

### (1) New EU...

that threaten the progress made in its economic and social development and its democratic institutions.

"The European Union recognizes that the delicate security situation and the fragile economic situation the country is facing, combined with a clear determination on the part of the Afghan authorities to implement much-needed reforms necessitates renewed attention from the international community," according to the statement.

"The Afghan people deserve peace and prosperity. As the European Union, we have been standing by them and will continue to do so, in support of the reform process, of Afghanistan's democratic path, of the rule of law and human rights, and of bringing peace to the country, to the benefit not only of all Afghans but also of the entire region and the international community as a whole," Federica Mogherini, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, said.

"This work towards peace needs to be led by Afghans and owned by Afghans, but the active support of the region and of the international community is crucial. The Afghan people can count on the European Union to accompany this process," she said.

"Afghanistan is not alone. We will continue the support which we have been providing since 2002 - to make sure that the development achievements of the last years are not lost. With the EU's support, more Afghan women are actively participating in the country's politics. Access to health care has increased, and farmers are better supported to improve agricultural production than before. Moving forward to help Afghanistan overcome its many challenges, we will renew our engagement and focus on supporting good governance and the justice sector, creating sustainable growth and jobs, and ensuring basic social services for the Afghan people," Neven Mimica, the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, said.

The Joint Communication sets out ways in which the European Union can work, in close cooperation with civil society, the Afghan authorities, and all stakeholders, towards lasting peace, a consolidated democracy, equitable development and social justice in Afghanistan.

It also proposes concrete actions, focussing on five priority areas:

Peace, stability and regional security:

Supporting and promoting an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process leading to a negotiated peace settlement.

Building the capacity of the Afghan government to reach out to all those in sincere negotiations on peace and reconciliation.

Supporting the civilian aspects of security sector reform, including the professionalisation of the police and the fight against corruption in this area.

Working with the government of Afghanistan to support its strategic policy priorities, including peacebuilding and sustainable development.

Democracy, rule of law and human rights: Assisting Afghanistan's efforts to reform its electoral system and to strengthen the integrity of the electoral process, for example by supporting independent electoral bodies or assisting in drafting of electoral legislation and regulations.

Helping to fight corruption, as well as supporting the country's justice sector, parliament and civil society.

Working with the Government of Afghanistan to address human rights concerns, including respect for minorities, child protection or the fight against impunity.

Economic and human development:

Providing technical cooperation to assist the Afghan authorities to implement the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and their own National Peace and Development Framework.

Reinforcing the role of rural economies and agriculture, an increased role of the private sector and enhancing resilience.

Supporting regional connectivity, to further improve the country's transit, transport and energy corridors and to enable increased trade throughout the region.

Migration:

Working together to fully implement the EU-Afghanistan Joint Way Forward on migration issues and the bilateral memoranda of understanding concluded between EU Member States and Afghanistan.

Helping to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement. Helping to create an environment that offers the Afghan people an alternative to irregular migration, as well as to enable the sustainable reintegration of returnees from the EU and non-EU countries through a community-based approach.

Empowering Women:

Supporting the implementation of the national action plan for UNSC resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and other national women's empowerment legislation.

Supporting the incorporation of legislation and additional measures to prevent, combat and criminalise violence against women and sexual harassment.

Strengthening the role and rights of women in preventing and resolving conflicts, in

democratic participation, and in sustainable development.

The Joint Communication is the latest illustration of the European Union's strong engagement in and strong commitment to Afghanistan. Notably, it follows the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, held in October 2016 in Brussels, the signing of a new EU-Afghanistan Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development in February 2017, and the appointment of a Special Envoy to Afghanistan in June.

The actions proposed in the Joint Communication will be discussed with the EU Member States and the European Parliament in the coming weeks, and will contribute to a new EU Strategy on Afghanistan, to be finalised soon afterwards. (ToloneWS)

### (2) No Decision Yet ...

"The United States has sacrificed greatly in the struggle to fight terrorist groups and violent extremism in this part of the world," he said.

Senator John McCain said it was disgraceful that the United States still did not have a strategy on Afghanistan.

Congressman Adam Kinzinger condemned the Kabul attack as gruesome and mourned the victims. "We need a strategy in Afghanistan to help stop the violence and defeat this terrorism." (Pajhwok)

### (3) 10 Afghan ..

and detention of journalists, calling the six months the most violent in the past 16 years. Najib Sharifi, AJSC director, said 679 cases of violence against journalists had been recorded in Afghanistan during the past 16 years.

The statistics showed the crimes against journalists increased from 54 in the first half of 2016 to 73 during the same period in 2017, indicating a 35 percent increase.

