

(1) Plans in

forces and we will involve them in more operations," said Mol spokesman Sediq Sediqqi.

Meanwhile a number of military experts said government has failed in its war management against the Taliban.

"There is no coordination among the security forces and any one can do whatever they desire, there is no one person to ask," said Attiqullah Amarkhail a military analyst.

Each year the Taliban launches its fighting season in spring - however, this year, their tactics were different. Instead of isolated attacks, they now appear to be trying to capture districts.

According to military institutions, current information points to the Taliban being in control of eight districts across the country.

These are Baghlan and Desho districts in Helmand province; Khak-e-Afghan district in Zabul; Nawa district in Ghazni; Ghormach district in Faryab; Qala-e-Zal and Dasht-e-Archi districts in Kunduz and Wardoj district in Badakhshan province.

According to the information, there are also some parts that are under serious threat. These include 10 districts in the south, eight districts in the north, five districts in the east and two districts in the west.

In addition, government forces have been engaged in ongoing battles since the beginning of the fighting season. However, numerous officials, including President Ashraf Ghani, have praised government forces for their good work and commitment.

However, the leadership and war management have come under fire by numerous experts and analysts.

"War must be very well managed and those who are at the top level must motivate forces," said Ahmad Behzad, a lawmaker.

Experts believe that the National Unity Government (NUG) does not have a proper security plan and that more recklessness by government in this regard will create further problems for Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(2) Terrorist's...

of all countries in the region, the base of our efforts with Pakistan will be on ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan."

Some of the MPs have stated that Pakistan is expanding terrorism activities in North part of Afghanistan. MP Farooq Majroh said, "Pakistan is willing to shift terrorist centers into North part of Afghanistan."

Pakistan receives war supports from England-USA if those countries do ask Pakistan to spend the following Money combating terrorism it will play important role on ensuring security and stability in Afghanistan the other MP Fakori Behishti said.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has arrived in USA on Tuesday to discuss Afghanistan's peace and stability with his US counterpart Barack Obama. (ATN)

(3) Upstaged NATO ...

rebels oust Muammar Gaddafi, then left that country to descend into anarchy, is not a player in Syria and is watching uncomfortably as its former Cold War adversary Russia widens its role there.

The speed and scope of Moscow's intervention in Syria's four-year-old civil war, coming after Russia's seizure of Crimea and support for pro-Kremlin rebels in eastern Ukraine last year, wrong-footed the US-led alliance and has heightened soul-searching about its future.

"The West has been tactically surprised. I don't think they anticipated what (Russian President Vladimir) Putin would get up to," said Nick Witney, a former European Defence Agency chief now at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

NATO last year set in motion its biggest modernization since the Cold War. But the alliance's political and military elite now see the need for a broader plan that goes beyond deterring Russia in the east. They call it thinking "360 degrees".

"We need to develop a strategy for all kinds of crises, at 360 degrees," said Gen. Denis Mercier, the Frenchman who heads NATO's command focused on future threats. "We need to react in the south, in the east, the north, all around."

NATO's problem is that such a strategy is still embryonic while developments in Europe's neighborhood are moving faster than the ponderous approach of the -28nation defense pact, created in 1949 to deter the Soviet threat. (Reuters)

(4) Breshna Names...

accounts but a large number of them did not pay. We have been instructed to reveal their identities and to cut their power. Today we will cut their power," DABS Chairman Mirwais Alimi said.

Among those named by DABS as being in arrears are Gul Agha Sherzai

a former presidential candidate; Haji Mir Alam, a Jihadi commander; former minister of information and culture Sayed Makhdoom Raheem; Mawlawi Fazl Hadi; presidential adviser Shaker Kargar; Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdul Raouf Ibrahimji; parliamentarian Obaidullah Barakzai; Yasar company; MTN telecommunication company; Badakhshan police chief Gen. Baba Jan; former Jihadi leader Baba Jalandar and oil businessman Abdul Basir.

"Some of them are using their influence and some others are using electricity illegally. But today, in the presence of the media, we will go to their front doors and cut their power," said Wahidullah Wahid head of public relations of DABS.

