

**(1) Ghani Seals...**

extremism. We shouldn't allow a minority group to defame Islam and the Muslim world."

Ghani said this past year has been a particularly tough one for Afghanistan's as enemies unsuccessfully tried to take control of a number of provinces. He said the Afghan people had paid a high price this year for their freedom. But he went on to say that Afghanistan's improved relations with the international community has been critical for the country.

According to him, one such example was the U.S.'s decision to keep troops on in the country. He said that now, 40 nations have pledged to continue supporting NATO's Resolute Support mission.

Ghani said the U.S.'s views over Afghanistan changed after his March meeting with President Barack Obama.

He further added that 2015 had also been a particularly tough year economically for Afghanistan - specifically due to reduced military spending by foreign troops and contractors.

But he said 112 billion Afghanis had so far been collected by the national treasury after government made commitments to the World Bank.

On the subject of economy, Ghani said a major conference is scheduled to take place in Brussels in October next year on Afghanistan's economic development.

However, the focus during his trip to Germany had been on security, he said. "German officials renewed their commitment to keep troops and will continue to help Afghan police," he said.

Ghani also said that Germany has pledged to donate 330 million Euros to Afghanistan until 2020. In addition, he said he had asked the German government to help with the rebuilding of the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) hospital in Kunduz following the deadly airstrike in October.

He said that both Sweden and Germany had pledged to help Afghanistan with its housing projects and that "Afghanistan has great export potential. We raised the topic with German officials so that Afghanistan is changed into export market."

Meanwhile, reporting back on his Italian leg of the trip, Ghani said Italy will keep 500 troops at Herat airport and that they had pledged 29 million Euros to reconstruct Herat airport.

He said they will also help with the construction of the Herat-Chisht Road. Another issue raised with Italian officials was that of wind energy, he said.

Swedish officials meanwhile have sealed a ten-year commitment to Afghanistan and pledged one billion euro over this period, he said.

On the subject of migration, he said: "Migration is a painful process". He also defended his recent "dishwasher" comment made during an interview with a German TV channel. He said it wasn't meant to be an insult.

"Our citizens must realize the consequences of illegal migrations. I announced in Europe that rights of Afghan refugees can't be violated."

"EU countries have their own particular migrant laws, they don't care about their [migrants] educational background. They implement their laws," he said.

He went on to say that most educated Afghan refugees are working in non-professional jobs.

However, the Paris attacks have changed the EU migration process, he said. "We must step up efforts and create opportunities to prevent the trend." (Tolonews)

**(2) NUG not ...**

stalling and seeks for marginalization," said Yousuf Rashid, CEO of FEFA.

But the presidency said that the representatives that introduced by civil society have not been accepted by all. "A number of institutions have complained that they do not accept representatives from media. We did not want this process to be controversial," said Meya Gul Waseq, representative of Presidential administration. This comes as the committee is scheduled to select

new members for electoral commissions. (ATN)

**(3) Ghani to ...**

CEO Abdullah Abdullah said earlier in the day that Ghani will attend the conference.

Speaking at his weekly Council of Ministers meeting, Abdullah said government hopes the summit will yield results.

Pakistan media also reported early Monday that an Afghan security team arrived in Islamabad on Sunday to prepare the ground for a possible visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Pakistan.

Media reports quoting official sources stated an 11-member Afghan team, including deputy chief of presidential protocol Bilal Ahmadzai, discussed arrangements for Ghani's visit with Pakistani officials at the foreign ministry.

The US Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Richard Olson, met President Ghani in Kabul on Sunday and later said the Islamabad conference would provide an opportunity to Afghanistan and Pakistan to ease tensions and work together to combat terrorism.

"We think this is an excellent opportunity for Afghanistan to play a lead role in developing regional cooperation, particularly in the field of counterterrorism," Olson said in Kabul during his first visit as the US special envoy.

"Stability in this region is crucial and the upcoming Heart of Asia ministerial (conference) is an example of efforts to deepen regional integration to lead to greater peace, security and economic growth in the area," he said. (Tolonews)

**(4) ADB Grants ...**

missing links for an expanded Turkmenistan-Afghanistan power interconnection, allowing the country to increase electricity imports for year-round supplies.

