

### (1) Ghani, Carter...

commitment to the enduring defence partnership with Afghanistan. They agreed to continue close coordination between the two countries.

In Paris, General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Afghan mission enjoyed universal NATO support.

Noting there was still work to be done, he said Afghanistan needed support from the alliance. "We still think that the campaign can be moved in a positive direction," he told reporters. (Pajhwok)

### (2) NATO-Funded ...

"NATO has purchased passport printers for the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI). Each day, thousands of Afghan citizens visit the office in #Kabul to obtain a new passport," according to an online statement by Resolute Support (RS) mission.

The statement further added that the new passport machines, the MoI will process the passport applications faster. Before the new passport machines, each passport had to be hand signed.

Additionally, old passports were easily forged, RS said, adding that the new passport machine will shorten prep time for passports and visas for companies that want to do business in Afghanistan. According to the MoI, 700-1,000 passports can be processed daily. Meanwhile, the Afghan government is launching online enrollment for electronic passport in a bid to expedite the process for the applicants.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Afghanistan (MICT) earlier announced that a plan has been prepared for the online enrollment and distribution of passports through Afghan Post.

The Afghan government launched distribution of electronic passports in early 2013 by obtaining the biometric data of the applicant that can be used to identify the holder. The new system has made it harder for criminals and insurgents to travel.

The launch of online enrollment for the electronic passports has been widely welcomed with Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah saying the launch of the system is yet another step to fight corruption. (KP)

### (3) Shinwari ...

of Shinwari zone and the government should launch a ground operation to reopen these schools and clinics.

A tribal elder from Nazian district, Malak Zafar Khan, said as the uprising members had been organised under a government framework, they should be equipped as soon as possible.

"All the closed schools will be reopened and nearly 25,000 displaced families will be repatriated if ground operations are conducted in the districts," he remarked. Another influential from Achin district, Haji Saeed, said the public uprising members kept security on roads and prevented militants from advancing on more areas.

Whiling reaffirming pledges of the local administration, the governor's spokesman, Ataullah Khogyani, said the uprising members had been asked to submit a list of 1000 fighters' names fighting against militants, but they were yet to do so. As they submitted the list, he said, the provincial government would start supporting and equipping them.

He acknowledged most schools and clinics had been closed in the district, but added that efforts were in place to reopen them all. "Seven schools in Haska Mena and 13 schools in Kot districts have been closed, but I would say they are in cold areas and are on winter recess," the education spokesman, Mohammad Asif Shinwari, said.

The schools would be reopened after the summer vacations and once normalcy returned, he said. (Pajhwok)

### (4) ANSF Effectively

the terror group covering parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan but the loyalists of the terror group is mainly operational in some remote regions of Afghanistan bordering the Durand Line located between Afghanistan and Pakistan. (KP)

### (5) Baghlan Residents...

switch off their towers at night. Subscribers faced problems in informing relatives or friends in emergency situations like evacu-

ating patients to hospital or informing relatives in case of death, he said.

Two nights back when his wife was in labour, he wanted to call the ambulance service, but there was no signal. He and his wife had to walk for an hour to the main road at night, the man said. But Director of Telecommunications and Information Technology Faiz Mohammad Arghand said dozens of towers had been installed in Taliban-controlled areas.

Each antenna costs more than \$500,000. The destruction of towers would inflict heavy losses on the government and that was why services of the government-run Salam Company remained off at night, he argued.

Private telecommunication firms Roshan, Etisalat, Afghan Wireless Communications Company (AWCC) and MTN stopped operations at nights for similar reason, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Kandahar...

buy due to a lack of fund.

He made an appeal to well-off people to assist the university and its students with similar donations.

Families of the disabled children also thanked the Qalam Lar and the Europe-based Afghans for the assistance.

Akhtar Mohammad, a resident of Arghistan district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that his son suffered from paralysis caused by polio and he could not afford buying a wheelchair for him.

Mohammad was thankful to the Qalam Lar organization and said his son would now go to school with the help of the wheelchair.

Qalam Lar group has not only been campaigning to reopen schools which have been closed due to insecurity in southern provinces, but also assisting poor students. The group has also established libraries in Kandahar, Helmand and Zabul. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Families of ...

Afghanistan, if the government cannot bring peace and security," she added.

Mohammad Aslam Sayas, the Deputy Minister for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs, during a meeting with families of the victims, said government is committed to supporting these families.

