

(1) Moscow to...

insist Pakistani, Russian and Chinese officials.

The Taliban insurgency in the ongoing year opened new warfronts against Afghan security forces in several northern provinces, which border former Soviet Central Asian states.

Moscow is worried that growing insecurity in northern Afghanistan will encourage IS to export terrorism to Russia and China through the Central Asian region.

"In particular we are especially concerned about the growth of Daesh (Arabic acronym for IS), which are proliferating their influence to some northern areas of Afghanistan, which directly border territories of our allies in our brotherly Central Asian republics," he added.

Dedov rejected media reports as "fantasies" that Russia is assisting the Taliban in the fight against U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan.

"We have never ever provided any kind of assistance to (the) Taliban," the ambassador said. Instead, he said, Russia is assisting the Afghan government and has granted "some light weapons" to its forces and is running programs to train Afghan police and military personnel in Russian institutions.

Dedov added that Moscow strongly supports the Afghan peace and reconciliation process, saying improvement in the situation in security in Afghanistan is in the interest of Russia. "But what we can see that the progress there (in Afghan peace efforts) is very difficult to be seen. That's very pity. So, I think that will be a very good discussion in two weeks in Moscow on Afghan matters."

Moscow has recently acknowledged it maintains "limited political" ties to the Taliban to ensure security of its citizens in the country and encourage the insurgents to engage in an Afghan peace process. The revelation has provoked strong Afghan criticism of Russia's "overt legitimacy" to the Taliban insurgency.

Russian officials also play down Kabul's concerns that the trilateral meeting will discuss Afghanistan without its representation. They insist Moscow is engaged in other forums on the Afghan issue and terrorism where Pakistan and China are not invited.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in IS attacks in recent months, alleging loyalists of the Middle East-based terrorist group across its 2,600-kilometer porous Afghan border are behind the bloodshed. For its part, China is worried that continued turmoil in Afghanistan and an emerging IS threat could undermine security in the restive northwestern Chinese border region of Xinjiang, where Muslim Uighur separatists are waging a low level insurgency. (VoA)

(2) 1,100 Ghost ...

The imaginary personnel number might be higher in Uruzgan, Sarahadi said, adding the exact figures would be obtained once all the police were registered via a biometric system.

He called the 4,500 ANP and ALP personnel in Uruzgan as wrong, saying if that number existed, the province would have never been facing security threats and Taliban wouldn't have been able to take control of dozens of localities in just two days.

A strong campaign to bring about a drastic deep change in police has been launched to apprehend those benefited from ghost police's privileges over the past few years, he added.

Three police, who surrendered 11 weapons to Taliban a few months ago, were detained on Friday and were under interrogation. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghanistan ...

the US. Top executives interacted on exploring the possibility of joint ventures. Afghanistan, which is strategically located between South and Central Asia, offers lucrative business opportunities and people are already jumping to use them. "If you don't, you will be left behind," he said, inviting American businesses to invest in Afghanistan. Further steps were being taken to facilitate and protect private investment in Afghanistan. Since Afghanistan's accession to the World Trade Organisation, Kabul has passed nearly 30 new laws and regulations to ensure proper legal frameworks were in place to protect foreign investment. "2017 is strategically and economically critical in the history of Afghanistan. While governance and security issues are being sorted out, there are emerging ground-floor opportunities for doing business in Afghanistan," remarked Suleman Lutfi, chairman of the board of the Afghan-American Chambers of Commerce. (Pajhwok)

(4) MPs Want ...

and higher education in absentia. In protest to the lower house deci-

sion, the Cabinet in an extraordinary meeting referred the issue to the Supreme Court and said the unseated ministers could continue in their job until the apex court's ruling.

Khalil Ahmad Shahidzada, a lawmaker from Herat province, told today's session that the government's and parliament's silence had created doubts in people's minds. "It should be clarified whether we or the government has committed the mistake."

He criticized the government and said besides directing unseated ministers to continue with their job, it was yet to publish some laws the house had approved to the official gazette. He did not elaborate.

