

### (1) Terrorism ...

as they continue to push back [Daesh] from the territory that they have taken."

Speaking on Syria and Iraq, he said the United States' strategy has consistently been to leverage air power to support the Iraqi security forces' ground efforts and, where possible, the efforts of opposition groups inside Syria to push back Daesh.

These push-back efforts, he said, include thwarting their financing, networks, supplies and infrastructure.

However, Obama lamented that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has brought such destruction upon his people and cities, and created sectarian conflict between Shia and Sunni populations inside Syria, so the country has become "a magnet for jihadists throughout the region."

Also, the president explained, if Assad remains in place, he will have alienated so much of the Syrian population that a peaceful ceasefire and political settlement will not be possible. "You'll continue to have this vacuum that's filled by extremists," he said.

According to the president, the "good news" is that Russia and the United States share concerns about countering violent extremism and concur that Daesh remains a danger.

"Despite our conflicts with Russia in areas like Ukraine, this is an area potentially of converging interests," the president said. "The bad news is that Russia continues to believe that Assad, who is their traditional partner, is somebody ... worthy of continuing support."

The president recounted that Russian President Vladimir Putin ignored his advice in recent years to cease financial support and arms sales to Assad. "[Putin] did not take my warnings and as a consequence things have gotten worse," he said. (Tolonews)

### (2) IDB Pledges ...

government, IDB will consider long-term Islamic loans to government.

"Islamic economy has to play a key role in Afghanistan," he said.

Reacting to the IDB announcement, officials from the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture have said that Afghanistan was still need financial cooperation of monetary institutions to boost its basic economic infrastructure and domestic production.

"The new minister of agriculture and irrigation, while explaining his 100-Day plan, drew an explicit and positive strategy to them to ask for more aid to farmers and payment of loans," Lotfullah Rashid, spokesman to ministry of agriculture said.

The main purpose of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to foster the economic progress of the Islamic countries and Muslim communities individually as well as jointly.

Currently, the IDB funding project is worth \$80 million in Afghanistan.

Considering the effective role of IDB's financial aid, some Afghan economic commentators have said that government can take advantage of the monetary body by forging inclusive economic plans. (Tolonews)

### (3) Senior Officials...

The MPs - particularly those from the provinces, who returned last week after their summer break - said that security is the biggest challenge for the Afghan public.

"There are documents showing ministers, governors, police and military officials are involved in insecurity in the country. The people have these documents and the government must take action over this," MP from northern Balkh, Abdul Rahman Rahmani said.

Many MPs, from the provinces, said they had reviewed the problems faced by the people and that in addition to matters of security, corruption, unemployment and a perceived weak government are of also of major concern to the public.

Zakia Sangin, an MP from northern Parwan province said: "Parwan was one of the secure provinces and these days it has become insecure and the insurgents' activities are also increasing and is a serious threat which government needs to address."

A number of MPs have warned government that "if they [government] do not pay attention to the problem, the insecurity will increase in the coun-

try."

"All the MPs should come together and make a plan for the security issues to help the government in this regard," MP from eastern Kunar, Wazhma Safi said.

This comes after insurgents have consistently increased their activities in the country and frequently attack military outposts and government officials. (Tolonews)

### (4) Current Peace ...

to send their recommendations for peace to presidential palace on papers. He said that peace is a national issue, adding that both government and the nation need to take part in it.

He added that no sacrifices would be spared in this way. (KP)

### (5) India to ...

would incur \$3000 expenses on each VSD patient, but in case of a complicated CSD problem, the expenses could reach \$4000 to \$12,000 and the surplus money should be paid by ARCS.

She also thanked Kam Air Airlines and Alokozai Group Companies for the provision of two-way ticket for the children to New Delhi.

Amar Sinha said he was happy his country could help the children, saying they would also conduct training programmes for Afghan cardiologists handling simple CSD cases at the French hospital in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (6) MPs Split ...

rational reason to delay the project. He called on government to make a final decision and move forward with the much-awaited project.

Constant delays over the e-NIC roll out campaign have divided MPs, and some on Saturday blamed foreign interference and meddling by Pakistan for the delay.

"Continued interference of regional intelligence services particularly Pakistan's spy agency is delaying the project. The government should not sacrifice all for such interference," MP Shekiba Hashemi said.

"I think there is a need to mount pressure on the government to take action and pave the way for e-NIC," MP Ali Akhlaqi said.

In addition to the data content disputes that plague the process, some MPs on Saturday said that the term "Islam and Afghan" must also be included on the new cards.

