

(1) Abdullah ...

said: "Be united on the fact that war offers no solution, and that you can gain nothing through war." The country, faced with multiple crises, might suffer immeasurably as a result of further neglect, he warned. Deputy CEO Mohammad Mohaqiq hailed Irfani as an untiring campaigner for the revival of Afghanistan's sovereignty, unity and social justice.

"The current security situation in the country is precarious due to our inadequate efforts or foreign interference. But without unity and social justice, we can't reach our destination," he remarked. (Pajhwok)

(2) Noor Warns...

expressed their displeasure over a number of key policy issues.

"The current political rift is not acceptable to the people. People are also waiting for them to end their tension in the near future, otherwise, they will seek an alternative for the NUG," Massoud said.

Meanwhile, Ghani's second VP Mohammad Sarwar Danish at a gathering on Friday said the recent statement by some political leaders and government officials were unfortunate.

"Instead of engaging in unfruitful discussions in media, let's all work together in line with the constitution of Afghanistan, but a way from seeking our personal ambitions or party or ethnic interests by considering the principles of transparency and the law," said Danish.

In recent days, Dostum and Massoud have taken harsher stance against President Ghani and the chief executive Abdullah Abdullah.

Dostum accused Ghani and Abdullah of nepotism while Massoud warned that if the government leaders do not adopt the right path, the nation will think about an alternative of the present system.

"The current leadership of government which also shares the power should move forward cautiously to avoid creating further challenges and bringing ethnic issues in Afghanistan. They should see the future of Afghanistan from the angle of national unity and a wide good governance idea," said Noor.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Wali Massoud, chairman of Massoud Foundation called on political leaders to expedite efforts for fighting corruption.

"It is better that we divert all our potential for maintaining security but not on escalating tension and ethnic issues and not for creating challenges before government's leadership," said Noor. (Tolonews)

(3) Massoud Warns

indicates a weakness in security departments.

"Dostum goes to Faryab and fights, he does not want to go to the battlefields, but he knows that the people who lead the battles are weak," Massoud said. Massoud said that without bringing reforms in government departments, it is difficult to maintain security. He asked the former Mujahidin and political leaders to be alert and defend their villages, districts and provinces.

Meanwhile, a number of Stalif residents said that alongside reconstruction, they want government to maintain security and help them to improve their lives. "Livestock and gardening, especially grapes could be beneficial for addressing economic needs of Stalif people," said Ghulam Haidar, head of Takht Stalif clinic. (Tolonews)

(4) Thousands of ...

number of local powerful men. However, the interferences have never affected the MoE's will to work on this matter," he said.

Meanwhile, a number of analysts urged government to pay attention to security threats faced by the MoE staffers in parts of the country.

"The Afghan government and the security agencies should prevent local powerful men as well as terrorist groups from interfering in educational issues. It is education that motivates the country's young generation and provides them with knowledge; otherwise, insurgent groups will use them as tools to reach their own goals," said Mohsin Mukhtar, a military analyst. (Tolonews)

(5) Watchdog Views...

its repeat will result in further fragility [in the country]."

"The law has given them [officials] authorities and responsibilities. It is one of their responsibilities to make their speech and acts according to the law," said Gul Ahmad Madadzai, deputy head of Afghanistan Lawyers' Union.

This comes after the first vice president earlier this week accused President Ashraf Ghani of nepotism and blamed a number of local security officials in Faryab for what he called incompetence. (Tolonews)

(6) India Renews accusing finger at a Pakistan-based rebel outfit. The SAARC summit, which was to be held next month in Islamabad, was subsequently cancelled.

An Indian newspaper, citing the foreign ministry spokesman, reported New Delhi would welcome Pakistan's participation of in the HoA conference on Afghanistan.

"We will welcome the participation of Pakistan," the MEA spokesperson Vikas Swarup told The Asian Age. India hopes more than 40 countries and organisations will attend the event.

He added: "We are yet to receive an official confirmation from Pakistan and also the level of participation... We will certainly welcome all countries to Amritsar because we are committed to peace and prosperity in Afghanistan..." (Pajhwok)

(7) Kandahar's...

from the Agriculture Ministry. Kandahar's weather in hot and the pomegranates go starved a before they are ripe. As a result, farmers suffered losses, according to him. Recent tensions between India and Pakistan also damaged the export of fruits.

Haji Nanai Agha, head of the Kandahar Fresh Fruit Merchants Association (KFFU) confirmed this year there was a good harvest of pomegranates but there was no lucrative market. He said lack of market was a huge issue and the tense political situation always left a negative impact on trade and commerce.

