

(1) Sharif, Ghani...

"Afghanistan is the heart of Asia and if there is trouble in the heart, the entire region will be turbulent."

He said peace was vital for development and extended full support for the elected government of Afghanistan, saying it was the "only representative of the Afghan people". Sharif also called for collective approach to combat the menace of extremism and terrorism.

"Working for the achievement of a peaceful neighbourhood is a cardinal principal of Pakistan's foreign policy. We firmly believe that peace is vital for development, and development is vital for durable peace" he said.

The Pakistan Prime Minister welcomed the delegates and promised full support to all efforts for increasing peace in the region with the emphasis on stabilising Afghanistan.

Ghani spoke at length about prospects and challenges Afghanistan faced. He said Afghanistan has come a long way in building close ties with his all its neighbours.

He highlighted that security was a threat but promised that "2016 will be better".

Ghani told the conference "enemies" had unsuccessfully tried to divide Afghanistan but they had been failed. He blamed "regional and international terror groups" for the violence in his country.

"In the past, there has been the temptation to use non-state actors as instruments of foreign policy," he added, in a clear reference to Afghan assertions that Pakistan supports the Taliban to maintain influence in Afghanistan.

Pakistan denies that.

"I have had to become a war president, because an all-out war has been imposed on us," Ghani said.

"Unfortunately, recent events in Pakistan have forced us to host 350,000 to 500,000 refugees from Pakistan ... the refugee issue is a common issue, like all issues," Ghani said.

The theme of the conference, Sharif said, "reflects our desire for promoting regional development, increasing economic linkages, improving quality of life for our peoples and meeting security challenges."

In his address, Sharif said, "the democratically elected government in Afghanistan is the legitimate authority in the country."

"The enemies of Afghanistan are the enemies of Pakistan and the (Pakistan) government will continue to support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process that remains the most viable option to promote stability and end violence," he said.

"For us, Afghanistan is more than a neighbour. Our cordial ties are rooted in shared history, common religion, cultural and linguistic affinities and people to people relations since time immemorial. Due to these close bonds, Pakistan has always stood by Afghanistan," he said. (Monitoring Desk)

Reaching the consensus that terrorism has posed a threat to regional and international peace and security, they pledged to take an active role in international cooperation on combating terrorism in accordance with international laws so as to meet the security challenge together. (Xinhua)

Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken led the US delegation at the meeting, the Daily Pakistan Urdu newspaper reported. The trilateral meeting was being held in the aftermath of a brief dialogue between the leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan in which they took up several issues of mutual interest, including the resumption of talks with the Afghan Taliban.

Ghani had, however, maintained that Kabul will not compromise its sovereignty and independence at any cost. (Monitoring Desk)

But the head of Helmand provincial council told TOLONews that they have warned both the ministries of defense and interior on a number of occasions about the possible collapse of the district to insurgents. (Tolo News)

Ghani and India will be represented by Vice President Hamid Ansari. "A Strong Bond of Friendship. EAM Sushma Swaraj calls on President Ashraf Ghani for a bilateral on sidelines of HoA," Indian External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Vikas Swarup tweeted along with a picture of the two leaders.

"They reviewed bilateral ties including transit. Discussed terror threat in Afghanistan and status of peace and reconciliation process," he said. (PTI)

Conferences on Afghanistan and the

latest regional security and economic developments. The US and Afghanistan welcomed the decision taken by the European Union to host the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan on October 4-5, 2016. The three sides agreed to work together to support preparations for the Brussels Conference, and ensure that the efforts of the Afghan government and the donor community are closely aligned in the spirit of mutual accountability. They agreed that the Brussels and Warsaw conferences were important opportunities to support the Afghan government as it advances its reform and governance agenda. Progress on these Afghan reform commitments is crucial to enabling the donor community to extend extraordinary commitments of security and development assistance to Afghanistan at the Warsaw and Brussels conferences, respectively. (PR)

He attributed it to the fact that apart from the Taliban, Afghan authorities are now also grappling with militants from Daesh (ISIS/ISIL). "The Afghan game" continues amid the emergence of Daesh and an inner split in the Taliban, which is currently gathering strength in the country," Serenko said.

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conference, which was billed as an attempt to promote economic and security cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbors and was expected to include representatives from every other country in South and Central Asia. The welcome was a clear measure that Pakistan badly wants to mend the relationship.

But in a speech to his hosts shortly later, he again criticized Pakistan for failing to deprive the Taliban of safe havens here.

"We are fighting on behalf of all of you, but we are the ones who are suffering some of the worst atrocities," Mr. Ghani said. (Monitoring Desk)

(11) Afghanistan ...

on December 8, 2014, the situation in the country remains "extremely unstable".

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ian casualties. The governor's spokesman, Samim Kholwaj said: "Yesterday evening a number of suicide attackers entered Kandahar Airport and started clashing with security forces before they reached their target and they used a building near the area as their stronghold."

The Ministry of Interior said Wednesday in a statement that the group of armed insurgents carried out the attack on a residential area near Kandahar Airport which included a school and market.

According to them, the ANA was immediately deployed to the area to bring the situation under control.

"ANA forces encountered the insurgents courageously near the airport and they cautiously conducted the operations in the area so not to cause any casualties to civilians," read the statement. (Tolo News)

The officials at the briefing also announced the publication of "Afghanistan Drug Report 2015."

