

**(1) Taliban's ...**

however, the Taliban began to try to take over a provincial capital -- Lashkargah, Kunduz and then Tirinkot. Although it is not difficult for a smaller force to conduct raids, the Taliban have not been able to achieve their goal of taking major population centre."

Clevelandre called a small US force deployed to Lashkargah recently was not there to secure the city, a job of Afghan security personnel. Instead, the force was temporarily there to provide training, advice and assistance to the 505th Police Zone in Lashkargah.

The advisors were accompanied by a standard security element, he said, adding NATO forces had been doing this kind of temporary operation for the last several months and would continue to do so. So, you should expect future temporary deployments to assist Corps and Police Zone leadership wherever they need."

Commenting on recent clashes in different areas, the US military officer said the ANDSF had successfully prevented the Taliban from taking over major cities. Overall, security leadership was incredibly important and NATO would continue to work with Afghans as they promoted good leaders.

He asked the Afghans to know the ANDSF led operations against the insurgents in five provinces, with NATO providing training, advice and Assistance to the Corps and Police Zone leadership. "NATO Special Operation Forces have done the same at a more tactical level. US forces have provided combat enablers to include fire support from aircraft."

In response to a query, the NATO spokesman said everyone knew there would be tough battles this year. "There have been challenges over the last few weeks. But the Afghan people should know their security forces are continuing to defend them, and that NATO and the US will continue to support the people of Afghanistan." (Pajhwok)

**(2) Russia, India ...**

for ways to address potential threats".

He said the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) had "the major role in it" as the Eurasian political, economic and security bloc was constantly expanding its geography with India and Pakistan joining the grouping this year.

"The SCO is stepping up its efforts aimed at building trust, strengthening genuinely collective efforts in the area of crisis response, and developing multifaceted cooperation."

He said Russia was actively promoting such projects to create a common economic space in Eurasia and resolve differences.

"Such 'integration of integrations' based on the principles of transparency and taking into account the interests of all national economies will allow integrating the region into common development and will strengthen its stability." (Tolonews)

**(3) Thousands...**

Ghormach district would be fully cleared of militants and a report of operations against the rebels shared with President Ashraf Ghani, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Pakistan's ISI ...**

Taliban's former leader [Mullah Mansour] and a fall in their financial resources. Without support of a foreign country, Taliban [militants] are not able to fight in many provinces at a time. It shows that a foreign country is supporting them," said Shahussain Murtazawi, President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman.

Meanwhile, a number of critics pointed to other issues that according to them have increased conflict in the country.

"Removing security check posts from some areas is not right. It benefits the Taliban. There is a lack of information about the Taliban among the security forces. Taliban is a force and ignoring this is a big mistake," said Atiqlah Amarkhail, a former military official.

"The National Unity Government tried to find ways to weaken local and jihadi forces and remove them from the scene. These issues

increased the war in certain parts of Afghanistan," said Daud Kalakani, a member of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament). The remarks come after President Ashraf Ghani recently said most of the current challenges are rooted in appointing unqualified and unprofessional individuals in security agencies in volatile provinces. (Tolonews)

**(5) Afghanistan ...**

Zakhilwal, also a former finance minister, believed Afghanistan could recover from the devastation it had suffered during decades of war by joining the project. Investment in the project rose to more than \$51.5 billion in September when China and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) agreed to lend \$8 billion for upgrading the main railway line from Karachi to Peshawar. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Peace Drive...**

encourage Arab businessmen to invest in Afghanistan's energy sector and seek issuance of passports to Afghan citizens in Saudi Arabia.

Many Afghans have travelled to Saudi Arabian quest of work on Pakistani passports. The Afghan government has been trying to provide these individuals with Afghan passports.

The CEO would also highlight the role of Pakistan in the Afghan conflict and would urge the kingdom to push Islamabad to play a more sincere role in promoting the reconciliation effort.

Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have been on the rocks as Kabul often blames Islamabad for aiding terrorist and the Taliban insurgency. However, Islamabad denies the charge. (Pajhwok)

**(7) MoU on Fast, ...**

Nasim Jamal Muradian, head of the Turkish Cargo, said his company would transfer postal goods from Afghanistan to any part of the world in shortest time and at cheapest price. (Pajhwok)

**(8) TAPI Gas ...**

raise funds are slated for November.

He told reporters in Islamabad the roadshows would be organised in all major financial hubs. "The project's planned commissioning is 2020 and I think we are very much on target."