In addition, a number of DABS employees raised concerns over the bullying of officials and said that often they disconnect their electricity but they [customers] reconnect it again [illegally].

"Many times we disconnect power but they reconnect it. But we don't know who reconnects them," said Hashmatullah a local director for DABS.

"I have worked as deputy head of the department of electricity for Khair Khana, but each time I cut power [to those living in the area] they get reconnected [without settling their bills]," said Maiwand Deputy Director of the Department of Electricity for Khair Khana area in Kabul.

According to DABS officials the defaulters in Kabul collectively owe more than one billion Afs. (Tolonews)

(5) WB Support ...

two road crossings over the mountain range, with the Salang highway carrying most of the cross-Hindukush traffic, and an unpaved secondary crossing between Baghlan and Bamyan. The project will carry out civil works for the upgrading of the Baghlan to Bamyan road (152 km) to a paved road as well as the rehabilitation of the Salang road and tunnel (87 km).

"Rehabilitating these roads to create reliable connections across the Hindukush mountain range is essential for Afghanistan's economic prospects and for national integration," said Bob Saum, World Bank Country Director for Afghanistan. "Harsh winters often force closures of the Salang pass and so upgrading alternative roads at lower altitudes, such as from Baghlan to Bamyan, is important to secure traffic flows and economic activities throughout the year."

Built in the 1960s, and located between 2,500 and 3,400 meters altitude above sea level, the Salang pass is a critical road that connects Afghanistan's northern provinces, in addition to Central Asian countries, with the rest of the country and beyond to South Asian countries.

Afghanistan suffers from significant transport infrastructure gaps in terms of connectivity and accessibility. These gaps result in relative isolation of parts of the country and negatively affect regional and internal integration and trade. The country is located at the intersection of Central Asia and South Asia, and the existing highways provide international links to Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. More than 90 percent of freight and almost 85 percent of intercity passenger transport are carried by road transport. The total length of Afghanistan's road network is about 123,000 km but nearly 80 percent of the roads are not 'all-season' roads. About 63 percent of the population is more than two kilometers away from an all-season road.

The Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity Project is expected to have the following key characteristics:

- Developing and upgrading the Baghlan to Bamyan road to become a safe and dependable Hindukush crossing, which can be used as an alternative when the Salang highway is closed due to weather-related events or due to construction work.
- Designing and carrying out repairs and maintenance on the Salang highway, which would involve (i) various types of repairs to the tunnel and snow galleries, which will require temporary partial and full closures, and (ii) the construction of a new heavy-duty concrete pavement for about 30 km in length.
- Civil works to involve local communities and contractors as much as possible.

The Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity Project will be implemented under the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) over the next seven years. MPW has appointed a high-level official to ensure close oversight of the project implementation and its coordination with stakeholders. Given the wider impact of this project on Afghanistan as a whole, an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee is being set up to ensure inter-sectoral coordination and to obtain specific support from other agencies in areas

such as land acquisition and security. The Committee will be chaired by the Minister of Public Works and will include high-level representatives from various ministries and agencies as needed. (PR)

(6) China, ASEAN ...

"security promotes development," the meeting will focus on regional anti-terrorism, non-traditional safety risks and safety of major facilities, it said.

China will also move to discuss security cooperation along the Mekong River separately with nations such as Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. The Mekong region is infamous for narcotics trade and other crimes. (Xinhua)

(7) US Poll ...

support for Obama's measures.

The poll showed that more Democrats support the president's move than Republicans.

In a similar Washington Post-ABC News poll conducted last December, more Republicans (66 percent) than Democrats (52 percent), favored Obamas decision to keep nearly 10,000 American troops in Afghanistan through 2015 to train Afghan forces and assist in counterterrorism operation.

Overall, more than half of all Americans (54 percent) supported Obama's plan to keep thousands of US troops in Afghanistan to train and assist their Afghan counterparts while 43 percent opposed it. The residual force plan did garner rare bipartisan support, including 51 percent of Independents.

