

(1) Pakistan Should..

Taliban group leaders to use its soil for executing attacks in Afghanistan which causes most of the casualties to the ordinary Afghan civilians.

However, Pakistan has repeatedly rejected the allegations although Pakistan's foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz admitted earlier this year that the country has influence on the group and could use certain levers to force the group to join peace talks.

Aziz confirmed earlier this week that the leaders of the Taliban group have visited Pakistan to discuss peace talks with the Afghan government.

Earlier, reports emerged suggesting that the Taliban leaders based in Pakistan have reportedly been asked to join peace talks or leave the country along with the family members. "The squeeze is continuing on them [the Taliban] and some have already left, or [are] leaving the country," a senior Pakistani official told VOA in background interview.

According to the report, the latest crackdown by Islamabad has forced the Taliban leaders based in Islamabad to take up the issue with Pakistani officials. (KP)

(2) Zakhilwal Slams...

networks such as the AlQaida affiliated Lashkar e Jhangvi that claimed responsibility for last night's senseless massacre," Zakhilwal said.

According to the local media reports, the Pakistani Prime Nawaz Sharif was informed that the assailants had come from Afghanistan and were in contact with their handlers in the neighbouring country.

The reports further added that the prime minister said the issue would be taken up with Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group claimed responsibility for the attack on a police academy in Quetta city left at least 61 dead. The group released a statement following the attack and released the photographs of the three assailants who carried out the attack late on Monday.

The Arabic statement was released by Amaq news agency which normally covers the stories of the terrorist group in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world where they operate.

The Pakistani officials earlier said the attack was likely carried out by Al-Alimi faction of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi militant group which is affiliated with the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan. (KP)

(3) Militants Kill...

"The security forces and allied local uprising fighters repelled a militants' attack on outskirts of provincial capital of Firoz Koah late Tuesday. The clashes left several attackers killed and injured. The militants kidnapped civilians after the battle and killed them overnight in a bid to avenge their defeat," Governor Mohammad Nasir Khazah told Xinhua.

Among the killed militants was a local insurgents' commander named Mullah Farooq, he said. "The killed villagers were innocent shepherders and farmers who were busy working in their farmlands before being captured. The government forces will bring to justice the perpetrators behind this inhuman act," the governor said, adding the incident took place in Ghalmine and Murghab localities. No group has claimed responsibility yet for the attack in the province, 360 km west of the Afghan capital of Kabul.

However, local officials have blamed the militants affiliated with the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group for the killing. Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani condemned the attack and expressed his condolences to the families of the victims, according to a statement issued by the country's Presidential Palace.

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 the 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)

(4) Congressmen...

Afghanistan in the civil and military fields.

Threats posed by terrorism and regional insecurity also came up for discussion, it said, adding that international and regional cooperation and support was stressed against terrorism. At the end, the delegation emphasized further support for Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(5) 'Afghan Women...

Women (UN Women), Elzira Sagynbaeva --- recognized the essential role women play in fostering a peaceful and tolerant society, including preventing members of their families or communities from becoming violent extremists.

"In Afghanistan, ideologies imposing a discriminatory belief systems continue to deprive women and girls of basic human rights such as freedom of movement and access to education and health," said Ms. Kardel.

She expressed serious concerns over executions of women and corporal punishments imposed by anti-government elements (militants). She added messages of intolerance --- political, religious or social --- fostered discrimination, exclusion and violence, and were incompatible with universal human rights norms protected by the laws of Afghanistan.

Beyond the confined perception of women as victims of extremist ideologies, women play a crucial role in combatting violent extremism.

Appreciating the resilience and efforts of women leaders striving for peace and equality in Afghanistan, Ms. Sagynbaeva highlighted the need to recognize women's transformative leadership, and create spaces for women's active participation at all levels of decision making.

"Women are the biggest untapped resource in the search for sustainable peace in Afghanistan," she said. "Women's empowerment and gender equality are essential drivers of development, reconciliation and stand as a bulwark against the radicalization of youth."

At today's gathering, civil society representatives highlighted local community initiatives whereby women use their influence in their communities, schools, workplaces and homes to challenge extreme ideologies that radicalize, recruit or incite violence.

For example, several women recounted instances of exerting pressure on male family members not to join the ranks of insurgency. Discussions also highlighted instances where women adhere to or encourage others on the path of radicalization - sometimes motivated by poverty or exclusion.

"I encourage the Afghan government to develop and implement human rights-based gender-sensitive policy responses that address the underlying drivers of violent extremism," said Ms. Kardel.

