

(1) UNICEF ...

segments of their programming.

"It's a fun day with a serious point," said UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan, Adele Khodr. "Here in Afghanistan it is very important to give children a voice because they are a very big part of this country's young society. However, girls and boys in Afghanistan are largely invisible as citizens and we need to give them the chance to speak up. Today is a day for children to 'take over' and speak with their own voices. And we must listen."

Child-led activities will take place in various areas of the country to discuss issues affecting Afghan children so that they can share their views and ideas with government, community leaders, development partners and members of the UN Country Team in Afghanistan.

At a UNICEF-supported 'Activate Talk' in Kabul adolescents from different backgrounds will take over a panel discussion to showcase their innovations and achievements in music, art, business and academics. Young people from the project 'Improving Adolescents' Lives in Afghanistan' (IALA) will also discuss their challenges and how they are overcoming them.

UNICEF social media platforms will have continuous updates and information on World Children's Day activities. (PR)

(2) MPs Walk out ...

house, he refused. Finally Humayoun, who was chairing the session, said he could not continue the session in Nusrat's presence and walked out along with a number of MPs.

"There were some violations, unnecessary procurements, big contracts and suspicious issues and based on that the decision was made against parliament's secretary," parliament's second deputy secretary Irfanullah Iran said.

A number of MPs said parliament's administrative board and parliament's secretariat officials should all be dismissed.

"I hope a decision will be made against the entire administrative board and the secretariat and that they are dissolved," MP Sayed Ikram said.

"The speaker has confessed that he has embezzled (money), although it is limited," MP Amanullah Paiman said.

Nusrat however has not said anything about the corruption allegations against him. (Tolnews)

(3) Iran Ready ...

Meanwhile, Yamamoto presented a detailed report of the current security conditions in Afghanistan and the ways to continue peace talks in the country to maintain peace and security there. (IRNA)

(4) Jakarta to

Ghani and his Indonesian counterpart Widodo.

"The purpose of the visit is to have exchange of views and share lessons learnt, and reinforce both countries' experience dealing with peace process, reconciliation efforts and reintegration mechanism. Indonesia could share its experiences dealing with armed conflict, such as in Aceh Province, and communal conflict such as in Ambon, Moluccas Province," read a press release issued by the Indonesian embassy in Kabul.

The press release states that Indonesia as the world's most populous Muslim nation has a deep-rooted historical friendship with Afghanistan and that Indonesia remains committed to supporting Afghanistan in its peace and reconciliation process.

On November 6, Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Minister Retno L.P. Marsudi met with Ghani in Kabul where the two sides pledged to further enhance bilateral ties in all spheres between the two countries.

At the meeting, Ghani also stressed the need for closer ties between religious scholars from the two Muslim nations.

In addition, Ghani expressed his gratitude over what he described as Indonesia's support and cooperation with Afghanistan and said Indonesia has great expertise in a number of fields involving economic development and women empowerment, adding that his government hopes that Indonesia shares these skills with Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the HPC's visit comes at a time that the peace and reconciliation process between Afghanistan's government and the Taliban has stalled - with no sign of a breakthrough in sight.

Back in October, representatives from more than 50 countries and international organizations attended the International Contact Group's meeting in Moscow where they discussed the issues around the Afghan peace process and the peace talks with the Taliban. Similar rounds of peace talks meetings were also held in Islamabad including several rounds of Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) which is held between representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States, and China. However none of the meetings yielded positive results regarding peace. In an attempt to revive the peace process between the Afghan government and the Taliban, the first meeting of the Afghanistan-Pakistan-United States-China Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCC)

was held in the Pakistani capital Islamabad on January 11 last year. The group included Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador Richard G. Olson and China's Special Envoy for Afghanistan Ambassador Deng Xijun.

But Afghan officials have constantly blamed Pakistan for doing nothing to persuade the Taliban group to endorse purposeful peace negotiation talks with the Afghan government. But Pakistan insists that it was doing enough to secure Afghanistan.

This latest visit also comes amid the Taliban's ramped up war efforts against the Afghan security and defense forces across the country. As a result civilian casualties have been on the rise in the war-ravaged nation.

Civilian toll on rise

A recent report by the United Nations indicates that 8,019 civilians including women and children were killed and wounded in the Afghan conflict in the first nine months of this year.

The report also says anti-government armed groups are responsible for the 64 percent of the casualties while the Afghan government affiliated forces are responsible for 20 percent of the civilian deaths.

The report shows that civilian casualties in airstrikes have increased by 50 percent during the past nine months.

According to the report, 2,640 civilians were killed and 5,379 others were wounded as a result of violence, conflicts and airstrikes. (Tolnews)

(5) Germany Reiterates...