Earlier this month, 22 Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee, including five who are military veterans, sent a letter to Obama urging him to keep 9,800 American troops in Afghanistan through 2016.

The letter was delivered before Obama revealed that he will be dropping his original plan to draw US forces in Afghanistan down to a small contingent of about 1,000 service members at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul after 2016.

During a speech at the White House last week, Obama said that he will keep 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through 2015 with plans to draw that force down to 5,500 troops after 2016.

It remains unclear how long the 5,500 U.S. troops will remain in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's Resolute Support commander Gen. John Campbell, has meanwhile suggested extending the US military presence in Afghanistan to avoid leaving behind a security vacuum that can potentially be filled by terrorist groups like Daesh and the Taliban as well as superpowers like Russia and China.

Last week Obama admitted that his plan to withdraw most troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2016 was not feasible, noting that security in Afghanistan is "fragile" and at risk of deteriorating.

Under the new plan, the president will be handing over the conflict to his successor. (Tolonews)

(8) One in 8 ...

"Breast cancer is among four types of cancers which mainly affects women and probably this disease may increase in another two decades, out of 20,000 cases of cancer in Afghanistan 7,000 of these are breast cancers," Dr. Richard Peepkerom, World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Afghanistan said.

Afghanistan's First Lady also asks health workers to work harder to aware women about this disease and to treat the disease.

"Health officials must take serious actions to aware, diagnose and treat breast cancer," First Lady Raula Ghani said.

Breast cancer is a group of cancer cells that starts in the cells of the breast. It is the second leading cause of death among women. Although most people who develop breast cancer will not be able to pinpoint one specific cause, scientists have learned much about risk factors that may indicate a stronger likelihood for cancer. (ATN)

(9) Security ...

were able to retake the area, local officials said.

Insurgents did however torch a number of military posts and shops, officials said.

They said that six security force members were killed in the attack.

Gen. Mohammad Juma Adeel, Border Police Chief in western Afghanistan said that "the security forces regained control of the district from insurgents after about two hours of heavy fighting."

An MP from Herat said on condition of anonymity that insurgents also released prisoners from the jail in Ghurian and that the district governor was injured in the attack.

But local officials have not yet commented on this.

However, Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry said on his twitter account that security forces pushed back the insurgents and that 15

insurgents were killed in the operation. He did not provide further details.

The Taliban has not yet commented about the attack. (Tolonews)

(10) Pakistan Sending...

security forces, the press release stated.

A statement issued by the Pakistani Prime Minister House states that this measure is being taken as a goodwill gesture on behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan for the returning residents of Kunduz facing severe food shortage after Taliban retreat.

Taliban stormed the key northern city at the end of September and controlled parts of it for about two days.

They were given a broken mouth response by security forces and run away from the city with heavy casualties.

Officials said that hundreds of militants were killed in air strikes and clashes with security forces.

The heavy gun battle continued for about a week but sporadic clashes continued for at least 16 days.

More than 300 civilians lost lives and sustained injuries in the fighting. Around 20,000 families which is estimated to have 100,000 people were internally displaced. (PR)

(11) Pakistan Creating...

vegetables - a move that costs traders millions of dollars.

According to the ACCI, Pakistan increased tariffs by 27 percent two years ago which resulted in a 25 percent decrease in export of fruit and vegetables in the country and have just increased tariffs again.

"Pakistan always increases tariffs on Afghan fruit and vegetables during their season - which are important export products for Afghanistan. This has been repeated several times," said Mir Zaman Popal, head of exports development department at ACCI.

"This act by Pakistan damages both traders and farmers. The Afghan government should find a solution to the problem," he added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has stopped hundreds of Afghan trucks at the border under different pretexts.

"This problem is always created by Pakistan. The government should prevent this. This damages our economy but Kabul has not taken any steps in this regard so far," said Sayed Azim Mustafa, head of fruits and vegetables development department.

Meanwhile, ACCI says imports from Pakistan has dropped by 40 percent this year. (Tolonews)

(12) Putin Briefs ...

expressed his concern over an expected refugee influx following Russia's airstrikes in Syria, the sources added.

