

(1) Hekmatyar Calls for...

He went on to say that conflict-hit areas should be run by parties or individuals not involved in the war.

"This way peace will come to the country," he said.

Her stated that Afghanistan cannot win the war through military strategies but through peace and harmony.

He also told his followers that the issue of Hizb-e-Islami prisoners not being freed was due to foreign interference. In line with this he criticized the Bonn conference in 2001 and said that power had not been handed to Afghans but had instead been handed to a few foreign nations.

He said that Afghanistan's history has shown that it was in the past invaded by the British and the Soviet Union but that today it's been invaded by the United States and NATO.

He also lashed out at government and said it did not have the support of the majority of Afghans and said parliament itself was a weak institution.

Regarding the structure of Hizb-e-Islami, he said the group needed an executive council as well as a central council that would consist of 500 members who represented all provinces in the country.

As for Hizb-e-Islami, he said the group had faced many challenges in the past but that "the party is still alive in people's hearts". (Tolonews)

(2) CCTV Footage Shows ...

cover a number of corruption cases which happened in parliament," he said. Officials who assessed the footage said the TV employee deleted some data from the memory card.

"Lalai Hamidzai and Humayun have paid \$100 to each of them (the police and the employee of the TV). These officials are under investigation by the attorney general's office. Those who give bribes are roaming freely but the guard who took the bribe is wanted (by the court)," said Ramazan Bashardost, an MP from Kabul.

This comes after Hamidzai and Humayun were accused of entering the archive of the Wolesi Jirga TV and illegally removing archive property. (Tolonews)

(3) No Terrorist...

Islamabad to take actions against the terror groups having safe havens in the country.

According to reports, the United States last month shared a list of at least twenty terrorist groups with Islamabad which Washington insists use the Pakistani soil for the terrorist activities in Afghanistan and elsewhere, it has been reported.

It is believed that the Haqqani terrorist network is on the top of the list shared with Islamabad as the US officials are saying that the network has safe havens in Fata and uses them to launch attacks into Afghanistan. (KP)

(4) IEC ...

resignation.

Sayad said the head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) was not however at work on Wednesday, citing personal problems as the reason.

Political parties have called for a massive overhaul in the electoral body in recent weeks.

This comes just few days after Ghani sacked Imam Mohammad Warimach, head of the Independent Election Commission's (IEC) secretariat over 'poor performance', sources said.

However sources later said that the IEC official was fired over 'corruption and poor performance'.

On October 22, the Head of the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) fired five of its members for a range of indiscretions including manipulating attendance records, ignoring a presidential decree, not doing their work and administration violations, IECC said in a letter sent to the media. (Tolonews)

(5) Atmar States its ...

"I appreciate brave ANDSF in eliminating attackers; assure journalists and press of Govt's determination to take firm steps for their protection."

Atmar said media freedom in Afghanistan is a model for all countries in the region and the world.

According to him, despite threats and pressure by terrorist and insurgent groups over the past sixteen years, journalists and the media along with the Afghan people and security forces have been victims in defending their sovereignty, territorial integrity and in protecting Islamic and national values of the country.

"Terrorists want to block and obstruct people's voices and suppress press freedom which is the result of our people's and Govt's sacrifices in the last decade," Atmar wrote.

This came after Daesh carried out an attack on Shamshad TV in the nation's capital Kabul on Tuesday that left at least two people dead and 20 others wounded. (Tolonews)

(6) MPs Blast Govt's ...

deputy speaker, Mohamad Nazir Ahmadzai, who chaired Wednesday's

session, said recent British envoy's statements about the Durand Line were against diplomatic norms and was interference in Afghanistan's affairs.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should stop foreign diplomats from interfering in our country's affairs, foreigners should not be allowed to talk about Afghans' properties," he said.

The British envoy to Kabul, Sir Nicholas Kay, recently told the BBC that the Durand Line was a recognized border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Ahmadzai said the government's silence about fencing of the Durand Line was worth concerning, asking the leaders to clear their stance on the matter or reveal if any deal had reached with the Pakistani side.

"If the government does not take action, the people are ready to prevent fencing process on the Durand Line," he warned. The National Security Council (NSC) in a statement about recent British envoy's remarks said: "We want foreign diplomats and representatives to respect historical right of Afghanistan and understand this country's sensitive issues and priorities including the Durand Line."

Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai, meanwhile, condemned attack on Shamshad TV channel and a police training center in Maidan Wardak province and asked security and detective organs to identify and arrest the perpetrators.