The National Directorate of Security two days after the attack claimed that it had arrested eight people in connection with the incident. However, it did not provide details about the suspects. (Tolnews)

### (8) Rula Ghani ...

people in the name of religion do not know anything about the religion. This is a crime and an un-Islamic act. Such actions do not represent nor the Afghan culture neither human values. These perceptions have infiltrated in Afghanistan from outside," former Afghan ambassador to Britain Ahmad Wali Massoud said.

In addition, a number of military commanders have also condemned insurgent attacks on civilians as foreign plots who operate against the Afghan government.

"These acts are the job of the terrorists aimed to frighten the people of Afghanistan. They (insurgents) commit such attacks to prevent the media from reflecting the truth," Kandahar police chief general Abdul Raziq said.

This comes amid a surge in Taliban activities this winter after the group caused carnage across the nation through suicide attacks. Reports say that hundreds were killed and wounded as a result of Taliban attacks in recent weeks across the country. (Tolnews)

### (9) US Awards...

Department of Defense (DoD) comes as efforts have been put in place to bolster the capabilities of the Afghan Air Force (AAF) and Afghan armed forces who are leading the fight against the re-surgent militants.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Air Force (AAF) received the first batch of A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircraft from United States last week, containing four aircraft.

The Afghan Air Force (AAF) officials are also optimistic to receive additional close-air support combat choppers and fixed-wing close-air support aircraft during the year. (KP)

### (10) Processes and...

media outlets will not remain se-

cret.

"No contract will longer remain as a secret document. Most media organizations prefer to keep their contracts secret. No document in a media outlet is supposed to be secret," head of NAI-Institution Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan said.

Taliban's suicide attack on TOLO TV staffers followed widespread condemnation inside and outside the country with activists asking why the Taliban target media workers who are completely neutral.

The new regulation authorizes both the government and owners of media organizations to provide proper security to the journalists and media workers.

"The constitution obliges the government to make sure security of the citizens including the journalists. There are two articles in media law which stresses the government to ensure security of the journalists," head of Journalists Safety Committee Najib Sharifi said.

While media is still under threat, approval of the new regulation can be a step forward toward strengthening freedom of press. (Tolnews)

### (11) Corruption...

society group head Sardar Mohammad Hamdard said corruption had declined in Helmand to a great extent. He said earlier bribery had been a common trend people used to seek rapid resolution to their problems.

Fazal Sultan, the appellant attorney's office chief, said he stressed the elimination of corruption since day one in office he assumed four months ago.

He said cases of every prisoner had been evaluated during the past four months. He claimed he would resign if corruption was proved in his department. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Jabalus Siraj...

natural riches.

According to Saba, the excavation process of chromite in Kohi-Safi district would be carried out by Hiwadwal Company.

Fifteen kinds of mineral deposits exist in Parwan. Four mines of plumbumb, zinc and coal exist in Syagard district and four reservoirs of copper, iron, chromite and other precious stones are available in Surkh Parsa district. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Khattak Orders...

arrangements for the rapid return of Afghan residents, with legal documents, back to their country. He had earlier stressed need of another All Parties Conference (APC) after Charsadda attack.

He said that there was a need to call an APC after the attack. It was not the time to score political points. He said that the federal government should talk straight forward with Afghan authorities, adding that Afghanistan government should take steps to halt cross-border movement. (Agencies)

### (14) Pakistan Wants ...

The US authorities have been told that they should at least now be serious in targeting the TTP men in Afghanistan as Kabul continues to be under the influence of New Delhi. India is said to be involved in destabilising Pakistan. Only a few months back, Islamabad had shared dossiers of Indian involvement with the UN and Washington. (Agencies)

### (15) Kabul Protestors...

calling it expensive, unnecessary and only serving as a recruitment brochure for enemies.

But the facility in Cuba where the US houses suspects captured during its "war on terror" remains open. Many of those detained since the facility's opening 14 years ago have never been charged or tried, and a number remained detained despite being cleared for release.

Three former Gitmo detainees were among dozens of people who staged a protest demonstration in front of the US Embassy in Kabul on Saturday, calling for the detention camp to be closed.

They chanted "death to America," "Guantanamo is a black spot on humanity face," death to dramas of democracy" and "close Guantanamo prison as soon as possible." Few of the protestors had worn orange uniforms like Guantanamo inmates with their hands tied behind their back.

One of the rally participants, Sharifullah Sherzada, a former

Guantanamo Bay detainee, said he had no connections with the Taliban, but he spent seven years in the detention centre in Cuba.

