

### (1) Heart of Asia ...

The parties called on all states "to take action against these terrorist entities in accordance with their respective national counter-terrorism policies, their international obligations and the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy."

Meanwhile, "We call on the International Community to further strengthen international and regional cooperation towards sustained efforts for a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, based increasingly on infrastructure connectivity within the Heart of Asia region and enhanced economic ties," the Declaration said.

The Heart of Asia has 14 participating countries, including Turkey, UAE, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, India, 17 supporting countries and 12 supporting regional and international organizations. (Xinhua)

(2) 90pc Afghans

was possible only by peace talks.

"Sixty-seven percent of the respondents said the Afghan government has no practical program for bringing peace while 73 percent believed Afghanistan has turned into a proxy war ground and Afghans were denied the chance to choose peace," Amin said.

According to the survey, 76 percent of people said that the High Peace Council (HPC) did not work as an honest mediator.

It said 78 percent of the interviewees preferred a third impartial party for ensuring peace in Afghanistan while 90 percent said there was need for an intra-Afghan plan and dialogue.

Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef talking to Pajhwok Afghan News on the sidelines of the meeting, said peace was impossible through military operations. He said the Afghans should create a mechanism for peace and take action for its implementation.

"Form the government side, there is no mechanism and people also do not trust it, a mechanism that all the Afghans can trust should be created, so it would be able to bring peace to the country," he said.

Meanwhile, Zaeef criticized the presence of US forces in Afghanistan and said: "There should be a mechanism to specify that for how long the US would stay in Afghanistan, what are their goals."

He said the US could continue its stay in Afghanistan by implementing economic projects, not by running military bases. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Lawmakers ...

year starting from December 22. The budget for previous fiscal year was 461 billion afghanis.

However, a number of Wolesi Jirga or lower house members on Saturday criticized the budget draft.

Rahila Salim, a lawmaker from central Panjsher province, said the national budget for 1397 solar year was not only incomplete, but it also lacked balance.

"The finance minister should be asked about the population statistics of the five provinces he has mentioned in the draft budget, the statistics should be accurate and based on known sources otherwise the draft budget is incomplete and lack balance in development projects," she said.

However, she did not name the five provinces.

Haidar Jan Naimzai, another lawmaker, said most of the projects mentioned in the next year's budget plan were imaginary because they could not be implemented in some regions due to security problems.

"The money allocated for these projects could not be implemented in some insecure areas and instead should be used for improvement of Afghan security forces," he said.

Nasima Niazi, a lawmaker from southern Helmand province, said no budget had been allocated for infrastructure projects in her province.

She said no jobs-creating project had been added in the budget for Helmand. She would not vote in favor of the budget.

A lawmaker from Badakhshan province, Abdul Rauf Inami, said the accounts showed the government's repeated commitment to fighting corruption had borne no results.

"Thirty percent of general budget is met from domestic sources, but we see no good changes in the next year's draft budget despite the government collects 10 percent telecom tax," he said.

"I think corruption has not decreased, but it has centralized and only a limited number of figures can get benefit of it," he added.

According to the Ministry of Finance, 167 billion afghanis or 47 percent of the whole budget would be met from domestic revenue and the rest would be provided by donors.

Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai, second deputy speaker who chaired today's meeting of the lower house, said problems existed in the next year's budget plan.

"It is the responsibility of lawmakers and relevant commissions to observe balance in the budget plan."

The lower house started debating the budget only 20 days before the start of the next fiscal year.

Under Article 98 of the Constitution, the general and development budgets are prepared in light with Meshrano Jirga's recommendations before being sent to the Wolesi Jirga for final approval. (Pajhwok)

### (4) No One from ...

Referring to reforms, the president said the unity government has implemented comprehensive reforms in security entities.

He added the government would invest further in the border police forces. "Our international partners will be supporting us to achieve our development goals."

"It was the sacrifice of our 13 police officers who stood in front of a biggest suicide attack and saved diplomatic missions and prevented catastrophe," he added.