The ministers' issue should be resolved because continuation of their duty was against the law as it questioned the Wolesi Jirga's position, Shahidzada said.

Abdul Wali Niaza, a lawmaker from Badakhshan province, also said held similar views and said the lower house discharged its responsibility and acted based on the law. The government should stop violating the law anymore, he added.

Wolesi Jirga speaker Ibrahim, said, "The ministers were disqualified with the authority given to the lower house and it is never an act against people or the government."

He said the Wolesi Jirga's decision to impeach the minister was aimed at improving the country's situation. The disqualified ministers could work as acting ministers under the law.

"The government should respect the house of people and introduce candidates for the vacant ministerial portfolios as soon as possible," he said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Abdullah Vows ...

is not Islam. This is not something Afghans were taught in our culture. Afghans would never open fire on women."

He said "We are committed to bringing these attackers to justice, whatever cost it takes, we will make them pay for it. It is a must!"

No group including the Taliban insurgents has so far claimed responsibility behind the attack.

According to the local officials, the women were shot dead as they were on their way to airport.

Provincial governor's spokesman Samim Kholwak said the women were travelling in a vehicle and were shot dead along with their driver in the vicinity of 4th police district of Kandahar city.

According to reports, the women were working for a private security firm which is contracted for the security of airports in the country. (KP)

(6) New Anti-...

people do not want their cases to be investigated. They use their political influence and their power to prevent their cases from being investigated," said Roqia Nayel, an MP.

Jamshid Rasuli, the Attorney General's (AGO) spokesperson however said a few corruption cases are being processed and that at the end of this coming week an open court will be held.

"AGO prosecutors pay special attention to details to make sure everything is right. There are no problems that have delayed our work," he said.

Government established the ACJC ahead of the Brussels Summit to fight corruption in the country. MPs however said after the summit, the ACJC's work on major cases decreased. (Tolnews)

(7) US Praises ...

is thankful for meeting Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, who is a great leader.

The high-ranking US official also said that he discussed with President Aliyev as well as the defense minister the long-term interstate cooperation, and more importantly, what this cooperation would look like decades later. He stressed that Azerbaijan is a country that is strategically important for the region.

"During my visit to Afghanistan, the head of peacekeeping missions informed me about the important role Azerbaijan plays in peacekeeping operations in the country and asked me to thank the leadership of Azerbaijan for the contributions," said Gen. McDew. "I think that security and stability will be preserved in the region and different countries of the world thanks to the contributions of Azerbaijan." According to the general, the US and Azerbaijan enjoy fruitful cooperation in the field of security. "Serving along with servicemen from other countries, the Azerbaijani soldiers got the opportunity to benefit from their experiences and get acquainted with modern weapons

and equipment. This cooperation was also useful for Azerbaijan. Indeed, it is a pleasure for us to cooperate with Azerbaijan that has been independent for 25 years," the high-ranking US official said.

Azerbaijan has become a strong partner of the US in the region over past 25 years, he added. (APA)

(8) Thousands of ...

plastic and food items from public dustbins in the 4th police district of Farah City.

Rahela, wearing old and torn clothes, didn't want to talk. She was searching for reusable things inside a dustbin while eating a tomato.

She seemed living under tough conditions and compelled to struggle with every problem in her life from such a young age.

However, Mirwais, her brother, started talking and said, "We are searching for bread and food so we could eat them together with mother."

Mirwais said his father had been addicted to drugs and died in a cold night in winter two years

"My father would not work. When he was alive he would order us and our mother to beg and find money. Now, we go to markets together with our mother and beg for money so we could find something to eat."

According Mirwais, they sometimes were obliged to ask for food from their neighbors or find leftover meals in garbage. "Because sometimes enough money is not earned with begging to buy food.

Pointing to the garbage can in which he was collecting food, he said, "this can is near to a hotel and they throw leftover food here. We collect the food and take it home and eat it together with our mother."

He said they did not have a house of their own but one of their relatives had given them a house of two rooms in Qala-e-Mohammad area in capital of the province.

