

(1) Afghanistan...

sooner or later, the financial resources currently available to the country will diminish.

"Afghanistan needs to find a political route to peace," he stressed. Calling attention to Afghanistan's fiscal challenges, the UN envoy said that Afghanistan's economic growth, while low, is projected to increase in the coming years. He said the government this year was able to avert a fiscal crisis, and commended its leaders for continuing to put in place the building blocks for long-term economic development, including through an increased commitment to promoting regional ties.

On security, the UN envoy commended the Afghan National Security Forces for showing resilience in the face of an intensified insurgency. "Certainly, the temporary loss of key district centres and the provincial centre of Kunduz city were worrying developments and revealed major ANSF shortcomings," he said. "The ANSF may be stretched to capacity, but, for the most part, they are holding their ground."

Afghanistan, confronting countless challenges, has made it through its first post-transition year, said the UN envoy. "But in 2016, it is vital that the National Unity Government demonstrates increasingly its effectiveness, not only for the Afghan people but also for donors, on whom it is largely dependent for financial, material and technical assistance," he stressed.

Mr. Haysom said that Afghanistan must show that it is committed to tackling corruption, making necessary governance reform and generating hope for the future, which he said will decrease the rate of emigration. "UNAMA will be encouraging donors to invest in Afghanistan's reconstruction and security, rather than bear the costs of immigration," he said.

In closing, the UN envoy called on the Taliban, which he said has not yet committed to entering into a peace process, to reciprocate the government's commitment by stepping forward. "There is no other way for insurgent groups to demonstrate a commitment to the welfare and prosperity of their fellow citizens than to search for a peaceful resolution to the conflict," he said. The envoy stressed the necessity for face-to-face negotiations between the Afghan Government and Taliban leadership, and emphasized that UNAMA will continue to support all efforts to establish a peace process. "We continue to offer our good offices in any facilitative role while recognizing that any peace process must be Afghan-owned and led," he concluded. (PR)

(2) 3,000 Afghans...

sought asylum in Europe - of which more than 90,000 have reached Germany. Thousands are still however waiting in various European countries for their asylum documents.

"We have always said that until government takes practical steps to create trust among the people, the mass exodus of people will continue - which will harm the country," said Ramazan Juma Zada a parliamentarian.

Unemployment, the increase in terrorist activities in large parts of the country and government's internal problems are reasons for the widespread pessimism over the future of the country, warned analysts.

The MoRR meanwhile said that following Germany's announcement this year that it will accept 70,000 refugees, a mass migration was seen.

"We cannot compare the current year with past years. This year, 3,000 Afghans returned to Afghanistan while 150,000 Afghans left the country and went to Europe and other countries," said Islamuddin Jurat, a spokesman of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation.

Enayat, a resident from Jaghori district of Ghazni province, who intends to leave the country, told TOLONews that "if the government even did one percent for us youths I would not leave the country but I have decided to leave because I know that I cannot live much longer in Afghanistan."

The passport office in Kabul currently issues about 4,000 a day. They say the number of applicants has increased dramatically

in the country over the past few months and most people applying for passports intend to use them to travel through Iran and Turkey and on to Europe. (Tolonews)

(3) Afghanistan,...

between the two countries, the statement read.

"Afghanistan is an important partner for us and we thank you for your support from our country in the international organizations especially in the United Nations' Security Council," Aliyev said, according to the statement. He also said that Azerbaijan hopes to improve cooperation with Afghanistan in infrastructure, telecommunications and railway sectors and added that "we want to finalize the new Silk Road which will link Asia with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey to Europe."

Ghani also thanked Azerbaijan for its role in the NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan and the extension of their troops presence in the country. He said Afghanistan welcomes their cooperation in fighting terrorism.

Ghani said that Afghanistan hopes a joint team can review investment opportunities in Afghanistan and also asked for assistance to help share their experience in mining, trade, energy, water and other sectors.

The Azerbaijan president assured Ghani that his country will try to attract more Afghan university students and also cooperate in various sectors including civilian, police, security, natural disaster, diplomacy and energy.

He also said that his country is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan in agriculture, natural resources and private sectors.

In addition, the Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani reportedly signed agreements on employment opportunities and social protection with Salim Muslumov, Minister of Labor and Social Protection. (Tolonews)

(4) No Fine ...

made with Taliban.

Experts believed that Afghan Government should negotiate with some of the groups and pay fines, saying Afghanistan is capable to maintain security of the Gas pipeline in the country.

