

**(1) Russia Favors ...**

contacted the Taliban only for two reasons, when our citizens or citizens of our allies got into harm's way and we had to extract them and the second was to persuade the Taliban to sit down and negotiate.

But we always reserve and say they must join negotiation provided they renounce violence and sever their links with terrorist organisations and respect the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan," he said. He also pointed out that the fight against terrorism and extremism in Afghanistan cannot be separated from the issue of drug trade which funds violence in the country and the region.

"The recent American strategy on Afghanistan which emphasises force will not work just as the huge army of NATO over the last 15 years did not curb violence nor reduce drug production. It is accepted that it feeds terrorist activities directly," he added. (Tolonews)

**(2) Senators Denounce ...**

are not helpful because Afghans need unity and kindness," said another senator, Gulalai Akbari. Senator Nazir Mohammad Faqiri said, "Hekmatyar's remarks were not aimed at the reasons why development works had been carried out in certain provinces. Hekmatyar meant that work needed to be done in all provinces."

"Afghanistan must be a united home for all. If reconstruction work is done, then it should be all over the country," said senator Mohammad Alam Eziqdar.

On Sunday Hekmatyar said at a gathering in Khost province that some eastern parts of the country have less of a share in the government compared to Panjshir, Bamiyan and Daikundi provinces in the center of Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar's remarks were followed by strong reactions among the Afghan public and politicians, including the CEO Abdullah Abdullah who described Hekmatyar's remarks as statements that benefit the enemies.

"Divisions and differences among the people will benefit the enemies of Afghanistan," Abdullah said adding that "ethnic and religious divisions are not for the interest of the country and is good for enemies. Talking about ethnicity and pitting one province against others is not encouraging anyone towards any positive goal." (Tolonews)

**(3) Incidents of Human ...**

to cooperate on the issue.

She said human rights violation cases were increasing with each passing day mainly due to non-cooperation of security organs and lack of government's writ.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, said the provincial government had been trying to encourage police into cooperating with judicial organs and AIHRC.

He said the local administration would also push the security organs, particularly police personnel, to cooperate with the human rights commission. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Chinese, Russian FMs ...**

The alignment of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union has yielded primary results, and the pragmatic cooperation between China and Russia has made headway, Wang said, adding that the Chinese side is willing to push the bilateral ties to a higher level.

As chair nation of the SCO summit next year, China hopes to work with Russia to push the summit to achieve more results, especially on the deeper integration of China's Belt and Road Initiative and other member countries' development strategies, so as to inject impetus to regional joint development, the Chinese foreign minister said.

As major emerging economies, China, Russia and India should strengthen coordination and cooperation, and try to reach strategic consensus on safeguarding regional stability, promoting common development, and push-

ing forward the democratization of international relations, Wang suggested.

For his part, Lavrov said Russia is willing to work with China to further strengthen coordination and cooperation within the bilateral and multilateral frameworks, in a bid to promote respective development and safeguard common interests. (Xinhua)

**(5) Taliban Can...**

obstacle to talks for the sake of peace.

The government and the people of Afghanistan wanted honorable peace talks and they did not want the Taliban to surrender but to negotiate.

He said the purpose of provincial trips was to develop national consensus on peace. During its trip to Kandahar, the HPC delegation would meet tribal elder, religious scholars, civil society activists and the youth. (Pajhwok)

**(6) New Envoy Vows ...**

Afghanistan in different fields and make more efforts at improving bilateral relations between the two countries.

"One of my top priorities will be to attract Turkish companies to invest in Afghanistan," he said.

The president thanked Turkey for its assistance with Afghanistan in areas of education, training, security and economy.

He hoped under the new diplomatic envoy, relations between the two countries would improve and would remain friends. (Pajhwok)

**(7) MoI Announces 5pc ...**

donor nations and they were convinced their money was going into the right project.

Launch of operation Nasrat Rahimi, deputy spokesman for the ministry, told reporters in Kabul that an operation against an Daesh and other insurgent groups would be launched in Jawzjan and Faryab provinces.

In response to a question regarding the presence of French terrorists in Jawzjan, he said: "We haven't received any report to the effect. But we are aware of the existence of Chechen, Pakistani and Iranian fighters in Afghanistan."

A number of officials and residents of Jawzjan province allege some French, Swedish, Chechen, and Uzbek nationals are training Daesh fighters in Darzab district. During Monday's session, Rahimi promised enforcing necessary reforms in the Interior Ministry. He said people would soon see a transformed face of the ministry. (Pajhwok)

**(8) NATO Prolongs ...**

Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said Stoltenberg had "the full support of Germany," adding that he had "done excellent work modernizing NATO and adapting its structures to a changed security situation."

