

(1) Terrorism Not

combat the menace, which was posing a threat to international peace. "Terrorism has no religion and over 4,000 Afghan scholars have recently condemned terror," the president added.

He thanked the people of America for their constant support to Afghanistan and expressed optimism that Washington backing would continue in future.

The US official reassured America's long-term support to the Afghan people and the government. (Pajhwok)

(2) Afghan

government control across the restive province.

Taliban outfit has yet to make comment.

Notorious for militancy and growing poppy, Helmand has been regarded as Taliban hotbed in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

(3) Civilian Casualties

percent against last year. It held the insurgents responsible for 72 percent of the casualties and Afghan forces for 10 percent and foreign troops for two percent.

The report said civilian casualties in 2014 were the highest figure in a single year since 2009. It added conflict related violence had killed 17,252 civilians and wounded 29,536 between 2009 and 2014.

The "Taliban don't actually accept the veracity of the information in the report," UNAMA head Nicholas Haysom told journalists in Kabul. "They have accepted in the engagements with us that protection of a civilian is important and have pledged to take certain measures to eradicate civilian casualties."

The Taliban had no immediate comment. The UN report attributed the rise in casualties to intensified ground fighting, in which weapons like mortars, rockets and grenades are used in populated areas, sometimes indiscriminately.

For the first time since 2009, more Afghan civilians were killed and injured by ground fighting than by any other tactic, including roadside bombs. The report found that civilian deaths and injuries resulting from ground operations surged by 54 percent, making them the "biggest killers of Afghan women and children in 2014." (Pajhwok)

(4) All Measures

to protect Afghan people and collectively do everything possible to limit civilian casualties.

A statement from the RS Public Affairs Office on Wednesday said that it had reviewed the UNAMA latest report and "we remain committed to our mission to Train, Advise, and Assist (TAA) our Afghan National Defense and Security Force (ANDSF) partners."

According to a latest report released by the UNAMA, at least 3,700 civilians, including women and children, suffered casualties in the ongoing conflict in 2014.

The statement said that the previous International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission took great measures to reduce the possibility of civilian casualties. In fact, ISAF-related civilian casualties were reduced by approximately 70 percent in the past year, it said, adding that UNAMA now attributed approximately 2 percent of all Afghan civilian casualties to international military forces.

The report, released on Wednesday, said that 3,699 civilians have been killed and 6,849 others wounded during clashes between militants and security forces in Afghanistan in the current year, which shows 22 percent increase as compared to 2013. Most of the casualties, the report said were caused by militants.

The statement by the RS Public Affairs Office said: "We continue to improve our processes to limit civilian casualties. We are working with UNAMA, the UN Mine Action Service, and the Mine Action Coordination Center Afghanistan to reduce the hazards associated with Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). To date, we have cleared or transferred to ANDSF 117 training ranges and expect to have the remaining 102 training ranges cleared or transferred by the end of this year."

Afghan security forces, it said also take great measures to reduce the possibility of civilian casualties. Efforts include refining training for security forces on the use of force, fielding nearly 200 explosive ordnance disposal teams, and the Ministry of Interior's implementation of a '119' call line for civilians to contact the Afghan police with information about suspicious or dangerous activity.

By contrast, the Taliban and other Anti-Government Elements (AGEs) continue to display total disregard for human life. In this year's report, UNAMA attributed nearly 72 percent of all civilian casualties directly to AGEs. Their increased and indiscriminate use of improvised explosive devices and indirect fire attacks are taking a very high toll on the Afghan people, especially women and children.

Additionally, as reported by the UN earlier this month, Taliban involvement in criminal activities such as narcotics trafficking and illicit mining further illustrates their total lack of concern for the well-being of the Afghan people. (Pajhwok)

(5) Pakistan's Messages

Mohammad Hanif Atmar at the palace.

The statement said both the sides discussed further enhancing bilateral cooperation and expressed their satisfaction with the progress so far made in bilateral issues.

It quoted Gen. Raheel as saying his country was cooperating with Afghanistan in advancing the Afghan peace process and in this regard, Pakistan would bring into use all resources.

At the meeting, the two sides insisted increased cooperation between the brotherly and Muslim nations would help bring peace and stability to the region.

The Pakistan army's media wing said Gen. Raheel, while meeting President Ghani, said that Afghanistan's enemy was also Pakistan's enemy.

ISPR said the army chief held important meetings with Afghan president as well as CEO Dr. Abdullah Abdullah.

During his meeting with Ghani, both the leaders pledged support to each other in their fight against terrorism and vowed to restrict the use of their soil against each other, said the ISPR statement.

Both countries also agreed to continue the ongoing operation against militants in their respective countries, the statement added.

General Raheel also met with Abdullah who acknowledged the overall positive trajectory in bilateral relations. Abdullah also talked about progress in border management and intelligence sharing.

