

(1) Ghani Blasts...

will bring changes and the system has to be reformed," Ghani added.

"This is not supposed to be a request, but an order and it needs to be implemented, I want change, the system must be reformed, these facilities were not supposed to be for stealing, because on the other side blood is shed," said Ghani.

"I can not say that corruption was handled 100 percent, but there is a commitment to curb corruption, we recently reshuffled all those who were employed in the supply sector or accounts," said defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri.

"Bullets, uniforms and other privileges are being stolen, this issue needs to be investigated and the trend must stop," said MP Sayed Hussain Sharifi Balkhahi. (Tolonews)

(2) EU, ADB ...

Hakimi, during the signing ceremony, said of the \$76 million aid, \$50 would be provided by the EU and the \$26 million by the ADB.

He said with the aid provision, 21 huge projects would be launched by the ministries of agriculture, irrigation and livestock and energy and water in the 5th Amu-river basin located in the northeast of the country, encompassing Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar and Bamyan provinces.

He said the projects would directly benefit 400,000 people and irrigate 186,000 acres of land. The projects also included the training of 6,300 farmers. According to Hakimi, besides spending the aid, the Afghanistan government would also contribute \$750 million to the projects.

Asadullah Zamir said the projects would also include construction of canals, reservoirs for appropriate distribution of water and improved ways of irrigation and protection of pastures.

Thomas Panella said the projects were of great importance in the sphere of irrigation and their implementation would help improve agricultural production in Afghanistan.

He said the ADB from the year 2002 till now had provided Afghanistan with \$4.3 billion in loans and grants. He said the bank would continue assisting Afghanistan and had announced an aid of \$878 million to Afghanistan over the next four years.

Meanwhile, Gonzalo Serrano called Afghanistan's agriculture sector as of vital importance and said the EU had earlier assisted Afghanistan with \$100 million in the sphere of irrigation in the 5th Amu-river basin.

He stressed continued support to Afghanistan and said the projects whose aid contracts were signed today would create jobs for 9,000 people. (Pajhwok)

(3) Selection ...

as members of the IEC and 15 for the IECC.

The committee said all shortlisted candidates have been chosen on merit and that the process has been free of interference.

"In this phase, we interviewed 83 candidates for IEC and 45 candidates for IECC and that have selected 72 people," said Jawid Rashidi, a member of the selection committee.

However, institutions overseeing the election process have said they do not believe that the selection committee members are neutral and have said there are groups inside government that influence the committee.

They said although the Electoral Reforms Commission (ERC) suggested reform outlines to the national unity government for improving the electoral process, these suggestions have not been implemented as yet.

"We are afraid that the selection committee does not do its work transparently. Members of the committee are trying to introduce strong, knowledgeable candidates from one tribe and weak candidates from another tribe for the electoral commissions," said Naem Ayubzada, head of Free and Fair Election of Afghanistan (FFA).

Electoral reform was one of the main commitments made by the NUG leaders, especially the CEO Abdullah Abdullah, but nothing important has been done in two years.

"Now the decision is being made in ARG. The CEO had insisted that the selection committee should be formed and changes should be made in the electoral commissions. Now the CEO says that apparently steps have been taken to bring reforms. But the final decision is being taken by government," said Fazel Ahmad Manavi, former head of IEC. (Tolonews)

(4) Prosecutors...

family disintegration, but it aims to encourage responsibility and respect in families. Justice will be secured if we do not sacrifice national interests for our own interests," Hamid said.

He also complained about the lack of cooperation between government institutions and said it has challenged the efforts to tackle corruption and investigations of cases of violence.

In addition to this, Sima Samar, head of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) said the people who commit violent acts should be brought to justice.

"I have a message for the women working in the Attorney General's Office and it is that you should not only rely on your job in this office, but should enhance your capacity to prove your place in society," Samar said.

Reports indicate that people are joining anti-government armed groups as they are tired of witnessing corruption in the judicial centers.

"One of our serious concerns is that most prosecutors had grade 12. While someone else who has a PHD cannot find a job in the AGO or other government departments," said Jawid, a student from Kabul.

"If they know Allah, they shouldn't accept bribes. Bribes damage the (country) as well as their families," said Rahman, a driver from Kabul.

In a recent global survey, Afghanistan was listed as one of the three countries where there is little or no rule of law. (Tolonews)

hold talks instead of fighting the Afghan government."

He told The News Islamabad, having facilitated the Afghan peace talks in the past, was trying to do so again.

Aziz denied Pakistan had warned the Taliban leaders they would be expelled if it was kept out of the talks.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi confirmed Pakistan had been telling the Taliban the use of force was no solution to the Afghan conflict.

"We have been insisting there is no other option except reconciliation in Afghanistan through peace talks," he said, adding Pakistan clung to its stance that Afghanistan's enemies were also Pakistan's foes.

