

### (1) Ghani Promises...

been made since rivals in unity government have long disagreed over who should lead the reform commission.

A new opposition council, set up earlier this month, has been pushing the government to hold the elections as well as a "Loya Jirga" council meeting of representatives from across the country to decide changes to the constitution.

Violence has been at its worst across Afghanistan, with more deaths on both sides of the conflict, as the Taliban has stepped up attacks on government forces since the departure of most foreign combat troops last year.

The militants' brief capture of Kunduz in September underlined the growing military capability they have developed since their hard-line Islamist rule was overthrown by U.S.-led coalition forces in late 2001.

Ghani is hoping to revive peace talks with the Taliban in a bid to end 14 years war but with the Taliban showing little sign of seeking a return to the negotiating table, many Afghans fear violence and conflict will increase next year. (Reuters)

### (2) Afghan, NATO ...

war against insurgents.

Afghan officials meanwhile expressed their concerns over an increasing threat from militants but said insurgents have not been able to reach their goals this past year.

"No doubt, threats have surged but militants have failed to reach their goals during this year," said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry.

Afghan security officials also believe that the war on terror has become more complex and terrorists are better equipped than they were in the past.

"The reason behind the increase in war this year has been [Afghan] security forces have stepped into the shoes of hundreds of thousands of foreign troops and also the support for insurgents has increased from across the Durand Line," said Sediq Sediqqi, the Interior Ministry's spokesman.

Meanwhile, a number of Afghan MPs criticized the United States' decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan.

"I think the world has not taken a good decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan. This decision needs to be revised," said Farhad Azimi, an MP.

According to the Washington Post, the Taliban now control, or at least have a sizable presence, in roughly 30 percent of Afghanistan, the most since 2001.

However, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) rejects the report and said the Taliban is a threat to only a few parts of the country.

"I completely reject this. Taliban might be a threat in parts of Afghanistan. They have control of a few districts not lots of them," MoD spokesman said. (Tolnews)

### (3) 110 Journalists...

protect media personnel, the report said, calling for the United Nations to take action. (AFP)

### (4) Pentagon ...

[US side's] refusal from any cooperation in the fight against Islamic State is a broken record, and it's high time to change it"

Russian Defense Ministry says the Islamic State militants have changed routes of their oil delivery and that the new routes run through the north-western regions of Iraq, which "are in the focus of constant attention of the United States." "We publicly told our American colleagues that it is necessary not to discuss the IS activities in Iraq, but to take real action to block the terrorists' sources of income in the region," Konashenkov said. (KP)

### (5) Kabul to ...

meeting will determine the mechanisms of the talks.

"The mechanisms of the peace talks will be fixed in the meeting and it will be decided what steps should be taken," he said.

"The meeting will talk about ways of building trust between the Afghan government and Afghan Taliban - also [trust] between Pakistan's government and Pakistani Taliban."

This comes after a close source to President Ashraf Ghani told TOLONews that the president drew three redlines regarding peace talks with the Taliban during his meeting on Sunday with Sharif.

In this meeting, Ghani reportedly

laid down the law and said discussions need to be clear on three points - the protection of democratic institutions; Pakistan needs to give its honest cooperation regarding honesty and that the Taliban should join the talks from the position of a group and not as a parallel government or Islamic Emirate, the source said Monday.

Referring to this, Din Mohammad said: "Afghan government cannot wait for an agreement among Taliban's different groups in order to come to Afghanistan and talk about peace. Reports reveal that rifts among Taliban have increased, therefore the president said that Kabul is ready to talk with those who are ready for peace." Meanwhile, Pakistani officials have said that Ghani and Sharif have agreed to both fight the war on terror, to resume peace talks and to exchange intelligence information. (Tolnews)

### (6) 60 Million...

I'm a civil engineer, and I'm working a job for people who graduated from high school. With that money, I trained to become a concrete inspector certificate.

One day I went to a church. The pastor and I we started talking, and he told me: "I will help you." Until now, the church keeps sponsoring me and they offered me a place to stay.

My hope is in 2016 to be reunited with my family here in America and to be a good American. I love America."

Mustafa Asefi, 28, an Afghan living in Vancouver, Canada "I'm from Afghanistan, from Kabul, and I was working for an international company. In 2014 in December, I got a warning letter from the Taliban. They warn people who are working with international companies. They assume these people are their enemy, are helping the enemy of the Taliban, or the foreigners.

These are normal strategies that the Taliban and other militias use in Afghanistan. They just send you a letter which is called 'shabnama'; it's like a warning letter. And along with that they call you and send you text messages. They continue these threats and you have to obey them. Otherwise they will take action.

Because I was working for an international company, I was lucky enough that we got a U.S. visa and from the United States, we eventually came to Canada.

We applied for protection. When they accepted me as a refugee, it was like someone issued me a new birth certificate.