Zahir also agreed the unstable political situation harmed trade and economic links between Pakistan and Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(8) Lack of Planning, ...

six districts and as many municipal districts of Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital, to determine the lifestyle of youth, women and disabled people.

The survey's outcome was announced on Wednesday at a gathering attended by civil society activists and government officials here.

The organization's head, Fariba Akbaryar, said 651 persons aged between eight and 35 years, 220 of them girls, were interviewed as part of the survey. More than half of the youth cited the lack of a determined plan to deal with unemployment and the rest termed administrative corruption behind joblessness, she said. (Pajhwok)

(9) WB Outlines...

The strategy aims to help Afghanistan build strong and accountable institutions to deliver services to its citizens.

The framework also aims at supporting economic growth that includes all members of society, with a focus on lagging areas and urban informal settlements, and people driven from their homes by conflict.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector arm, aims to expand its commitments in Afghanistan from its current portfolio of 54\$ million to a cumulative investment of about 80\$ million over the CPF period. World Bank Country Director for Afghanistan Robert Saum promised support for government efforts to improve the lives of the poor and vulnerable, especially women and children, through making healthcare and education more accessible and equitable.

He also pledged supporting investment in infrastructure, helping rural communities, which depended on agricultural livelihoods and seeking employment opportunities.

"We will continue our close partnership with Afghanistan to share international experience and help build local capacity, strengthen institutions, and improve governance." The 100\$ million grant to the

Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project will be provided by IDA. The 628\$ million project will be financed by the IDA grant, 128\$ million government co-financing and a 400\$ million grant from donors through ARTF.

The first phase of the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project is expected to be implemented over four years and reach 8.5 million people. (Pajhwok)

(10) NHA Asked to..

length and divided into three packages.

According to the NHA spokesman, the Peshawar-Torkham (50km) will be constructed from scratch. The existing structure of the Torkham-Jalalabad (76km) and Jalalabad-Kabul (155km) road will be upgraded. (Pajhwok)

(11) MPs Urge ...

be sent to Ghor province to probe the incident. The current number of security forces in Ghor province is not enough for maintaining security. Thus, more forces should be sent there and Ghor's challenges should be addressed immediately," said Abdul Satar Dawlati, a civil society activist from Ghor.

They also warned government that if the incident is not being investigated, they will boycott government.

"I hope that government takes our suggestion seriously and considers Ghor people as part of Afghan people and part of Afghanistan's geography," said Keramuddin Reza Zada, an MP.

"If you, government, do not investigate the incident and do not respond to the people's requests, we with Ghor MPs, will decide what to do in the province," said Ahmad Saeedi, a resident of Ghor province.

They also touched on rifts between the national unity government (NUG) leaders and said their rifts have affected the security situation and that civilians are paying the price.

"We want government to appoint an authorized team including Ghor MPs to probe the recent killing incident and other issues in the province," said Sayed Nader Shah Bahar, an MP.

"Ghor people will not join with Taliban or Daesh. But they can boycott government, and they, in consultation with their peoples' council and elders, can address their challenges," said Mohammad Ebrahim Malik Zada, an MP.

A group of militants, who had left Taliban and joined Daesh, attacked parts of Feroz Koh, the provincial capital and took more than 30 locals hostage on Tuesday.

After receiving news of the death of a commander, they lined the hostages up and reportedly gunned them down. (Tolonews)

(12) KP Govt. to ...

Secretariat, Peshawar.

On behalf of KP Chief Minister, the meeting was presided over by KP's Health Senior Minister Shahram Khan Tarakai and Education Minister Muhammad Atif Khan. It was attended by the representative of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Indrika Rat Watte, Azam Afandi, Dr Ghazna, Fridullah Khan, Elementary and Secondary Education Secretary M. Shezad Bangash, Special Secretary Home Siraj Ahmad Khan, ex-Afghan Ambassador Rustam Shah Mohmand, high ups of Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and other concerned departments.

The meeting discussed different affairs regarding the voluntarily repatriation of the refugees and their durable rehabilitation to their country, the administrative matters of the registered and non registered refugees in the province and facilities of health and education for Afghan refugees. During the meeting, Shahram Khan Tarakai said that all health facilities were being provided to the refugees and hospitals, throughout the province, would continue the provision of health facilities in future, too. He said the problems regarding health and education would be solved as soon as possible. Matters regarding Home Department and other sectors would be brought to CM's notice and provincial government would send its recommendations to federal government. Minister Atif Khan told the meeting that we considered Afghan refugees as our own brothers. He said no stone would be

turned to further strengthen these relations, and provision of free education to Afghan children would be continued with UNHCR's coordination. Siraj Ahmad Khan told the meeting that the CM had taken strong notice of the complaints regarding mockery of Afghan refugees and had categorically directed to inform the concerned police about such complaints. He said it was demand of the province to immediately register the unregistered refugees, and we would provide all facilities including, security to the concerned institutions. He said the province had no financial resources to register them; the ministry of SAFRON should register the unregistered refugees.