The president said the Afghan Special Forces and commandos had not lost any battle and they were the pride of the nation.

"One of the major goals of the Afghan Border Force in future will be to provide security to major international projects," he informed.

"We are now in a defensive mode due to the efforts and leadership of ANDSF. In four years, Afghanistan will have an absolute national security and defense forces to bring order and security to the country."

Ghani said nine districts had been cleared of Daesh presence the Afghan forces and the outfit was on the run in Afghanistan.

"Some 300 operations were conducted against Daesh. Our forces have defeated them and many of them have been eliminated," he said.

Ghani added a handful of individuals in the country were propagating against government officials, which he rejected as baseless and enemy propaganda.

"My security leadership team has the full confidence of me and the confidence of the entire nation," he informed. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Afghan Ports' ...

Currently, Afghanistan has fifteen small and large ports.

Officials at the Ministry of Finance said with the transfer of responsibility for the ports to the ministry of Finance, there will be major reforms at these ports and government revenues are expected to increase as a result.

Officials added that the Aqina and Nimroz ports will be constructed during the coming year to meet the needs of domestic and foreign merchants. These ports are currently not adequate to meet the needs of the merchants. The capacities of the ports are to be increased.

"The process of transfer from the ministry commerce to the Ministry of Finance is ongoing and may take two months to complete. We have made assessments and found that in some places ports parts are not efficient. We need to increase their capabilities and provide them with the necessary equipment," said deputy head of customs in the Ministry of Finance, Najibullah Manalai.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) said businessmen are facing many challenges at Afghanistan ports. These include commodity reviews, the complexity of administrative processes and overheads. By transferring these ports to the Ministry of Finance, there is a serious need to solve the problems of businessmen.

"The lack of warehouses at ports is another serious problem. These should be equipped with modern equipment to keep our goods and property secured. Another very serious problem is that, in the unloading of materials, it, unfortunately, takes ten to fifteen days," said Siyam Psarlai, spokesman for ACCI.

The ports of Aqina, Hairatan, Aai Khanum, Sher Khan, Torghundi, Islam Qala, Abu Nasr Farahi, Nimroz, Spin Boldak, Ghulam Khan and Turkham are Afghan-istan ports.

According to the Ministry of Finance, Aqina and Nimroz ports will be constructed to world standards in order to meet the needs of domestic and foreign merchants.

(Tolonews)

### (6) Kandahar Governor ...

demands from the organizers.

His remarks come after sources told TOLONews that the governor and the NDS chief of the province had been sacked from their posts.

In response to a query about the Kandahar gathering, Weesa said "those who stand against government will be prevented".

Weesa said government in Kabul has not asked him to prevent the Kandahar meeting.

President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman, Shahussain Murtazawi, has rejected the reports in a post on social media.

This comes after the political meeting which was supposed to be held in Kandahar on Thursday was postponed for the second time on Friday as some participants of the meeting could not travel to the province due to some certain reasons.

Once the meeting postponed on Thursday and the organizers said it was because of the public holiday and delayed the meeting to Friday.

On Friday, the meeting was delayed as Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor's flight to Kandahar was canceled on Thursday evening.

Noor was accompanied by Batur Dostum, son of First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum, who leads the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan.

The plane was at Balkh airport for one and a half hours before the flight to Kandahar was cancelled.

Kandahar meeting will be hosted by Kandahar Police Chief General Abdul Raziq. So far, Rahmatullah Nabil, former head of the National Directorate of Security and Anwar-ul-Haq Ahadi, chairman of the New National Front of Afghanistan have arrived at Kandahar to attend the gathering. (Tolonews)

### (7) Noor Aide Spurns ...

lines refused to comment on the matter. An advisor to the Balkh governor rejected CAA claims and said Atta Mohammad Noor and other political leaders waited for one and a half hours at the airport for the flight departure.

The source termed the CAA statements a childish move and said the statements were released after political leaders in Kandahar warned the government of bad consequences over the flight delay.

