

### (1) President Pays...

inquired after the health of admitted children there. Ghani questioned surgeons about the health of injured children and guided the hospital's officials with regard to betterment of medical condition and speedy recovery of patients.

Ghani was satisfied with various sections of Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital, including its working manner and services to patients.

He said: "As services provided by this hospital are satisfactory, its officials will be honored and this hospital should be a model of positive and good work to all hospitals across the country."

The statement said the president also had a meeting with the doctors and officials of the children hospital and discussed the problems and necessities of the hospital. Doctors during the meeting asked for recruitment of more specialist doctors and to pay serious attention to enhancement in doctors' privileges.

Ghani assigned the hospital's officials to submit shortages and needs of the hospital in a detailed report with solutions to the presidential palace.

In addition to the government's focus on security, it would also make efforts at paying more attention to the health and education conditions of the country, Ghani concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (2) NATO General...

Taliban to takeover Farah, Trinkot or Lashkagah.

"Since August the Taliban has made seven attempts to take cities in Afghanistan and every one of these attempts has failed," said Nicholson.

This new development takes place at a crucial time for thousands of people in Helmand who have fled their homes in the wake of recent Taliban attacks.

But, questions have been raised as to why counter-insurgency operations in Afghanistan are moving so slowly?

"Our brave security forces will continue serving the people of Helmand, the Resolute Support forces are also at the service of Helmand people and will stay with you. Air strikes have increased on Taliban targets, we will launch major operations against the movements of the enemies anywhere on this soil," said Defense Minister Abdullah Habibi.

"We have enough security forces, but we must assure that our forces are used in the right way, I request you to assess programs of the military forces," said Karim Atal, member of Helmand provincial council.

In addition, the deputy minister of interior for security affairs has said that the role of mafia groups in the Helmand conflict has been quite strong amid significant issues within the police structure in the province.

"You are aware that the war in Helmand has mafia aspects, our opponents and enemies do not want to lose the money they receive from drug smuggling, but regarding police I must say that 90 percent of the police serving in Helmand are from Helmand, this must be asked from the Helmand administration that why it like this," said Abdul Rahman Rahman, deputy minister of interior for security affairs.

The Taliban which yields some influence in Helmand has been fighting the Afghan security forces in at least eight districts out of the thirteen districts for at least two months.

Insurgents have already overrun some districts in the volatile province and the war is ongoing between the security forces and Taliban in some suburbs of the provincial capital Lashkargah. (Tolonews)

### (3) Hizb-E-Islami ...

citizenship and Afghan bravery aspects," said Rafiullah Bidar, spokesman of the AIHRC in response to the Hizb-e-Islami remarks.

Despite these concerns, security departments have said that Hizb-e-Islami fighters were not involved in recent fights in Kunduz and Baghlan.

"I don't think that Hizb-e-Islami men have taken part in the recent fights. They have signed an agreement with the government and both parties respect it. Even if a single anti-government

element wants to join the peace process, we welcome it," said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the ministry of defense.

Hekmatyar has said that one of his pre-conditions for coming to Kabul is that his name should be removed from the international blacklist. Despite this, Hizb-e-Islami members are trying to get impunity for him as well. (Tolonews)

### (4) Frustrations ...

sons and daughters of those leaders in the capital have not fought, but we have sacrificed our children," one elder, Mohammed Nabi, told the visitors in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.

Some in the crowd criticized the presence of international troops, but almost all called for more aid to the province.

Residents have responded to pleas from the central government to rally around the national security forces, only to have police and soldiers abandon checkpoints, one provincial council member said.

"Every day delegations are coming to Helmand... but much of Helmand has been lost," he said. "Please start more operations here or bring enough aircraft so we can all go to Kabul."

Some checkpoints have been closed under a plan this year to pull soldiers off static forts, consolidating forces and making them more mobile.

That hasn't sat well with some locals, distrustful of the security forces after seeing some posts abandoned in the face of Taliban attacks.

The provincial governor, Hayatullah Hayat, said some troops who abandoned their posts have been put on trial.

The Taliban has tightened pressure on Helmand for much of the past year and is now estimated to control or contest most of the districts in the province, which supplies a major proportion of the world's illegal opium.

Witnesses report Taliban flags are visible from some areas in Lashkar Gah, while in one area only a river stands between the insurgents and parts of the city.

The visiting officials sought to reassure the crowd, with Defence Minister Abdullah Habibi acknowledging the losses in the area. (Reuters)

### (5) Security...

bombings, 121 attacks by insurgents, 21 armed attacks, 18 kidnapping cases, 75 airstrikes and three suicide attacks were recorded.

