

(1) IS Plans to...

more people from among citizens of Central Asian states.

According to the National Anti-terrorist, Taliban is building up its strength in Afghanistan, especially in strategically important areas in the country's south, southeast, north and center of the country. Taliban numbers 45,000-50,000 people, who are well-trained and well-equipped.

Attempts to neutralize increased activity of militants in northern Afghanistan have brought about no considerable results so far, moreover, practically no measures are being taken to stop the spread of extremist activity from southern and eastern regions of Afghanistan bordering Pakistan to Afghanistan's northern provinces. Sysoyev said the most difficult situation was now in Afghanistan's northern provinces bordering Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, especially at the Afghan-Turkmen border.

The Islamic State is an Islamic terrorist organization banned in Russia. In 2013-2014, it was known under the name the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and operated mainly in Iraq and Syria. In June 2014, the Islamic State announced the establishment of an "Islamic caliphate" (a state with a Sharia form of government) on the territories it had seized and reduced its name to the Islamic State.

According to the United States' Central Intelligence Agency, the extremist group numbers around 30,000 people. The Iraqi authorities say however it has up to 200,000 gunmen. Among members of the group are citizens of 80 countries, including France, Great Britain, Germany, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, U.S., Canada, Russia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Islamic State militants reportedly control up to 40% of the Iraq's territory and about 50% of the Syrian territory. (TASS)

(2) Security to...

14 anti-insurgent operations are being conducted in 11 provinces. The military analysts, meanwhile, say the government lacks professional war plan, referring to an absence of a defense minister for more than a year.

"The government should have an effective plan for maintaining security in the areas once cleared by the insurgents," military affairs expert Atiqullah Amarkhel said.

Based on the information provided by security agencies, currently eight districts are being controlled by the Taliban.

The districts seized by Taliban are as follows: Boghran and Dicho districts in Helmand; Khak Afghan district in Zabul; Nawa district in Ghazni; Ghormach district in Far-yab; Qala-e-Zal and Dasht-e-Archi districts in Kunduz; and Warduj district in northeastern Badakhshan province. (Tolonews)

(3) India, Afghanistan ...

Security Advisor Hanif Atmar with the Defence Minister and his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval, an External Affairs Ministry release said on Tuesday.

Mr. Atmar, who was here on November 8 and 9, also met Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar and attended a discussion in the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

"During the visit, the two sides discussed various aspects of regional security, particularly terrorism which threatens peace and stability of the region.

"They also discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation between India and Afghanistan to strengthen the latter's d

It added that the Indian interlocutors of Mr. Atmar reiterated country's strong commitment and support for a united, sovereign, democratic, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

On his part, Mr. Atmar conveyed appreciation of his country's leadership, its government and the Afghan people for reliable and predictable assistance from India. (Agencies)

(4) Afghanistan is...

President Ghani has also said that dignified and lasting peace is the basic need of Afghanistan. He added that peace in Afghanistan has two dimensions, first peace with Pakistan and second peace with the Taliban.

"President Ghani underscored that the government of Pakistan should take action against the terrorist groups that declare war against the people of Afghanistan

and by doing that show their cooperation and sincerity in fighting terrorism and ensuring lasting peace in Afghanistan," the statement said.

He called terrorism a shared threat for Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region and urged joint and sincere commitment to fight this ominous phenomenon in order to eliminate it. (Tolo News)

(5) Senate, Civil...

Some other senators say that the militant groups commit such crimes to achieve their goals.

"The extremist and opposition groups cannot harm the National Unity among Afghan people with committing such crimes," said Senator Baqi Baryal.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in Afghanistan have beheaded seven hostages including two women, four men and a child in southern Zabul province of Afghanistan.

The victims were hostages who were kidnapped by the loyalists of the terror group from Gilan district of southeastern Ghazni province.

Meanwhile, Afghan civil activists in a rally under the name of "National Mourning" cried out that the government neglect against people and providing the security and safety of highways.

They said that the Afghan nation is the victim of government's incorrect political games.

"The incompetence of government causes people to discredit the government and authorities," said an Afghan civil activist.

In the meantime, Work and Development party emphasized that the Afghanistan nation decided to mobilize against the current chaos. At the other side, political analysts say that the government failed to provide the security of Kabul-Ghazni highway in the past 13 years.

The Kabul-Ghazni and Ghazni-Zabul highways have always witnessed insecurity and abduction of passengers in the past 13 years which most of the abductees are civilians.

This comes as that the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in a statement issued set free eight passengers who were kidnapped from Ghazni province of Afghanistan.

"The personnel of NDS secured the safe release of eight countrymen from kidnapers' clutch on Tuesday morning from Ghazni province. The freed people, including five men, two women and a teenage, will be handed over to their families in their respective provinces," NDS, the country's intelligence agency, said in the statement.

