

(1) Unity Govt....

He said the renewed international pledges showed Afghanistan remained the core part of international community's attention.

Maservisi praised the Afghan government's gains in areas of security, development, regional cooperation, reforms, transparency and countering corruption.

President Ghani said the Afghan government would attend the Brussels conference with full preparation and major achievements.

He said Afghanistan had fulfilled its promises with the Afghans and the international partners and as a result had achieved significant gains in areas of security, reforms, the rule of law, anti-corruption, women's rights and other various sectors.

The president said his government was trying to spend foreign aid money in an effective way and at proper places in order to improve the living standard of people and develop the country.

Ghani said his government would put itself up for accountability of every single penny in line with promises it had held out to the people of Afghanistan and the international community.

The president said the unity government had mobilized cooperation among the regional countries, which would have an important role not only in Afghanistan's development but the entire region's stability and development.

Based on its national programs and strategic location, Afghanistan was being turned into an Asia's roundabout, said Ghani, who added Afghanistan had the potential to effectively connect South and Central Asia. (Pajhwok)

(2) Reaching...

bring about reforms, improve the economic situation, prevent administrative corruption and improve the law and order.

"Without effective governance, we can't succeed. Some people believe without peace we will not be able to build our country and I also believe this."

He said the Afghan people wanted peace but they also wanted their government to seriously fight against terrorist organizations.

Abdullah said the Afghan government was ready to reconcile with insurgents who were willing to shun violence and bloodshed and those who supported the development of Afghanistan.

The CEO said the government appreciated security forces efforts at defending the country under tough circumstances. He also thanked NATO's Resolute Support (RS) mission for its support in this regard.

Abdullah asked the Afghans to have patience and remain united because Afghanistan's was an invincible country.

He said the government's focus on governance had improved but reaching the determined goals needed the international community's assistance.

The government also has programmes for development of agriculture, mining, education and public health fields, he said, adding there was also the need for international community's support in these areas.

Abdullah said the Afghan government also took into serious consideration the development of entrepreneurship and the government's programmes in this regard would be presented at the Brussels Conference.

He called unemployment and poverty in Afghanistan as convulsive and hoped the two issues would be paid attention at the Brussels conference.

He suggested the Brussels conference should consider technical issues in the unity government and said there was a dire need for social and economic reforms especially in the area of fighting corruption.

Abdullah said holding parliamentary elections in 2017 in a free and transparent manner had also been included in the agenda of the Brussels conference.

Stefano Maservisi, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) told the session said: "President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah have strong messages of Afghan people for international partners. The government's commitment should be appreciated and we are committed to keeping our promises as well."

He said the Brussels conference

was a new chapter of assistance to Afghanistan from the international community.

He evaluated Sunday's conference as successful and hoped the Brussels conference would also be like today's one. (Pajhwok)

(3) Women's Role...

women in remote areas."

In addition to this, a number of women's rights defenders in the country say that if the NUG does not recruit women in government departments based on merit, women will not trust in government.

Mahboba Saraj, a civil society activist and women's rights defender said: "Participation of women in peace talks is a big problem. First of all the opposite side of the talks does not want to sit with women around a table. This is not correct; we are not in a fight to take guns - we need to find solutions to the problems."

The High Peace Council has more than 70 members of which nine are women. (Tolonews)

(4) Afghan Leaders...

build the country's infrastructure. Noting that competition for development resources is increasing around the world, UN envoy Yamamoto called on international partners to sustain their support for Afghanistan, and described government's plans as "essential tools," that will "serve both to attract support from donors at the upcoming Brussels Conference on Afghanistan and to guide how that support is used to benefit the Afghan people."

The Brussels Conference will be co-hosted by the government of Afghanistan and the European Union on 4 and 5 October 2016 in Brussels.

Stefano Maservisi, Director-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission, said: "The European Union looks forward to welcoming the Afghan Government and representatives from around 100 countries and international organisations. The Union is firmly committed to a long-term partnership with Afghanistan. The EU is determined to support Afghanistan in its reform and state-building efforts to ensure citizens' democratic rights, and access to basic services such as education, health, food and jobs. The Afghan reform agenda, a new development partnership, and a new regional dynamic are key elements for the Brussels conference, which I am confident will signal a renewed and stronger partnership based on mutual commitments and mutual accountability."

In closing remarks, Afghanistan's Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah, said the new development framework builds up on Tokyo's self-reliance vision and presents a statement of how the National Unity Government will achieve its goals of moving toward self-reliance and increasing the welfare of Afghans.

