

(1) Taliban and ...

groups, terrorists and powerful criminal networks. They all thrive in the absence of rule of law and they profit on an unprecedented scale from the chaos of ungoverned spaces," said Matthew Rycroft, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations.

"We have witnessed that anti-government armed militants in Afghanistan are involved in this respect by using the security and safety gaps and unfortunately they use children for war purposes and their operations. We have heard from media that they (terrorist groups) have misused and sexually abused children. These acts are condemned by the (Afghanistan Independent Human Rights) commission," said Bilal Seddiqi, spokesman for Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

The United Nations Security Council in the report reiterated its condemnation of human trafficking.

The Security Council reiterated its condemnation of trafficking of people at its session on Tuesday - especially regarding the sale of people by Daesh, as well as other violations and abuses by Boko Haram, al-Shabaab, the Lord's Resistance Army and other such groups for the purpose of sexual slavery, sexual exploitation and forced labor.

Unanimously adopting resolution 2388 (2017) ahead of a day-long debate on that subject, the Council underscored the importance of collecting and preserving evidence relating to such acts so as to ensure that those responsible could be held accountable. It reaffirmed its condemnation, in the strongest terms, of all instances of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, who made up the vast majority of all trafficking victims in areas affected by armed conflict.

The Council stressed that trafficking undermined the rule of law and contributed to other forms of transnational organized crime that could exacerbate conflict and foster insecurity and instability, thereby undermining development. The Council also underscored the importance of cooperation in enforcing international law in investigating and prosecuting trafficking cases.

In addition it expressed its intention to give greater consideration to how peacekeeping and political missions could help host countries combating human trafficking. It also requested that the UN Secretary General ensure the inclusion of trafficking in assessments of country situations and in the training of mission personnel, which would help in identifying, confirming, responding and reporting on situations of trafficking.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres briefed delegates at the meeting and declared "it is our collective responsibility to stop these crimes" by bringing perpetrators to justice, increasing humanitarian aid and strengthening national capacity to protect the vulnerable. There was also an urgent need to ensure more opportunities for regular migration and to restore the integrity of the refugee protection regime.

"Slavery and other such egregious abuses of human rights have no place in the twenty-first century," he stressed. However, reports from UNODC showed that increasing numbers of victims trafficked from Iraq, Syria and Somalia were appearing in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, he noted. (Tolonews)

(2) Tehran Hosts ...

The conference began with a keynote speech by Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and the chairman of the Islamic Awakening International Assembly. (Presstv)

(3) MPs Criticize ...

sowing the seeds of division among the different ethnic groups and of conspiring against politicians instead of focusing on national challenges.

The first deputy speaker of parliament, Humayoun Humayoun, said government is deliberately putting up obstacles in the way of Second Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum's return to the country and said this was against the law.

"I am not confident about the mental health of the president, because he has slapped a ban on the second vice president and it is totally unlawful," said Humayoun.

"I have conducted investigations over the past six months and now I realize that a conspiracy is going on for the physical removal of Dostum," said MP Abdul Sattar Darzabi.

But government has rejected the claims.

"I want to make it clear to the people of Afghanistan that those who speak about nationalism do not represent the Pashtun people whether they are ministers, deputies or anyone else," said MP Abdul Rahim Ayoubi.

"The law prohibiting discrimination is crucial, just like the law against corruption; you (MPs) need to ask government to prepare a law prohibiting discrimination or introducing such a plan which can be defined by the members (of parliament) so that no one, in-

cluding the president, lawmakers and government employees, can carry out any acts of discrimination," said MP Arif Rahmani.

This comes a week after close aides to Dostum said he might return to the country in the near future.

Dostum has been living in Turkey for the past six months (Tolonews)

(4) Pakistani Envoy ...

course to end the decades of conflict and suffering in Afghanistan.

Ambassador Lodhi also called on the Taliban to leave violence and join the negotiations table and engage in a serious of dialogue for peace. (Tolonews)

(5) Beijing Reaffirms ...

trust deficit between Pakistan and Afghanistan in order the two countries could effectively deal with terrorism.

Zhixin said the 19th National Congress of the China Communist Party was recently held, in which China's foreign policy and Afghanistan were discussed.

"We try how to work for common welfare so that all people can develop and enable themselves to get what the modern day world offers," he said.