TOLONews findings shows that Nangarhar with 125 incidents, Uruzgan with 79 incidents, Helmand with 77 incidents, Kunduz with 64 incidents, Ghazni with 53 incidents and Kandahar with 51 incidents were the most insecure provinces and that Bamyan and Panjsher without any security incidents were the safest provinces in the month of September.

"Government should change its war tactic. Otherwise, thousands of soldiers will get busy on war fronts and cannot defeat war fronts by the current war fronts tactic," said Mirza Yarmand, a former military official.

According to TOLONews findings, war casualties also decreased by 19 percent in the month of September. Based on the figures stated by TOLONews, in the month of September, around 2,020 insurgents, 321 security forces, 124 civilians and 11 men from people uprising were killed in clashes that represent a 29 percent decrease in security forces and a nine percent decrease in insurgents' casualties against the previous month.

"Our emphasis is to have the most vulnerable provinces such as Kunduz, Baghlan and Helmand a priority to prevent them from falling to Taliban," said Najib Danish, deputy spokesman for the ministry of interior.

"In war there are three things, attack, defense and retreat, but mostly as our tactic requires, we take a defensive position and then attack," said Mohammad Rad Manish, deputy spokesman for the MoD.

September also witnessed other attacks. On the 28 September, a drone airstrike in the Achin district of Nangarhar killed 13 civilians and a strike by the national army in Bala Block district of Helmand province, killed five commandos.

In addition to this, 89 checkpoints in Trin Kot and 150 checkpoints in Helmand provinces were handed over to Taliban without any clashes. (Tolonews)

### (6) Waziristan Refugees...

These are entirely baseless accusations," he commented.

Ikramullah, a refugee from Waziristan in Gulan Camp, said they had filled out forms for repatriation. But he the refugees who have gone back to Waziristan are unhappy because Pakistani forces are mistreating them.

"If Pakistan revisits the previous situation in North Waziristan and avoid harassing its residents, we will probably go back," he said, adding if Pakistani forces continued oppressing them, they would stay in Afghanistan.

A week ago, a tribal elder from Gulan refugees' camp was killed by unidentified gunmen. He was against the Pakistan government's policies and refused going back to Waziristan. (Pajhwok)

### (7) CEO Stresses...

that they had spent their entire lives in host countries and lacked the essential networks and local knowledge to establish their families and reclaim land and property.

The Sub-Committee of Ministers of the High Commission for Migration, chaired by the CEO, endorsed in principle a Unified Action Plan a few weeks ago that will ensure the coherence of national policies affecting refugees, returnees, IDPs and migrants.

"We are confident that the integrated approach I have just highlighted is the right one when put to practice. And we are pleased that our friends and supporters in the international community endorsed our path forward this week in Brussels." (Pajhwok)

### (8) 60 Border ...

wounded in the Taliban attack. The militants claimed 15 security officials had suffered casualties in the attacks while 80 others surrendered. The surrendered forces also handed over a Ranger pick-up, a truck and another car to the fighters, the Taliban claimed. (Pajhwok)

officials from their issues anywhere in the country.

Hailing from southern Ghazni province Maluk said the softer could be installed in Hoshmand mobile and required to be updated once in a month. (Pajhwok)

(10) UK will us on how the money is being spent. We track the progress and we make sure that we have the correct results," Stewart said.

Stewart also said despite fighting corruption, providing education opportunities for the residents of rural communities is also important for this government. "The biggest push of the British government in financial terms is on education, particularly in communities. Community based education, so villages which may be far away from the school making sure that the people in rural areas receive education," Stewart said.

It is believed that if government does not fight corruption and does not provide transparent accountability in using the aid, the new grants will not change the life of the Afghan people. "None of the departments, commissions or institutions have the political will to eradicate the challenges and the corruption," said Sayed Yonus Hashimi, a civil society activist. It has been said that a big part of the foreign aid in recent years has been squandered by the government departments because of existing corruption. (Tolonews)

(11) Kunduz Residents...

Kunduz. "Taliban kill anyone who has worked with the security forces or local police force," said another resident. "May Allah help us, we have no one, may Allah show mercy on this nation," said another resident. "So far we have not managed to get the bodies of our countrymen who were brutally killed, the situation is quite sensitive," an Afghan soldier said. Meanwhile, displaced families who have escaped the city and sought refuge in Kabul and Badakhshan also complain about

the lack of facilities and daily needs. (Tolonews)

(12) Anger as ...

the hotel she has been staying since Thursday with scores of other refugees from Kunduz.