"Have no doubt that both the president and I are committed to a practical reform agenda that aims to help our nation move forward," said Abdullah.

"Afghanistan has to seek its best political reform path, based on our national realities and needs." (Tolonews)

(5) Hekmatyar's ...

demands for the complete withdrawal of foreign forces.

Hekmatyar was originally demanding the complete withdrawal of the foreign forces from Afghanistan before officials talks begun between his party and the Afghan government. (KP)

(6) Naderi Presents ...

under three pillars, with the first pillar focusing on strengthening of urban governance and institutions.

"A transformation of urban governance is already underway. Our first priority was to end corruption. Under my leadership, MUDH has put 6 corrupt officials in jail. We - not just myself but also my fellow Ministers - have increased the share of young, motivated and highly educated men and women in the government. Their commitment and professionalism are the best medicine against the ways of the past," he added.

According to Minister Naderi, there are 20 new highly professional mayors who have immediately produced a 2.5 million dollar increase in revenue that they can now spend on improving their cities.

Pointing towards the breakthroughs achieved as a result of the reforms, Minister Naderi said ". Under my watch, MUDH's development budget execution increased from a pitiful %17 in 2014 to %49 in 2015.

On a base that has risen by nearly %300. By the second half of 2016, MUDH had already spent %50.5 of its budget, with a target of %90 by the end of the year."

The second pillar of the U-NPP, according to Minister Naderi, focuses on ensuring adequate and basic urban services to all.

"I am proud to say that construction on the largest housing development scheme in Afghanistan's history will begin in the next two months. 10,000 affordable family homes funded by the Chinese government and another 1,000 supported by the Qatari government," Minister said.

He also added that Khwaja Rawah Township was launched on Friday which will house some 60,000 citizens together with Khushal Khan project comprising of 5,500 privately-funded family homes.

Pointing towards the urgent need for housing is especially acute for IDPs and returnees, Minister Naderi said "We have submitted to UNHCR a strategy that will help ensure that adequate housing is extended to all Afghan citizens on equal terms; as we have promised in the ANPDF."

Minister Naderi said the Third Pillar of U-NPP is based on Harnessing the urban economy and the new NPP is built around partnerships with the private sector, including the Barikaab agro Industrial Park. Concluding his speech during the Special JCMB meeting, Minister Naderi emphasized on the need to create an investment-friendly environment that can attract business and help us build efficiently.

"Developing a national program for special economic zones, preparing to finally zone cities and carry out rational land use planning are just some of practical steps already in motion," he said, adding that "We also need to create jobs. While we improve the conditions for private sector development, we are also implementing the Clean and Green Cities programmes that will create over 10,000 labor-intensive jobs in our six largest cities over the next 2 years."

In other parts of his speech, Minister Naderi emphasized on building trust in the government and pride in 'our nation,' as the cities develop, the rich history must be preserved in a bid to make the heritage of the country a driver for development.

"The Darulaman Palace rehabilitation is an example of just such a project. We will recover one of our most important historical buildings to anchor a new government complex. This will ease Kabul's traffic, lessen car pollution, make our nation's capital a safer more livable city. Most importantly, the project will free up centrally located land for development, making the entire program cost-neutral," he concluded. (KP)

(7) Safi Airways...

and taxes despite the Civil Aviation Authority prepared a draft signed by the other airlines to clear the outstanding dues in installments, ACAA said, adding that

According to ACAA, the officials of the airline will can be put on exit control list and the assets of the airline could be put on sale as per the 24th article of department of taxes affairs.

The Civil Aviation Authority said a formal letter has been sent to the airline to prevent the sale of its tickets and services until it does not meet the conditions and clear its outstanding debts, warning that the airline would be responsible for any actions it takes to resume operations. (KP)

(8) Troops Failing...

offered in 365 districts under government rule. Only five districts are under Taliban control, districts that are not politically important to government. Let the insurgents have those districts and once security is maintained, they will automatically join the peace process."

Among the 1,300 newly graduated soldiers, 300 have been trained to protect VIPs.

"We will do our best to fulfill the wishes of Afghans," Noorulhaq Fahim, the director of the VIP Protection Department said.

General Lal Jan Zaheer, commander of Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC) said: "The new graduates are ready to fight insurgents and bring peace to the country."

These soldiers have said they are ready to fight insurgents.

Mortaza, one soldier said: "I will kill the enemy once I confront them."

Ghiasuddin, a soldier for the VIP Protection Unit said: "The lessons were good and we learned them all." (Tolonews)

(9) Abdullah Calls...

percent, with high variation, indicating a strong geographical and gender divide.

