

(1) 120,000 Afghans...

of key problems facing the country including the economic situation, inflation, unemployment and security. During their respective election campaigns last year, President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah both pledged to address these issues.

Ghani said: "Our goal is to alleviate poverty, create jobs for all - particularly for the youth and women and housing."

Abdullah meanwhile said: "We need a government in which there is no poverty, unemployment, dishonesty, begging, disease and a government that can nourish the hopes of the people of Afghanistan."

Amid the steady flow of Afghan refugees to Europe, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSMD) has said that inclusive measures had been taken to overcome the issue of unemployment and poverty.

"We are trying to engage with foreign countries to create jobs for our youth in order to prevent them from having to endanger their lives [by fleeing with the help] of human smugglers," Ali Eftekhari, a MoLSMD spokesman said.

Only 60 percent out of an estimated seven million Afghans eligible to work have jobs, 15 percent are employed in short term jobs while another 25 percent are unemployed, said Farhad. (Tolonews)

(2) Senate Wants ...

seriously criticize the remarks by Nawaz Sharif," said Najiba Husaini, the senate secretariat.

Other senators meanwhile said in saying what he did, Sharif wants to gain more privileges from the United States.

"This policy of Pakistan is not in Afghanistan's favor and such policies should be ended," said Lailuma Ahmadi, another senator.

"The Afghan government should review its policy towards Pakistan," she added.

In addition, the chairman of the Senate Fazl Hadi Muslimyar blamed Pakistan for supporting and financing the Taliban militants, saying that Sharif is deceiving the US and the rest of the world.

"Pakistan still equips and finances the Taliban and their [the Taliban's] safe haven are there," Muslimyar said.

"The statement by Nawaz Sharif in the U.S is kind of blowing dust into the world's eyes," he added.

The senators said they expected Obama to pressurize Pakistan to take serious steps over assisting Afghan with the peace talks process but that this did not happen. (Tolonews)

(3) Satellite-Based ...

of Archaeology and on documenting the extent of looting of archaeological sites across Afghanistan as an important tool for heritage preservation. As such our work complements and adds to the efforts of other projects dealing with other aspects of regional heritage documentation."

The U.S. Embassy is currently funding projects worth more than \$6.5 million to support Afghanistan in the protection of its unique and globally important cultural heritage. (Agencies)

(4) US, KSA to ...

statement said after Kerry's meetings in Saudi Arabia. It did not spell out what kind of support would be offered.

Rebels have appealed for more military support from foreign backers, including Saudi Arabia, to confront major Syrian army offensives. Those offensives are backed by Lebanese Hezbollah and Iranian fighters and Russian air strikes.

The United States and Saudi Arabia, together with other states opposed to Assad, already provides some military support to Syrian rebels. That includes training by the Central Intelligence Agency and anti-tank missiles.

Kerry said in Vienna on Friday he expected new talks on Syria to begin as soon as next week. So far, all diplomatic efforts to end the conflict have foundered over the demand by the United States and its allies that Assad leave power, which he refuses to consider. (Reuters)

(5) 2 Afghan ...

Network in Herat which has supported 30,000 women with educational, confidence building and human rights programs.

Durrani serves as a leader, role model, and advocate for the women of Kandahar, Afghanistan. She was first elected as a Kandahar Provincial Council Member at the very young age of 21.

Since 2011, the N-Peace Awards

have recognized the tireless efforts of women peace activists in Asia as well as male partners who progress gender equality and the inclusion of women in peace processes in their own countries.

This celebration is the conclusion of an annual regional campaign that received over 100 nominations from six participating countries - Indonesia, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Nepal, Myanmar and Pakistan. The finalists were selected by almost 40,000 members of the public in an online poll. An expert selection panel then determined the winners.

"The award winners and their organizations show us how a global agenda can be implemented at the community level. Civil society engagement is the heart and soul of these efforts, as are the active participation and voices of women as change agents and peace builders," says Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator. (Wadsam)

(6) Afghanistan will...

spokesman for the U.S Department of State, said in a briefing that Sharif's "visit overall highlighted our strong and growing relationship with Pakistan and provided an opportunity to strengthen our cooperation on a range of issues."

