

### (1) Make Real ...

countries to support efforts at strengthening peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The national security advisor said Afghanistan desired good bilateral relations with all its neighbours and expected the same from them. According to Ghorzang, the two sides also conferred on other regional issues of mutual interest.

The Chinese envoy had pledged his country's continued assistance with Afghan security forces in his previous meeting with Hanif Atmar. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Ten Afghan ...

Women Network's director Hasina Safi; Feminine Solidarity For Justice Organization (FSJO) director Liah Jawad Ghazanfar; former deputy minister of women's affairs Fawzia Habibi; Faryab provincial women's affairs director Sharifa Azimi; Nangarhar women's affairs director Anisa Imrani; Herat women's affairs director Mahboba Jamshedi; and Dai Kundi women's affairs director Zakiya Rezaei all received the medals.

"The medal that I received today is the medal of Malalai - who is a well-known national hero of Afghanistan. I am proud of getting this medal," said Parlika, who is one of the 1000 Women for Peace members.

Meanwhile, Ibrahimkhail said the Afghan women who recently lost their loved ones in the recent spate of Kabul attacks deserved this medal. According to women's rights activists, such appreciation by government motivates them to carry on the fight for their rights.

Malalai was born in Maiwand district in southern Kandahar in 1861. She is an Afghan national hero who fought the British troops at the battle of Maiwand on 27 July, 1880 during the second Anglo-Afghan War. (Tolonews)

### (3) OSCE Supports....

It is co-organised by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Border Management Staff College (BMSC.)

The workshop is focused on the UN "Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide" as an information and capacity-building tool for trade facilitation implementers, including those working on applying the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The participants will enhance their knowledge on the key trade facilitation instruments and related concepts. This event will provide material for developing national and regional road maps for trade facilitation, including for Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries.

The workshop will cover the domains and instruments included in the UNECE "Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide" and the joint OSCE-UNECE "Handbook of Best Practices at Border Crossings - A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective." Participants will be trained on such topics as Coordinated Border Management, Authorised Economic Operators, National Trade Facilitation Committees, Single Window implementation, as well as key trade facilitation tools, approaches and methodologies.

"This workshop will allow governmental and private business representatives to increase their working skills in trade facilitation and implementing international best practices in their daily work," said Martin Rossmann, Head of the Economic and Environmental Department at the OSCE Office in Tajikistan. "Commitment of both government and business is of key importance for the success of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. These three countries lie at the very centre of Eurasia and are eager to lift up regional and international trade." (Asia-Plus)

### (4) 50,000 Refugees ...

total number of refugees returned through Balochistan to 9000, so far, this year, which makes 10 per cent of the total returns from Pakistan. From Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this year, some 25,900 registered Afghan refugees opted to return; 11,300 from Punjab, 4,000 from Sindh and 2,800 from Azad Jammu Kashmir.

Of the total 50,433 registered refugees who returned with UNHCR assistance, the majority, 34 per cent returned to the northern region of Afghanistan, followed by the 31 per cent who went to the central regions while 19 per cent of the Afghan refugees returned to the eastern region. In Quetta, Dinesh Lal Shrestha, Head of UNHCR, Balochistan, while bidding farewell to the members of the facilitated group return said: "Voluntary repatriation is a cornerstone of the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR)."

Shrestha hoped that with the formation of the National Unity Government and gradual political stability and better livelihood prospects

in some parts of Afghanistan more refugees might opt to voluntarily repatriate to Afghanistan.

Forty-five-years old elder of the returning group to Herat, Ghulam Sakhi said, he and his group mutually agreed to go back to Afghanistan to take part in the rebuilding of their country. Indrika Ratwate UNHCR's Representative in Pakistan commended the continuous generosity of Pakistan for extending support to the millions of Afghan refugees in the country and highlighted the need for repatriation to be voluntary, in safety and dignity to ensure sustainable re-integration. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Elections May ...

we cannot say anything about them cutting funds," Nuristani said. "The government should provide security and cover election costs," he added.

