the experience the Saudis had in serving pilgrims. (Pajhwok)

(8) Karzai Warns

the killing innocent civilians, women and children would continue, he feared.

The security situation in Afghanistan would nosedive, just like it did in Iraq, if the war effort was assigned to a private firm.

Erik Prince, former CEO of Blackwater, recently offered to step up the air war with a private air force capable of intelligence-gathering and close-air support.

"I vehemently oppose the proposal to the US govt to outsource its war in Afghanistan to private security firms. This would be prolonging and intensifying the bloodshed in Afghanistan," Karzai tweeted.

"I call upon the govt to oppose and denounce this anti-Afghanistan project," Karzai concluded. (Pajhwok)

(9) Former Helmand

released from custody. However, the custody center has its own officials. The police chief does not have the authority to release any prisoner. Please show us the evidence of where the order was issued by the police chief (Sarjang)," said Mahmoud Akbari, the defense attorney of the police official.

At the court session, Sarjang said: "I don't accept the accusations against me. I was not involved in what was said against me."

Anti-corruption monitoring organizations criticized the ACJC for focusing on small corruption cases instead of bigger cases.

"We expect the ACJC to focus on the

cases which are demanded by the people, and the national and international organizations," said Abdul Qahar Farukh Siyar, spokesman for anti-corruption authority. (Tolonews)

(10) Baghlan Residents

option to eliminate you. We call on you to implement reforms," the deputy head of Baghlan provincial council Mahbubullah Ghafari said at the event. "We are here to support the National Coalition for the Salvation of Afghanistan. We officially announce our support for this coalition," said Ahmad Shah Bakhtiar, a civil society activist. Organizers of the event said the people will not remain silent about the government's "inefficiency".

"Insecurity and injustice are on the rise. You have eliminated the generation of the past two decades and now you want to kill newborn babies," said Mawlawi Mohammad Nadir Wafa, a religious scholar in the province.

"I am asking government to cut its ties with Pakistan if it continues to interfere in Afghan affairs," said Nasir Ahmad Kabiri, a resident of Baghlan.

In June, the new alliance was formed by leaders from three mainstream Afghan political parties - Jamiat-e-Islami, the National Unity of People of Afghanistan and the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(11) 7 ALP Men, 12

the Shahjoy district chief said, adding the clashes lasted three hours, leaving 12 assailants and seven ALP members dead and 10 insurgents and three civilians wounded.

The militant had the plan to overrun at least five ALP check-posts but they could not, Jawadi said, adding the area remained under ALP forces' control and they had launched a clearing operation.

The Taliban have not yet commented about the clashes in Shahjoy district. (Pajhwok)

(12) 9 Militants

officials said Saturday.

Naqibullah Amini, the Maidan Wardak governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the US forces carried out the drone strike in Chak district on Friday.

The drone hit a vehicle and motorcycles carrying militants, killing nine and destroying their vehicles, he said.

The Taliban have not yet commented about the drone strike.

In Helmand, two policemen were killed and a third wounded when militants stormed their check-post in Lashkargah, the provincial capital, said Col. Zahir Gul Moqbil, border police commander of the fourth brigade.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News battalion commander Ahmad Javed and a policeman were killed and a third one was injured in the attack.

He said the militants also suffered casualties during the firefight lasting half an hour, but exact figures were not available.

Abdullah, a resident of the area, said the Taliban attacked a security check-post in Bolan area on Friday night. He said heavy weapons were used in the clash, but had no information about casualties.

The resident said clashes between Taliban and security forces occurred every night in Bolan and Spinah Kot areas. Officials at the Emergency-run hospital in Lashkargah confirmed receiving four injured people at the hospital from the incident site and their condition was stable.

The Taliban confirmed the clash in a tweet by their spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahamdi, who claimed the fighters attacked security check-post in Bolan area and captured it. He also claimed eight security personnel were killed and their weapons seized. (Pajhwok)

(13) Iranian Drivers'

Mahirud border, decisions have been made to discharge Iranian trucks as soon as possible.

He went on to say that all trucks containing oil products will be discharged on Saturday.

Problems have nothing to do with Iranian side, he added. (IRNA)

Taliban Deputy Military Chief Surrenders

KABUL - Afghanistan's insurgent group Taliban's deputy military chief Qari Mohibullah has surrendered to the Afghan security forces in Baghlan Province.

Confirming the surrender, the security forces said that Qari Mohib surrendered with his AK-47 assault rifle along with its five ammunition magazines to the security forces.

"Taliban's deputy military chief Qari Mohibullah has surrendered to the security forces in Burka district," Khaama Press quoted the 209th Shaheen Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces, as saying.

The Taliban, however, has not commented on the surrender so far.

Reportedly, violence is on the rise in the Northern Province of Afghanistan, due to ongoing clashes between the security forces and the Taliban insurgents.

Earlier, at least 40 Afghan villagers have reportedly been killed by the Taliban insurgents in Mirza Olang village of northern Sar-e-Pul province of Afghanistan. (ANI)

13 Civilians Killed in Battle in the North

KABUL - An Afghan official says at least 13 civilians, including women and children, have been killed after their house was hit by mortars during a battle in northern Faryab province.

Gen. Dilawer Shah Dilawer, Faryab provincial police chief, said Saturday that three other civilians were wounded after two mortars hit the house Friday evening.

Dilawer says it isn't clear who targeted the house in Dawlat Abad district - the Taliban or Afghan National Security Forces. He said a delegation has been sent to the area to find out more about the attack.

