

### (1) Ulema Role...

solidarity, cooperation, sacrifice, forgiveness and other good things and morals," he said. However, he said the Islamic world was celebrating Milad-un-Nabi at a time when the Muslims were suffering from great challenges.

Prominent Afghanistan Ulema, the Haramain Al Sharifain, Egypt, Malaysia, Indonesia and other Islamic countries were united in their stances against rebellions, anarchy and Takfiris.

"The acts of insurgents only lead to the killing of Muslims and destruction of Islamic counties," he said.

In other part of his speech, the president while talking about women, said that Hazrat BiBi Khudaija, the wife of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), had played a basic role in supporting his husband to convey the message of God to people.

The developments and changes made by Afghan Muslim women today could not be denied, he said.

He said the Afghan women needed further support and those preventing them from making progress were against the development of Islamic civilization and their country.

Ghani also urged ulema role in different areas particularly in education. The increased number of mosques, madaris and ulema in urban and rural areas of Afghanistan, he said, "This process would continue, those who say Islam is at risk should know that Islam is not at risk, but their rebellion and crimes against Muslims are at risk."

Second vice-president Mohammad Sarwar Danish, who attended the ceremony, congratulated the meeting on celebrating Milad-un-Nabi and provided information about moral and specific characteristics of Prophet Mohammad (SAW) to the meeting. He presented information about Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) from the point of view of non-Muslim scholars and said Afghanistan Muslims including Sunni and Shia and other groups of the community were brothers and they respected the rights of each other.

He said all the Afghans were united against terrorism, particularly against the Taliban, Al Qaeda and Daesh.

President Ghani at the end of the ceremony conferred Malalai Medal on Malak Mahera, principal of Gheyasia High Sciences Center in western Herat province for her services in enlightening the minds of girls with Islamic education. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Ghani Due in ...

statement of heads of government, inter-governmental and interdepartmental documents aimed at further enhancing bilateral cooperation in political, trade, economic, investment, transport and communication, scientific and education and other fields and commercial contracts are expected to be signed during Ghani's visit.

The Afghan president is also expected to visit Bukhara, where he will meet and address students of the Bukhara State University. (Pajhwok)

### (3) US Hopes Pakistan to ...

"So, until they are convinced that they are not going to have sanctuary in Pakistan, we don't believe they'll be ready for talks.

They will continue to believe that they can advance on the battlefield rather than on the negotiating table," the official said.

"So, we need to see Pakistan ensure that they don't have a sanctuary within Pakistan. And only at that time we assess that they'll really be ready for genuine negotiations with the Afghan Government," the official said. The official, however, refused to give a time line for actions on Pakistan.

"I going to give a specific date. I do not think that would be helpful. But I just want to assure you that we are thinking in terms of timelines and we are monitoring the progress and we do expect meaningful actions in a certain timeframe and we are prepared to implement new policies and take different steps if we don't see some progress," the White House official said.

As part of the new South Asia Strategy, the Trump Administration has been very specific with Pakistan on the steps that it needs to take. "We have laid out very specific steps that they need to take to degrade these groups activities and to facilitate a genuine dialogue. But, I don't think we have seen any significant steps in that direction," the official said. "So, we're still waiting and watching and monitoring (Pakistan) very closely. And we're still hopeful that we will see Pakistan take some of those steps to crack down on the Taliban, Haqqani network, and ensure that there are no safe havens, for these groups to continue operating inside Pakistan," the official said.

The United States would be looking for very specific action from Pakistan within coming weeks and months. "We would hope to see some changes in their behavior," the official said.

Responding to a series of questions on the 100 days of South Asia Strategy, the official said that it has made some progress but this needs to be given some time to take root.

"The ultimate goal is a negotiated peace settlement. So we continue to try to encourage peace process between the Afghan government and Taliban. We're not going to negotiate a separate peace with the Taliban. We want to see the Afghan government and the Taliban in negotiations," the official said adding that the US of course will be supportive of those negotiations. But it must be Afghan-owned, Afghan-initiated, the official insisted.