He also said. "You've [Pakistan] got Afghanistan and the Taliban's continued presence there on one side. You do have tensions with India, and those need to be addressed."

However, while Sharif insisted that Pakistan has no interest in backing the Taliban's campaign of violence, he also said that Pakistan "cannot bring them to the table and be asked to kill them at the same time".

Sharif also made clear that Pakistan's main priority was seeking international support to compel India to negotiate over the future of the disputed province of Kashmir. (Tolonews)

(7) 27 Insurgents...

an army spokesman in the province Brigadier Mohammad Rasoul Zazai said.

"Acting upon intelligence report the warplanes pounded Taliban hide-out in Baba Ji area today morning killing 12 insurgents on the spot," Zazai told Xinhua.

Three more insurgents sustained injuries in the air raid, the official added.

Baba Ji is a strategically important area just outside Helmand's provincial capital Lashkar Gah.

The capture of Baba Ji, according to Afghan military and political observers would pave the way for Taliban insurgents to influence and destabilize Lashkar Gah city.

Taliban militants have been challenging government forces in parts of Helmand province over the past couple of years.

To stabilize security in the troubled Helmand, the government forces launched cleanup operations in Nad Ali, Baba Ji, Kunjak and Gereshk districts over the past week, which are continuing.

Taliban militants, however, in online statement confirmed the clash, insisting that the militants have inflicted casualties on government forces in Baba Ji and Nad Ali districts.

Moreover, Helmand police in a statement sent to media outlets on Sunday said 15 Taliban militants were killed over the past four days.

The operations, which covered Baba Ji, Malgir, Loimanda, Shawal, Sistani and Nahr-e-Saraj areas would last until returning lasting peace in the said vicinities, the statement asserted.

Notorious for growing poppy and insurgency, Helmand has been regarded as Taliban hotbed in southern Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

(8) 760 Taliban...

operation. The operation is being led by 215 Maiwand Corps Musa Qala, Kajaki, Sangin, Naad Ali, Girishk and other areas of Helmand province.

Afghan National Army (ANA) Air Force, commandos, police and personnel from the National Directorate of Security (NDS) are part of the operation.

The statement further states that 850 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have been defused during the operation so far.

"Including those killed are 11 Pakistanis and Mullah Saleem, Mullah Rahmatullah, Mullah Zaki and Fair-oz some prominent commanders of the group," the statement adds.

"From Mullah Agha Wali's group, Farhad, Mullah Burhan, Mullah Zahir, Mawlawi Haqyar, Mullah Ihsanullah, Mullah Janan, Qari Gulalai and Mullah Ata Mohammad comprised of those killed."

Taliban got together for a major attack in Helmand province which prompted a large-scale military re-

sponse by Afghan forces about two months before. (KP)

(9) Assad's Priority ...

Sergei Lavrov, whose country has launched air strikes against Assad's opponents in Syria, called for the elections in an interview broadcast on Saturday.

Assad visited Moscow last week on his first known trip outside Syria since the start the conflict that is estimated to have killed 250,000 people. The Syrian state news agency SANA made no mention of elections in its account of Assad's meeting on Sunday with a visiting Russian delegation. SANA said Assad told the visitors that "the elimination of terrorist groups" would lead to the political solution sought by both Syria and Russia.

Asked after the meeting whether Assad was ready for early elections, Russian parliamentary deputy Sergey Gavrilov told Reuters his impression was that "the first aim (of Assad is) the struggle with and victory over ... terrorism, and after that the elections - parliamentary and president elections". (Reuters)

(10) China Makes ...

"The creative breakthrough in the 3D blood vessel bio-printing means we have mastered the stem cell-based 3D bio-printing technology," said Yang Keng, chairman of Sichuan Languang Development Co., Ltd. Revotek is a subsidiary of Sichuan Languang.

