

(1) 195 Pilots, ...

during President Hamid Karzai's tenure, but after 2008 special attention was paid to the air force rebuilding. Ahmadzai without going into the details said the country air force was no strong and was equipped with fighter jets and other facilities.

AAF Chief Lt. Gen. Abdul Wahab Wardak, told the new graduates: "Your are the most important persons. The ground forces without the cooperation of air force cannot capture a place or overcome the enemy."

He said the air force was in the state of progress and needed a strong professional human force.

Foreign advisor of the AAF Gen. Hicks said the AAF had improved fighter jets and there was need for the induction of professional and strong human force. He said despite the existence of foreign advisor professional and talented pilots were here in Afghanistan and the newly graduates could benefit from the experiences.

It was the second batch of graduates from the air university since its reactivation. (Pajhwok)

(2) Dostum Breaks...

Dostum during election campaign promised to the masses that he was not an engineer or economist to work in these areas but he was a fighter and pledged to bring stability and improved law and order situation.

He said over the past one and half-year he presented different action plans to eliminate militancy and bring stability to the country in the NSC meetings, but no plan was given importance.

In reference to the recent difference between President Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, he said the unity government deal should be implemented.

The Loya Jirga should be called to bring changes in the constitution and the government system should be changed from presidential to parliamentary, he believed. (Pajhwok)

(3) Provincial Budget ...

spending; the more our budget spending graph is targeted, the more we can convince the international community at the Brussels Summit," said MoF spokesman Ajmal Hamid Abdul Rahimzai.

"We recommended that all provinces come in the category of budgetary units but keeping in mind the population of every province and their requirements, their territory," said governor of Herat Mohammad Asif Rahimi.

"The balance is not kept while preparing budgets for the provinces, in some areas more money is allocated while other areas get less. If a balance in the budget is valued for provinces and governors are provided with the authority to spend it, provinces will develop quickly," said former governor of Paktia Samimullah Samim.

"Governors should be given a role in the budget issue, but professional cadres need to be included in terms of budget allocations," said economic expert Siyar Quraishi. (Tolonews)

(4) WFP Committed..

a further 1.6 million people by the end of the year, and to preposition food so WFP operations are not interrupted during the coming winter.

Cousin met the Afghan President, the CEO and other senior government officials, as well as WFP staff and partners. She also visited WFP-supported projects in Kabul, including one of Afghanistan's first female-run organic farms and a mill producing wheat flour fortified with vitamins and minerals.

During her visit to the Pilyary Farm, Cousin underlined the importance of partnership - with government, with other organizations, with local NGOs and with local communities - to achieve food security and sustainable development.

"It's only when you bring all of the parties together to achieve that outcome that it moves be-

yond being just an intervention, into something that actually builds sustainable, durable results," said Cousin.

In her meetings with senior officials, Cousin outlined WFP's objectives in Afghanistan. In addition to providing food or cash assistance for the most vulnerable, these include working with the government to advocate for food security and nutrition at the national level, investing in food security and nutrition preparedness for shocks, and promoting procurement from smallholder farmers, local fortified food commodities and nutrition enhancement.

A recent assessment by WFP and partners found that 40 percent of Afghans (11.3million people) are food insecure. Chronic malnutrition, also known as stunting, affects more than 40 percent of children under five.

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. Each year WFP feeds more than 80 million people in more than 80 countries.

WFP has been working in Afghanistan since 1963 with the aim of helping Afghans build a hunger-free future for themselves and their country. WFP food is distributed on the basis of need, without regard for ethnicity, religion or political affiliation. (Wadsam)

(5) Multi-Million...

a budget deficit of 1.200 billion afs," the minister said, adding the Finance Ministry provided the required funds in line with presidential orders.

He said the project had been constructed over an area of 40 hectares and work on it was launched in mid-2012. The housing scheme has 78 residential blocks and 2,014 apartments. (Pajhwok)

(6) Iran, Afghanistan...

posing a serious threat to Tehran, which is now recruiting local Afghan refugees to fight the terrorist organization. In an interview with Sputnik, Iranian political analyst Pirmohammad Mollazehi underscored the all-importance of closer security exchanges between Iran and Afghanistan. (Agencies)

(7) Repatriation ...

daily after the Eid festival, compared with 3,000 to 3,500 returning every day at present.

