

**(1) US, India Agree ...**

the expectations of the Trump administration. In his meeting with Tillerson, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined the commonality in the objectives of India and the US to eradicate terrorism, terrorist infrastructure, safe havens and support. They also discussed stepping up effective cooperation to combat terrorism in all its forms and promoting regional stability and security, Modi's office said. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Individuals '...**

These individuals have carried out a coup," she said. Five IECC officials were sacked by the head of the commission earlier this week reportedly after ignoring the laws and standing in the way of reforms being brought in the electoral body.

"I rejected their decision, but they got the financial authorities from me and also they got the authorities of the head of secretariat and head of administrative and financial affairs to prevent us from giving back the privileges of the (sacked) officials," Haqmal said.

Yusuf Rasheed, head of Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan, said the rift in the IECC reveals a weak management in the electoral organizations.

"How can they overcome the cases and complaints of elections when the chairman and his deputy cannot solve the issue of five employees, and when they back them? This shows that they have a weak leadership," he said.

According to the IECC's official letter to the Attorney General's Office and to the Presidential Palace, the firing of five officials of the commission has been termed as being in violation of the law.

Aryaee has not commented on the remarks despite many attempts to him. (Tolonews)

**(3) EU Calling ...**

trying to support peace in Afghanistan and this will be my mandate to try to bring a consensus around the countries to put the international community on a momentum that is a constructive positive one with the overarching objective," he said. The European envoy suggested that Afghanistan should continue nation-building and for that it needs security.

"One thing that I have taken out of this is that you need to build a fertile ground for people to believe in the fact that peace is going to come. Hope is a very important issue," he said.

At the same event, the High Peace Council deputy chairperson Habiba Sarabi said they continue their efforts to resume peace talks with anti-government armed militants.

"No doubt, there are hopes for the peace talks... and the people of Afghanistan should not be hopeless. We will not be tired from our efforts," she said.

"Peace with Taliban is not providing results because they (Taliban) are not trusting the negotiations," said Jawed Faisal, the spokesman for Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. (Tolonews)

**(4) US Envoy Says ...**

parliamentary elections in 2018 and presidential elections in 2019," Llorens said in the statement.

This week, Tillerson traveled for the first time to South Asia to reaffirm and hold in-depth discussions on the US South Asia strategy with senior officials.

"In his excellent October 23 meeting with President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah at Bagram Airfield, the Secretary made clear that the United States is firmly committed to working with the government and people of Afghanistan to create conditions for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan free from terrorists, insurgents and the extremists who directly threaten the security of Afghanistan, the United States, and our partners entire world," he said.

He said "the United States and our partners are committed to helping Afghanistan root out extremism and deny safe havens to terrorists. The Secretary made clear that there are too many terrorist groups that find sanctuary and a safe place in Pakistan from which to conduct their nefarious operations and attacks against other countries.

The US envoy said the Secretary also pointed out that the terrorists operating out of Pakistan were growing in strength and capability and represented a direct threat to Afghanistan, all of the nations in the region, and

Pakistan itself.

On the peace process with the Taliban, he said "the Secretary also pointed out that our ultimate aim must be to support peace between the National Unity government and those Taliban willing to reconcile."

He said the United States and its partners will stand by the Afghan people in the fight against our enemies until the job gets done.

"We will also continue to build on the incredible progress Afghanistan has achieved in the last 16 years. I am confident that together, we can achieve a peaceful and sustainable future for Afghanistan and its people," he added. (Tolonews)

**(5) NATO to Moscow: ...**

security forces.

General John Nicholson, top NATO commander in Afghanistan, had alleged in February that Russia had significantly stepped up support to the Taliban to weaken the US and its allies. (Pajhwok)

**(6) 'Russia Awaits...**

by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, discussed topics relating to Afghanistan, Ukraine and risk reduction.

After the meeting, Stoltenberg told reporters they had a useful discussion on issues of mutual concerns. "Our dialogue is not easy, but that is exactly why our dialogue is so important," he stressed.