He said that the reduction in the cost of elections is one of the electoral reform issues of the commission and added that "we have reported to the President about the reforms at the IEC."

Referring to the Electoral Reform Commission (ERC), Nuristani said that "we are not worried about the work process of the ERC and we have cooperated with them." But he said that "the election law should be respected".

His comment comes as the ERC head Shah Sultan Akifi announced on Tuesday that a temporary draft of proposals for reforms to the electoral system will be sent to the National Unity Government (NUG) within a week.

"The draft includes [suggestion] on voters' list, election's monitoring process by national and international observers, women's role in election, crime, electoral complaints and amendments to election law," Akifi said.

He however declared the proposals meant nothing if the government failed to implement them.

"The effectiveness of the draft depends on its implementation by the NUG leaders," he added.

Meanwhile, electoral analysts and experts stress the need for change in the IEC's formation and authority.

"Our suggestion to this commission was to propose changes to the structure of the election commission to bring better reforms to the electoral system," said Fazal Ahmad Manawi, the ex-chairman of IEC.

Referring to the disputed Presidential Election last year, the citizens believe the only way to rebuild public trust in the election commission is to reform the system.

As efforts continue to bring reforms to the election system, the government is also anticipated to announce the date for the Parliamentary Election. (Tolonews)

### (6) Ghani Wants....

pledged to extend Afghan refugees' stay for two more years during recent two and three level meetings with Iranian and Pakistani officials. Balkhi said Pakistan's officials promised to extend stay of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan without forcing out any refugees.

Balkhi said more than three million Afghan refugees lived in Pakistan out of which 1.7 million lived legally while more than one million did not have legal documents. He said a bilateral and trilateral agreement was also signed with Pakistan's government and UNHCR. "We presented our policy regarding refugees' repatriation which was accepted. Until their return, we will provide them with different facilities. Pakistan has promised not to harass or forcefully repatriate them until then," Balkhi added.

According to him, Pakistan also promised to extend the stay permit of 1.5 million refugees that expired in next four months to another two years. The participant discussed at length the plan for refugees return. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Poor Management....

Musa Kala district fell to insurgents on Tuesday night and security forces suffered dozens of casualties.

"Now there is possibility of other northern districts falling to insurgents as well," warned Alizai. "Through media we have asked the government to suspend the work of officials in these insecure districts and identify the weaknesses but to no avail."

Alizai warned if local officials remained indifferent towards advices of the provincial council there was a possibility of provincial capital falling to insurgents as well. He said officials were being hired on nepotism and bribe basis which had added to the problems of the people instead of resolving them. "It's our duty to hear people's grievances and convey them to the governor, police chief and oth-

er officials. We have done this but the authorities pay no heed."

Attallah Afghan, another provincial council member, was also of the opinion that officials did not take them seriously. He said coordination among security officials was a necessity. "We have 30,000 security forces in Helmand, but thanks to a weak administration they couldn't be utilized properly. We lose our soldiers on daily basis and the Taliban gain more territory. It is all because of lack of proper management."

He alleged weapons and ammunition were sent to Helmand from Pakistan's Quetta city and Taliban had great influx from there.

"We request president's deputy Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum who is fighting against Taliban in north come to Helmand as well. If not at least interior or defence minister should come here to fix things," he added. Abdul Majid Akhundzada, another PC member and resident of Musa Kala district, said he talked to lawmakers and other officials about the security of his district but still no attention has been paid. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Late Omar's ....

been rejected by Mansoor's supporters, who insist that "95 per cent of the members of the leadership council had elected the new leader".

A group of religious leaders involved in mediation have obtained decision-making powers from the dissidents, but Mansoor has not yet agreed to empower the clerics, said a member of the ulema council, Mufi Masoom Afghani. "We are confident that Mansoor would also empower the ulema in two or three days."

Meanwhile, Manan said he had received information that Mansoor's supporters wanted to issue an edict against those who had refused to declare allegiance to him.

"The mujahideen should not trust any such edict, and wait until the religious scholars make a decision. If any one-sided decree is issued before the ulema's decision, it could lead to severe differences," Manan told The Express Tribune over the phone from Afghanistan.