Two other brothers, Mohammad Wali, 10 and Ahmad Wali, 12 said they were unable to attend school as economic problems forced them to work and earn money.

They said they were original residents of Ghorchi village in Khak-i-Safed district of Farah province where they were forced into leaving their house due to war and insecurity. They currently live in a rented house in Karji village in Farah city.

Mohammad Wali has a body weight scale and he earns enough money with it. He said his father was jobless so he and his brother Ahmad Wali had to work and earn some money to meet their family needs. His brother Ahmad Wali is selling mobile credit cards in the city.

He said, "we make 60 to 70 afghanis every day; we haven't been able to pay the house rent for several months. The house owner has also warned us to pay the rent or leave the house."

About his inability to attend school, he said: "There was no school in our area in Ghormachi, and now we have to work and there is no time to go to school."

A large number of families in Farah province are obliged to send their children into labor so they earn money to meet their needs.

Mohammad Akbar Anwari, head of Kindergartens and Child Poverty Action Network (CPAN) in Farah, said more than 8,500 children aged between 8 and 17 years in Farah City and districts were involved in labor activities and begging. Their labor work deprived them of education.

According to Anwari, most of the children, five percent of them girls, were involved in begging, washing cars, collecting used items and selling plastic materials in the city.

CPAN has found these statistics in cooperation with social workers and local development councils, he said, adding the number of labor children has been on the increase with each passing day.

About government's support to these children, he said currently 100 children attended the Afghan-Iran vocational centers, 100 boys and 50 girls were registered to an education center run by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and 203 children including 60 girls were receiving training in the ministry's orphanages.

However, he called the government services as limited and said, "only five percent of vulnerable children are covered under these programs. War, unemployment and poverty are main reasons forcing families into engaging their children in heavy labor and begging." He linked the increasing number of child labor and beggars in Farah city to the large number of families fleeing war and insecurity in their districts and residing in the provincial capital. Ghulam Rasool, a shopkeeper in Farah city, said the number of poor children on roads had recently increased. Some of these children also

stole things from people, he said.

He said one of the kids who was stealing shoes from a shop, was held by the shopkeeper.

Asadullah Naibi, expert in social affairs, also expressed his concern over the situation of children and said most of the children had been deprived of education.

"These children are struggling with many problems such as sexual abuses and will grow abnormal and mentally affected," he said.

He also cited poverty, unemployment and war as main reasons of the situation. As a solution to these problems; he said, "the best way to eliminate these problems are economic ways and an end to the war. Because if the war and insecurity continues, it spoils work opportunities and increases poverty."

He said families should support their children and encourage them in education instead of labor activities.

Kindergartens' head, Mohammad Akbar Anwari said their office lacked enough facilities for children and poor families but a private domestic organization, Development and Reconstruction of Afghanistan, was providing vocational training to poor children.

He said 500 families of vulnerable children had been graduated from this institution, and currently 390 people including 270 women were registered to the program.

Problems relating to vulnerable children are not only in Farah but in the entire country.

According to the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs, more than three million children across the country are vulnerable and endangered, and some other reports put the number at 6 million children.

Afghanistan became a member of Children Right Convention in 1994 and has also approved laws supporting children.

In 32nd article of Children Right Convention; it is said, "Countries signing this convention must defend the right of the children against abuse and heavy labors and identify the obstacles which interrupt the education of the children or cause mental harm to them."

"Parents and other guardians must facilitate the growth and education of the children. Member countries of this convention must help and support the parents and guardians in this way and facilitate education grounds to them", mentioned in the convention. On the other hand, 49th article of Afghan constitution says, children cannot be forced into hard labor. (Pajhwok)

(9) AKTC to ...

to jointly work for the implementation of the agreement with the Aga Khan Foundation.

The Head of Aga Khan Trust for Culture in Afghanistan Ajmal Maiwandi said efforts are underway to start the rebuilding of four historic sites in Kabul, including the sites located along Kabul River from Pul-e-Artal to Pul-e-Mahmood Khan, Eidgh historic mosque, Bala Hisar, and Darul-Aman. The Kabul municipality officials also added that the cleaning work of Kabul River will be started soon as they promised full support for the implementation of the rebuilding work of the historic sites.

