

(1) Millions of...

and the country of a future.” Ghani also welcomed the public drive for people to donate blood and said that “we all need to change the blood to a life tool especially for the security forces who are defending us on the battle fields - they are defending our honor, dignity, independence, sovereignty and standing for our future.” He said government is committed to defending Ashura and ancient traditions in the best way possible and urged people of Afghanistan to mark this historical day.

CEO Abdullah Abdullah on Ashura day called on all Afghan communities and groups to stay united and show solidarity towards each other. “History has proven that the Afghan nation has never been defeated,” Abdullah told the gathering attended by his deputy Engineer Mohammad Khan, the acting defense minister Masoom Stanekzai, the interior minister Noorulhaq Olomi and other senior government officials.

Referring to foreign interference in Afghanistan’s affairs, Abdullah said he has called on the international community to help stop those involved in promoting and financing insurgency in Afghanistan. He said however that Afghanistan had no enmity with any country and they would follow friendly relations. In addition, he praised the sacrifices of the security forces who have either lost their lives or sustained injuries in battling the enemies of the country. “Our nation has given huge sacrifices for the country and they are still sacrificing their lives,” Abdullah continued.

He stated that the epic of Ashura is a great lesson for the Afghans to not accept defeat.

Ashura is marked on the tenth day of the Islamic month of Muharram (the first month of the lunar calendar). Alongside Shiite Muslims, Sunni Muslims also marked the day at mosques by reading from the Holy Quran.

The events peak on the 10th day, traditionally known as Ashura, when the Imam Hussain (A.S) and 72 of his companions were martyred at the hands of the despot, to whom they had refused to pledge allegiance.

Security was however tight in the capital Kabul, where numerous ceremonies were held peacefully - despite the rain.

“Imam Hussein’s message is that we fight against injustice and today we are mark Imam Hussein’s battle,” a resident of Kabul city.

Meanwhile, the people in northern Balkh and other provinces of the country also marked Ashura Day. A number of Ulema council members also took part at a ceremony in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of Balkh, where they called for peace and unity among the people.

“Imam Hussein’s battle was to seek justice and he said no to injustice and today all people are standing by this message of Hussein’s,” a member of the Ulema, Sayed Haidar Hashemi said.

A member of Balkh Ulema Council, Mawlawi Abdul Rouf said: “Imam Hussein’s message was unity for all Muslims and for them to fight against injustice.”

At the ceremony, Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish; Ahmad Zia Massoud, the special envoy to Ghani for reform and good governance; Mohammad Hanif Atmar, National Security Advisor; Mohammad Karim Khalili, former vice president and other government officials were also present. (Tolonews)

(2) ISIS and ...

a UN report released late in September stated that nearly 70 militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are busy in forming the core of the group’s branch in Afghanistan.

The report further added that the terror group is making inroads in Afghanistan with the number of sympathizers and followers growing across the country, with recruitment in process in at least 25 provinces of Afghanistan which include 10 percent of the sympathizers belonging to the Taliban group.

According to the report the ISIS loyalists and the Taliban militants are fighting each other only in eastern Nangarhar province, citing the drug trade as the main reason behind the brutal clashes. (KP)

(3) Ghani and...

future of Resolute Support mission. The conversation followed recent discussions with Allied leaders regarding the future of NATO’s presence in Afghanistan.

“I reiterated my appreciation for President Barack Obama’s announcement that the United States will maintain its current troop levels in Afghanistan through 2016, and will retain a substantial presence beyond 2016.” said Stoltenberg.

“This important decision paves the way for a sustained presence by NATO Allies and partners in Afghanistan,” Stoltenberg added.

Meanwhile NATO Secretary General expressed his deepest regret over the recent tragedy affecting the Doctors without Borders hospital in Kunduz, and offered his condolences to the victims and their families.

“I stressed the need for thorough and transparent investigations, as well as the need to draw lessons and take any necessary steps to avoid similar events in the future.” Stoltenberg said.

At the end of the conversation, both Ghani and Stoltenberg reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the partnership between the Alliance and Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(4) Action Against ...

