

(1) Ghani, Jamiat ...

also pointed out there will be demands by Ghani on him and Jamiat-e-Islami.

"We will support the peace process, will support government's foreign policy, we will use all our capacities to maintain security and will mobilize our people to defend the government," he added.

Political analysts meanwhile said every positive change will benefit the people and that qualified people are being considered to fill such positions.

"Every change is to the benefit of our people, if it is taken in a good way, in which the opportunity is provided for the most qualified people to compete for the seat," said Hayatullah Jawad, a political analyst.

Noor also touched on the ongoing war and said the state is in a fragile situation and insurgents are trying to take the war to the northern parts of the country. He said in order to overcome security challenges, we need to cooperate with government and have its support in fighting terrorists. (Tolonews)

(2) CEO's Concern...

restructuring Afghanistan's socioeconomic infrastructure, creating new jobs and implementing fundamental reforms in the legal and judicial institutions were also pre and post-election promises made by the two leaders. (Tolonews)

(3) NATO Supports ...

represent," Nicholson said, addressing an international coalition of military leaders and diplomats.

The group discussed ways to identify, list, and ultimately avoid damaging such sites so Afghans can continue to take pride in these locations and preserve them for future generations.

The group will meet again in early 2017, and Nicholson stressed that the international coalition here will continue to do everything it can to prevent the destruction of Afghanistan's treasures. (KP)

(4) Efforts on ...

of which is in the energy sector alone."

He added people were already jumping to grab the opportunities for business. "If you don't, you will be left behind," he told the American investors. Kabul was committed to doing everything possible to protect their investments, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(5) Kabul Security...

anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

"These gates are made with the latest technology, and delaying their installation is a big injustice to the residents of Kabul," the official added.

He said the Interior Ministry's Support and Procurement Office, which had agreed to pay for and organize the installation of the gates, had tried to subcontract the work, but the bids were too high.

Now responsibility has been transferred to a similar body run by Kabul police, who, in turn, rejects accusations that they have been dragging their feet.

"We understand it is our department that is responsible for the gates, but the government has to purchase the land first and then we need a budget for it from donors," said Salem

Almas, deputy chief of Kabul police.

\$13 MILLION DEAL

Sorting out exactly who is responsible for what in Kabul has proved a challenge. The chief of police comes under the authority of the Interior Ministry, but officials there have said he prefers to report to the National Security Council, a body that answers directly to President Ashraf Ghani.

Almas said the police chief understood and respected his reporting line to the interior ministry. A spokesman for the presidential palace declined to comment and referred questions to the interior ministry.

(6) Zardad's Return...

after serving 11 years of a 20-year prison sentence.

He returned Kabul on December 14, and was reportedly taken into custody by the National Directorate of Security (NDS). Those who testified at Zardad's trial have expressed concerns for the safety of witnesses and their families.

Zardad was the first person prosecuted in the UK for the crime of torture under universal jurisdiction laws, which allow for the prosecution of crimes committed in another state.

A 2004 trial ended in a mistrial when the jury failed to reach a verdict. Following a second trial in 2005, during which many of Zardad's victims testified by video link from the UK embassy in Kabul, Zardad was found guilty and sentenced to two 20-year sentences to be served concurrently.

A Kabul-based UK diplomat told HRW in 2014 that Zardad would not be paroled. While reports of his imminent return surfaced in Kabul in October 2016, neither the UK nor Afghan government made any public notification of Zardad's parole and deportation prior to his return to Kabul.

"Zardad has contacts in high places, and Afghan police and intelligence officials have long enjoyed impunity despite well documented systematic torture and other abuses," Gossman said.

"Relocation of witnesses outside the country is likely to be the only way to protect those most at risk of reprisals." (Pajhwok)

(7) Siemens Offers...

India will pay 5% each. Of the 85% cost, Turkmenistan will contribute 51% on its own and arrange the rest from varying financiers.

An amount of \$15 billion will be needed to develop the gas field in Turkmenistan, a project whose contract has been awarded to Japanese companies working on extracting gas against a service fee.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has hinted at providing \$1 billion in financing while the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has offered a loan of \$500 million for the pipeline. (Pajhwok)

(8) Germany Angry...

standing for a fourth term in next year's election, has seen her popularity wane due to her open-door migrant policy.