This will include constructing over 300 km of a 500 kilovolt transmission line connecting Shiberghan to Dasht-i-Alwan, and over 60 km of a 220kV line from Andkhoy to Shiberghan.

ADB will also provide support for developing a business plan and tariff framework for the state power utility, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat.

Subsequent tranche assistance will focus on further transmission network upgrades, as well as support for domestic renewable energy projects and measures to boost both domestic gas production and imports via the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline.

Senior Energy Specialist in ADB's Central and West Asia Department Asad Aleem said:

"Insufficient energy supplies and a demand-supply imbalance constrain growth and income opportunities and create economic disparities that can fuel ethnic and regional tensions.

"This assistance will support the government's national energy supply programme of more than \$10 billion, which aims to expand power supply to boost economic growth and cut poverty," he added.

Afghanistan has seen energy demand grow by almost twice its economic growth rate from 2005 to 2012, and it taps around 80% of its total supplies from neighboring countries.

The reliance on energy imports, small size of the domestic market, limitations in transmission and distribution networks, and governance and financing weaknesses leave energy security highly vulnerable.

The national grid is also not synchronized with the systems of the four countries (Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) which Afghanistan imports power from, resulting in higher costs and reduced reliability of supply. ADB is Afghanistan's largest development partner in the energy sector with cumulative grant assistance of nearly \$2.2 billion, all of which is on budget with the government.

The programme is supporting targets of the government's energy supply programme, which include increasing the country's electrification rate from 30% to 83%, and lifting the share of domestic generation from 20% to 67% by 2030. (Pajhwok)

**(5) MPs Urge...**

lawmakers said the summit was a perfect opportunity to gain international attention and identify those funding terrorism.

"Sources that are funding terrorism must be identified at the Heart of Asia conference that the president is set to attend," MP Zahri Qadir said.

"The president needs to convey the stance of the people from a solid position and give clarity," MP Abdul Sattar Darzabi said.

Their comments came just hours after Ghani addressed a news conference in Kabul where he said he will stand his ground at the Afghanistan-focused summit.

"The Heart of Asia conference belongs to us, we will convey our message clearly and we will share the outcomes with the people," he said.

Prior to this, Afghanistan's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah also expressed his hopes that the summit will help regional countries to jointly combat terrorism, but in a honest manner.

"The president and his delegation will represent Afghanistan at the Heart of Asia conference. We hope that the summit concludes in favor of Afghanistan, regional stability and that it promotes honest cooperation in fighting terrorism," Abdullah said.

The Heart of Asia conference is scheduled to take place in Islamabad on Wednesday and 13 regional countries will participate along with high-level delegations from around the world.

The conference aims to promote coordination among the regional countries to fight terrorism with the support of the international community.

Ghani travels to Pakistan amid strained relations between the two neighboring countries. The tension was brought on by a string of attacks against major Afghan cities in the past few months - attacks Afghanistan says were planned on neighboring soil. (Tolonews)

**(6) Indian Provides...**

Scheme is implemented by Afghan Ministry of Higher Education and Embassy of India in Kabul. All desirous candidates are requested to approach Scholarship Division, Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) for seeking further information on procedure to apply for the scholarship for the academic year 2016 and pursue their goals in quest of knowledge in India. (PR)

**(7) World ...**

women and men to the edge of survival. They desperately need our help," said Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

According to OCHA, currently more than 125 million people in the world need humanitarian assistance, five times the amount of a decade ago.

According to the newly issued report, conflicts in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and Yemen will remain among the greatest drivers of prolonged humanitarian needs in 2016, fueling new displacement within countries and across borders.

Worldwide, the number of people forced to flee their homes has already reached 60 million, a level previously unknown in the post-World War II era.

"Mass movement of people, be it refugees or people fleeing within their own countries, has become the new defining reality of the 21st century," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres. (Xinhua)

**(8) No Evidence ...**

released an audio tape over the weekend that was purportedly made by Mullah Mansour.

Meanwhile CEO Abdullah Abdullah said on Monday that there is a bigger likelihood of him having been injured than killed.