For me, it was a very tough year because I never expected I would have to flee everything, leave everything behind. I was working as a professional engineer, and I wanted to work with my country, with my people. But my life was in danger and I had no choice.

Hassane Chetim, 36, a Nigerian living in Bosso, Niger "The first day Boko Haram entered my village, Gogone, was Oct. 1, 2014, and now for a second time on Nov. 25, 2015. That's what caused all villagers in my town to flee.

Last year I moved here to settle in the town of Bosso. I have a family of six boys and six women, and everyone works. Everyone contributes their stone to the building. It forced us to leave the land on which our ancestors have lived for many years. We never thought that some of our villages that have existed for more than a hundred years would be deserted in an instant.

We grew peppers and so we had something with which to survive. I'm a teacher, but since 2012 I haven't taught. People are afraid that Boko Haram will catch their children at school, so they don't send them.

During the last attack there were 19 dead and nine people were wounded. One of my nieces was wounded. There is a constant fear that doesn't let our conscience rest. I hope that this war ends and that the people return home and retrieve their freedom to work the fields and fish in the lake. If I live, I thought about writing a novel about the fact that we are the youth of the crisis. Because it is youth that is being lost. It hurts me."

Luoy Liay, 29, living in Juba, South Sudan "It was on Dec. 15, 2013 that my displacement started. It happened after the presidential guard clashed among themselves, which later led to massive killing - ethnic killing of civilians who are part of the Nuer tribe. Political differences in the leading party, too, was at play. We ran, we ran for our lives.

I was a college student pursuing a bachelor's degree in development studies.

Conditions are totally unacceptable in the protected site in which I live. A lot of violence, stress, and too much thinking about losing hope for the future. We worry about goods, education, health care, basic things.

The conditions are not normal here. In here, you sleep in open shelter, regardless of your sex. Many people lose hope for their future. That pushes some to commit crimes. It is so difficult for someone who was studying to stop for three years.

2016 may be different in some ways, but the truth is the trauma remains. It will be hard to recover smoothly without getting better education and health care systems."

Ragheda, 30, a Syrian living in Mafraq, Jordan (Reporting courtesy of UNHCR for the Thomson Reuters Foundation) "My life in Syria was good. Not very rich, but easy. My husband was in construction but was injured and cannot move. I am the head of my household.

Why did I have to leave in 2012? It was, simply, the war. Air strikes next to the house. My daughter suffers from post-traumatic stress. She frequently has night terrors. She is 10 years old.

I live in a very good neighborhood in Mafraq (northern Jordan) where my Jordanian neighbors are very kind. But I would like to be in a place where I don't need anyone to help me. I receive cash assistance from UNHCR, but it is barely enough to cover the rent.

The services in Jordan aren't enough to cover all my needs.

I am currently four months behind in rent. I hope that in 2016 I can catch up on my payments and be able to pay rent on time. I would also like to find psychological help for my daughter." (Reuters)

### (7) Activists Ask ...

security. The issue of youth has been sidelined by government and is not prioritized."

"Afghan youth want a broader environment to work within and to be represented in different government organizations, at the level of policy and decision making," she added. (Tolnews)

### (8) Russia to ...

of Afghanistan," he said.

Kabulov said earlier this month that Russia has established channels of communication with Taliban militants who were fighting Daesh in Afghanistan, although he declined to say if Moscow had any plans to regard the Taliban as an ally. (Xinhua)

### (9) NUG Should ...

senators criticized the Pakistan's action against Afghanistan, saying the Afghan government should not trust the Pakistani officials.

"The Pakistani officials commuting in the winter season because Taliban's war becomes weak and the profit is for Afghan troops but Pakistan attempts to decrease Afghan operations against Taliban," said Senator Shir Muhammad Akhund Zada.

"Whenever Pakistani officials come to visit Afghan authorities bring suicide attack gifts with themselves. The government must be aware of Pakistan's decisions," said Senator Mahiuddin Munsif. Senator Haris has also said, "Pakistan's war strategy against Afghanistan will never be changed and unfortunately the countries that tries for peace, they themselves involve in Afghanistan war." (ATN)

### (10) Police Refuse...

police have been fighting the insurgency on the front lines and have sustained high casualties as they lack the arms, equipment and facilities of the army, despite doing the same job.

In the past three months, Atal also said, the fighting in four districts of Helmand had killed about 700 policemen and wounded 500. In addition, precise casualty figures were often difficult to obtain as the police lacked a "proper management system," he added.

Total casualty figures for Afghan security forces have not been made public by the defense or interior ministries, but are said by NATO military sources to be 28 percent higher than in 2014, when the total toll was around 5,000.