"We need to recognize, build and expand on women's ongoing experiences in prevention and mitigation," added Sagynbaeva. Policy actions need to be supported by ensuring equal representation of women in the field of conflict prevention, through coherent investments in policy and programming for women and girls, and by enabling an environment for women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Civil society participants urged the United Nations, government officials and donors for greater support in addressing the root causes of extremism such as corruption and poverty.

Acknowledging women's persuasive power, participants also requested a greater emphasis on strengthening women's religious literacy and knowledge to equip them to challenge radical ideologies with powerful narratives on tolerance, non-violence and the peaceful values of religion.

Launched in 2010, open Days events aim to support dialogue between UN senior leadership and women's organizations across the world on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2000 (1325) and its subsequent seven UN Resolutions.

These instruments engender women's leadership and meaningful participation in political and security transitions, including peace-building. In

addition to the national open Day event in Kabul, UNAMA is conducting similar consultations on violent extremism across the country, including in Herat, Bamyán, Kandahar, Badakhshan, Nangarhar and Paktia provinces.

Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2015 (2242) and the recently-adopted Secretary-General's Plan of Action on Preventing Violent Extremism, Ms Kardel and Ms Sagynbaeva reiterated the commitment of the United Nations to support efforts by Afghan institutions and civil society to empower women to prevent and respond to violent extremism. (Pajhwok)

(6) Qatar Ready...

left for Qatar to condole with Qatari leaders the demise of the former Emir Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, who died on Sunday aged 84.

President Ghani was accompanied by Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, Afghanistan Ulema Council head Maulvi Qayamuddin Kashaf, Urban Development Minister Syed Sadat Mansoor Naderi and other high ranking officials.

The president met deputy emir of the state of Qatar, Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Qatari prime minister, Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani, and the country's foreign minister, Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani.

The statement said President Ghani extended his condolences to the family of the former ruler and the leaders and people of Qatar on behalf of the people and the government of Afghanistan.

"The Qatari people are mourning the demise of their former leader and Afghanistan government and people also share their grief." The Qatari foreign minister said they owed a debt of gratitude to President Ghani for visiting Doha to sympathize the former emir's demise. Abdulrahman said his country was ready to provide Afghanistan with every kind of support it needed in all fields especially establishing enduring peace in the war-torn country.

The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani has decided to inaugurate Qatar's Embassy in Kabul in near future, Abdulrahman added. Meanwhile, Ghani called Qatar and Afghanistan as friendly nations as he welcomed the emir's decision of establishing an embassy in Afghanistan. The Afghan leader said his country was ready to provide any kind of assistance in improving ties between the two states and in establishing the embassy. (Pajhwok)

(7) Vulnerable Children.. on roads, the sick, the ones exposed to smuggling threats, child soldiers, the addicts, and victims of sexual assaults and forced marriage. Provincial officials claim taking steps to HELP children at risk, but some kids complain of receiving no assistance from the authorities. Thirty-three percent of these children are said to be girls.

Experts believe governmental measures for the rehabilitation of these children are far from satisfactory and more work needs to be done in this regard. Abdul Rab Rahman Far, a senior official at the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs Martyrs and Disabled (MLSAMD), told Pajhwok Afghan News 2,067 children faced with danger had been identified. The Children Safety Branch at the ministry identified them in the first six months of the current solar year in Charikar and Salang, Bagram, Syedkhel and Siah Gird districts.

Among the registered children, 640 are selling small items on streets, 362 begging, 227 involved in hard labour, 228 working in violation of the law 249 out of school. Another 78 have sustained injuries in bombs and 119 are addicted to drugs. Sixty-eight were children were forced into underage marriage, 13 faced sexual assaults and 40 others abused. In addition, 11 children faced physical torture, 12 were kidnapped, 16 are disabled, three continue to be victims of sexual abuse and one was smuggled.

Far said children facing danger could not be identified in Kohi-Safi, Shikh Ali, Surkh Parsa, Shinwar and Jabalus Saraj districts due to lack of resources and other impediments. He hoped the ministry's

Children Safety Branches would be established in the remaining districts and children at risk identified. Far acknowledged children who faced physical or mental torture required more HELP and assistance. Complains Faridoon, 15, is a resident of Charangari locality. Pale and frail, he has become a drug addict because he lived with friends with a similar problem. He left school in 4th class, buying heroin with money that he earns from selling vegetables. Some people brand him as addict, a taunt that pains him beyond description.