Blood vessels that transport nutrients to organs are indispensable elements when creating any organs, according to James Kang, an expert who led the program.

Kang's team has created a novel type of bio-ink - "Biosynsphere", whose primary goal is the personalized stem cell bio-printing to pave the way for organ regeneration.

"We have successfully realized the blood vessel regeneration by relying on the 3D bio-printer, the biosynsphere technology and the data model based on cloud computing," he said.

The company said it is willing to absorb more talent and seek international cooperation for the application of the achievements. (Xinhua)

(11) ANSF Foil...

suicide bombing and offensive attacks during this day".

During the commemoration ceremony coveys of mourners marched in Kabul streets.

Afghan officials claim they have arrested a number of terrorists who planned to perform terror attacks during the day.

In 2011, a suicide bomb struck a shrine packed with worshippers in Kabul which killed at least 54 people and injured more than 160 others. (ATN)

(12) Local Tribes...

a religious scholar, MaulaviSanaullahRahmanzai, said "Imams would not officiate at religious ceremonies held by offenders, who would find themselves with no one to officiate at weddings, funerals and other ceremonies."

Another tribal elder, Haji Gulajan, said the step was taken after the community had been left with little choice, but to clamp down on the inflated costs. He said "We had to do it, because young girls were left at home and no one courted them.

The high bride-prices meant there were no engagement ceremonies and no weddings." The bride-price, plus the cost of engagement and marriage ceremonies which the groom's family is expected to cover, can total between 10,000 and 20,000 US dollars a lot of money in a low-income society.

However, the story in capital Kabul is different where a single rental of a wedding hall costs on average 10,000 to 20,000 US Dollars. This does not include the expensive dowries expected of the groom's family, or the costs of the traditional henna party or the engagement party. It's not just the hiring of the wedding halls which costs Afghan couples a fortune, the bride's dress is pricey too. Most brides begin the big day wearing a green dress. This can cost from 100 to 700 dollars. For the ceremony, they'll often rent a white dress for anything up to 2,000. And that's to rent. (Wadsam)

(13) Iraq, Afghanistan...

in the Marines on the same day he received his green card.

The guided-missile destroyer bearing his name is one of a handful of U.S. Navy warships to be named for Mexican-Americans, and it's believed by naval historians to be the first to be named for someone actually born in Mexico, according to the Scot Christenson of the U.S. Naval Institute.

Peralta became one of the most celebrated Marines from the Iraq war for heroism shown in close-quarters combat against insurgents in Fallujah. The sergeant was nominated for the Medal of Honor - the nation's highest military honor - after Marines said he threw himself on a grenade after being shot and wounded on Nov. 14, 2004.

But three defense secretaries rejected his nomination after questions about the incident arose, including the possibility of friendly fire, Marines embellishing their account or whether Peralta was conscious at the time. Fellow Marines insisted they saw the mortally wounded Peralta reach for the grenade to protect his comrades.

Peralta's family is certain he died a hero. Ricardo Rafael has spoken to Marines who told him exactly what they witnessed.

"They're still alive today because of my brother," he said. "I could care less about what any politician has to say."

Becoming the namesake for a 510-foot destroyer has eased any lingering family bitterness. His mother, Rosa Peralta, will crash a bottle of Champagne on the ship's bow at the christening. She also plans to present his Navy Cross to the ship's skipper to be kept on board.

Cmdr. Brian Ribota said the ship's crew of 300 will strive to honor the legacy of a Marine who loved his country so much that he had only three things on his bedroom wall: The U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and his Marine boot camp certificate.

"He's the true American story of immigrating to the United States and loving this place so much that he sacrificed his life for all," Ribota said. The Peralta is the first Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to be built at Bath Iron Works under a restart of a program the Navy once sought to end. The destroyers use powerful computer and phased-array radar equipment, called the Aegis Combat System, to simultaneously wage war with aircraft, missiles, submarines and surface warships.

The family feels the destroyer is a fitting tribute. Peralta's sister, Icela Peralta Donald, who will serve as the ship's matron of honor while her sister is its maid of honor, said she's made her peace with all that has transpired.

