

(1) USAID Pays...

centers it examined. Furthermore, SIGAR also pointed out issues with the conditions of some of the facilities their inspection teams visited. It noted that four of the 23 clinics lack water or electricity. The watchdog however could not visit remaining facilities due to "security conditions."

But the Afghan health officials say that they had neither any role in building these healthcare facilities nor will they be responsible for any flaws.

"Government offices in Herat had no role in building these facilities and if there is a corruption found in the program, the foreigners should account for it," said Mohammad Asif Kabir, acting health director of Herat.

Herat governor's spokesman, meanwhile, called on the central government and the Ministry of Public Health to follow up the issue.

This comes after the watchdog revealed about "ghost" schools, teachers and also the health clinics in Afghanistan which it reported only existed on fake documents. (Tolonews)

(2) UN Won't ...

UN's 70th anniversary. Pictures of those Afghans who have helped the body to work in different parts of war-weary Afghanistan were also displayed at the event attended by several Afghan and foreign officials.

Haysom stated that the UN will not abandon the Afghan people until their security is ensured.

"In conclusion, I want to reconfirm that the United Nations intends to stay in Afghanistan for as long as it will take for Afghans to accomplish their aspirations which is a stable and prosperous Afghanistan," he noted.

Also present at the event was an Afghan woman, Rahima, who has worked with UN as a polio coordinator for almost 15 years in northern Balkh province.

She called on the families to help the organization in eradicating the virus - which exists now only in two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"I call on the people and also the militant groups to help with the polio vaccinators all over Afghanistan in order to save the children from being paralyzed," she continued.

The picture of another UN worker Ghulam Nabi showing him fertilizing the farms were also displayed at the gathering.

He said he has always helped the Afghan farmers to boost their yields by at least 30 percent.

"We have distributed fertilizers to thousands of farmers in Nangarhar province and we have helped increase their products up to 30 percent. They [farmers] are very happy with this," Nabi said. (Tolonews)

(3) Global ...

remarkable step, but it is not enough," she told reporters, making clear that she doesn't consider the pledges the last word.

"Many countries have been healthily conservative in what they have put on the table, and that's very understandable because they do not want to expose themselves prematurely internationally," Figueres said. "We may get more from some corners and less from others."

Scientists say a temperature rise of more than 2 degrees Celsius could result in profound and irreversible impact on the climate, including flooding of coastal cities and island nations and disruptions to agriculture and drinking water.

Li Shuo, a Greenpeace climate expert, said the U.N. assessment highlights a "clear shortfall" in efforts to limit global warming but added that "it's very likely that China, for example, can and will move faster than it's offered, as it's already rapidly getting out of coal and into renewables."

The U.N. examined pledges submitted by Oct. 1, which came from all the industrialized countries and three-quarters of developing countries - accounting together for 86 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. A further 10 plans have been submitted since then. (AP)

(4) Taliban, IS ...

recently announced allegiance to IS also operates in the northern part of the country.

The group is believed to have links with other militant groups such as Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and is considered comparatively a strong group.

It has been reported that IMU was involved in several deadly TTP at-

tacks in Pakistan including one on Karachi airport that left at least 36 people killed in 2014.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in the meeting of Commonwealth of Independent States Council of Heads on October 16 that Situation in Afghanistan is close to critical, adding that it is important to closely monitor the situation on the CIS' external borders.

"We need to ensure the CIS Anti-terrorist Centre's effective operation and continue coordinating the work of our intelligence services and keep up a constant exchange of information. It is especially important to monitor closely the situation on the CIS' external borders, and in this respect, I agree with the President of Uzbekistan, who expressed his concern over the situation taking shape in Afghanistan." He said in the meeting. (KP)

(5) China will ...

already sent Message of Condolences to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to express condolences to the lost lives, and extend sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured. China and Afghanistan are friendly and good neighbors, President Xi said, Chinese people sympathized the sufferings of the Afghan people and China stood ready to provide assistance and support as its own capacity allows. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Foreign Minister Wang Yi also sent letters of condolences respectively to their counterparts.

Earlier, Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan Mr. Yao Jing, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of China, donated USD100,000 in cash to Afghan Red Crescent Society as emergency humanitarian assistance for carrying out the rescue and relief work. China is now in close contact with Afghanistan on the latest development of disaster and will firmly support Afghan people to overcome the difficulties and accomplish the post-disaster reconstruction, Ambassador Yao said. (PR)

(6) Dostum Links ...

the country's political system.

"Meetings and consultations of Jihadi leaders and politicians are very helpful. And we know that there had been talks during these meetings on how to strengthen the system," Sancharaki said.

In addition, the committee to oversee implementation of the political agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah said that if the council managed its activities in line with the political system, it would likely be proven constructive towards resolving key national issues.

