

(1) CEO Warns ...

would have serious implications for the country and the approach would add to the current conflicts.

"Today no one dares ask the generation of resistance what the identity of their father or grandfather was; we saw in recent years that these efforts have been a useless move," said Abdullah.

"Our martyrs are the symbol of national unity, they are not related to a certain race, ethnicity, area or political force. Our martyrs sacrificed their lives for certain objectives which belong to the entire nation," said Mohammad Sarwar Danish, Ghani's second Vice President.

Speakers also stressed the need for efforts to boost the nation's development process.

"What was hateful to Massoud was political tyranny. He used to be a critic of governments formed with a few votes," said Ahmad Zia Massoud, Ghani's special representative for reforms and good governance.

In addition to this, the foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani also urged Afghans to take steps to push the political establishment to meet its commitments to the nation.

"Our people must ask us as government officials to conduct our duties correctly so that step by step the politics of slogans and the demagogic politics is wiped out in the country," Rabbani said.

Participants also raised doubts over what they called silence regarding peace and asked the Taliban to swiftly join the peace process.

"From this stage I call on the Taliban that if you (Taliban) are supporting Afghanistan's development and prosperity, then stop the war. As long as the war is prolonged, the country will be poor and you (Taliban) will become the slaves of slaves," said Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, head of the Hizb-e-Islami party.

"As head of the Massoud Foundation, I want to say that there are efforts which aim to weaken martyrs week, over more than a decade we have seen that the Mujahedeen were pushed to the sidelines through various tactics," said Ahmad Wali Massoud, Chairman of the Massoud Foundation.

Ahmad Shah Massoud was known for his struggle against former occupation forces and then the Taliban movement. Twin suicide bombers posing as journalists assassinated Massoud fifteen years ago in Khawja Bahauddin district of northern Takhar province. (Tolonews)

(2) Danish...

Based on President Ashraf Ghani's legislative decree on the election reforms, the parliamentary elections will be conducted on a single-member constituency basis, a move which has widely been received with skepticism and doubt.

On Thursday, Abdullah's second deputy Mohammad Mohaqiq said that the single-member constituency was not the solution.

"There are disagreements over the single-member constituency system, there are a lot of people who do not accept the single-member constituency," he said.

Bringing about systematic reforms in the election law has been one of the disputed points between the government leaders.

On the basis of the legislative decree, each province will be divided into several constituencies and one candidate will be the winner from each constituency. It means that a candidate running in one constituency will not be allowed to run for the election from other constituencies in his province. Amid the controversy, there is a perception that the ratification of two crucial laws including the draft law on electoral reforms and the much-awaited census law by Ghani was a milestone for the country.

"It is a step forward to break the electoral deadlock and an achievement for Brussels Summit," said Mohammad Naem Ayoubzada, head of Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA).

"Single-member constituency is the core issue which can bring up some browls in the area where it is will be implemented," said Jandad Spinghar, head of Afghan election network. (Tolonews)

(3) Dostum ...

his deputy. The meeting came days after the VP lashed out at the president for what he called power concentration. Dostum complained he had no authority and his signature was given little credence. (Pajhwok)

(4) Study Finds

while, military analysts have blasted government for its poor management on the battlefields especially as the number of battles escalated, particularly in the south and north of Afghanistan.

Nangarhar with 118 security incidents was the most insecure province in the country and Helmand, Ghazni, Kunduz and Urozgan also witnessed heavy fights.

"The security problems are rooted in poor management, poor leadership and lack of knowledge about the enemy," said Atiqullah Amarkhil, a former military official.

Although the number of operations launched by security forces increased by 47 percent in August against the movement of insurgents from one area of the country to another also increased.

"We have plans for the districts that are under threat and in the districts where rule of law is not being practiced, we will crack-down on the enemy," said Muhammad Rad Manish, deputy spokesperson for the ministry of defence.

The increase in Taliban attacks by 30 percent caused an alarmingly high number of casualties among both security forces and civilians.

"Fights are ongoing in many areas, security forces need to be led coherently," Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former deputy of ministry of interior said.

Janikhail district in Paktia, Dahan Ghory district in Baghlan, Khanabad district in Kunduz and Khwaja Ghar district in Takhar all fell to the Taliban in August.

Janikhail and Khwaja Ghar districts have meanwhile been retaken by security forces, but Dahan Ghory district in Baghlan and Khanabad in Kunduz are still under control of the insurgents.

However, Taliban attacks on parts of Helmand and Kunduz provinces raised serious concerns - especially as insurgents had surrounded Lashkargah city and closed the Helmand-Kandahar highway for a month.

In addition, Zar Kharid and Pol-e-Alchin areas, that are only seven kilometers from Kunduz city, are under serious threat. (Tolonews)

(5) EU Calls ...

month. It is however hoped that the tension between the two leaders will end soon. Representatives of the international community, especially donor countries to Afghanistan, will meet in Brussels next month to draw up a roadmap on financial aid to Afghanistan over the next few years.