He said no technical issue was existed at the Kandahar airport and after the Kam Air flight was not allowed to fly from Mazar-i-Sharif Airport, a foreign aircraft took off from Kandahar Airport the same time.

After the flight cancellation, Governor Atta Mohammad Noor said: "We wanted to attend the gathering of Loy Kandahar Consensus Council, unfortunately the government stopped our flight. This is an illegal, immoral, inhuman and non-patriotic move by the government which is not in the interest of Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, Kandahar Airport Commander Ahmadullah Faizi said there was no technical issue for flights to land or take off during night at the airport.

A reliable source in Balkh said besides attending the gathering in Kandahar, Noor wanted to have one-on-one meetings with Kandahar police chief Gen. Razeq, Wolesi Jirga members Hameedzai Lalai, Haji Zahir Qader, Humayon Humayon and others. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Afghan, Indian A...

was a good opportunity for them to express their talent and introduce Afghanistan's music to Indians.

"Such events are crucial for bringing the two countries closer. We can introduce our cultures to each other by these programs," said Mohammad Ehsan Irfan, head of Music Department of Ministry of Information and Culture.

"It was a week of art and we along with Indian artists had nice performances," Mohammad Musa Sabiri, a singer, said. (Tolonews)

### (9) China Reaffirms ...

appreciates China's efforts to promote the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, as well as its positive role in promoting the country's economic reconstruction, capacity-building and livelihood improvement and its assistance within multilateral frameworks, said Abdullah.

Afghanistan is ready to make joint efforts with China to take Afghanistan-China relations to a new height, he said.

The SCO has China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan as its full members. It

has four observer states, namely Iran, Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia, and six dialogue partners, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Nabil Accuse ...

warned the government that such steps would have a negative impact on the unity of the Afghan people.

However, the civil Aviation Authority said Friday that the flight was delay for two times, in the morning and at night, and was subsequently cancelled, mainly due to the issues in the flights schedule. (KP)

### (11) Kandahar Gathering...

pressures on government to hold the elections," Ahadi said. "The (independent) election commission is not independent, and we are seriously criticizing the National Unity Government over lack of measures to ensure electoral reforms," Ahadi added.

The Independent Election Commission has announced next year's July for the upcoming parliamentary and districts' councils elections.

At the same event, former head of the National Directorate of Security, Rahmatullah Nabil, claimed that groups inside government disrupt unity among different ethnic groups in the country.

"The most dangerous issue is that they (government) have divide the people in the name of religion, group, parties and language," Nabil said.

This comes after the political meeting which was supposed to be held in Kandahar on Thursday was postponed for the second time on Friday as some participants of the meeting could not travel to the province due to some certain reasons.

The meeting was held under the theme of "the real unity to discuss current challenges" in the country. (Tolonews)

### (12) 'Taliban, Daesh ...

The Russian primer announced his support from the Afghan peace and reconciliation process and said his country would continue to play role on different forum including the Moscow process and other mechanisms.

He stressed over strain action against narcotics and drugs in Afghanistan and added there was need for more development and talks in this regard.

The CEO thanked Russian Prime Minister for invitation to the multinational conference.

He said security issue was still alarming for Afghanistan and security forces have been fighting different groups currently. He added the Afghan National Unity Government took effective steps against Daesh and defeated them in certain areas. He asked the Russian Prime Minister to extend support in defeating terrorists.

Abdullah said the growing of poppy and its production in Afghanistan was a point of huge concern and bombardment and raids against the drug producers and smugglers had been recently launched. (Pajhwok)

### (13) 3 Market-Oriented...

Food Technology program would prepare students for employment in the Afghanistan food industry. It would provide a strong academic foundation in food science and technology principles along with relevant and practical skills.

The Associate Degree in Business Administration is a two-and-one-half year program designed to equip students with specialized technical and administrative skills to meet the needs of the Afghan job market.

"The launch of the new degree programs was an important step toward economic development and self-reliance in the country, and I thank USWDP, USAID, and the partnering universities for their support in establishing these degree programs," said Mohammad Asif Rahimi, Governor of Herat.