He said the Western military alliance and Russia "continue to have fundamental differences," particularly regarding the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Stoltenberg was talking to reporters after NATO ambassadors met with Russian envoy Aleksandr Grushko at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

The NATO chief described the latest session of the NATO-Russia Council as a "frank and open discussion" on Ukraine, Afghanistan, transparency, and risk reduction.

"We also had a frank exchange on the security situation in Afghanistan, including the regional terrorist threat. Our analyses differ considerably."

But he said they all shared the same interest in ensuring security and stability in Afghanistan. Russia provided a briefing on its policy in Afghanistan and allies set out NATO's substantial efforts to strengthen the Afghan security forces, he said.

"It is important that everybody supports the National Unity Government. This is the best way to help fight terrorists in Afghanistan and achieve greater security and stability for the whole region."

Relations between Moscow and the West have been severely strained over issues including Russia's seizure of Ukraine's Crimea region in March 2014 and its support for separatists who control parts of eastern Ukraine.

Petr Pavel, who is chief of NATO's Military Committee, said on the eve of the meeting that Afghanistan will be on the order of business because it is in the interest of both NATO and Russia to fight terrorism.

Asked about reports that Moscow is supplying arms to the Afghan Taliban, which U.S.-led coalition forces are fighting, Pavel said he had not seen any hard evidence of this.

However, he said he has seen reports that Russia is providing fuel to companies that in turn sell such fuel to the militants.

Earlier this week, President Ashraf Ghani accused Russia and Pakistan of supporting the Afghan Taliban who he said responded to his call for peace with suicide attacks.

Ghani, who travelled to southeastern Paktia province to condole with families of the victims of recent terrorist attacks, accused Pakistan and Russia of providing weapons, training and money.

The president had said: "Every Taliban should ask himself and the masses should ask the Taliban the one basic question that to show a single problem which cannot be solved through dialogue."

"The Taliban are accepting guns from those who have blood on their hand of 1.5 million Afghans."

The Russian diplomatic mission in Afghanistan strongly rejected the Afghan president's statement which he made during a trip to southeastern Paktia province.

The Russian Embassy in a statement had said they considered unacceptable such statements by the head of a friendly state of Afghanistan.

The embassy statement recalled Afghan officials had confirmed at different levels that such accusations against Moscow were groundless. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Report Reveals ...**

ommendation," a member of the MEC Jawed Noorani said.

The report has however made a number of suggestions including the following:

- Increase the role of local offices in the appointment of teachers
- Establish an independent office to oversee the quality of services at the Ministry of Education
- Establish an independent office to monitor the teachers appointment process

- Reduce the structure in the ministry of education in order to improve management

- Reduce the curriculum
- Implement the law and send cases of corruption to the Attorney General's Office

"MEC recommends that to be a presidential decree to stop members of parliament and other significant people influencing directly in the Ministry of Education," said Mac Paiman, member of the commission.

The acting education minister Asadullah Hanif Balkhi said some of the recommendations are not applicable in the current situation.

"Giving the authority of appointment of teachers to the civil society is not applicable in the current situation in Afghanistan," he said.

The MEC has so far assessed the activities of eight government organizations including the Attorney General's Office. (Tolonews)

**(8) Insecurity Big ...**

Chinese projects in Afghanistan.

He said China is concerned about terrorists' safe havens in the region particularly in its borders with Pakistan.

"Because this region is closely connected with China, so terrorism we think is number one threat to all the countries and Afghanistan and Pakistan are included so I will say that lets works together against this kind of threat," he said.

The Chinese envoy said they support the peace talks with the Taliban. (Tolonews)

**(9) Ghani Has Promised ...**

a more thorough discussion about some of the specifics," he said.

Nothing could be achieved by lecturing, but there should be clarity about US expectations, he said, adding the US was going to chart its course consistent with what Pakistan not just said but what they actually did.

He continued the future course of action would be based on conditions on the ground, as the entire South Asia strategy was a conditions-based policy.

Tillerson said his message to Islamabad was: "Here's what we need for Pakistan to do. We're asking you to do this; we're not demanding anything. You're a sovereign country.