"It is true that Jihadi leaders and political parties are effective platforms. But their activities must be supportive to government," said Mohammad Natiqi, a senior member of the committee.

The council constitutes former Jihadi leader Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayyaf, former defense minister Basmillah Mohammadi, former Jihadi leader and former vice president Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, former defense minister Abdul Rahim Wardak, former minister of economy Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, former minister of interior Mohammad Omar Daudzai, former Jihadi leader and ex-minister of water and energy Mohammad Ismail Khan and other prominent jihadi figures and leaders of political parties.

The council was established following a sharp increase in insecurity across the country, most specifically, after the fall of Kunduz city to the Taliban. (Tolonews)

(7) BF Assists ...

also called on other aid agencies to reach survivor people as the Bayat Foundation.

A powerful earthquake struck the Hindu Kush region of Afghanistan on Monday, killing over 200 people according to local reports and causing widespread damage and panic across much of South Asia.

The casualty count is expected to rise as more information trickles out from the remote and mountainous regions near the with 7.5 magnitude quake's epicentre about 250km north-east of the Afghan capital Kabul.

The quake, centered on the remote Badkashan region, struck in the middle of the afternoon, and could be felt in both Kabul and Islamabad, the Pakistani capital. Communications from the affected areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan were disabled hours afterwards.

The earth tremor comes just six months after a quake in Nepal killed nearly 9,000 people and destroyed, or badly damaged, about 850,000 homes.

Tens of thousands of Nepalis are still living in makeshift shelters that will provide little protection for them from the upcoming winter.

Bayat Foundation has been helping poor families in over Afghanistan for the past 13 years, a foundation which could cover more than a million citizens by providing food assistance.

Bayat Foundation has not only assisted foods for the needy families but has built dozens of schools, Hospitals, clinics in different provinces of Afghanistan. (ATN)

(8) Govt. to ...

three years under experimental salary payment projects. These have proven to be safe, transparent, and convenient. The ministries and agencies at today's summit committed to using electronic money for payments and receipts whenever possible.

"Efficiency, transparency, and security are the hallmarks of this technology," said Da Afghanistan Bank Governor Khalil Sediq. "That is why we embrace it."

USAID reiterated its longstanding pledge to help the Afghan government improve electronic payment and receipt systems.

"USAID lauds the Government of Afghanistan's commitment to this important quality-of-life and money-saving initiative," said Jason Foley, a Deputy Assistant Administrator responsible for Afghanistan, who is visiting from Washington, DC. "USAID stands ready to assist the government as it modernizes and streamlines its receipts and disbursements. Indeed, the popularity and coverage of mobile phones in Afghanistan offers an excellent opportunity to connect millions of Afghans to the formal economy, and to move both public and private sector payments into efficient, transparent 'better than cash' channels." (Wadsam)

(9) Nations Weigh...

said that a follow-up meeting was expected as early as next week, with top diplomats possibly returning to Austria's capital. (AP)

(10) Humanitarian ...

consignment was sent on the special instructions of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, for the people of Afghanistan. Besides, Pakistan will soon send one hundred thousand tons of wheat for Afghan brothers, it said. The press release further stated that the Afghan authorities appreciated Pakistan's assistance and thanked the government and people of Pakistan for the humanitarian assistance. (PR)

(11) Taliban Suffered...

district is located on the banks of the Oxus River, on the border with Tajikistan that collapsed into Taliban's hands on Wednesday morning.

The area around Darqad is not one where there have been reports of major damage or loss of life from Monday's earthquake, which killed more than 300 people across broad swaths of northern Afghanistan and Pakistan.

But it is well within the impact zone, and at least 15 people have been reported killed and more than 40 injured in Takhar province as a whole.

In late September, this combined force took control of the capital of northern Kunduz province, also called Kunduz, and held it for three days before Afghan forces launched a counteroffensive.

The audacity of that attack took the Kabul government by surprise and highlighted weaknesses in intelligence and military organization nine months after international combat forces led by the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan. (ATN)

(12) Taliban Being...

are using as shields.

In addition, the local residents are providing a key support in repelling the insurgents, he reported.

"I and my four sons have raised weapons to defend our soil," a resident of Dasht-e-Archi told TOLONews. "I sold out my cattle to buy weapons."

The security officials meanwhile said that the Taliban have lost their strength in Kunduz and they are unable to confront the troops.

"Our operation is going on successfully. We have caused the enemy too much disaster," an Afghan National Army (ANA) commander said. "We are committed to clearing the area from enemies."

This comes after the security forces retook control of Police Headquarters in Dasht-e-Archi after two years on Tuesday.

This year Kunduz suffered long

fighting followed by killing of civilians and destruction of their homes and properties.

The city fell to the Taliban last month after hundreds of insurgents stormed the city and took the control for three days before they were killed and driven out of the city by the security forces. (Tolonews)

(13) British Army...

role in Afghanistan will be to provide the Government and military with the support they need," said Lt Col Hallam who will be part of a multi-national team involving British, Australian, Danish and New Zealand personnel.