Zaib acknowledged repatriating more than 2.5 million registered and undocumented Afghans by the end of the year might be an uphill task. The situation will be reviewed in mid-November to chalk out the next course of action.

"I think that a fresh deadline will have to be fixed by the government for the return of remaining Afghan refugees," he commented, promising the government would help the returning refugees in disposal of their properties. (Pajhwok)

(8) Over 100 ...

18 in Logar and five in Paktia, a statement from the ministry said.

It added the rest of militants were eliminated in Nangarhar, Ghazni and Daikundi. Another 89 insurgents were wounded in the operations, according to the statement.

At least, 15 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers also lost their lives in the offensives, the ministry said, adding efforts were on to enforce security across the country. (Pajhwok)

(9) Pakistan Funded...

School in Kabul, Nishtar Kidney Centre, Jalalabad, 400-Bed Jinnah Hospital, Kabul, and 300-Bed Naib Aminullah Khan Hospital at Logar.

Ambassador Hussain expressed optimism that these projects would significantly contribute to the social and economic development of Afghanistan.

Highlighting the importance of the Naib Aminullah Khan Hospital, the Ambassador Abrar Hussain expressed the hope that the hospital would not only cater to the needs of the people of Logar province but also to the adjacent provinces.

"Similarly, the people of Kabul would also enormously benefit

from the 400-Bed Jinnah Hospital", the Ambassador added.

He informed that both the hospitals would be fully equipped with the latest technology providing various services to the patients.

The Ambassador also emphasized the need for closer cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, saying that both neighbours can benefit a lot from each other in various fields. He said that the destinies of the two brotherly countries are inter-linked and Pakistan had been endeavouring to work for the promotion of peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.

The Ambassador visited various sections of the hospital and reviewed progress of work. He asked the contractors to expeditiously complete the remaining work before the end of the year. (Pajhwok)

(10) Taliban Aims...

Afghan captors will kill them and their children unless the Kabul government ends its executions of Taliban prisoners.

The couple was kidnapped by the militants as soon as they visited Afghanistan late in 2012.

Earlier the couple appeared in two videos in 2013 asking the U.S. government to free them from the Taliban. The Colemans received a letter last November in which their daughter said she had given birth to a second child in captivity.

The release of the video comes as the reports emerged earlier this week suggesting Anas Haqqani has been sentenced to death by a primary court in Afghanistan. The Afghan officials have not commented regarding the trial of Anas Haqqani so far but reports regarding his trial came as the Afghan people have been urging the government to immediately hang him.

The Haqqani terrorist network is accused of several deadly attacks in Afghanistan including a major attack on VIP protection unit in Kabul which left at least 74 dead and round 347 others wounded. (KP)

(11) With Ghor..

"The governor has traveled to Saudi Arabia for performing Hajj, the deputy governor's position is vacant. The deputy police chief has been killed and the police head is unwell. The governor should have stayed in the province in this situation," he opined.

Atshan said lack of proper leadership and coordination was the main problem of Ghor province. The government had not paid any attention to resolving the issue in the past 15 years, he complained.

Ghor was also up against security challenges, but the authorities concerned were yet to launch any operation to eliminate militants, he said, asking the government not to play with the lives of Afghan forces and people.

Government leaders must put an end to political tensions and power-sharing issues and pay attention to the security situation on a priority basis, Atshan stressed.

A civil society activist, Mohammad Yasin Azhand, held the governor responsible for all military, civil services and administrative affairs. Despite the multiple challenges, the governor had flown to Saudi Arabia for Hajj, he pointed out.

"Residents and security forces are suffering because of continued clashes, but the leader of the province is absent and no one feels any qualms about the bloodshed," he remarked.

Habibullah, another resident of Ghor, said, "My brother was a member of the special police force. He voluntarily went to Pasaband district to fight against militants. He continued to battle the rebels for 10 years until his death," (Pajhwok)

(12) Raghistan Gold...

activist in Badakhshan.

Analysts said they believe that mines are one of the main reasons behind the war in Badakhshan and that government should take proper plans on hand in order to secure the province. (Tolonews)

(13) Chaman Border ...

officials delivered to their Pakistani counterparts a letter, in which the Ashraf Ghani administration condemned the Aug 18 incident.

The closure drew howls of protest from Afghan businessmen, besides affecting supplies to NATO forces and UNHCR-assisted repatriation of refugees. (Pajhwok)

(14) Residents want ...

the highway.