Donald thinks her brother is at peace, too.

After he died, the family received his personal items including a camera that contained the image of Peralta being baptized, battlefield-style, in a hole dug in the desert and surrounded by sandbags. (AP)

(14) Poor Coordination...

Between the two Ministry of commerce and industry and chamber of commerce has caused that huge amount of fresh fruits to be left in the country and couldn't be exported abroad, he has also blamed both departments for not having the precise numbers of exports and imports of products in the country."

This comes after 300 lorries from Afghanistan has been stopped by the Pakistan Government and yet to have permission transit letters. (ATN)

(15) Afghan Special...

the Pakistan border where the Taliban have long been active. "They're being used like a conventional unit," he added at a meeting this summer convened for the benefit of a visiting U.S. special forces commander. The Afghan officer declined to be named, because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

"If they continue to use commandos like a conventional force, we won't get any new recruits and we will lose everything that we have." As training has been handed from U.S. to Afghan instructors, there have been complaints from some officers that the quality of recruits has fallen.

"When we get them, we have to teach them everything from the beginning," the Afghan commander said.

As international forces step back from active combat, the dynamic between U.S. and Afghan special forces units has shifted, with American soldiers leaving most of the fighting to local colleagues.

"We're not going out as much as we used to, and that's a good thing," said one U.S. special forces adviser.

The Americans' main role, according to command sergeant major James Napolet, NATO Special Operations Command Component-Afghanistan, is to support Afghans where their resources are weakest, including intelligence and medical evacuation.

GROWING CAPABILITY

NATO's 13,000-strong Resolute Support force is there to "advise and assist" after the main combat mission, numbering 130,000 soldiers at its peak, ended last year. A few thousand more U.S. troops engage in hunting senior Taliban and al Qaeda figures.

In the heat of battle, lines between Afghan and foreign special forces can become blurred.

On Oct. 1, U.S. advisers working alongside Afghan special forces came under attack from Taliban fighters in Kunduz and returned fire, which a NATO spokesman said was within their remit to "protect themselves if necessary".

The U.S. military has taken responsibility for the bombing of a hospital in Kunduz that killed 22 staff and patients, which it said came in response to an Afghan request for air support.

But U.S. and Afghan special forces also point to notable successes.

Earlier this month, General John Campbell, commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, hailed one of the biggest ground assaults his forces had conducted, targeting al Qaeda cells in Kandahar province in the south.

While a statement did not specify the involvement of special forces, the operation was the kind carried out by elite commandos.

"I couldn't be prouder of our brave U.S. servicemen and women and their Afghan counterparts," Campbell said. "It's because of their extraordinary efforts that terrorists here haven't been able to attack our homeland in over 14 years." (Reuters)

(16) Commander ...

currently serving on Fort Bragg: Col. Erik Gilbert, commander of the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, and Col. Donald Fallin, an aviation officer with the 18th Airborne Corps.

Gilbert, Fallin and their families reunited with Ramin and his current advisor, Lt. Col. Matthew Weinshel, during the Fort Bragg visit. Gilbert said the families were elated to meet the man they had heard so much about.

He called the visit a family reunion of sorts and said the term "mentor" doesn't fully encapsulate the relationship the men share.

"It's a two-way relationship," Gilbert said. "We're there to support, but at the end of the day, he protects us."

Each mentor, from Gilbert to Fallin to Weinshel, lived alongside the Special Mission Wing soldiers on an Afghan compound. They worked in an Afghan headquarters.

During their year-long stints, Gilbert said Ramin was the man who protected them from harm.

"We owe him our lives," he said. "That bond is special."

Weinshel agreed. "We've spent hours upon hours with each other down range in good times and bad times," he said. "He forever has brothers here in the U.S."

Ramin's U.S. trip began in New York, with a visit to the National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

He then visited U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. Once he leaves Fort Bragg, the general will travel to Washington to meet with more U.S. military leaders, officials said.

