

(1) Ghani Issues...

and supporters have equal rights and responsibilities like other countrymen before the law.

Article eight: The Afghanistan security forces leadership is directed to fully coordinate with foreign forces in implementation of the peace agreement's content.

Article 9: Monitoring of this decree's implementation is responsibility of the Director of the General Staff of the Ministry of Defence and to explain guidelines under the framework of a specific procedure. (Pajhwok)

(2) Displacement ...

end of the year, yet attention and resources allocated to their needs seem to be waning rather than increasing," UN special rapporteur Chaloka Beyani said in Kabul.

"The displacement picture in Afghanistan is changing as the conflict evolves and intensifies.

"Displacement is becoming more protracted for more people as the security situation has led many to make the difficult decision not to return to their homes."

Beyani called on the Afghan government and its international partners to step up emergency responses for those in "protracted displacement."

Tens of thousands of Afghans have been uprooted from their homes as the Taliban have stepped up their insurgency across the nation — from Kunduz in the north to Helmand in the south. Children, in particular, have paid a heavy price.

"It is no exaggeration to speak of a lost generation of displaced Afghan children deprived of education since children constitute about 56 per cent of the displaced population," Beyani said. (Monitoring Desk)

(3) Massoud Cynical...

an appointment is made in important and high level positions, but when an appointment is made in a key position, the decision is made on the high level and we remain unaware," Massoud stated.

Referring to recent reports about a secret peace negotiation process between the government and the Taliban, Massoud raised doubts over the outcome of these talks, saying the Taliban are preparing for war next year.

As frustration over the news of secret talks between the government and the Taliban grows, Massoud said he was not aware of such talks happening in Qatar.

"I am not involved and unaware about these talks, but the Taliban have always tried to negotiate from a powerful position, it seems that the administrative responsibilities of the high peace council have also increased," said Massoud.

"We hope that the joining of Hekmatyar in the peace process will be an example to other armed groups so that they should also lay down their arms and endorse the peace process," said Maulavi Abdul Khabir Achqon, deputy head of HPC.

In addition, Massoud confirmed that powerful figures have influence in the appointments in key government institutions.

Looking skeptical on the issue of the peace process with the Taliban, Massoud urged a wider political consensus within the system to establish a powerful front for suppressing the Taliban and curbing the scale of violence. (Tolonews)

(4) HRW Concerned ...

at HRW, said in a statement the Taliban remained responsible for most civilian casualties. Groups linked the Islamic State were also responsible for some of the worst atrocities.

Government forces were held accountable for 623 civilian deaths and 1,274 injuries, a 42 percent increase from last year. A growing number of these are the result of airstrikes, as well as the use of indirect explosive weapons in populated areas. (Pajhwok)

(5) Pakistan...

reports suggested the Taliban and Kabul have held secret talks in Qatar. Pakistan, which is believed to wield influence over the Taliban, hosted the first talks between Kabul and the Taliban in July 2015.

But the peace process broke down when Kabul revealed Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar had been dead for years.

Pakistan has said news about Omar's death scuttled the peace process. (AP)

(6) Dostum-Led...

on the militants, he said, adding that an Afghan National Army (ANA) battalion that lost contact with the center over the past few days was reconnected.

Faryab police spokesman, Abdul Karim Yorish, confirmed retaking control of Ghormach and said Afghan forces were currently stationed in the district center and some of them were searching suspected homes.

He said the operation was carefully underway in order to prevent casualties that could possibly cause by bombs planted by militants.

Taliban have not yet commented on the development. (Pajhwok)

(7) AWN Demand...

law enforcement and the peace process.

Samira Hamidi, AWN board director, also said their organization wanted the government to appoint women to important posts.

"Currently only four women are ministers, nine others are deputy ministers, four ambassadors and one woman is governor in the country," she said, adding 69 members of the Wolosi Jirga and 22 members of the Meshrano Jirga were women.

She said 296 members of provincial councils were also women, but their number in government institutions was very limited compared to men. Six percent of staff members of the attorney general's office, eight percent of the Supreme Court and one percent of the Ministry of Defense are women, she said.

Roshan Siran, a member of AWN, said: "Women form more than half of the society in Afghanistan, they should partake in national process such as elections, governance, law enforcement and peace process."

AWN, an alliance of 132 civil society institutes, works for defending women's rights.

The international summit in Brussels is scheduled to take place on October 5-4 to discuss sustain economic cooperation with Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghan Air ...

(AAF) participate in 50 to 180 missions a day to support the Afghan National Security and Defense (ANSDF) forces.