Representative of UNHCR said that about 283,997 refugees had voluntarily migrated from Pakistan to Afghanistan from January 2016 to October 2016, 22 and in the same period about 228,091 refugees voluntarily migrated from KP. He said steps like effective border management should be taken for the safe voluntarily migration of the refugees. About 831,013 refugees are still residing in the province which is about 60pc of the total number of Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan, he added. There is a need to prepare comprehensive policy for good arrangement regarding Afghan refugees.

Ex-ambassador Rustam Shah Mohmand also addressed the meeting. (PR)

(13) Sharbat Gula...

earliest. Sharbat Gula is a resident of Tora Bora area of Pachiragam district of eastern Nangarhar province. She had some years back returned to Afghanistan, but it is unknown why she went back to Peshawar and was living there.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Thursday distanced itself from Sharbat Gula and claimed that Gula is not a registered refugee.

"We cannot extend any assistance to the detained Afghan woman as she is not registered refugee with UNHCR," Senior External Relations Officer UNHCR Pakistan Dan McNorton told Dawn.com.

Sharbat Gula became famously known as the 'Afghan Girl' when National Geographic photographer Steve McCurry captured her photograph at the Nasir Bagh refugee camp situated on the edge of Peshawar in 1984 and identified her as Sharbat Gula.

She gained worldwide recognition when her image was featured on the cover of the June 1985 issue of National Geographic Magazine at a time when she was approximately 12 years old.

That photo has been likened with Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa. National Geographic also made a short documentary about her life and dubbed her the 'Mona Lisa of Afghan war'.

She remained anonymous for years after her first photo made her an icon around the world and until she was discovered by National Geographic in 2002. (Pajhwok)

(14) Airstrike in ...

Reports of civilian casualties would be investigated, he added. "We take all allegations of civilian casualties seriously and will work with our Afghan partners to review all related material," Brigadier General Charles Cleveland said in an emailed statement.

In a statement, the Taliban said American and Afghan forces had carried out a ground attack on Mohammad Alam's home, followed by an airstrike, in which two civilians were killed and more than 30 wounded.

The United States has unleashed many raids against Islamic State and al Qaeda militants in eastern Afghanistan, most recently on Sunday, when officials said two al Qaeda leaders were killed in the neighbouring province of Kunar.

However, new combat rules issued this year have also given U.S. commanders greater scope to attack Taliban militants, pushing up the number of airstrikes sharply. (VoA)

(15) Elements within...

illegal armed groups were not behind it; it was the Taliban. Increase on the number of the Taliban and lack of large scale operation for clearing the area

of the armed opponents have raised concerns and chaos among the people of Kunduz," said Abdullah Qarloq, a lawmaker. (Tolonews)

(16) Farah Residents ...

and sacrificed to ensure the safety of Farah residents. They [security forces] did not let the Taliban to take over the city," said Gen. Toryalai Abdiyani, Farah police chief.

According to local officials, nearly 300 Taliban insurgents were killed and 250 others were wounded in Farah over the past month. (Tolonews)

(17) Afghan, Pakistani ...

He accused Pakistani troops of shelling Khimagai, Shero Oba and Kamin posts. The fire exchange continued for an hour and a half.

Pakistan's aggression enabled the armed insurgents to flee back to their hideout across the frontier, Durranai claimed, saying the Afghan forces suffered no casualties.

Samim Khpalwak, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the incident. He also blamed Pakistani soldiers for forcing the Afghans into returning fire. (Pajhwok)

(18) Karzai Wants ...

deportation to her homeland. In a statement from his office, Karzai characterised the woman with piercing eyes as a symbol of Afghanistan's beauty, struggle and pain. Her face has been representative of Afghans at the international level for the past 30 years, he said.

The former head of state also commended the efforts of Ambassador Dr. Omar Zakhilwal to secure the early release of the 44-year-old, suffering from high blood pressure. The diplomat has promised she would be free soon and repatriated to her homeland with dignity. (Pajhwok)

(19) President Lacks...

to scuttle the system and prevent laws from being enforced."

Kuchi also criticized some local media outlets and called them "enemy media outlets" which he alleged were sponsored from outside to sabotage the Afghan government.

