

### (1) Abdullah Calls ...

Abdullah went on to say that the end of the Cold War led to a power vacuum not only in the region but across the World and that regional players began to act irresponsibly in an effort to protect their self-interest and to strengthen their strategic position in their respective regions.

"In effect, the end of the Cold War ushered in the beginning of regional cold wars, as opposed to a level playing field for regional cooperation." He went on to say that ever since, states have often utilized proxy wars to serve their narrowly defined national security interests, disregarding "win-win" cooperation promoted by numerous UN Security Council resolutions backed by annual General Assembly debates.

But the situation has yet to change, even though lip-service is often given in support of a paradigm shift to results-oriented regional cooperation, he said.

Considering this dynamic, we are effectively facing a regional cold war where terrorism has become the principal instrument of projecting influence by some states against others, he said.

"As a consequence, there is no universal appreciation of the grave danger, which terrorism poses to regional stability and international peace and security."

Although nations generally agree that terrorism threatens the security of the whole humanity, each state is developing its own homegrown capabilities to tackle the direct threat it faces within its milieu. They have been reluctant to adopt and implement a global counter-terrorism action plan, even though terrorism sees no borders, nationalities, religions, creeds or cultures, he said.

"I propose that each region assess the set of threats terrorism poses to their security and development and then agree to draft and implement a joint counter-terrorism action plan," Abdullah added.

"If the states in the region have the appropriate counter-terrorism policies and laws; if they operate at home based on a common definition of terrorism; and if they have multilaterally reached a consensus on the nature of the threat and the need to counter it; then what bars us from collectively acting against terrorism, as we have witnessed the tragic terrorist attacks claiming many innocent lives in Kabul, Mumbai, Peshawar, Paris, Ankara, San Bernardino (California), and so many other places?"

"In simple terms, why can't we regionalize our national counter-terrorism action plans?" he asked.

Abdullah said the regional mechanisms of such a cooperation are already in place including the The Heart of Asia Process, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the South Asian Association Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

"But we should operationalize these mechanisms, which Afghanistan has often demanded and stood ready to do our part in utilizing them for effective regional counter-terrorism cooperation, he said.

Abdullah also raised the issue of peace talks and said: "As our brave forces continue fighting terrorism, we have relaunched a peace process. Our peace efforts are aimed at meeting the desire of every Afghan for freeing our country from an endless cycle of war and violence and to prevent the use of our soil as a platform for regional and global terrorist activities."

He went on to say that: "On peace with the Taliban groups, our position is clear: Those Taliban groups, who are willing to join the process, they are welcome. While those, who refuse to do so, would be dealt with militarily."

He said government does not differentiate between the Taliban and Daesh affiliated groups, and are firmly committed to fighting and defeating any militant groups that share the ideology of Al Qaeda and Daesh.

"As we continue our peace efforts, we invite all our neighbors to cooperate with Afghanistan. The National Unity Government of Afghanistan has repeatedly called on all stakeholders, including our neighbors, to commit the collective will and resources to confront what is a common security threat. Afghanistan has done more than lion's share," he said. (Tolnews)

### (2) Law Violated...

Naderi and some parliament members.

Ferozi, who was also present at the inauguration ceremony, said he would invest \$98 million in the project.

The township on 67 acres of land will be constructed by Nabizada Wardak Construction Company based on a

contract between the Ministry of Urban Development and Ferozi, whose release from jail triggered widespread criticism. Ferozi is currently serving his jail sentence in a Kabul jail.

The increasing criticism prompted President Ashraf Ghani to suspend his legal advisor Abdul Ali Mohammedi.

Some lawmakers had claimed government officials who attended the project launch had received high amounts of bribe from Ferozi.

Ghani on November 18 appointed a delegation to investigate lapses in recovery of lost Kabul Bank money. He issued a presidential decree on November 18 ordering a halt to work on the Smart City project.

The decree said the contract signed between the Ministry of Urban Development and the Kabul Bank defaulter was not credible and the lost money would be recovered through legal channels.

