

(1) Qadir Lashes...

police with equipment especially uniforms as he said they run the risk of being mistaken for thugs as they are forced to wear civilian clothes.

However, without mincing his words, Qadir went on to say that thousands of undocumented Pakistani refugees had moved across the border and are living in Nangarhar. He said in addition, Chechen, Uzbek and Turkmen nationals are also in the province as are displaced Afghans from other areas including Badakhshan.

But on the subject of increased insecurity in the province, Qadir said the public is ready to take up arms to defend their province against insurgents.

He said Nangarhar residents recently warned refugees to leave the province but "someone from within government" told them not to go. He said this person promised to support these refugees.

Problems faced in Nangarhar could easily spill over into neighboring Kabul, said Qadir adding that the province is the gateway to the capital, while Kabul in turn is the gateway to the rest of the country.

Meanwhile, lashing out at security forces, he said government has said that troops recently killed 500 to 600 Daesh members in operations. He rejected these claims and said it was Nangarhar residents who eliminated these insurgents.

Meanwhile, Abdul Raouf Ibrahim, Speaker of the House, stressed the need for Qadir's comments to be taken seriously.

"These comments raise many questions and they are worth following. The situation has gotten worse since (former president Hamid) Karzai's time."

According to President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi government is opposed to establishing militia groups.

"We are strongly opposed to building militia groups because in our experience this can play a major role in increasing insecurity, harassment of citizens and it weakens rule of law."

"In some provinces, including Nangarhar, we were asked to establish militia groups but this is not in favor of security," he said. Meanwhile the spokesman for the national security advisor, Tawab Ghorzang, said the NSC has strongly rejected Qadir's statement and said his claims are baseless. He said it was an excuse for Qadir to get illegal resources to build militia groups for his personal gains.

"In order to clear up the misunderstanding among the citizens the president's office is requested to assign a team to investigate the recent irresponsible statements of Mr Qadir and his efforts to build personal militia groups." (Tolonews)

(2) Afghanistan ...

He emphasized that since the formation of National Unity Government the situation got worse and Afghans' hope reduced for future.

"With the formation of National Unity Government the security and economic situation deteriorate. further steps must be taken to solve these challenges," added Khalilzad. (ATN)

(3) Security Worsened...

Agreement (BSA) with the United States are not applied which state that Afghanistan would be assisted if there is a foreign intervention, saying that Pakistan commits the same thing and the United States is not taking action. (KP)

(4) Pakistan, ...

Afghan traders because of the non-implementation of the transit trade deal completely." The source said Kabul may also insist on permission to Afghan trucks using Pakistan land route for trade with India. Currently Pakistan allows Afghan trucks to drop goods at Wahga, the official border point between Pakistan and India.

Afghanistan allows Pakistani trucks to enter Central Asian states via Afghanistan's land routes.

The present bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Afghanistan stands at nearly 2.5 billion U.S. dollars and both have agreed to increase it to 5 billion dollars by 2017. The trade volume is mostly in Pakistan's favor. Afghanistan Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai said in Kabul last week that the finance minister will "push for implementation of the 48 decisions" taken during the visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Pakistan last year.

"Our minister should also discuss the issues with his Pakistani counterpart that decisions had been taken and they are on papers and are not implemented," Karzai told reporters.

In Islamabad, the Foreign Ministry spokesman Qazi Khalilullah said the main areas of focus will be bilateral and transit trade, review of the projects carried out with Pakistani grant, capacity building of Afghan institutions and enhancement of cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. (Xinhua)

(5) Weather...

A recent peak year was 2002, when drought in India hit 200 million and a sandstorm in China affected 100 million. But the standout mega-disaster was Cyclone Nargis, which killed 138,000 in Myanmar in 2008.

While geophysical causes such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis often grab the headlines, they only make up one in 10 of the disasters trawled from a database defined by the impact. (Reuters)

(6) Anti-Polio ...

in Zafaran village of Qaisar district in Faryab. The latest victim is a two-year-old toddler.

Highlighting the importance of the immunization campaign, local health officials said they hoped the drive would help prevent other children from contracting the disease - which only exists in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"We request citizens to cooperate with the vaccination teams and get the polio drops for their children," said Mohammad Maroof Samar, acting director of Faryab public health department.