The Afghan Air Force has started the new fighting season with the increased capabilities as several combat planes have been added to the inventory during the past several months.

The Afghan Air Force received several A29- Super Tucano fixed wing light attack aircraft and MD-530 Cayuse helicopters from the United States as well as surveillance unmanned aerial vehicle which are expected to further boost the capabilities of the Afghan forces.

Afghanistan also received 3 Mi25-gunship helicopters from India last which are in service with the Afghan Air Force. (KP)

(9) Question...

enough clout to gain a breakthrough in the talks with the Taliban.

"The high peace council since its formation has been a formulaic institution and it has spent only the resources. The peace process is an intelligence-oriented and political game and its objective is not restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan," political analyst Asif Ashna said.

Earlier this week reports surfaced in international media that the Taliban and the Afghan government have resumed secret talks in Doha in Qatar.

A source close to the Presidential Palace (ARG) confirmed last Tuesday that the National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar and Mohammad Masoum Stanekzai, head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) represented government in the talks.

"What happened in Qatar was not peace talks, the two sides need to have firm belief and resume an inter-Afghan dialogue, but we do not call that peace talks, the peace process is supposed to be the responsibility of the peace council," said Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar, HPC member.

Meanwhile, Office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has also said that the role of the peace council in the peace negotiations talks was not symbolic.

"When the negotiation process starts, when practical steps are taken, the peace council and the Afghan government would share as a common body in the process," said Mujiburrahman Rahimi, spokesman to CEO Abdullah.

"There is consensus in the

leadership level of the national unity government and certain institutions which are involved in the peace and war," deputy presidential spokesman Shahhussain Murtazawi said.

The HPC insists that fractions within the movement was one of the biggest challenges in the way of the peace process, saying a dissident Taliban faction was trying to sabotage the rival factions. (Tolonews)

(10) Ghani Backs...

the organiser said.

Speaking on the occasion, the president said the programme was worth investing in and "you have guaranteed its continuity". He also highlighted the imperatives of leadership and management skills that varied in different situations.

He characterised the culture of male-dominance in the contemporary world as a big challenge, creating complicated problems. "Our first reaction is how we as listeners can discount the speaker's view."

The president promised providing women with a secure work environment, giving them a fair chance to explain their problems and resolving the issues. He also called for working on implementation of women protection laws.

Ghani went on to warn that any minister, director or other government functionary found involved in abusing women would be sacked right away. "As long as I remain at the helm, Afghan women will be given more than equal role..."

With the participation of women in government affairs, he hoped, Afghan society and culture would witness a fundamental change.

His spouse Rula Ghani referred to her participation in a recent conference in the UAE on women's empowerment. She called for joint efforts by women to achieve their common goals. (Pajhwok)

(11) Afghanistan ...

Development (USAID) announced last year a new 13.3\$ million program to make it easier for private sector firms to do business in Afghanistan.

The four-year Afghanistan Investment Climate Reform Program will be implemented by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group. The program will work at the national and provincial levels to stimulate economic growth and enhance the country's competitiveness. In addition to Kabul, the program focuses on major economic centers throughout the country, including Mazar, Herat, Kandahar, and Jalalabad.

The program was launched at a ceremony in mid-June last year at the U.S. Embassy. "The Afghanistan Investment Climate Reform Program addresses critical challenges faced by the private sector," said U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan P. Michael McKinley. "Together with the Government of Afghanistan, which has reaffirmed its commitment to economic reforms, we will help promote investment and make Afghanistan an attractive place to do business."

The program's main goal is to reduce hurdles for new and existing businesses to operate effectively by simplifying regulations and reducing compliance costs by: 1) improving the legal and regulatory framework for businesses at the national and provincial levels; 2) streamlining procedures hampering private sector operations; and 3) encouraging growth and investment in key sectors.

The new program builds upon existing USAID-funded activities with the IFC/World Bank supporting reforms in construction permits and regulations within the context of the World Bank's "Doing Business" indicators. (KP)

(12) US Forces

security forces have been battling the Taliban on multiple fronts across the country with the Taliban insurgents infiltrating some key towns.

But, the Afghan forces still remain in defensive positions.

"They (security forces) try to be in defensive positions and this itself is a big problem to Afghanistan and the people," MP Raihana Azad said.

The Taliban in recent months focused their offensives on at least 25 provinces of Afghanistan with fifteen provinces still being battlegrounds. (Tolonews)

(13) New Operation...

put in place effective security measures to prevent the rebels from

entering Lashkargah, clashes in several areas of the city are underway and have disturbed the life of local people.

A tribal elder in Lashkargah, a resident of Sangin district, Ghulam Jan Aka said the Taliban could not advance further, but the government should resolve problems within.