Ghulam Hussain Fakhri, a member of the fact-finding delegation, told reporters on Tuesday that the panel had shared its report with the Presidential Palace about a month ago.

"We approve that the motive behind the Smart City contract was to recover Kabul Bank loans, but unfortunately the responsible officials and government departments committed actions which were against the Constitution," he said.

Fakhri said the delegation was tasked only to provide their opinion whether the contract-signing was performed in a legal or illegal way. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Afghanistan...

that the international coalition led by the United States has conducted almost 10,000 airstrikes and killed more than 90 mid- or high-level Daesh leaders since May 2015.

The US secretary of state said that Washington would continue to increase its participation in the military operations against Daesh.

The meeting within the framework of the so-called Small Group, comprising 23 countries and the European Union, is taking place at the Italian Foreign Ministry. It is being chaired by Kerry and Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni.

Previous meetings of the Small Group were held in January and in June of 2015 in London and Paris, respectively. (Sputnik)

### (4) Reconciliation...

with its peace process with the Taliban. "We continue to encourage that process to move forward," he continued.

He underlined the need for a continued international mission in Afghanistan to improve the capability, confidence and competence of the local security forces that continued to do an admirable job.

"There's still a lot of work to be done in Afghanistan. We recognize that. But again, all of this is a reminder of how important it is for everybody to see these reconciliation talks continue," Kirby concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (5) No Deal on...

Nearly one million refugees from different countries, including Afghans, migrated to Europe during the past year, but 4000 of them drowned in Turkey and Greece waters, Jurat said, adding 20 percent of the victims were Afghans. (Pajhwok)

### (6) US Lawmakers ...

John W. "Mick" Nicholson, Jr., to replace him.

Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., said last week that Congress "desperately" needs an unvarnished assessment of troop requirements even if the recommended number contradicts what Obama has proposed.

"If it's 10,000 that's needed to be effective, then tell us it's 10. If it's (5,000), tell us it's 5," Donnelly said at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing held to consider Nicholson's nomination. "If we don't have enough there, it's just going to make it worse, and worse and worse."

While campaigning for his second term, Obama promised the war in Afghanistan would end on his watch. At the end of 2014, the White House declared an end to combat operations there. Yet American forces and money remain committed as Afghan troops and police slowly take over the fighting.

The mission of the U.S. troops in Afghanistan is to conduct counter-terrorism operations and to train and assist the Afghan security forces. Nicholson assured the Senate Armed Services Committee that if confirmed, he will do a thorough review to make sure there are enough American forces to accomplish both assignments.

Nicholson acknowledged, however, that security conditions are worsening in Afghanistan. The Afghans

held their own in 2015 during combat against the insurgency, he said, but are still not self-sustaining. The U.S. continues to provide the bulk of the money to train and equip the Afghan military and police — more than \$4.1 billion was allotted in fiscal year 2015 alone to the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, according to the Defense Department.

"The Taliban came at the (Afghan forces) more intensely than perhaps we anticipated," Nicholson said. "Because of that, we did not make the advances we projected we thought we would make."

Overall, the U.S. has committed \$113 billion since 2002 for reconstruction projects in hopes of establishing a stable, functioning Afghan government. Yet, nearly 15 years later, Afghanistan still lacks the capacity to independently operate and maintain the hospitals, roads, power plants, and more built with all the money. (AP)

### (7) AREU Ranked ...

people's lives unless they are based on impartial and independent research that is based on evidence," AREU director Nader Naderi said in the statement.

He said the AREU in Afghanistan for many years had been in the forefront of providing such research to policymakers and contributing to the public policy environment.

"We produce evidence-based research and actively engage stakeholders in our findings and recommendations, to help create a better Afghanistan", he added. (Pajhwok)

### (8) US Airstrikes...

killing 29 IS militants and destroying an IS radio station," the Nangarhar provincial government said in a statement on Tuesday.

Those killed included five workers of the banned group's radio station and five people in charge of Internet service of the extremist group, the statement added.

Several high-ranking IS members were also among the killed by the airstrikes in Achin, which is regarded as an IS stronghold.