Her comments, and similar accounts from others, who speak of a blacked-out city running out of food, water and medicine, underline the despair of Kunduz residents and the anger building up against the government of President Ashraf Ghani.

Parmi, 42, who like many Afghans goes by only one name, managed to escape with her family, putting a chain on the door of their house and leaving with only the clothes they were wearing after artillery and mortar fire hit their neighborhood.

"We had to crawl out of the area; there were bullets everywhere. We left home empty-handed, now my clothes are dirty and I have nothing to wear," she said but added that she and her family were relatively lucky.

"Anyone who doesn't have money is left there under threat of mortars and gunfire," she said.

Special forces units, backed by American advisers and air strikes, have been battling to drive Taliban fighters from the city which the insurgents entered unexpectedly at the start of the week, and fighting continues in many areas.

Following widespread reports of security forces abandoning their positions, poor coordination and rivalries among commanders, there has been heavy criticism that the government failed to learn from last year, when the Taliban seized and held the city for two weeks before pulling out.

"Even as the security situation got bad, we didn't believe Kunduz would collapse," said Shogofa Bahar, a medical assistant who fled the city for Kabul this week. "But the situation got worse and worse."

The United Nations said on Thursday that as many as 10,000 refugees had arrived in Kabul and northern towns including Taloqan and Mazar-i-Sharif.

But Kunduz is only one of the many hotspots that have flared in the past few weeks, with heavy fighting seen in Lashkar Gah, capital of the southern province of Helmand, Farah in the west, Baghlan in the north and Nangarhar in the east.

Afghanistan already has more than 1.2 million internal refugees, with some 260,000 forced to flee their homes across the country this year as the fighting has continued.

In Takhar, the neighboring province to Kunduz, Sunatullah Timor, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said 5,000 families had been registered with authorities but their arrival was putting pressure on local food prices. (Reuters)

(13) US Military...

treatment," he said in a statement. The incident happened early Saturday morning, he said.

According to procedure, the troops were not identified.

The incident follows the death earlier this week of a U.S. service member, also in Nangarhar, where American military are involved in counter-terrorism operations against the Islamic State group and the Taliban.

So far seven U.S. service members have died in Afghanistan this year, according to an Associated Press tally.

In violence elsewhere in the country, three Afghan police officers were killed in an insurgent attack on Friday in southern Kandahar province, an official said Saturday.

Samim Kholwak, spokesman for the provincial governor in Kandahar said that insurgents attacked the police in the Maidwand district. He also said that four other police officers were wounded in the attack.

Other officials say around 20 policemen were killed. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. This figure could not be independently confirmed, but officials are often wary of revealing the full extent of the casualties suffered by Afghan security forces in the war with the Taliban, which is now entering its 16th year.

Also in Kandahar, Kholwak said three children were killed and another four wounded in

the Shah Wali Kot district after a bomb they found exploded. (AP)

### (14) Taliban Shadow...

Yasir was captured in Gozagbagha locality during a raid by NDS officials said a statement received by Pajhwok Afghan News.

Taliban have not yet commented over the arrest of the group's key member. (Pajhwok)

### (15) 2 Dead...

capital, at around 1:30pm.

He said the suicide bomber and three others injured in the attack. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The governor's spokesman, Gul Islam Siyal, said the suicide bomber sat in a shop when his explosive vest went off. After the blast, police searched the shop and found a pistol and some bullets, he said.

The injured were evacuated to hospital for treatment, Siyal said. The injured are said to be in stable health condition. (Pajhwok)

### (16) 2 Children ...

wounded in the incident. The ages of the children targeted by the bomb was between eight to 10 years, Khpalwak added.

Militants did not comment on the incident so far. (Pajhwok)

### (17) UNSC to...

hostilities in civilian area in Aleppo.

The special envoy made the statement as he was briefing the 15-nation UN council in closed consultations on the latest developments in the Middle East country, where the conflict has been dragging on for five and a half years. (Xinhua)

### (18) U.S. Hacking...

Friday shortly after the United States threw the blame on Moscow, the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed it as "nonsense," saying that many of the cyber attacks on Russian President Vladimir Putin's website "can be traced to the U.S.," but the Kremlin is not blaming the White House. (Xinhua)

### (19) U.S. Blames...

According to contents from the almost 20,000 emails, DNC officials who are supposed to remain neutral during the primary contest appeared to conspire against Hillary Clinton's rival Bernie Sanders, who had championed a "political revolution" electrifying millions of Democratic and independent supporters. (Xinhua)

### (20) UN Chief ...

number of flights worldwide is expected to double in the next 15 years. And the greenhouse gas emissions from aviation are estimated to account for a quarter of all emissions by 2050.