Earlier, General Raheel along with Director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar arrived in Kabul for a one-day official visit. (Pajhwok)

(6) Afghan Airlines

conditions for the Afghan airlines to be removed from the blacklist were an independent civil aviation administration, approval of a law on Afghanistan aviation, standardizing Afghan airlines to meet international standards, hiring international operators to run their fleets.

Habibi said Afghan airlines previously lacked the cited criteria, but the carriers had met that criteria now and the aviation authority had reported the development to the EU about 10 days ago.

He said the EU had confirmed receiving the report from the Afghanistan Aviation Authority and would decide in this regard sometimes later.

Habibi said once the ban was lifted, Afghan airlines would first fly to Germany and then to other European countries. Currently Afghans use foreign airlines to reach European countries. (Pajhwok)

(7) Americans Upbeat

Campbell presented a report about his recent visit to the United States at the meeting.

He said it was fortunate that the Americans were enthusiastic about supporting Afghanistan and were optimistic about the country's future.

Campbell said the Afghan security forces were well-trained and they had gained a considerable international backing and applause.

For his part, Abdullah said assistance from the international community, particularly from the US, for Afghanistan was of great importance. He thanked the international community and the US for assisting Afghanistan in diverse fields.

The CEO said Afghan security forces still needed widespread support because it was problematic for them to deal with the region's challenges alone. Abdullah said the Afghan forces needed continued international support, particularly from the US.

He said the Afghan forces had come a long way and were far better off today than they had been in the past. Abdullah said the Afghan forces had gained much experience and self-confidence and they could effectively answer attacks from insur-

gents. But the Afghan forces needed heavy and modern weapons and a strong air force and the unity government expected assistance in this regard from Afghanistan's allies, Abdullah said.

The CEO said Afghan security forces had the ability to defend the country's soil and had won people's confidence.

Meanwhile, Finland's Ambassador to Afghanistan Ari Maki called on Abdullah at his office on Wednesday, a separate statement from the CEO's office said.

It said the Finnish envoy reassured of his country's continued support to Afghanistan. At the meeting, Abdullah and Maki discussed relations between the two countries. They also talked about the completion of the Afghan cabinet and the proposed electoral reforms. (Pajhwok)

(8) UN Urges

for reforms in electoral panels. (Pajhwok)

(9) Herat Residents

the Afghan government has increased the prices for the consumers by 80 percent.

According to the residents of Herat, previously they paid nearly 3.5 AFN per kilowatt hour (kWh) but now they were compelled to pay 5.5 AFN for each kWh.

"The price set for each kWh for Herat consumers is way higher than the prices set for Kabul consumers," a protestor Ahmad Aqa Salehi said. "If the prices are not reviewed, we will refrain from paying our bills."

Insisting there was no political motive behind the protests, the protesters warned to carry out further and wider demonstrations if their demands were not fulfilled.

Meanwhile, Mirwais Alemi, the deputy head of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS)—the national power utility—acknowledged increase in the prices, blaming it on inflated prices by Iran.

He, however, stated it was the lowest price they could determine for the Herat consumers.

"The Iranian Ministry of Energy, based on the new agreement signed with the Breshna Sherkat, has doubled the prices," Alemi said. "Therefore we had no other choice except to increase the prices but this is the lowest price we could set for our Herat consumers."

This has been the second time in a week that the people of Herat, an industrial city, are conducting protests against the electricity price-hike. (Tolnews)

(10) US Applauds

to questions asked about Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif's one-day visit to Kabul on Tuesday, during which he discussed security matters with Afghan leaders.

"We know that obviously there's a one-day meeting, as you referenced today, to discuss security cooperation, so certainly we think that falls into the category of efforts to deepen cooperation, which we would support," Psaki added.

Gen. Raheel along with ISI chief Lt Gen Rizwan Akhtar arrived on a day-long visit to Kabul, during which they met President Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah and others.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said the Pakistani delegation conveyed positive messages in talks with the president and that Pakistan's pledges of cooperation would become clear over the next few weeks.

A Pakistani newspaper said Afghan authorities had told the Pakistani delegation that they were tightening the noose around the Pakistani Taliban leader, Mullah Fazlullah.

Ties between the two countries have improved since President Ghani took office last year. This was Raheel's second visit to Kabul since the horrific Taliban's attack on a Peshawar school in December. (Pajhwok)

(11) Presidential Office

President Ashraf Ghani. "I listened to their problems and their problems are not ordinary," Sultan said. "I will make sure their problems are presented to Ghani. I request all national athletes who are the pride of the country to not resign."

The protesters argued that the president has paid little to no attention to resolve their issues, exclaiming that if the matter is not resolved now such acts will become rooted.

"Since the separation of the physical education department and the National Olympic Committee these issues rose," Afghan National Taekwondo Coach Mohammad Bashir Taraki explained. "The two institutions need to become one. The presi-

dent needs to solve this matter by issuing a decree to have these institutions merge into one."