During the period, four journalists were killed in a Daesh-claimed attack on the Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) in eastern Nangarhar province, two in the attack on the parliament building in capital Kabul and four others in a deadly truck bombing in front of the German Embassy in Kabul, he said.

Sharifi added 12 journalists were wounded, 19 beaten, 18 mistreated, six threatened, five arrested and three others abusively fired from duty.

"The government is responsible for 34 cases of the violence against journalists and the major reason behind it was revealing information about illegal acts of government officials, he said, adding responsibility of the rest of the cases rested with the militants. Some of parliament members, provincial council members, powerful figures and unidentified men were also involved in some of violence related cases against media, he added.

The central and eastern zones witnessed most of the cases while the southeastern zone witnessed the least, Sharifi said.

"Increasing violence against journalists has raised serious concerns about protection of the freedom of speech and media which is the greatest achievement of Afghanistan in the past 16 years," he said.

He also expressed concern over a weak presence of women in the media and said insecurity and conflict barred women from joining the press.

"There is not a single female journalist in Zabol, Uruzgan, Ghor, Panjshir, Pakтика, Sar-i-Pul, Logar, Nuristan, Laghman and Kunar provinces", he said. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Issue of Ghost...

soldiers in rotation in order to strengthen the security environment," the commander told participants of the event.

Meanwhile, the training centre commander, Col. Shah Wali Zazai, said the graduates had been trained for two months by local and foreign experts. The soldiers, besides learning war tactics, were also trained on night raids and commando operations.

At the end of the ceremony, Governor Hayatullah Hayat said the graduates would be deployed to various areas of the province. He asked the soldiers to use the skills in strengthening security.

The soldiers graduate as six districts of the province are under the complete control of Taliban and parts of Lashkargah, the provincial capital, and other districts are also controlled by the insurgents. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Hezb-E-Islami

party also added that Hezb-e-Islami is prepared to assist with the security of the major infrastructure projects, including construction of water dams and the TAPI gas pipeline project, insisting that it has the necessary capabilities to ensure security of such projects. This comes as reports emerged recently suggesting that Hezb-e-Islami is seeking share in the government of national unity led by President Ghani and CEO Abdullah and that negotiations are underway in this regard. Presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazawi said Monday that the government welcomes the expansion of the political field in the country however he did not comment regarding the reports of Hezb-e-Islami's share in the government. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his party joined peace process last year after months of negotiations with the government in a bid to end the violence through reconciliation. (KP)

### (6) Ghani Introduces...

Bek as the head of the Independent Director of Local Governance (IDLG), and former Laghman governor Fazlullah Mujadadi as governor of northern Takhar province.

Mohammad Almas Zahid has also been appointed as the senior adviser and special representative of the President on national coherence.

Ghani appointed Humayoun Mohtat, Director of the Central Population Registration Department and Mohammad Wais Payab, as the deputy head of the electronic national identification cards (ENICs). (ToloneWS)

### (7) Key Ministry ...

vehicles and 15 shops were also damaged in the attack, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement on Monday.

Taliban has accepted responsibility for the bombing, claiming that they had targeted a vehicle carrying Afghan intelligence officials. (ToloneWS)

### (8) MoI Spurs...

and weapons had been captured by Taliban, he said, acknowledging the loss of only two fighters.

Located 85 kilometers from Gardez, the provincial capital, the district remained under Taliban's control for some days last year. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Mattis Criticized...

needlessly spent millions to license the proprietary camouflage pattern when it already had dozens of desert patterns it could have used for free.

SIGAR, the U.S government's top watchdog on Afghanistan, said the uniform design choice was wasteful given that only 2.1 percent of Afghanistan is covered by forests.

It said it was chosen because the Afghan minister of defense at the time "liked the woodland, urban, and temperate patterns." Mattis, in his memo, said that "cavalier or casually acquiescent decisions to spend taxpayer dollars in an ineffective and wasteful manner are not to recur."

"I expect all (Department of Defense) organizations to use this error as a catalyst to bring to light wasteful practices -- and take aggressive steps to end waste," Mattis wrote. (ToloneWS)

### (10) Nangarhar ...

organisation also helped him in the construction process and provided him ideas, he said.

Quraishi said in the past he would grow crops on his land, which were not economical. He himself worked in the farm with 30 hired people.

Ghulam Jan, a worker in the farm, said his economic situation was not good in the past but now that problem had been solved by finding a job at the poultry farm

"Our businessmen should invest in areas that create jobs for other people, giving jobs to more people can help improve the security situation," he said.

Poultry Farms Union (PFU) in the eastern region said more than 3,000 poultry farms existed in the east, including 2,500 in Nangarhar alone.