"Afghanistan faces numerous interferences. What is the problem if the terms Islam and Afghan are written on e-NIC," MP Nabi Tarakhail said.

Reacting to MPs' statements, speaker Ibrahim maintained that the census law was already in place, adding that there is no more excuse for the delay of launching e-NIC.

"The law has been implemented, if the government has reservations about the law, then refer it to parliament for amendments," he said.

As MPs continue to disagree over the project, a number of residents in northern Balkh province on Saturday staged a demonstration to protest against what they call political differences and demanded that the e-NIC process be rolled out immediately.

"We want the political disagreements to be put aside. Government leaders must take a decision about e-NIC," a protestor Abdul Baqi said.

"We are a united nation and will not allow such friction amongst us," another protestor Jamil said.

In addition to the ongoing dispute, major funding by international bodies, including the EU, has been suspended pending the roll out of the campaign. This is believed to be a tactic on their part to put pressure on government to move forward on the process.

So far \$30 million USD has been spent on the project. (Tolonews)

### (7) Sacked AISA...

head. They said lately more than 133 AISA staff had been fired illegally.

Abdul Satar Alokozai, who earlier worked at AISA office in Herat province, said Haqjo, the new AISA head, had sacked them illegally and on the pretext of a declining AISA budget.

Reading a resolution from the sacked employees, he said: "We, the removed members of this agency, ask the unity government leaders to take immediate action against the arbitrary and illegal act of AISA head Mohammad

Qurban Haqjo. Attention to this case would ensure the safety for civil servants and prevent such politicized treatment of staff in other departments."

They called for the AISA decision to be reconsidered forthwith, arguing the dismissal of 133 employees took place without legal and administrative standards being considered.

Abdul Sattar Alokozai said: "We were dismissed at a time when the AISA's head increased his salary from \$6,000 to \$8,000, which itself is questionable given the lack of budget with the agency."

He warned if their demands were not met, they would continue protesting. He said each of the sacked employees had 5 to 10 years work experience and university degrees.

During the protest, the sacked employees also set their academic documents ablaze.

Assadullah, another protester, said they burned their documents to show these documents had no value and all that mattered were political connections.

Abdul Qadir Zazai, a member of the Wolesi Jirga, who was present at the demonstration, announced support for the rights of the protesters, saying he would convey their grievances to the parliament.

He said it was imperative the president and the CEO should honour their promises and take measures to provide job opportunities for the youth.

AISA officials could not be reached for comment. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Massoud Insists ...

on a new curriculum that met the current requirements.

"We can't establish the position of our youth in the society with the current education system which is not a proper one. We haven't done any research on the issue to make a policy to fulfill the current needs," he said.

"There is a need to upgrade the quality of education system and bring changes to it," he said. He said there was widespread corruption in the Kankor (university entrance test).

Massoud asked the Ministry of Higher Education to make the exam system electronic one in cooperation with the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology in order to prevent corruption and interference of powerful men.

He said the ministries of higher education, education and social affairs should have strong coordination and should provide work opportunities to new graduates.

They had taken initial steps for reforms in the Higher Education Ministry especially with regard to the Kankor process by finalising the draft law on higher education, Higher Education Minister Farida Momand said. She said the steps included encouraging private higher education institutes and establishing a monitoring committee

While confirming the old syllabus still taught at universities, she said efforts were underway to resolve the problem and they would prepare a specific plan in this regard in the near future.

They have been jointly working on a plan with the ministries of public works and social affairs, education and the Office of the Administrative Affairs to ensure a balance in creation and demand for jobs, the minister said. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Afghan Taliban...

Mansour said the deception ensured Taliban unity amid the 2014 withdrawal of NATO troops.

Despite his efforts, as rumours of Omar's death grew stronger, at least three Afghan insurgent factions pledged allegiance to Islamic State, a Middle Eastern group known for public executions and systematic rape in Iraq and Syria.

In recent weeks, Mansour sent Mullah Jalil, an envoy with good contacts with the Taliban's political leadership, to persuade senior members based in the Middle East to publicly support him instead of a rival faction coalescing around Omar's brother and son, Taliban insiders said.

The Taliban operate a political office in Qatar and also frequently hold informal meetings with diplomats in the United Arab Emirates. (Reuters)

### (10) Afghan Migrants ...

home made him make the journey to Europe.

"In Afghanistan, war, all of provinc-

es," he said. "If I stay in Afghanistan, I will be killed, die, everyone. Every day take place suicide attack in Afghanistan, every day, in every place," he said.

