

### (1) War Caused...

year, primarily due to the use of indirect and explosive weapons and aerial attacks. UNAMA added it was unable to ascertain responsibility for eleven percent of civilian casualties which resulted from the ground fighting in the first three quarters of 2016. The majority of the remaining casualties, it stated, were caused by "unattributed unexploded ordnance."

"There is an urgent need for the government to implement the National Civilian Casualty Prevention and Mitigation policy and for anti-government elements to cease the use of indiscriminate and illegal devices and tactics," said Yamamoto.

U.N. officials are also worried over the rising number of civilian displacements the conflict has caused this year. They have warned more than a million Afghans will be on the move by end of 2016, including tens of thousands of Afghan refugees returning mostly from neighboring Pakistan. The total number of the returnees has exceeded 400,000 since the start of the year, according to U.N. estimates. (VoA)

### (2) MAIL Has ...

of Agriculture and Irrigation said the ministry has plans for establishing water distribution networks, poultry farms, greenhouses, gardens, saffron quality laboratories and expanding of saffron cultivation in the country. "We have started development projects in the provinces and villages that were not practiced before," Zamir said. Meanwhile, a number of women in agriculture, voiced their challenges, and urged the government to help them. "We urge the government to help village women play a bigger role in agriculture and to allocate development budgets for empowering women in the long-term," said Hafiza, a female farmer. (Tolnews)

### (3) Govt. Signals ...

on Wednesday, the Taliban denied resuming clandestine peace negotiations with Afghan government representatives in Qatar. "We reject the Guardian report regarding the resumption of talks between the Islamic Emirate and the Afghan government," Zabihullah Mujahid said. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Lazuli Railway...

the railway network will link Afghanistan with the European countries and China via Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey. This comes as the first ever cargo train from China arrived in the main Hairatan port located in North of Afghanistan on earlier last month, boosting hopes among the Afghan officials to find access to alternative routes for transit.

In the meantime, the construction of a railway line between Afghanistan and Iran officially kicked off near the western Herat province of Afghanistan last month.

The railway line will be established from Iran to Ghoryan district and will further go towards Zindjan district and Herat Airport. Earlier this year the leaders of Afghanistan, India and Iran signed the Chabahar port agreement in Tehran, the capital city of Iran.

Afghanistan is expected to have sea-level access through the strategic Chabahar port in Iran by the end of this year as the work on the port already begun by a joint venture of Kandia Port Trust (KPT) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) last year. (KP)

### (5) Taliban Denies ...

categorically stated that, "The stance of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (name of ousted Taliban regime) with regard to peace talks is clear" and has not changed.

Taliban militants who had halted peace talks with Afghan government in July 2015, have preconditioned any talks with Afghan government on the complete pullout of foreign forces from the war-torn country.

Afghan government, which inked a peace deal with Gulbudin Hekmatyar the leader of his own faction Islamic party the Hizb-e-Islami in September, has been trying to ink such deal with Taliban outfit. (Xinhua)

### (6) Military ..

to the villages," said Abdul Muqim, another member of a public uprising group.

"We defend our country, our people and our sisters. To help our schools be reconstructed and we all get educated," said Mohammad Yousuf, a member of a public uprising group. He has lost an arm in fighting insurgents.

Mullah Faqir, fought against security forces for more than a year on the side of Taliban. Six years ago, along with his 15 men, joined the peace process and since then he has been fighting the insurgents and currently is a member of a public uprising group.

"Taliban collect taxes from people and it is cruel. We have seen how they have annoyed people. Then we joined peace process to defend our people," Faqir said. Meanwhile, the Ulema council also

said the people who are trying to destabilize the country are cruel and urged the government to stop them.

"Government should stop the people who are trying to separate the people and expand the war and insecurity. They are cruel and should be stopped," said Maulavi Samaruddin Makhdom, a member of Jawzjan Ulema Council. (Tolnews)

### (7) 20 Deminers ...

said that they created no problems to deminers.

Workers of Sterling Global Operations had previously been kidnapped several times this year, but they were released after a temporary hostage.

The demining organization has been operating in Pul-i-Alam and Mohammad Agha district of Logar over the past two years. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Danish Asks ...

attacks need to be tackled and law enforcing agencies must be provided more support," said presidential advisor Nadir Nadiri. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) has also pledged to establish a special unit aimed at maintaining the security of journalists.