The eight were part of 31 passengers kidnapped in southern Zabul province in late February, according to the statement.

Up to 19 hostages of 31 were released in early May, one victim passed way while the fate of the remaining three passengers still remained unknown.

The release of the hostages came in the wake of brutal beheading of seven civilians by suspected IS militants in Zabul province on Saturday. (ATN)

(6) US Interest...

International Relations Commission of Meshrano Jirga has expressed concern over his visit.

Senators have said that US's interest in Pakistan would further strengthen terrorists and result in boost of fighting in Afghanistan. International Relations Committee of parliament urged American officials and Senate on Monday to abide by their commitments to Afghanistan.

A statement released by the commission states that the US should prevent support to terrorists by Pakistan and not allow further bloodshed of innocent Afghans. General Raheel Sharif will visit the United States from 15-20 November and hold talks with military and political leadership on different issues including Afghanistan's security and stalled peace talks with Taliban. (ATN)

(7) Ghani's Adviser ...

After the first letter was rejected, Mohammadi sent two more letters to the ministry saying Nabi Zada Wardak Ltd by sending two letters to President's Office confirmed it has signed the contract with Frozi - who was sentenced to 10 years in jail after being found guilty in the collapse of Kabul Bank in 2010. Based on the agreement, Frozi entrusted 68 hectares of land to the construction company to build the township in order for Frozi - who

had 50 percent share in the project - to make money through selling the apartments in a bid to repay his \$137 million USD debt.

"We acted based on the letters we received from president's legal adviser," Naderi said. "Frozi's release from prison and the contract he signed all belongs to president's adviser Mr. Mohammadi." The letters were sent between 19th of August and 3rd of November, Naderi added.

"We signed the contract but it was not us to make the agreement. When we received a cleared case of Frozi, we like a monitoring organization treated Frozi as an ordinary businessman. We welcome any businessman who wants to work with us," Naderi said.

It is said that Mohammadi had also sent letters to Attorney General's Office (AGO) to address the legal obstacles facing Frozi.

But the legal experts and a number of MPs strongly criticized the government for entrusting a project to a criminal who was involved in embezzlement of over \$900 million USD of Kabul Bank.

This comes after a lawmaker claimed that Frozi had bribed several senior officials in order to get the project. (Tolo News)

(8) NSC Takes ...

He further added that serious efforts are underway to free other abductees from the armed oppositions of the government.

Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani has instructed his second vice president, Sarwar Danish, deputy of executive officer, Muhammad Muhaqiq and ministers of tribal and transport to go to Ghazni province for sharing grief and the funeral of seven hostages.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in Afghanistan have beheaded seven hostages including two women, four men and a child in southern Zabul province of Afghanistan on Sunday.

The victims were hostages who were kidnapped by the loyalists of the terror group from Gilan district of southeastern Ghazni province. (ATN)

(9) 8 of Remaining ...

between government and kidnapers.

However the whereabouts of four other hostages is still unclear. Unconfirmed reports suggested few months ago that some of the remaining hostages had either been killed or died of poor health conditions. (Tolo News)

(10) Afghans Protest ...

Abdullah Abdullah strongly condemned the killing of civilians in Zabul.

Nearly 1,600 civilians were killed and more than 3,300 others wounded in conflicts and attacks in the first half of the year, according to UN mission figures. (Xinhua)

(11) Number of ...

has been stationed here since Soviet times, and the Collective Security Treaty Organisation, a Moscow-backed defense bloc, has promised to send a rapid-reaction force of 22,000 men should the situation require that.

Taliban forces and allies reportedly including the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) captured the major northeastern town of Kunduz in late September, holding it for a few days until they withdrew as Afghan military reinforcements arrived.

"The way two major battalions based in Kunduz dropped everything and ran was a great betrayal," Khudoiberdy Kholiknazarov, head of the Centre for Strategic Studies in Tajikistan, told IWPR. "We need to be very careful. The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border could deteriorate."

The Afghan conflict has evolved in two ways that are of concern to Central Asian governments - first, the shift in focus from the Pash-tun-majority south to northern parts of the country; and second, the emergence of militant forces linked to Islamic State - the IMU recently pledged allegiance to the group.

"Terrorist groups located in Afghanistan have previously been under the Taliban's wing, and hence presented less of a threat because the Taliban project is mainly limited to Afghanistan," political scientist Abdullo Rahnamo told IWPR. "Now the terror groups active in northern Afghanistan are steadily falling under the influence of Islamic State, which is different in that the concept is transnational, global, unlike the Taliban.

Second. Islamic State is making active use of new recruitment and propaganda channels, including media. And third, Islamic State is in a fairly strong financial position compared with the Taliban.