"I would like to ask NUG leaders to end their rifts. They want to represent Afghanistan separately at the Brussels Summit (but they must) present plans that can grasp the support of the international community," said Manservisi.

The international community wants the NUG to bring reforms, eradicate corruption and maintain the security of the Afghan people.

Analysts say that Brussels Summit is one of the last chances for the NUG to garner the support of the international community.

"European Union or the International Community's support of NUG in Brussels Summit does not mean that NUG has done a good job. The international community has repeatedly said that they cannot leave Afghanistan on its own in the current situation," Mohammad Amin Farhang, the former minister of commerce and industries said.

"Afghanistan needs to implement its promises made to the international community. Eradication of corruption, investigation of corruption cases, rule of law and implementation of reforms are the commitments made to the international community by the NUG," Hadi Miran, a political analyst said. However, government officials have said that in the first two years the NUG faced many challenges and promised that they will do more to implement big economic programs, fight corruption and start fundamental projects in the next three years. (Tolonews)

(6) Afganistan ...

concentrated on strengthening its security forces until two years ago.

Today, he claimed, Afghan forces enjoyed credibility at the global level. But the administration is currently focused on investment in Afghanistan's human resources.

He said a programme for human resource investment and infrastructure development was being prepared by his advisor Dr. Hamayun Qayyumi and the trade minister.

Ghani believed graduates from universities and higher education institutes could not measure up to private sector challenges.

Being a new exporter, Afghanistan sold \$200m beverages to regional countries. "We should transform into an electricity-exporting country," the president remarked.

He went on to fault Afghanistan's existing syllabi, calling for greater concentration on technical and literacy programmes to boost the capacity of the manpower.

Ghani touted Afghanistan's vocational and skill development potential. In the same breath, however, he underlined the need for devising and implementing workable strategies. (Pajhwok)

(7) US to Deploy...

Brigade Combat Team had previously supported Afghanistan in its fight against Al Qaeda and Taliban forces during Operation Anaconda in 2002.

"The Rakkasans are trained, well-led, and prepared to accomplish any mission given to them while supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel."

The soldiers had also performed advise-assist missions in 2014-2015.

101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) acting senior commander brigadier general Scott E. Brower said: "The Rakkasans are trained, well-led, and prepared to accomplish any mission given to them while supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel."

The US Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) commenced Operation Freedom's Sentinel in January 2015 after ending its combat mission, Operation Enduring Freedom.

Nato's Resolute Support mission also commenced in the same year, with nearly 13,000 personnel sent to train, assist and advise the Afghan Security Institutions and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

In July 2016, the army announced that it will send air crew and aviators from the New York Army National Guard to Afghanistan in early 2017.

The US military personnel have committed to eliminate terrorists emerging from Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks. (Tolonews)

(8) Watchdog ...

official told TOLONews.

The commission said that government leaders had promised to finalize the draft law before the key summit in Brussels next month.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MOL-SAMD) has said that the National Unity Government (NUG) has been successful in addressing a number of commitments made to improve the lives of children in Afghanistan.

The issue of street children and finalizing a law preventing exploitation against them is on the agenda for the Brussels Summit next month.

But, the AIHRC has hit back over the claims and said that the national unity government so far has failed to bring changes to the lives of children.

"Most of government's work was related to policy makings and legislations, but in practice, no change has occurred in the lives of children," said AIHRC spokesman Rafiullah Bedar.

Abdullah Fatah Ahmadzai, a spokesman for the ministry of labor and social affairs said that government was successful in implementing the law preventing the recruitment of children in the ranks of the security forces including the approval of a strategy that bans children from being hired to do heavy labor.

"We can say that we implemented 100 percent of our commitments, we outlined a plan for the Brussels Summit which will be defining our programs and asking for aid," said Ahmadzai.

But on the ground, there are still huge numbers of children on the streets across the country who work to financially support their families. Mustafa is eleven years old and works in Shahr-e-Naw in the Afghan capital to support his family.

"I work to earn money, provide food for my family and pay the house rent," said Mustafa.

The development takes place at a time that recently the United Nations International Children's Emergency (UNICEF) raised concerns over what it called the recruitment of Afghan children by warring factions.

A survey conducted by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) indicates that in the past few years, armed opponents have been recruiting children from schools in areas under the control of militants. (Tolonews)

(9) Afghanistan-Iran ...

and Herat Airport.

The latest development for the establishment of the railway line between Afghanistan and Iran comes as Afghanistan has been attempting to expand its regional transit reach.

Earlier this year the leaders of Afghanistan, India and Iran signed the Chabahar port agreement in Tehran, the capital city of Iran.