The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing said the agreement between the ministry and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture will soon be implemented that covers the rebuilding of the four historic sites in Kabul. (KP)

(10) Allegations ...

Eshchi's claims of being beaten, jailed and sexually assaulted should be probed. "We want the justice centers to probe the issue and make a decision based on the law. Government has an obligation to investigate it," said Abdul Raouf Ibrahim, speaker of the Wolesi Jirga. In the constitution nothing is mentioned on what steps to take in terms of prosecuting presidential deputies who have committed a crime. However, in article 60 and 67, it states that when a president resigns, has died, or has a serious disease that prevents him from doing his job, the first vice president has an obligation to take over his duties.

In the constitution it also specifies that when a president is accused of inhumane crimes or treason, then one-third of parliament can call for the president to be summoned. If two-thirds of MPs approve the suggestion, then it will hold a Loya Jirga within a month. If two-thirds of the Jirga members then vote that the president is guilty, he will be removed from office and the case will be referred to a special court.

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) has however already appointed a team to investigate the Dostum-Eshchi issue. (Tolnews)

(11) Pakistan Not ...

Pakistan on specific issues, such as the shared threat from ISIL-K, and occasional discussions at higher levels were encouraging.

Although al Qaeda's core leadership in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region had been degraded, elements continued to seek safe haven on both sides of the border to regenerate and conduct attack planning, it added.

The continued development of Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), highlighted the dynamic nature of the region's terrorist and militant landscape, posing risks to the mission and to US interests, it said.

Attacks in Afghanistan attributed to Pakistan-based militant networks continued to undermine the bilateral relationship more than any other issue, the Pentagon said, adding efforts to increase military collaboration were critical to maintaining pressure on terrorist groups to address the enduring security challenges.

"Afghanistan-Pakistan relations deteriorated following a major Haqqani Network attack against a National Directorate of Security (NDS) building in Kabul on April 19, 2016, and continued to do so as tensions over construction at the Torkham border crossing in June 2016 led to exchanges of gunfire that resulted in casualties to both Afghan and Pakistani military personnel," the report said.

"Afghan-oriented militant groups, including Taliban and Haqqani network's senior leadership, retain freedom of action from safe havens inside Pakistani territory. The US continues to be clear with Pakistan about steps it should take to improve the security environment and deny safe havens to terrorist groups," the report said. (Pajhwok)

(12) Humanitarian...

and repatriation director, said more than 560,000 families had returned from Pakistan recently and 80 percent of them were settled in Nangarhar.

"Each family has been provided with necessary assistance including cash amounting \$300 and \$450 at the Torkham border upon arrival." Fariqi said work on a township in Nangarhar for the returnees was underway and some 30,000 families would be distributed plots.

He said the government had started giving 3,500 afghanis per month to each refugee family in cash aid.

He confirmed humanitarian crisis had surfaced in some parts of Jalalabad City, the provincial capital, and districts. Returnees' problems and complaints a large number of refugees have been settled in Gamberi, an area between Laghman and Nangarhar provinces. Among the refugees is Zarghona, 50, who spent most of her life in Pakistan where they enjoyed facilities like electricity, water and others, but now she is living under a piece of cloth above her head as shelter.

She complained about dirty drinking water, saying her throat got infected after consuming the dirty water supplied to them in tankers.

Behsud district is another area where a large number of such families are settled in farmlands.

Syed Ahmad, originally from Kunar district and currently living in Behsud, said insecurity did not allow him to go to the place of origin.

He said he was living in Behsud because he would not find unemployment and shelter in Kunar.

Concerns of Nangarhar residents The residents of Nangarhar province are worried about the large number of refugees being settled in the province. (Pajhwok)

(13) Mashal ...

working hard in order to make a stronger national team.