"About 134 vaccination teams with 134 supervisors are taking part in the program," a Faryab health official Esmatullah Mohammadi said. (Tolonews)

(7) Afghani ...

government officials but also among ordinary Afghan people.

"In the current year, the Afghani currency sank to 14.55 percent against foreign currencies, but we are trying to distribute enough money to the currency market to manage the exchange rate," said, Khalil Sidiq, head of Central Bank.

"With distributing money to the market three times a week, the Central Bank can manage the dollar rate," said Haji Zarak, spokesman of Saraye Shahzada Union.

In the past 14 years, despite the millions of dollars injected into the Kabul exchange market on a weekly basis, the bank is still unable to stop the Afghani free fall. (ATN)

(8) UNESCO...

competition judges, said: "We will get a collection of photographs which can bring honor to all the people in the country." Organizers said Afghanistan is all too often only seen as a place of conflict and strife "but Afghans know this is far from the whole story."

"The country is a place of extraordinary resilience, where some of the world's most ancient cultural traditions mingle, where there are stunningly varied landscapes, where beauty, pride and optimism are national characteristics," read the statement. The competition is open to all Afghans and non-Afghans and entries should illustrate the significance of either the cultural or natural heritage of Afghanistan. Each entrant may submit up to 10 images per section and photos must have been taken within the last three months. Entries close on 21 December 2015. The overall winner will win \$5,000 USD. Second place \$4,000

USD and third place \$3,000 USD. (Tolonews)

(9) Afghans So ...

only one percent are real and 99 percent are phony," said Mukhamil, 35, who has forged and sold 20 such letters. Like many Afghans, he has only one name.

He sticks to a simple formula - accusing the buyer of working for Afghan or U.S. forces - and adds a Taliban logo copied from their website.

"To this day I have only ever known one guy who genuinely got a threat letter from the Taliban. All the rest are fake," he said.

There is no shortage of customers. With unemployment at 24 percent and the insurgency raging across much of the country, the government expects that 160,000 Afghans will have left by the end of the year, four times the number of departures in 2013.

Germany is struggling to accommodate hundreds of thousands of refugees, but has said economic migrants must return to their home countries. Last month, Germany's top security official complained of an "unacceptable" influx of Afghans from relatively safe areas of the country. Germany, a longtime contributor to international forces in Afghanistan, currently has more than 900 soldiers in the NATO-led training mission there.

Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees said it was aware of the letters but that no statistics are kept on them. Spokeswoman Susanne Eikemeier said that since such letters are not official documents, the weight granted to them is generally limited.

"Such documents are assessed in the context of examining the credibility of the overall account of the applicant," said Eikemeier. "While they can be drawn on as evidence of a threat by the Taliban, the applicant's entire account has to be coherent, comprehensible and credible."

Even the Taliban, who have stepped up their 14-year insurgency in recent months and spread to new areas, say most of the threatening letters are forgeries.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said that when fighters suspect someone is working with the government or security forces, they contact the person's relatives to request that he stop. "We don't send threat letters, that's not our style. Only very rarely would we use the phone, in cases where we perceive serious problems," he said.

"All these so-called Taliban threat letters are fake," he added, revealing off a list of people who he says falsely claimed to have received threatening letters from the Taliban. "We are trying to provide a good environment for our youth to remain in their country," he added.

An official at Afghanistan's intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security, also dismissed the letters, saying it was clear many people were buying them to strengthen their case for asylum. No one has been arrested in connection with the forgeries.

"The government does not believe it is worth our effort to go after the people making or buying them. We concentrate our efforts on people who receive genuine threats," he said. The official was not authorized to speak to media so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Taliban have a long history of threatening Afghans, and their brief seizure of the northern city of Kunduz earlier this year offered a brutal glimpse of what could await the country if they return to power. The group issued clear threats, not only against those working with the government, but journalists and women's rights activists. The U.N. estimated that half the city's population of 300,000 residents fled the takeover.

Gul Mohammad, 28, said the Taliban came to his home and accused him of being a spy because he worked as a security guard for an international charity in Kunduz. The militants tried to force their way into the house, but when his father resisted, they

stole two of the family's cars instead, he said.