PFU spokesman Sayed Rahim Khan Babakrkhel told Pajhwok that poultry farm owners faced lack of market and forage.

"Pakistani chickens are still sold in the market because they are cheaper, while raising chickens here is expensive," he said.

He said the lack of chickens producing factories was another problem as they brought newborn chickens from Pakistan.

"Another problem is the lack of bird forage, we have only one factory that produces such food but it only meets 60 percent of our needs," he said.

He said poultry farms might not survive if the government, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), continued to ignore the industry.

Dr. Abdul Hadi Babar, manager of livestock at the Nangarhar agriculture, irrigation and livestock department, said poultry farm owners faced no problem in finding market for their products in the province.

"Poultry farms are established in Jalalabad and the whole of Nangarhar province, except grown chickens that come from Pakistan. All other size of chickens are grown inside the province, these chickens are even exported to northern provinces and capital Kabul," he said. Babakrkhel said efforts were on for building chicken producing factories and problems regarding poultry feed production has also been resolved to some extent. Afghanistan Laborers Association said poultry farm owners should take care of the health of their workers and the government should also support the business.

Dr. Mohammad Liaqat Adil, head of the association, said poultry farm workers remained busy day and night but they only received salary for eight hours work. He called overworking of farm workers a big injustice. Thousands of youth would avail work opportunities if the government paid attention to the poultry farms industry, he added. Despite creating jobs for thousands of people, poultry farm owners in Nangarhar warned their farms could collapse if the government did not pay attention to them. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Afghan Diplomat ...

on her right eye, reported the New York Post.

Hospital workers called the police, who arrived at the medical facility at 4:30 p.m Sat-

urday, sources said.

But Mohammad, 46, could not be charged because of he is a counselor to the Afghan Mission to the UN, which gives him diplomatic immunity, sources said.

Mohammad on Sunday denied to The Post that he hit his wife.

"I think you have it wrong," he said over the intercom at the building where he and his family live. "Nothing happened. The hospital is saying nothing happened, and the doctors and my wife say that nothing happened between us."

When a New York Post reporter asked to speak to his wife, he said she was not at home. (ToloneWS)

### (12) UNSC Condemns ...

than 70 people killed or injured..."

In two separate statements, the council said terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

The UN body underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice.

It urged all states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate with the Afghan government and all other relevant authorities in this regard.

The 15-membered body also denounced the terrorist attack that took place in Lahore, resulting in more than 80 people killed or injured. The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (ITP) has claimed responsibility.

The secretary-general strongly condemned the horrifying bomb attack in Kabul. "The deliberate targeting of civilians constitutes a grave violation of human rights and international humanitarian law and may constitute a war crime," said a statement attributable to the spokesman for the Secretary General. The Secretary General also calls for those responsible to be brought to justice for both the Kabul and Lahore attacks. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Opening Ceremony...

Sabzali Shukrulloev, EU-BOMNAP's Deputy Project Manager said, "Ensuring border security, prevention of trafficking and cross-border crime, as well as assistance in legitimate cross-border trade and movement of people requires the border police to continuously enhance their professional knowledge and skills. We believe that the Training Centre in Mazar-e-Sharif will provide the ABP this opportunity in a sustainable way" Brigadier Andre Bodemann, Commander of TAAC-N said: "I would like to congratulate all responsible parties for building up such a professional training facility here at the ABP HQ financed by the EU-BOMNAP" Brigadier Bodemann further said: "I see this project as a big investment to the ABP and Afghanistan's future". He also added: "Today's official opening of a training facility is another milestone and symbol for development of the Afghan Border Police and the troops can be really proud of it"

BOMNAP's International Training Specialist, Michael Holman, said, "The increased capability that this Training Centre offers can only be realized with the full engagement of HQ 6 Brigade ABP. They have consistently demonstrated their determination to make full use of this new resource". Mike continued, "Each and every training cycle has been greatly assisted by excellent support from HQ RS TAAC-N, and in particular their ABP Advisors. This is set to continue." The Centre incorporates an Instructional Training Wing whose members have all attended Train the Trainer courses in Dushanbe. Beginning this month the best of these will deliver Instructional Techniques courses to ensure new Instructors can maximize their effectiveness. In September they will deliver the next T3 course in Dushanbe, cementing a foundation that will enable the ABP to generate a sustainable Training Cadre. (PR)

### (14) Afghan Forces '...

and the Taliban ever since the militants lost their strong bastion in southern Helmand's Nawa district last week.

Lying south to the Taliban's birthplace Kandahar, Helmand produces lion's share of opium the country produces, and remains one of the most insecure provinces in Afghanistan with the militants controlling large swaths of land.