He said China foreign policy's first priority was fostering cordial relationship with other countries based on mutual respect, common interest, and assistance which benefited all.

The second priority was to improve public lives and for this purpose, "we should have a developed world where peace and stability and political environment enable people enjoy their lives."

Shedding light on the historic relationship between Afghanistan and China, Zhixin said the relationship between the two countries was 2,000 years old.

"In the past, the two countries were connected through the Silk Road. The historic relationship was based on mutual respect and cooperation. During this period, no issue annoyed us. We are proud of this historic relationship and want to continue it."

China would continue its assistance with the Afghanistan national unity and would support it in future, he pledged.

Sultan Ahmad Baheen, senior official of the Afghan foreign ministry, said China and Afghanistan relations were strategic -- based on mutual respect, confidence and cooperation.

Afghanistan welcomed China's support in the peace process, security and regional cooperation, he added.

Baheen hailed China's impressive development in the past 40 years and believed this development happened due to strong central government and public participation.

The strong central government and public participation helped China achieved common welfare and durable stability, something Afghanistan should learn from. (Pajhwok)

(6) Tillerson Accused...

previously used as the legal basis for putting a country on the list.

On the other hand, the defense and interior ministries in Kabul vehemently denied the inclusion of minor soldiers in Afghan national security forces.

Excluding the countries off the annual list facilitates the provision of US military assistance to them. Afghanistan and Iraq are close US allies in the fight against militants, while Myanmar is an emerging ally.

On the face of it, the secretary's decision was at variance with a recommendation by the heads of the State Department's regional bureaus, the US envoy on Afghanistan and Pakistan, the department's human rights office and its own in-house lawyers.

The memo says: "This decision risks marred the credibility of a broad range of State Department reports and analyses and has weakened one of the US government's primary diplomatic tools to deter governmental armed forces and government-supported armed groups from recruiting and using children in combat and support roles around the world."

Passed in 2008, the child soldiers law says the US government must be satisfied that no children under the age of 18 are recruited, scripted or otherwise compelled to serve as soldiers for a country to be removed from the list

Tillerson's decision to exclude Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar violated the law and effectively eased pressure on the countries to end the use of child soldiers, the State Department officials were quoted as saying. (Pajhwok)

(7) Won't Approve ...

They would not approve the draft budget until a 10 percent tax on telephone users was cancelled.

The draft budget for 1397 fiscal year was approved by the Meshrano Jirga or Senate with some suggestions on Tuesday.

Finance Minister Ekilil Hakimi told today's Wolesi Jirga meeting that lawmakers' suggestions had been considered in the budget draft. An additional three billion afghanis had been added to the accounts based on lawmakers' suggestions.

According to the finance minister, 267.2 billion afghanis has been set aside for general expenses and more than 93.7 billion afghanis for development activities for the next fiscal year starting from December 22. The budget for the previous fiscal year was 461 billion afghanis.

Hakimi said the next year's budget was prepared keeping in view the government's structure, balance between expenses and revenue, allocations based on money effectiveness, stability of long-term and short-term expenditures, resources, promises of donors and domestic revenue.

He said 167 billion afghanis or 47 percent of the whole budget would be met from domestic revenue and the rest would be provided by donors.

Most of the budget for next year would be spent on security, education, infrastructure, agriculture and rural rehabilitation and development, he said without giving details.

Hakimi did not provide information about projects planned for next year under the budget, but said 21 water dams, building industrial parks, rural roads and other projects were among the projects to be carried out next year.

"In the next fiscal year, all budgetary units would be assessed for their spending after the first five months, if any of them was unable to spend their budget, their allocations would go to other departments," he said.

Hakimi said 42 percent of the development budget of the current year had been spent so far and the percentage would increase until the end of the year.

One month remains in the new fiscal year to begin. Seven ministers who spent less development budget last year were disqualified by the Wolesi Jirga.

Hakimi said the absence of detailed plans, low capacity of procurement sections, lack of a monitoring system, lack of punishment and award culture, administrative corruption and interference of powerful individuals were main problems in budget spending.

Criticism on the draft budget

Ghulam Farooq, a lawmaker from western Herat province, said that 130 members of the lower house were supporting Ghor people's demands.

He said 130 lawmakers expressed their support to Ghor people in a written form and they emphasized on not approving the draft budget until the demands of Ghor people were met.

People from Ghor province have been protesting over the past 12 days, demanding uniform development across the country and roads, electricity, healthcare, water and security in Ghor.

