

(1) Ghani Wants...

scholars and officials to step up their fight against corruption, work for peace and stability and encourage the implementation of reforms in the system.

The president believed national consensus were important to fight corruption and introduce reforms. He stressed the reforms process should be transparent in line with the Constitution and be apolitical.

He asked the public representatives and officials to support the brave security forces and halt the propaganda that may affect the high morale of armed forces.

"Security forces are the honest sons of Afghanistan", Ghani said adding the government was seriously considering their ration, good treatment, equipping because they defended and sacrificed for their motherland. (Pajhwok)

(2) September ...

background of those targeted due to lack of available information.

Most of the casualties happened in Uruzgan province, followed by Ghazni, Nangarhar and Kabul.

A retired military general, Zalmai Wardak said that operations led by Afghan forces were the reason that caused fewer casualties despite many incidents happening daily in Nangarhar province. The militants fight the Afghan forces, but they did not show continued resistance.

Casualties usually rise when the militants collectively attack an area, but such attacks could not be seen in Nangarhar province, he added.

About high number of casualties in Uruzgan where the number of security incidents is low, Wardak said that most of operations and attacks in Uruzgan were carried out collectively by Taliban militants that caused high number of casualties.

Calls for peace:

People who lost their loved ones to the ongoing conflict want the warring parties to shun violence and resolve their differences through dialogue.

Abdul Ahad, resident of the Maiwand district of southern Kandahar province, lost one cousin to a roadside explosion, which injured two others. He says most families in Kandahar have lost relatives to the ongoing war.

Ahad urges militants to renounce violence or stop planting bombs on roadside that usually claim innocent lives. He is not happy over the fall in incidents violence, saying his experience shows that the war tends to intensify after a brief lull.

Zabihullah, whose brother was wounded in Pul-i-Khumri, the capital of northern Baghlan province, holds a similar view. "My brother (Hikmatullah) is a student of 12th class. He sustained injuries as a result of a clash on his way home from school. His leg is seriously wounded and he will have a difficult future." He wants the combatants to renounce violence and join the peace process.

Gen. Zalmai Wardak, a defence analyst, also urged parties to the conflict to resolve their differences through negotiations. "Unfortunately, the conflict continues in Afghanistan. Rise and fall in incidents of violence is part of the war and it happens at a time when a party tries to equip itself or shuffle its plans."

For durable peace and stability, he said, it was necessary that political differences within the government were resolved and reforms introduced so that rule of law could be ensured and at least a short-term security policy implemented.

The Afghan forces are equipped with all needed equipments and ammunition, but they are weak due to poor management of their operations, Wardak said.

President Ashraf Ghani was prepared for peace talks as he had practically states it during meetings with Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) representatives. But the Taliban never responded in a positive manner.

HIA, headed by Gulbadin Hekmatyar, had been fighting against foreign forces over the past 15 years, but the group struck a peace deal with the Afghan government recently. The pact widely endorsed and appreciated.

Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Dawlat Waziri said the government was committed to introducing social reforms, eradicating corruption and ensuring rule of law in the country. About decline in incidents of violence, he said the ministry had monthly plans for military operation. He said militants increased their attacks in summer and during fall and winter it went down.

He said the defence ministry had chalked out a five-year plan build the Afghan National Army (ANA) capabilities. The strategy has been approved by the National Security Council. (Pajhwok)

(3) Consensus ...

foreign entrepreneurs.

About interference from neighbouring countries in Afghanistan's security affairs, he said: "Those fuelling insecurity in Afghanistan to further their petty personal interests should know that their nefarious designs would no longer succeed. Any attempt at destabilising Afghanistan will have bad consequences for the elements involved."

Rahimi asked representative from various countries to support Afghanistan's quest for peace.

The Herat Security Dialogue (HSD) is an annual conference, held by the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS). It is attended by government officials, international organisation delegates, legislators, academics, journalists, businessmen, and civil society representatives. (Pajhwok)

(4) Those behind...

been afflicted by war and human sufferings for too many decades and it was the priority of the Obama administration to provide political, economic and security support to the Afghans, he added.

