

## (1) Kazakhstan...

relations. Kazakhstan will direct more than 600 thousand tons of wheat to Afghanistan," Nursultan Nazarbayev said. Nazarbayev further added that due to the fact that Afghanistan is going through very difficult times, we are providing humanitarian assistance. We will continue to provide assistance to Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan provides humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan annually, he added.

The Kazakh President also added that during the talks the sides discussed issues of transportation of wheat.

In May and September 2014, Kazakhstan provided assistance worth more than \$3 million.

It has also delivered more than 21,000 tons of food products worth \$20 million. (AKPress)

## (2) Corruption ...

challenges facing SIGAR, Sopko said the first challenge is "the inability to define requirements, measure effectiveness and assess sustainability."

"U.S. agencies measure inputs and outputs rather than outcomes," he said, adding that "numbers don't tell Congress about the effectiveness of programs."

The second challenge is the "lack of coordination within our government, with the Afghans and with our partners in Europe and elsewhere," Sopko said. "By not coordinating the various lines of efforts ... we undermine our mission and waste U.S. taxpayer dollars."

The third challenge is "poor planning, oversight and accountability," he said, noting that nearly \$13 million USD allocated for an Afghan electricity operator was never used. "Fraud kills," he said. "Oversight is not just about saving money. It's also about saving lives."

The fourth challenge is corruption, he said, adding the phenomenon was undermining all the efforts of U.S. in Afghanistan reconstructions. Despite the establishment of a number of anti-corruption bodies over the past decade, the phenomenon has put Afghanistan at the top of the list of the world's fraud-hit countries.

According to analysts, millions of dollars in aid to Afghanistan were wasted in the country during the past 15 years. (Tolnews)

## (3) Obama Says....

extraordinarily helpful on issues like countering the destructive and perverse narrative that's developed."

Malaysia deployed extraordinary security measures around Kuala Lumpur on Friday as leaders from 18 countries arrived for a pair of weekend summits amid fresh attacks by Islamist militants.

Malaysia's police chief cited unconfirmed reports of an "imminent terrorist threat" in the country, following last week's attacks in Paris and the downing of a Russian airliner over Egypt by Islamic State militants.

Some 4,500 soldiers were deployed or on standby to secure the summit, in addition to thousands of police who have fanned out around the Kuala Lumpur City Centre. The site is home to Petronas Towers, once the world's tallest buildings, and a convention center where the summits are taking place.

In addition to Obama, leaders from China, Japan, Russia, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand are attending the East Asia Summit following the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting. (Reuters)

## (4) India to...

provinces, so, it is important to have that covered," he said.

This is a marked shift in policy followed from the UPA government's tenure -- of not providing Kabul any lethal weapons or equipment. India has been training around 1,000 Afghan army and other security officers and men a year.

In April, New Delhi supplied military transport vehicles and three small unarmed Cheetal helicopters. Referring to the coalition draw-down and the vacuum created with the need for helicopter gunships, the Afghan minister said, "Two and a half years ago, we had about 150,000 coalition forces. To support them, we had over 200,000 military contractors."

But the major counter-terrorist operations, supported by the world's

leading militaries, came to rest on Afghan shoulders since the beginning of 2015.

"We now have to develop our own capabilities. This is why we are reaching out to our friends and allies," the minister said.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has been under pressure for his policy of engaging more with Islamabad rather than Delhi, on security issues, sources told NDTV. With Taliban attacks at an all-time high, he is seen as needing to mend fences with New Delhi.

In an interview to NDTV in April, President Ghani had acknowledged, "The past is past. We are engaged in a comprehensive understanding of our mutual interests and we will act and build on those mutual interests".

Asked if more lethal weaponry has been sought, Minister Hekmat Karzai said, "We have been assured that India is going to look at our requests, and proceed accordingly."

But, as of now, sources say -- apart from the attack helicopters -- those requests will not necessarily lead to a further supply of military equipment that can be used in the battle against the Taliban. (Tolnews)

## (5) Security ...

said they have new plans to suppress militants in different parts of the country -- also in Badakhshan. Despite winter being on its way, troops are currently fighting insurgents in 13 provinces.

The air force has meanwhile carried out 70 flights for transportation and military purposes over the past 24 hours. (Tolnews)

## (6) Thousands Flee ...

Shinwari said.

Displaced families have also criticized government for not being able to help families who have fled their homes.

"The total number of the displaced families was around 20,000, but now this figure has raised to more than 24,000," said Ghulam Haidar Faqirzai, head of Nangarhar's organization for internally displaced families.

The Nangarhar governor disputes these figures however and has also denied claims that the military operation is proving unsuccessful.