The IS militants have been using the so-called Voice of Caliphate radio since late last year to intimidate people from supporting the government and recruit new fighters.

The U.S. drones continued to be hovering over Jalalabad and Achin district Tuesday morning, according to locals.

The district bordering Pakistan has been the scene of heavy clashes between IS militants and security forces backed by pro-government local militiamen over the past couple of months. (Xinhua)

### (9) Kabul City...

frustrated over the lack of service delivery in the capital. In addition to the ongoing garbage problems, road maintenance is also not being carried out resulting in the ongoing deterioration of streets in the city.

But one municipal employee Waliullah said they are trying their best. "We have cleaned the river and taken out mud and garbage but the government must collect this and remove it."

"Now the municipality must come and collect this garbage and remove it," said one of the residents.

Meanwhile Presidential Administration Affairs accepts the challenges and difficulties faced in the capital. "The government is committed to selecting a mayor but due to the diversification of the population there should be several mayors and this is one of the reasons that the selection of the mayor has been delayed.

There should be several mayors and those mayors should be in contact with the presidential palace," said Meya Gul Wasiq, head of the Social-Political Department of Presidential Administration Affairs. (Tolnews)

### (10) Taliban Pushed ...

were killed, five wounded in the attack. I want to thank the people for their cooperation."

Baghlan governor Abdul Satar Bariz meanwhile said 13 Taliban were killed and six others wounded in Monday night's conflict.

"The attack left 13 Taliban dead, including their so-called district chief for Dara-e-Sooof and also one of their group leaders named Ataullah. Six Taliban were wounded in the battle," the governor said.

"Search operations [by security forces] are on in Dand-e-Ghori area," he said.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Alim, a local resident who took up arms against the Taliban, said: "The local people and the local police force members helped to push back the Taliban [from the area]."

"We took left the mosque when Taliban launched a sudden attack in the area, but they escaped after one hour

because they faced resistance by the residents," said Abdul Mahboob, a member of the public uprising in Pul-e-Khumri city. (Tolnews)

### (11) 12 Civilians...

and nine men. Two of them are announced to be in critical condition. Abdul Jabar Naemi, governor of Laghman province has strongly condemned the attack calling it work of the enemies of peace and stability. No group has claimed responsibility for the explosion which came about an hour after a Taliban suicide bomber killed 20 people and wounded 29 others in capital Kabul. (KP)

### (12) Imran Khan...

Afghanistan should build mutual trust to jointly tackle the security challenges facing them, Khan stressed in an interview with the Voice of America. While blaming Pakistan for lacking a consistent policies toward, and meddling in, Afghanistan, he acknowledged there was a lot of bad blood between the neighbours. Khan asked the Afghan Taliban to sit across the negotiating table with representatives of the government and explore ways of ending the conflict through political means. He said: "They (the Taliban) must come to the table and they must resolve this dispute through talks. War is never a solution. In fact, war leads to unintended consequences..."

Khan assailed the US for persistently relying on military power to defeat the insurgency, a move discouraging the Taliban from seeking political reconciliation. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Protesting Sherin ...

local court judge had not been coming to his office. They said their journey between Sherin Tagab and Maimana was risky due to the presence of militants. One of them, Zainullah Zaki, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had to travel to Maimana for a single signature. He said the judge was not attending the court despite the fact the court was located in a peaceful area of the district. He said they locked the court office in order to draw the attention of the provincial and central governments towards their problems. He said the local court chief, who lived in Maimana, was deciding cases from his home.