Once the dinghies reach the shores of Lesbos the migrants' journeys are far from over. They then have to make their way to the capital city, Mytilene, to register and then receive the papers that will allow them to travel to Athens.

All non-Syrian migrants are placed in the official camp of Moria or they set up tents in makeshift camps in public parks.

One Pakistani, Muzammal Addas, said he left his country for security and economic reasons, and was looking for a better future in Europe.

"Pakistan, we live in poverty, poor people. I want to work in this country," he explained.

The northern Aegean islands have become one of the main European Union gateways for tens of thousands of migrants making the short sea crossing from Turkey in flimsy dinghies.

The vast majority of arrivals head north to the border with Macedonia, where an official with the United Nations refugee agency said some 7,600 had crossed in the 24 hours to Thursday evening, far more than previously. (Tolonews)

### (11) Protests over ...

slogans like "word Afghan applicable to all." They also chanted slogans in support of national unity and waved national flags.

One of the rally organisers, Gul Rahman Hamdard, told Pajhwok Afghan News that some foreign circles and domestic elements were creating differences among Afghan tribes through the national ID cards.

Calling as essential the inclusion of words "Afghan and Islam" in the new electronic ID cards, Hamdard insisted the two words should be written in the cards. He also said besides "Afghan," all tribes should be mentioned. Balkh provincial council member Shujauddin Shuja appealed to the government and the masses to put the issue to an end. He also supported the inclusion of word "Afghan" and mentioning other tribes as well in the ID cards.

At the end, the rally participants issued a five-article resolution, in which they urged the government to break its silence over the issue of the new ID cards.

They asked the government to mention besides words "Afghan and Islam," other tribes like Tajik, Uzbek, Aimaq, Sadat, Turkmen, Hazara, Nuristani, Pashai, Pashtun, and others.

The resolution letter said the country's Constitution should be approached for resolving the issue of ID cards and that like the national anthem, the mention of all tribes in the cards would result into increased national unity and cooperation.

The resolution's last article warned the government of launching massive protests if it failed to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Elsewhere, thousands of people in eastern Kunar province took to the streets, calling for the addition of words "Afghan and Islam" in the new ID cards.

Led by members of the provincial council, the protest gathering was attended by tribal elders, religious scholars, youth and civil society activists.

The demonstration began at 8am in the morning and continued until 11am. One of the organizers, Senator Rafiullah Haideri, told Pajhwok Afghan News the people of Kunar wanted the government to enforce the Article Second and Fourth of the Constitution across the country.

"We, the people of Kunar, will not accept ID cards without words Afghan and Islam mentioned in them," he said. He also warned of continuing their protest if the government did not consider their demand.

Religious scholar Maulvi Farmanullah said the Afghans had been rendering sacrifices over the past three decades in the name of Afghan and Islam and they were ready for more sacrifices.

He said if the government did not mention the two words in the ID cards, the masses would stand up against it.

At the end, Provincial Council deputy head Jamaluddin Seyar, read out the

resolution letter, which said the people of Kunar had decided not to accept the new ID cards without the two words.

Similar protests have been carried out in the central capital Kabul and a number of provinces. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Pakistan Analysts...

the two countries.

"In my opinion, the Afghan Taliban, which are in Pakistan, and the Afghan government wants the Taliban to come to the negotiating tables but Pakistan must help Afghanistan in this regard," a Pakistani civil society activist, Alam Zeb said.

Nesar Khan, a political analyst of Pakistan has also said that "we are asking the Pakistan government to improve their relations with Afghanistan and participate in the peace process to bring peace to Afghanistan."

The political analysts and civil society activist said in order to re-establish trust between both sides and bring peace to Afghanistan; the Pakistan government must help Afghanistan.

"Pakistan government must be clear towards Afghanistan and cooperate with Afghanistan. The Afghan government should also stop [casting] suspicion over Pakistan," a Pakistani analyst, Mukhtar Pacha said.

Meanwhile, Latif Afridi, another Pakistani political analyst said: "[President] Ashraf Ghani said that Pakistan supports Taliban is true and Pakistan should stop this and hold the peace process. (Tolonews)

### (13) MoHE Violates...

lower than 60 percent, adding that the status of some others is still doubtful who might have not been graduated from 12th grade in order to pursue higher education.

MP Ayoubi uncovers fraud within the Ministry of Higher Education as the government says that there is zero tolerance towards the corruption. (KP)

### (14) Kabul-Gardez...

and solve businessmen's problems."