"Hence, this new situation in the north of Afghanistan is global in nature. The threat is acquiring different proportions." (AKIpress)

(12) Bodies of ...

They called on the government to declare a day of national mourning.

"People should get together in the mosques to show sympathy to the families of victims and also to show the enemies that Afghans are united," a social activist Ahmad Shah Stanekzai said.

This is the first time that women are being beheaded in the country. (Tolonews)

(13) Italy Won't ...

euros through December 31. A government decision to extend the mission beyond that date would have to be approved by parliament. (ANSA)

(14) EU Expects ...

He said the chairman of European leaders, Donald Tusk, and the head of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, who will represent the EU, want the G20 to declare a step up of funding for international organizations dealing with migration crises.

They will also seek a declaration from other G20 members, especially the United States and Saudi Arabia, that they would be ready to themselves accept more refugees. (Reuters)

(15) Afghans ...

he received medical care from a Red Cross doctor upon his arrival at Skala Sikaminias beach on the Greek island of Lesbos. Credit Mauricio Lima for The New York Times

But after a month of harrowing travel, rushing to reach Central and Northern Europe before more borders are closed, the Afghan migrants may be facing a new obstacle to their dreams of safety and security: a hardening stance by the German government on who gets to stay for a year, or more.

German officials argue that Afghanistan is not universally unsafe, so not all migrants should be granted asylum. The interior minister, Thomas de Maiziere, has said that applicants would be judged on a case-by-case basis, adding that "not all of the people who come to us as refugees from Afghanistan can expect to stay in Germany."

Officials in Germany also note that the country has had troops in Afghanistan for 14 years and has poured more than 2 billion euros, or about \$2.15 billion, into civilian projects. Chancellor Angela Merkel has suggested that those efforts fulfill Germany's commitment to care for those in need, meaning it should not necessarily have to shelter Afghans in Germany, too. That tougher stance by Germany is emerging as the biggest test case yet of Central and Northern Europe's willingness to absorb people from the world's most troubled regions. At the same time, it may force a debate over who qualifies as a refugee.

"Life in Afghanistan is worsening and the fighting is increasing," Mr. Atti said. "There is the Taliban. There is ISIS. It is very bad," he added, referring to the militant group also known as the Islamic State or ISIL.

Germany's own foreign ministry "urgently warns" against travel to Afghanistan.

Melissa Fleming, spokeswoman for the United Nations refugee agency, said some of the Afghan migrants might be leaving for a better life in Europe's most prosperous countries, but for many, "it is well documented that these are extremely dangerous situations" that they face living in Afghanistan, one of the poorest countries on earth.

At the same time, Afghanistan's sophisticated networks of smugglers appear to have accelerated their operations, capitalizing on growing fears over advances by the Taliban, and inroads by the Islamic State.

About 67,000 Afghans have entered Germany seeking asylum this year - almost half of them last month alone, officials said. Mr. de Maiziere has said that the arrival of so many members of Afghanistan's middle class was "unacceptable."

"We are in agreement with the Afghan government," he said, of

concerns that Afghanistan's population would be depleted of future leaders. "We do not want that." Afghan migrants in Germany said they were already feeling the effects of the government's harder line.

On Thursday, Sayed Aliraza, 24, was among the thousands of new arrivals waiting in Berlin's main migrant reception center, hoping to appeal what he said had been his rejection from German-language classes.

Mr. Aliraza said he had broken off his studies of law and politics in his third year at Kabul University and left for Europe in April with his parents, brother, sister-in-law and their five children.

He said he was in his third day of seeking redress from Berlin bureaucracy severely strained by the migrant influx, to present a paper he said showed approval to start the classes. He said the government, which insists newcomers learn German, was no longer helping Afghans.

"I think the German government does not want for Afghan people to learn Deutsch," he said. "I understand - the government of Germany doesn't have place for refugees. But we are also human." "We don't have any security there," he added, referring to Afghanistan. "That is the reality. Afghanistan is not secure, and the government of Germany knows this."

The unwelcome message does not appear to have fully trickled into Afghanistan itself, although migrants arriving in Greece last week expressed a growing sense that they had more to worry about than the possible closing of borders or the hardships of travel. (Agencies)

(16) Norway ...

all cases of Afghans arriving from Russia will be assessed and those with legal status in Russia might be sent back there.

"All cases will be individually assessed. People who have been legally residing in Russia may also be refused residence and sent back to Russia." Martin Andersson, a press adviser with the UDI told CNN.