Afghanistan is expected to have sea-land access through the strategic Chabahar port in Iran by the end of this year as the work on the port already begun by a joint venture of Kandla Port Trust (KPT) and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) last year. Access to Afghanistan's Garland Highway can be made from Chabahar port using the existing Iranian road network and the Zaranj-Delaram road, constructed by India in 2009.

The port will be also used to ship crude oil and urea, saving India transportation costs. It will also cut transport costs and freight time for India to Central Asia and the Gulf by about a third. (KP)

(10) Massoud's 15th...

He was appointed as the minister of defence under the Peshawar Accord, a power-sharing agreement, in the post-communist Afghanistan.

He was assassinated in a suicide bombing, believed to be the first in Afghanistan, two days ahead of the September 11 attacks in the United States. (Pajhwok)

(11) Ghani Warns ...

parts of remarks during the meeting, President Ghani focused on Afghan peace talks, fight against terrorism, and the issue of the Afghan refugees repatriation from Pakistan.

Jenkins said the situation and environment in Pakistan suggest that the return of Afghan refugees may expedite and more refugees may return during the current and next year to Afghanistan.

President Ghani said the Afghan refugees are tired of pressures and the ongoing situation in Pakistan as they are willing to repatriate to Afghanistan, emphasizing that the Afghan refugees have invested millions in the country and the government is committed to support them to shift their investments to Afghanistan.

He urged the international community to support Afghanistan in this process as the Afghan government has taken necessary steps to assist the returnees. (KP)

(12) Haqqani...

under their control and use them as their main havens. Thus, they have been fighting with security forces in different areas, but the Afghan army destroyed their plans," Shahim said. Moreover, General Shahim said that the Afghan government is trying to get the support of India and China in fighting terrorist groups.

"I had a trip to India and China to get their support in cracking down on the terrorist groups. I spoke with the officials of both India and China and they promised us they would help Afghan forces in eradicating insurgents," Shahim said.

Meanwhile, Gulab Mangal, the minister of borders and tribal affairs, said that being a friend with India does not mean being enemies with Pakistan.

"Our friendship with India does not mean animosity with Pakistan. We want to have good relationships with all neighboring countries and other countries in the world," Mangal said. The concerns arose at a time that clashes are ongoing between security forces and insurgents in Janikhail and Samkani districts of Paktia and Omna district in Paktika. (Tolonews)

(13) Pakistan Extends...

legally live in Pakistan until March 2017.

Around 2.5 million legal and undocumented Afghan refugees are currently living in Pakistan, which has recently intensified pressure on them to go back to their homeland.

The cabinet meeting reviewed the extension of Proof Registration (PoR) Cards and Tripartite Agreement on registered Afghan refugees.

Faced with a host of challenges, the Ashraf Ghani administration says it is ready for absorbing the returnees. However, the refugees complain of inadequate facilities in Afghanistan.

Addressing the meeting, Sharif called Afghans his dear brothers, promising concrete steps to ensure the facilitation of the refugees living in Pakistan.

"They are our guests and their return plans will be decided in a way that does not create any negative impression in the minds of the people living on both sides of the border," he remarked. He directed the Ministry of States

and Frontier Regions to hold broad based-consultations with leaders of mainstream political parties and Afghan representatives in addressing the concerns of refugees. (Pajhwok)

(14) Calls Made...

believe that discord between the National Unity Government (NUG) leaders and not cracking down against insurgents could leave large parts of the country under threat.

"In order to defeat Daesh and Al Qaeda, we need to establish a national resistance movement," said Massoud. In addition, some other political parties also voiced their concerns regarding the current situation and insisted that serious steps need to be taken in order to prevent a new crisis from unfolding in the country.

"I support Massoud's suggestion and feel that in this bad situation we all have to do our best," said Arghandiwal.

The recent tension between President Ashraf Ghani and his Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah is believed to be a contributing factor to the poor security and economic situation.

"They (NUG leaders) say we have a national unity government, but every day they weaken national unity. They speak of peace with Taliban and other groups, but first they need to be at peace with each other," said Ahmad Wali Massoud, director of Shahid Massoud Foundation.

The new concerns come after three failed meetings between Ghani and Abdullah to iron out their differences. (Tolonews)

(15) War on Terror ...

this campaign."

The ex-president delivered his remarks during the academic discussion on the topic "Alliances for Democracy and Human Rights" at the private German university on Thursday.

He accused the US and its allies of paying no attention during the 15-year anti-terror war to destroying terrorist sanctuaries and training centres that were outside the border of Afghanistan.

In its current form, the war on terror was leading to the growth of extremism in the region, he believed, urging the US to include big powers like Russia, China and Iran in the alliance.