"When the Americans first came to Afghanistan, they bought many persons including me and shifted us to Guantanamo where barbarism was ongoing. Prisoners would be beaten up, tortured and bitten by dogs and other tactics which I cannot even say in public."

The former prisoner said he endured the torture for seven years and then he was told that he had been found innocent. He said still he could not understand why he was detained and why released.

A 60-year-old protestor, Omar Khan, said his son was detained nine years ago and remained in Guantanamo prison for an unknown crime. He said many "dark rooms" the US-prison had been filled with innocent people. "Our demand is that the prison should be closed."

The protestors issued a resolution letter titled "close Guantanamo," in which they urged the US government to treat Guantanamo inmates in line with international conventions on human rights.

It also asked the US government to allow the prisoners to have access to defence lawyers and courts.

The protestors said they wanted all overt and covert US-run prisons including Bagram should be closed and their inmates treated in line with human rights conventions.

They said all innocent prisoners should be compensated and crimes committed against them by US officials should be registered and produced before the International Criminal Court.

A member of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Abdul Rahman Hotak, told the protestors that "every prison which is against the law and human rights should be closed and Guantanamo is one such prison where everyone who is held captive is against all international laws."

Hotak said he himself had spent three years in Guantanamo Bay prison. "I have not been told as yet why I was detained. Like me many innocent are held there. The prison should be closed and the prisoners extradited to their respective countries." (Pajhwok)

### (16) 'Black ...

Wednesday's attack in the central city of the province, Mehtarlam. The participants of the event prayed for the souls of those who lost their lives in the attack and wished swift recovery for the injured.

"Attack on TOLO TV is an attack on all the media organizations in Afghanistan. It is an attack on the freedom of expression," said Abdul Jabbar Naemi, the governor of Laghman.

"We strongly denounce the attack [on TOLO TV staff]," the governor said.

A religious scholar in Laghman meanwhile said: "Killing of civilians - particularly women and children - is against the teachings of Islam. We know that why the Taliban commit such activities."

Those present at the event said that the attack on civilians is a cowardly act and that the Taliban and other terrorist groups should not target civilians anymore. (Tolnews)

### (17) Afghan Conflicts...

with Kunduz city as its capital 250 km north of Kabul, according to local official Imamudin Qurishi, 13 militants have been killed and 10 others injured over the past two days.

Qurishi who is also governor of Imam Sahib district of Kunduz province has confirmed that Taliban attack against security forces claimed the life of a security personnel on Saturday in the said district.

Taliban militants, however, without commenting on the situation in Badakhshan, in an online statement confirmed fighting in Kunduz province, insisting that the armed group has inflicted huge casualties on government forces in Kunduz province on Friday.

Since warring sides exaggerate the casualties of opponents, it is difficult to get verification from independent sources on the situation of fighting groups in the frontline in Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

### (18) Attack on Tolo ...

said: "We are condemning this attack, because those killed or injured in this incident were ci-

vilians and staffers of the private sector. In the past, we were witness to similar attacks on the private sector and in most of the attacks it is the private sector that suffers the losses."

Meanwhile, officials in the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) slammed the attack and said that it has created fear among investors.

They urged the government to prevent a repeat of such incidents. "Militants don't want Afghanistan to be self-reliant. They don't want private sector to grow," said Ebrahim Shams, the deputy head of the AISA. He added that such attacks are organized to prevent economic growth in Afghanistan. Beside civilians and security troops, private sector is also considered as one of the main victims of terror attacks. (Tolnews)

### (19) Mild-Intensity...

the epicentre was about 288 kilometres northeast of Kabul in the Hindu Kush range at the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Security Forces ...

Hameed, the district's administrative chief, confirmed the incident, saying security forces had captured a large quantity of weapons. He claimed the raids would weaken the Taliban in the area. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Activists Term ...

staff as a clear violation of human rights and violation to international charter of human rights and human values.

"The suicide attack that hit TOLO TV staffers will not prevent women from working in media, we demand the government serve justice on those who plotted the crime," women rights activist OranosAtifi said.

Rights activists have termed Wednesday's Taliban suicide carnage as a cowardly act which indicates that the insurgent group does not worry about killing civilians or of freedom of speech.

"We condemn the Taliban action in the strongest possible terms, the terrorists by committing the attack have violated human rights," head of AIHRC commission site office in Badakhshan MaroofNavid said.

Meanwhile, civil society activists and residents of Badakhshan province in northern Afghanistan have asked the government to ensure open trial of those arrested by the security forces in connection with the incident.