At the same time, sup-

port for the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) has grown. The AfD has seized on the Afghan case, as it did after hundreds of women were sexually assaulted and robbed by men of North African and Arab appearance at the last New Year celebrations in Cologne. (Reuters)

(9) Prevent Terrorist ...

continued efforts.

"It also requires constant and enhanced support from the Security Council, as well as provision of technical assistance to states that require the same, especially for the implementation of Resolution 1540 and voluntary national plan of actions," he explained.

Afghanistan, surrounded by a number of nuclear countries, had maintained a consistent policy of calling for total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, he observed.

"We have done so knowing that a world free of WMD translates into a safer and prosperous world for the current and future generations," the ambassador said. (Pajhwok)

(10) Parliament Asked ..

construction of Gardan Diwar road, he said.

He said fighting narcotics and its smuggling was a government priority while the budget allocated to the sector was very limited. "This amount of budget is not enough to fight narcotics when around three million people are addicted to drugs in the country."

"Unfortunately projects are not judiciously distributed and basic balance has been not observed," he said. Shekib said a research by CSBAG showed a project in one province cost three million afghanis and the same project in a different province cost four million afghanis.

The CSBAG members asked the parliament not to approve the draft budget for the next fiscal year until balance in the accounts was observed. (Pajhwok)

(11) Trump won't...

be at their door-step in a matter of days.

"He rightly highlighted that Americans have a very capable and willing and brave Afghan partners who are defending their country and defeating terrorists," Mohib added.

Even without the presence of other terrorist groups, today's Afghanistan faced considerable threats from the Taliban, who were out to destroy the US-Afghan partnership, the ambassador argued.

"Without question, this year our brave forces were severely tested. But they prevailed.

They prevented the enemy from accomplishing its strategic objectives," he claimed.

Since August, the envoy said, the Taliban had made eight attempts to seize provincial capitals - three times in Kunduz, twice in Lashkargah, twice in Tirkinkot and once in Farah City.

Each time, Afghan forces defeated them.

At the same time, Mohib acknowledged, Afghan forces alone might not defeat the entire spectrum of armed insurgents and terror groups operating in the country. "Rather, it is a reflection of reality. Our

modern military is less than 15 years old."

He continued the Afghan forces lacked necessary close-air support, sophisticated intelligence-gathering equipment and medevac capabilities. "But more importantly, this fight is not ours alone. It never has been. It is the fight of peaceful nations everywhere who are threatened by both stateless and state-sponsored terrorist groups."

A centerpiece of US national security policy had long been to disrupt, dismantle and defeat terrorist networks that threaten America, he maintained.

"Nothing I've heard suggests that Trump won't continue that policy. If that's the case, then he - and his successors - need to consider an enduring partnership with Afghanistan based on mutual commitments," Mohib concluded. (Pajhwok)

(12) More Afghan ...

more Afghan families. On average, farmer's harvested 2

For perspective, Iran and Pakistan, two of Afghanistan's neighbors, have long recognized the benefit of soybeans and produced over 1.6 million and 1.3 million MT of soybeans, respectively, in recent years. Afghanistan's lower production levels are to be expected as the country only began growing soybeans in 2006 when NEI initiated its soybean program.

Together with its business partners, NEI has established seven soy processing factories located in Kabul, Herat, Nangarhar, Kapisa, Takhar, Kunduz, and Parwan provinces. These factories produce soy biscuits, soy flour, roasted soy nuts, and tofu. New factories are currently being built to produce soy oil, texturized soy protein, and sterilized soy milk. The sterilized soy milk factory will be the first in the country, producing 40,000 single serve pouches per day.

NEI, supported by the Republic of Korea, The World Food Programme, and various Afghan government ministries, plans to expand its soybean farmer program in 2018 and beyond so that every Afghan citizen is guaranteed access to this nutritious, affordable miracle bean. (PR)

(13) ALP in Kunduz...

with heavy weapons and their demands should met. He said ALP needed heavy weapons and talks had been held with top officials in this regard.

Police chief Mohammad Qasem Jangal Bagh admitted ALP lacked heavy weapons and the issue had been taken up with higher authorities. (Pajhwok)

(14) Badghis Women

my bride," said Shaida, the Badghis woman who claims she is the victim of an act by powerful figures in their province.

"They [the armed men] beat me and my children. My husband was wounded by them. I have no idea how they beaten me up," Shaida's bride said.

The women accused government of inattention towards addressing their problems.