Faridoon said he was admitted to a rehabilitation centre two times but was unable to come out of addiction. Some children at risk asked the government for help, grumbling they had been given no assistance. Mohammad Zarif, 8, belongs to Charikar. Poor economic condition has pushed him into seeking alms. "My father tells me to work. I'm selling vegetable and fruits," he remarked.

He complained most people insulted him and that he could hardly earn 40 to 50 afghanis a day. He asked the government to help him get out of the current situation. Samiullah, 11, is a resident of the Musom Minara area of Jabalus Saraj district, selling eggs in the local bazaar. His mother died two years back in a landmine blast, forcing him to quit school in the 2nd class and work for his survival.

Saleema, 9, who begs in Charikar bazaar, says her father died five years ago. Her mother is also begging in the main bazaar of the provincial capital to keep her body and soul together. Government achievements Quadratullah Reyazat, head of the MLSAMD Children Safety Department, said the ministry was making all-out efforts to identify vulnerable kids. A committee has been constituted, including members of MLSAMD, police, Education Ministry, judiciary, civil society and Red Crescent Society, to reach out to children at risk.

He said each of the organisations mentioned played its part in addressing the problems of children. For example, he said, if a child was unable to attend school, the Education Ministry would be responsible for his/her admission. (Pajhwok)

(8) AGO Arrests ...

to the anti-corruption judicial center by the Presidential Palace and 15 cases by other departments, from which eight cases are under investigation and some of them have been sent to the AGO for assessment.

"At least 26 individuals have been arrested in connection with 15 cases. Three officials from the ministry of urban development, six officials on charges of misuse of government's assets, six officials from Maidan Wardak police training center on corruption charges, two officials on bribery charges, one individual on charges of money laundering and six others on corruption charges in the National Bank," Hakimi said. (Tolnews)

(9) Finland Concerned ...

terrorism in Afghanistan. "Political solution of course would be the best one, but it is not going to be easy... I sometimes hope that the people especially the leaders would understand and people are getting fed up and tired, because the ordinary people are paying the price," he said.

"The international community, the United Nations, the European Union, all the cooperation throughout the world should tackle this spat," he added. (Tolnews)

(10) Civil Society ...

returned to Afghanistan and most of them have settled in Nangarhar. Thousands of families displaced by clashes have also settled in Jalalabad. Abdul Latif Mal Shinwari told reporters the government must solve the problems of the displaced people. He regretted the refugees and the displaced people were in serious problems. Eng. Noor Afzal Musleh, representative of the Momand tribe, called for creating employment opportunities to the refugees. (Pajhwok)

(11) Zabul Chief ...

"After my appointment, I have been taking on land-grabbers to

reclaim governmental property in Zabul." Khatir said the manager of government cases section at the justice department, who had links with mafia groups, had appointed the boy appearing in the video.

"This video was captured few months ago; the boy has forged the clip and the voice on it is not mine," he maintained.

"The problem was resolved that time and the boy reappointed to his position, but I don't know why the video was released again on social media," he added.

On the other hand, a number of Wolesi Jirga members said the issue should be fully investigated. Shinki Karokhel said the chief justice must be sacked and his case referred to the attorney office. (Pajhwok)

(12) Dostum's ...

criticize the president unless there is a reason behind their frustration.

"The first vice president is afraid that someone will want to remove him from his position, but no one will do that," said Kamal Nasir Osuli, an MP.

"Afghanistan's situation is like the situation of a flock (of sheep), where a wolf is assigned to look after it. God help the flock," said Obaidullah Barezai, another MP.

"He [Dostum] has always stabbed his friends in the back. He does not have political and mental stability," said Iqbal Safi, another MP. (Tolnews)

(13) Argument with ...

"The first vice president traveled to the northern provinces for the safety of the people; therefore, the provincial NDS chief and the police chief, they should obey his [Dostum's] orders because he is the second man (in charge) in the country," she said.

Meanwhile, a number of former military officials said they believe that Dostum's visits to the battlegrounds are not his responsibility. (Tolnews)

(14) Police Commander ...

the commander into joining the rebels.

Uruzgan provincial council head, Abdul Karim Khadimzai, also said Qahir Khan was likely surrendered to Taliban. Khan had once in the past joined the militants, he said.

Khadimzai said a number of Taliban members employed in government ranks caused such incidents.

The governor's spokesman, Dost Mohammad Nayab, said they were unaware whether Qahir Khan had been killed or had joined militants.

"There were rumors this morning that he was killed," he said.