She also praised his strong support of closer cooperation between NATO and the European Union, which have 22 member states in common.

Stoltenberg's term at NATO's helm since 2014 has been marked by a spike in security challenges. Russia had just annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and the Islamic State group had recently seized cities in Syria and Iraq, inspiring a new, more brutal form of terrorism that would wreak havoc in European capitals. (AP)

**(9) Govt. Delay Over ...**

commission states that the Afghan election will be held on time if the government made sure that the financial expenditure and security of the polling is finalized.

"We are prepared to hold the elections in 1397 (2018) on condition that the government also focuses on the issue," said IEC acting chief Waseema Badghisi. Amid controversy over the position of IEC chairman, ambiguity also exists on the fate of head of the secretariat of the elections commission.

"I am an employee of the government, if the president believes that in our absence national interests will be restored, then we do not have anything to say," said the head of the IEC Secretariat, Imam Mohammad Warimach.

Warimach said he is continuing his job regardless.

The election body said it has dispatched a new plan to the government on the basis of which the IEC will be suggesting the use of paper identity cards in the voting process in the next elections.

"We want to remind the government that the twenty-day timeline will also end. If one of our members was not appointed during this period, the election commission will manage the elections itself," said IEC spokesman Abdul Badi Sayyad.

The IEC believes that if the plan is endorsed by the government, it would be able to conduct the elections with less money.

"This will be the smallest amount of money to be spent on elections in Afghanistan," said Rafiullah Bedar, member of IEC.

The IEC's problems with the government come at a time that the commission has wrapped up its assessment of over 7,000 polling stations in the country and have found that 1740 (over 24 percent) polling stations are still under serious security threats. (Tolonews)

**(10) New US Ambassador ...**

to the Republic of Turkey (2012-2017) and Ambassador to Georgia (2009-2012).

His previous assignments have included positions in US missions in Iraq, Italy, Belgium, and Chad as well as service on Vice President Dick Cheney's staff, as Chief of Staff and Advisor to Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, and as the Executive Secretary for the Department of State and Director of the State Department's Operations Center.

Ambassador Bass succeeds US Special Chargé d'Affaires, Ambassador Hugo Llorens, who completed his assignment on November 16.

Presidential Palace in a statement on Tuesday said President Ghani has accepted the credentials of the new US ambassador to Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

**(11) MoMP Worries ...**

uranium and other rare metals.

According to the ministry, Jawzjan's Qush Tapa and Darzab districts have rare metal mines and uranium and Daesh's presence in those areas have raised serious concerns over illegal mining.

MoMP spokesman Abdul Qadeer Mutfi said the insurgents and Daesh create the most insecurity in areas which have mineral resources.

"There are different mines in these districts, including gold and aluminum," said Mutfi.

Reports say that in addition to fuel and gas, there are gold sediment mines and uranium resources in Qush Tapa and Darzab districts.

Officials of the Natural Resources Monitoring Network (NRMN) say currently insurgents are trying to get access to those mines from which precious minerals and stones can easily be extracted.

"We are seriously concerned because if Daesh or other groups get access to these mines, doubtless they will support parts of the war cost from the mines," NRMN member Ibrahim Jafari said.

A member of Jawzjan provincial council has said, based on an assessment carried out in the province last year, 18 types of precious and semi-precious stone mines have been found in Darzab district and that Daesh might illegally exploit those mines. (Tolonews)

**(12) Senate to Summon ...**

Haseebullah Kalimzai, agreed with Achakzai's views and said: "We ask the government to clear its stance on the issue."

A number of other senators also expressed similar views and they demanded summoning of National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar, Acting Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and president's legal advisor, Nasrullah Stanikzai to provide information about the government's response to the fencing of Durand Line.

First deputy chairman, Mohammad Alam Eziqdar, said that fencing of the Durand Line was unacceptable for the Afghans and

it had to be stopped.

He said the time for summoning of the officials concerned about the Durand Line would be cleared at Wednesday's session of the house.

Earlier, Zahir Qadir, a Wolesi Jirga member, had also claimed the Afghan government had agreed with Pakistan to install the fence on the Durand Line, but the Presidential Palace had rejected that claim.

President Ashraf Ghani had previously said he did not talk with Pakistan about the Durand Line and it was neither his authority. He had said: "Those who think that they would be able to separate people by fence should re-think, even bombardment could not separate us so fence would never do so." (Pajhwok)

**(13) WFP Plans to ...**

family will receive 2,285 afghanis each month through WFP's beneficiary identity and benefit management system "SCOPE" launched here on Tuesday in cooperation with the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR).

Refugees and Repatriation Minister Syed Hussain Alami Balkhi, during the system's inauguration, said economically affected and entitled families would be registered in the system in Kabul. He said the system would help prevent corruption in distribution of aid to affected families.