"Terrorists by committing the crime showed that they are enemies of humanity and the human society. If the government does not take steps for safety of freedom of speech, the achievements gained over the past 14 years will likely collapse," head of Badakhshan civil society institution, SaifuddinSaihoon said.

The activists have warned that if the government does not serve justice on the eight individuals who were arrested by the Afghan intelligence agency on Friday, the people will never trust the government. (Tolnews)

### (22) Onion Prices...

store their produce for long a period of time, Mohammad said.

The onions of Afghanistan are marketed only for three months a year, leaving traders with no option but to import onions from neighbouring countries, he said.

A farmer in Khashrod district, Gul Ahmad, said onion production had declined in the province due to a lack of water and farmers could not grow them.

A landlord in Kang district, KhudaRaham, said he owned 1000 acres of land in the district which remained uncultivated over the past 10 years due to water shortage.

Onion currently produced in Nimroz could only fulfill the requirement of five percent people who remained relied on onions imported from other countries, Agriculture Director Mohammad Akbar Sharifi said.

"Three decades back when there was enough water, farmers in Nimroz would send surplus yield to other provinces and export to foreign countries," he recalled. (Pajhwok)

### (23) Road Accident...

than two dozen others injured in a similar road accident in the northern Samangan province couple of weeks ago.

Careless driving on the congested roads in Afghanistan often causes deadly traffic accidents in the conflict-ridden Afghanistan. (Xin-

hua)

### (24) US Prepared...

to Islamic State, not Syria as a whole.

The Saudi-backed Syrian opposition ruled out even indirect negotiations unless Damascus took steps including a halt to Russian air strikes.

Biden said he and Davutoglu also discussed how the two NATO allies could further support Sunni Arab rebel forces fighting to oust President Bashar al-Assad. (Reuters)

### (25) US Forces ...

did not confirm the reports but said the US military had not taken control of any airfield in Syria. "There has been no change to the size of mission of the US presence in Syria," added US Central Command spokesman Colonel Pat Ryder.

"That being said, US forces in Syria are consistently looking at ways to increase efficiency for logistics and personnel recovery support," he said.

At the end of October, US President Barack Obama authorised the deployment of up to 50 special operations troops to Syria to advise local ground forces battling IS. (AFP)

### (26) Poles Fearing ...

democracy and freedom," Mateusz Kijowski, leader of the Committee for the Defense of Democracy, the group that has organized the recent protests, told the crowd in Warsaw. "In Poland, we now have one center of power. There is no possibility of control, of verification, and this threatens our freedom." The European Union recently opened a preliminary assessment of whether the laws on the constitutional court and media violate the bloc's fundamental principle of the rule of law. That could ultimately lead to suspending Polish voting rights in the 28-nation bloc. In Warsaw, an estimated 10,000 people gathered in front of the office of Prime Minister Beata Szydlo before marching to the palace of President Andrzej Duda. (AP)

### (27) India Says ...

raising crude oil imports from Africa and thus reducing its dependence on the Middle East. India imports nearly 80 percent of its oil needs, two-thirds of which is being supplied by Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait, though of late, it has managed to cut down its dependence on the region. (Xinhua)

### (28) British PM ,...

been widely criticised by the international community. The 48-year-old ex-leader left the Maldives on Monday after resolving a last-minute legal dispute with the government over his 30-day release for spinal cord surgery in Britain. Cameron and Nasheed agreed that while his release was "a positive step, more needed to be done... if real change is to be delivered," a Downing Street spokesman said.

The former British protectorate in the Indian Ocean is one of the 53 Commonwealth members. "Looking ahead to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group visit to the Maldives next month, the prime minister and Mr-Nasheed agreed this was an opportunity for all Commonwealth members to send a consistently strong message on the need for the Maldivian government to engage in open political dialogue and free all remaining political prisoners swiftly. (AFP)

### (29) UN Council ...

community "remain united on Burundi", which has been gripped by violence since April. Chergui said there was a "strong convergence of views" between AU and UN envoys on the "urgent need for inclusive political dialogue" to resolve the crisis. Street protests, a failed coup and now a simmering rebellion began when Nkurunziza announced his intention to run for a controversial third term, which he went on to win in July elections. United States Ambassador Samantha Power, speaking after meeting Nkurunziza late on Friday, said the envoys "didn't achieve as much, frankly, as I think we would have liked". "There is a 'cri de coeur' from many, many people in Burundi for outside help and for urgent, urgent mediation to get a solution," Power added. (AFP)