Pakistan to eliminate the TTP threat,” he added.

Nawaz said over the past 14 years, a military solution had been elusive in Afghanistan.

“We believe it is unlikely to be achieved in the future. Thus, achieving peace through negotiations is the best option,” he said.

The prime minister said one of the first steps that he took after assuming office was to send a message of peace and cooperation to all immediate neighbours - Afghanistan, Iran and India.

More recently, he said, the security environment in Afghanistan had deteriorated.

“Pakistan condemns all terrorist violence in Afghanistan,” he added.

He said there were two paths to peace in Afghanistan - a military victory over the insurgents or a negotiated peace and national reconciliation.

“Over the past 14 years, a military solution has been elusive. We believe that it is unlikely to be achieved in the future. Thus, achieving peace through negotiations is the best option,” he stressed.

The prime minister said Pakistan undertook, at Ghani’s behest, to facilitate a dialogue between Kabul and the Tehreek-e-Taliban Afghanistan, adding that the first round of intra-Afghan talks was held in Murree where both sides characterized the round as encouraging.

He, however, added a few days before the second session, which was set for July 31, untimely revelations about the death of Mulla Omar, the leader of the Afghan Taliban, produced predictable consequences.

“Without the authority of their leader to engage in dialogue, the Taliban broke off talks. In their succession struggle, their default option was to revert to a fighting mode,” he added.

He urged the international community to play a role in stopping the slide towards a dangerous Pakistan-India crisis by preventing India’s belligerent actions rather than Pakistan’s defensive responses.

“Clearly, there is a real and present threat to peace and security in South Asia. The international community can no longer pretend that it does not exist,” he said.

The USIP is an independent and non-partisan federal institution, funded by the US Congress and works to resolve violent conflicts around the world.

Nawaz, who earlier made his address at the USIP in 2013, spoke at length on various bilateral matters, the situation in the region as well as Pakistan’s successes in the war against terrorism and its achievements on the economic front. He said the Pakistan-India relationship posed the most difficult and urgent challenge.

“I believe a close review of some of the existing assumptions and analyses, and greater attention to Pakistan’s views and interests, would be useful in enabling Washington to play a constructive role in averting the ever present danger of escalation and promoting stability in South Asia”, he maintained.

The prime minister referred to his visit to New Delhi to attend the oath-taking ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 and said his sincere efforts to improve relations with India and the positive momentum generated by that meeting was halted when New Delhi cancelled the Foreign Secretary level talks on a flimsy excuse.

“I met Mr. Modi again in Ufa, Russia. Again, the National Security Adviser’s meeting was scuttled by India’s attempts to limit the talks to one issue and to dictate the programme of the National Security Adviser in New Delhi”, he said.

He said the cancellation of NSA-level talks had been followed by increased ceasefire violations by India across the Line of Control and the Working Boundary, as well as a stream of hostile statements by the Indian political and military leadership.

He said anti-Pakistan actions by Hindu extremists were exacerbating the

(4) Action Against ...

present tensions in the region. The prime minister mentioned his address to the UN General Assembly last month, where he proposed a new peace initiative, comprising four specific and feasible steps that could serve as the basis for progress towards normalisation, but “unfortunately, India’s response was not positive.”

He said while refusing dialogue, India was engaged in a major arms build-up, regrettably with the active assistance of several powers.

“It has adopted dangerous military doctrines. This will compel Pakistan to take several counter measures to preserve credible deterrence”, he added.

The prime minister said a normal and stable relationship between Pakistan and India could be built by adherence to the principles of the UN Charter, especially the principle of sovereign equality of states and non-interference in their internal affairs and the right of peoples to self-determination.

“There is no alternative for the two countries but to resume a comprehensive dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues, including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir”, he added.

The prime minister said his government’s foreign policy was guided by the principles: “Peace for Development” and “Peaceful Neighborhood”.

“Peace with our neighbors will enhance our domestic security and economic growth and development”, he added. (Tolonews)

(5) USIP Chief ...

activities in parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

He warned that if the regional countries and international community do not find a political solution for the Afghanistan crisis there is the possibility of a repeat of the 1990s which saw the Taliban in control. However, he said should this happen it will not only be a big threat for Afghanistan but for Pakistan and south and east Asia countries.