The post-US strategy opportunities should be effectively utilized."

For his part, Potzel also called the new US strategy as useful and announced his backing to the policy.

He said his country wanted long-lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and Germany supported intra-Afghan peace negotiations.

He assured of his country's continued assistance in various spheres to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(6) Cabinet Okays ...

said that their ministry's proposed law had recently been approved by the Council of Ministers.

"The MoF suggested some draft amendments in the Income Tax Act about tax on print media that has also been mentioned in the Mass Media Law. The amendments draft after its approval by the Cabinet will soon land in the National Assembly."

Article 53rd of the Law on Mass Media says, "Income tax is obtained from mass media and other organizations mentioned in the Article 28th of this law. But periodical and non-periodical print media are exempted from this provision."

However, this article of the law has not been implemented so far. Currently media outlets, despite giving 20 percent income tax, also pay taxes on contracts, purchase of office appliances, rents and salaries of employees.

Zadaran said based on the MoF's amendment draft, which has been approved by the Cabinet, all print media outlets were excluded from all taxes, except the tax on employees' salaries.

The amendment draft will go into effect after it is approved by the National Assembly and signed by the President. (Pajhwok)

(7) Iran Deports ...

He said 30 to 50 children were daily deported via Islam Qala and Nimroz crossing points. He said most of the deportees belonged to far-away provinces in the east and south and they lacked resources to transfer the children to their own areas.

He said organizations working for children's rights couldn't cope with the issue. "About 30 to 50 children are averagely expelled by Iran on a daily basis."

The provincial government also expressed concern over the deportation of children, asking the Iranian authorities to stop the process. Jilani Farhad, the governor's spokesman, said: "The deportation of children and unpervised women is a matter of concern."

"We have always demanded serious steps to end deportation of children without families by Iran keeping in view the cordial relations between the two countries."

AHRC Herat chapter says besides expulsion, the children faced many other issues on their way from Iran to Afghanistan as they were tortured by traffickers and forced to walk hundreds of kilometers on foot. (Pajhwok)

(8) Nicholson Announces ...

first time in Afghanistan," he said.

He made it clear that Afghan and US forces will continue attacking drug producing and trafficking operations, and promised the Afghan people that they will not only stand by the country in the fight against terrorism but will also stand by them in the fight against drugs. He reiterated the call to the Taliban to lay down their arms, join peace process and ensure better life for their families and children in society. "We the US, the coalition forc-

es are with you in the fight against the terrorists, your enemies are our enemies," he said. An F22 was used in Sunday's raid on a drug producing facility in Helmand

Nicholson also said a B-52 was used in Sunday night's raid and completely leveled one drug producing compound. The US commander stated that President Donald Trump's new war strategy will bring renewed pressure on the Taliban and their safe havens as the approach was a conditions based strategy rather than a time-bound policy.

"The new US strategy on Afghanistan is conditions based not time bound, which means we will eliminate terrorists until the end."

In a question about the UN's report on the surge in civilian casualties in Afghanistan, he said: "We take any allegations about civilian casualties very seriously and we will investigate it seriously."

He said that US-Forces are doing everything possible to avoid civilian casualties during their operations. He stated that Daesh remains the number one target in Afghanistan and that this group is completely rejected by the Afghan people. "Hunting down and killing their leaders will not stop" but Daesh continues an aggressive recruiting program, he said.

Nicholson said the fight will continue against Daesh until its complete elimination. But said that there is no sign of Daesh fighters from Syria or Iraq migrating to Afghanistan. The US commander also asked Pakistan to stop cross border shelling. Meanwhile, the Afghan Chief of Army Staff General Sharif Yafali said at the same press conference that the Taliban are criminal groups who benefit from narcotics in the country. (Tolnews)

(9) Private Sector...

Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), said the government was struggling with lack of infrastructure, delays in implementation of development projects, reliance on foreign funds and poor quality services.

"If we want to improve our economy and provide needed services to the people, then we have to work jointly with the private sector, both the private sector and the government can benefit in this case," he said.

Sardar Mohammad Momand, commercial assistant at the MoCI, said, "Despite missing many opportunities, we still can develop a powerful economy in near future if start right now."

He said insecurity and administrative corruption discouraged the private sector from making investments and these issues were addressed, many foreign and domestic capitalists would invest in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(10) Maiden Joint ...

drug labs was launched in collaboration with the NATO-led Resolute Support mission on Sunday night.

It further said the operation has so far targeted and destroyed eight main drug laboratories in Sangin, Musa Qala, Kajaki, and Nawzad districts of southern Helmand province.