"We heard the rumors about Mullah Mansour, one of the Taliban leaders, but there is a bigger chance that he was injured and not killed but this shows that there is conflict within the Taliban," he said.

The presence of Taliban leaders in Pakistan is an issue that the

CEO considers to be part of external efforts working against the people of Afghanistan.

"In the location where the incident (reported Taliban clash) took place is out of Afghanistan and is in Quetta in Pakistan and this is another aspect of actions against the people of Afghanistan. And we hope those who really think about Islam, people and their country learn from these incidents," Abdullah said.

Following reports of Mullah Mansour's rumored fate, the Taliban released an audio tape claiming he was alive. The person introduced himself as Mullah Akhtar Mansour in the tape and said that reports about his injury and death in Quetta was propaganda on the part of the Taliban's "enemy".

But one MP, Qazi Nazir Ahmad Hanafi said this once again proves that Pakistan plays a role in Taliban's formation and structure in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

**(10) Japan Key...**

infrastructures and institutionalizing good governance. Assuring Japan's continued support; the official said that Japan would provide up to 500 scholarships to Afghanistan. The Japanese dignitary also called upon Zia Masoud to prepare a draft and proposals to ensuring coordination and allow Japan government to extend its cooperation in accordance with the needs of Afghan government. Massoud in the meeting sought Japan to help Afghanistan in fighting corruption and providing better services to the citizens. (BNA)

**(11) 965,000 ...**

beefing up amid mounting criticism of a backlog of paperwork, decided on 35,422 applications last month.

De Maiziere said that the pace of new arrivals has slowed over the past week or two, with some 2,000-3,000 now arriving daily rather than 8,000-10,000 as was often the case in recent months.

"This isn't yet a turnaround, but it is a good development," with poor weather in the Mediterranean Sea and efforts by Turkey to stop people making the crossing to Greece apparently contributing, he said. (AP)

**(12) ISIL Captures ...**

and daily battle; with up to 500 personnel deaths per month. Tens of thousands of villagers have fled their communities in a bid to escape the advancing threat.

A spokesperson for the Pentagon said that the US government is aware of the group's growing presence in Afghanistan, telling The Times: "We are aware of the presence of ISIL-affiliated militants in Afghanistan, and we are monitoring closely to see whether their emergence will have a meaningful impact on the threat environment in the region." (Asia-Plus)

**(13) Journalist Lost ...**

was survived by him after he pulled her on the boat.

Rahmani also added that they remained in the water for a period of at least 4 hours and did their best to come out of the water. "My 4-month-old son's lips were shivering due to cold weather as I was trying to keep him over me above the water and I tried several times to strangle him to death but I couldn't."

He said a boat arrived around 10:00 or 11:00 pm in the night and took them out of the river where they received medical care.

There has been a steep rise in the number of Afghan asylum seekers heading towards Europe during the recent months amid deteriorating security and economic situation in Afghanistan.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), at least 146,000 Afghans have left the country during the current year.

Germany launched a campaign in Afghanistan last month with the growing number of Afghans heading towards Europe by risking their lives.

Several posters appeared in the populated parts of the city today, delivering Germany's message in both Dari and Pashto

languages. "You are leaving Afghanistan: Are you certain?" reads the message posted on one of the billboards.

A short statement posted on the Facebook page of the campaign, reads "Do not believe the rumours and false information deliberately spread by human traffickers about the allegedly easy trip and the easy life in Germany. Do not risk your lives by trying to flee to Europe. Human traffickers are criminals who are only interested in money. They don't tell the truth and don't care about human lives." (KP)

**(14) Biden Makes...**

the province. More than 100 militants have been killed and some 50 others injured during the month-long operation, which is still going on.

According to the official, there were no casualties on the side of security personnel.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in contact with media claimed that the Taliban had launched counter-offensive to regain the areas captured by government forces. (Xinhua)

**(15) UAE Sets...**

added that an agreement was reached to include the Father Name of the passport holder by handwriting and must be done by Central Passport Department in order to resolve the issue.

According to Mostaghni, the Central Passport Department will also include the Father Name of the passport holder by issuing new passports from next week.

Earlier it was reported that the visa restriction by UAE on Afghan citizens was imposed after discovering the citizens of other countries had obtained the Afghan electronic passports.