“Pakistan had a military operation in north Waziristan which was very successful and pushed many terrorists out of Pakistan but unfortunately many of those terrorists then moved in to Afghanistan and it is one of the reasons there has been greater violence in Afghanistan particularly in the north,” said Hadley.

Hadley emphasized that there is a serious need for the resumption of peace talks.

“There is an urgent need now to get the political process back on track so we can reduce the violence in Afghanistan - a further deterioration of security in Afghanistan. In a worst case scenario we turn to the anarchic days of the early 1990s when the tyrannical rule of the Taliban in the late 1990s was not only devastating for Afghanistan but highly destabilizing for Pakistan and the broader south and central Asia,” he added. (Tolonews)

(6) Kerry, Lavrov...

also discussed tapping the potential of other countries in the region to push the political process forward. (Reuters)

(7) US, Pakistan ...

countries,” said Michael Kugelmann of the Woodrow Wilson Center.

“The US has simply lost patience after so many years of providing arms and money to the Pakistani military, the Pakistanis have simply not done what the US has repeatedly asked them to do in terms of cracking down on militants.”

Since Sharif returned to the prime minister’s office two years ago, both sides have made an effort to find areas of cooperation.

America’s relationship with Islamabad is a prickly one, born of an interdependency peppered with mutual mistrust.

Ties were plunged into deep crisis when 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden was discovered to be living in a major Pakistani garrison city.

Obama on Thursday hailed cooperation on economic, scientific and education issues, even as security disagreements loomed large over the Oval Office meeting.

- Complex relationship - Islamabad’s ties with the Afghan Taliban, support for terror groups that target India and the United States and its rapidly growing nuclear arsenal are seen by Washington as monumental security headaches.

And US officials see little change in the attitude of Pakistan’s powerful security services to these problems.

In a telling sign of that power, Sharif’s visit was bookended by US visits from Rizwan Akhtar, the head of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence, and the upcoming visit of Chief of Army Staff Raheel Sharif.

Obama recently announced that US troops would be staying in Afghani-

stan longer than he had promised, but few believe a military solution is possible.

The White House is keen to get the Taliban back to the negotiating table, after a first round of talks led to a dead end.

The resurgent Islamists briefly captured a key northern Afghan city this month.

Kabul has accused Islamabad of harboring and nurturing Taliban insurgents - allowing them to launch attacks in Afghanistan before melting back across the border.

There are growing calls in Washington for the United States to limit the transfer of weapons and funds to Islamabad.

“Pakistan must fulfill its obligations to deny safe haven to all terrorist groups and take action against those who aid, support and abet them,” said Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio in a statement coinciding with the meeting.

“Continued US security assistance should be conditioned on Pakistan’s actions against militants that seek to destabilize Afghanistan and threaten the US.”

The United States has also pressed Pakistan to crack down on radical groups like the Haqqani network and Lashkar-e-Taiba. (AFP)

(8) Ghani Appoints ...

pilots and will address them soon.

“Once you are discharged, you will again join your ranks. Collect your views and suggestions and I am ready to serve you,” Ghani told the pilots.

In addition, he praised the sacrifices of the AAF pilots for defending the country.

“We are grateful for your heroism,” Ghani said. “You pilots are the pride of the country.”

Meanwhile, Ghani ordered the hospital officials to pay special attention to the health of the pilots and provide them with necessary health care services.

The injured pilots said however that despite shortcomings facing the AAF, they will continue to serve the country.

They promised to battle for the sake of the country till the last drop of blood.

“We are proud of our country and we will defend it,” an injured pilot said. (Tolonews)

(9) Reports Delayed...

in the wreckage of the hospital, all of whom have now been buried,” said the medical charity in a statement.

“These unfortunately may not be final numbers.”

The Pentagon had expected to issue initial findings this week on the October 3 attack on the hospital run by MSF, but Carter said that report was not yet complete.