Another protestor, who declined to be named, said: "For a signature, I travelled thrice to Maimana and paid 300 afghanis in transport fare. The journey between Sherin Tagab and Maimana is very dangerous. Once on the way, militants stopped passenger vehicles and opened fire, killing two persons" He said he wanted to contest a legal case in the primary court, but the absence of the chief judge had prevented his case from being resolved. The protestors said they wanted the judge to be removed and replaced with another judge who could keep the court operational. The district chief, Syed Luqman, said the court chief, Ahmad Khalid, had been absent from his office over the past few months. He confirmed receiving complaints from people in this regard. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Iran Rejects...

that has recruited thousands of Afghans, some by coercion, to fight in Syria. "Iran has not just offered Afghan refugees and migrants incentives to fight in Syria, but several said they were threatened with deportation back to Afghanistan unless they did," Peter Bouckaert, emergencies director at the New York-based HRW said Jan. 29. (Agencies)

### (15) Key State ...

eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, Mr. Inam completed his primary and secondary school education in Chaknoori high school. He completed his higher education and obtained his engineering diploma from Nangarhar faculty of engineering in 1998 and served as project director in RSSA organization from 1998 to 2003. Mr. Inam obtained his Masters degree from the City University of London in 2005 and served as senior engineer in BCS consultancy in London from 2005 to 2009. He also served as projects director with a private firm from 2009 to 2013 and deputy president of the same firm from 2013 onwards besides serving as technical adviser to the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs.. (KP)

### (16) 'Drug Traders...

and we have a strong will in this regard," Habibi said. Police chief Brig. Gen. Faizullah Ghairat told Pajhwok Afghan News that most of the 100 people detained in connection with drug smuggling had been convicted. He said police in coordination with other security forces were taking serious measures to prevent drug smuggling and business. Though poppy and other such crops are not grown in Khost, but drug smuggling

and sales are openly done in Khost City and districts.. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Policeman Who ...

children who are not yet aware of their father's death. Religious scholars who attended Munir's funeral called on government to find the perpetrators of the attack and punish them. At least 20 people were killed and 29 others wounded in Monday's attack near a Border and Public Order Police base in Kabul. (Tolnews)

### (18) Fourth Afghan...

apply for the National Military Academy of Afghanistan.

"I read a lot of books, and did PT [physical training] all the time," explained Yarghal. "In my village, I have a place where I would run, usually one or two hours a day, and the locals call it by my name."

Yarghal was accepted into the prestigious four-year academy, which is structured similarly to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation in 2012, he attended infantry school in Afghanistan for three months.

"My father was a doctor for the Mujahedeen," said Yarghal. "He told me if I wanted to be a good officer and leader, I needed to do infantry. Masoud [Afghan political and military leader] was an infantry commander; so I chose that."

A fellow soldier told Yarghal about a four-month infantry course in the United States that he could attend, along with a school where he could become a paratrooper, a skill he believes is important for all armies.

"My goal in the Afghan National Army was to become a leader who can keep my soldiers strong," said Yarghal. "I wanted to be the best I could be."

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan's Security Assistance Office-Afghanistan stepped in to make the lieutenant's dream a reality.

"After a candidate for training in the U.S. is identified, they take the American Language Course Placement Test, which is administered by the Afghan Foreign Language Institute," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Umar M. Khan, Chief, Professional Military Education and Training Programs Branch, SAO-A, who is deployed out of Maxwell Air Force Base. "The Training Branch receives the results of the ALCPT; if the candidate scores above a certain level on that exam, then SAO-A Training Branch administers the English Comprehension Level test."

Yarghal passed the tests, his request was approved and after SAO-A coordinated travel, he was on his way to the United States.

Following the completion of the advanced English language course, Yarghal traveled from Texas to Georgia and enrolled in the Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course. It was there that he heard his American peers discussing their desire to attend Ranger School, one of the toughest training courses for U.S. soldiers. He immediately volunteered and spent any extra time reading the Army Ranger Handbook, and pushing himself through extra physical training. (KP)

### (19) NATO Condemns ...

munications. He said the attack on the Afghan police showed the contempt the Taliban had for the rule of law in Afghanistan and for those defending the Afghan people.

"The Taliban have no plan for the development of Afghanistan. Targeting those who defend their fellow Afghans does not advance the cause of peace," the NATO official said.

"On behalf of General John F. Campbell, Resolute Support expresses its condolences to the families of those police officers killed and wounded in today's attack, and its support for the National Unity Government's effort to bring peace to all Afghans." (Pajhwok)

### (20) Pakistan ...

to the government of Afghanistan as well as the bereaved families."