"A special unit was formed almost six months ago to safeguard journalists so that they are kept safe from danger," said deputy head of NDS Ajmal Abidi. "We at the ministry of interior will do our part to implement the responsibilities," said Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman for the MOI.

This year has been one of the deadliest year's for Afghan journalists. At least 14 journalists so far have been killed including last week's incident of murder in Zabul in which a group of armed men gunned down Mohammad Yaqub, a journalist from Afghanistan National Radio Television RTA. (Tolnews)

### (9) Provincial Council ...

ransom cases still continue in parts of the country despite the Afghan intelligence nabbed two MAFIA bosses involved in major kidnappings who were later executed by the government. The two top MAFIA leaders, Habib Istalif and Raees Khudaiddad, were executed late in 2014 and early in 2015 after they were arrested by intelligence operatives.

The NDS operatives released a hostage during an operation conducted in central Wardak province of Afghanistan late in the month of February.

The operation was conducted as the kidnappers were demanding a huge ransom of \$1 million from the family of the hostage, forcing the intelligence operatives to intervene and secure his release. (KP)

### (10) US Supportive...

between Pakistan and India, which we believe will help reduce tensions in the region. We have seen India play a more supportive role with regard to Afghanistan and support for the Afghan government," he said.

America's goal is to continue to support the Afghan military as it steps up the fight against the Taliban and to support the unity government as it pushes much-needed reforms in the economy and the democratic system, according to the spokesman.

The State Department refused to comment on news reports about lifting travel restrictions on Gulbudin Hekmatyar and reports about his travel to the US. "I don't know, can't confirm that. That would be a big deal. I know. I don't believe so. That's why I took the question. I'm not aware of anything about his visit or his travel or anything. Let me be very clear." (Pajhwok)

### (11) Af-Pak ...

border would remain closed till Afghanistan assured Pakistan of serious efforts to control such attacks by militants.

"We have closed the Kharlach check-post after security threats and the suicide attack on Friday which caused damage and injuries to our security personnel," the official said.

The source claimed having information of more attacks on the check-post and along the border in coming days. To ensure security, federal authorities have decided to close the border till further notice.

Akbar Bangash, a transporter, told the daily: "We have lost millions as our trucks, loaded with edible items and cement, are stranded and we are unsure when they will be allowed to cross the border." (Pajhwok)

### (12) 'Hekmatyar ...

follow the agreement and give it a practical shape.

The negotiations between the government and the HIA succeeded because they were intra-Afghan, and because no foreigner had participated in the talks, he said.

Some steps still needed to be taken for a nationwide stability and talking to Taliban was one of the most important issues the government should pay attention to, he said.

Fortunately, he said, the Taliban had recently showed willingness for negotiations.

Differences in the leadership of the

government, poor management, private militias and natural resources smuggling were main obstacles to the peace process, Hamdard said.

Habib Rahman Hekmatyar said independence of the Afghan government and non-interference of foreigners in Afghanistan had been their only goal during the past 15 years.

He said foreigners continued to choose Afghan authorities and the administrative corruption was mostly created by foreigners.

The HIA since its foundation wanted an elections-based government system, he said. He believed foreigners sponsored the election processes and elected individuals of their choice.

Paktia high peace council head, Mulavi Khaliqdad, called the peace agreement between the Afghan government and the HIA as important and said the agreement would help stabilize Afghanistan.

"It is now the time for talks with Taliban and all sides should support it," he said. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Afghan ...

written in three languages; Dari, Pash-tu and English.

The developers of the software say it is easy to use the Darak software.

"Darak can report incidents such as car theft across the country and also send reports whenever a car does not have a number plate. The traffic police should have an account in this system and when they enter their account; they can see all the details about the car and its owner," Sahar said.

They also said Darak software can help in reducing traffic incidents and corruption.

"Installing the software will not take long. It can be implemented in one to two months," Hashimi said.

Agha Mohammad has also helped develop the software last year said it could help in transparency in election and Kankor exam. (Tolnews)

### (14) Many Sayyad ...

not to be named said that Afghan forces recaptured nine villages in Sayyad district from Taliban.

The source added that three militants were killed and two members of an uprising group in the wounded in the offensives.

Taliban did not comment on the incidents so far. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Operations on...

to completely purge them of militants and let residents live in peace," the police officer said.