"The number of displaced families is not 20,000, it is around 10,000 to 14,000. We have a procedure for their relief and rescue, but it is in the first stage. The responsible institutions must conduct a survey to find out the exact numbers," Nangarhar governor, Saleem Khan Kunduzi said.

As winter approaches, concern among the displaced families is also growing as they say their children in particular are vulnerable and will not be able to cope with the extreme temperatures by next month. (Tolnews)

## (7) MoF Deems ...

controversial housing contract between the Ministry of Urban Development and Frozi.

But Urban Development Minister, Sayed Sadat Mansoor Naderi, claimed he had received several letters from Mohammadi urging him to sign the "Smart City Township" project with Frozi - who was jailed for 10 years in a court verdict last November after being found guilty of defaulting on loans that helped lead to the collapse of Kabul Bank in 2010.

On Wednesday night however, a document surfaced implicating Mohammadi in yet another Frozi-related scandal.

This time, Mohammadi appears to have issued a memorandum, via the Finance Ministry, to inform all government offices that they could sign deals with Frozi's Gas Group for their supplies.

The typed document dated November 2, 2015, and signed by Mohammadi stated: "The revenue earned by this company will go to the loan department of Kabul Bank to cover the loans of Khalilullah Frozi. Therefore it is requested that all government offices should be given notice to sign agreements with this company to meet their supply needs."

A university lecturer Nasrullah Stanekzai said: "The president's decrees are registered with the administrative affairs office and are then publically announced. President's advisors do not have the authority to issue any type of letter that contains a direction or an order.

Meanwhile the head of the Gas and Fuel Union, Azrakhsh Hafizi, said

that all import companies in the sector have the right to bid for government contracts.

"There are at least 106 gas and fuel companies in the country and all have equal rights. No one has the right to direct any of the companies to sign contracts with them."

Shortly before the emergence of this latest document, Mohammadi wrote on his Facebook page on Wednesday that he had been invited by the complaints commission of the Wolesi Jirga to brief them on the Kabul Bank case.

"During the discussions I highlighted the following points. 1. I was neither informed of the Urban Ministry's deal with Frozi and nor did I defend the agreement. I was responsible for the mechanism that was approved by the cabinet and the president. 2. There are two groups that want to blacken my name and hamper the Kabul Bank clearance process. I will talk about these groups at a suitable time. 3. I appreciate the president's decision to investigate this case. I hope that the assigned team finds the answers to the case. 4. Meanwhile, I have not spoken to anyone privately or outside of the commission's sessions. All that I have said was to the media and to the commission members," he said.

Mohammadi allegedly facilitated the signing of the "Smart City Township" project - worth over \$900 USD. The deal was inked about two weeks ago. However, after mounting criticism of government, Ghani cancelled the contract within a week and ordered an investigation into the issue. (Tolnews)

## (8) ISIS in ...

3 in the terror tactics used by the group.

An ISIS loyalist is seen conducting a grim lesson in one scene after herding a ragtag group of boys and girls into a room (girls are ordered to sit in back).

"What is this word?" he says, and answers his own question: "Jihad", with the children repeating the same word.

The militant is later seen saying "God says do jihad until intrigue, idolatry and infidelity are gone from the world."

Telling a boy to stand up, he asks "What is this?" indicating his rifle. The child then replies saying the weapon and continues explaining the use of it, saying it will be used to defend the faith by hitting the heads of the infidels (Kafir).

The fighter then continues to show a hand grenade to the child, saying "This is a hand grenade, meaning hand bomb" with the child repeating the same word "Hand bomb". He is also handing an unloaded gun to a boy, coaching him to "fire it from a standing position." One by one, the other boys (no girls, it must be said) handle the weapon.

Earlier another report was released on the recruitment and brainwashing of Afghan children by ISIS loyalists in Afghanistan.

The report released earlier this month stated that the children were trained to become suicide bombers and ground fighters.

According to the report, the trainings included use of pistols, AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades which were provided by ISIS instructors to children between 13 to 14 years of age in the restive eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan. (KP)

## (9) Afghanistan ...

in a statement.

According to the Afghan government, most of the country's gas exploration and infrastructure is in Jawzjan province. As of February 2011, the last full year for which the government has data, there were 34 wells operating in three fields with limited production. The government estimates current gas production at around 1.5 million cubic feet, about 70 percent less than the entire production from the Marcellus shale formation in the United States. The agreement awaits final approval from the central Afghan government. According to consortium member Bayat Energy, gas reserves in the northwest provinces are some of the more promising in the region. The region will play host to multi-lateral pipeline from Turkmenistan to India. Described as part of the "new Silk Road," the project -- the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India, or TAPI -- is described as essential for regional economic and energy developments. It would

draw on the Galkynysh natural gas field near the border of Afghanistan, one of the largest gas fields in the world, with an estimated 925 trillion cubic feet of reserves. (UPI)

## (10) German Minister...

spiratorial planning".