“We want to get this done, but we want to get it done right,” Carter said at a Pentagon press briefing. “Accountability is part of our obligation to those who died in Kunduz and it must inform everything we do here at the Department of Defense.”

The Pentagon, NATO and the Afghan government are conducting separate investigations into one of the worst US attacks resulting in civilian casualties since the war began 14 years ago.

Gen. John Campbell, the top US commander in Afghanistan, has already called the airstrike a mistake. But it remains unclear how the mistake happened. (Tolonews)

(10) Investigation

Army Maj. Gen. William Hickman and two brigadier generals to continue the investigation begun by Brig. Gen. Richard Kim, NATO said in a statement.

“We will be forthright and transparent and we will hold ourselves accountable for any mistakes made,” the statement QUOTED Campbell as saying. “While we desire the investigation to be timely, what’s most important is that it be done thoroughly and correctly.”

U.S. gunships bombed the Doctors Without Borders hospital in the city of Kunduz on Oct. 3, killing at least 13 staff members and 10 patients. Many were wounded. The main building was destroyed and the hospital has been shut down.

The international medical charity, which is also known by its French acronym MSF, said Friday it is trying to determine the identities of seven bodies found in the wreckage which were unrecognizable and have since been buried. (AP)

(11) ANSF Retake ...

headquarters this morning.

Deputy provincial governor Baryalai Basharyar confirmed that the control of the district was retaken by the security forces.

He did not disclose further information regarding the casualties of the Afghan forces and the Taliban militants during the operations.

However, he confirmed that the district police chief Abdul Majeed Gilem Bafi was killed along with twelve other policemen after they were captured by the Taliban militants.

The Taliban militants have not commented regarding the report so far.

Faryab is among the volatile provinces in northern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militants are actively operating in its various districts and often carry out insurgency activities. (KP)

(12) Afghanistan...

moved on that side to attack them,” Dostum said.

He went on to say: “We have also undertaken our own plans, you can see up to 100 heavy weapons deployed over there, they [Taliban] will be arrested. They will be arrested, if they resist, they will be eliminated.”

According to security sources, major casualties were inflicted on the insurgents during the battles. However the security forces also sustained a number of casualties in landmine explosions caused by the Taliban in areas. (Tolonews)

(13) MoD Invites...

among the people, he said.

In his speech, Jawhari also spoke of Ashura, the historic event in Karbala which took place on Muharram 10, in the year 61 AH of the Islamic calendar (October 10, 680 AD) and the courage which was demonstrated by Imam Hussein.

He called on the Afghan soldiers to demonstrate bravery in the battlefield and defend their motherland as Imam Hussein did.

“This is the time to fight and defend your country as Imam Hussein did,” Jawhari said.

He declared the Taliban as being defeated and challenged them to a face-to-face war.

Jawhari went on to say: “From this platform I want to make it clear to enemies of Afghanistan and those who lead them (Taliban) to select any desert you want where there are no civilians and prepare for a decisive battle, he said, adding that any of the warring side became victorious from the battle take control of Afghanistan.”

Meanwhile, a number of civil society activists have launched a blood donation campaign in Kabul to help the wounded servicemen of Afghan security forces. Activists have called on Afghans to donate blood and honor the supreme sacrifice of Imam Hussein. (Tolonews)

(14) Taliban ...

fighters in the past. He was killed amid deteriorating security situation in northern Faryab province and reports regarding his capture emerged amidst the fall of Ghormach district to Taliban control. (KP)

(15) Three Members...

don’t come to Europe,” said Masoud, a relative of the victims.

This Afghan family is just one of hundreds who have lost their lives in trying to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean in small rubber dinghies operated by human traffickers. (Tolonews)

(16) Clash Erupts ...

rived in Jawzjan province on Tuesday, a month after concluding a major operation against the Taliban militants in northern parts of the country.

Jawzjan is among the relatively volatile provinces in northern Afghanistan where anti-government armed (Agencies)

(17) Taliban Shadow...

Amanullah Khan City blasted when a police vehicle was passing through the area.

Police vehicle was also damaged in the explosion, the statement adds.