TAPI countries had put together a total of \$4 billion for the pipeline, Saulat said, adding his firm had a 5 per cent stake in the 1,814-km pipeline project, parts of which may be funded by the Asian Development Bank. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Afghan Forces...**

from the special security forces had been deployed to defences around the provincial capital and the insurgents were being defeated.

Hayat said the Afghan forces were fully capable of defending Lashkargah and its adjacent areas. He said the American forces conducted airstrikes when required.

Brig. Gen. Mohammad Hakim Angar, the 505 Bost zone police commander, said the period of Taliban's attacks had ended, but security forces would continue their operations against the rebels.

He said the Taliban despite many efforts were unable to enter Lashkargah and suffered heavy casualties and were beaten back in many areas.

A resident of Lashkargah, Haji Mirza, said a fierce clash took place this morning in the city's second police district and a separate clash was ongoing in Bolan area in the limits of the third police district.

However, he said the intensity of the conflict had subsided compared to previous days.

On the other hand, a resident of Sangin district, who declined to be named, said a large number of militants had arrived in Sangin district from Lashkargah, but he had no idea behind the move.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the fighters were locked in clashes with security forces in areas near Lashkargah. He rejected the fighters had been beaten back in some areas.

Lashkargah has been divided into four security zones. The Taliban have been in control of the fourth

security zone over the past one year.

Clashes in the second and third security zones are underway and the first zone is with the government. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Nearly 2,000 ...**

provided them with blankets and clothes," Akhtari said.

The displaced families said they are happy as they are returning to their homes.

They urged government to ensure their safety and prevent insurgents from destabilizing the northern province once again.

"It is the second time we have left our homes due to the war. The first time [when parts of Kunduz city] were captured by the Taliban, we went to Takhar and this time we traveled to Mazar-e-Sharif city in Balkh," said Khair Mohammad, an IDP in Balkh.

"We urge government to secure Kunduz and help us get rid of this difficult situation," said Noria, Khair Mohammad's wife.

Meanwhile, a number of displaced families said their houses have been destroyed and their properties have been stolen in the recent spat in Kunduz.

"How long should we suffer this situation and leave our homes? We are eight members in our family. I spent Afs13,000 and I don't have any income," said Juma Gul, a resident of Kunduz who is living in an IDP camp in Balkh.

"Our properties were stolen and the people have lost all they had. I was informed last night [Friday night] that that my house was robbed," said Sayed Ghafar, head of Kunduz disabled persons and war victims association. (Tolonews)

**(11) Baghlan-Kunduz...**

said Major General Shaor Gul, the war commander in Baghlan. "Forces conducted their operation in full cooperation," said Gen Kheyal Nabi Ahmadzai a defense ministry commander.

Meanwhile central Baghlan district governor said that the security forces should not rely only on clearance of insurgents on roads but terrorists should be cleared in all parts of the province.

"There are villages in central Baghlan district under Taliban control and we ask military officials to search all the villages and remove Taliban from those villages," said Gawohar Khan Babori central Baghlan district governor.

Public Order Police said that soon new check points will be established on the highway in order to maintain security.

"We have identified the vulnerable areas and we have planned to strengthen our forces and create check points where enemy exist," said Gen Syed Aqa Saqib Deputy Commander of the Interior Ministry's public order police.

"I want to tell the people that people should cooperate with government and I sure the people that we will defend people and we will serve them," said Amir Gul Hussainkhail Baghlan Police Security head.

When clashes intensify in Kunduz, the Taliban often close Baghlan-Kunduz highway. (Tolonews)

**(12) Taliban's Supply...**

mandos, special units, attack forces and other security personnel, who would conduct operations based on an effective plan.

He said the highway would remain open, as many security posts had been set up. The security posts had blocked Taliban's supply routes in Uruzgan and Helmand provinces, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(13) 440 War...**

Faizabad, said: "When people from Kunduz arrived in Badakhshan, we provided them needed help like our own families members..."

Abdul Qadir, one of the displaced people, said: "Each one of us had only one dress when we left our house, as warplanes rained down bombs and the Taliban fired at us. When we arrived in Badakhshan, people and officials helped us a lot, but we still need blankets and clothes."

Dr. Sayed Mir Jan, head of a mobile health team of the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), said around 80 refugees suffering from respiratory diseases

were treated in Badakhshan. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Abdali Defends ...**

with the opening of the consulate in Hyderabad, Abdali hoped while speaking on the sidelines of an interactive meeting.