Asked why Omar's family opposed Mansoor's nomination as Omar's deputy by the then Taliban supremo himself, Manan said the new chief was a military commander under Omar. "We are of the firm belief that the Islamic Emirate has some sacred objectives and those could only be achieved if a new leader is elected with consensus." (Pajhwok)

### (9) Russia Ready....

MD-530s will increase the Afghan Air Force aerial fires capability.

Armed Mi-17s and MD-530s give the Afghan Air Force six times the number of armed aircraft for Fighting Season 2015 as compared to last fighting season, which only employed five Mi-35s.

The helicopters will be retrofitted with the Enhanced Mission Equipment Package (EMEP) in a bid to convert the trainers into light attack gunships.

The upgrade work will be done by the McDonnell Douglas, a major American aerospace manufacturing corporation and defense contractor, at its facility in Mesa, Arizona.

A spokesperson for the company has said the upgraded version of the helicopters will be returned to theatre in early 2016.

Afghanistan-MD-53F The source further added that the converted helicopters will join 12 armed MD 530F Cayuse Warrior helicopters (known as 'Jengi' [Warrior] by the AAF) that were contracted by the US Army in October 2014.

The five training helicopters were flown out of Shindand Air Base in Herat Province (six were delivered, but one was lost to an improvised explosive device [IED] in 2013).

Pentagon awarded MD Helicopters Inc. a maximum \$44.2 million firm-fixed-price contract last year to develop and provide an armament package for the MD-530F helicopters that were already supplied to the Afghan Air Force. Around 17 of the Afghan Air Force's MD-530F helicopter will be upgraded under the contract which is expected to be completed early next year.

The helicopters will be equipped with air-to-surface rockets in a bid to further boost the close air support capabilities of the air force.

The US army has awarded a contract worth \$13.2 million to add the seven-tube M260 launcher for the 70mm (2.75 inch) rockets to MD-530Fs supplied by the United States to the Afghan Air Force, the IHS James defence weekly reported quoting US Department of Defense (DoD) last month. MD-530F helicopters are designed for high altitude and/or hot weather operations, where thinner air costs helicopters some of their lift. (KP)

### (10) Corruption a....

According to him: "Most of the people believe that government does not take [the problem] seriously and don't take legal action against those who work in high ranking and low ranking [positions]." According to the survey, 77 per cent of the people do not trust government administrations and public services institutions due to corruption.

According to the AISS researcher people's reactions most of the time to such incidents of corruption "is just a passive reaction. It means people do not feel responsible and this is one of our societies biggest challenges."

"This is very noticeable in Balkh province and most of the people complained of corruption at high levels in government departments," said Roen one Balkh resident.

"Since I'm dealing with lots of departments and as I am a coordinator in the institution, lots of corruption exists in government and non-government administrations," said Amina Afzali another resident.

One Balkh provincial council member, who admits the existence of corruption in government said that one reason for the spread of corruption is because of justice not being served.

"The law is always carried out poorly and not implemented against ministers, governors, powerful figures or commanders," said Afzal Hadid a provincial council member.

Corruption is considered one of the biggest social challenges in the country which has negative consequences. People stop believing in the government, especially with regards to the embezzlement of international aid, the increase in insecurity and the increase in injustice and inequality in the country, said respondents to the survey. (Tolonews)

### (11) Musa Qala ...

are also supporting the ground forces in the battle field, according to the officials.

This comes after local officials warned on Tuesday that Taliban insurgents were preparing for a massive attack on the district, adding that "the government should send in reinforcements." "Currently, Nawzad district in Helmand is completely controlled by militants, and Musa Qala is also under big threat," a member of Provincial Council of Helmand, Bashir Shaker told Tolonews on Tuesday. Another member of Helmand provincial council said: "If the illegal ways which are connected to all districts are not closed, the war will continue and will change into a long-term conflict."