"You'll decide what you want to do, but understand this is what we think is necessary. And if you don't want to do that, don't feel you can do it, we'll adjust our tactics and our strategies to achieve the same objective a different way."

A State Department spokesperson, meanwhile, told Pajhwok Afghan News that security remained a challenge in Afghanistan.

As Tillerson said during his recent visit, "We have a lot of hard work, [and] some challenges ahead of us. But the US and our partners in Afghanistan are committed to seeing this through," the spokesperson said.

Tillerson said the Afghan government had a specific responsibility to create the conditions that invited the Taliban to come to the negotiating table. "In Afghanistan, there is a role for the Taliban in this government. Please come and take up your role, but you must come on the condition that you renounce terrorism, you renounce violent extremism, and you will never take up those efforts again..." he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Women Want ...**

Research Institute in Norway in which it has listed Afghanistan and Syria as the worst countries for women. Iceland and Norway are the best countries for women according to the report. (Tolonews)

**(11) President Orders ...**

Committee's Charter and supervision, a delegation should be appointed."

Parallel institutions within the committee stand dissolved with the issuance of the order and any election held without international oversight are not credible, says Article 3. (Pajhwok)

**(12) China Wants '...**

kind of relationship will be conducive to promoting regional peace and stability and mutual trust between regional countries, and serve as a driving force of regional develop-

ment and prosperity," Geng said. He added: "China welcomes the international community to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation and form a united front. Also, we are happy to see anti-terrorism cooperation between Pakistan and the United States based on mutual respect, and we hope they will be committed to regional and international security and stability."

US Secretary of State Tillerson, who arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday after stops in Kabul and Islamabad, said he conveyed to Pakistan's leaders "certain expectations" that the Trump administration had about controlling terror groups that operate from its soil.

Meanwhile, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said at a press briefing that countries should support the Afghan government to achieve greater stability in the region.

"It is important that everybody supports the National Unity Government. This is the best way to help fight terrorism in Afghanistan and achieve greater security and stability for the whole region," he said.

He said they assessed the reports on Russia's ties with the Taliban during a NATO meeting. However, he said Moscow envoys have asserted that the allegations are baseless.

"We also had a frank exchange on the security situation in Afghanistan including the regional terrorist threats. Our analysis differs considerably, but we all share the same interest in ensuring security and stability in Afghanistan," he said. (Tolonews)

**(13) Karzai Wants ...**

Karzai alleged the US policy had been unsuccessful in eradicating terrorism from Afghanistan.

According to a statement from his office here, Karzai said the US mission had resulted in more violence, led by terrorist groups, including the Islamic State (Daesh).

The US forces had arrived in Afghanistan to combat terrorism with the support of the international community and regional countries, the ex-president recalled.

As its policy had failed to stabilise Afghanistan, Washington should launch negotiations with other countries and powers, including China, Russia, Iran, and India, to resolve the issue, he suggested.

Karzai believed the core issues facing the country should be discussed by the traditional Loya Jirga. Tribal elders and the Afghan people should decide their future, he reiterated.

He urged the Ashraf Ghani administration to initiate immediate steps to convene the Loya Jirga on the current issues being faced by Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Blackwater Founder ...**

received. The CIA declined to comment.

Prince's plan to have retired special forces soldiers from the United States and allied nations embed with Afghan army units made its way into the White House ahead of a recent review of Afghanistan policy, according to a senior administration official.

But after the review, President Donald Trump ordered several thousand more U.S. troops to be sent to Afghanistan to battle Islamist militants, effectively rejecting the privatization plan.

Prince, a former Navy SEAL and the brother of U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, is undeterred.

"What I'm confident of is the current (Pentagon) approach is not going to move the needle" and improve the Afghan battlefield situation, Prince said. Prince founded the company formerly known as Blackwater. Some of its guards were convicted of killing 14 unarmed Iraqi civilians at a Baghdad traffic circle in 2007, an incident that outraged Iraqis and inflamed anti-U.S. sentiment around the world.

