

### (1) Ghani Assures...

Decision was taken because of the sacrifices made by Afghan forces. He said the security forces have showed that they are capable of taking responsibility to secure the country.

Ghani stated that the new building for Afghan police will allow them access to modern working facilities and that the building will be the center of rule of law in the country in future. Meanwhile, he criticized the bureaucracy in the ministry and said it has to be removed as soon as possible. Ghani implied that certain processes within the ministry need to be speeded up, particularly for families of martyred troops. "Afghanistan's troops are martyred in line of duty but government has not done anything for them - there needs to be a balance," he added. Ghani said the government has assessed all contracts of the Interior Ministry and found there was no transparency in contracts under the previous government; however, he said they have tried to make contracts transparent and they have succeeded in this regard. Meanwhile, the Minister of Interior Noorulhaq Olomi praised the security forces for their efforts to secure the country, saying that the building was funded by the U.S and cost \$210 million USD. He said the U.S has spent \$20.5 billion USD over the past 14 years to help Afghanistan - especially in the security sector.

He went on to say that since 2001, Afghan police have been able to carry out their activities effectively because of the training and advice from the U.S. He urged the president to make the MoI the center of rule of law in order to fight corruption and ensure citizens their rights.

The Interior Minister thanked the youth for their cooperation with the Afghan police over the past 14 years. (Tolonews)

### (2) Tehran, Kabul...

Meanwhile, the Afghan official, underlined the role Iran and other regional countries can play in the campaign against terrorism, saying Kabul is eager to receive economic help from Iran and continue with economic cooperation with the neighboring country.

He said Afghanistan hopes that Iran would provide the Afghan immigrants with the needed facilities within the framework of international conventions and bilateral agreements. (IRNA)

### (3) 1.2 Million ...

poor living conditions.

Despite the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations' claim that it has provided basic facilities to internally displaced families, the AIHRC argues that the aid has not been enough.

"2015 statistics show that a total 1,257,552 people were displaced which shows a five percent increase compared to 2009," AIHRC chairperson Sima Samar said.

According to Samar, a 21 percent increase has also been recorded in the number of migrants displaced due to the war.

"During June and July 2015, active war was ongoing in 21 provinces out of 34 provinces. The number of internally displaced families also increased with the surge in violence and war," Samar said.

In addition, some Afghan legislators said Saturday that government's lack of attention to the security situation has increased the number of internally displaced people.

"The prevailing situation in the country and the war in various provinces has forced people to migrate from one province to another and even to leave Afghanistan and seek refuge in foreign countries. I think government must change the current situation to control the influx of refugees abroad," MP Fatima Aziz said.

While AIHRC claims that the majority of displaced families are subjected to a miserable life, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations maintain sufficient aid has been dispatched to them.

"The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations in cooperation with the National Disaster Management Authority, the UNHCR and some charity organizations are working together to facilitate the refugees during the winter by providing them with food, fuel and warm clothes. Food is also being provided by the World Food Program," a spokesman for the ministry of refugees and repatriations Islamuddin Juraat said.

Thousands of families were however recently displaced in Kunduz, Helmand and some other volatile provinces following a surge in violence in their areas. Meanwhile, in a separate study the

AIHRC voiced concern over the plight of return refugees. According to Samar the government has not paid enough attention to the returnees.

She said most returnees do not have proper shelter or access to employment.

According to her, residential settlements that are allocated to returnees should be equipped with facilities and become available for their use. She also called on government to pay attention to the borders and said immigrants deported from Iran and Pakistan face multiple problems. She said: "The direct supervision of the AIHRC in Islam Qala border in Herat and Zaranj border [with Iran] in Nimroz province show that deportees' human rights have been violated on several occasions by the Iranian security officials during the evictions."

She went on to say that the AIHRC found that last year, 216,923 people were forcibly deported from Iran.

In addition, the deportation of unaccompanied children was one of the major concerns for the AIHRC. The organization also said that more than 90% of those surveyed said they had been forcefully evicted from Iran. "More than 90 percent of those who were taken to the detention center said that the detention center lacked the necessary facilities and they had been in a very bad condition."

"Overcrowded, dirty rooms, mistreatment by detention center staff, darkness and lack of water and bread were the cases pointed out by the interviewees," read the AIHRC's report.

In addition the report stated: "About 30 percent of interviewees said that they or their families were punished in the detention center. Beatings, forced labor, abuse and insults are the major issues that have been mentioned by them."

The report went on to say that the majority of assistance to returnees has been short-term help.