Referring to the recent Brussels conference, Lavoy said everyone in the world recognised the importance of bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan and the international community was committed to working together in this regard.

Lavoy's remarks gains significance in view of recent statements made by two special envoys of Pakistan on Kashmir that the US should not expect to bring peace to Afghanistan until the Kashmir issue was resolved. The Afghan government has also objected to the view. (Pajhwok)

(5) No Link ...

Aimaq said.

"The problem should be solved; otherwise, Kunduz will again fall to the Taliban," said Abdullah Rasuli, a tribal elder from the province.

Meanwhile, a number of MPs said government has pushed back the Taliban out of Kunduz city, but parts of the province are still under the control of insurgents.

"I asked Kunduz governor about the situation and he told me that everything is under control. He assured that he will not let anyone to destabilize the city. I have no idea what insecurity means to them. It is a question that should be responded," said Abdullah Qarloo, deputy speaker of Meshrano Jirga (the Upper House of Parliament).

"The governor, police, the National Directorate of Security and the national army in Kunduz are maintaining their own safety," said Muhayuddin Mahdi, an MP from Baghlan.

According to reports, the recent clashes between security forces and Taliban insurgents in Kunduz have claimed the lives of more than 150 civilians and have displaced over 30,000 families. (Tolonews)

(6) Insurgents ...

pushed back. Fresh commando forces, having arrived in the city, are operating against the militants.

"Besides other forces, commando personnel are also present in Lashkargah, where they have taken responsibility for ensuring security of surrounding areas of the capital," he said.

Capt. Abdul Wase, 2nd police district chief, said sporadic gunshots could still be heard near Ahmad Wali Karzai Square.

Mohammad Khan, a resident of Bolan area, also said the Taliban had suffered casualties last night. He claimed the fighters were planting bombs on some parts of Bolan roads and streets.

However, the Taliban rejected government claims. The group's spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, said the fighters had suffered no casualties in overnight raids.

He said Lashkargah had been surrounded by the insurgents, amid ongoing clashes in 2nd, 3rd and 4th police districts. The Taliban have sway over six districts in Helmand where only some district centres are under government control. (Pajhwok)

(7) Taliban Fighters...

the government's precarious defenses despite support from U.S.-led foreign forces.

One senior security official put the death toll from the Chah-e-Anjir incident at around 90, while other sources said it was likely to be higher.

"As they (government forces) were coming towards Lashkargah, they were ambushed in three locations," the official said.

Dozens of other security personnel surrendered during the debacle, while Taliban gunmen seized at least 22 armored Humvees, dozens of trucks, and hundreds of rifles, he said. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said that account was accurate, and that militants killed and captured dozens of troops. Mohammad Rasool Zazai, spokes-

man for the army's 215th Corps in Helmand, said reinforcements had been working on a plan to relieve police and soldiers in Chah-e-Anjir, but they left their positions before an operation was launched.

"We were in contact with the troops there and the plan was to bring them back to Lashkargah to protect the city, but they decided to move without coordinating with us and they were ambushed by the Taliban."

HEAVY LOSSES, DESERTIONS

Afghan officials say security forces are losing as many as 5,000 people each month through casualties and desertion, while only about 3,000 new soldiers and police are recruited over the same period.

With the Taliban on the offensive in several parts of Afghanistan, many new recruits are deployed to the front lines with only a few weeks of training, putting extra burden on elite special forces to do much of the fighting. General Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai, who took command of the 215th Corps at the beginning of the month, confirmed that his forces had sustained "a lot" of casualties in this week's fighting, but could not provide an exact number.

The NATO-led military coalition has hundreds of advisers in Helmand province, while U.S. troops and aircraft have been dispatched to help the Afghans.

Ahmadzai made "a deliberate decision to withdraw some of his forces back into Lashkargah so that they can have mass and so they can help defend Lashkargah, and then be prepared to the offense," U.S. military spokesman Brigadier General Charles Cleveland said at a briefing on Wednesday.

Since the beginning of October, U.S. aircraft have conducted at least 15 airstrikes in Helmand in support of Afghan troops, he said.