After the opening of the diplomatic mission, he indicated, the two governments would encourage airlines to operate flights between Kabul and Hyderabad. Currently, there are direct flights only between the capitals of the two nations.

The Press Trust of India quoted the ambassador as calling Afghanistan and India strategic partners. He said New Delhi would host a major business summit to lure investment into the strategic Chabahar port in Iran.

The envoy also defended Kabul's decision to boycott the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit, scheduled to be held in Islamabad. He believed move would force non-cooperating members to pursue peace and partnership.

"Afghanistan and India are at the forefront of supporting SAARC. The recent decision to boycott the summit in Islamabad by India, Afghanistan and others is aimed at finding better ways to improve SAARC," Abdali remarked. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Pak-Afghan ...**

Hall where known Pashto singers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Afghanistan will sing songs of Khyal Muhammad," Khattak added.

An interactive dialogue will be held at Peshawar Press Club, where writers, artistes and journalists will share their views on how to bridge the gap between the neighbours.

The Pak-Afghan Journalists Forum appealed to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to extend financial support for the initiative to honour the renowned singer. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Saudi Coalition...**

that the location be targeted immediately," the investigators concluded, according to a statement. The Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) said in the statement that the coalition's Air Operations Centre in Yemen also failed to obtain approval for the strike from commanders, a violation of protocol. (Reuters)

**(17) Erdogan Says...**

on TV. Turkey fears that Shi'ite militias, which the Iraqi army has relied on in the past, will be used in the planned Mosul offensive, expected to start this month, stoking sectarian unrest and triggering an exodus of refugees.

Turkish soldiers have been training Sunni Muslim and allied Kurdish peshmerga units at the Bashiqa camp near Mosul, and want them to be involved in the assault. Baghdad objects to the Turkish military presence there. (Reuters)

**(18) Turkey-Backed...**

safe zone of 5,000 (square) kilometers." He was referring to areas in Syria already captured by Turkish troops and Turkey-backed opposition forces.

Erdogan suggested that some of the nearly 3 million Syrian refugees in Turkey could return to newly liberated areas of their country. "They can go to their own lands, we can let them live there safely," he said. "That's the step we will take. We have given our proposal to coalition powers and we are moving together." (AP)

**(19) Proper Hand...**

from diarrhea-related infections in 2015.

Proper hand washing practices also contributes to higher school attendance rates since fewer children are forced to stay at home because of largely preventable diseases.

"Hand washing just makes sense as a frontline preventive measure to keep children safe from disease. It's simple, cost effective and a proven lifesaver," Wijesekera explained. (Xinhua)

**(20) Iraq Attacks ...**

remains of plastics chairs mourners had been seated on.

IS, a Sunni extremist group, considers Shiites to be heretics, and frequently carries out suicide bombings and other attacks against them in Baghdad and elsewhere in the country.

Saturday's bombing is the deadliest to hit the Iraqi capital since early July, when a suicide bombing in central Baghdad sparked infernos in a crowded shopping area, killing more than 300 people. (AFP)

**(21) Saudi Oil...**

seek to diversify their investments and returns away from oil, the Saudis are shopping bonds in Boston and New York the week of Oct. 17. And the Saudi sovereign wealth fund and Japan's SoftBank are partnering on a multi-billion dollar tech investing fund, The Wall Street Journal reports.

The head of commodity strategy at RBC Capital Markets, Helima Croft, speaking Saturday at the Barron's Art of Successful Investing conference in New York, and commodity strategists Michael Tran and Christopher Louney, now expect the U.S. oil price to average \$56.50 per barrel in 2017. They put the international Brent price average at \$59 per barrel. (Monitoring Desk)

**(22) WHO Calls...**

of waterborne diseases, particularly cholera, which was already present in several of the most affected areas before Hurricane Matthew hit them. Natural water sources in the southern departments have been contaminated by storm water and sewage overflow.

Haiti already had serious problems of access to health care, water and sanitation before the hurricane, and cases of cholera were already on the rise. (Xinhua)

**(23) Egypt Temporarily ...**

progress since last April, after Hamas authorities in Gaza promised to ensure the security of the borderline area between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

Hamas has been ruling the coastal enclave since the militias of the group violently seized control of it in the summer of 2007, and routed the security forces of Palestinian President. (Xinhua)

**(24) UNSC Voices...**

said. The press statement was issued after the Security Council was briefed on Thursday by the special adviser to the UN secretary-general on conflict prevention, including in Burundi, Jamal Benomar, on the status of the implementation of resolution 2303 (2016) in the country.