"The attack on Shamshad TV was an attack on the people's voice and the freedom of speech and the militants would never be able to silence people's voice with such acts", he said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Ghani Orders Probe...

security advisor Haneef Atmar tweeted that he had spoken with his Pakistani counterpart Gen. Nasir Janjua and offered his condolences. He said on Twitter, "terrorists are enemies of both nations, thus needs joint, well-coordinated and realistic efforts to eliminate them."

The ministry of foreign affairs on Tuesday also condemned the shooting.

Iqbal, who worked in the consulate's visa section, was shot on Monday evening while out shopping in the Nangarhar capital in eastern Afghanistan. Earlier reports indicated he had been on his own, without protection, at the time of the shooting.

The body of the 62-year-old victim was transferred to Islamabad on Tuesday, where he was buried.

Pajhwok reported that Iqbal had been a resident of the Sialkot district of Punjab province, and that the official leaves behind five children and a widow.

Pakistan's Daily Times reported that President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, in separate messages, strongly condemned the attack and conveyed their deepest condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family.

Daesh has reportedly claimed responsibility for the shooting. (Tolonews)

(8) Only Slogans ...

the problem was direly needed.

Samar said fighting corruption should not remain confined to slogans but needed a serious and practical action.

Deputy Attorney General Ghulam Haidar Alama said corruption was harmful in all aspects to people's lives and there was the need for all groups of people including civil society and the government to join hands in dealing with the stigma. Danish envoy to Afghanistan, Jakob Brix Tange, who also attended the conference, said that corruption was the only major obstacle to development and good governance in Afghanistan.

"Anti-corruption efforts should begin in a framework and cooperation from the bottom to the height as well as investigative journalism should be also strongly supported", he said.

The result of an investigation named, 'People's access to justice assessment' was also presented at the event.

The investigation showed there were still serious problems in people's access to justice, with bribery remaining a serious challenge.

According to the report, 41 percent of Afghans were victim of bribery while 53.6 percent complained about tribal discrimination. (Pajhwok)

(9) Security Organs...

to crush them.

He said so far no one had been arrested in connected with targeted killings. "We want the murders of Jamshidi to be arrested. The intelligence agency should take serious security measures given the unsafe situation of provincial council members."

He said the provincial council was under grave threat from terrorists who were trying to kill public representatives and disrupt the security situation of the province.

Alizai accused security personnel of dereliction of duty, saying: "A while ago some workers of the customs duty were killed. Despite security forces know about the whereabouts of perpetrators in districts, why don't they take action?" However, the provincial government

spokesman rejected if the security forces were incompetent, saying though arresting of terrorists was difficult, yet security organs made every effort to crush them in cooperation with people.

Jilani Farhad said a joint commission had been established to nab the killers of Jamshidi.

"Identification, arrest and punishment of such incidents' perpetrators isn't impossible, but difficult. These criminals live in Herat but it takes time to find clues that lead up to them."

He asked Herat residents to share a document or tip-off if they had any regarding Jamshidi's murder with the organizations concerned. (Pajhwok)

(10) UNAMA Probe ...

at least 13 martyrs in Gharaw Qeshlaq Village and two other martyrs in Rajkia village which is 15 in total. Meanwhile, two people were martyred in Qatlam village and totally there are 18 martyrs," said Khosh Mohammad, a member of the council.

Kunduz residents said the relatives of those who lost their lives in the airstrikes visit government offices every day in the hope of ensuring a thorough investigation is conducted.

"The Kunduz governor is behind all the deadly incidents that have happened so far in Kunduz," said Mohammad Ibrahim, a resident of Chahardara district in Kunduz.

"The war has taken all I have. I don't have my home and property anymore," said Khan Mohammad, a resident of the district.

Meanwhile, government officials in Kabul and Kunduz gave a different tally.

"The Ministry of Defense has assigned a commission to investigate the incident. One dead and five wounded were taken to a hospital there (in Kunduz)," the defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said.

"Most of those killed (in the airstrikes) are those who fight against government in favor of Ziauddin's group at night," said Abdul Hamid Hamidi, the police chief of Kunduz.

The military operation in Chahardara district continued for four days to clear the area of Taliban. Airstrikes were also carried out during the military operation. Residents claimed that besides civilian casualties, the airstrikes have destroyed people's houses in the district. (Tolonews)

(11) India Planning ...

open a trade and transport route to landlocked Afghanistan, as well as the resource-rich countries of central Asia. India is expanding its economic diplomacy in Afghanistan, seeing itself as a regional power.