Meanwhile, the Taliban acknowledged being asked by Pakistani to enter into dialogue with Kabul. A three-member Taliban delegation was conveyed the wish during its recent visit to Islamabad.

Mullah Shahabuddin Dilawar, Mullah Jan Mohammad Madani and Mullah Abdul Salam Hanafi, all members of the Doha-based Taliban Political Commission, traveled to Pakistan in late October.

The delegation reportedly conveyed the Pakistan government's message to senior Taliban leaders before returning to Qatar. The Taliban Leadership Council sought time to answer the Pakistani message after consulting the military commanders.

Any decision taken without the commanders' consent would be hard to implement, the newspaper reported. "Taliban military commanders and fighters hold the key to continuing or ending the war."

Taliban sources told the daily the consultation process would take time as they were fighting in almost all the 34 provinces of Afghanistan and making contact with commanders was not always easy. (Pajhwok)

(6) Nicholson Calls...

been changed into a declared war, predicting tough times ahead for Afghan security forces.

"We need full preparation because the current war situation has changed from an undeclared war to a declared war," Ghani said

"If last year was the year of survival and the current year was the year of integrated defense then what will be the next year? It will be the year of fundamental mobility and what will be our aim until 2019? Creating conditions for success," Ghani added.

Analysts suggest that the shift in US and other western countries' Pakistan policy indicates that they have gotten to the bottom of Pakistan's counter-terror strategy.

"Pakistan is moving toward isolation, the United States seems to be very tired and wants to say the final word to Pakistan and that is ask Pakistan to take serious actions against terrorism," said MP Iqbal Safai.

The Afghan government has constantly blamed Pakistan for its role in the ongoing insurgency in Afghanistan which has rattled the peace and stability of the country.

The comments are made at a time that currently the Afghan security forces

are battling insurgents on multiple fronts across the country - with the Afghan government accusing Pakistan of fueling the war in Afghanistan.

"There should not be further doubt in the world that terror hideouts exist on Pakistani soil, unfortunately no action was taken in this respect from the Pakistani side against terrorism," said Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for Ministry of Interior (Moi)

Amid the controversy over the role of Pakistan in the war against terrorism, there are some reports that indicate Pakistan has been trying to put pressure on the Taliban to consider a role for Islamabad in the peace negotiation process with Kabul.

Sources have said that Pakistan has warned it will expel leaders of the Afghan Taliban and their families from that country if a role in the peace process is not given to Islamabad. (Tolonews)

(7) Govt. Fails ...

member and a tribal influential from Khogyani district, also confirmed the government had been unable to provide Pachiragam people with needed assistance.

"The governor has promised Pachiragam will be cleared in two days; but it has been 10 more than days and even a single village has not been cleared so far."

The tribal elders warned of erecting protest tents if Pachiragam's fighting wasn't controlled and the displaced people not aided in a few days.

However, Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, said the government wasn't silent and security reinforcements had reached the province and also the process to assist the displaced people had been launched.

He said the operations against Daesh militants had been slow going in order to avoid civilian casualties. (Pajhwok)

(8) AJSC Seeks ...

were murdered, an unprecedented number that has caused significant concern about the safety of journalists and media workers.

"Impunity of crimes against journalists has to end in Afghanistan, otherwise, it will severely derail freedom of expression and freedom of press," said Najib Sharifi, AJSC director.

He said if perpetrators of crimes against journalists were not punished, it would result in rampant self-censorship among journalists and media, something that would impede free flow of information.

"Impunity emboldens perpetrators and feeds into a vicious cycle," said, Pernille Kardel, Deputy Special Representative for the Secretary General.

"Fear and self-censorship in the media are real issues that end up denying the public the right to information and diminishing confidence in the rule of law," Ms. Kardel said.

She said those who attacked the free press, a bulwark of any open society, could not and should not think they were above the law.

She called on the government and media organizations to make good on new cooperation in order to investigate and prosecute attacks on the free press in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban ...

but still leave villages without resistance; it is a shame."

He added, air and ground operations would be launched soon to retake the fallen villages. The governor urged citizens to support security forces in their operations.

Mohammad Azim Qoyash, a representative of Sar-i-Pul in Meshrano Jirga, also expressed his concern at the police action. He asked people to help security forces and to stand firm against the insurgents.

The Taliban also claimed capturing "many villages" in Sayad district. (Pajhwok)

(10) Trilateral ...

governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan had mutually agreed to suspend the return of registered Afghan refugees during hash months of winter.

She said the routine voluntary repatriation programme would resume on March 1, 2017. In the month of November, UNHCR would only facilitate the return of those Afghan refugees who had been already scheduled for return from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"On the extension of the stay of Afghan refugees in Pakistan beyond March 2017, it is too early to speculate anything," she said.