At least 129 people were killed in the attacks carried out nearly simultaneously at a football stadium, a concert hall and restaurants as throngs of Parisians were enjoying a night out.

CIA director John Brennan warned Monday that the attacks were likely not a "one-off event" and that he expected IS has more operations in the pipeline.

A series of recent bloody attacks have been attributed to, and claimed by IS, which controls large areas of territory in Iraq and Syria.

They include twin suicide bombings that killed 44 people in Beirut last Thursday, the downing of a Russian airliner over Egypt with 224 people aboard on October 31, and the suicide attack that left 102 dead and over 500 injured in Ankara on October 10.

De Maiziere warned that the threat for Germany and Europe "is serious, really serious", with Western nations "in the sights of Islamist terrorism".

On Tuesday night German authorities cancelled an international football match in Hanover citing a security threat, calling off an event that had been meant to show solidarity with France.

Speaking at the same conference, Germany's Federal Crime Office chief Holger Muench also warned of a heightened threat, saying that of the more than 750 German citizens who had joined Islamists fighting in Syria and Iraq, over one third had returned.

He also warned of the possibility Islamic extremists could hide among the one million asylum seekers Germany expects this year -- adding however that about 120 warnings, many from foreign security services, had netted no confirmed cases so far.

Muench also warned that fundamentalist Islamist groups in Germany had in about 60 known cases sought to contact people in refugee shelters for propaganda and recruitment purposes. (AFP)

## (11) BMA Course...

unique experiences with other students and experts to the benefit of all concerned on both sides of the Tajik-Afghan border."

The course was delivered through a mixture of theoretical and practical exercises including field visits to the nearby border with Uzbekistan and the dog training centre in Dushanbe where participants observed a demonstration on the use of dogs in border security and management operations. (Asia-Plus)

## (12) Ghor Girl...

Meanwhile, governor of Ghor Sima Joyenda said an investigation has been launched into the incident.

In addition, the interior ministry said investigations have been launched in this respect.

"This incident and the incident of Rokhshana should be seriously investigated," Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said. "Investigations are underway by the assigned fact-finding team."

This comes only three weeks after 19-year-old Rokhshana was stoned to death by the Taliban after having been accused of eloping with a man. (Tolnews)

## (13) Baghlan...

In addition, they accused local police officials of supporting the suspect.

The suspected policeman however rejected what he called baseless allegations. He claimed Zarghona's family was trying to defame him. He said he was ready to appear in court in their district but not in Pul-e-Khumri, the provincial capital.

"I have told them many times that I am ready to appear at the prosecution office in Jelga but not in Pul-e-Khumri," he told TOLONews.

Meanwhile, the police chief of Baghlan, Abdul Rashid Bashir, promised a thorough investigation into the incident.

"We will definitely investigate the incident. We will make sure to bring the suspect to court," he promised.

Scores of Afghan girls have been the victim of domestic violence in Afghanistan, especially in the areas where government has less control.

(Tolnews)

## (14) Pedram Blasts...

tion turned into crisis and unfortunately parliament also accepted this agreement," he added.

Meanwhile a number of delegates at the gathering criticized the government for not responding immediately to last week's Zabul Seven protestors.

Zulfaqar Omid, head of the Work and Development Party said: "All the youths that are here attended last week's Kabul protest."

A member of another opposition party said the government should take the fight against corruption seriously. (Tolnews)

## (15) Communication...

orders from some local Taliban insurgents.

"I call on the telecommunication companies to reactivate their services, because their stations are in government-controlled areas but they take orders from Taliban," a member of Helmand provincial council Bismillah Rouhani claimed. They warned they would take decisions themselves if the government failed to bring officials of the telecommunication companies to justice.

The volatile southern province of Helmand has long experienced fighting over the past years and violence has had a major impact on the local economy, rule of law and governance. (Tolnews)

## (16) 12 ISIS ...

several hours before the Afghan forces manage to push them back, leaving at least 12 militants dead.

According to Haji Ghalib, at least three members of the Afghan national security forces also sustained injuries during the gun battle.

Nangarhar is among the relatively volatile provinces in eastern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militants are actively operating in a number of its remote districts.