The sources said Erdogan underlined during the call that Turkey attaches to fighting all terrorist groups, including the Islamic State (IS), pointing out to links between the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia and the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), who have fought a decades-old insurgency against Turkey.

Assad visited Moscow on Tuesday for talks with his Russian counterpart Putin, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in Moscow Wednesday.

"The president of Syria paid a working visit to Moscow on Oct. 20. Talks in narrow and expanded format with the participation of senior leadership of Russia were held in the Kremlin," he said in a statement.

Putin said Russia is ready to cooperate with other world powers and countries in the region that are interested in a peaceful resolution to the conflict to provide support to the political settlement in Syria.

"We are ready to contribute as much as we can not only to the military action against terrorism, but also to the political process," Putin said in a statement released on the Kremlin website.

Assad, for his part, thanked Russia for preventing the spread of terrorism in Syria to an even larger area and not allowing the situation to develop into a more tragic scenario. (Xinhua)

(13) Concerns Raised...

The watchdog organization said that in some instances licensed mining companies have to pay the Taliban in order to operate.

"It is a reality that mines have been the main income source for the Taliban over the past several years. Even licensed companies have to pay money for them to let them carry on their activities," said Ibrahim Jafari, a member of the network.

"This year's income from the mining sector has been 366 million USD while it was estimated that 1.58 billion USD was made on contracts," he added.

The Minister of Mines and Petroleum Daud Shah Saba meanwhile said that a quarter of the mining sector's income goes to the government's budget while the remainder is grabbed by powerful men, smugglers and warlords - most of whom are linked to the Taliban.

Analysts meanwhile have criticized government for failing to pass laws on mining.

"This is the government's failure that it could not draft and pass laws on mining. It has failed to extract minerals from mines in the country," said Tahir Hashemi, an analyst.

The United Nations Security Council in a report in February announced that mines are the second largest income source after drugs for the Taliban. (Tolonews)

(14) ANDMA...

for the new ministry.

He has previously served on several government posts, including Senior Advisor to the Department of Disaster Management and Preparedness in Afghanistan (ANDMA) and different posts at the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD). He has also served on other posts with government and international organizations including the United Nations. (KP)

(15) German ...

be able to exercise in a safe environment," she said.

Another student, Fatana Sharif said the facility will help girls to improve their skills in various sporting codes.

With the new facility, the Aisha Durrani High School girls will be able to play basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton and ping-pong. (Tolonews)

(16) Migrants ...

The Bulgarian Prime Minister added that there was a need to find a solution to the war, otherwise nothing good would happen. (FNA)

(17) Women ...

activists and local residents.

One of their main targets were women's shelters, which give refuge countryside to runaway girls, domestic abuse victims and those at the risk of 'honour killings' by their relatives.

The Taliban have often denounced the shelters as dens of "immorality" and labelled the women who seek shelter there as "sluts".

"Where are you hiding those women from the shelter?" Haseena Sarwari recalled being asked in an abrupt phone call from the head of the Taliban's vice and virtue department soon after they took the city.

"They are safely in Kabul," Ms Sarwari, the Kunduz director of Women for Afghan Women, a NGO which ran a shelter housing 13 women, said she told the insurgent.

"He laughed and said: 'It's good for them they managed to get away'." That shelter has since been burned down. The Taliban tried to project a moderate view on women's rights through informal peace talks earlier in 2015, where insurgent representatives for the first time sat across the table from Afghan women and even prayed alongside them.

"There has always been a serious disconnect between their vague promises and the behaviour of the Taliban on the ground, where they have continued to threaten, attack and kill women who stepped out of roles of total subservience," Heather Barr, a researcher with Human Rights Watch, said. (AFP)

(18) Foundation...

investment opportunities more in the country.

"We praise this investment and the National Unity Government is ready to provide favorable conditions for investors," Abdul Satar Murad, minister of economic said.

The Chamber of Commerce also hopes that the National Unity Government to do more efforts for attracting investments in the country.

"Everyone have eye to the government that the given commitments fulfill, especially the private sector," Khan Jan Alkozai, deputy of chamber of commerce and industry said.