An AISA officer, wishing anonymity, said seven ministers had decided the zonal branch in Paktia should be shifted to Khost province. The branch was opened in 2011 in Paktia before being shifted Khost a week ago. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Kabul Rally ...

According to him, the MoLSMD was working on short and long-term plans to get rid of unemployment and produce jobs.

Earlier, the National Workers Union (NWU) had said as many as 16 million people in the country were eligible to work out of which three million had jobs and the remaining were jobless. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Taliban Retake ...

five kilometers from their base. The militants torched and seized a number of tanks during the attack, he acknowledged.

The Nawrozak base is known as a strategic location in Baghlan-i-Markazi that shares a border Samangan province. A year ago, the centre was under Taliban's control which was threatening Samangan, Kunduz and Baghlan provinces.

But later on, Afghan forces were able to wrest it from the militants. Security officials said the insurgents had attacked the area several times in the past one month.

However, the security forces resisted and pushed them back. After several attempts, the fighters regained the control of the base on Friday night. The Taliban did not yet commented. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Family of ...

his children but have urged government to help financially.

Rahimullah's mother Fatima says that her son sacrificed his life to defend Afghanistan's national sovereignty, freedom and territorial integrity.

"I surrender to the will of Allah that my son became a martyr. I will take care of his children until my last breath. Today I feel proud to have a martyred son," she said.

Meanwhile, Rahimullah's uncle has blamed the government for not sending reinforcements in to the area during the attack. He said that Rahimullah and his colleagues resisted the Taliban for two days without even having food.

"Though we are happy about Rahimullah's martyrdom, the government doesn't take care of our sons. Rahimullah and his colleagues fought for two days and no one went to their help," he said.

Rahimullah's brother said: "My brother was martyred for the country. Though I have moral obligations to take care of his family, government should also fulfill its obligation so that his children can continue their schooling," his brother said. (Tolonews)

### (18) 8 Suicide ...

Separately, five guerrillas were killed and two others wounded in Maiwand and Maroof districts, he said, adding 117 roadside bombs were defused in the past 24 hours in Kandahar.

Taliban have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Pump Stations....

said he had been in search of petrol since morning. The price of one litre of petrol jumped to 85 afghanis from 41afs.

Deputy Governor Abdul Ali Shamsi said negotiations with the striking petrol pump owners were underway to find a solution to the issue. He, however, called the closure of petrol pump station a mafia-type action. (Pajhwok)

### (20) UN Official ...

them, 'I trust you,'" he said of Iran. But he noted the saying "Trust, but verify" and added, "Why don't you give us this assurance?"

The CTBT organization has 196 member states - 183 that have signed the treaty and 164 that have ratified it. But the treaty has not entered into force because it still needs ratification by eight countries involved in originally negotiating it: Iran, Israel, Egypt, India, Pakistan, North Korea, the United States and China. (AP)

### (21) Obama Likely...

face-to-face since last year. The Senate vote on Thursday, which essentially sealed a major foreign policy victory for Obama, was widely seen as a defeat for Netanyahu and the largest U.S. pro-Israel lobby. (Reuters)

### (22) More War, ...

are on the rise, and the fraying welcome has contributed to the decision of many asylum-seekers to move on to Europe.

Metin Corabatur, who runs a research center on refugee issues in Turkey, noted how his country rolled out an "open-door" for refugees but never instituted a thorough "integration strategy." Of the 1.9 million Syrians who have fled to Turkey, only about 300,000 are in refugee camps, while the vast majority has taken up life in towns and cities along the border.

"The whole asylum system is based on being temporary," he said. "In the absence of any integration scheme, these people are becoming increasingly hopeless, their situation has been deteriorating." (AP)

### (23) Hungary ...

pay 1 percent extra into the EU budget while reducing other spending by the same amount. He was quoted as saying that would generate 3 billion euros (\$3.4 billion) for aid, which could be increased "until the stream of refugees dries up." Aydan Ozoguz, a senior German government official responsible for immigrant issues, said that "the pace at which people are fleeing from the region is breathtaking." (AP)

### (24) NATO Deals....

ing concern regarding the threat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses to global peace and security, while also discussing the unrest in Syria. (Xinhua)

### (25) Turkmen ...

freedom of personal integrity at the preliminary stage of investigations. The course participants also looked at the mechanisms of guaranteeing human rights upon completion of preliminary investigations and exchanged views on the importance of international cooperation among pre-trial investigation agencies. (AKIpress)