"Helmand continues to be the Taliban's main effort," Cleveland said. "So they commit a lot of effort and a lot of capability into Helmand." (Reuters)

(8) US Forces...

have been pushed back from the northern parts of the city and the soldiers are chasing them," Abdiyani stated.

A number of reinforcements who have arrived at the province said they will not allow foreign insurgents to run over the province.

"I am here to defend my country. I will fight Punjabi militants by putting my heart and soul into my duty," said Sher Ahmad, a police force member, who has newly arrived in Farah. Farah governor Mohammad Asif Nang meanwhile assured residents of the province by saying that Taliban will not reach their goals and will be defeated by security forces.

"Taliban [militants] are trying to surround the city and finally take its control, but I assure you that they will not reach their nefarious ends," he added. Farah residents also said they are optimistic about the recent advances in security forces' mission against the Taliban in Farah.

"Compared to the last two days, currently the security situation is better [in Farah] and the people have started opening their shops. We hope that security forces gain success in their mission against insurgents," said Abdul Salaam, a resident of Farah city. (Tolonews)

(9) Dostum Pledges...

he reiterated.

"In future, I would regularly monitor activities of prosecutors, police chiefs and deputy police chiefs who enjoy many privileges. I don't want these people to bring me a bad reputation." Dostum said.

With around 3,000 security forces under his leadership in Ghormach, he said civilian lives and assets should be protected during the operation and the criminals should be treated based on the law. (Pajhwok)

(10) Political Objectives...

ulema, elders and influential people in the country soon to push for peace and stability.

Fazal Hadi Wazin, ACPS spokesman, said the ongoing fighting in the country was being managed and administered by foreigners and no local elements were involved.

They demanded the conflicting parties to facilitate access and humanitarian help to the people trapped in the areas of fighting. ACPS also demanded an end to the ongoing fighting which was a reason for the stay of foreign troops in the country. (Pajhwok)

(11) Key Helmand...

We do have coordination; even we are not disconnected one second from each other. But oppositions want to use this issue for their own interests," Qahraman said.

However, Helmand police chief refused to comment on the issue.

It is said that lack of cooperation, poor war management, appointment based

on relationships and corruption in security agencies are the main reasons behind the increased insecurity in parts of the country.

"We [Helmand residents] urge the central government to pay the required attention to Helmand and send reinforcements here. Otherwise, the provincial capital, police headquarter, local government buildings and other state offices will fall to the Taliban," said Mohammad Hashim Alokozay, member of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament).

Meanwhile, Ministry of Defense (MoD) said dozens of insurgents have been killed so far and that clashes are ongoing in Nawa and Chah Anjir districts in the province.

"There is coordination among security forces. The head of operations is responsible for coordination among the soldiers and he is satisfied with the way we are working. Yesterday [Wednesday], we transferred supplies to Lashkargah by land and we reconstructed parts of the highway in Marjah. We ensured the safety of the areas," MoD's deputy spokesman Mohammad Radmanish. (Tolonews)

(12) Early...

the Afghanistan Mujahideen National Council, said the peace pact should be implemented in its entirety.

"We ask the central government and HIA leadership to implement their agreement as soon as possible; otherwise the country would plunge into more serious problems," he said.

Governor Hakam Khan Habibi hoped implementation of the agreement would encourage the Taliban militants to renounce insurgency and join the peace process.

He also asked government leaders to create a mechanism for the transparent use of the aid pledged at the Brussels Conference.

"The international community has done its part; now it is our responsibility to evolve an effective mechanism for the proper use of the aid to bring prosperity to Afghans," he remarked.

A provincial council member, Qamar Ali Lakanwal, urged the people to strongly support their security forces and the government. "We all strongly support our local and central governments and their policies."

A number of other local officials, who attended the meeting also announced their support for the government. They called for the government to use all its resources to ensure peace and stability across the country. (Pajhwok)

(13) 2,000 Attend ...

Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai, a Wol-ei Jirga member and the Nijat Tower reconstruction commission's head, welcomed the large number of people and said the rehabilitation was a dream that come true.