On Tuesday, Dawlat Waziri, Deputy Spokesman for the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said that Pakistani, Arab and Chechen Taliban are fighting against the government forces but added that security forces were ready to respond to any attacks by insurgents.

"Abdul Khaliq Khan, the first deputy of MoD who went to Helmand, said our forces are ready for a military operation. Our airstrikes continue to tackle the enemy," he said. Most of the Taliban insurgents killed, died due to airstrikes by foreign troops, said officials.

"Our forces have imposed high casualties on militants and the enemy is retreating," Deputy Governor of Helmand, Mohammad Jan Rasoulyar said.

Musa Qala was once a key stronghold for the Taliban - an area used for training camps and drug smuggling operations. (Tolonews)

### (12) Jalrez Probe...

he report of their investigation into the incident. The NSC issued directives that the martyred ALP personnel should be praised for their patriotism, bravery and heroism and the investigation report be made public as soon as possible, the statement said.

The meeting decided that legal action should be taken against officials who had committed negligence in duty.

The NSC meeting also investigated a UNAMA report about civilian casualties in the Afghanistan conflict this year and expressed concern over the increasing civilian casualties in insurgent attacks. The council ordered essential measures at preventing civilian casualties in insurgent attacks and launching a campaign to increase awareness among security forces in this regard. The UN report issued about three weeks ago said civilian casualties in Afghanistan touched a record high in the first half of 2015.

It said ground combat was causing more deaths and injuries than improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in a worrying sign of spreading conflict, adding that the conflict was taking a particularly heavy toll on women and children. Total casualties between January and June increased

one percent compared with the same period last year, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in the report.

The report said 1,592 civilians were killed, a six per cent fall over last year, while the number of injured jumped four per cent to 3,329. The figures represent an average of nine civilians killed and 18 wounded every day.

The UN report held the insurgents responsible for 80 per cent of the casualties, the Afghan forces for 15 per cent and foreign troops one per cent. But the Taliban have rejected the report.

The Presidential Palace said the NSC meeting was presented reports by security top brass about the country's overall security situation and progress in ongoing search operations in various parts of the country.

It said as a result of significant coordination among defence and security forces, leaders of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which operates in Afghanistan in the name of Jun-dullah, were killed in an airstrike in northern Kunduz province along with their fighters.

At the end, the NSC meeting evaluated countrywide threats the enemies of the Afghan people posed.

The meeting praised efforts by the national security forces at improving the security situation and issued directives about dealing with the existing threats. (Pajhwok)

### (13) U.S ...

whereabouts, according to the release.

The Haqqani Network, designated as a terrorist organization in 2012, operates primarily out of northwest Pakistan and is considered the "most lethal insurgent group" targeting US-led coalition troops and Afghan government forces, the State Department said.

The group is responsible for many high-profile attacks in Afghanistan, including the 19-hour attack on the US Embassy in Kabul and coalition headquarters in September 2011.

In August 2012, Badruddin Haqqani, Aziz's predecessor, was reportedly killed in a US drone strike in North Waziristan in northwest Pakistan.

The Haqqani Network was founded in the 1970s by former Afghan mujahidin commander Jalaluddin Haqqani. (Tolonews)

### (14) Shindand Air ...

their experience in training the newcomers.

"They [retired pilots] are those who have great experience," retired lieutenant Abdul Rahman said. "They are great assets and the government must use their experience."

Shindand Air Base is the country's only Air Force training center that restarted its operations in 2010. (Tolonews)

### (15) Member States ...

of the ACCI, expressed satisfaction over arrangement of forth TTCC meeting and said almost every member of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) were present in today's meeting. He said the purpose of the meeting was aimed at reducing custom duties and promoting trade across the borders by providing more facilities. He said that ECO members would brief the officials about its activities regarding low custom duties and economic cooperation.

According to Shinwari, Afghanistan was an important member of the ECO because it was a gateway between Middle East, South and Central Asian countries. The official said that Pakistan has recently obtained the membership of TIR and the step would be helpful in the two countries economic relationship. (Pajhwok)

### (16) 60% Charikar ...

Mamozai said police would leave no stone unturned to maintain law and order during coming elections. He said police in the last presidential and provincial council elections also proved they had the capability to meet all challenges.

