

(1) Taliban will...

"In the past ten years, promises were made to Paktia residents, but none of them were addressed. For me, it will be very bad to give empty promises to the people. I urge you (President Ghani) to deliver the commitments made to the people," said Katawazai. (Tolonews)

(2) 25 Mine Inspectors ...

well as on different aspects of mineral processing such as ore concentration processes.

Afghanistan is rich in mineral resources, including copper, iron, gold, lithium, rare earth and cobalt. These resources offer great potential to increase economic growth, generate additional revenues and create many jobs in the extractive sector. However, to exploit this potential efficiently, mining activities have to be well-managed, regulated and overseen transparently, according to a statement from the Afghan-German Cooperation.

The programme Promoting Good Governance in the Extractive Sector in Afghanistan is being implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). (Pajhwok)

(3) Nangarhar Records ...

Mangal tasked the committee on preventing violence against women with finding job opportunities for young girls at offices besides resolving issues women faced.

The governor also ordered the social affairs director to establish kindergartens at safe homes and asked the public health director to appoint female health professionals at safe homes. He ordered the police headquarters to detain perpetrators of the violence against women. The governor assigned officials to some other tasks as well.

Public health director Dr. Najeebullah Kamawal said they had recorded 27 cases of violence against the gender during the current year and needed measures had been taken to resolve the cases. He said the 27 cases were part of the 72 cases mentioned by the women's affairs director.

At the gathering, some cases of violence on women were discussed and decisions were taken accordingly. (Pajhwok)

(4) Defense Ministry ...

"When the rule of law is not secured, then what will happen to the citizenship rights? Anyone will use his gun to acquire what he wants. Then the power will take the place of rule of law," university lecture Musa Fariwar said.

An Afghan National Army official meanwhile said one of the aims of forming the militia under the MoD is to prevent the illegal militia groups from gaining more power.

The new forces are forming at a time that Afghanistan has at least 20,000 local police who are busy in maintaining security in their areas across the country. (Tolonews)

(5) New Surge...

be realistic if the Obama surge of 30,000 will lead to the Taliban gaining more control, then what is a surge of four or five thousand troops going to do unless we want to have a permanent presence there like Korea," Khanna added.

He urged the Trump administration to ask India, Pakistan, China, Iran and Russia to step up cooperation in that region and make it clear the US reserved the right to strike those attacking its homeland.

A perpetual US presence in Afghanistan was not needed, he observed. "I think Taliban would realise that we're serious if there's evidence of harboring terrorists we always reserve the right to engage in surgical strikes. "But that doesn't mean that we should be sending our troops there or establishing a permanent presence there," the legislator concluded. (Pajhwok)

(6) IEC Site Chief...

"Corruption exists everywhere, but corruption within the commission which is a national institution could damage the trust of people and create distrust among the people about elections," said Jandad Spinghar, head of Afghan Civil Society Election Network.

But, in a telephonic interview Qalamyar has rejected the allegations and said that these charges were fabricated against him.

Qalamyar has been serving in his post for several years and kept his post even during the change brought to the IEC leadership. (Tolonews)

(7) Govt's Counternarcotics ...

slip into addiction.

A civil society activist, Attaullah Afghan, also asked the government to become more serious in the fight against drugs.

He slammed the government had failed to take essential steps and measures for eliminating the scourge of drugs.

Uruzgan counter-narcotics officials also admitted some concerns of people as true, saying they discharged their responsibility to their level best. The department's head, Hamidullah, said growing and using drugs was illegal from Islamic point of view, so farmers should shun the illicit plant. He asked all the Afghans to join hands for making a success the ongoing fight against narcotics.

Currently more than 15,000 people are addicted to drugs in Uruzgan province. (Pajhwok)

(8) Probe Ordered into ...

people who share our grief and sorrow is not justifiable."

Wednesday's meeting also discussed the situation in northern provinces such as Faryab, Jawzjan, Baghlan, Nuristan, Kabul and Uruzgan.

Interior Minister Wais Barmak briefed the meeting on the incident that happened on September 8 and 9. He said some residents of Kabul suffered losses at the hands of illegal gunmen.