The athletes have accused the Olympic committee of embezzling athletes' money and forging their signatures.

The National Olympic Committee Chairman Fahim Hashimi did not respond to a Tolnews request for information. (Tolnews)

(12) Muslimyar Urges

Nangarhar provincial council, was seriously injured in a bomb blast in Jalalabad, the provincial capital about more than a week ago and was shifted to a Kabul hospital for treatment, but died of her wounds after a surgery.

Her driver, the son of her sister, was instantly killed in the blast that injured four high school students. The bomb was attached to her car that went off in the heart of the city.

The provincial council office on Wednesday held a memorial service for the slain provincial council member in Jalalabad, the provincial capital. The Fateha was attended by provincial council members, government officials and local residents.

Speaking on the occasion, Muslimyar said Shinwari's death was a great loss to the community she served and urged the government to seriously investigate the attack on her.

"Angiza Shinwari was people's beloved representative. She was serving the people of Nangarhar for a second term. We are saddened by her demise and call on the government to identify and arrest the perpetrators."

A member of the provincial council, Dr. Nasir Kamawal, said Angiza Shinwari as an active public representative and people were very upset over her death. "The government should conduct a serious investigation into the incident."

Shinwari's uncle Eng. Daud also spoke on the occasion and said his niece was an active public representative and all her efforts were in the service of people.

He thanked her colleagues, Nangarhar officials and Muslimyar for assisting them in treatment of Shinwari. He said nothing about someone's possible hand in the murder.

Earlier, Nangarhar police chief Brig. Gen. Fazl Ahmad Sherzad had told Pajhwok Afghan News that police were investigating the bomb attack on Angiza Shinwari.

He had said police had prevented many similar incidents and would continue to try to avert such happenings. (Pajhwok)

(13) Public Order Police

get paid for the last five months and warned to quit their jobs if their problem was not addressed in next few days.

The Ghormach district, where a number of public order police were deployed, is one of the most unstable areas where 71 of the police personnel had been killed and tens of others wounded in fighting with militants in the past one year, he recalled.

A police officer Mohammad Shah said they put their lives in danger to secure the road but their salaries for the last five months were not paid.

He said that his family had borrowed money from others to buy daily use commodities. He could not go home for the last five months because he had no money in his pocket.

"If the government does not pay my salary I must quit my job and find another job to feed my family," Shah said, adding they have shared the issue with the governor, ministry of interior and the first vice-president but no step could be taken so far. (Pajhwok)

(14) Displaced

family members safe while he left everything behind. He said his family was living in rented house in miserable condition.

Rahmat Baig, another displaced man, said he was waiting to go back to his home. "Every day, we go out for work but it is difficult rather impossible to find work. Feeding our large family in this state is difficult." Amanuddin Quraishi, the Imam Saheb district chief, acknowledged problems haunted displaced families but efforts were on to provide them with aid and assistance. (Pajhwok)

(15) President Ghani

of Afghan National Security Forces so they carry out this type of attacks. The attackers were wearing police uniforms to be disguised as police who took the advantage of the uniform reached to the parking lot of the police headquarters.

Taliban insurgents on numerous occasions have taken the advantage of Afghan National Security Forces uniforms.

They have also used women clothes and Burqas in their attacks.

President Mohammad Ghani has also said in the statement that such anti-Islamic and anti-humanity acts of the enemies of Afghanistan will not weaken the lines of the Afghan National Security Forces for defending their country and people but instead it will give courage to fight stand against the enemies.

President Ghani has also conveyed his condolences to the family and loved ones of the victims of the terrorist attack.

The attack was carried out by four insurgents equipped with arms and explosives

Three insurgents exploded their vest and a fourth one was killed during the exchange of fire with the insurgents.

Governor's spokesman immediately after the attack confirmed the martyrdom of 10 police officers but security officials after completing their situational information put the death toll at 20. (KP)

(16) Department

demanding the government should address his department's legitimate demands and issue directions to security forces to help in collecting of taxes from contractors.

He said that an amount of 24 million afghanis revenue had been collected from the mine sector in the ongoing year. Major part of the revenue came from tax money paid by the contractors.

Khohmadi said the excavation contract of a glass mine in the Chashma Shifa locality would be signed with Yasminra Company which would invest \$48 million initially.

He said the company had shown interests to expand investment up to \$250 million in the future which would help generate 1,000 job opportunities for the residents of the locality. (Pajhwok)

(17) Majority of

, more than 4,000 cases of violence against women have been registered this year with the ministry of women affairs, out of which 110 were rape cases.

One of the most shocking cases has been brutal rape of four women in Paghman district last August. (Pajhwok)

(18) Construction Work

water did not reach all the fields due to the absence of concrete dams.