Around two million vulnerable people would be registered until June, 2018 and seven million people during the next two years with the system, he said.

The minister said the system would also win the trust of aid organizations as the assistance would reach affected people based on a registered ID card.

Kabul Governor Mohammad Yaqob Haidari appreciated the WFP for its on-time aid programs for the affected people and said activation of SCOPE system was a good step towards meeting the needs of entitled families.

Mick Lorentzen, WFP director for Afghanistan, said SCOPE system was for the first time implemented in Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces for 2,500 families.

"This system is now benefiting 9,600 people in Kabul", he said, adding that the system helps accurately identify the most deserving people and ensure transparency in aid.

According to another report, officials on Tuesday started distributing 268 tons of food items including flour, pea, oil and salt is being distributed to 1,500 families in Samangan province.

Eng. Raz Mohammad Hajizada, head of Imdad Bazsazi Andkhai Charity organization, who was distributing the aid, said the food items had been prepared by WFP. He said the families who received the aid had been displaced by conflicts from Hazrat Sultan, Dara-i-Suf Pain and Roi Doab districts to the capital of the province.

Abdur Rahman, who received the aid, said he was living in a rented house in the provincial capital with his family from over the past several months.

He received 150 kilograms of flour, 15kg of pea, 14kg oil and 1.5kg of salt and said the stuff would meet his family needs to some extent. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Afghan Women...**

rifles and showed their military skills at the Officers' Training Academy on Monday, the Associated Press Reported.

"Training here is for Afghan women and it is very important because Afghanistan does not have much space for training, including military training," said Rabia, a medical doctor in the ANA.

In the three-week program, which started on December 04, women are trained to operate arms and ammunition and other military equipment. The women are being encouraged to use the training for self-defense.

India has been one of Afghanistan's biggest allies in the war against the Taliban, training thousands of security personnel. The two countries have a strong relationship.

New Delhi has also played a significant role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

**(15) Film on Afghan ...**

a children's novel of the same name by Deborah Ellis and will be released later this year.

The storyline appears to be similar to that of Osama, a 2003 drama film made in Afghanistan. The movie Osama rocketed to fame after winning numerous awards, including a Golden Globe for best foreign language movie.

The film follows a pre-teen girl living in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime who disguises herself as a boy named Osama to support her family. It was the first film to be shot entirely in Afghanistan since 1996 when the Taliban regime banned the creation of all films. (Tolonews)

**(16) Taliban Capture ...**

Bagh-i-Paeen, Lab-e-Sarak, Khairabad and Ghar Tapy villages.

He said the security forces retreated without any resistance.

The Taliban confirmed the development. Zabihullah Mujahid, the group's spokesman, said the fighters captured five villages and three security posts.

Three policemen were killed, two were wounded and as many seized by the Taliban, he claimed. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Three Soldiers ...**

military check post, according to the statement.

The second attack happened about 3:00 am early Tuesday after the insurgents attacked another military check post in Nani village of Andar district, it said.

The statement said that the insurgents also suffered casualties but there is no exact information. The statement did not provide further details of the clashes. (Tolonews)

**(18) Senators Want Kabul ...**

at capturing the murderers of the 10 people.

"We ask the government and the president in particular, to execute the perpetrators of this incident as soon as possible so others learn a lesson," he said.

First deputy chairman, Mohammad Alam Eziqdar, and some other senators including Lailuma Ahmadi, Anar Kali Hunaryar, Mohammad Azim Qoyash and Mohammad Asif Seddiqi were of the same view and demanded severe punishment for the perpetrators of the deadly incident. (Pajhwok)

**(19) NGO-Run Clinics ...**

He said health facilities were open in all areas and offered services to ailing people.

He promised to allow no hurdle in provision of health services in future and said the government would keep a close eye on HDC services.

The Taliban have not yet commented about the matter. (Pajhwok)

**(20) Militant Attack ...**

officials, however, say a ground and air counterterrorism offensive launched in mid 2014 has cleared most of the Waziristan territory of militants, bringing down terrorist attacks elsewhere in Pakistan from several thousand five years ago to around 600 in 2016.

Authorities also credit stepped up security measures, including fencing of border areas prone to militant infiltration. The first major attack in North Waziristan took place in early October when militants ambushed a military vehicle in the Razmak area, killing three soldiers and wounding seven others.

Pakistani officials allege senior militant commanders have set up bases in "ungoverned" border areas of Afghanistan after fleeing the army onslaught on their hideouts in and around North Waziristan and orchestrate the latest round of violence from those sanctuaries. Militant Attack Near Afghan Border Kills 2 Pakistani Soldiers. (VoA)