The shipments are meant to demonstrate the route's viability, officials said, and the plan is to broaden the cargo flow before the port is fully operational by the end of next year.

"Things are moving quite well and as planned," Saurabh Kumar, Indian ambassador to Iran, said in an email.

India has framed its involvement in Chabahar's development as primarily about establishing a gateway to Afghanistan, more than Iran itself, Indian officials and a Western diplomatic source said. (ATN)

(12) EU Condemns ...

against freedom of media," the statement said.

"I have no doubt that despite this new attack journalists of Afghanistan will continue to perform with pride their noble mission. They have all our support," said Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon, the Head of the EU Delegation in Kabul.

This assault occurred just a few days after the "International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists". The EU Delegation urged Afghan authorities to spare no efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice. (Pajhwok)

(13) Terrorist Attack on ...

to play a big part in that," she said.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and US military officials had talked about how over the past 16 years there had been 16 one-year plans, the spokesperson added.

"And now we see this, instead of one-year plans changing every single year, as being a solid, fortified plan to push forward in the future. So, we're optimistic about that," she said. (Pajhwok)

(14) Daesh Claims...

The diplomat's body was handed over to Pakistani security officials at the Torkham border crossing, from where it was transferred to Islamabad for burial.

A resident of the Sialkot district of Punjab province, the official leaves behind five children and a widow. He worked in the consulate's visa section. (Pajhwok)

(15) Helmand Man ...

is a better quality and is much cheaper than other products; people come from various provinces to buy this water pump. I studied until Grade 4 and face financial problems in designing more advanced pumps," said Dad Mohammad.

Meanwhile a number of residents in Helmand, who have used the water pump, said the device works well.

"Helmand has no permanent electricity, but now many people use this water pump; previously we were spending a lot of money to purchase fuel, but now by using this pump we can save our money," said a resident of Helmand Lala Khan Kharoti. (Tolonews)

(16) No Side to Win ...

flight to foreign countries has reached the peak and the level of violence and murders is all times high, but people see no end to miseries", he grumbled.

Hedayat asked people and tribal elders to get united and start peace talks with consensus because no any side would win the Afghanistan war.

"The gap between the people and the government is widening with each passing day and some government officials are personally fueling insecurity and corruption", he said.

He said fundamental reforms in government organs were the only solution to all problems in the country. (Pajhwok)

(17) 22 Rebels Eliminated ...

in the operation on Tuesday night.

Noori said Waskat, Sorkh Kala, Tapi and Gharibano areas were reclaimed from insurgents as a result of the operation.

Three vehicles, two motorbikes, and a large depot of weapons belonging to the Taliban were also destroyed.

He also said Taliban staged coordinated attacks on security check posts in Ab-band, Zankhan, Qara Bagh, Andar, and Khawja Omari districts on Tuesday night.

He said only one soldier was before the attackers were pushed back.

A resident of Ab-band district, Rohullah, said Taliban stormed Kodalo area security post last night. "The ensuing clash lasted two hours. I saw two dead bodies of policemen in the morning."

The Taliban confirmed the Khogyani district offensive, with the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, saying no fighters had suffered casualties in the clash. (Pajhwok)

(18) All 15 Militants ...

and three other suicide bombers wanted to get in but fortunately they faced a serious response from security forces and they suffered heavy casualties," Qaim added.

Initial reports from the area indicate that the insurgents stormed the center from a hillside using heavy artillery and explosives.

This came just hours after Daesh carried out an attack on Shamshad TV in the nation's capital Kabul that left at least two people dead and 20 others wounded. (Tolonews)

(19) New Zealand PM ..

"That is something that I hope over time to engage with Defence over that issue. We said that was an opportunity we would take up when we were in office."

"We shared the view that we certainly needed to look into that further. We shared a view that Defence didn't share what was required at the time. And now we are in the position to work more closely with Defence, we will be doing that." (Pajhwok)

Central Asia's Road to Prosperity Runs Through a Peaceful Afghanistan

KABUL — As much as Central Asia is an actual place with its boundless steppes, rugged, breathtaking mountains, and diverse cultures of its own, it is also a repository of unique traditions of tolerance, scholarship, and trade. Eclipsing the world's expectations and capitalizing on growing stability, the region — which stretches from the Caspian Sea in the west to China in the east — has taken charge of its own economic and political destiny.