He continued: "We will be supporting the Afghanistan Army to become an effective force in their own country and to provide leadership training for their officers."

"Making Afghanistan as safe as it can be will also have an effect on the security of our own country and other countries." (Agencies)

(14) Quake-Stricken ...

, had left homeless hundreds of people and displaced thousands of families, victims in many worst-hit areas are waiting for more help.

"As of Friday, the government assessment teams and rescue personnel have failed to reach all affected districts in Kunar. The quake destroyed scores of houses. Villagers are staying in open spaces amid fears of aftershocks. They are in urgent need of food and warm clothes. The weather is very cold during the night. We also need food and blankets," Habid added.

"People in remote areas are digging debris to find remnants of food for children. The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) was the first and the only aid group to arrive in parts of Kunar and neighboring Nangarhar province. The ARCS also distributed some aid packages provided by Qatar Red Crescent," he said.

The government is leading assessment and response efforts. With the approach of winter, the immediate concerns and needs will most likely consist of emergency shelter, tents, blankets, water and sanitation support.

Assessments to determine loss of life and property damage continued in quake-struck areas in Afghanistan, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

"Under the auspices of Provincial Disaster Management Committees, joint rapid assessments have now been able to verify the complete destruction of 2,419 houses with a further 2,445 houses severely damaged. Further assessments are ongoing in all earthquake affected provinces, including via the use of the Operational Satellite Applications Programme of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR-UNOSAT) which is conducting damage assessments using before and after satellite imagery of the earthquake," the OCHA said in a statement.

At least 115 people lost their lives and 556 wounded in the disaster, according to latest data provided by officials. A total of 7,630 homes, 12 schools, 17 mosques, 20 office buildings have been confirmed destroyed or severely damaged by the incident.

"The Government reportedly has released 50 million afghani (7.7 million U.S. dollars) for the emergency response, including for the provision of food rations and logistical support. Humanitarian partners, meanwhile, are supporting rapid assessment activities and have begun responding to immediate needs for food, health, temporary shelter and non-food items. With winter approaching, and the onset of extreme winter weather as early as the end of November in some quake-affected areas, emergency shelter and winterization are particularly pressing concerns to be addressed," OCHA's statement said.

Access to quake-affected areas continues to be a significant disaster response challenge due to the rugged topography and insecurity in the most severely-affected parts of the country such as Badkashan, Nuristan, Takhar and Kunar provinces.

"The Jurm district of Badkashan is the center of the devastating earthquake. But no one paid attention to this district. Local leaders said at least 13 people remained under the rubble. The villagers are digging in destroyed houses. They are trying to find and rescue victims. There are no machinery or rescue specialists at outer sides of the district. People are using shovel and simple tools to look after the victims. The villagers set up small groups to travel in remote areas on animals to search and rescue their helpless

countrymen. They are also carrying aid packages collected by locals to deliver to needy victims in far-flung areas," a Jurm resident, Mirza Mohammad, told Xinhua via phone. (Xinhua)

(15) Italy to up ...

Afghanistan "at current levels". "Many of our partners have already communicated their willingness to remain at current deployment levels," said top NATO Europe commander, General Philip M. Breedlove. US President Barack Obama said earlier this month he would maintain the current force of 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through most of next year to combat a growing Taliban insurgency, then draw down to 5,500 troops in 2017, at a pace still to be determined after consultation with commanders. Premier Matteo Renzi indicated that Italy, too, would keep up its commitment to the Taliban-plagued Asian country. The mission has cost Italy 54 casualties and many wounded over the past decade, and now numbers 750 personnel. (ANSA)

(16) Chilly Weather...

villages is to rebuild our homes and we ask the government for help before the chilly weather gets worse and before the snowfall," Majid, 30, said. Wais Barmak, state minister for the Disaster Management and Response, told the Wolesi Jirga, or Lower House of Afghan parliament, on Wednesday that the earthquake, one of the He said that a total of 556 were injured, 7,630 residential houses destroyed or severely damaged, and more than 1,000 heads cattle were killed across the country. Abdullah Naji Nazari, head of Badkashan provincial council, in talks with Xinhua also confirmed that they are still waiting for assistance from the government in Kabul. Nazari said that aside from the 15 killed in Badkashan province, there were 67 injured and more than 2,700 houses destroyed, most of them in the districts of Kisham, Jurm, Yamgan, Shagnan and Wardoj. "This was the first time that I experienced such a powerful quake. We were terribly shaken," Faiz Mohammad, 47, another survivor from Kisham, said.

Faiz said that most of those killed were inside their houses while those outside were saved because they have the chance to seek cover. "Thank God, my wife and children were with me in the farm when the quake struck so we were all saved," Faiz said. But he said their mud house was flattened. (Xinhua)

(17) Taliban Vows ...