At least 13 people were injured in firing on the first day of the Martyrs Week and 12 suspects have been arrested so far. (Pajhwok)

(9) Risk of Civilian ...

With the U.S. set to resume a more active role in the war, many analysts expect a rise in the U.N.-documented first-half figure of 232 civilian casualties from international and Afghan air operations, a spike of 43 percent from a year earlier.

"The issue about air strikes is part of a broader package of concerns," said one Western official.

"I don't hear Western diplomats saying, 'How many bombs should we drop?' I hear them saying, 'Why are we bombing?' What are we doing here, in general?"

During the 16 years since a U.S.-led campaign toppled the Taliban from power in 2001, resentment has repeatedly been fueled by coalition missteps that undermined hard-won progress on the political or military fronts.

The exact contours of Trump's plan remain uncertain, but officials of several coalition nations told Reuters they feared more civilians could be harmed, despite avoiding the subject in public remarks.

Additional airstrikes can be a double-edged sword for leaders looking to stem Taliban offensives, said Christopher Kolenda, a former U.S. Army officer who served in Afghanistan and worked on American military strategies for the conflict.

"Better air support for Afghan forces on the ground will limit gains Taliban can make, and that's helpful in negotiations," he said.

"The downside is if this creates a rise in civilian casualties, then you run a high risk of creating a cascade of negative perceptions among Afghans."

There is no question Ghani cares deeply about protecting Afghan civilians, Kolenda added, but domestic political challenges and future elections make it inevitable that he will have to address any rise in civilian casualties.

By the government's count, civilian casualties have dropped in recent years, a spokesman for Ghani said.

"The Afghan government and its international partners' main aim is to provide a secure environment for its people," Shah Hussain Murtazawi told Reuters, adding that Afghan forces coordinate with foreign troops to protect non-combatants. (Reuters)

(10) Nangarhar Investors ...

He said he was stopped by armed thieves in Shesham Bagh area in Jalalabad city when he was taking the money to the customs office.

"I was in the car when we were stopped by a group of six armed men. They took more than 4.5 million AFs from me. It is a big damage for investors," he said.

Other investor, who attended a rally in Jalalabad city on Thursday, said the latest incident was the third threat against businessmen in the city during this week.

The investors warned that they will have to leave the province if their safety is not ensured.

"We will boycott if our problem is not addressed. This situation damages our morale and investment," said Mukhles, an investor in Nangarhar.

Nangarhar security officials meanwhile said they are committed to ensuring the safety of the investors.

"The cases are under investigation. We stopped a car but it was mistaken with the vehicle driven by thieves... We continue our efforts to arrest the suspects," said Jamil Tutumdarraee, Security Officer at Nangarhar Police Headquarters.

"Unfortunately, most of investors have left the country and are living abroad. Therefore, they send their envoys here to conduct their activities in Afghanistan. This issue badly affects

their investment and business," said Elham Mazhar, head of Nangarhar Customs Office.

Reports indicate that criminal cases are on the rise in Nangarhar province. However, security officials say they continue their efforts to overcome the problem and arrest the suspects. (Tolonews)

(11) Mail Slammed for ...

AFs for each hectare of land for the first four years and thereafter 30,000 AFs for each hectare of land a year.

"What is the reason for the honorable ministry of agriculture wanting to take back this farm?" asked Mansouri. He said: "The ministry (of agriculture) would likely gift this farm to someone else while we have invested between \$700,000 and \$800,000 USD in it."

However, MAIL officials said the company has not adhered to its contractual obligation over the past five years.

MAIL officials said the decision to cancel the contract was taken by the Council of Ministers.

"Our information shows that they (the company) rented a number of cows and brought them to the farm in order to show the farm is active. This was done for at least the past five years. Second, the company has not paid rent (for the past few years) which is owed to government. It (the firm) owes at least three million AFs to government," said Jahangir Miakhail, general director of livestock and animal health at MAIL. (Tolonews)

(12) 3 Balkh DDAs...