He said the reconstruction of the tower would cost \$100,000 provided by some businessmen and elders. The project will be completed in the next three months.

Anwarul Haq Ahadi, the New National Front of Afghanistan head, said the country had two historical towers: the Freedom Tower and the Nijat Tower. Both had been constructed following a fundamental change in the country. "I believe we have committed negligence; we should have constructed a jihad tower as well. I suggest as we have launched work on Nijat Tower we should also construct a Jihad Tower."

A resolution letter by people involved in the rehabilitation of the Nijat Tower was read out by Mohammad Ismail Yun, who heads the National Movement.

He called the tower a symbol of national unity and sovereignty, marking an end to anarchism, lawlessness and darkness. Every Afghan should show respect to it, the politician added. (Pajhwok)

(14) US, UN, ...

White House's National Security Council, said in a statement.

The U.S. commended the Afghan police and other security forces who bravely responded to these attacks and fully support efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice, Price said.

The U.S. stands with the people and Government of Afghanistan as we work together to build a more secure, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan, the spokesperson added.

The UN Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemning attacks in Kabul and Balkh said that the UN Mission stressed that international humanitarian law prohibits deliberate attacks against civilians and civilian property, including places of worship, and places a specific obligation on parties to enable religious personnel to carry out their work.

Pakistan also strongly condemns the terrorist attacks in Kabul. A press release from Pakistani embassy in Kabul stated that we extend our profound condolences to the Government and the people of Afghanistan and sym-

pathise with the families of those who lost their loved ones in these dreadful terrorist attacks. We also pray for the speedy recovery of the wounded. Pakistan reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. (PR)

(15) 2 Diplomats' ...

was 3rd secretary there.

It said Shafaq had served in many positions over the past 14 years, including at MoFA and Afghanistan's embassy in Cairo. Ahmad Farsi has been an employee of MoFA for five years.

The MoFA lamented on the sudden death of the diplomats and called it an irrecoverable loss. MoFA extended its condolences to their families. Their bodies will be brought home soon. (Pajhwok)

(16) Kandahar...

defeated if they try to close the highways. We will never let them [militants] to close highways for civilians and military forces," said Mohammad Zaman, a police force member in Uruzgan.

Abdullah, another police force member in the province, said: "We cleared the area of militants. We recovered their weapons and ammunition." (Tolonews)

(17) 27 Islamic ...

strikes in the Bandar area of the town late on Wednesday. Civilians suffered no casualties. Meanwhile, a statement from Nangarhar police headquarters said 13 Daesh rebels were killed in a drone strike in Tarak Ghondai and Sheikh Qala areas of Haska Mina district.

The district chief, Haji Saz Wali, confirmed the attacks, saying 14 militants were killed in Tarak and Manogay areas of the district on Wednesday.

Nangarhar officials frequently claim inflicting heavy casualties on Daesh, but a confirmation from independent sources is difficult as access to the border area is restricted.

Daesh has not yet commented about the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(18) Fish Farming...

special circumstances. Once collected, the sperm is hatched.

"When hatched, the spawn is released into special ponds, where seeds are produced. Fish seeds come out of the eggs fertilised while the ones that are not hatched are discarded," he explained.

A 6.5 acre fishery in the Daronta district of Nangarhar has stopped functioning because of the rising water level, according to the official, who said the central government had been approached for reviving it.

He said there were two huge fish farms in Behsud and Khewa districts. But the absence of fish disease diagnostic laboratories is a big problem for fish farmers, who want the issue to be resolved on priority.

Dozens of people were directly working on fish farms, which offered indirect job opportunities to thousands of, Akbari claimed, saying each farm had more than five workers.

"But when the fish grow and are supplied to the market, thousands of people get work opportunities. Some sell them raw, some gut them while others cook them," the official explained.

On the other hand, farmers said they could set up seed farms, if supported by authorities concerned. Seed farms, the believed, would obviate the need for imports from Pakistan or elsewhere.

One big fish farm has been established on 7.5 acres of land in the Pir Kala area of Behsud district. The area has 15 ponds, each having nearly 1,000 fish. The seeds were imported from Pakistan and reared on the farm, worker Sher Afzal said.