Deputy chief of Army Murad Ali Murad said, "I condemned Pakistan Defense Minister statements made on Gas pipeline obliging Afghan Government to negotiate with Taliban on security of the project, we as Afghan security forces will ensure security for TAPI project, we will not pay anyone."

Military expert Atiqullah Amarkhail said, "giving or receiving fines is common in Afghanistan, there are some Afghan political figures who are receiving fines from the Government, therefore Taliban has to receive fines out of this project." (ATN)

(5) Govt. Dismisses...

Sangin district to the Taliban militants.

However, he admitted that the "enemies have mounted pressure on security forces and locals in Sangin, Musa Qala, Nawzad, Khanshin and other parts of Helmand province."

Flanked by Interior Minister Noorul Haq Olumi, Stanikzai also confirmed that foreign militants in the ranks of Lashkar-e-Tayeba, al-Qaida and the so-called Islamic State or Daesh from Pakistan, Chechen and other countries have been fighting alongside Taliban in Helmand province.

Special Forces have arrived in Sangin, the acting defense minister added.

Without commenting on the number of security forces casualties, the acting defense minister said that "advancement and retreat is natural in war."

Also Addressing the press conference, Interior Minister Noorul Haq Olumi assured that both the units of police and army have been fighting in harmony in Helmand province to foil the enemies' malicious attempts. (Xinhua)

(6) Russia to ...

sharing information," said Zamir Kabulov, President Vladimir Putin's special envoy on Afghanistan.

Kabulov further added that Russia is ready to supply weapons to Afghanistan but he insisted that the supply of weapons will be mostly on commercial basis.

The remarks by Kabulov comes as Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu earlier said Russia has stepped up rearming the armed forces of Kyrgyzstan amid concerns that the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan could affect the Central Asian countries.

"From our side, we are doing everything possible in order to complete the plan for rearming the Kyrgyz Armed Forces so that they can counter threats that are coming [out of Afghanistan]," Shoigu said.

There have been numerous deadly clashes among the Taliban militants and the loyalists of ISIS terror group during the recent months amid major differences in the ideology of the two groups.

At least 16 militants were killed and several others were wounded in the latest clash between ISIS and Taliban militants in Chaparhar district of eastern Nangarhar province earlier this month.(KP)

(7) India Approves ...

June, 2016. M/s. WAPCOS, a central public sector unit under the Ministry of Water Resources, is executing the project," a statement by the government said.

The cost of reconstruction and completion of the project was revised due to foreign exchange rate variation between the Indian rupee and US dollar, increase in consultancy charges due to extended period of project completion, training of Afghan personnel etc.

Built on Harirod river, the dam is expected to produce 42 megawatt of electricity and will irrigate around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land.

India has played a crucial role by participating in the rebuilding of Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.

Since 2002, the Government of India has committed USD 2 billion dollars to the socio-economic rebuilding of the Afghan state and society in accordance with the development priorities of the Government and the people of Afghanistan. (KP)

(8) ISIS Members...

assigned the internal security commission to investigate the issue." "There is no report on transferring of Daesh militants to Nangarhar. But we do not reject that Taliban and Haqqani network supports to Daesh," Murad Ali Murad, deputy chief of Army staff said. (ATN)

(9) Mol Welcomes...

no other way for insurgent groups to demonstrate a commitment to the welfare and prosperity of their fellow citizens than to search for a peaceful resolution to the conflict," he said.

The envoy stressed the necessity for face-to-face negotiations between the Afghan Government and Taliban leadership, and emphasized that UNAMA will continue to support all efforts to establish a peace process.

"We continue to offer our good offices in any facilitative role while recognizing that any peace process must be Afghan-owned and led," Haysom said. (Tolonews)

(10) Helmandis Asks ...

must be brought to justice," said Enayatullah Nasir the head of the youth coordination and empowerment network.

Helmand provincial council members meanwhile claimed that Nawomish, Baghran, Musa Qala and Nawozad districts in the north of Helmand and Dishu in the south are under Taliban control.

They report that for the past three months, heavy clashes between Taliban and security forces have been ongoing in four districts - Sangin, Marja, Washir and Khanshin. In addition, they said Kajaki, Grishk, Nad Ali and Lashkargah, the provincial capital, are under serious threat.

"The pressure of war in those districts has reached close to Lashkargah city. Areas in zone four have already fallen to the Taliban - less areas remain under our control," said Helmand provincial council head Karimullah Atal.