There was no immediate comment from the Taliban.

Faryab province has witnessed an increase in violence in recent months and both sides have been accused of targeting civilians. (AP)

Hekmatyar Asks Violence Pursuers not to Repeat Bitter Experiences of the Past

KABUL - The leader of Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has urged the violence pursuers not to repeat the bitter experiences of the past.

Speaking during a gathering attended by the youths representing the Nazhat-e-Millie party, Hekmatyar said he nation has become tired of war and will no longer tolerate violence.

Hekmatyar further added that all those groups which intend to pursue violence should instead adopt a new strategy for rebuilding, peace, and reconciliation.

According to Hekmatyar, Hezb-e-Islami's main objective is to end the ongoing bloody violence in the country and the party extends hands of friendship to all the groups and parties.

He did not mention any specific group or party which seeks to pursue violence in the country but in the past he has strongly rejected the insurgency led by the Taliban group.

In a gathering earlier this month, Hekmatyar once again renewed his bitter stance against the Taliban-led insurgency, comparing it to devil acts while branding it an illegitimate war.

Hekmatyar said the Taliban group is waging war and insurgency on the instructions of the outsiders.

Pointing towards Taliban's violence, Hekmatyar said all those who pursue violence are cruel. Their stance and the approach they have adopted is illegitimate and their targets are inhumane and are having devil motives.

He once again called on the Taliban group to adopt a peaceful approach rather insurgency and participate in peace talks. (KP)

Pentagon Denies Civilians Killed in Afghanistan Airstrike

KABUL - U.S. forces in Afghanistan on Friday denied allegations by Afghan officials that a U.S. airstrike killed 16 civilians in eastern Afghanistan.

Hajji Saz Wali, the governor of Haska Meena district, said that among the dead were eight people from one family and four from another family. The airstrike targeted vehicles the victims were traveling in, he added.

A spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province confirmed the civilian deaths to The New York Times.

A statement from U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, though, said the airstrike killed only militants.

"The militants were observed loading weapons into a vehicle and were under surveillance until the vehicle was destroyed by an airstrike," said Bob Purttiman, a spokesman. "The strike was conducted in the middle of open terrain. There was zero chance of civilian casualties." He said it was the "second false claim"

of civilian deaths in the district within the past three weeks.

Mohammada Khan told the Times that six people in his family were killed in a minibus they were fleeing in.

"We got to the area of the bombing and put their body parts in a truck and brought them to Jalalabad city, where we buried them this morning," he said. "There were no [Islamic State] members in the area. It was not a valley or a mountainous area. It was a clear area, and they should understand that people in the vehicle are civilians, as the car was a civilian car." (UPI)

Taliban Still a Threat to Helmand's Nawa District

LASHKARGAH - Residents of Helmand's Nawa district are not sure a return by militants will be prevented by security forces.

Some residents of Nawa district - in the south of Lashkargah city in Helmand province - claimed that Taliban remains a threat to parts of the district.

TOLONews reporters Karim Amini and Abdullah Hamim, who visited the district, said the center market in Nawa is closed and the residents are fleeing the area in search of safety.

The district was under the control of the Taliban for 10 months but it was retaken in a large-scale military operation by security forces three weeks ago.

The bazaar in the center of the district had few visitors in the first days when the area was cleared of Taliban but now the shops are closed and it is looking like a no-man's land, residents said.

"Taliban have been pushed back from the district. You see it. But you also see that there is no one (in the bazaar) except military men," said Gul Rahim, a resident of Nawa.

"Sometimes you are walking in front of your wife and sometimes she walks behind you in search of safe places. Is this life?" asked Abdul Jalil, a resident of the district, who said they are tired of war and escaping from conflicts and militants' threats.

Security forces said the clearance operation is not yet completed and that it will continue until all threats are thwarted in the area.

"The district needs full clearance as it was captured by the Taliban for eight months. We have plans in this respect," said Abdul Ghafar Safi, the police chief of Helmand.

Residents of the district said they are still not sure whether the district will be maintained by government forces and they will be able to prevent a comeback by militants. (Tolonews)

MSF Suspends Mediterranean Rescues as Migrant dispute Mounts

ROME - Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Saturday it was suspending its migrant rescues in the Mediterranean because it felt threatened by the Libyan coastguard and the Italian government's policies have made its job harder.

The aid group's decision is the latest development in mounting tensions between Rome and NGOs as migration dominates Italy's political agenda ahead of elections early next year.

"We are suspending our activities because now we feel that the threatening behavior by the Libyan coastguard is very serious ... we cannot put our colleagues in danger," the president of MSF's Italian arm Loris De Filippi told Reuters.

Almost 600,000 migrants have arrived in Italy over the past four years, the vast majority setting sail from lawless Libya in flimsy vessels operated by people smugglers. More than 13,000 migrants have died trying to make the crossing.

Charity boats have played a growing role in rescues, picking up more than a third of all migrants brought ashore so far this year against less than one percent in 2014.

However, Italy fears the groups are facilitating people smuggling and encouraging migrants to make the passage, and it has proposed a Code of Conduct governing how they operate. Some groups, including MSF, have refused to sign the code.

They object to a requirement that Italian police officers be on their boats and that the boats must take migrants to a safe port themselves, rather than transferring them to other vessels to allow smaller boats to stay in the area for further rescues. MSF operates one rescue ship in the Mediterranean, the Prudence, currently docked in the Sicilian port of Catania. (Reuters)