"The seeds, which are brought from Pakistan in oxidised bags, are released into ponds where they are kept for six months. Later, they are kept in larger ponds for another six months before being supplied to the market," he added.

With support from the government and donors, they could abundantly supply fish to Nangarhar and other provinces. Afzal said they planned setting up a seed farm. Every season, he said, they earned 300,000 Pakistani rupees. (Pajhwok)

(19) 6 Heroin Labs ...

resident who saw the raiding party and choppers last night in his area, said the security forces attacked the spot where drug factories were located. (Pajhwok)

(20) British PM...

EU, with an estimated 500,000 many of them retired making their homes there.

Meanwhile Spain is also the most popular destination for British tourists, with 13 million visiting the country in 2015, a figure that looks certain to rise in 2016.

The communiqué bore these in mind,

adding that the "British who reside in Spain, the millions of tourists who visit us every year and the British companies established here can be calm," as Spain will continue to work to "maintain" its close bilateral relationship with Britain. (Xinhua)

(21) Kerry Sees...

impacts from happening is in fact narrowing and closing fast."

Earlier, Kerry told reporters "we're making progress" after talks with China's deputy minister for environmental protection Zhai Qing and Indian Environment Minister Anil Madhav Dave.

Kerry is due to fly out of the Rwandan capital Kigali later on Friday, when talks had been scheduled to end. But officials said negotiations would run into the weekend.

"I am confident that at the end of the conference we are going to see an agreement," U.N. Environment Programme head Erik Solheim told Reuters. Solheim called on all sides to show flexibility and said talks were approaching "a middle ground." (Reuters)

(22) Ankara, Baghdad...

is to carry out the offensive in coordination in order to secure people of Mosul, the spokesperson stated.

Any mistake could harm struggle against the Islamic State (IS) and bring up new complications in Turkey's fight against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), he said. (Xinhua)

(23) UN Envoy...

rockets attacks by militants from Gaza into Israel, saying that they are always followed by "harsher and more violent" retaliations from Israel.

The senior UN diplomat assured that the ceasefire agreement, reached in 2014, is still valid, adding that "to restore calm, we need to follow up many issues, mainly reconstruction." (Xinhua)

(24) Sudan, Russia...

compensate the loss of around 75 percent of its oil revenues following the separation of South Sudan in 2011.

The Sudanese government had previously anticipated the country's gold production to reach 100 tons in 2016, positioning Sudan as the second gold producing country in Africa and the ninth worldwide. (Xinhua)

(25) UN Chief...

and other parts of the world, Guterres said that all these conflicts are interlinking and that they are fueling global terrorism in a dramatic way.

"So this would be my main concern to work with member states strongly to convene, to bring people together, to try to address the problem of global peace and global security," he said.

On addressing conflicts, Guterres said "what a secretary-general can do is good office" by bringing together those countries that have an influence over parties to the conflicts and making them understand that "these are conflicts in which nobody is winning, everybody is losing." (Xinhua)

(26) Houthis Says...

the appropriate manner," Luqman warned.

Luqman said his country is keen on the security of international navigation, warning the United States and the Saudi-led coalition of any further escalation that could turn the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab Strait into an all-out war zone.

"We have the right to defend our country against terrorist groups and the aggression by Saudi Arabia and its allies in the military coalition," Luqman said. (Xinhua)

(27) Australian State...

reject his politics of hate."

Buckingham brought the motion before the NSW legislative council, the upper house of the state's parliament, to showcase the divisive, destructive impact that hate speech from political candidates and elected officials have on the community. (Xinhua)

(28) Serbia, Albania...

challenges such as the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and tension between Serbia and Croatia.

However, he said Serbia wished for the best possible relations in order to boost the economy and make progress on the European path.

After the discussion at the Belgrade security forum, Vucic and Rama held an official meeting at the Palace of Serbia where they discussed bilateral relations, economic cooperation, the migrant crisis and regional relations. (Xinhua)

(29) China, Bangladesh ...

People's Republic of China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, and harmonious by the time it celebrates its centenary in 2049. (Xinhua)