"Government should sort out an operational team that is headed by a person with experience and responsibility to go to Helmand province and investigate the situation closely," said Nargis Rukshana, a Helmand provincial council member.

Helmand provincial council members said that if no attention is paid to the security of Helmand province the neighboring provinces will also be affected.

However, the NUG has said that additional forces have reached Helmand province and are planning operations.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that Afghan soldiers say local residents in Helmand are being fired upon by Taliban fighters who are on the verge of taking control the district capital of Sangin.

One Afghan soldier, Jamal Uddin, said: "The situation is very bad here. Local residents are at risk and cannot stay in their homes because the enemy is firing on them."

Helmand, a major center of opium cultivation and a traditional Taliban heartland, has been the scene of fierce fighting for months as insurgents ramp up attacks.

In other reports, AP stated that an army base in Sangin district was the only area that had not fallen to the Taliban.

Helmand governor Merza Khan Rahimi was quoted as saying government troops had however been able to deliver supplies to troops holed up inside the base on Tuesday and stressed the government had a "special agenda" to solve the area's security problems.

Meanwhile, a British Ministry of Defense statement late on Monday said "a small number of UK personnel" had been deployed to Helmand "in an advisory role".

But former head of the British Army, Lord Dannatt, on Tuesday said that Helmand Province was "pretty secure" when British forces handed it over to Afghan security forces in late 2014.

"We've been progressively building up the Afghan army in Helmand province in particular. And it was pretty capable by the time we left. Now, once you've left, you've gone. And what the Afghan national army's chain of command, what its political leaders chose to do, I'm afraid it's been their business."

He was quoted as saying: "They chose not to prioritize Helmand, they chose to prioritize six other areas around the country for their main effort against the Taliban. And if you've chosen not to prioritize somewhere, and the enemy has chosen to prioritize, you're going to get an adverse set of circumstances, and that's what happened."

He went on to say: "If there have been failings, it's their [Afghanistan's] failings." Lord Dannatt said a growing drug trade is the likely reason behind the Taliban's activity in Helmand, but he added there was "no question" of the Taliban sweeping into Kabul and running the country again. (Tolo News)

(11) Afghans Fighting...

opium and drugs.

He said the main focus of the Afghan forces is currently on Sangin district but the operations are underway in Greshk, Khanshin and Nad-e-Ali districts.

According to Stanikzai, additional forces have been deployed in the area of repulse the Taliban offensive and the Afghan forces are receiving air support which has considerably reduced the casualties of the security forces.

He also added that well coordination has been set up among the Afghan security institutions in Helmand province and the security forces are carefully conducting operations in a bid to prevent harming the local civilians. (KP)

(12) Russia Rearms ...

is also having a military airbase in Kant near the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek.

The remarks by Shoigu comes as the security situation in Afghanistan has rapidly deteriorated during the recent months as the Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant.

There are also concerns that the loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group has stepped up efforts to further expand the group's foothold in country.

In latest efforts to recruit more loyalists, the terror group launched an FM radio which can be heard in parts of eastern Nangarhar province, including the provincial capital city of Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, the commander of the US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Gen. John Campbell, said earlier that the loyalists of

the terror group are attempting to establish a regional base in Jalalabad city.

Gen. Campbell further added that foreign militants from Syria and Iraq had joined the loyalists of the terror group in Nangarhar province as they try to consolidate links with the leadership of the terror group based in Syria and Iraq. (Agencies)

(13) EU Provides ...

through air transport services. EU humanitarian aid is allocated strictly on the basis of the humanitarian principles of independence, impartiality and neutrality. In the last decade, the European Commission has provided more than €680 million to meet urgent needs among the Afghan population. The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has been present in Afghanistan since 1994. (PR)

(14) British Military in ...

Forces and the Afghan Security Ministries," the statement added. The strategically important town of Sangin is believed to be almost completely under Taliban control, British Sky News reported Tuesday.

More than 450 British military personnel or MoD civilians have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force completed their combat mission in Afghanistan by the end of 2014, after 13 years of military presence in the country. (Xinhua)

(15) Meshrano Jirga...

days ago who allegedly worked for the station.

But until now government has not been able to track down the location from where Daesh is broadcasting. However, the Ministry of Telecommunication and Information Technology said that the radio station is operating from a mobile studio and moves around the province. (Tolonews)

(16) Daesh Spread ...

extremists' activity was gaining momentum. In line with his words, Shoigu said that Russia might resume patrols along the Afghan-Tajik border, which were fully suspended in 2005.