The United States, the official said is ready to facilitate a better relationship between Kabul and Islamabad. "We saw the October 1st meeting between General Bajwa and President Ghani in Kabul as positive step in the right direction. We need to see that momentum continue. We stand ready to take steps that could lead to better border cooperation, better trade and transit cooperation, reducing the violence with the refugee situation," the official said.

As part of the comprehensive strategy announced by Trump on August 21, the Administration has focused on reinvigorating regional diplomacy.

It has held the Quadrilateral Coordination Group meeting at the Assistant Secretary level and is looking forward to participating in the Afghan-owned and Afghan-initiated Kabul peace conference which will take place in January. Another major part of the strategy is the compact for reform which announced on August 22, the day after Trump announced the South Asia strategy.

This is aimed at upholding the Afghan government to account on reform in the security sector, governance reform, economic reform and growth and then also seeing progress on peace and reconciliation. That means ensuring that the government is organized in such a way that it could support a comprehensive peace process if it were to be launched, the official said. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Uplift Projects ...

The survey will be conducted by 320 employees who will interview approximately 30,000 members of the development council and 300,000 common people, including women. They survey will take five months to complete and will cost \$1million.

Ghazarzoai added that with the completion of this survey it will be known which projects were implemented and what type of uplift projects are needed the most by the people.

"The projects will be identified through Geographical Identification System (GIS) which will help in keep the record of previous uplift projects and will be available in the system for the future," he added. Ghazarzoai further said that "The result(s) of this survey will enable us to know how many imaginary uplift projects existed during the period and how many development projects had been conducted in line with the demands of people and what were its social and economical impact." The results of the survey will be handed over to the president and would also be available to the policymakers for use in future policy formations. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Afghan Casualties ...

direct fighting, 50 in airstrikes, three in bomb blasts, two in suicide explosions and one in targeted attacks.

Nangarhar witnessed 27 attacks – the most – in November followed by Ghazni province where 16 attacks happened. There were 13 attacks in Faryab, 12 in Farah and the remaining in 23 provinces of the country.

Like October, in November too Nuristan and Daikundi provinces evaded violence. There was no report about casualties from Badghis, Bamyan and Takhar provinces in October and no report of casualties from Baghlan, Ghor, Panjsher and Samangan provinces in November.

Last month, more attacks took place in Nangarhar compared to other provinces.

Military affairs expert Gen. Abdul Wahid Taqat said Nangarhar was located on the border with Pakistan and therefore more attacks happened there. In addition, Nangarhar's geographical location suited militancy and militants were more comfortable there, he added. He said Taliban and Daesh militants were more active in Nangarhar than other provinces and government forces also targeted the rebels in operations, thus the province witnessed more violence.

Casualties:

According to reports, 836 people have

been killed and 640 injured in 147 attacks last month. The dead and injured included armed militants, security forces and civilians. However, Pajhwok could not publish exact casualty figures as different sources provided different accounts.

Nearly half of the total casualties in November happened in Kandahar, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Farah and Uruzgan provinces and the remaining half took place in other 22 provinces.

The deadliest day was November 14 when 183 people were killed and injured in Kandahar's Maiwand district.

According to Kandahar police, 67 people were killed and 50 others injured on both sides when militants stormed Afghan security forces check-points.

After Kandahar, 173 people suffered casualties in Nangarhar, where most of the attacks occurred in November.

In October, most of the casualties occurred in Paktia and Nangarhar provinces where 297 and 268 people suffered casualties respectively.

According to Pajhwok tally, November casualties decreased by 12 percent compared to the same month of last year.

Pajhwok's monthly reports about casualties in Afghanistan show more than 23,000 people suffered casualties this year. Of them 13,550 individuals were killed and the rest wounded.

Military affairs expert retired Gen. Abdul Wahid Taqat said casualties in clashes depended on the war's nature; as if attacks were frontal or coordinated, then casualties would also be high.

According to him, the Pakistani and other foreign intelligence active in Afghanistan were behind "the reduction and increase in attacks."