The highest female literacy rate, for instance is 34.7 percent, found in the capital, Kabul, while a rate as low as 1.6 percent is found in two southern provinces of the country.

Male literacy rates average about 45 percent, again with high variation. The highest male literacy rates are in Kabul, at 68 percent, while the lowest is found in Helmand, at 41 percent. (Tolonews)

(10) MEC Releases ...

refining companies remain stagnant and hundreds of workers of these companies were laid off, all a result of contradictory policies and resolutions, the report says.

"This has also led to applicable laws in the process of fuel and liquid gas importation is not being fully implemented."

The statement said a large portion of fuel and liquid gas was smuggled into the country. Some of the border equipment - including scanners, weigh scales, quality control laboratories - have been sabotaged by paid government employees due to lack of management and application of policies.

"Because this equipment has been sabotaged and not repaired, this has led to smuggling, the taking of bribes and custom duty evasion."

The report said the lack of leadership, lax management of the process, low capacity and the lack of proper equipment had greatly contributed to these problems.

For example, while the Afghan Fuel and Liquid Gas Enterprise (AFLGE) was created as a for-profit entity, but it ended in four billion afghanis in debt in 2015.

"Collected statistics show that in 2015 this entity was not able to provide the proper level of services and subsequently could not collect USD 17.96 million in service fees."

The two main government entities charged with managing the importation of fuel and liquid gas (Custom's Department and AFLGE) themselves disagree with how much fuel and liquid gas was actually imported.

The difference in 2015 alone was hundreds of thousands of tons, which MEC estimates "resulted in a loss of revenue in excess of USD 70 million."

"This cannot continue and MEC urges the government to immediately create a high-level team to investigate why such gross misconduct occurs, identify those suspected of corruption and refer them to the Attorney General Office for prosecution."

The MEC also urged the government to develop a proper mechanism so that such abuses were stopped and it was ensured that in future full amount of customs revenues were collected.

Corruption, lack of well-designed systems, and the inability of ANSA to better control the quality of imported fuel has facilitated the importation of low-quality fuel and liquid gas.

In addition, the current custom duty exemption mechanism which was designed for importing fuel and liquid gas to the international forces, has instead led to abuse by fuel traders which then allows them to illegally profit.

"The international forces and the Ministry of Finance have agreed to change this, but that is not enough."

The MEC called on the parties to immediately sign and implement the proposed memorandum of understanding changing the current process and ending the abuse.

"Considering all these vulnerabilities to corruption, as part of this Special Report, MEC proposes 36 recommendations to related government institutions for the improvement of the process of importing fuel and liquid gas."

The recommendations included both substantial legal reform and the uniform application of the laws, establishment of effective leadership, monitoring the system of importation, better equipment at border customs houses, structural and human resource reforms, and better management of the exemption for fuel and liquid gas for international forces. (Pajhwok)

(11) ICC Opens ...

member of the ICC, the chamber opened its office in Kabul under the title ICC Afghanistan, he said.

However, Behman said the office had not been formally opened so far, but it would be fully functional within the next two weeks.

"This office focuses more on foreign commerce and encouraging investments in order to improve

Afghanistan's exports and increase foreign investments in the country," he added.

ICC Afghanistan would also improve Afghanistan's business relations with other countries in the world, he said. ICC, one of the biggest trade originations, has offices in 92 countries, according to Behman.

Haji Mayal Khairkhwah was elected as head of the ICC Afghanistan following a transparent vote.

The ICC was founded in 1919 to serve world business by promoting trade and investment, open markets for goods and services, and the free flow of capital.

The organization's international secretariat was established in Paris and the ICC's International Court of Arbitration was created in 1923.

ICC Afghanistan will work for standardization, investment attraction, improving Afghanistan economy and exports to foreign countries, the spokesman said. (Pajhwok)

(12) Paktika's...

the collapse of the district.

But Niamatullah Babari, a sitting provincial council member, said fierce clashes were underway in the district, which had been cut off from the central government. He, however, was unaware whether the district had fallen or was still controlled by the government.

Meanwhile, the governor's spokesman denied the town's fall and said only a check post had been seized by the insurgent. He said reinforcements had reached the area and the checkpoint would be retaken soon.

Taliban claimed overrunning the district, with their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid saying the fighters had taken complete control of the town. He said seven soldiers were killed and another five injured.

Four fighters were also killed and five others injured during the five-day fighting, he acknowledged. Six Ranger pick-ups and other weapons and ammunition were also seized, he added.

Omna district is situated 45km west of Sharan, the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

(13) Pugwash...

civil society activists and officials. Around 150 people would participate in the conference, the source added.