Earlier this year, US President Barack Obama said that the US forces would maintain presence in Afghanistan after 2016 because of the weakness of the government army and growing terrorist threat. (Sputnik)

(17) 34 Militants...

bombings and armed attacks.

The Taliban, which has been waging an insurgency since its regime was toppled in late 2001, has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

(18) Experts Call ...

operating procedures.

This was the first round of meetings as part of a series of seven Track 1.5/II meetings between Afghan and Pakistani security sector stakeholders.

This initiative supported by the British government is organised by the Centre of Research and Security Studies in partnership with Duran Research & Analysis (Afghanistan) and the Foundation for Integrated Development Action (FIDA). Organisers say the project has been launched in an effort to help connect civil society and security stakeholders of both countries, improve relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Dialogue pivotal to maintain Pak-Afghan relations Participants of the dialogue also met Afghan Chief Executive Dr Abdullah Abdullah, who described terrorism as a common threat and stressed that all countries in the region should fight jointly.

"There should be no bad and good terrorists," he said adding that "Afghanistan's sovereignty should be respected."

He added Kabul wanted amicable relations with all neighbours. "We do not want any interference and hope that others will also follow the same policies," he said.

The dialogue also stressed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be condemned and violence by non-state actors should also be treated as terrorism.

"Pakistan and Afghanistan should establish clear frameworks to control and stop terrorist financing and dismantle ter-

rorist infrastructure, and other related aspects such as illegal drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom and arms and narcotics smuggling," the joint declaration said.

The participants urged their respective governments to ensure a check on national and foreign funding of seminaries as well as their curriculum in their respective territories.

Pak-Afghan trade may rise with multiple-entry visas

The declaration also suggested engaging the media and sensitising reporters on the need for a balanced and objective coverage so as to contribute to the objectives of peace, reconciliation and bilateral dialogue. (Agencies)

(19) 69 Afghan...

prime spots for refugees heading for the EU.

At least 3,138 refugees have died crossing the Mediterranean Sea so far this year, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Meanwhile the International Organization for Migration said Tuesday that the refugees number in Europe have now topped the one million mark. (Tolonews)

(20) Five Arrested...

gunned down while leaving a gym in Kart-e-Char in Kabul.

Kabul Police said the victim was shot by a mullah from a mosque within the complex that houses the gym.

Kabul police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi has said the mullah was a graduate of the Sharia Faculty of Ustad Rabbani Education University in Kabul. (Tolonews)

(21) China Slams ...

anti-terrorism measures and protection of human rights.

The spokesman pointed out that as Internet is frequently used by terrorists in planning and conducting attacks, countries including the United States enacted laws obligating Internet operators and service providers to providing assistance to law enforcement agencies. (Xinhua)

(22) DPRK ...

3 in the Mozambican capital of Maputo for allegedly trafficking 4.5 kilograms of rhino horn.

Law enforcement agents also found 99,300 U.S. dollars in cash in a vehicle in which he was travelling. The car had diplomatic licence plates and was registered to the DPRK embassy in Pretoria. The South African government last month gave Park a 30-day ultimatum to leave the country, the local news outlet News24 said. (Xinhua)

(23) Georgia's PM ...

2012. Paris-educated Garibashvili has spent almost his entire decade-long working life in the employ of the enigmatic tycoon who calls him his "beloved boy." Opposition politicians said Garibashvili's mooted resignation may likely be part of the ruling coalition's efforts to reverse a rapid loss of popularity amid economic turmoil before parliamentary elections set to take place in October 2016.(AFP)

(24) After Paris...

less enthusiastic about fighting climate change than Democrats, but more willing to address it than the party's presidential candidates. Ninety-one percent of Democrats approve of the United States taking action.(Reuters)

(25) Kenya Charges...

access to court personnel and journalists. The charge sheet named the women as Ummul-khair Sadri Abdalla, Khadija Abubakar Abdulkadir, Maryam Said Aboud and Halima Adan. (Reuters)

(26) 70% of Syrian...

, putting nearly 90 percent of them in debt. Household spending dropped to \$493 per month from \$762 in 2014, reflecting reduced quality of food consumed and a heightened reliance on debt and humanitarian aid. To cope, families are pulling their children from school so that they can work. Only five percent of 15-17 year olds attended school this year. Instead, many work in agricultural fields for as little as \$4 a day. "The Syria crisis is a tragedy for children on an unimaginable scale and continues to significantly impact their protection, wellbeing and development across the entire region," said Tanaya Chapuisat, head of the UN children's agency in Lebanon. (AFP)