In retaliations, the Taliban waged large-scale coordinated attacks on various fronts resulting in fall of at least two -- Taywara in Ghor and Kohistan in Faryab -- provincial districts. Deadly clashes have since been going on in these provinces.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) in a separate message noted that 50 insurgents were killed and 35 others were wounded in Afghan National Army (ANA) airstrikes in Garishk district of Helmand.

At least 23 more insurgents, including 4 foreign nationals, were killed and two others were detained in similar airstrikes and clearing operations in Deh-Bala district of Nangarhar province, where pro-Daesh militants have strong bases.

The Taliban opened a new front on Tuesday as they aimed at getting control of Jani Khail district in southeastern Paktia province.

"Hundreds of enemy soldiers have been killed, and the district has been overrun", Zabihullah Mujahed, the Taliban spokes-

man announced.

The MoI, however, has rejected the claim, saying the Afghan army personnel are busy fighting the militants in Jani Khail. (AA)

### (15) Nangarhar:...

Rahimi also said police had nabbed 183 people accused of various crimes in Jalalabad and districts and the arrests had lowered the graph of crimes.

During the three weeks of the operation, Nangarhar police seized 1,098 kilograms of various kinds of drugs from eight vehicles. The drugs included 73 kgs of heroin, 64kgs of opium and 961kg of hashish, he said, adding 13 accused persons had been referred to the attorneys.

However, local residents complain about increasing targeted killings, kidnappings and the presence of irresponsible armed men, robbers, and other criminals in the province. They ask the government to give more attention to protection of people's lives. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Taliban Ban...

problem and let the irrigation water flow to farmlands in Hozkan, Warang Bala, Warang Payeen, Ghosmargh and Puzal Kharad. The militants agreed but later demanded money from villagers."

He said people had suffered huge losses and their farms and gardens had gone dry. People did not want to pay the Taliban and conducting a military operation was the only option, the district added.

Col. Tash Mohammad, the district police head, also said the Taliban had agreed with local ulema and elders on Monday to let the water flow to farms, but the rebels attacked the district centre at 2pm and the clash continued until 11pm.

"We are trying to fully clear Yaftal Payeen district of militants and let the people use irrigation water," he said.

A farmer from Hozkan village said: "I have seven orchards and each has more than a thousand trees, but 45 percent of them have dried after the Taliban restricted us from using irrigation water about two months ago." Mohammad Nadir, who owns five gardens in the Ghosmargh village of the district, complained all his gardens had dried. He said residents had repeatedly sought help from officials and police.

"No one in our village is ready to pay money to the Taliban in exchange for irrigation water" he added. The Taliban have not yet commented on the issue, however. (Pajhwok)

### (17) 180 Nuristan...

schools will be reopened in a few months." Hamad, who took over as the education director about a month ago, accused his predecessors of doing nothing to improve the education system.

He requested the Ministry of Education (MoE) to give construction of school buildings a priority in Nuristan. "I seriously ask the ministry to help us in construction of buildings. All of our schools should have buildings in the next two or three years. If the MoE gives us approval of 10 buildings' construction each year, this issue will be resolved."

The provincial council also dubbed the education situation in the province as worrisome, accusing relevant officials of neglecting the existing problems.

Secretary of the provincial council, Khalilullah Ghoyor, said finding resolution to the current problems was not possible in a short time, calling upon the people to fight for their rights.

"There is no possibility for the current problems to be addressed in near future because they require much time and a lot of efforts." (Pajhwok)

### (18) Afghanistan ...

Ibrahim Zadran was the man of the match. Afghanistan booked a berth in the next year World Cup to be played in New Zealand after defeating their rivals with huge margins. (Pajhwok)

### (19) At Least 140 ...

district, was captured by Taliban insurgents, besieging more than 60 security personnel from the commando unit, the Afghan national army, police and intelligence in Khairabad village.

Subsequently a clearing operation was launched in the district to rescue the besieged forces and the operation is still ongoing. The provincial police spokesman said militants attacked public uprising members in Sherin Tagab district and Chehilgazi area of Qaisar district, but they were forced into retreat after losing eight fighters.

Another two attackers were injured in the clashes last night, he said, adding civilians escaped unharmed in Kohistan airstrike and Qaisar clashes, but only one security personnel was killed and two others wounded. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Taliban Seize...

Janikhail which is 150 kilometers from the provincial capital Gardez City shares a border with Pakistan's Kurram Agency and Parachinar region -- two tribal regions across the Durand Line.

"The war still rages on in that region. Reinforcements have also been sent to the area," said Nisar Ahmad Abdul Rahimzai, security commander of Paktia Police Headquarters. (ToloneWS)