Prince said he is weighing a run next year for a U.S. Senate seat in Wyoming, where he has long had a home. Citing his opposition to the current U.S. strategy in Afghanistan, Prince said: "If they don't want to listen, maybe I need to run for Senate, and see if they can hear me now."

Under Prince's proposal, U.S. and allied private forces would remain in Afghanistan for long periods of time, as opposed to the current situation, in which U.S. soldiers rotate in and out of the country after roughly nine-month deployments. (Reuters)

**(15) 6 More Light ...**

according to the press release, which did not state a delivery date for the new A-29 Super Tucano aircraft.

In March, four A-29s were delivered to Afghanistan, bringing the number of A-29 light attack aircraft currently in service with the AAF to 12.

The remaining seven are stationed at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia for pilot training.

They will be delivered to Afghanistan in the coming months. One aircraft crashed during a training exercise and has yet to be replaced.

The light attack aircraft can be armed with conventional or smart free-fall bombs, short-range air-to-air missiles, machine-guns and rockets. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Azerbaijani ...**

90 servicemen, 2 medical officers and 2 sappers of Azerbaijani Armed Forces are participating in a mission in Afghanistan. (Trend)

**(17)90 Legal Cases ...**

Sara Serat, said the justice and judicial organs had made some progress during the past 16 years in dealing with cases involving women.

However, she said no other department had practically worked for improvement of women's social life.

She remarked domestic violence was not the only problem women faced in the society, urging concrete efforts at improving the gender's social and economic status.

Qais Qader, the spokesman for Kapisa governor, said the provincial administration was committed to improving the women's situation in the province.

He said they arranged programs every year about doing away with violence against women besides creating awareness in this regard. (Pajhwok)

**(18) Work on Crucial ...**

Council member, said with the construction this bridge the transport issue of the residents of three districts would be resolved and they would be able to travel during heavy rain and flooding.

Earlier work on some other bridged was launched in the Muridkheho, Ismaelkheho and Mandozaio districts to facilitate common people. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Fresh Fruit ....**

Afghan products are not dropped. "The raise in tariffs on Afghan fruits will mainly affect the farmers because they wait 12 months for growing their products and sending them to the market," he said.

Musafir Qoqandi, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, said Pakistan has increased the tariffs to overcome the economic fall in that country.

He told TOLONews that the ministry has sent a letter to Pakistan's embassy in order to ask about the reason behind the rise of the tariffs on Afghan goods.

"We have sent an official letter to the (Pakistani) embassy in Kabul and we are waiting for the answer. As long as we have information from other sources, this decision of Islamabad is both for Afghanistan and other countries which have trade ties with Pakistan in order to overcome the fall of economic growth," he said.

According to the ministry, dry and fresh fruit, carpet and semi-precious stones are among the Afghan goods which are exported to other parts of the world through Pakistan. (Tolonews)

**(20) Residents Worried ...**

resident of Helmand, said. Helmand Police Chief Gen. Abdul Ghafar Safi meanwhile vowed to remove the Taliban from the outskirts of Lashkargah City in the near future.

He said the military operations are ongoing in Babaji area in Lashkargah's PD4 and in Chah-e-Anjeer area in Nad Ali district. "We carry out systematic operations and all those areas which you have named are in our future plan. First, we set our goals and then we launch operations," said Safi.

According to Helmand officials, Taliban captured Babaji area two years ago. Meanwhile, some parts of Nad Ali district have fallen to the Taliban over the past three years. (Tolonews)

**(21) University Students ...**

continue their efforts to provide job opportunities for their students. "The agreement with the Ministry of Urban Development is for strengthening our ties with the organization. The graduates of our university will be helped to complete their projects in the ministry and then work with them in the future," he added.

Government officials vowed to provide dozens of jobs for the students. "Digital procurement system will be implemented in 10 ministries and we will build the capacity of the organization by hiring these youths," said Elham Hotaki, head of National Procurement Committee.

The exhibition will continue for three days. (Tolonews)