"By offering more degree choices, especially in business administration and food technology, Afghanistan students are given a great opportunity to contribute greatly to the nation's continued success," said USAID Mission Director Herbie Smith.

Over the past four years, USWDP has partnered with the Ministry of Higher Education, Herat University, and ten additional public universities in Afghanistan to design 32 new and support existing workforce-relevant degree programs. These new degree programs expand the capability of Afghan youth and prepare them for employment and leadership of organizations that contribute to the development of Afghanistan.

The partnership between international and Afghan universities is a vital component of USWDP's support to Afghanistan higher education development. Through these partnerships, academic as well as administrative improvements are expected that will enable university graduates to be more competitive in local and international job markets, which can contribute to a more developed national economy and society. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Chabahar Port ...

said a delegation from Afghanistan headed by commerce minister, Mohammad Hamayon Rasa would also participate the ceremony.

India has recently started shipping operations through Chabahar port and sent so far two wheat shipments to Afghanistan. With the launch of trade via Chabahar port, trade relations would improve not only between India and Afghanistan, but with Iran and other central Asian countries. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Iran, Pakistan...

inside Afghanistan sit together and find peace in their country.

"Other countries, instead of interfering in Afghan internal affairs, should support the indigenous dialogue process in the war-torn country," said the analyst. (IRNA)

### (16) Afghanistan Defeats...

them to 331 in their second innings and set Afghanistan 19 runs target.

Afghanistan's openers chased the target in the 6th over, winning the cup. Rashid Khan was declared the man of the match. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Firewood, Sugar ...

Sharif Ahmad, a gas dealer in Kolola Poshta area, said the rate of gas remained steady at 60afs a kilogram.

In food items, the price of only sugar has slightly increased.

Food Traders Union head Fazal Rahman said the price of 49-kg of Pakistani sugar increased from 1,850afs to 1,870afs.

But he said 50-kg Kazakhstani flour cost 1,200afs, 24-kg Pakistani rice 1,850 and 16-kg tin of Khurshid ghee 1,070afs, the same rates of last week's.

Meanwhile, Noor Ahmad Khairkhwah, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afs and the same amount of African black tea 300afs – same prices as last week's.

Ahmad Wali Panjsheri, who owns a grocery store in Dahn-i-Bagh area, sold a 49-kg bag of sugar for 2,000afs, a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,200afs, a 50-kg sack of Kazakhstani flour for 1,300, 24-kg rice for 2,100afs, a kilo of green tea for 300afs and the same quantity of black tea for 350afs.

The price of gold also remain unchanged. Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweler in Timor Shahi area, said one gram of Arabian gold cost 2,350afs and the same quantity of Russian variety 1,900afs.

According to moneychangers' union in Sara-i-Shazada, one US dollar accounted for 68.85afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 636afs against last week's rates of 68.70afs and 637afs respectively. (Pajhwok)

### (18) ALP Man Who ...

and shot dead the murderer on hospital bed.

Nizamuddin, a resident of Khwaja Bahauddin district, said both the women were first injured but they died in hospital.

The uncle of the slain woman was permitted by hospital officials to enter the health facility with his weapon, he said.

But provincial police spokesman said the uncle had also been detained and was under investigation. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Tribal Elder ...

The resident of locality and an eyewitness told Pajhwok Afghan News they heard gun shots after the evening prayer.

He said the tribal elder and another villager were killed in the attack. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Taliban Attempts ...

the attacks on Taliban financial engine will continue as heavy losses have been inflicted on the group and its associated in recent raids.

"In just over three days' worth of operations, the Afghan 215th Corps, their special forces commandos, their air force, in close cooperation with U.S. forces, removed between \$7 million and \$10 million of revenue from the Taliban's pocketbook," Gen. Nicholson said.

He also added "And the overall cost to the drug trafficking organizations approached \$48 million. So these strikes were just the first step in attacking the Taliban's financial engine, and they will continue." (KP)