"We ask government to reopen the highway. It has created problems for us," said Faiz Mohammad, a driver.

Meanwhile, Masum Hashemi, security chief at Kunduz police headquarters, said they will soon reopen the highway as they have planned to carry out a large-scale military operation in the area.

"We have cleared several parts of the highway and we have decided to launch a large-scale military operation in other parts in order to secure the highway. We will establish police outposts on the highway," he said.

This comes after local officials in Kunduz said on Sunday that a large-scale military operation has been launched in order to reopen the Kunduz-Takhar Highway. (Tolonews)

(15) Former Ruler's...

They warned the state funeral for Kalakani amounted to fueling tensions among ethnic communities.

Provincial council member Mohammad Rahman Qaderi said: "We want to ask the central government why it is silent. It must spell out a clear stance to avert ethnic tensions."

Khaista Khan Ahadi, a noted tribal elder, warned: "Bigger demonstrations will be staged if the remains of Kalakani and his associates are not removed from the site in Kabul."

The protestors, denouncing the former ruler as an anti-state figure, also torched Kalakani's portrait and shouted slogans against him. (Pajhwok)

(16) Pakistani General...

to eliminate insurgents in the areas.

He added that heavy casualties have been inflicted on insurgents during military operations in Jawzjan over the past six months.

Meanwhile, a number of Jawzjan residents spoke out about what they called a relative security threat in Sheberghan city, saying that the threats to other parts of the province should be overcome by government.

"Security in Aqcha district is worsening. It is also bad in Qoshtepa and Khumab districts," said Raz Mohammad, a resident of Sheberghan city.

"Security forces should increase (troops) in Jawzjan in order to enable them to ensure the safety of the province," said Mohammad Karim, another resident of the city. (Tolonews)

(17) Raytheon Sued ...

counterparts for which they were contracted to train."

The lawsuit mentions one trainer who would return to camp 30 minutes after he set out to train the Afghans.

Another employee "would repeatedly claim that 'his people' were trained, and he would return to his room at the Camp within one hour of the day beginning," the lawsuit alleges. Kalch was told "that Raytheon had been given the first two years of the contract as a 'freebie,'" the complaint alleges.

"On at least three separate occasions, Kalch advised the contracting officers of fraud, waste and abuse by Raytheon relating to this contract," the lawsuit states.

Kalch also alleges that a supervisor had two dogs and would take them on "joy rides" in government vehicles while employees were supposed to be training the Afghans.

That supervisor also allowed Afghans to drive and damage government vehicles, the lawsuit states.

Kalch also witnessed a Raytheon intelligence officer "highly in-

toxicated" on the base, the complaint alleges.

During and after Kalch's reporting of the misconduct, the lawsuit alleges he suffered a variety of retaliation and harassment before he was fired.

A superior required Kalch to go fetch the mail after every report of an insider threat to kill Americans on base, the lawsuit alleges. When Kalch suspected an Afghan commander of stealing money, Kalch's boss told him to put his concerns in writing, and that only Raytheon leadership would see the document, according to the lawsuit.

Instead, the lawsuit alleges Raytheon officials took that document to a local Afghan commander.

The superior "laughed" when Kalch asked if they were trying to get him killed, the lawsuit states. Kalch alleges in the lawsuit that he went to a higher Raytheon superior after the incident and was told "not to put anything in writing in the future."

Other allegations of retaliation include the superior playing Christmas music endlessly in the office.

"When Kalch asked for it to stop, it continued without end and a singing Santa Claus was placed directly behind Kalch's desk," the lawsuit states.

Supervisors would reference Kalch's age, say he needed to work out more and once moved his work space to a counter, according to the lawsuit.

Kalch received good performance reviews but was informed of his looming termination in December 2013 because the U.S. Army had lost confidence in him, the lawsuit states.

A recording of Kalch reporting the misconduct to superiors was destroyed by Raytheon, the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit seeks damages of an unspecified amount for lost wages as well as emotional pain and suffering, mental anguish, inconvenience, humiliation, embarrassment, loss of enjoyment of life, stress and loss of reputation. It also seeks punitive damages against Raytheon and plaintiff attorney fees. (UPI)

(18) Over 1,000...

Malaysia (26) and Indonesia (22) also assigned a high number of media to cover the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits which will be held back-to-back from September 6-8.