The Achin and Kot districts have become a main operational base for the militants loyal to the Islamic State terror group during the recent months. (KP)

## (17) ASEAN FMs ...

Children which was endorsed by the 13th ASEAN Political- Security Community Council Meeting on Friday will be signed by ASEAN leaders on Saturday, Anifah said. (Xinhua)

## (18) Gunmen Attack ...

the gunmen, who burst through security at the hotel entrance at 7 a.m (0700 GMT), spraying the area with gunfire and shouting "Allahu Akbar", or "God is great" in Arabic.

Occasional bursts of gunfire were heard as the assailants went through the seven-floor building, room-by-room and floor-by-floor, one senior security source and a witness told Reuters.

State television said 80 hostages had left the building by midday, but an hour later the hotel's website said 124 guests and 13 staff were still inside.

Some people were freed by the attackers after showing they could recite verses from the Koran, while others were brought out by security forces or managed to escape under their own steam.

One of the rescued hostages, celebrated Guinean singer Sékouba 'Bambino' Diabate, said he had overheard two of the assailants speaking in English as they searched the room next to his. (Reuters)

## (19) Russian...

crime without limitations and be firmly combated in all countries of the world," it said.

A Russian A321 plane crashed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Oct. 31, killing all 224 on board. Moscow announced on Tuesday that the plane was brought down by a bomb. (Xinhua)

## (20) Syrian Refugees..

official pledge not to work with local authorities. According to UNHCR, this is pushing more and more Syrians to work in the informal sector where agricultural and construction jobs usually pay no more than 15 U.S. dollars for a 12-hour working day. (Xinhua)

## (21) Russia Inter...

and historic influence in the Balkans -- has been opposed, fueling anti-NATO sentiments among some Montenegrins. Several protests by

thousands in Montenegro against the pro-NATO government recently have turned violent.

Anti-NATO sentiments are due partly to the Alliance's bombing campaign against Yugoslavia over Kosovo in 1999. Montenegro was part of Yugoslavia along with much-larger Serbia.

Stoltenberg said that "our air campaign in 1999 was never against the Serbian people" and expressed "deep regret" at the loss of innocent lives. He added that NATO on Friday lifted all air restrictions in a central Serbian area bordering Kosovo that were imposed back in 1999. He described the decision as "a significant step toward full integration of the region into the European air space." (AP)

## (22) UK Police ...

violation of the women's human rights, an abuse of police power and caused significant trauma," said assistant commissioner Martin Hewitt. "I unreservedly apologise on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Service. I am aware that money alone cannot compensate the loss of time, their hurt or the feelings of abuse caused by these relationships."

The officers were working for two units -- now disbanded -- that infiltrated groups promoting radical political action on issues such as environmental campaigns, anarchy and animal rights. (AFP)

## (23) EU-Turkish...

said EU and Turkish officials have been unable to finalize a plan involving 3 billion euros in European funds, measures to keep refugees and migrants in Turkey, accelerated visa liberalization for Turks visiting Europe, and a revitalization of Ankara's stalled EU accession negotiations. European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said no date had been set for the summit yet after Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans held talks in Ankara on Thursday, but he denied that the talks had stalled.

Noting that Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and European Council President Donald Tusk had met Erdogan on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Turkey on Monday, Schinas told reporters: "There is movement, the ball is rolling."

"We do hope that this process will lead soon to transform this joint action plan into an effective agreement that can be operationalized and produce change on the ground."

An EU official familiar with the exchanges said Ankara was loath to commit to a timetable for improving conditions for refugees before the EU comes through with the money. Only Britain has made a firm financial pledge so far. (Reuters)

## (24) Balkan Border ...

migrants are left in total limbo and completely stranded at different border points, according to UNHCR.

"There is urgent need to put in place additional reception capacity at the points of entry, to allow for decent and effective accommodation, compliance with child protection standards, assistance, registration and screening of the thousands of people arriving every day," the refugee agency said in the statement.

UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF called on the concerned states to re-establish coordination and response mechanisms which were agreed upon at the Western Balkans Summit on October 8 and the Leaders' Meeting on October 25. (Xinhua)

## (25) Turkey ...

also to Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy for the Middle East, Mikhail Bogdanov.

Turkish authorities have summoned the Russian ambassador several times since September 30 when Russian war planes started to carry out air raids in Syria.

Turkey has complained over Russian planes' incursion into Turkish air space and also warned Moscow against supplying arms and support for Syrian Kurdish forces fighting the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria.

The latest tensions come as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is set to visit Turkey next Wednesday. The Istanbul meeting will focus on "comprehensive exchange of views on foreign policy issues with a priority on Syrian crisis," a Turkish official said.

With momentum growing in long-stalled efforts to find a peace deal for Syria after the Paris attacks, the two sides will be seeking to narrow their differences on the conflict. (AFP)