Qais Hassan, a lawmaker from Kabul, said the Wolesi Jirga had already rejected the ten percent tax on mobile phone users when the government imposed it.

He said the collection of the 10 percent tax should be reviewed because there was no transparent or real-time system for this process.

First deputy speaker Hamayon Hamayon tasked the house finance and budget commission with reviewing the draft budget and inviting Finance Ministry officials to a meeting to answer questions from lawmakers.

He also said lawmakers would not approve the draft budget until demands of the nation and Ghor people were answered. (Pajhwok)

(8) Women's Political ...

be made, as well as concrete steps taken, to ensure women's meaningful participation." At today's event to mark the 2017 'Global Open Day on Women, Peace and Security,' Afghan women outlined the challenges women face as voters, candidates and activists. They stressed that real participation in elections means that women have the capacity and freedom to vote for candidates of their choosing, without being forced or pressured to do so.

Yamamoto echoed their sentiments, and stressed that discouraging women in any way from voting or participating in elections runs counter to Afghanistan's obligations under national and international human rights laws, and only serves to foster the marginalization of women from processes that affect their lives and everyone around them.

The discussions also focused on the necessity for a secure environment in which women may cast their votes, as well as the difficulties women in remote, rural districts face, particularly in terms of the distances they must travel to reach polling centres.

The 22 November event in Kabul follows Global Open Days events organized by UNAMA across Afghanistan, where UN officials met with delegates representing 20 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. In Farah, Herat, Mazar, Maimana and Badakshan, participants selected three panellists for radio programmes that focused on the importance of women's participation in elections. And in Jalalabad, a televised roundtable discussion highlighted the importance of the protection and promotion of women's rights to enable an environment in which

women can run safely for elected office, and can register, vote and campaign freely.

Paying tribute to the efforts of women leaders and civil society activists to advance women's political rights in Afghanistan, Rebecca Tavares, the Country Representative ad interim for the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), emphasized the need for continued encouragement and support by all actors and stakeholders for women to be active participants in political decision-making, from the local to the national level.

"I encourage the Afghan government to develop and implement gender-sensitive security and elections plans, as these are critical enabling considerations for women's participation in elections," said Tavares, who stressed that the protection and promotion of women's rights to political participation, including in elections, is the primary role of Government.

"We need to recognize the immense potential of women and heed their voices by fostering an environment that encourages their participation in the political sphere and elections," added Tavares.

Launched in 2010, Open Days events are designed to support dialogue between UN senior leadership and women's organizations across the world on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and its subsequent seven UN Resolutions.

These instruments engender women's leadership and meaningful participation in political and security transitions, including peace-building.

In recalling Afghanistan's national action plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which was launched in July 2015, the UN officials gathered at the Kabul event reiterated the commitment of the UN to support efforts by Afghan institutions and civil society to empower women and encourage their full participation in the upcoming elections.

UNAMA compiled the recommendations, views and issues raised by women in the countrywide consultations in a report, which is available on request. (PR)

(9) Awareness...

of underage marriages, saying marriages in younger ages created problems for girls to continue their education or play role in the society.

The statement said female teachers, who attended the meeting with Rula Ghani, also exchanged their views about social peace.

The first lady assured teachers of considering their suggestions.

Ibrahim Shinwari, acting education minister, who also attended the meeting, said his ministry would be supportive in implementation of teachers' recommendations. (Pajhwok)

(10) Transport Ministry's ...

be distributed within a week, he said, adding the step was taken to jack up incomes and prevent fraud in recovery. The new journals will register vehicles of all kinds, the amounts of load they carried and the routes they plied.

"This journal is a short-term plan. We plan to computerise the whole transport system in the long term," he said. The ministry's income went up by 36 percent in Kabul in the last three months and more than seven percent in other provinces.

Bilateral agreements would be signed between Central Asian countries (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan) that would pave the ground for the movement of cargo trucks and passenger buses between Afghanistan and the former Russian republics, he revealed. (Pajhwok)

(11) Turkey Begins

Following two cooperation agreements signed in 2011, Afghan police cadets began to receive training in Sivas.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu previously said that 2,996 Afghan police and 4,300 military members had received training in Turkey. (AA)

(12) ANSF Retaliates ...

said a local resident in Kunar Anwarul Haq.