The All Parties Conference or APC called by the Prime Minister of Pakistan on September 21 had proposed

some positive recommendations to the Cabinet including a predicable timeline for the return of refugees from Pakistan, Khan said, adding UNHCR stayed committed to advocating on behalf of refugees for their protection.

She also said over 148,000 registered Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan in October 2016, taking to 333,816 the number of refugees returning to Afghanistan this year. (Pajhwok)

(11) Insecurity ...

concerned to take effective measures for protection and security of traders' lives and properties in Ghazni.

But a resident of Ghazni City, the provincial capital, said the security situation in the city was not bad and traders should make investments.

"It is true there is no electricity and industrial parks, but the security situation is not that bad, maybe some people make investments."

Ghazni chamber of commerce head Abdul Matin Qalandari said like several other provinces, no investments had been made in Ghazni.

He said though there were problems in Ghazni, yet he had talked to some traders about investments and they had agreed to do so if the existing problems were resolved.

The trader representative also asked the provincial government to pave the ground for investment in the province.

Ghazni Governor Abdul Karim Matin said maps of industrial parks had been prepared and some work in this completed. The proposed industrial parks would be distributed to traders some time later, he said.

"I have talked to government officials about foreign investment and electricity in Ghazni and the officials had promised cooperation," the governor said.

He said with completion of the said projects, many traders would come forward to make investment and as a result jobs would be created for the people.

Ghazni police chief Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel said police had arrested a number of individuals accused of kidnapping sons of traders and creating other problems for them. He said police were ready to keep security for businessmen if they made investments in the province.

Ghazni is among Afghanistan's provinces where no factory has so far been established or any big investment carried out. (Pajhwok)

(12) National...

Peshawar last week.

If convicted, she could be jailed for up to 14 years or be deported, said Zia Awan, a human rights lawyer based in Karachi.

Naseem Kakad, an official at the Afghan consulate in Peshawar told CNN: "We will follow our lawyers instructions, we will take this case to every court possible."

Last year, Gula was arrested on similar charges, but was later released. McCurry, the photographer, said he is committed to helping her legally and financially.

"I object to this action by the authorities in the strongest possible terms," he said in a statement. "She has suffered throughout her entire life. Her arrest is an egregious violation of her human rights."

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), which assists undocumented migrants, says the arrest - although legal if the ID card is proven to be false - is symptomatic of mounting pressure on Afghan refugees in Pakistan to return home.

"It is a sign of the times in Pakistan, that it has now reached someone who was something of a celebrity in the '80s, someone more high profile than the average," said Nicholas Bishop, project development officer for the IOM in Afghanistan.

Human Rights Watch said since July 1, Pakistan has repatriated 370,000 Afghans, nearly 220,000 of them registered refugees. (CNN)

(13) 47 Taliban ...

Governor Wahidullah Klimzai said. Dangan is one of the insecure districts in the province in which insurgents have activities and frequently target the security forces. However the insurgents were also recently targeted in airstrikes by foreign troops in the province. (Tolonews)

(14) Afghan Forces who have intensified operations in Uruzgan and the neighboring Helmand provinces in the troubled southern region are yet to make comment on the situation. (Xinhua)

(15) Zakhilwal...

Afghanistan with dignity.

"If the federal government indeed wants to free Gula, then she needs not to be subjected to court appearances and rulings. She has been in prison and charges framed against her by a federal agency.

"It is within the authority of the federal government to withdraw those charges and let her walk free. It would certainly be the right thing to do.

Gula's ID card was neither fake nor obtained fraudulently. NADRA had issued the ID to her and her late husband as per a normal process years ago." (Pajhwok)

(16) Nimroz IDPs ...

tents. The government should provide them aid urgently, he stressed

Ahmad Hussaini, director of refugees and repatriation, said around 700 families had arrived in Nimroz from the neighbouring provinces in the past three months. He said 59 families had received aid and the process was underway.

Mohammad Hashim Elham, the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) head, stressed the need for more help for Nimroz IDPs. He acknowledged adequate aid had not been provided to the displace people.

He said ARCS had identified 168 families and would provide them humanitarian assistance in coming days. (Pajhwok)

(17) Nangarhar ...

security force carried out an operation in Pachir Aggam district and when our forces pushed back Daesh fighters, 19 civilians who were stuck in the village were rescued by our forces."

Nangarhar province borders Pakistan and is regarded as the main Afghan stronghold of Daesh. (Tolonews)

(18) British Woman...

Ms Muller further added that she travelled to Calais around 15 times in 12 months having been first inspired by her sister-in-law, who was already volunteering in the camp.

She had been volunteering in France on and off for around five months when she came across the Afghan refugee while he was helping British doctors.

Their initial conversations were about Islam and different cultures but they soon started speaking every day and Ms Muller made sure she visited him on each trip. (KP)

(19) Insurgents do ...