"Don't listen to the media, they are enemy mouthpieces, they are not in the interest of the nation, they don't want the system to strengthen and they don't want prosperity here."

Abdul Qayum Kuchi said President Ghani had many good plans for the country's development, but no one supported him in implementing those plans.

A member of the provincial council of Khost, Qamar Ali Lakanwal, urged President Ghani to fulfill his election campaign promises with the people of Khost.

"We fully support our government, but we at the same time want the president to meet his promises." (Pajhwok)

(20) Over 1...

Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here.

"But thanks to a series of access strategies including competition from generic medicines through licensing agreements, local production and price negotiations, a range of low- and middle-income countries, are beginning to succeed in getting drugs to people who need them," he said. (Xinhua)

(21) Syrian Army...

Hezbollah fighters are completely baseless. He said at least 25 rebels with the Jaish al-Fateh, or the Army of Conquest, and the Conquest of Aleppo group, were killed and tens of others were wounded during the offensive. (Xinhua)

(22) Russia, Syria...

told reporters. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem said earlier on Friday that the Syrian government is ready to resume truce and immediately return to intra-Syria talks "without external interference," obviously in reference to the United States. (Xinhua)

(23) Turkey Suspends...

between these personnel and the Gulen movement. Meanwhile, arrest warrants were issued for 73 military pilots in 17 Turkish provinces at the request of the Konya Prosecutor's Office on Thursday, Turkish Yenisafak News reported.

Turkish Justice Minister Bekir

Bozdog said on Wednesday that he had "a productive conversation" with his U.S. counterpart Loretta Lynch in Washington over the extradition of Gulen from the United States. Bozdog, accompanied by lawmakers from opposition parties, headed to the U.S. on Tuesday to hold talks with Lynch. (Xinhua)

(24) Trump Slams...

repeal and replace it as Trump plans to do if elected.

Still, most U.S. voters have already made up their minds about which candidate they will vote for, and Trump's hammering of Obama's healthcare law may not do much to impact the outcome of the elections, experts said.

"It is bad timing for Obamacare rates to go up right before an election. Republicans will use that in races all around the country. But it is not clear that this will help Trump. He is not very adept at using negative information to criticize Clinton," Darrell West, vice president and director of governance studies of the Brookings Institution, told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

(25) Presidential Election..

almost 900 minutes of airtime on TV and radio channels of Uzbekistan's National Television and Radio Company. Meanwhile, it is planned to broadcast videos about the candidates and their pre-election programs.

Moreover, during the election campaign, the country's Khalk Suzi (People's Word) and the Russian-language The Truth of the East newspapers are to provide the same number of pages for each candidate. These materials will also be published by the regional press. (Trend)

Turkey's Ongoing Military Purge Drives, Complicates Regional Ambitions

ANKARA - In an ambitious effort to ensure that Turkey plays a leading role in shaping Iraq and Syria after the ouster of the Islamic State, Turkish officials have gone on the offensive in recent months, deploying troops across borders, issuing threats to foreign governments, and publicly yearning to claw back former Ottoman territory carved away nearly a century ago.

But such saber rattling comes just as the Turkish military is being gutted in a months-long purge that has seen thousands of troops cashiered and hundreds of senior officers jailed or fired, while hundreds more have been recalled from overseas postings with NATO and other allies. The far-reaching reprisals follow the failed military coup that sought to unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in July, and vastly overshadow previous Turkish purges after abortive putsches.

The Turkish air force, in particular, is being decimated. At least 300 of its officers have been sacked, leading to the grounding of five squadrons of F-16 fighters and thereby cutting the available jets from 240 to about 140. Even those may be tough to properly maintain, given the purge of mechanics and ground crews in the aftermath of the July 15 coup, in which several F-16s bombed the parliament building in Ankara and Erdogan's palace. (Reuters)

Ukraine Eyes another IMF Tranche by Year end: Official

KIEV - Ukraine is counting on securing a fourth tranche from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 17.5-billion-U.S.-dollar bailout program in 2016, a senior official from the country's central bank said on Thursday.

"By the end of the current year, we expect to receive 1.3 billion dollars from the IMF," Oleg Churiy, deputy head of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), told a media briefing. Meanwhile, Valeria Gontareva, the governor of the NBU, who also participated in the briefing, said Ukraine expects that the IMF mission will arrive in Kiev next month for talks over the next portion of the aid. In mid-September, Ukraine has received the third disbursement of the financial support from the IMF worth 1 billion dollars that has been delayed since last year over Kiev's protraction in implementing the required reforms. (Xinhua)