Karzai also commended Germany's strong cooperation with Afghanistan in different field over the past 13 years. He said one of his key goals was that Afghanistan should once again become home to all Afghans with equal rights. (Pajhwok)

(16) Kajaki Dam ...

which will be installed by the end of this month," said Shakeeb Ahmad Ansar, advisor to DABS.

However, it has been reported that the Taliban are active on two sides of the dam, but officials said there is no threat against the dam and that work on it has progressed according to schedule.

"We do not feel security threats, because security forces through their good coordination have maintained the security and we will do our best to inaugurate the project in the specified time frame," said Matts Gall Matsan, deputy of the monitoring company for Kajaki Dam.

Meanwhile, officials responsible for the dam have said they are happy as the first phase of the dam is almost complete. Once finished, contractors will start on the second phase, which will include the installation of a further four turbines that will increase power output to 150 megawatts within the next two years.

"Sonti Soon company will start the second part of the project. Currently the company is discussing the issue with the Ministry of Energy and Water so it can work on the second part and install four turbines in the next two years," said Zabiullah Ghiasi, deputy of Kajaki Dam project.

Kajaki dam is a key project for the country as the addition of the third turbine will go a long way in alleviating power shortages across the southern part of the country. (Tolonews)

(17) Supply Route...

casualties on security forces during the ensuing clash.

Agha Mohammad Takra, the district administrative head, confirmed the overnight attacks on check-posts, but had no information on the casualties.

The district chief demanded air support and ground forces from provincial officials to keep the Nawa from falling into Taliban's hands.

Governor Hayatullah Hayat, addressing a martyr's day ceremony in Lashkargah, conceded the loss of at least 10 policemen today. However, he did not say where and how they were killed. His spokesman, Omar Zwak, confirmed five policemen were injured. But he denied the fall of any check-post. He

said the security forces had launched an operation to defuse landmines on the road. (Pajhwok)

(18) Gov't Security ...

point and strong point," said MoI deputy spokesman Najibullah Danish.

However, a large number of attacks in Kabul have been carried out by truck bombings. But police at some check posts say that searching these vehicles is not part of their duty.

Pul-e-Charkhi area of Kabul is one of the key routes into the city where the police does not search every vehicle entering the capital.

"Police search only small vehicles such as Corollas; we do not search the trucks," said a police officer in Pul-e-Charkhi.

"They (police) do not search trucks loaded with cement, flour, tomatoes and potatoes," said a driver, Gahwar.

"A suicide attack happened in the city including Shahr-e-Naw attack, these attacks should not happen in the city," said a resident of Kabul, Sattar.

"Intelligence agencies are quite weak," said another resident Matin.

"There are serious weaknesses and incompetency with our intelligence institutions, the national unity government should take steps to improve the performance of the intelligence and reconnaissance organs and their working capacity," said senator He-dayatollah Rehayee. (KP)

(19) Foreigners Among...

been prepared and no one would be allowed to disturb public order during the Eid, Gen. Ghairat continued. He urged the general public to cooperate with security forces.

"If the people don't support us, the security forces can't do much on their own. One reason is that their strength is far from adequate. We can't set security checkpoints everywhere."

The police boss called on the militants to lay down their weapons and participate in the reconstruction of their war-torn country.

Meanwhile, Governor Hakam Khan Habibi also urged the rebels to join the reconciliation campaign. War did not offer a solution to problems, the governor argued. (Pajhwok)

(20) Highway Cleared...

Maiwand Corps commander, said public people were announced their conflict within militants when Taliban caused economics loss for them in the area.

The special force, Afghan National Army (ANA), police and National Directorate security (NDS) personnel were still in fighting against the militants, the commander added. Three security officials were also killed and six others wounded.

Meanwhile, a security source revealed 25 policemen had been killed at two check-posts torched by militants.

Zabiullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, rejected the claim as baseless. Instead he claimed the fighters had inflicted casualties on security forces during clashes. (Pajhwok)

(21) Japan Calls ...

Abe said earlier that Japan would liaise closely on the matter with the United States and South Korea as the situation unfolds and stated that he had instructed all relevant officials in his office and applicable ministries to gather more information about the latest nuclear test. (Xinhua)

(22) Security Council Council urged the parties in Yemen to immediately resume consultations without preconditions with the UN special envoy.

"The members of the Security Council stressed to all parties that any new political arrangements should be the result of an agreement following negotiations under UN auspices, and not the result of unilateral actions by any side," said the statement. (Xinhua)

(23) China, Britain...

bring new connotation to their pragmatic cooperation.

"We should make our military relations a critical growth pole for our bilateral relations," Chang added. (Xinhua)

(24) ASEAN to...

economically integrated, socially responsible and a truly rules-based, people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community.

The future development the ASEAN Community will focus on the priorities such as implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, narrowing development gap among member states, facilitating trade, developing micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), promoting tourism and connectivity and reinforcing cultural heritage cooperation. (Xinhua)