Taliban have not commented on the reports. (KP)

(18) Supply ...

appreciate the fast service so they can complete maintenance in a timely manner.

“He’s done some miracle work here,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Mark Klein, 440th AEAS metal fabrication section. “He doesn’t have to fly up to Bagram to get our parts, but he does it because it cuts about 10 days off of the shipping process. So, that’s been great, and we can get our work done without waiting around.”

Gonzalez and eight personnel from Bagram’s Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, or ELRS, came to TAAC-Air to conduct a four-day inventory of the war readiness maintenance spare parts kits Gonzalez has in his inventory.

“Those kits are about \$5.5 million and inventory hadn’t been done in a while,” Gonzalez said. “We found \$1.7 million worth of parts that were technically lost or missing,

and we put them back in the Air Force inventory. I’m happy to say it checked out 100 percent.”

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Angel Gonzalez, C-130 maintenance supply liaison at Train, Advise, Assist Command - Air makes his way to an Afghan air force Mi-17 helicopter at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, Oct. 5, 2015. Gonzalez flies from Kabul to Bagram multiple times a week to cut roughly 10 days off the shipping process for C-130 parts needed to maintain and sustain the Afghan air force’s C-130 Hercules aircraft flying in support of Afghan army operations across the country. U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. (KP)

(19) 47 Militants ...

operation will continue before the area is cleared of enemies.”

Following the airstrikes, Afghan army commandos were dispatched to the area on early Saturday morning to clear the Taliban-held villages from militants, he said.

Helmand, notorious for poppy growing, is also a known Taliban stronghold.

The Taliban militant group has yet to make comments. (Xinhua)

(20) 21 ISIS...

ing the recent months. In a separate operation, at least loyalists of the terror group were killed in Achin district earlier this week with local officials saying a hideout of the terror group was targeted by the artillery fire.

In the meantime, the Afghan Intelligence - National Directorate of Security said earlier this week a vehicle transporting weapons and ammunition to ISIS loyalist was seized by NDS operatives in Nangarhar province. (KP)

(21) New Russian...

Putin’s sweeping military modernization program, the air force received hundreds of new and modernized aircraft, all equipped with state-of-the-art electronics on a par with U.S. and NATO jets.

“All aircraft here at the base are equipped with targeting systems that allow hitting targets with pinpoint precision,” said Defense Ministry spokesman Maj.-Gen. Igor Konashenkov. (AP)

(22) Russia Says...

department declined to comment, pointing to what Kerry had said about Syria in Vienna on Friday when he struck an upbeat note about the possibility of cooperating with Russia to find a political solution even as he acknowledged that the basic disagreement on Assad’s future remained. (Reuters)

(23) UN Says ...

El Hillo said the U.N. has sent a request to all parties involved, including the Syrian government, to facilitate immediate access to the areas to replace the biscuits and allow medical personnel to examine and treat potential patients. (AP)

(24) Migrants ...

existing agreements, officials from the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) in collaboration with the SBAA (Sovereign Base Area Authority) continue to process the migrants and deal with all asylum claims through their system,” it added.

A total of 28 children, 19 women and 67 men “Syrian, Palestinians and Lebanese” came ashore in two fishing boats. (AFP)

(25) Putin may ...

ber states. The forum, founded in 2001, unites leading natural gas exporting countries and coordinates cooperation between its member states. Russia is among the forum’s permanent members, alongside such countries as Algeria, Iran, Qatar, Libya, Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates. The Netherlands, Norway, Kazakhstan, Iraq, Oman and Peru hold observer status. (PressTV)

(26) Pakistani...

have sparked Shiite anger at the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for failing to protect Shiite citizens. On Friday in Jacobabad after the bombing, angry Shiites ransacked local government offices. (AP)

(27) U.S. Patrols ...

of navigation along vital trade routes, they added. “This cannot be a one-off,” said Ian Storey, a South China Sea expert at Singapore’s Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

“The U.S. navy will have to conduct these kinds of patrols on a regular basis to reinforce their message.”

The Obama administration has said it would test China’s territorial claims to the area after months of pressure from Congress and the U.S. military. It has not given a timeframe. (Reuters)