Government forces drove the Taliban out of Kunduz in a two-week operation, but the insurgents still control a number of rural districts scattered across the country. Fear of the Taliban is a key factor driving the country's exodus, even if many of those leaving have not received personal threats.

Hazrat Gul, 25, made it to Italy more than three years ago with a fake Taliban threat letter, saying it helped him to successfully claim asylum along with his wife and their three children. But while it worked for him, Gul said it is becoming well-known in Europe that most letters are fake.

"It is rare these days for European courts to accept these letters, as the word is out that you can buy them in shops in Afghanistan," he said. (AP)

(10) Yacoobi ...

challenges Yacoobi dealt with to get the secret schools, which were in people's homes and saw 100 to 150 students per day, up and running.

The children were typically brought by their parents and would enter the schools at intervals, two or three at a time, rather than pouring in at once. Some girls even disguised themselves as boys.

The students couldn't talk to one another outside the school or take books home for the night. Meanwhile, the teachers carefully controlled when they came and left. With the help of a multi-grade teaching system developed by Yacoobi and her colleagues, one teacher would teach students from Grades One to Eight in the same classroom.

"These were hard things because any time that you had a group of people gathering together for education, it would be really attacked," she explains.

Earlier this month, Yacoobi was awarded the WISE Prize for Education at the World Innovation Summit for Education in Qatar for more than two decades of efforts to advance education in Afghanistan, often while risking her own life. She was honoured with a gold medal and US\$500,000.

Yacoobi, who was born in Afghanistan, studied and worked in public health in the United States as a refugee in the mid-1980s, but she was desperate to return to Afghanistan and help advance women's rights - an issue that had bothered her growing up. It was too risky at the time, so she moved to Pakistan, home to millions of Afghan refugees, and founded her first school in a refugee camp there in 1991.

"I saw people suffering. Children were not around the camp running around," recalls Yacoobi. "(I wanted) to bring some happiness to their lives. The issue was education for me because education changed my life."

Within two years of starting that school, Yacoobi was managing classes for 15,000 refugee children in Pakistan. The word spread to Afghanistan and communities there asked her to help children inside the country, so, in 1995, Yacoobi founded the Afghanistan Institute of Learning (AIL), a non-profit, to support underground schools. The operation required extensive community involvement, says Yacoobi.

The communities who wanted schools provided the classrooms, found teachers and sent representatives to Pakistan to smuggle books, supplies and teacher salaries into Afghanistan. After the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, Yacoobi's students came out of hiding. "(The children) were so joyful. They were running around and going to school," she recalls. "But there was no school ... All the buildings were completely destroyed. There weren't books. There weren't blackboards."

Today, with the leadership of Yacoobi, AIL runs 44 learning centres for women and children, four private schools, four clinics, a hospital and a radio station to reach people in remote parts of Afghanistan with information about education and women's rights. It also provides training to teachers in order to boost the quality of schooling in Afghani-

stan. But progress is hindered by ongoing conflict within the country and dwindling foreign aid.

In 2001, there were roughly one million children, most of them boys, in school in Afghanistan. In 2013, 8.35 million students were in primary and secondary schools around the country and 39 per cent of them were girls, according to data from Afghanistan's Ministry of Education.

Even so, the United Nations Children's Fund reports that 3.5 million children are out of school. The quality of schools is low, the education administration is weak and corrupt, and negative attitudes toward girls' education remain entrenched in parts of the country, says Arne Strand, deputy director of the Christian Michelsen Research Institute, a development research institute in Norway.

"You find people in Parliament that are heavily against girls education," adds Strand, who is a political scientist with expertise in education in Afghanistan. "... The change of culture and practice takes a longer time."

Meanwhile, security in Afghanistan, one of the poorest countries in the world, is deteriorating with the Taliban regaining hold on more territory. AIL is able to operate in only 13 of the country's 34 provinces because of security concerns.

"We need collaboration. We need help. We need assistance," says Yacoobi, who worries that the waning international focus on Afghanistan means there won't be enough funding to keep improving schools or for much-needed supplies to teach children to read and write.

Bombings distract the children who are in school, others have been forced to leave their homes because of the ongoing conflict and many don't have enough to eat, Yacoobi says. "Of course, as a leader, I cannot cry in front of people, but there are times that I weep and weep."