"As my top priority, I will continue to make a stronger national team which actually represents all ethnic groups in the country. I will also consult with senior cricketers in the selection process and will also bring transparency in financial issues of the board," he vowed. (Tolnews)

(14) We Stand with ...

Pentagon in its report said "Afghan-oriented militant groups, including Taliban and Haqqani Network senior leadership, retain freedom of action from safe havens inside Pakistani territory."

According to the report, the Afghan Government's relationship with Pakistan remains a critical aspect of enhancing security and stability in Afghanistan, adding that "Since the beginning of President Ghani's tenure, leaders from both countries have generally made a concerted effort to improve relations and better address mutual security interests, such as the threat from various extremist groups that reside in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region." In the meantime, the Afghan officials have long been

criticizing Pakistan for remaining reluctant to act against the terrorist groups using its soil to plan and coordinate attacks in Afghanistan, including the Taliban and Haqqani terrorist network which the Afghan officials believe are having leadership councils based in the main cities of Pakistan. (KP)

(15) Gunmen Kill...

Despite years of pressure by women's groups and foreign donors, Afghanistan remains one of the most difficult places to be a woman.

Restoring fundamental women's rights was one of the main objectives of the international community in Afghanistan, where the headline Taliban Islamist banned girls from school and women from work in their rule from 1996-2001. (Reuters)

(16) Sharbat Gula ...

her sons. Sharbat Gula, arrested by the FIA on October 26, was deported to her home country on November 9 on completion of her 10 days prison sentence and payment of Rs1100,000 in fine. On her arrival in Kabul, President Ashraf Ghani gave her keys of a flat. (Pajhwok)

(17) Imam Detained ...

alleged in a video that she was happy with the marriage. Meanwhile, the Nangarhar attorney said the Imam during interrogation had claimed the second wife married the man after giving divorce to his first wife. (Pajhwok)

(18) Afghan Forces ...

who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit, in contact with media confirmed the fighting in Zarmat district, but added only four Taliban fighters had been killed in the conflict which is still going on. (Xinhua)

(19) Girls' School ...

had been set ablaze but they stayed home and did not go out put out the fire fearing for their own security. Meanwhile, Mohammad Agha district chief confirmed the incident, saying a probe had been launched into the incident. The Ministry of Education (MoE) in a statement confirmed the incident calling it the handiwork of education and knowledge's enemies. The statement asked security organs to apprehend the perpetrators at the earliest possible. The school is from run from a home rented by the MoE. There are a total of 307 schools, with 70 schools lacking buildings. A total of 150,000 students are enrolled in these schools including 50,000 girls. (Pajhwok)

(20) UN Chief ...

polarization we see today," he said. "At the same time, we all can and must contribute to building trust, so sorely needed in the Middle East and the world today." (Xinhua)

(21) US Intelligence...

the report. Earlier this month, outgoing President Obama ordered a full review of the Russian hacking before he leaves office, expecting it would provide "a comprehensive and best guess as to those motivations." (Xinhua)

(22) Obama Says...

Democratic National Committee (DNC) and leaked emails of its officials and it was because Russian President Vladimir Putin held a personal grudge against her. (Xinhua)

(23) Russia Supports ...

contract has already been signed and it is now for the officials concerned to define a time-frame for the purpose. Replying to a question, the Russian ambassador said his country wants Pakistan and India to resolve all issues including Jammu and Kashmir through peaceful means. (Monitoring Desk)

(24) IOM Records....

357,249 arrivals of migrants and refugees in Europe by sea by Dec. 14, 2016, with most registered in Greece and Italy, largely down from 883,393 arrivals by the end of November 2015. (Xinhua)

(25) India, Tajikistan ...

Defence Cooperation on November 2 and agreed that this kind of consultations along with Joint Commission of Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism and regular consultations between National Security Council must continue for mutual benefit. "The two leaders discussed situation in the region and stressed that terrorism and extremism seriously threaten peace, stability and progress for all countries," the statement said. Both leaders also decided to enhance trade and business ties between them by using the Chahbahar Port in Iran. (Monitoring Desk)