The Afghan forces have had a tough year on the battlefield, for the first time having to fight the insurgents alone, following the drawdown of international combat troops at the end of last year. The Taliban have used this to step up

their offensives across the country. (AP)

### (11) Afghanistan Close...

in terms of points and number of goals scored, having played 3 matches with 3 Wins and no Losses.

The Afghan footballers have scored 11 goals during their 3 appearance against Bangladesh, Bhutan and Maldives and carries 9 points, the highest among all teams qualified for the semi-finals. (KP)

### (12) 36 Manufacturing ...

lands, electricity and loans are the main problems of investors and the government does not have any plan for creating industrial parks," said Qurban Hajjo, chairman of AISA.

Investors Union of Ghazni province also said that if the government provides little support, the investors are ready to invest in the country. (ATN)

### (13) ACSEN Urges...

to the president," said Shakila Barikzai, member of ACSEN.

The selecting committee took three months to formed after much differences but now the committee faces a slow working process.

"The rejected decree of President Ghani caused the selecting committee faces a slow working process," said Sughra Sadat, members of ACSEN.

Previously, a member of selecting committee has said that if the committee does not face any problem they would specify and introduce the nominees of members of electoral commission to the president less than a month. (Tolnews)

### (14) German Mittelstand

the arrival of so many refugees.

Around one third of the companies aimed to invest more next year than in 2015, the survey showed. Although the term is loosely defined, the Mittelstand comprises about 3.6 million businesses, often family-run, which together employ more than half of Germany's working population and create half the country's economic output. (Reuters)

### (15) Pentagon Pushing

Monday that the White House is considering a Pentagon proposal to keep open for years at least one U.S. military base - which, sources tell Fox News, is Bagram.

Officials consider the base too valuable to close for fear of continued destabilization in Afghanistan and beyond. Special operations forces have carved out a section of the base to house their assault force and helicopters for missions throughout the region. Air Force F-16s also are based at Bagram and conduct airstrikes against the Taliban and other jihadist groups.

The U.S. Air Force conducted over 4,000 sorties, resulting in 916 weapons being dropped on enemy positions, so far this year.

The activity alone speaks to how fluid the situation in Afghanistan remains. On Oct. 7, U.S. special operations forces, partnering with Afghan forces, launched an attack on a sprawling Al Qaeda training camp in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar Province.

The raid killed up to 180 Taliban and Al Qaeda militants, Fox News is told, signaling increased U.S. special operations involvement in Afghanistan.

The U.S. military occupies two other bases in Jalalabad and Kandahar where drones can be launched as well. These bases are important for regional operations; the daring Navy SEAL raid to kill Osama bin Laden in 2011 was launched from Jalalabad. Without the Afghan base, the raid would have been considerably more difficult, according to officials.

As the administration weighs its options, the military is warning there may be no winter lull in the fighting. A Pentagon report released earlier this month said that high-profile attacks in Kabul increased by 27 percent in the past year.

The report included a poll indicating that fewer Afghans feel safe in their country. "Only 28 percent of Afghans say that security in their local area is good compared to 35 percent during the same time period in 2014 and 45 percent in 2013," it said.

Thousands of Afghan military soldiers have been killed in the past year; Afghan security forces suffered 27 percent more casualties in 2015, according to the report. In addition to gains by the Taliban throughout Afghanistan, an Islamic State offshoot has gained a foothold in Nangarhar Province in

the east and is competing with the Taliban for influence.

After watching the Taliban make gains amid the questionable performance of the Afghan military and police force, officials in Washington do not want to see the country fall apart -- concerns that are driving the push to make the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan a long-term one.

In another sign of increasing volatility, six U.S. Air Force airmen were killed in an attack near Bagram Airfield last week. (Fox News)

### (16) Ghani ...

VOA the killings are against international and religious principles and "whoever performs such an act must be condemned."

Qadir last month accused the country's national security adviser of providing support to IS militants in Afghanistan, a claim strongly denied by the Afghan government. He is said to be attempting to gain control of a 1,000-man regional police force being formed by the government to fight IS.

Qadir was a strong supporter of Ghani in the 2014 presidential election. His father, a former cabinet minister, was assassinated in 2002 in Kabul.

Various parts of Nangarhar have recently seen an increasing presence of IS fighters. (VoA)

### (17) 27 Militants...

Mullah Abdul Samad, the shadowy deputy governor of Taliban for Faryab province, is also among those killed in the operations, he said, adding that two security personnel have been injured.

In Nazian district of eastern Nangarhar province, Afghan security forces captured nine armed Taliban militants on Tuesday, according to Mohammad Ayub Hussainkhil, a senior Border Police officer.

"Our troops captured nine armed Taliban rebels in Nazian district today morning while they were attempting to create law and order problems," Hussainkhil said.

Taliban militants who have intensified activities since last April in parts of the conflict-ridden country, are yet to make comment. (Xinhua)

### (18) NDS Burns...

during a raid. In a separate security operation, NDS personnel seized 460 kilograms of hashish in Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital of Logar.