Studies have found that between 2002 and 2014 about 5.8 million Afghan refugees have returned home. The AIHRC said that until 2008, return of refugees was high but since then there has been a significant decrease in numbers. (Tolonews)

### (4) New Council ...

action soon with regards to the agreement undertaken more than a year ago by President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah which calls for the establishment of the position of Prime Minister within two years.

Meanwhile, the office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) said that if the Loya Jirga is not convened on time, the government will continue its job within the framework of the National Unity Government until a Jirga can be organized. Bringing about necessary reforms in electoral law and convening the Loya Jirga are among the primary demands of the council.

The council has said that if the NUG fails to convene the Loya Jirga within its first two working years, it will consider convening a traditional Jirga.

"The council wants electoral reforms to be implemented swiftly and also the Loya Jirga must be convened to formalize the CEO's post," council member Dawoud Kalakani said, warning that if the job is not completed on time, the people will decide on an alternative to the present government."

Meanwhile, a member of the commission overseeing the implementation of the NUG agreement has said that holding the parliamentary and district council elections and convening the Loya Jirga in the near future will not be possible.

"Government is committed to bring about reforms in the electoral system and holding the Loya Jirga, but entire jobs were completed in this government with delays, so it is quite difficult to convene Loya Jirga on time," commission member Mohammad Natiqi said.

"We believe that the government was formed on the basis of an election process, but not for a two year period. The government is committed to comply with the political agreement, the CEO will continue his job even if a Loya Jirga is not convened," Sayed Fazel Sancharaki, a cultural advisor to Abdullah said on Saturday. Meanwhile, the Presidential Palace has announced that the government is committed to electoral reforms and to the Loya Jirga.

"Government is committed to the implementation of electoral reforms. This will pave the way for convening the Loya Jirga to amend the constitution," Sayed Zafar Hashemi, deputy presidential spokesman said. Based on the political agreement

signed between the president and the CEO, the government has to convene a Loya Jirga within its first two working years.

Analysts meanwhile say the government seems to be reluctant to convene the Loya Jirga as it fears that the Jirga may decide its fate. (Tolonews)

### (5) MPs Oppose ...

illegal, they have to wait either the house decides to approve or reject the law."

But the Selection Committee has organized about two consultative sessions yet and they are planning to start practical actions on the upcoming Sunday to select the candidates.

"In my knowledge and experience, we will be able to select the candidates and introduce them to the office of the President in more or less than one month," Nayeem Ayoubzada a member of the Electoral Selection Committee said.

A number of the lawmakers asked President Ghani to prevent the committee; otherwise, the next election will be illegitimate.

"The work of this committee is against the law, they will take the next elections into a crisis," Kamal Nasir Osofi, a member of the house from Khowst province said.

Munawar Shah Bahadori another MP from western Herat province criticized, "a number of the commissions in the parliament have pawned the law, they are acting based on their personnel and party benefit." (ATN)

### (6) ADB to Provide ...

connecting Sheberghan to Dasht Alwan, and over 60 km of a 220kV line from Andkhoy to Sheberghan. Support will also be given to prepare future projects, develop a business plan and tariff framework for the state power utility, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat.

The remaining tranches are expected to follow through to 2025. 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. Assistance for building up the human resource capabilities of relevant agencies, and to introduce regulatory reforms, will also be provided.

"Insufficient energy supplies and a demand-supply imbalance constrain growth and income opportunities and create economic disparities that can fuel insecurity and discontent," said Thomas Panella. "This assistance will support the government's national energy supply program of more than \$10 billion, which aims to expand power supply to boost economic growth and cut poverty," confirmed the Finance Minister.

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 in energy sector to date of nearly \$2.2 billion, all of which is on budget with the government. ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. (KP)

### (7) Japan Pledges...

The Exchange of Note, the Grant Agreement and the Project Document titled "Enhancing Agriculture Production through Irrigation System Improvement and Strengthening Institutional Capacity" were signed at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) by Mr. Yasunari Morino, chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan, Mr. Eiichiro Cho, Chief Representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Afghanistan Office and Mr. Tomio Shichiri, the FAO Representative in Afghanistan with the witness of H. E. Assadullah Zamir, Minister of MAIL and H.E. Eng. Ali Ahmad Osmani, Minister of Energy and Water.

One of the major problems in irrigation system of Afghanistan is lack

of appropriate water control infrastructures, which do not include any permanent structures for water conveyance, distribution and water intake structures. With such infrastructures, adequacy, reliability and timeliness of irrigation water services are hardly secured, which largely affect crop production.