According to statistics, currently 13 iron melting factories are operating in the country which melts around 600 tons of iron daily.

Despite being one of the poorest nations in the world, Afghanistan may be sitting on one of the richest troves of minerals in the world, valued at nearly 1\$ trillion.

This comes as the mineral riches could lift Afghanistan out of poverty and fight crime and terrorism. (ATN)

(19) Kunduz City...

these damages and provide us a safe environment for education," a resident of Kunduz said.

Officials say meanwhile, that insurgents appear to have fled to remote areas in Kunduz and neighboring provinces after suffering heavy casualty tolls.

"The city has been cleared, our forces have been stationed in different parts of the city. People are freely walking in the city and there is no tension for them," said Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh police chief of Kunduz.

"Our forces have started their operations outside the city. Our fight is ongoing in Chardara. We have retaken the district; only in some parts are there insurgents but we are trying to clear all the districts of militants," he added. (Tolonews)

(20) Tolonews ...

from the Afghanistan Civil Society Elections Network (ACSEN) to prioritize commitments that are most relevant to the lives of Afghan citizens.

Following the consultations with civil society organizations, 100 of the most relevant promises were shortlisted and grouped into five definitive categories, that being Governance and Rule of Law; Human Rights; Socio-Economic Development; Peace and Security and Foreign Affairs.

TOLOnews also consulted with representatives from the National Unity Government to encourage the government's participation in updating citizens on progress made towards their pre-election and post-election pledges. (Tolonews)

(21) Afghan...

number of organizations including Trent University, Fleming College, Peterborough Economic Development, the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough and the New Canadian Centre on initiatives which assisted both individuals, and our community, in reaching their full potential.

She has been a member of over thirty community based action committees, served on numerous boards, and is a highly sought after speaker on topics such as leadership, youth, women and community action. (KP)

(22) Logar to...

Stanikzai, head of Logar's provincial council said that residents of Logar province are very glad to receive electricity. He said that people would extend any possible assistance to the implementing body of the project. (KP)

(23) Russia...

invited representatives of the self-declared Kosovo. Kosovo, which is not a UN member," Churkin said.

"Kosovo Albanian representatives cannot be allowed onto UN territory unless they, in certain cases, are accompanied by Secretariat officials," he said, referring to the breakthrough province of Serbia which declared its independence in 2008. (Xinhua)

(24) EU Calls ...

to receive up to a million asylum requests this year.

Since Saturday, when Hungary sealed off its border with Croatia, more than 24,455 migrants have arrived in Slovenia, a nation of two million people.

In response, the Slovenian parliament amended a law which would allow soldiers to join border police in patrolling the -670kilometre (-416mile) frontier with Croatia. (AFP)

(25) Abbas Urges...

Benjamin Netanyahu over defusing a flaring wave of tension between Israel and the Palestinians that has been going on for three weeks.

The UN Secretary General is scheduled also to visit the family of a Palestinian child killed by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank. (Xinhua)

(26) UNHCR ...

conference on Wednesday to help galvanize financial support for the return

"Delegates from more than over 40 countries and organizations will discuss how to concretely prepare for voluntary returns of Somali refugees from the region and enhance absorption capacity in areas of return in Somalia by strengthening humanitarian and development actions," it said. (Xinhua)

(27) China a ...

and railways.

In Kenya, a China-funded new rail linking the port city of Mombasa to Nairobi is under construction and is expected to run across several East African nations eventually.

Sunkuli said Chinese-funded infrastructure projects, like rail projects in Africa, could promote trade and investment, and those with a regional scope will have even greater impact.

He added the training and internship programs sponsored by Chinese firms have benefited African youth. (Xinhua)

(28) Iran Increases...

to Syria last Thursday, said that his country would consider sending troops to Syria if the Syrian government requested that.

As for Iran and Russia's cooperation in Syria, Amir-Abdollahian said Tehran and Moscow's relations are "strategic" not only in relation with the Syrian crisis, but with respect to Middle East and international issues. (Xinhua)