All security organs had forged good coordination on defending the people and fighting against the rebels. Residents should fully trust Afghan forces and avoid listening to the propagandas of the enemy, he added.

On the other hand, seems to have lost trust in officials' promises to ensuring security of the province. They want the central government to take action to recaptures lost areas.

Khair Mohammad, hailing Kunduz City, expressed concern over the current situation. Large-scale operations had not been launched despite the fall of the provincial capital to Taliban, he regretted.

"Local officials hold out promises of improving security, but they do nothing in action. Kunduz would be converted into the graveyard of civilians if the government does not launch effective operations," he warned.

Two weeks earlier, the Taliban launched coordinated attacks from several directions on Kunduz City and captured many areas of it. The city once fell to the Taliban militants in September 2015. (Pajhwok)

### (16) 150 Rebels...

district, also said clashes in their areas had been ongoing over the past one month. "Every day at least one house is hit by a mortar shell and several civilians are being killed or injured," he said.

However, a Taliban spokesman, Qari Zabihullah Mujahid, rejected casualties to the fighters and said Afghan forces had not launched any operations in Ghazni. He confirmed the killing of only two militants during a clash in Gilan district on Tuesday. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Taliban Raise ...

forces have also outlined a security plan to refresh their grip on certain areas of the province, adding that the new security plan will have positive implications on the security climate in the militancy-riddled province.

"I assure the people of Helmand that troops will improve the security situation in the city and in the districts of Helmand, work is going on over the program on the basis of which security will be strengthened in Helmand," said Hayat.

"Taliban have hoisted their flags in parts of Bolan, the war is going on there daily," said Shah Gul, a resident of Helmand province.

Civil society activists in Helmand have reported that widespread clashes are still ongoing in some parts of the city.

"In recent days the Taliban have hoisted their flags in parts of PD 3, this has

increased concerns among the people in the area and Lashkargah residents and they fear a possible takeover of the city by the Taliban," civil society activist Nisar Ahmad Ahmadi said.

"Why are the people of Helmand sacrificed on a daily basis, why are the schools closed down in Helmand, why have the plights of the people of Helmand increased, these are the questions which need answers from the leaders of the national unity government, are these leaders aware of the situation in Helmand," civil society activist Abdul Haq Zuwakman said.

Hundreds of people from Lashkargah city have fled their homes over the past few days following heavy fighting between the Taliban and the Afghan security forces.

Statistics revealed by local officials indicate that up to 3,000 families have fled their villages over the past month - since their areas came under Taliban control.

Helmand once a key Taliban stronghold in the south has been embroiled in heavy clashes between the Taliban and the Afghan forces over the past fifteen years with the conflict inflicting heavy losses to the civilian population in the volatile province. (Tolnews)

### (18) Afghan Migrant ...

nine, escaped the inferno, but his wife, Adelah Barati, 30, was found dead.

The family is understood to have recently migrated from Afghanistan.

According to reports, Barati attempted to put out the blaze using water from a tap and told neighbors to call fire crews.

Emergency services found the man and children outside the property, which was well alight when they responded to numerous triple zero calls about 3.35am local time.

Barati will appear in the Fairfield Local Court on Wednesday after being questioned, charged and refused bail on Tuesday.

Family and friends of the couple will be questioned about their marriage as part of one line of inquiry, Superintendent Matt Appleton said.

"The relationship between the deceased and her husband is something investigators are looking at," he told reporters at Merrylands Police Station. He declined to say whether the wife was killed by the fire and in which part of the house her body was found. (Tolnews)

### (19) Mental Illness...

health problems, according to the country's health minister.

Decades of conflict, suicide bombings, displacement, poverty and unemployment have taken a huge toll on Afghans, and left a health system that is under-funded and ill-equipped to provide care to citizens, health experts say. Insecurity and a lack of funds have prevented a nationwide study of mental health issues but a 2013 report by the World Health Organization (WHO) said surveys had indicated consistently high levels of mental distress in the population. Substance abuse has been on the rise since 2000, it said.

"No one knows what is going on and what is going to happen to them, and it makes them anxious and depressed," said Eklil Hayat, a doctor in the capital Kabul.