"Undoubtedly 2015 has been a year of major achievement for MCN (Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics) that highlighted in the report including the reduction on cultivation and production, the national drug action plan and national mobilization against narcotics" said Andrey Avetisyan, UNODC regional representative for Afghanistan and neighboring countries, at the same briefing. (Xinhua)

About 14 Taliban fighters armed with suicide jackets, rocket launchers and guns took control of two buildings near the civilian part of the Kandahar International Airport late Tuesday.

The attackers, who were disguised in army uniform, fired several rocket propelled grenades towards the airport vicinity. The airport's operations were suspended since the attack started.

The sporadic clashes took place throughout the night, leaving 10 militants and 37 civilians killed. (Xinhua)

the US Embassy in Kabul, said "This year we plan to have 80 scholarships awarded, 77 would be Masters Students and 3 would be Doctoral students. The Masters program is between 1 and 2 years, more commonly 2 years and Doctoral program is 5 years."

He said the employment rate for Fulbrighters has been recorded at 96 percent, and the vast majority of the students have returned to Afghanistan after completing their studies.

According to Mr. Thies, the employment rate for the other academic exchange programs implemented through the US Embassy in Kabul has been similar. "For our other programs it is very similar, Humphrey is about the same, and Foreign Language Teaching Assistance and Afghan Junior Faculty alumni report nearly 100 percent employment. Most of the people that are unemployed usually don't stay that way very long. When someone gets back, sometimes they don't immediately get into a job, but for most part people find very meaningful employment in a few months and we have a list of actual organizations where people work and I think you will find that very impressive," he said.

He said there are a number of very notable Alumni with many of them are working for government ministries, international organizations, UN, other embassies, many of them in the private sector as well, Banks and some to the universities. Worldwide, the Fulbright program has produced 31 heads of state and more than 53 Nobel Laureates.

"Basically they all find some kind of job that suits their skills, so we find them to be great resource for the country and that is why that we do the program -because we are helping these individuals but really the end result is that these individuals come back and help Afghanistan. And so helping them get into some of these high level jobs is away we can help magnify the impact of the program. I can list a few notable Alumni such as the Minister of Agriculture Asadullah Zamir, he is a Fulbright from 2004. We also have a deputy minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Nasir Andisha, and

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there is a newly appointed deputy in the ministry of defense Shoab Rahim," Mr. Thies said. (KP)

security and complaints committees to closely follow the issue with the government to ensure that the contractors were made payments. (Pajhwok)

under threat and then we share our information with security agencies in order to prevent such incidents," he said.

According to reports by Nai, at least seven attacks have occurred against political analysts and civil society activists in the country in recent months. (Tolo News)

Doctors Without Borders and other witnesses have repeatedly said there were no armed men in the hospital at the time of the airstrike. The military says the soldiers and airmen intended to hit a different building a half-mile away.

Gen. John Campbell said it was only because of technical failures and human error that an AC-130 mistakenly struck and destroyed the trauma center in the hospital.

Campbell said that when the aircraft's sensors malfunctioned, the crew used visual cues to hone in on what turned out to be the wrong building. One minute before the attack, he said, the crew passed on the coordinates of the building it was about to strike to its headquarters, which knew Doctors Without Borders was in that compound but was unable to detect the mistake in time. (Agencies)

rules of war," said Abdul Qadir Rahimi, the head of Herat's Human Rights Commission.

"Serious attention needs to be paid so as no harm comes to the people, especially women and children. We urge international organizations to seriously consider helping them," said Sakina Hussaini a Herat provincial council member. (Tolo News)

the position of Sri Lanka as a nation against corruption globally. He said that Sri Lanka was currently labeled as No. 35 in Transparency International's Index of Corruption and the country could raise that position at least by another 15 notches in a short time if public servants work to eradicate corrupt practices. (Xinhua)

of force and detention. Talk of "Europeanising" frontier defense is also growing.

"In exceptional circumstances, Frontex should be able to deploy rapid reaction teams to the frontiers on its own initiative and under its own responsibility," the French and German interior ministers, Bernard Cazeneuve and Thomas de Maiziere, wrote to the European Commission last Thursday. (Reuters)

noting that an estimated 2.9 million people living in the territory are facing difficulties in exercising their economic and social rights, in particular, accessing quality medical care, accommodation, social services and benefits. (Xinhua)

Saharan Africa and we are not taking chances in ensuring that we meet the international standards," he added. The December conference will also showcase the dynamic development that is taking place in Africa. The biennial event was last held in Indonesia in 2013 where ten agreements were concluded. (Xinhua)

October. Despite these positive trends, human rights abuses persist amid reports of protracted impunity, killings, torture, absence of rule of law and lack of freedom of movement and expression in the self-proclaimed "Donetsk people's republic" and "Luhansk people's republic."

The onset of winter is also expected to compound the humanitarian situation prevailing in affected areas where residents lack effective protection of their rights. (Xinhua)

a fair solution to the Cyprus dispute, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as the crises in Syria, Libya and Yemen. Moreover, the three countries expressed their support towards an international effective approach to tackle the ongoing refugee crisis and the terrorism threat. (Xinhua)

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