Yet, as the region gathers in Samarkand on November 10-11 to take part in a key "Security and Sustainability" conference — organized by the government of Uzbekistan and facilitated by the UN — looming large will be the conflict in Afghanistan, an unsparing struggle which steadily undermines regional progress through the specter of terrorism, a rampant narcotics trade, and new humanitarian crises.

Though the conflict in Afghanistan now spans nearly four decades, new and intensifying violence draws in militants from around the region. Almost daily, fighting takes an immense human and economic toll. The ongoing chaos helps fuel a booming narcotics trade, mostly in heroin, which finances extremist networks and a cross-border trade in weapons. The United Nations is not alone when it stresses that a peaceful Afghanistan is a necessary factor for stability and prosperity in Central Asia. Indeed, a sustained push for peace in a conflict in which there will be no military solution, nor any one victor, is the best guarantor

of sustained prosperity, as well as an antidote to the spread of violent extremism.

As the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, one of my important roles is to help Afghanistan coordinate regional peace efforts and work to facilitate dialogue with an aim to end the war. I have been encouraged by the proactive roles of all five major Central Asian nations in keeping with their regional interests. Kazakhstan, through its seat on the UN Security Council, has already leveraged international and regional diplomatic cooperation on several fronts; Uzbekistan, which sits at the heart of the region, has embraced its role as a central player, particularly by offering venues like Samarkand for UN and multi-lateral cooperation. In the same spirit, Turkmenistan has established vital energy links and a functioning rail connection with Afghanistan; Tajikistan provides Afghanistan with a large proportion of its electrical needs, and has greatly increased its trade with Kabul; and Kyrgyzstan has for years been working on Afghan reconstruction and is helping to promote a regional Afghan Studies Center in Bishkek. All five nations have embarked on exchanges of students and professionals. They all insist that peace in Afghanistan is a national priority aimed at ensuring long-range progress.

In Samarkand, I am sure that political and economic leaders and experts will look to help us address these issues in collaboration with both the UN's Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in Ashgabat and the UN's Regional Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for Central Asia in Tashkent. These dedicated bodies are focused on trans-national problems, including drugs, crime, terrorism, and environmental degradation, all of which directly threaten progress across Central Asia.

Making peace in Afghanistan requires the focus and concentration of like-minded leaders and citizens who oppose the alternative: a nexus of disorder, which fuels violence, illicit trade, and lost lives. When these challenges — which infect not only Afghanistan but the entire world — are properly addressed through improved laws, steady enforcement, and better regional cooperation, Central Asia can build on what it does well: developing its vast human and natural resources and expanding both trade and commerce on a regional and international level.

Afghanistan, largely on its own, and often fending off foreign interference, is attempting to address violent extremism in several ways. The National Unity Government aims to increase its accountability to the Afghan public by tackling corruption, while also encouraging openness with one of the most vibrant free presses in the region. A rich and traditional society is now being challenged by an energetic young generation demanding more individual rights and freedoms. At the United Nations we do our best to encourage these positive trends, while also helping Afghanistan design a solid path to a sustainable peace.

Yet, Afghanistan's struggle to dampen down extremism on the one hand and encourage an open society at the same time does not exist in a vacuum. Central Asia, in the midst of a vibrant new political dialogue of its own, has much at stake in Afghanistan's own struggle as it deals with its own challenges and continues on its fast and dynamic path toward prosperity.

Common interests imply greater collaboration. The peace dividend I foresee through enhanced cooperation in all spheres, including on environmental, legal, educational, and political issues, is multidimensional and virtually limitless. It is about connectivity through roads, rails, power, and the internet; infrastructure that links citizens on a political, social, and economic level, and which taps into the best aspects of globalization. It requires an open exchange of views on everything from creating inclusive and secure communities to sustainable development across national borders.

To be sure, steady progress can be made without the loss of the region's ancient traditions and unique character. From the great astronomer Khwarazmi and the algebra genius Khwarazmi, to the composer Farabi and the Sufi poet Maulana Balkhi (a.k.a. Rumi), Central Asia has produced some truly impressive minds and, with the expansion of educational and scientific opportunities taking place across the region today, this looks certain to continue.

As we counter and eliminate what plagues us — from violent extremism to drug trafficking, and even ecological disasters in the making — together we open new doors. The road may well be long and steep, but the arc of progress, I am assured by my Central Asian and Afghan friends, bends toward peace and prosperity.

Tadamichi Yamamoto is the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and the Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). (Agencies)