As a result, earthquake relief efforts had been hamstrung by security concerns. The Taliban - or Islamic Emirate - indicated that it would not hinder emergency teams. The Taliban is trying to reinvent itself and appeal more to the population under their new leader, Akhtar Mansour. After capturing Kunduz, Taliban fighters were ordered not to attack civilians, and this new offer to cooperate with aid organizations appears to keep in line with that goal. The initial magnitude 7.5 quake on Monday afternoon was followed by seven aftershocks, measuring as high as magnitude 4.8, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. (ATN)

(18) OSCE Project...

the country and security of the region as a whole depends on the work of the customs service," said Kapinos. "Providing assistance and support to the State Customs Service of the Kyrgyz Republic is one of our priorities, and the involvement of Afghan counterparts demonstrates the importance and relevance of such initiatives." (AK-Ipress)

(19) Students...

of Afghanistan, the international community, and the NGO and donor partners. However, he highlighted that Afghanistan still faces insecurity due to the brutal attacks of the Taliban and other foreign-backed terrorist groups. Ambassador Saikal specifically focused on the work of the National Unity Government and the challenges faced by citizens today. The problem of unemployment, little access to water and other resources, easy access to illegal arms, as well as the general economy, whose improvement is evident, but slow are significant areas of concern for Afghanistan. He expressed hope that positive developments in strengthening the rule of law, access to education, women's issues, and health would continue to improve. (Agencies)

(20) Photographers...

work openly since the end of Taliban regime in the country. "We wanted to encourage (them) and coming up students as well as the people who worked in Afghanistan for some time to showcase their work and to respond to this idea of renewal," she said. "Culture is the wonderful way to foster positive relations between the countries and people and I think photography is the universal language that allows the people to exchange ideas and I think it would nice if India and Afghanistan can collaborate more with culture. And I hope exhibition like this will play a role in that," she added. (ANI)

(21) An Army ...

troops off the roads, where they are vulnerable to improvised explosive devices and suicide bombers.

In an effort to demonstrate their mission, Grandstaff, the pilot in command, and her team invited me aboard last week to ride not as a typical passenger, but in a jump seat in the cockpit and on a tether that allows freedom of movement at the back of the aircraft. The crew, which also included Sgt. 1st Class Alan Moody, a flight instructor, and Spec. Jonathon Cooper, a crew chief, is part of the 6th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, of Fort Campbell, Ky. It flies out of Bagram Airfield north of Kabul, the largest U.S. military installation in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

(22) Afghan ...

Council (ICC). The cricket fans, meanwhile, appreciated the recent achievements of the national team against Zimbabwe, which is considered among the big teams. "This is the biggest achievement ever we have had ... our cricketers brought the nation a great honor," a cricket lover said. Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) chairman, Nasimullah Danish, praised the boys for their remarkable achievement. He said the recent development will lead the team to have a better picture in the cricket world. "This means huge to our team," Danish said, adding that the victory has globally improved the image of the national side. Afghanistan beat Zimbabwe 3-2 in the ODI series before winning both the T-20 matches. (Tolonews)

(23) 13.5 Mln...

approved have been able to actually proceed due to a combination of lack of final security clearances from Syrian authorities, lack of safe passage from non-state armed opposition groups, and insecurity. (Xinhua)

(24) Top Legislature...

member states, he said. All 57 members of the bank must ratify the agreement by Dec. 31, 2016, to become founding members. (Xinhua)

(25) S. Korea, ...

2013 and 86 billion dollars in 2014. Yoon and Hayashi agreed to maintain a close cooperation for regional economic integration in East Asia through the China-South Korea-Japan free trade agreement (FTA) and the regional comprehensive economic partnership (RCEP). (Xinhua)

(26) 17 Refugees...

are at the front line of the refugee flows, in particular debt-laden Greece. In recent weeks, Greece has been creating new "hot spots" to receive refugees with EU financial and technical support, but officials and experts have stressed that much more needs to be done. They have called for more efforts to achieve a political resolution of the Syrian war and strengthened cooperation with Turkey to deal with the smuggling networks on Turkish shores. Survivors of the latest tragedies told Greek media that they were forced to get on the old wooden boats at gunpoint by Turkish traffickers even though they had paid and had been promised with new vessels to carry them safely to Greece. (Xinhua)

(27) Sharif ...

and quarterly basis that would be monitored by the prime minister on a weekly basis.

"The CPEC would lead to generation of employment opportunities across the country and would lead to enhancement in trade and poverty reduction," he said. (Xinhua)

(28) Iran Backs ...

the Syria talks on Friday, was quoted by Iranian media as saying.

A senior official from the Middle East familiar with the Iranian position said that could go as far as ending support for Assad after the transition period. (Reuters)