Taqat alleged attacks usually decreased in winter when anti-government insurgents returned to their safe havens across the border for further military training and supplies.

Last year too, casualties dropped in winter compared to summer months. In winter last year, about 1,500 individuals suffered casualties averagely on a monthly basis. But in summer that year nearly 2,500 people suffered casualties per month.

Defence Ministry spokesman Maj.Gen. Dawlat Wazeri said 60 percent declined had been noticed in the movements of militant groups recently. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Beijing to Host...

with Afghanistan and that expansion of trade relations between the two nations will benefit Afghanistan and the region.

"By expanding trade and transit relationships with China, we also will become part of the big projects being implemented by China in the region," ACCI spokesman Seyam Pesarlay said.

China recently established a bank for infrastructure projects and strives to support of the world's countries in its development projects. (Tolonews)

### (7) Govt. Criticized ...

said Taliban and Daesh were being supported by regional intelligence and that by differentiating between these two groups and the enemies of Afghan people is a mistake.

He added that over 16 000 insurgents have been killed or wounded in the last few months. (Tolonews)

### (8) Online Distribution ...

Department, said they launched work on the online system in September.

He said in the first phase they simplified the system and then created an internet page through which applicants could apply for online work permits. (Pajhwok)

### (9) England-Based...

customers, they have written famous Afghan slogans like "the seeker is the finder".

"We continue our efforts to produce chickens and other foods, including jams, to introduce our products under the name of Afghanistan to the world markets," she added. Meanwhile, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) officials said they welcome such a move by an Afghan woman.

"The arrival of our foreign friends and Afghans who live abroad, and their investment is in our favor. They will mostly invest in agriculture, precious stones, and jewelry as well as handicraft, including carpets," said Manizha Wafiq, chairperson of women's chamber of commerce and industries.

Previously some foreign investors have shown willingness to invest in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (10) President Rouhani ...

India's state television, Doordarshan on Saturday said that the port with a billion dollars

investment would be opened by the Iranian president, Hassan Rouhani tomorrow, December 3. The source said that an Indian delegation led by the country's shipping minister would attend the inauguration ceremony of the port.

According to Indian authorities, the port would have the capacity of transportation of 8.3 million tons. The Ministry of Commerce of Afghanistan 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)

### (11) US Pushes Pakistan ...

and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Bajwa for the discussion on regional security, peace, Afghan conflict and other bilateral issues.

He is scheduled to meet with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and Defense Minister Gen Sedki Sobhi today (Saturday).

Mattis will then go to Jordan on Sunday, where King Abdullah II will host a conference on combating extremism in West Africa.

Attendees of the meeting in Jordan will include representatives from many countries in Africa and Europe.

His final stop will be in Kuwait Tuesday, where he will meet with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Mattis is well known in the region due to his time as commander of U.S. Central Command, which focuses on the Middle East.

Mattis had traveled throughout much of the region then and met with regional and local leaders. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Senators Slam ...

the constitution and some circles within the government also had links with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI.

Lawmaker Baz Mohammad Zurmati said some former government officials who have lost their status participated in the Kandahar gathering and uttered irrelevant words, which were against the interests of the people of Afghanistan.

Zurmati also said that if the government becomes weak, it leads to increase in insecurity, and if the government is disintegrated then everyone would suffer from the imminent loss.

Jumma Din Gyanwal, another lawmaker, said massive preparations were made for the Kandahar gathering but no more than 300 supporters were present.

He claimed that some participants of the gathering resorted to spreading rumours in order to threaten the government. In one case, participants claimed that the government is awarding contracts to Lebanese companies, but they failed to present any evidence. He added that they are trying to create confusion in the minds of the people, which is immoral.

Another lawmaker, Lailuma Ahmadi, appealed to the political leadership of the country to be cooperative towards the national government and not become a source of tension for the public.

She added that leveling accusations against the president for the sake of personal interests is not a right option, and is against national interests. Balkh Governor Atta Mohammad Noor and First Vice President General Dostum's son were also supposed to travel to Kandahar, but their flight was canceled due to some technical issues.