Local residents said dozens of Taliban militants arrived in Bolan area last night, the government has so far taken no action against them. (Pajhwok)

(14) Afghan Parents ...

visit all the houses. I hope the children do not miss the campaign course this time," Balqees said.

Some polio cases have also been detected in the restive eastern Kunar and southern Helmand and Kandahar provinces where Taliban militants are active.

"Polio is a crippling disease that cannot be cured but it can be prevented through vaccination. Every child under the age of five in Afghanistan should be vaccinated during each immunization round to ensure they are protected," according to the health ministry statement.

"The health workers and charities should also launch a public awareness campaign. They should encourage parents to allow their children to be vaccinated," Basira, a mother of three, said in Kabul.

"Unfortunately some uneducated people don't believe in any vaccinations, so they don't allow their children to be vaccinated regularly. Some parents believe such immunization has some negative impact on their children," she said.

Afghan Minister of Public Health Ferozuddin Feroz reaffirmed the administration's commitment to seeing all forms of viruses, including polio, being eradicated once and for all, while overcoming the barriers presented by geography and culture.

"Afghanistan is on track to stop the transmission of polio and our focus is now on finding and vaccinating every child missed for any reason. Most of Afghanistan remains polio-free," Feroz was quoted by the ministry's statement as saying.

"Everyone has a role to play in stopping this debilitating disease and ensuring that no more children are paralyzed by polio," he said.

The latest anti-polio drive was carried out by over 65,000 trained health workers. These vaccinators and other frontline health workers they have been chosen because they care about children and their communities, according to the health ministry.

"Parents who do not have their children vaccinated during the campaign days are urged to visit local health centers where their children can be vaccinated against polio," the ministry said.

The ongoing conflicts and insurgency have also had a negative impact on the campaign.

Local officials in the eastern Nangarhar province warned that children in four districts, including Achin, Haska Mina, Nazian and Pacheragam, where the militants of Islamic State (IS) are active, might miss the ongoing anti-polio drive.

"I did not understand the importance of vaccinations in the past and my second son, Mohammad Samim, was hit by the polio virus when he was a child, he is 18 years old now," Abdul Nabi, a father of nine, said "Samim has a very difficult life and will likely not marry," Nabi said, urging all parents to help the government's efforts in fighting the infectious polio virus. (Xinhua)

(15) Afghan Returnees ...

of resistance against the invading forces of the former Soviet Union in the 1980s and nowadays is the center of tussle between the hardliner Taliban group and government forces.

More than 100 people, including civilians, militants and security forces personnel, have been killed, injured or maimed due to the bloody fighting between government forces and the Taliban in the restive province over the past couple of months. Countless others have been left homeless, according to local officials.

Although the elderly Hawa feels sorrow over her return to her home country after three decades of living in exile, she also believes that she has no choice but to adjust her life back in Pul-e-Khumri.

"Even though I have no house and no income to settle in my home province of Baghlan, I have no option but to live here," Hawa, a widow

and head of a six-member family, told Xinhua.

Pakistan is currently home to more than 2.5 million Afghan refugees and until recently they didn't need a passport or travel documents to cross the border between the two neighbors.

However, the Pakistani government in the wake of brief exchanges of fire at the Torkham border crossing in June, has toughened its ground security measures and asked Afghan refugees to leave the country or stay with legal documents including a valid visa.

Islamabad has extended Afghan refugees' stay until the end of March 2017, the repatriation process has gained momentum and according to UNHCR spokesman Nadir Farhad, some 5,000 Afghan refugees return home daily.

According to Farhad, more than 240,000 Afghan refugees have returned to their homeland from Pakistan since January this year.

Amanullah, another returnee who is worried about the future of his family, said he returned to his home province of Parwan after 26 years living as a refugee in Pakistan.

"The new restrictions forced me to return to my country where I have no job, no security and no shelter to live in," said -67-year-old Amanullah, the head of a family of six.

Afghanistan's Minister of Refugees and Repatriation Affairs, Sayed Hossein Alimi Balkhi, said the government would provide land for the returnees to build homes and reintegrate back into their communities.

Nevertheless, the returnees are doubtful about the government's ability to efficiently provide shelter and new job opportunities for the former refugees returning home.

"My family escaped the war in Afghanistan 36 years ago and I was born in Punjab in Pakistan and had a shop until I returned two weeks ago," Habibullah, 18, told Xinhua, adding that he was distrustful of the government's promise to provide a home and land and life would probably be miserable due to the ongoing conflict.