Meanwhile, Sayed Mohammad Musa Jinab, an MP from Badghis, said he confirms the claims by the two

women.

"The family was pressurized to settle the issue. They were warned to be imprisoned if they didn't keep silent. One of them are still under custody.

The police chief of PD1 in Badghis are doing this by the order of the provincial police chief, security chief and crimes department chief in the province. So where should we go to seek justice?" he stated.

Badghis Police Chief Adul Rauf Taj meanwhile told TOLONews that they continue to investigate the alleged assault on the house.

"They accused police for the assault. We introduced the issue to the attorney's office and they are probing it. They accused four other police force members. They are also under investigation," Taj added. (Tolonews)

(15) Key ISIS ...

not commented regarding the report so far.

The recent deadly attacks by the loyalists of the terror group include a coordinate suicide attack on Baqir-ul-Uloom mosque, Sakhi shrine, peaceful demonstration in Deh Mazang area, and some other deadly attacks that left dozens of people dead and hundreds of others wounded. (KP)

(16) Germany Condemne

family similarly fled to the safety of Germany. Afghan Hindu leaders in Germany fear that there may be more such deportations in the near future.

"Under the Geneva Convention, Afghan Hindus and Sikhs living outside of Afghanistan meet the criteria for refugee status due to their well-founded fear of persecution based on their religion and the Afghan government's inability to protect them," Kalra said in a letter to the government of Germany. (Pajhwok)

(17) Taliban Attacks ...

a driver, the official said, adding that the Taliban took away a Surf vehicle with its passengers following the attack.

Taliban yet to comment on the report. (Tolonews)

(18) Father of ...

house and married her younger sister.

"He accused me of illicit affairs with someone else, he tied my hands, beat me and took to my father's home at 1am midnight, he then raided our house and took by force my younger sister and married her," she said.

While weeping, Saima said she tested her virginity at both government and private hospitals and there was no problem.

"My in laws are powerful and they enforce anything they want on me," she said. She requested punishment of the criminals and said reasons of her divorce and marriage of her 10-year-old sister should be investigated. Saima feared she would lose a legal battle against the powerful and wealthy people.

"We are very poor, only powerful individuals win, the family of my husband is rich and can pay bribe and win the case," she said.

Nader Khan, father of the girls, told a private television channel, that the government should investigate oppression of his daughters.

Without naming anyone,

he said: "There are many powerful individuals in our area, they first married my first daughter to their man, and on the same night, they took my second daughter by force and married her with the same man, all government officials know it but they do not help me."

Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, at a press conference here confirmed the incident and said the issue had been shared with the governor's house for investigation.

He said of the 13 people involved, two including the perpetrator's father and another person had been arrested. "Searches for the 11 people involved in the case are underway," he added.

Nangarhar appellant court head, Ahmad Wali Hashemi, told Pajhwok Afghan News that investigations from the two detained persons were underway and police had been ordered to arrest the rest of others.

The victims' family has accused 15 people and the main suspect has been on the run, he said.

Hashemi said he also talked to the imam who signed the marriage contract of a second girl with the man at the same night. (Pajhwok)

(19) Russia-Japan...

reaching a postwar peace treaty between the two countries, according to a press statement here after the leaders' meeting.

The statement, however, did not touch upon any progress regarding the row over sovereignty of the four Pacific isles.

Russia suggested joint economic activities to Japan on the disputed islands in November, but there have been concerns in Japan that if Japan accepts the suggestion, it would mean a big step towards Moscow by recognizing Russian control of the islands. The two sides signed here a total of 80 documents, including 68 private sector deals.

Putin, whose visit was initially eyed in 2014 but postponed due to deterioration of bilateral ties following the Ukraine crisis, is the first Russian president to travel to Japan for a bilateral meeting in 11 years. (Xinhua)

(20) Slovak FM ...

but also policies in general, will be more results-oriented and tilted more towards pragmatism and less towards ideology," stressed Lajcak.

"This essentially comes in the context of what Donald Trump spoke about during the campaign, that is, promoting American interests and assessing matters through the lens of American interests," added Lajcak. (Xinhua)

(21) U.S. Grant...

of concerns around rule of law and civil liberties."

The MCC is an independent U.S. Government agency working to reduce global poverty through economic growth.

The United States has raised concerns on the killings of thousands of alleged drug suspects in the war on drugs that President Rodrigo Duterte has declared. (Xinhua)