According to the press release, a motorcycle and 11 magazines of Kalashnikov were also confiscated during this raid.

Exact dates of the achievements have not been released but the spy agency usually sends out statements to media after recent activities. (KP)

### (19) 20 Development...

livelihoods, education, etc disbursing a total of AFN 2,660,130,803 while the work of hundreds of others is currently in progress in various communities. (PR)

### (20) Pakistan...

Tuesday morning. Those executed were identified as Noor Saeed, Murad Khan, Inayat Ullah and Israr Uddin.

Their bodies were later handed over to their relatives by the jail authorities. President Mamnoon Hussain rejected mercy petitions for the four militants. (Xinhua)

### (21) Driving...

is now able to drive a car.

"I was very interested in learning to drive and I was encouraged by my family to learn," Kamila said adding that other women should do the same.

"It's very necessary that we learn to drive in any situation. I am asking all of them as sisters to learn to drive," she said.

She said her training will last for 45 days and once complete she will get a certificate.

Meanwhile, Roya Zelal, the head of the Women's Council of National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, said that there is a growing interest among women to learn to drive. "The women need to learn to drive. Many women asked us to launch this training," Zelal said. (Tolnews)

### (22) Syrian Army...

close to the border with Jordan. The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which tracks violence across Syria, said 17 raids, believed to have been made by Russian planes, hit rebel-held areas in the town.

Activists say Russian air strikes, in which missiles and bombs

are launched from high altitude, are distinct from Syrian air force strikes which rely more on untreated barrel bombs dropped from helicopters flying at lesser height. (Reuters)

### (23) Central African...

The violence in the mineral-rich but dirt poor country followed the ouster in March 2013 of president Francois Bozize by a mainly Islamic rebel alliance, the Seleka, which installed Michel Djotodia, the first Muslim head of state of a mostly Christian country.

Djotodia quit in January 2014 after disbanding the Seleka, but attacks on Christians by rogue Muslim forces led to brutal reprisals against Muslim districts by "anti-balaka" ("anti-machete") militias from Christian communities.

Thousands were slaughtered in a spiral of atrocities that drove about one in 10 of the population of 4.8 million to flee the country.

Christians and Muslims alike came forward massively to ensure their names were on the electoral roll and to collect their voters' cards, often saying they never again wanted to hear gunfire or other manifestations of violence. (AFP)

### (24) Indonesia Stops...

Indonesia is home to more than 17,500 islands and boat is a favored transport means in the vast archipelago. However, poor safety standard often causes fatal accidents. (Xinhua)

### (25) Erdogan...

Erdogan said: "You cannot go anywhere by supporting a regime that has mercilessly killed 400,000 innocent people with conventional and chemical weapons."

Russia began airstrikes in Syria on Sept. 30, saying it wanted to support the Syrian government and defeat Islamic State militants and other extremists. But many of the strikes have hit Western-backed rebel groups in areas where IS is not present, and Syrian activists say the Russian strikes have killed civilians.

The U.N. says at least 250,000 people have been killed in the nearly five-year Syrian conflict, and some 12 million people displaced, triggering a massive refugee crisis. What began in 2011 as mainly peaceful protests inspired by the Arab Spring eventually spiraled into an armed conflict pitting rebels against the military, drawing in global powers as well as extremist groups like IS and al-Qaida. (AP)

### (26) British...

part in the debates if Downing Street agreed.

Downing Street also wanted to "look at the formal details" of the proposal before Cameron agreed to participate. (Xinhua)

### (27) Syrian Army...

Brigade 82 military base in the southern province of Daraa, pushing forward toward the strategic city of Sheikh Miskin near the Jordanian borders.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based watchdog group, said the Syrian air force carried out over 80 air strikes on Sheikh Miskin since Monday, adding that the capture of Brigade 82 has enabled the Syrian forces to expose the northern part of city. (Xinhua)

### (28) Abadi Visits...

militias. Baghdad has said for months it would prove its forces' rebuilt capability by rolling back militant advances in Anbar, a mainly Sunni province stretching from Baghdad's outskirts to the Syrian border. Iraqi forces, backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes, had been slowed in Ramadi by explosives planted in streets and booby-trapped buildings. Security officials said they still needed to clear pockets of insurgents held up in the city and its outskirts. (Reuters)

### (29) Sino-Russian...

of the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War, to which both countries made great contributions.

The army and the people of the Soviet Union have toppled Hitler's plans of "Blitzkrieg" (lightening war) and helped reverse the war situation in Europe, while the Chinese people contained the main forces of Japanese militarists, which acted in concert with the allied countries on the European and Pacific fronts and prevented strategic interactions among Japanese, German and Italian fascists, the ambassador said. (Xinhua)