In statement, the ministry reiterated Pakistan's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. (Pajhwok)

### (21) China Condemns...

will attend. Lu said the quadrilateral-coordination group will strive to create favorable conditions for the Afghan government to resume talks with the Taliban, as well as to help the Afghan government make a feasible reconciliation roadmap. We hope the group continues working to formulate a reconciliation roadmap that will be acceptable to all parties, he said. (Xinhua)

### (22) Nigerian Leader...

conference - co-hosted by Britain, Germany, Norway, Kuwait and the

United Nations - to continue his push for more global understanding, collaboration and support for Nigeria and other countries in the frontlines of the war against terrorism who are striving to overcome its very adverse effects on affected populations, presidential spokesman Femi Adesina told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

### (23) Japan Confirms ...

missile systems have been deployed at 34 locations. The locations comprise the ministry's facilities in Ichigaya in Tokyo, as well as in Asaka and Narashino, which is close to the nation's capital. Nakatani said a launch could occur without prior notice and as such Japan had to ready itself for a number of potential scenarios.. (Xinhua)

### (24) U.S.-Led ...

Iraqi security forces. Mosul, the capital of Nineveh province, has been under IS control since June 2014, when Iraqi government forces stunningly abandoned their weapons and posts and fled. (Xinhua)

### (25) Refugee, ...

shores, claiming the lives of 272 people. The central Mediterranean route linking North Africa with Italy saw 96 people lose their lives last month. Official estimates indicate that at least 3,711 migrants died in 2015 while crossing the Mediterranean, up from 3,279 two years ago. (Xinhua)

### (26) Security Council...

said no decision has been taken on how to act "but we continue to monitor the situation very closely."

The presidency of the council rotates among its 15 member states based on the English-language alphabetical order of the countries' names on a monthly basis. (Xinhua)

### (27) Yemeni ...

an all-out civil war between pro-government forces and Houthis rebels backed by troops loyal to former President Saleh, triggering foreign military intervention by Saudi-led coalition warplanes to restore the internationally recognized government of Hadi.

More than 6,000 people have been killed in ground battles and airstrikes since then, half of them civilians. (Xinhua)

### (28) European Council ...

of free movement," Tusk said in the letter. Also on Tuesday, the EU side unveiled a draft decision of the heads of state or government concerning British referendum issue. "The draft decision notes, in particular, the Commission's intention to propose changes to EU legislation as regards the export of child benefits and the creation of a safeguard mechanism to respond to exceptional situations of inflow of workers from other member states," said Tusk, adding that the approach, as well as the exact duration of the application of such a mechanism "need to be further discussed at our level." (Xinhua)

### (29) Merkel Tells ...

unfettered access. "Here, Russia must use its influence on the separatists," she said, according to a statement issued by her spokesman. In Moscow, the Kremlin said Merkel and Putin discussed issues related to the implementation of constitutional reforms in Ukraine and the holding of local elections in the breakaway regions of Donetsk and Lugansk "based on legislation agreed with representatives" of the two self-proclaimed rebel republics.. (AFP)

### (30) ISIS Pushed ...

"Kerry told the Rome conference. "That country has resources. The last thing in the world you want is a false caliphate with access to billions of dollars of oil revenue."

Under a U.N.-backed plan for a political transition, Libya's two warring administrations are expected to form a unity government, but a month after the deal was agreed in Morocco, its implementation has been dogged by in-fighting.. (Reuters)

### (31) EU Reform...

he said "real progress" has been made in his four main negotiating objectives.

The proposals released by Tusk will allow for an "emergency brake" on benefits for migrant workers to be imposed immediately after the UK votes in favour of remaining in the union. (Xinhua)

### (32) Strength of ...

guarantee. The government's direct debt has reportedly reached more than 1.98 billion U.S. dollars. Borrowings guaranteed by the government amount to more than 22.7 million U.S. dollars and debts without government guarantee amount to 31.5 billion U.S. dollars. (Asia-Plus)