At the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade headquarters on Friday, Ramin observed a mock mission brief before sitting in on a simulated mission that involved carrying a M777 Howitzer to the top of a mountain near Kabul.

A day earlier, he made a similar visit to U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command, also based at Fort Bragg.

Ramin said the visit was educational, in that it showed him firsthand how U.S. Army aviation units operate at home.

Unsurprisingly for a unit that has been mentored by U.S. forces for years, Ramin said the two forces share many similarities.

But Gilbert said the comparisons weren't perfect, because no aviation unit in the world faces as difficult a task as the Special Mission Wing.

While U.S. units have time to retrain and refit after serving in combat, Afghan aviators have been in a constant fight for more than 15 years, he said.

"It's always, constantly in combat," Gilbert said of the Special Mission Wing. "That challenge is mind blowing."

And the wing is succeeding, Gilbert and Weinshel said, thanks to Ramin's leadership and the repu-

tation he's helped build for the unit.

Many young Afghans want to serve in the still-growing wing, they said.

So much so, that when the unit recently went 70 days without being paid because of a government transition, it didn't lose a single soldier.

"That would be a challenge, even in our organizations," Weinshel said.

Gilbert said it shows the loyalty Ramin inspires.

"There is no recruiting," he said. "There is just word of mouth and reputation. People want to be a part of it, they want to be part of something bigger than themselves, to do what's right for Afghanistan."

During the mission brief, Ramin discussed tactics and the evolution of the Special Mission Wing with his current and former mentors. He said the reputation of the unit was such that, in most cases, insurgents run from the sound of the Special Mission Wing helicopters.

The men commiserated on some of the same challenges facing each of them as commanders. Ramin said he struggles to get involvement from ground commanders when planning operations.

Weinshel said that's because many ground forces in Afghanistan lack an understanding of aviation and don't understand that pilots are looking out not only for their own self interest, but the safety of the forces they move across the battlefield.

Gilbert said that was a universal issue. "That's always the challenge with every unit," he said. Gilbert praised the Special Mission Wing and said was building the experience critical to any elite aviation organization.

"Every mission is unique. It's hard to come up with a template that would work everywhere," he said. "But that institutional memory is the thing that keeps great organizations alive."

Weinshel said leaders are anticipating a long relationship with the Special Mission Wing, that will live long past the time U.S. troops are serving in Afghanistan.

It's a relationship Ramin welcomes. Afghanistan is on the front lines of the efforts to counter terrorism and narcotics, he said. (Agencies)

(17) Erdogan...

and AKP flags, numbers were far lower than at previous rallies.

"We have no alternative (to the AKP), there can be no stability without them," beautician MakbuleCengiz said.(AFP)

(18) EU Mini...

involved, to attend the meeting in Brussels.

Just two weeks after a full EU summit, the meeting was sought by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, diplomats said. Many see it as an attempt by Juncker and Merkel to raise pressure on central and south-east European states to coordinate among themselves in managing the migration flow in a more humane way and end a series of unilateral actions.(Reuters)

(19) Yemen Govt...

poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula, and the United Nations says the humanitarian situation, exacerbated by the Arab coalition's blockade of Yemeni ports, grows worse every day.

Houthi gunmen prevented convoys of medical supplies from entering an enclave of Taiz, the aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres said. Residents there reported the rebels were also blocking the entry of food, water and fuel to the area, it said.

"After weeks of negotiations, we have made no progress in convincing officials of the need to provide impartial medical assistance," MSF's emergency manager for Yemen, KarlineKleijer, said in a statement. (Reuters)

(20) S. African ...

the students, Zuma announced that there would be a zero percent fee increase next year.

Despite this, many students refused to return to class until their demand for free education is met.(Xinhua)

(21) UK Govt...

November. Morgan said Osborne was "in listening mode" but added: "The policy is not going to change... not the main policy".

John McDonnell, finance spokesman for the main opposition Labour party who is close to its leftist leader Jeremy Corbyn, told the BBC it would "not make political capital" out of any change. (AFP)