"The members of the Security Council reaffirmed their strong commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of Burundi," the statement said.

In August, the Burundian Parliament rejected the Security Council resolution on deploying 228 police agents to oversee Burundi's security situation. (Xinhua)

**China, Sri Lanka Vow to Enhance Legislative Cooperation**

BEIJING - Chinese top legislator Zhang Dejiang held talks with the Speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament Karu Jayasuriya on Friday, calling for enhanced parliamentary cooperation between the two countries.

Zhang, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), hailed the profound friendship between China and Sri Lanka, saying the Sri Lankan leaders' visits to China showed that the new government is committed to developing bilateral ties.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena visited China in March 2015 and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe visited China in April this year. Speaking highly of the sound relations between the two legislative bodies, Zhang said he hopes the two sides can expand exchanges and cooperation.

He called on both sides to implement the consensus reached by the two countries' presidents, strengthen political mutual trust and support each other on issues regarding core interests and major concerns.

Both sides need to provide stable legal and policy environment to support economic cooperation and personnel exchanges and help speed up negotiation of the China-Sri Lanka free-trade agreement, Zhang said.

He also encouraged the two countries to exchange governance experience and cooperate at various levels. Jayasuriya, who is leading a delegation to China from Oct. 10 to 15 at the invitation of Zhang, said it is the common aspiration of all parties in Sri Lanka to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with China.

He said the members of the delegation, consisting of several important leaders of major Sri Lankan political parties, are eager to understand and learn from China through the visit.

The Sri Lankan parliament is ready to further cooperation with China's NPC, he added. China's top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng also met with Jayasuriya on Friday. He said the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference hopes to expand exchanges with Sri Lanka at various levels and share governance experience. He called for the two countries to step up cooperation within the Belt and Road Initiative and promote bilateral ties to a new stage. Jayasuriya said Sri Lanka treasures its traditional friendship with China and is ready to enhance cooperation with China in various areas. (Xinhua)

**China, S. Africa Pledge Deepened Cooperation within BRICS, FOCAC**

GOA, India - China and South Africa on Saturday vowed to boost bilateral cooperation within the framework of the BRICS mechanism and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The pledge came out of a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his South African counterpart, Jacob Zuma, on the sidelines of the eighth BRICS summit in the western Indian state of Goa.

Leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are expected to discuss BRICS cooperation and other issues of common concern at the Oct. 15-16 summit themed "Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions." During the meeting, Xi praised the sound development momentum of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, saying China is ready to work with South Africa to push for concrete outcomes in mutually beneficial cooperation, so as to benefit people of the two countries.

The two sides should maintain high-level exchanges and deepen communication and cooperation between political parties, legislative bodies, armed forces and security sectors, said Xi. He called for experience sharing on state governance as well as mutual understanding and support between the two sides on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns. On friendly and win-win cooperation, the Chinese president suggested the two sides make substantial progress on existing cooperative projects, including a railway corridor, a science and technology park, vocational training and local cooperation. Xi called on the two sides to maintain close collaboration in international affairs and make concerted efforts to push forward the stable development of BRICS cooperation, so as to make greater contribution to world peace, stability and prosperity. China supports South Africa in playing a bigger role in international and regional affairs, he noted.

Xi said China is firm in supporting African nations' pursuit of development paths that suit their own national conditions and free themselves of external interference and control.

China is willing to work with African nations including South Africa to earnestly implement the consensus reached during the Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC held last December, in a bid to promote win-win cooperation and common development, he added. The five BRICS leaders just met last month in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou when China hosted the 11th summit of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies.

Zuma said South Africa highly appreciates the achievements of the Hangzhou Summit, especially the great attention paid to the development issues as well as the cooperation between the G20 and developing countries. South Africa is committed to deepening its relations with China, he said, voicing appreciation for China's support to South Africa in such areas as infrastructure construction and personnel training. He said South Africa is ready to strengthen cooperation with China and Africa-China cooperation within the framework of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. Xi arrived in Goa on Saturday noon to attend the eighth BRICS summit. India is the final stop of his Southeast Asia and South Asia tour, which has taken him to Cambodia and Bangladesh. (Xinhua)