According to the report citing UDI, hundreds of migrants have been crossing into Norway from Russia each week via the frontier above the Arctic Circle - but last week marked a turning point, with more Afghans than Syrians seeking asylum for the first time. (KP)

(17) Era of High...

high as 15% in 2010 and 2011, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data. For those between the ages of 18 and 24, it was even higher. Federal jobs data show periods when as many as one in three veterans in the younger age group was without work. That rate was more than double compared to civilians of the same age.

Last month, the jobless rate for veterans in that age group was 10.4%, nearly identical to the 10.1% unemployment figure for civilians in the same bracket.

The struggle to find work became part of the national narrative for this generation of veterans, along with concerns about high suicide rates, post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

The high jobless rate led to new legislation in 2011 requiring all troops to go through military-to-civilian transition programs. New government and private sector initiatives also aimed to hire more veterans.

"The DOD (Department of Defense) has gotten a lot smarter about preparing servicemembers for transition," said Terry Gerton, deputy assistant secretary for policy for veterans employment and training at the Department of Labor. "Partnerships across the government have been more powerful and persistent (in helping veterans find work), and then you just have a tremendous commitment on the part of the civilian sector to come through with jobs for veterans, to hire and to train them and to really understand that veterans make great employees."

The annual cost of unemployment compensation for the military branches has also declined sharply in recent years from its peak of \$944 million paid out to unemployed former servicemembers in 2011. That figure dropped to \$565 million last year, the lowest since 2008.

Gerton, a West Point graduate and former Army officer, said that Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are now "better prepared to search for jobs,

to write a resume, to participate in interviews ... and to really have a better idea of what they might be interested in doing after they leave the military." (Agencies)

(18) Mullah Rasoul...

Mohammad Rasool has also said to the neighboring countries that they would not face any threats from his group.

"We announce to our neighbors that we have no controversy with anyone. We say to all Islamic countries and Muslims that our fights are against the United States," Rasoul said.

He also warned other extremist groups that they will not allow any group to interfere in their country. "All Mujahedeen are our brother no matter to be Daesh or Al-Qaeda. But we do not allow them to come to our country to fight or interfere," Mullah Muhammad Rasoul added.

Divisions between Taliban groups come after the death of Taliban's spiritual leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar.

The leadership crisis arose when Mullah Omar's son and brother, who couldn't make contact with him, challenged Mullah Mansour to explain how and when the leader died.

Now the Taliban may splinter into "a peace camp and a war camp, as well as many commanders going at it alone in pursuit of their own local objectives.

With the Taliban's leadership in question, however, it is unlikely there will be much progress on reconciliation process.

The Taliban remain an effective fighting force, with recent assaults on Kunduz in northern Afghanistan and a bold attack on the Afghan parliament in June. These two may reflect the internal rifts between those who want to explore dialogue and those who prefer to continue fighting. (ATN)

(19) Russia Mulls ...

bolstered the theory that the airplane was brought down by a bomb planted onboard by terrorists in retaliation for Russia's ongoing military operation against the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria.

On Tuesday, U.S. TV network CBC News cited U.S. intelligence sources as saying that the United States had intercepted communication from IS operatives claiming that they had "an insider at the airport in Sharm el-Sheikh."

Some Russian analysts also believe that the accident was the result of a terrorist attack. (Xinhua)

(20) Migrant, ...

ing relocated," Director of the IOM Coordinating Office for the Mediterranean Federico Soda said.

So far this year, Greece has received the biggest influx of migrant maritime arrivals, with some 653,075 individuals reaching Greek soil, while Italy has recorded 141,766 entries, Spain 3,845 and Malta 106.

New arrivals are continuously being reported by Greek authorities. An estimated 17,600 migrants and refugees crossed over from Turkey between Nov. 6 and Nov. 8, according to Hellenic Police.

IOM figures show that while 512 deaths have been recorded on the Eastern Mediterranean route separating Turkey and Greece, a total of 3,455 individuals have lost their lives while attempting to reach Europe so far this year, compared to 3,166 for the whole of 2014. (Xinhua)

(21) Greek Gov't...

recent weeks in fulfilling prior actions agreed with creditors to secure the new funding under the third bailout commitments, some issues remain unresolved.

For example in the key issue of home foreclosures Athens initially pushed for the protection of more than 75 percent of indebted homeowners, while creditors requested stricter criteria which would result in the protection of less than 50 percent of people concerned. (Xinhua)

(22) Austria Calls ...

the Greek islands for days by a ferry strike.

On Monday, about 2,000 people who were fed up with waiting up to 11 hours for their turn forced their way into Macedonia, but no injuries were reported.

Nearly all the migrants at Idomeni reached the Greek islands in frail boats from Turkey, paying large sums to smuggling gangs. On Monday, port authorities on the eastern island of Lesbos, where most migrants arrive, rescued 345 people who had been crammed into a luxury cruiser that ran aground just offshore. (AP)