The statement said the Afghan government had clearly stated that the current war waged by Taliban and other terrorist groups was mainly financed by drugs. "Campaign for elimination of drugs is one of the Afghan government's strategic aims."

Meanwhile, the provincial government in Helmand province issued a statement, confirming the joint Afghan and foreign forces operations in various areas of the province on Sunday night, targeting Taliban hideouts and drug processing centers.

According to the statement, some Taliban militants were also killed and weapons and ammunition destroyed as a result of the raids.

On the other hand, the Taliban claimed the joint raids were carried out on civilians.

The group's spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, on his twitter account posted that the Afghan forces conducted airstrikes in three areas of Helmand, causing casualties to civilians and destroying their homes. (Pajhwok)

(11) MPs Call on...

discrimination was more dangerous than terrorism and that writing a letter of this nature was a crime and treason.

"First those who have signed this should be introduced to the legal and judicial institutions. Second, we want to see a presidential decree to know what is written in it," MP Ghulam Farooq Majrooh said.

"This should be investigated thoroughly, and we won't let anyone create discord among the tribes," MP Saleh Mohammad Saleh said. The interior ministry's APPF unit stated in the letter that based on a presidential order an anti-riot unit will be established. They then called for a list of 500 names of potential candidates, excluding Tajiks.

Parliament's administrative board slammed the move and said it was worse than acts of terror. "I want those who want to provoke discrimination among the nation to be introduced to the Attorney General's Office. And if such things have been written in the president's order, I see it equal to national treason," parliament's first deputy speaker Humayoun Humayoun said.

Although the interior ministry has said it was a typing error on their part, MPs refused to believe this. They said the move was not a mistake but was a calculated move. They said this could have a demoralizing effect on soldiers on the battlefield.

"This is not the first and last issue. We have witnessed such discrimination over the last 16 years," MP Aref Rahmani said. (Tolnews)

(12) Barmak Rejects...

ensuring all citizens have equal rights and have an equal opportunity to work for the ministry.

"I completely assure my people that the ministry of interior under our leadership will move in the right and professional path," he said.

This interview was in response to reports of a leaked document on Sunday that was sent out by the commander of the Afghan Public Protection Forces (APPF) that carried a message of discrimination.

In the letter, the APPF commander allegedly called on officials to send him a list of names of at least 500 anti-riot officers who were of Hazara, Pashtun, Uzbek and other ethnicities - except Tajiks.

But, the ministry immediately responded and said there had been typing errors in the letter - an explanation backed up by Barmak later.

The letter stated that: "On the basis of an order of the president, a 500 member anti-riot unit has been established under the Kabul 101 commandant; hereby it is directed that within 24 hours the identities of officers belonging to Hazara, Uzbek, Pashtun etc. - except Tajik ethnicity - must be sent."

"At the moment, the majority of those serving in the APPF are of Tajik ethnicity; there were some editorial mistakes in the letter; it means that we have sufficient forces from Tajik ethnicity and we need to recruit other ethnicities as well," said MoI spokesman Najib Danish on Sunday. (Tolnews)

(13) Govt. Signs New...

and will incur a cost of around \$60 million. The project is expected to kick off in the month of January next year and will be completed over a period of two and half years.

The second project, Shebarghan-Andkhoy 220kV transmission line will have a length of 70 kilometers and its building work is expected to kick off in early 2018 and will be completed over a period of two years.

The office of the President says the two projects will cost around 75 million US dollars and will be funded by the Asian Development Bank (KP)

(14) Regional Projects ...

González.

"More than 99 percent of businesses in Afghanistan are small and medium enterprises, we support them, we will help Afghanistan create good quality jobs and through that peace, security and prosperity will come to this region, well I think this is one of the few regions in the world that still has not exploited its full potential," she said.

ITC officials said that allowing women to play a role in the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) will also have a significant impact on the development of women's economy.

Currently there are several regional projects which are planned and implemented within the framework of RECCA - these projects include the Lapis Lazuli Route, CASA-1000 and TAPI project.

Overview of Some Key Regional Economic Projects:

CASA-1000

The CASA-1000 project will include:

- 500 kV AC line from Datka (in the Kyrgyz Republic) to Sugd-500 (477 kilometers away, in Tajikistan)

- 1,300 megawatt AC-DC Converter Station at Sangtuda (Tajikistan)

- 750 kilometer High Voltage DC line from Sangtuda (Tajikistan) to Nowshera (Pakistan)

- 1,300 megawatt DC-AC Converter Station at Nowshera

CASA-1000 project will start from Kyrgyzstan and it will cross through Afghanistan from Tajikistan and onward to Pakistan's Peshawar city. The length of the project in Afghanistan is estimated to eventually run for 562km.