Dr. Faiz Mohammad Zaland, a lecturer at Kabul University, said he had also been invited to the conference.

Zaland had attended the Pugwash conference on Afghan peace talks in Qatar.

He said Taliban representatives had not been invited to tomorrow's conference, but a number of the group's former figures had been invited.

Pugwash formally opened its office in Kabul about six months ago. (Pajhwok)

(14) Man Campaigning ...

family and work together with community members to curb the custom. He is carrying out his new campaign under the slogan "Public war on tyrannical marriages".

While seeking support from tribal elders, Adilurgho Ulema and prayer leaders not to attend forced marriage ceremonies. He warned of committing suicide if people did not join his campaign within a week. (Pajhwok)

(15) Taliban Worried...

countries - who toppled our established government, are killing our people, destroying our homes and have snatched freedom from our nation - or the warlords and incompetent and corrupt individuals who have been forced upon our people by America."

"Reports circulating in the media state that India will be providing military aid to the Kabul administration in form of aircraft and other equipment. This is the several time that India is giving the stooge Kabul administration military aid and it is an obvious fact that such weapons will be used to kill our people, oppress our nation and destroy our homes and public welfare structures, a good example of which is Puli Alchin bridge in Kunduz recently destroyed by regime helicopters that were provided by the Indian government," Mujahid added.

Condemning the decision by New Delhi for the delivery of more weapons to Afghan forces, Mujahid said "The Islamic Emirate condemns this action with the strongest of terms. Such acts will create distrust between the people of both countries and become a reason for further deterioration of relationship." India started the delivery of lethal

weapons to the Afghan forces for the first time late in December last year by delivering 3 Mi25- gunship helicopters.

India has played a crucial role in reconstruction of Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001 and since then has invested over 25 billion in various sectors, including the construction of the major Salma Dam and construction of the new parliament building in Kabul. (KP)

(16) Policeman Among ...

spokesman Zabihullah Mujahidsaid Taliban has captured security posts in Momand Kotal area.

He said nine Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel were killed and several others wounded. However, he did not give details of militant casualties. (Pajhwok)

(17) Kabul Police...

of recognition by Taliban fighters.

"This stamp on my back is because of going to heaven. They told us that after committing a suicide attack, only our finger will be cut and we will remain alive," Azizullah said.

Security officials said suicide bombers are deceived in madrassas in Pakistan and then they are sent to carry out their attacks in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(18) 36 Dead...

condition of the route and recklessness driving.

He said 90 percent of the victims had been burnt and it was hard to establish their identities. The dead could likely include women and children. (Pajhwok)

(19) Jawzjan: Children

their houses.

"The waves are becoming powerful with each passing day and several families have fled their homes during the past one month," he said. Egam Berdi, another dweller of the district, said most residents of the district living along the river would lose their homes if the government did not pay attention to the issue.

Qarqin district is 150 kilometers from Shiberghan, the capital of Jawzjan. The Amu River flows for 40 kilometers in the district and people lose homes and farmland to the river's waves every year. (Pajhwok)

(20) Iran Ready...

General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien in Tehran on Sunday.

Velayati and O'Brien exchanged views on the last regional developments, particularly the crises in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan, and ways to dispatch humanitarian aid to people in these countries.

The Iranian official stated that Iran is doing its utmost efforts to settle regional crises through peaceful approaches.

Velayati, who is also the president of the Center for Strategic Research of Iran's Expediency Council, further pointed to the latest developments in Iraq and said Iran has always stressed the importance of avoiding violence as much as possible and taking peaceful steps to resolve the crisis in the war-stricken country. (Presstv)

(21) U.S., Britain

toned down the rhetoric, saying that the warning was never intended to be a punishment. Yet he added that it would not make sense for Washington to deviate from the EU track.

The top priority for London now, Obama said, is to define its new trading relationship with other European countries. (Xinhua)

(22) U.N. Chief ...

Ban on Saturday in a testament to their resolve to jointly tackle the global challenge.

Although the Paris deal was signed in the French capital in December, it will legally enter into force only after at least 55 countries accounting for at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions join the accord.

The U.N. chief urged other leaders to show leadership by accelerating their domestic ratification processes, "so we can turn the aspiration of Paris into the transformative climate actions the world so urgently needs." (Xinhua)

(23) Turkey Can...

importance.

Turkey is a founding member of the China-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. It signed a memorandum of understanding with China in November 2015 on the harmonization of the Belt and Road Initiative with Turkey's Middle Corridor project, a proposed regional transportation network between Turkey and China. (Xinhua)