"With the dams' completion, we will have enough water to irrigate our fields and this will increase our agriculture production by several-fold."

Also this week, construction work on six dams was launched on the Matoon Stream near the provincial capital. The dams are estimated to cost 62 million afs provided by the World Bank. (Pajhwok)

(19) Janikhel Police

the blast that they said killed the Janikhel police chief along with two others.

In southern Zabul province, the Shajoy district police chief was injured along with seven others in a hand grenade attack on Wednesday, Zabul deputy police chief Ghulam Jilani Farahi said.

The incident took place in the Mirwais Mena area of Qalat, the provincial capital, at a guest house belonging to the district police chief, Mohammadullah Ahmadi, at around 4pm, he added.

A doctor on duty at the civil hospital, wishing anonymity, confirmed receiving seven wounded people at the hospital, including a son of the district police chief.

The Taliban have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

(20) Husband Beats

shifted to the hospital by the police after she was beaten," Agha said. "Her husband is under police custody and is being interrogated."

After several hours of treatment, the doctors said Gul died in the hospital, but right after her baby was born.

"The woman died after profuse bleeding, but her baby was born," said Dr. Ikramuddin Ikrami, head of Takhar civilian hospital.

Strongly condemning the growing cases of violence against women in the north, the Takhar women's affairs director, Razm Ara Hawash, said Gul is the 21st woman killed over the past 11 months in the province.

"This is the second woman being killed in a week in Takhar," Hawash said, calling on the security authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Based on the statistics provided by the Takhar women's affairs directorate, 21 women have been killed, six underage girls raped and 360 other cases of violence against women

have been recorded in the past 11 months. (Tolnews)

(21) Woman Dead in

sives," he said.

Noorullah, an eyewitness, said he saw one person was sitting alone. "I thought that he was waiting for someone when he detonated his explosives within no time," he added.

He said a police check-post was situated in the area but security officials escaped unhurt in the blast. (Pajhwok)

(22) 8 Rebels Dead in

Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

(23) Spring Plantation

the sapling could not grow due to water scarcity.

Nimroz is known as a sandy desert with tropical weather and the province receives little rainfall.

Mohammad Anwar, a senior citizen, said the government should chose sapling that suits the weather of the province. (Pajhwok)

(24) Heavy Avalanche

commodities.

Nasir Ahmad Kohzad, head of Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, said two excavators had been dispatched to the area to clear the highway.

He assured the highway would be opened for traffic soon. (Pajhwok)

(25) 8 Held on Charges

area between Islam Qala and Iran when he was taking six Herat residents to Iran. (Pajhwok)

(26) Ukraine

brokered truce agreed by all sides last week in a bid to quell a 10-month conflict that has killed more than 5,600 people.

But France insisted the truce it helped broker last week in the Belarus capital Minsk "was not dead".

"The actions by the Russia-backed separatists in Debaltseve are a clear violation of the ceasefire," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in a statement.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg called on Russia to "withdraw all its forces from eastern Ukraine, to stop its support for separatists and to respect the Minsk agreement".

"I am deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation in and around Debaltseve," he said in Latvia. (AFP)

(27) At Summit, Obama

up a synagogue. During the three-day conference, Obama is working to highlight local models for preventing radicalization that could be replicated in other communities.

The U.S. is not the only country pushing anew for deeper involvement from the rest of the world in preventing the spread of extremist groups. After IS militants in Libya beheaded a group of Egyptian Christians in a video released this week, Cairo is pressing the United Nations to approve a new coalition for airstrikes. The U.N. Security Council was to meet Wednesday in an emergency session on Libya.

On Thursday, Obama will speak at the State Department, where representatives of some 60 countries are scheduled to meet. The White House declined to release a list of attendees in advance, suggesting the U.S. was still working to secure support and participation, but representatives from Britain, Jordan, France, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait were expected to attend. (AP)

(28) Most Pressing

aid their struggle against ISIL." Moving forward would require expansion of the process of inclusion into the political sphere, as an exclusively military solution to the problem would be both impossible and counterproductive, he said.

"ISIL flourishes when Iraq is weak," he said. "Iraq is weak when it is divided by sectarian politics, when political patronage overtakes national loyalty." Mladenov said many risks remained despite positive steps taken. He pointed to the toll taken by armed conflict and acts of terrorism, with more than 12,000 civilians killed in 2014 and 23, 000 others injured. With goodwill between Iraq and Kuwait at its highest now since 1990, he said it was an "opportune moment" for the countries' leadership to come together on an important humanitarian issue. (Xinhua)

(29) West Never Removes

states' attempts to keep Iran away from partnership in major regional and international economic projects, including oil and gas pipelines, and keep Tehran under sanctions, and said in addition to the arrogant powers' plots, the country's economy is suffering from dependence on oil and government's major role in different projects. (FNA)