Taliban also said a military base commander had joined them along with his 15 members. (Pajhwok)

(15) Policemen Among...

shifted from the incidents area to the hospital for treatment.

Provincial deputy police chief, Abdur Rauf Massoud, said that two policemen and six civilians were injured in Sharan blasts. He refused to provide more details about the incidents.

No groups have claimed responsibility for the attacks. (Pajhwok)

(16) UNAMA Condemns

all anti-Government elements - are required to uphold. UNAMA urges the unconditional release of any remaining hostages.

UNAMA expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims. (PR)

(17) NDS Arrest...

Taliban insurgency. The state of turmoil in the country has persisted since the 2001 US-led invasion to defeat the Taliban and al-Qaeda terror groups in the wake of the 11/9 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, DC. Extremist group Daesh, outlawed in many countries including Russia, has also increased their presence in the country and in neighboring states. (Monitoring Desk)

(18) Sharbat Gula...

police said she kept identity cards of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Her two sons have also been detained over making fake ID cards. Sharbat Gula is a resident of Tora Bora area of Pachiragam district of eastern Nangarhar province. She a few years ago repatriated to her home country, but recently went to Peshawar and started residing there again. (Pajhwok)

(19) UN Chief...

atrocities that continue to be committed against women and girls, including by UN peacekeepers, and continued political exclusion of women, including in peace negotiations on Syria or Yemen, he said.

He urged the 15-nation UN council to hold all UN peace operations accountable for putting women and girls at the centre of their work, as well as to listen to civil society, and particularly women's groups, in all deliberations on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. (Xinhua)

(20) Iraqi Forces ...

used by the Iraqi forces before IS blitzkrieg in 2014, after heavy clashes with IS militants that left dozens of the extremist militants killed and wounded, the source said. The troops started earlier in the day to defuse dozens of roadside bombs and booby-trapped buildings in the two bases, the source added. Meanwhile, Kurdish Peshmerga advanced to the edges of the town of Telkeif, some 20 km north of Mosul, and clashed with the IS militants inside the town, the source said, adding that the troops seized a nearby propane gas plant after the extremist militants fled the scene. (Xinhua)

(21) NATO Defense ...

plans for the battalions they will lead," Stoltenberg said.

Moreover, NATO defense ministers will take forward plans to strengthen NATO's presence in the Black Sea region, which was approved at the summit, and assess the infrastructure in allied countries to enable rapid movement of NATO forces in Europe. On the topic of "projecting stability" in the neighborhood, or enhancing capacity-building for partners, he said the alliance was stepping up in the fight against the Islamic State by providing NATO AWACS surveillance aircraft to the coalition. (Xinhua)

(22) Int'l Coalition...

"There will be overlap (in the Mosul and Raqqa assaults) and that's part of our plan and we are prepared for that," he added. (Xinhua)

(23) Assad's Allies...

Daesh (Islamic State) to advance and attempt to draw near to the defences of the allies forces," he said.

The alliance fighting in support of Assad including the Lebanese group Hezbollah, Iraqi militias, and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. (Reuters)

(24) European Parliament

member states of the European union cannot be held to those standards, we don't really have sufficient means to enforce our standards."

In their resolution, MEPs have proposed for the incorporation of existing DRF tools into a single mechanism to ensure they are used in full, and to bridge the perceived gap in effective mechanisms between EU candidates and EU members. (Xinhua)

(25) Turkey Vows ...

with both Kurdish and pro-Assad forces, whose frontlines lie close by. The field commander of the forces allied to the Syrian leader - which include the Lebanese group Hezbollah, Iraqi militias and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards - warned Turkey any advance towards their positions north and east of Aleppo would be met "decisively and with force". (Reuters)

(26) Migrants Quit...

According to the French government, about 6,500 migrants live in rickety tents in Calais at the French end of the Channel Tunnel, while they attempt to board lorries and trains heading to Britain to seek a better life. As hopes to reach the United Kingdom are dashed, they accepted being relocated in France after spending 18 months in the "jungle", widely considered as the symbol of Europe's failure to handle the migrant crisis.

Work to dismantle the camp has started under the surveillance of about 200 riot police officers. (Xinhua)

(27) China a Key...

Soon see its revenue grew to 12.5 billion U.S. dollars, more than doubling that of 2015.

The rise in artificial intelligence could impact 50 million to 75 million low-skilled jobs, but it will also offer more creative jobs and investment opportunities, Chen said. (Xinhua)