The election commission officials also pledged they would utilize all resources to ensure that public took part in election in a fear-free environment. Abdul Qahar Wahab Safi, head of the election commission department, said they had launched an election awareness programme which would help improve public knowledge about election and. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Chak Elders ....

to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News on the one hand they were fed up with Taliban's atrocities and on the other they faced problems being created for them by security forces.

He said security forces had closed the road for traffic leading to Alishai area and the forces used to hurl threats at them. The governor called their problem as serious and promised that the

Alishai road would be reopened and problems linked to security forces would be addressed. Hayat urged the elders to try to convince the insurgents to reconcile with the government and if they continued to unleash violence then prevent refuge to them in their areas. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Baghlan Man ...

relatives said. Meanwhile, Baghlan police officials said that they have opened a case of murder. "We have completed our investigations and the police is trying to arrest the murderer of this woman. The will and soon they will introduce him to the judicial institutions," Baghlan Police Chief, Gen. Abdul JabarPurdely said. The attorney general's department in Baghlan has also urged police to act seriously and arrest Trina's murderer.

However, so far no one has been arrested in connection with the incident. (Tolonews)

### (19) 6 DABS Officers ...

for action against illegal activities and asked for punishment of the criminals.

FirozMohammadik, a resident of Herat City, said it was not the first time that DABS workers sold illegal meters the practice was ongoing for long time. Another resident of Herat city Shah WaliAhmadi said: "Most of the families in Herat city lacked electricity. Unfortunately, the government has banned power meters selling in the open market but power utility workers sell a meter for 50,000 Afghanis to 100,000 afis in the open market illegally." (Pajhwok)

### (20) 40 Female...

lic health ministry and the US, which costs 40 million afghanis.

Zahra Kashani, a graduate, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "In my district there is one or two women who render health services. They can't reach out to all women patients there." She said now three more nurses have been graduated from the school and by going to their district the services would witness positive change.

Nimroz Governor Eng. Mohammad Sami while speaking at the graduation ceremony, said: "By receiving your graduation certificate your work is not over. It has indeed started now and that is to serve your community."

Women in far-flung areas, he said, needed their services the most. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Wheat Crops...

lected 2.1 tons of wheat. According to the Ministry of Agriculture domestic wheat production meets 80 per cent of need of the residents. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Two NATO ...

Resolute Support (NATO) service members died early this morning when two individuals wearing Afghan (military) uniforms opened fire on their vehicle at an (Afghan security forces) compound in Helmand province," a NATO statement said. "Resolute Support service members returned fire and killed the shooters," it added, without revealing the nationalities of the soldiers.

The Taliban did not immediately claim responsibility for the attack. Western officials say that most such attacks stem from personal grudges and cultural misunderstandings rather than insurgent plots. (Tolonews)

### (23) Divided Europe ...

flee. "At the end of the day we need to do something, and it's much better to do something when you're still in control rather than when you're no longer in control," an EU diplomat told AFP. "We need to work on several strands at the same time: how to divide the burden among Europeans, how to control better the external border, how to increase the cooperation with the countries of transit." (AFP)

### (24) China, U.S.

and Chinese," she wrote. "More than 200 U.S. military personnel were rescued by Chinese people at the risk of their own lives, as China fought as a steadfast and key ally," she added. During the war, the Flying Tigers defended China's skies and destroyed over 2,000 aircraft of the Japanese air force. Calloway said his grandfather's legacy "shows a path to better understanding to our countries." (Xinhua)

### (25) Tajikistan Hosts ...

TheSDCS Kyrgyz Republic Rafik Mambetaliyev, Director of DCA under the President of the Republic of Tatarstan Rustam Nazarzoda, representatives of the Security Council of the Republic of Tajikistan, the leadership of law enforcement and security agencies of the Republic, ambassadors and military attaches of foreign states accredited in Tajikistan will attend the ceremony. (Asia Plus)