"Perhaps the most obvious signs of mental health problems are that the people have become less tolerant and more impatient," Eklil told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

MEMORY LOSS, NIGHTMARES Most mental health patients do not know or do not wish to admit that they have problems due to stigma surrounding the issue, said psychiatrist Sakha, who also chairs the Bahar-e-Mayhan Foundation in London, which supports projects to boost education, and help women and children in Afghanistan.

"I had more than one hundred sessions with patients who thought they were physically ill, but in fact they were all mentally ill," Sakha told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Almost all of them complained about constant headaches, memory loss, lack of concentration, lack of sleep, nightmares - which are signs of mental illness." In the years after a U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban government in 2001, there was a drive by international non-governmental organizations to develop mental health services in Afghanistan.

For example, in the western province of Herat, International Assistance Mission set up community mental health services and provided training for doctors, nurses and midwives, WHO said. As a result the proportion of patients diagnosed and treated for mental health problems rose to 5.2 percent in 2011 from 1.5 percent in 2005, it said.

Bashir Ahmad Sarwari, head of the mental health department at the Afghan Ministry of Public Health, said there had been improvements in recent years with basic mental health training provided to almost 600 health professionals.

Sarwari told the Thomson Reuters Foundation that 300 counselors are now working in health centers in Af-

ghanistan.

Yet basic counseling has a limited impact, according to Khesraw Parwiz, who worked in the mental health department of the health ministry from 2010 to 2015.

"But with five professional sessions, people with mild mental health problems can be taught the basic coping method," he said.

In the absence of professional healthcare many desperate families turn to traditional healers for help with reports of some patients being chained.

"If a person without mental health problems is chained somewhere with no access to sunlight and proper food, he will get physically and psychologically sick, let alone a mentally ill patient," Sakha said. (Reuters)

### (20) Young Afghan ...

destroyed. Now we are trying to install a modern system for it," an Afghan electric engineer Zahra Jafari said.

"We will leave no stone unturned to construct the palace based on its original shape," said another architect Sofia Roshan.

Afghan government has allocated \$20 million USD to rebuild the palace. "Unfortunately over the past 14 years, projects were implemented by the foreigners, but now the officials are trusting in abilities of Afghans," said Sayed Zia Hussaini, head of Darul Aman reconstruction project.

"We will not allow foreign hands to be involved in the project and we will complete it," Architect Mohammad Mahfooz Ayubi said.

Darul Aman Palace was built in 1925 by Afghan King Amanullah Khan on the throne. However Amanullah's throne collapsed only two years after the completion of the palace. (Tolnews)

### (21) Two American ...

thousands of additional civilian contractors remain in Afghanistan to train and assist government forces battling Taliban insurgents hoping to reimpose a fundamentalist Islamic regime 15 years after they lost power in a U.S.-led military operation.

The shooting took place at about 11 a.m., while the international troops were visiting a base in Kabul, said Dawlat Waziri, a Defence Ministry spokesman.

He said reports indicated the suspected attacker, who was killed when the international troops returned fire, was wearing an Afghan army uniform.

American officials said they were investigating the incident. (Tolnews)

### (22) Afghan Brothers ...

who has been living in the UK for 11 years, emotionally hugged and kissed his brother. Aimal was small when they last met, but now has changed a lot.

Although he reserved the right of residence with family in Britain, the boy spent the past five months stranded in the Calais Junglecamp, the channel said.

"Sometimes I missed mum, sometimes I cried as I was not with my family; no parents. I missed my mum," said the teenager - one of 14 unaccompanied youngsters the Home Office bussed in to Croydon. (Pajhwok)

### (23) Taliban Shadow...

Afghan air forces targeted Taliban hideouts in Chahar Dehi area of Bati Kot district around 4:30am this morning.

He said eight insurgents including Halim known as Qahraman, a Taliban shadow district chief for Bati Kot district and a Taliban judge, Mulave Abas were killed in the airstrike.

Elsewhere in the province, Mashraqwal said that eight other militants were killed during airstrikes in Miagan and Larkari areas of Hesarak district on Tuesday night.

The governor's spokesman for Laghman province, Sarhadi Zwak said that a Taliban commander for Alishang district was also among the dead.

Zwak identified the slain militants' commander as Abdul Halim who was involved in several attacks on Afghan forces on Kabul-Jalalabad highway. Taliban have not yet commented about the incidents. (Pajhwok)

### (24) Large Afghan...

often low and where border crossings can be fickle.