Even so, Yacoobi remains optimistic about transforming Afghanistan with education in the long term and dreams of one day opening a university, as well as launching a TV station to promote women's rights and education. If people learn to think critically and go to school, she argues, they will have better opportunities and the society will change. (Agencies)

(11) Shukria Barakzai ...

rights, Barakzai supported the President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in last presidential election.

Born in Kabul in 1972, Barakzai completed preliminary education in Kabul and went to Kabul University in 1990 but left her degree incomplete due to war in the country.

She resumed studies after the fall of the Taliban and received a bachelor degree in Archaeology and Geology from Kabul University in 2003.

She speaks both official languages of Afghanistan Pashto and Dari. She is also fluent in English. (KP)

(12) Afghan Taliban ...

position of Omarâ Ös family to a new raid on the rebels will be, the leadership of the group plans to attack their former allies, says the paper. (Agencies)

(13)Thousands...

cial governor put the figure as high as 50 but that could not be confirmed.

A local official told DawnNews on Monday that 21 bodies were brought to the Upper and Lower Dir districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for burial. He said 14 bodies were brought to Lower Dir while seven of the dead were from Upper Dir. (Agencies)

(14) Afghan Migrants...

ures in an effort to control the flow of migrants.

Illegal migration remains a challenge to industrialized countries as migrants from war-hit and impoverished countries flock particularly to Europe in their quest for a better future. However, the refugees risk their lives to get to Europe with thousands reported to have drowned off Greece over the past few years.

A UN survey suggests that 3,460 refugees from different countries have either lost their lives or disappeared without trace while trying to reach Europe in the past few years.

"Migrants generally travel along dangerous routes which put their lives in danger. Several families have been destroyed along the way. However we do not have an exact figure about the casualties of Afghan migrants," said Nadir Farhad, spokesman for UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Kabul.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR) said that over the past nine months, bodies of 21 Afghan migrants have been repatriated to the country.

"Since these migrants travel illegally, there is no accurate statistics of how many Afghan nationals have lost their lives over the past few years. But during the past nine months, 3,519 migrants in total have either died or gone missing," MoRR spokesman Islamuddin Jurat said.

"In some cases, the illegal migrants are hunted by wild animals in the forests too," he added.

Deeply concerned by the recent deadly attacks on Paris, a EU source said Monday that the union was considering fresh measures in an effort to control new arrivals.

An estimated 160,000 Afghan nationals have so far this year arrived in Europe.

According to unconfirmed reports, up to 3,000 Afghans try to illegally cross into Iran each day. Since the start of 2015, about 2,000 Afghans have been deported by the Iranian police.

It is said that every day, 17 out of every 1,000 migrants die while trying to get to Europe. (Tolonews)

(15) Afghan Police...

years ago, with the help of German troops, has so far trained about 12,000 police security force members. The center has also trained more than 300 policemen and women.

"It is very necessary for our country to have women in police ranks. But unfortunately the old traditional societies in Afghanistan do not allow women to take part in social activities," said Roya, a female Afghan police trainer who received her training in Turkey. (Tolo News)

(16) 1/5 of Bulgarians...

Alpha Research said. However, between 17 percent and 20 percent of Bulgarians intend to limit their visits to places where many people gather such as stadiums, concerts, theaters, or those with a high concentration of foreigners. In addition, six percent of those who have planned a trip abroad will cancel it, and one percent of Bulgarians could change their plans to study in Europe, the survey shows. (Xinhua)

(17) UAE Blames...

name is seen as crucial for the recapture of other central provinces and for opening the way to the rebel-controlled capital Sanaa.

Pro-government forces have retaken "19 military positions" from the rebels in areas surrounding Rahida since the offensive began a week ago, Hasan said. Military officials have said landmines were hampering the progress of government forces and had caused casualties.

Hasan said one of his troops was killed when a landmine exploded on Monday.

The advance has also been slowed down by the "betrayal of some Popular Resistance fighters", another military source said. (AFP)

(18) US Military ...

officials couldn't immediately confirm their identities, the officer said.

He said there were no reports of casualties on the ground, and that he had no further details.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency cited unidentified officials as saying the helicopter may have hit high-voltage power lines or a nearby steel tower because wires were found near the crashed aircraft and the upper part of the tower was damaged. (AP)