"There are a lot of issues in the peace process and those who are joining the process [government] are not addressing them. We are asking government to put in place a basic program," the head of peace committee Mawlawi Mohammad Akram said.

In recent years many small groups of insurgents have joined the peace process but reports indicate that a lot have rejoined insurgents groups. (Tolonews)

(20) Zazai Aryub...

another resident of the district, said they heard several rocket strikes last night. The rockets were fired from across the border, he said, adding there was a sense of insecurity among inhabitants.

Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Qader Gul Zadran, confirmed the incident and said around 30 rockets were fired from Pakistan into different parts of the district.

Such attacks violate all international laws and, if not stopped, Afghanistan would be left with no option but to respond, he warned.

Pakistani forces have been firing rockets into Kunar, Paktia, Paktika, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kandahar and other regions of the country for the past several years. (Pajhwok)

(21) Clinton Says...

mistreating women. I have to tell you since that tape came out, 12 women have come forward to say, what he said on that tape was what he did to me."

Clinton was introduced by former Miss Universe Alicia Machado, who has accused Trump of calling her Miss Piggy after she gained weight. Trump, who once owned the Miss Universe beauty pageant, launched a Twitter barrage against Machado after Clinton brought up his treatment of her during the first debate. (Reuters)

(22) Russia Tells...

been organized by Moscow and Damascus before, but have largely failed amid continued violence with both sides accusing the other of stopping people from leaving. (Reuters)

(23) Turkey Pledges...

leader also criticized what he called the West's colonial policies toward the

Middle East and Africa.

"Turkey and Africa both refused to become colonies or being second-class citizens," said Erdogan. (Xinhua)

(24) WWF Raises ...

The WWF says that the loss of wildlife habitat is one of the key drivers of the rapid reduction of major species.

"All the major forests have registered a decline largely due to the conversation of land from animal conservation to agricultural purposes," Bosire said.

The Mau forest complex, which is Kenya's biggest natural water tower, has been severely degraded in the past decades due to human encroachment, according to the WWF. (Xinhua)

(25) UNSC Hails...

election of a parliament by May 2017, in accordance with the Constitution, are critical for Lebanon's stability and resilience to withstand regional challenges," the statement said.

With little consensus in the country's political landscape, the process of forming a government is likely to be long and arduous.

"The Security Council encourages all parties in Lebanon to demonstrate renewed unity and determined to that end, in order to ensure Lebanon's ability to address the growing security, economic, social and humanitarian challenges facing the country," said the statement.

The Security Council affirms that the preservation of Lebanon's stability is essential to regional stability and security, the statement said. "The Security Council underscores its previous calls on all Lebanese parties to recommit to Lebanon's policy of dissociation and to cease any involvement in the Syrian crisis." (Xinhua)

(26) Brexit to ...

work cut out dealing with the volume of work triggered by the government's 'Great Repeal Bill'. Identifying and transposing all relevant EU law will be a daunting and time consuming task. The alternative is to work via secondary legislation, which would raise concerns about transparency, legitimacy and legislative quality."

The report suggests there is a lack of clarity over what the Article 50 negotiations will address, notably whether negotiations over the future British-EU relationship can be conducted simultaneously. (Xinhua)

(27) Protection of ...

daily news briefing here. "Civilians who want to leave the conflict zone must be allowed to do so and access protection and assistance in safer areas."

"With fighting now ongoing inside Mosul city, the humanitarian community repeats its call for adherence to international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians," Du-jarric said.

More than 17,900 people are so far recorded as internally displaced since Oct. 17 due to the ongoing Mosul operations, he noted. "A significant increase is anticipated in the coming days, as a result of the fighting reaching Mosul neighborhoods and opening routes for civilians to escape, as well as continued hostilities in the surrounding areas."

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Office also has further reports of mass killings by Da'esh, known as the Islamic State (IS), he said.

On Saturday, 40 former Iraqi Security Force soldiers were killed and their bodies thrown in the Tigris River, he said. "They were reportedly among the civilians who had been abducted earlier from al-Shura sub-district of Mosul and from villages surrounding Hamam al-Alil." (Xinhua)

(28) Russia Announce ...

pause, declared for eight hours from Oct. 20 and later extended, has barely held as militants in eastern Aleppo reportedly continued launching attacks.

Russia has not delivered any air strikes against rebels in Aleppo for 17 days. On Friday, the Russian military asked Russian President Vladimir Putin to resume air strikes against militants in eastern Aleppo due to terrorist attacks, but the Russian leader turned it down, saying it is "inappropriate at the current time." (Xinhua)

(29) Local Companies ...

the country, he noted. LCCI Vice President Muhammad Nasir Hameed Khan said the growing gap between revenue and expenditure has increased the vulnerability of fiscal framework, requiring the federal and provincial governments to tighten the belt with a view to putting economy on track. (Monitoring Desk)