But Noor blamed the government for preventing their travel, and 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." (Pajhwok)

### (13) Kunduz Governance ...

of the provincial council, said work affairs at more than 10 departments controlled by acting heads had deteriorated.

"This policy no longer works and has not good consequences, the government must take serious steps and end the culture of acting-heads," he said. Amiruddin Wali, another public representative, said the issue had rendered the youth jobless and compelled to swell militant ranks.

Shafiqullah, a resident, said most of the acting-heads in Kunduz were not eligible for the posts they held. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Kabul Offers...

property; participation in exhibitions; commercial events and other similar issues, the

ACCI statement said. Visa-on-arrival at Hamid Karzai Airport Foreign business people and investors will be issued visa upon arrival at Hamid Karzai International Airport through representatives of Border Police of Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan and after the evaluation of the required documents in collaboration with MoFA representative at the airport. (Pajhwok)

### (15) President Apologizes...

accusations that some government officials had links with Daesh.

"Those who claim that a high or middle ranking government official has links with Daesh they should prove their claim in the court, if not, they should wear a shawl," the president had said. The presidential statement said the women were the "real constructors" of the society and their role in the formation of a society free of violence and inspired from religious cultural guidance. (Pajhwok)

### (16) US Forces to ...

"For as long as the present situation in the country does not change and the enemy continues its intervention against the Afghans and our national sovereignty, the NATO forces will stay alongside us," said Barnak. "Security threats have been identified for the next five years. The five-year national security plans are in place," said the nominee for the ministry of defense, Tariq Shah Bahrami. Nominated ministers for the ministries of defense, interior, work and social affairs, mines and petroleum and transport on Saturday delivered their plans to the Wolesi Jirga (the Lower House of Parliament.)

MPs criticized the ministerial nominees, saying that the candidate ministers always pledged to work hard for the people. However past experience shows that they have failed to deliver on their promises after taking charge. "Past experience shows that some of the honorable ministers come here and change the slogan, but they never bother to address the plight of people and the country once they go from here. As we sit today the country is grappling with a crisis," said MP Zahra Tokhi. (Tolonews)

### (17) Ghani Dissolves ...

Committee.

"All our brothers who were busy in parallel institutions can come here to register their complaints if they have any, and also share their opinions. I am happy that the National Olympic Committee and the Directorate of the Physical Education have one shared goal. We can now work jointly for the youth," the chairman of Afghanistan National Olympic Committee Mohammad Zahir Aghbar said. (Tolonews)

### (18) Heratis Accuse ...

concern about charging extra money on the public and stressed its prevention.

Ahmad Shafiq Bahrozian, an expert in Herat said, "Charging extra money under stationary and bank commission cause people to lose trust in the government." (Pajhwok)

### (19) Farah Airstrike ...

A resident of the area, who declined to be named, said to Pajhwok one civilian identified as Malik was killed and another one slightly wounded as a result of helicopter's bombardment in the area on Sunday.

Taliban rejected casualties inflicted to rebels. Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, the group spokesman, claimed one civilian had been killed and two others wounded during the raid. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Eastern Provinces ...

reforms rather than calling the Loya Jirga into session. A tribal elder and a participant of the gathering, Haji Hayat Khan, during his speech explained the aim of the gathering was to show the nation's support for the contemporary government machinery. They stressed that instead of opposition, the system needs to be supported in the current crisis. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Commander of ...

Helmand province three years ago and was directly involved in Taliban offensives, the statement said. The "Red Unit" is thought to be equipped with advanced weapons, including night vision scopes, 82mm rockets, heavy machine guns and U.S.-made assault rifles, according to the Afghan military. (Reuters)

### (22) Timurid Empire ...

Afghanistan Studies and reproduced the historic paintings you see before you. And rediscovered an important chapter in Afghanistan's rich artistic heritage," said US embassy's public affairs counselor Christopher Fitzgerald. Some of the pictures belong to the well-known painter, Kamal ud-Din Behzad, also known as Kamal al-din Bihzad artworks. (Tolonews)