This project is comprised of three main components: i) Dissemination of Peace Medical Services (PMS) irrigation method which has been developed in Nangarhar province and training of government staff and farmers on PMS approach through construction of training center, ii) Rehabilitation of irrigation systems in rice-growing areas of Kunduz, Takhar and Baghlan provinces and iii) Establishment of basic mechanisms and capacities for production of high quality virus free potato seeds.

In addition to revitalizing irrigation systems by components i) and ii), the project will focus by its component iii) on fighting diseases that affect potato production. Through the establishment of a functional tissue-culture laboratory, and training of MAIL staff in virus-free potato seed production, the project will contribute to increasing potato seed production leading to more opportunities for decent work in the agriculture sector. 224,200 families (Approximately 1.5 million people) are expected to benefit from these activities over the longer term period.

The project will be implemented in synergy with other on-going programmes and projects supporting irrigation and extension sectors, as well as food security and nutrition policy in Afghanistan.

"Irrigation marks the difference between no food or abundant food. Performance of agriculture largely depend on water availability and access. Investment in irrigation and in agriculture provide a unique opportunity in Afghanistan to facilitate economic growth, increasing rural employment and enhance food security in rural areas," said Mr. Assadullah Zamir, Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). "This support is in line with MAIL's National Irrigation Programme (NIP), as well as with FAO's Country Programme Framework (CPF). Development of irrigation in Afghanistan will continue to be a key priority to increase agriculture productivity and incomes and to support rural livelihoods."

"If we, the Japanese NGO, PMS, JICA, Afghan MAIL, MRRD, MEW and FAO seriously work together, we can duplicate the miracle of Gamberi, which will surely lead to better life of the people, social stability and economic development," said Mr. Yasunari Morino, chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Embassy of Japan.

"We are extremely grateful to Japan for having steadily continued its support to Afghan farmers on the ground level," said Mr. Tomio Shichiri, the FAO Representative in Afghanistan. "Rice and potato are Afghanistan's the most important crops, followed by wheat. These two crops have more potential for improving agriculture productivity and by creating larger opportunities for raising farmers' incomes. Production of high quality virus-free potato seed will directly support efforts to export to neighboring countries, which thereby reduces rural poverty and builds resilience of communities in this country."

Japan has been assisting Afghanistan's nation-building efforts in various fields including security, education, health, culture, humanitarian assistance, agriculture, infrastructure and its capacity development. The cumulative Japanese assistance to Afghanistan since 2001 amounts to USD 5.87 billion. (PR)

### (8) ANSF Remain...

meet any of their strategic goals. -- They took over Kunduz temporarily, but the Afghan forces continued to fight and took it back.

Now, Campbell said, during a lull in fighting that occurs when snow in the mountains closes some of the passes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Afghan forces are focusing on some needed skills.

Aligning Forces "They want to get after a force-generation cycle where they have forces that can train, that can fight and get on lead. They haven't been able to do that other than with their special operating forces," the general said.

They'll also work on checkpoint reduction, aligning their forces to become more maneuverable, Campbell said, "because right now they're very static. That's where they've taken a lot of their casualties, on checkpoints, so they're going to work on

those."

The Afghan forces also will work on building leadership and putting the right people in place, he said, noting that they're "in the middle of what we would call a pre-command course."

The U.S. Army does pre-command courses for battalion and brigade commanders, Campbell said, and a pre-command course was in session as he spoke for the Afghans' Kandak battalion commanders that was in its second week.

"They're taking that time to develop their leadership," the general said, "and we'll run [a pre-command course] for brigade commanders here very soon."

Morphing Networks

The Afghan forces and the NATO coalition forces are looking hard at the lessons taken from the very tough fighting season of '15, Campbell said. (DoD News)

### (9) Ghani Apologizes...

the incident is yet to be announced but local villagers claim it was fired by security forces.

In another part of his speech, President Ghani called for unity.

"No one can defeat security and defense forces of Afghanistan in the battlefield but enemy wants to defeat us by creating division among us," he said.

He added that the main task he had this year is to safeguard the freedom, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan because enemies tried to divide Afghanistan. "We have not and won't allow this forever." He said. (KP)

### (10) Officials Promise...

from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and onward to India via Afghanistan.

At a gathering on Saturday marking the signing of the key economic project, local officials, Helmand provincial council members and a number of youths warmly welcomed the implementation of the project and promised to ensure that efforts are made by the people in the province to secure the pipeline. Helmand governor Mirza Khan Rahimi assured the central government of taking necessary measures for security of the project.

"On behalf of the people of Helmand, I would like to say that we are completely prepared to implement the project and we demand the president cooperate with us regarding employment of Helmand youths," Rahimi said.