In addition, 37 media personnel from Russia have registered to report on the event as well as those from Australia (33), Britain (25) and India (16).

The biggest number of registered foreign media personnel is from NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) with a group of 58, followed by Japan's FUJI TV (42), Chinese CCTV (41), CNN (40), AP (28), NBC News (28) and Xinhua News Agency (28).

Other major organizations sending large media contingents include TV Asahi (26), Nippon Television (24), Asahi Shimbun (22), Kyodo News (20), Reuters (15), AFP (14) and BBC (7). (Xinhua)

(19) Russian Export...

Currently, REC is already in the elaboration of more than 20 projects to support non-oil exports to Tajikistan.

Note that Russia remains the main trading partner of Tajikistan, despite the recession in the Russian economy. (Asia plus)

(20) Trump Says ...

be this. You cannot obtain legal status or become a citizen of the United States by illegally entering our country. Can't do it," said Trump on Wednesday.

During his almost 90-minute long speech, Trump railed about how illegal immigrants as a whole were posing a security and economic threat to Americans, pledging that "anyone who has entered the United States illegally is subject to deportation." (Xinhua)

(21) IS Retreat...

total of 86 people were killed in the attack. A few days later, two teenagers slaughtered a priest in a church in northern France. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for both attacks. (Xinhua)

(22) UN Chief ...

humanitarian aid after the terrible conflict that tore the country apart. I called for fast reconciliation and action to build peace, in the knowledge that conflict can recur in fragile post-war societies," he said. (Xinhua)

Security Heightened as Bangladesh Islamist Leader not to Seek Presidential Clemency

DHAKA - Authorities in Bangladesh have beefed up security measures around a jail in Gazipur on the outskirts of capital Dhaka as a Bangladesh Islamic leader decided not to seek presidential clemency for his imminent execution.

Mir Quasem Ali, Bangladeshi Jamaat-e-Islami party's central executive committee member, was found guilty of 14 war crimes committed in 1971, and lost his final appeal against a death sentence over the war crimes allegations, facing execution within "days."

"He told us that he won't seek presidential clemency," Prashanta Kumar Banik, Superintendent of Central Jail-2 at Gazipur's Kashimpur, told journalists on Friday.

He said Mir Quasem Ali informed the jail about his decision when the official asked him.

Sources said jail authorities could carry out the execution anytime as he was reluctant to use the last chance to save his life.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam on Tuesday told journalists after the final apex court ruling that there was no legal bar to execute the condemned killer unless he sought presidential pardon. (Xinhua)

Russia, Japan Try to Boost Economic Ties Amid Territory Dispute Stalemate

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday met with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of the ongoing Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok, Russia. The two leaders discussed a broad range of cooperation issues. As to their long-held dispute over four islands in the Pacific, which is deemed to be the main roadblock toward a peace treaty between Moscow and Tokyo, the two sides agreed to continue consultations.

During his visit to the Black Sea resort of Sochi in May, Abe presented detailed ideas on implementing an eight-point plan of cooperation with Russia, which covers various spheres. The Russian side said they had carefully reviewed those plans.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the EEF that several concrete projects on bilateral cooperation will be unveiled during Putin's visit to Japan scheduled for December. Moscow and Tokyo have held several rounds of talks on boosting bilateral cooperation and on the signing of a peace treaty, Lavrov said, adding that the results of those consultations, which Russia and Japan would continue with, will be announced during Putin's Tokyo trip.

Russia and Japan have not inked a bilateral peace treaty after World War II due to a territory row over four small islands in the Pacific - the Southern Kurils as Russia calls them or the Northern Territories as Japan calls them. The decades-old territorial dispute has hindered diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries.

Earlier on Friday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said this is a much more complex issue and requires longer and more expert-level efforts. In an interview with Bloomberg on Thursday, Putin noted that a compromise on the islands was possible provided there was a "high level of trust," but he added that Russia did not "trade territories."

"We are not talking about some exchange or some sale, we are talking about finding a solution where neither of the parties would feel defeated or a loser," Putin said in the interview. Lavrov said Tokyo has shown willingness to discuss issues related to the joint economic activity on those disputed islands, including "exchanges of people and humanitarian relations."

The two parties started evaluating each other from the standpoint of an economic partnership, which is a positive development, because in the political field, they have a lot of differences, Dmitry Streltsov, director of Oriental Studies at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, told Xinhua. (Xinhua)