Border problems between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which even saw exchanges of artillery fire earlier this year, have simmered for months, part of a longer running dispute over the frontier between the two neighbours that stretches decades. Farmers in Afghanistan are pushing the government to help open access to new markets through Iran and other areas in the Middle East and southern Asia. "The pomegranate harvest is much higher this year in Kandahar compared with past years, but we don't have access to good selling markets for this fruit," said farmer Zahir Jan. "We are demanding that the government helps find us a good foreign market in order to sell our product for a good price."

Haji Nasrullah Zahir, head of Kandahar's Chamber of Commerce, said there had been a 43 percent increase in pomegranate production in the province this year. Government officials in Kabul acknowledged the lack of foreign markets, but say they are trying to find more

international trading partners beyond Pakistan.

"The Afghan pomegranate is the best pomegranate in the region and attracts many countries that want to buy, but our problem is partnership," said Mir Zaman Popal, director of the government's export promotion department. "We are hoping to find partnerships very soon and the government is seriously working on this."

Afghanistan is often reliant on negotiating transportation agreements with its neighbours, but the government is exploring more air freight options, a more expensive but faster and potentially more politically possible solution, Popal said.

"I urge all Afghan farmers to stop poppy cultivation here," Jan said. "Instead they should promote pomegranate cultivation because poppy production is illegal and doesn't provide any benefit."

Billions of dollars in counter narcotics efforts have failed to reduce the drug trade in Afghanistan. (Reuters)

### (25) AIIB Can...

Bank and the Asian Development Bank, for its first round of projects.

The AIIB, a not-for-profit bank initiated by China, was officially established in December 2015 and started operating in January 2016. With authorized capital of 100 billion U.S. dollars, it prioritizes investment in energy, power, transport, rural infrastructure, environmental protection and logistics.

In June, the bank approved its first four loans, totaling 509 million dollars, to fund power, housing and transport projects in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Tajikistan. (Xinhua)

### (26) Turkey Seeks ...

AKP's presidential model will resemble the "U.S. model" or the "French model."

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim on Tuesday supported the AKP's stance concerning the government seeking a referendum on a presidential system if the parliamentary quorum majority is met. (Xinhua)

### (27) More than ...

almost eclipsed the total from the 2013 election, in which 7,743 cases were referred to federal police. Tellingly, just 65 of those were investigated further, while no convictions came of the investigations. (Xinhua)

### (28) UNHCR Stresses ...

under the poverty line of USD 3.84 a day, with 52 percent living in extreme poverty.

The study found 34 percent of refugee households to be moderately food insecure, compared to 23 percent a year earlier. The study also found that 54 percent of refugees are in need of continuous support to upgrade their shelters to meet minimum standards. (Xinhua)

### (29) EU Trade...

for Thursday and Friday in Brussels. "Ministers expressed overwhelming support, with only one member state not being in a position to support the decision at this time," a statement released after the meeting said.

According to local media reports, Belgium refused to sign the deal due to the opposition of the regional government of Wallonia. The French-speaking area in southern Belgium fears local workers will be laid off if the agreement leads to cheaper farming and industrial imports.

Besides, Romania and Bulgaria also made their agreement conditional on the confirmation by Canada regarding the issue of visa reciprocity.

If no agreement is reached there, the EU-Canada summit will be cancelled, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom told a press conference following the meeting. (Xinhua)

### (30) Russian Naval...

"Tatarstan" and a corvette named "Grad Sviyazhsk," according to Tasnim news agency. On Sunday, Iran's naval fleet, comprised of Damavand destroyer and Joshan missile vessel with 200 navy forces on board, headed to Azerbaijan's port city of Baku on the Caspian Sea coast for a three-day visit. Iran has sent several fleets with the same mission from the country's northern and southern waters to the high seas. (Xinhua)

### (31) Will Clinton...

from Clinton Campaign Chair John Podesta's account have been posted by WikiLeaks. Clinton's surrogates say they expect her to attack Trump over his complaints of a rigged election, possibly following the lead of President Barack Obama, who characterized them as the whining of a sore loser in comments on Tuesday. "She should absolutely rip him," said former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, who supports Clinton. But Rendell cautioned that Clinton should wait for "one of the moderators or Trump himself" to bring up the rigging before she goes into it, so that she doesn't take away time from answering questions put to her. "She shouldn't bring it up," Rendell said. (Ap)