"TAPI will have a major impact on our economic and security spheres, we want to request Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan not to allow [elements] to sabotage the project," deputy head of Helmand provincial council Majid Akhundzada said.

While the Afghan youths still attempt to reach European shores in their quest for a better life, youths in Helmand have called on the central government to create jobs for them through TAPI. (Tolonews)

### (11) Afghan Men ...

religious figures and local politicians, and received death threats - not unusual for women working in Afghanistan.

Khudayaar says she effectively tackled corruption and inequality. Marchers carried banners saying "Enough With Corruption." (AP)

### (12) ISIS Takes to ...

transmitted into Jalalabad terrified some who have fled fighting between the rival militant groups.

"We heard about [ISIS] radio a few days ago and for the past two nights I have been listening to it," Azizullah, who has been forced from his village and now lives in a camp for displaced people in Jalalabad. "It has become the talk of the camp. People are afraid, we have seen their brutality and know very well how serious this is."

"If the government does not stop this it will have a very bad effect on people's minds - there are a lot of youngsters who will be attracted to them," added Azizullah, who like many in Afghanistan goes by one name.

Afghan officials said the transmissions were coming from the Pakistani side of the border, a claim officials there rejected.

A senior commander for the Taliban, which has been battling the government in Kabul since it was toppled by U.S.-backed forces in 2001, confirmed that his fighters had also heard their rival's broadcasts. The commander also complained the Taliban did not have the money to compete with ISIS.

"We don't have enough resources as compared to our enemies, but even then we are successful in our job and people listen to us," said

the commander, who spoke to NBC News on condition of anonymity. "We have installed transmitters in different places but we used to change the location of the transmitters and radio stations from time to time for security reasons."

This latest sign that ISIS was gaining ground in the region comes almost a year after the group's media arm declared that Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan were one region called the province of Khorasan - a name given to a historic region that covers part of modern-day Iran, Afghanistan and India. (Monitoring Desk)

### (13) Govt. Urged...

doing anything to restart business at the silo and bakery and said this could provide jobs to scores of people.

"Serious attention should be paid to the silo but it has not happened so far. The inactive parts are still inactive," said Qadir, a worker at the silo.

Another worker, Nasir said: "The bakery has to be activated because it will create jobs for the people." (Tolonews)

### (14) NDS Prevents ...

Khumri, provincial capital of Baghlan, who had planned to blast his explosives in a crowded area of the city. The statement adds that a "Saracha" vehicle and two cell phones were recovered from the possession of the terrorist namely Minaj S/O Hussain.

In a separate raid in Dushi Bridge area, NDS personnel seized 2,000 kilograms of hashish hidden under coal in a Truck. (KP)

### (15) 68 PKK...

Turkey, as major military operations against PKK militants have been under way since July after the truce failed.

The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the European Union and the United States. (Xinhua)

### (16) Cameron ...

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is seen as generally supportive of Britain's position, she stressed that "the fundamental achievements of European integration" such as freedom of movement and non-discrimination were not up for debate.

This left Cameron talking of a "tough" road to a deal at the next summit in February after Thursday's crunch dinner dominated by the issue..(AFP)

### (17) Yemen...

was this year plunged into war after the Houthis overthrew the Sanaa government, prompting Saudi Arabia and other Arab states in March to launch a wide-scale bombing campaign. (Reuters)

### (18) Air Strike ...

able to fly due to the bad weather. Carter said he spoke with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi by phone on Saturday to express his condolences over the deaths. He said it appeared a U.S. aircraft had carried out the air strike.

"That's the information I have now," he told reporters while on a trip to the Middle East..(Reuters)

### (19) Germany ...

in Italy and Greece, aim to identify genuine asylum seekers and those eligible for the EU relocation program, created to share the refugee burden throughout the bloc.

At the moment there are only two such fully operational screening centers, out of 11 that are supposed to be set up.

Asked what a common EU asylum law would look like, Altmaier said a basic decision would be made at the hotspots about whether someone needs protection or not.(Reuters)

### (20) Iraq Launches...

units, known as HashdShaabi, were carrying out an operation on Islamic State (IS) positions near Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad.

Obeidi also said that "Iraqi forces are close to free Ramadi," the capital of Anbar province, adding that IS group seized 40 percent of Iraq's largest province of Anbar, but so far, the Iraqi forces and allied HashdShaabi freed 23 percent and that only 17 percent of the provincial territories have left.(Xinhua)

### (21) Keen to Lift ...

January, to boost pro-government candidates in Feb. 26 elections to parliament and the Assembly of Experts, the clerical body that chooses the Supreme Leader. (Reuters)