However, sources in UAE immigration have said they have also come across with cases where deported Afghan citizens had obtained new passports with different identification details. (KP)

**(16) US Soldiers ...**

transplant rejection will increase the odds of cancer are said to be among the risks of the surgery.

According to the doctors, only the penis will be transplanted, not the testes, where sperm are produced, which mean that the recipient will have his own genetic child and not the offspring of the donor if he becomes a father.

However, the case will be vice versa with the recipients who will receive both the penis and testicle. (KP)

**(17) Daesh Afg...**

the country is not significant from a military point of view.

"There have been certain incidents such as executions that tend to grab a lot of media attention but from a military point of view their significance is not such a threat as the Taliban or even al-Qaeda," he said. (IRNA)

(18) Fire in among the public has been a major factor hindering insurance growth. Furthermore, the mindset of many Afghans about insurance companies is that the companies have not paid any claims.

In addition to the national insurance company, three private insurance companies are currently operating in Afghanistan, providing various insurance coverage such as aviation, bankers blanket bond, third party liability, cargo, construction, fire, terrorism, health and motor. (Wadsam)

**(19) NATO will...**

shot down a Russian military jet last month. The alliance will adopt a package of measures for Turkey before Christmas, he added.

He emphasized the need to calm the standoff with Russia after the plane was shot down.

"Now it is important to de-escalate and to develop mechanisms to prevent similar incidents in the future. We see a significant build-up of the Russian military presence from the far north to the Mediterranean. There, too, we need to avoid similar inci-

dents such as in Turkey," he said. (Reuters)

**(20) Syria Condemns...**

four personnel carriers and machine guns.

The statement said the attack occurred at a time when the Syrian army is fighting terror groups across the country.

Such terrorism, the ministry notes, threatens regional and international peace and stability.

The ministry called on the international community to condemn the attack and make sure it never happens again, adding that the incident runs counter to the United Nations Charter.

The incident marked the first time that the U.S.-led coalition targets Syrian army positions since it started airstrikes inside Syria over a year ago. (Xinhua)

**(21) Yemeni Parties ...**

to rebuild confidence, trust, and mutual respect is through peaceful and inclusive dialogue.

Both the government of Yemen and the Houthis and other relevant parties have committed to participate in the talks that will be chaired by the special envoy and attended by eight negotiators and four advisors for each delegation. (Xinhua)

**(22) Japan to ...**

Unit to be launched on Tuesday under his office will help enhance the nation's security.

"With the Ise-Shima summit next May in sight, we will take every possible measure to ensure security at ports, airports and other key facilities in Japan in close cooperation with the international community," Abe said.

The G-7 summit will be held in Mie Prefecture, with local officials concerned that efforts to guard against terrorism as well as domestic threats are ramped up. (Xinhua)

**(23) Cambodian FM ...**

exile to avoid a two-year-prison sentence over defamation and instigation for discrimination.

In regard to the assault on two CNRP lawmakers on Oct. 26 while they left the parliament, HorNamhong said that the Cambodian government strongly condemned the act of violence and three perpetrators were arrested and sent to the court for prosecution.

Meanwhile, William Heidt suggested that the Cambodian government take measures to ensure the security and safety for the members of parliament.

In response, HorNamhong, who is also a deputy prime minister, said the government would not let such an act of violence happen again. (Xinhua)

**(24) UNICEF Warns ...**

UNICEF, ongoing conflict has displaced more than three million children inside Syria. In neighboring Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt more than 2, 2 million children are now living as refugees.

This year, UNICEF is providing a package of assistance for 2.6 million Syrian children inside Syria and across the region. The focus will be on children who have been hit the hardest, including the internally displaced and those living in hard-to-reach areas or in informal tented settlements.

Earlier Monday, UNICEF launched its annual appeal for funds to support its programs overall inside Syria and neighboring countries, seeking 1.1 billion U.S. dollars for 2016. (Xinhua)

**(25) China to ...**

Afghanistan, Belarus, India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan will take part in the meeting as observers. Attendees also include representatives from international organizations, including the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet government leaders of SCO member states on the sidelines of the meeting. (Xinhua)