"Government should take reciprocal action against it and prevent casualties among our people," said another resident Hussain Ahmad.

According to reports, the Pakistani shelling on Kunar province has left dozens of local residents displaced.

"221 of our countrymen have been forced to evacuate their homes as a result of these attacks by Pakistani military forces," said Kunar governor Wahidullah Kalimzai.

This comes after Afghanistan's ministry of defense announced that a delegation had been sent to Islamabad to raise the issue with Pakistani officials in order to resolve the problem diplomatically. (Tolonews)

(13) Azizi Bank ...

United States of America, that promotes the development and growth of more than 3,300 companies in over 120 countries and recognizes and boosts the growth of the

outstanding companies and business people as well as promoting the corporate social responsibility. And it makes it through "The BIZZ", an award that recognizes the business excellence.

With this triumph, Azizi Bank becomes the first bank from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to be affiliated with the membership of WORLDCOB alongside large corporations such as:

SOHAR BANK (Oman), DUBAI DUTY FREE (UAE), DOHA BANK (Qatar), SAUDI TELECOM COMPANY (Saudi Arabia), BBK BSC (Bahrain), NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT (Kuwait), EMIRATES IDENTITY AUTHORITY (UAE), ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES (Ethiopia), KARABUK UNIVERSITY (Turkey), CREDIT LIBANAIS (Lebanon), AL SULAIMI GROUP (Oman), UNION NATIONAL BANK (UAE), EMIRATES and other leading corporations from across the world.

The obtained recognition will allow us growing at the business level because it increases our capacity for business relationships, generate more business and revitalizes the corporate image in the International arena.

Azizi Bank has been considered as an elite member of WORLDCOB which will allow the bank to generate businesses among the members of WORLDCOB and promote the socially responsible corporate culture. (PR)

(14) Half a Million ...

each family will be assisted with various goods worth \$200.

"We have the plan to assist 78,000 families, including internally displaced and destitute families," he said, adding the aid process had been conducted in four eastern provinces and would be extended to other provinces as well.

The MoRR official said the repatriation process of Afghan refugees from Pakistan would be put on hold for three winter months and resumed in March 2018.

To a question, Miakhel said the Pakistani government deadline of allowing Afghan refugees to stay there would end on December 31. (Pajhwok)

(15) Pressure Tactics...

About one and a half month back, Haji Amin, a Taliban commander, snatched three security personnel including a public order policeman, an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier and a traffic officer from a passenger bus on the Faryab highway. The Taliban killed the ANA officer but the policeman and traffic sergeant are still in their captivity.

Afghan forces then detained three suspected Taliban - relatives of Haji Amin. Last Monday, the fighters blocked the highway for pressing the government to release the three suspects.

Power utility officials in Faryab confirmed that Taliban cut electricity supply to the mentioned areas in Khwaja Sabzposh district at around 12pm. (Pajhwok)

(16) Border Policeman ...

Niamatullah Noorzai confirmed the clash took place near Jalalabad-Torkham. He said one soldier wounded and some on board on a vehicle injured.

Taliban have so far said nothing in this regard.

Separately, four Daesh rebels had been killed and several weapons were also destroyed during an airstrike in Sherzad district, 201st Selab Military Corps said in a statement. (Pajhwok)

(17) 3 Injured in ...

He didn't know about the two others. Meanwhile, a member of the Ghazni provincial council, Esmatullah Jamradwal, confirmed the clash. However, he didn't go into details.

But police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Zaman said no bullets were fired and there was a verbal argument between the public representatives. (Pajhwok)

(18) 4 More Drug ...

completely destroyed in the airstrikes in the area where a key center of the Taliban was also bombed. Fifteen rebels were killed and five others were wounded and their weapons and ammunition destroyed in the blitz. The initial strikes, which began Sunday and were ongoing Monday, were carried out in three districts of Helmand as part of the US new strategy under President Trump to target Taliban revenue streams (Pajhwok)

(19) Wardak PC ...

In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Khkuli said 550 women worked in public and private organizations in Maidan Wardak and the women's affairs department was entirely managed and led by women. She added there were 316 female teachers in the province and their contribution had a positive impact on the key sector.

"There is fortunately no shortage of midwives in the province", Khkuli added, but complained about women's lack of interest in governmental or private job after completing vocational trainings her department offered due to cultural restrictions. (Pajhwok)