More than 1.1 million people have been displaced by the conflict over the past 15 years in Afghanistan and 277,331 people in 2016, according to visiting UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons Chaloka Beyani.

More than 4 million Afghan refugees have returned home from Pakistan since the collapse of the Taliban regime in late 2001, Beyani said. (Xinhua)

(16) Four Civilians ...

More than 2,560 civilians were killed and over 5,830 injured between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30 this year in conflict-related incidents across Afghanistan, according to latest figures released by UN mission in the country.

Ground engagements remained the largest cause of civilian casualties, followed by suicide attacks and improvised explosive device (IED) explosions. (Xinhua)

(17) Taliban Leader ...

he added. On the other hand, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Pajhwok the fighters had captured two security checkpoints in the area. Three policemen were killed in the attack, he claimed. (Pajhwok)

(18) Afghan Army...

According to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the Taliban are responsible for 60 percent of civilian casualties caused by suicide attacks and bombings in public places. In at least 14 of the 35 provinces of Afghanistan are reported clashes between the Taliban and the national army. (Monitoring Desk)

(19) No Military ...

month. "Once Syria's economic hub, Aleppo has been the scene of fierce fighting between government forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and opposition forces seeking to oust him.

The UN estimates that 275,000 civilians are trapped in the eastern parts of the city. Among them, 100,000 are children. (Xinhua)

(20) EU Leaders...

hostilities and for a resumption of a credible political process under UN auspices.

"Everything should be done to extend the ceasefire, bring in humanitarian aid to the civilian population and create the conditions for opening negotiations on a political transition in Syria," the document said. However, the EU warned of the need

to consider "all available options" should the situation not improve. (Xinhua)

(21) Russia Summons...

expecting an explanation from the U.S.-led anti-terror coalition for the incident. (Xinhua)

(22) Putin Backs...

the process of ensuring local elections in the rebel-controlled areas needs to advance before an armed OSCE mission could be put in place.

The idea of arming that mission does not sit well with the separatists' self-proclaimed "people's republics" in the industrial regions of Lugansk and Donetsk.

One of the Donetsk separatist leaders, Denis Pushilin, told AFP that his self-proclaimed republic was against the measure and that it had not been agreed upon in 2015 peace agreements known as the Minsk accords.

"The fact that we are against an armed OSCE mission is not only the personal position of the leadership of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic," Pushilin said.

"It has been confirmed at rallies with several thousand people that took place on our territories." (AFP)

(23) Russian Spacecraft...

Wednesday successfully launched the spacecraft at 11:05 a.m. Moscow time (0805 GMT) from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The launch of the spacecraft had been postponed in September due to technical problems. (Xinhua)

(24) Uncertainties...

first two days will be used to evacuate the most urgent medical cases so that they can be transported to places where they can receive adequate treatment.

The final two days are used for further evacuations while allowing relief items including food and medicine to enter the eastern districts of the city which has been divided in two since 2012.

Once Syria's economic hub, Aleppo has been the scene of fierce fighting pitting government forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad against opposition forces seeking to oust him. (Xinhua)

(25) EU Fails...

against the entire EU and Canada, with populations of over 500 million and 35 million.

"Difficulties remain," Magnette said, adding that a key stumbling point was the politically sensitive issue of how multinational corporations could challenge states under the deal.

Magnette said the talks would continue, but suggested any deal might not be ready in time for Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to Brussels next Thursday. "I plead that, in an amicable way, we jointly postpone the EU-Canada summit and that we give ourselves time," he said. EU leaders warned that failure to clinch the deal with Canada could ruin the -28nation bloc's credibility as a trade partner and make it more difficult to strike such agreements with other global allies like the United States and Japan. (AP)

(26) Lavrov, Kerry...

forces are ready to extend the truce if the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front terrorist group stops violating the ceasefire. Earlier on Thursday, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu announced that Russia had decided to extend the humanitarian truce in Aleppo by another 24 hours. (Xinhua)

(27) Premier Li ...

Paulson Institute's role in promoting China-U.S. cooperation, Li called on the Institute to make a greater contribution to a healthy and stable China-U.S. relationship. (Xinhua)

(29) Turkmenistan...

launched April 2015, 28 from Cape Canaveral (Florida, US). It was brought to the space by Falcon 9 v1.1 rocket carrier. The satellite entered its orbital position May 17.

After the successful completion of all the tests, TurkmenAlem 52E was officially handed by contractor Thales Alenia Space to Turkmenistan for operation. The satellite is equipped with three antennas - the eastern, northern and MENA (Middle East and North Africa). They cover tens of countries in Europe and Asia, as well as the Middle East and North Africa. (Trend)