Lapis Lazuli Route

The Lapis Lazuli Corridor will begin in Afghanistan's northern Aqina port in Faryab province and Torgandi in western Herat province and will run through to Turkmenbashi in Turkmenistan. From there it will cross the Caspian Sea and will link the Azerbaijani capital Baku to Tbilisi and Georgia's Black Sea ports of Batumi and Poti.

TAPI

The pipeline will be 1,735 kilometers long and have the capacity of transferring 33 billion cubic meters of gas from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India through Herat, Farah, Helmand and Nimroz provinces of Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

(15) Female Journalists' ...

from joining the field. Female journalists face more security threats and harassment at

workplace than their male colleagues.

CPAWJ conducted interviews with 74 local media outlets across the country, including 29 TV channels, 35 radio stations, four news agencies, six printing media and four journalists supporting groups. A total of 1037 women work in media outlets and 474 of them are professional, the source said, adding Kabul, Herat and Balkh provinces are main hubs of journalists.

The report says most of female journalists (150) work with the Moby Group, 140 with the National Radio and Television, 55 with Aryana Network, 54 with Zan TV, 50 with Bano Radio and Television, 40 with Killid Group, 40 with Shamsad Radio and Television and 38 with Khurshid Television.

Lack of official statistics remains a major problem in Afghanistan, the source said.

"The official data on women journalists in the country helps with knowing their exact number and it is also considered as the first step towards recognizing problems women face at workplace and in the society." CPAWJ said.

Farida Nekzad, CPAWJ head, said: "So far no data on the number of women journalists and those work with media outlets in Afghanistan has been officially released by any government sources. CAPWJ tried to provide and release accurate data on the number of women journalists through various channels."

"We know the given data is not complete and it is a minor step towards this goal and hereby we request all journalists and institutes that work for the support of journalists to help complete this data," she added.

Sima Samar, AIHRC head, said spreading information was the role of media that make positive changes in a society. The media should avoid publishing information that created tensions and disruption, she added.

"The media role is very important for ending violence. Signing peace agreements would not help until media provides accurate information to the public," she said. (Pajhwok)

(16) End to Afghan ...

Nations, also participated.

Lodhi also opined peace could be restored in Afghanistan only through a negotiated settlement. "This is also the firm consensus of the international community expressed repeatedly by the UN Security Council."

She said the immediate challenge for the US and Pakistan was to find a common approach to Afghanistan. Both countries had benefited from working together, the diplomat claimed, referring to Al-Qaeda's degradation in the region.

But she thought America's new strategy for Afghanistan overly relied on military force and fighting to achieve a settlement, "which has proved to be elusive using such means for the past decade and a half".

The continuing conflict in Afghanistan posed enduring security challenges to Pakistan, dealing with turmoil and instability in its neighbourhood for almost 40 years, she concluded. (Pajhwok)

(17) Ex-Pak Senator...

miseries the residents of the region faces in the past 15 years as he warns that the security circles will continue to use the area as launching pad as long they support the Taliban against the Afghan state.

According to Khattak, FATA needs serious change in the misguided policies but the area is hostage to Pakistan's Afghan Policy.

"As long as the country's security establishment supports Taliban's war against Afghan state it will continue to use FATA as a launching pad. Put in simple words that means that the decades old war will continue to rage in FATA. This is a situation which can't be changed without revisiting Pakistan's bankrupt Afghan policy designed and executed by the security tsars of the country," the article states.

Raising questions regarding the situation of the FATA in the aftermath of the recent operations and lack of oversight of military operations regarding possible human rights violations, Khattak said "The peaks of Rajgal mountain in Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency were reported to have been cleared from terrorists connected with the so called Islamic State."

"Actually the IS operating in eastern Afghanistan is mostly manned by former TIP fighters who actually belong to FATA and still have widespread connotations with the networks on Pakistani side of the border," he noted in his article.

According to Khattak, Pakistani mentors of Afghan Taliban are at pains to explain the distinction between TIP and Afghan Taliban. But fact of the matter is that they are two sides of the same coin.

"TIP fighters have always pledged allegiance to every new Amir of the Afghan Taliban and without support from their Afghan comrades they would never have been able to maintain their bases on the Afghan side of the border. It's simply reciprocal. Afghan Taliban also operate from Pakistani side," he concluded. (KP)

(18) 18 Daesh ...

on Sunday, said Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal, the provincial police spokesman.

The two officials said security forces suffered no casualties in the two incidents. (Pajhwok)