"The Secretary-General commends this important first step to limit carbon emissions from air travel and calls for further strengthening of emissions standards as quickly as possible," said the statement. (Xinhua)

### (21) Britain's Labor...

first time by female MPs.

Emily Thornberry was already the Shadow Foreign Secretary, now joined by MP Diane Abbott who Corbyn has appointed as Shadow Home Secretary, Labor's main minister on domestic and interior affairs. (Xinhua)

### (22) Rural France ...

also present at a protest Saturday in Forges-les-Bains south of Paris. About 200 people marched through town, past the farmers' market, school and town hall to protest the recent arrival of about 40 Afghan migrants relocated from Calais to an unused building in the center of town. (AP)

### (23) Coalition Airstrikes...

the vicinity while others remain inside," an eyewitness told Xinhua.

"I saw tens of people died and dozens others badly injured. Blood is everywhere," he said, requested not to be named.

Streets leading to the hall were all closed by pro-Houthi security forces. Journalists and cameramen were prevented from getting into the scene. (Xinhua)

### (24) Turkey Says....

on the Turkish Stream natural gas pipeline project that will transfer Russian gas to Europe via Turkey.

It will be Putin's first visit since

Turkey downed a Russian jet last November, which drifted the bilateral relations to a historical low. (Xinhua)

### (25) Turkmenistan...

as a sea of harmony, friendship, good relations and effective cooperation," said the message.

Earlier, Hazar 2016 military-tactical exercises were held in the Turkmen sector of the Caspian Sea in August, involving the personnel of Naval Forces, Air Forces and Air Defense Troops of Turkmenistan's Armed Forces, military units of the State Border Service, the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other branches of troops. (Trend)

## UAE Launches Global Initiative for Tolerance

DUBAI - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched here on Saturday a global initiative for tolerance, the first of its kind in the Middle East to do research, consultations and studies to promote tolerant values among peoples, Dubai daily Gulf news reported. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, the UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai also launched an International Institute of Tolerance and an award scheme as part of the initiative. The award scheme is said to honor global figures of tolerance in the field of human intellect, literary creativity and aesthetic arts.

The institution, also the region's first of its kind, is set up to "establish the value of tolerance among young Arabic generations," said Sheikh Mohammed on his Twitter account.

Working on tolerance-related researches and reports as one of its aims, the institution will also cooperate with other global cultural institutions in the Arab world to promote the "values of tolerance." (Xinhua)

## Egypt Disturbed by U.S. Embassy's Security Warning

CAIRO - The spokesperson of the Egyptian foreign ministry said late Friday the ministry was disturbed by the security warning issued by the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

The embassy neither coordinated with the foreign ministry nor notified any other Egyptian authority of the reasons for issuing such an alert or the nature of these security concerns, which in turn raises questions about the reasons behind issuing the alert, Ahmed Abu Zeid said in a statement. The U.S. Embassy's warning advises citizens of the United States to avoid large gatherings and public spaces on Oct. 9 in Cairo, due to potential security concerns. The spokesperson added that when contacted to clarify the reasons for issuing the security message, the U.S. embassy denied the presence of any particular reasons or security threats that triggered the alert, emphasizing that such alerts are standard precautionary measures taken during extended holidays that often lead to increasing numbers in public gatherings. (Xinhua)

Two Suicide Bombers Blow Themselves in Ankara

ANKARA - Two suicide bombers blew themselves up during anti-terror operations in the Turkish capital Ankara early Saturday, said a local news agency.

The terrorists were reportedly planning a car-bomb attack in Haymana, a southern district in the city. They refused to surrender and triggered the bomb after anti-terror police told them to lay down their arms, said Dogan News Agency. The local agency did not say if casualties were involved in the bombing.

The terrorists were most likely from the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), said Ercan Topaca, a local governor at the explosion spot in Haymana, adding that the identity of the female bomber has been confirmed and the investigation remains on going. On Oct. 7, police in the city of Aksaray in the Central Anatolian region of Turkey detained a PKK militant as the suspect of the Oct. 6 motorcycle bomb attack in Istanbul, said the state-run Anadolu news agency. The attack took place near a police station in the Yenibosna neighborhood of Istanbul in the afternoon, leaving 10 civilians wounded. (Xinhua)