A representative of Balkh district's local government, Sayed Qasim said: "The DDAs will now become more active in terms of holding events as they do not require support with renting equipment from civil society organizations (CSOs) or donors anymore." (Pajhwok)

(13) Rashid Khan...

Jason Gillespie, Adelaide Strikers coach, welcomed the spinner's signing as a major coup. "Rashid has set the world alight in T20 cricket with his energy, enthusiasm, and great control." Having bagged 63 wickets in 29 one-day internationals, Rashid holds the fourth best figures in ODI history: 7 for 18 against the West Indies in June. (Pajhwok)

(14) More Than ...

Mohammad Nasir, a resident of Janikhel and recipient of the aid, said they were in acute need of essential food and other materials.

"We thank the government and aid organisations that helped us, but this aid would not resolve all our problems. We hope for more assistance," he said. Janikhel district of Paktia was captured twice by Taliban in July, forcing hundreds of families to leave their homes.

Officials say most of the affected families were displaced to the capital of Paktia, Samkani district and neighbouring Khost province. (Pajhwok)

"The relevant authorities are taking all the necessary measures in order to identify those responsible for this series of calls. We are waiting for the results of this work," he added.

A wave of anonymous calls about planted bombs in various administrative and commercial buildings continue in Russia for the fifth day in a row, although the number is declining.

Tass news agency reported that 48 threats were received in four Russian cities on Thursday.

So far, over 130,000 people have been evacuated throughout Russia from more than 420 facilities, according to RIA-Novosti. All calls proved to be hoaxes.

Earlier on Thursday, a law enforcement source told Sputnik news agency that the anonymous calls were initiated by persons abroad who were linked with the Islamic States terrorist group, according to data obtained as a result of a series of search and investigation. (Xinhua)

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accused the United States of planning to re-deploy tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The spokesman for the Institute of American Studies at the DPRK's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the Trump Administration is publicizing through the media the "possibility of redeploying tactical nuclear weapons" into South Korea and developing an up-to-date miniaturized nuclear bomb.

"Recently, NBC and other American press reported that the Trump administration is currently examining various plans of developing an up-to-date miniaturized nuclear bomb of low intensity to deal with nuclear threats posed by countries like the DPRK and Russia," the official Korean Central News Agency quoted the spokesman as saying.

The spokesman said the deliberate leakage of the information about tactical nuclear weapons by the Trump administration "coincides with its moves to impose heinous sanctions, pressure and military threat on the DPRK."

It also "raises the alarm about the intention of the U.S. to unleash an actual nuclear war in the Korean peninsula," said the spokesman.

"The U.S. has generated the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula by deploying more than 1,000 nuclear weapons into South Korea since the 1950's and turning it into the front-line base for nuclear war, and imposed a constant nuclear threat on the DPRK," he said. (Xinhua)

Belarus, Russia Begin West 2017 Military Drills

MINSK - The joint strategic Belarusian-Russian military drills West-2017 kicked off and will last until September 20, the Belarusian Defense Ministry said Thursday.

The Belarusian-Russian regional military force has begun carrying out training missions as part of the Belarusian-Russian strategic army exercises West 2017, said Belarusian First Deputy Defense Minister Oleg Belokonev. The military drills are based on the crisis situation and the growing conflict associated with the growing activities of illegal armed groups, international separatist and terrorist organizations that have external support.

For the purpose of exercises, both sides are located within real borders of Belarus.

The drills consist of two phases. In the first three days, there are plans to prepare for operational deployment and to isolate the areas where illegal armed groups and the enemy's destruction and reconnaissance troops operate. Air Force and Air Defense units that protect important government institutions and military installations will be strengthened.

During the next four-day exercise, there are plans to train troops in a battle aimed at repulsing aggression against the Union State of Belarus and Russia. In the case of rapid change, interaction and various kinds of support will be practiced. (Xinhua)

EU to Crack Down on Abuses in Financing of European Parties

BRUSSELS - The European Union is readying reforms to crack down on abuses in the financing of European political parties seeking election to the European Parliament, one of the bloc's leading officials said Friday.

Frans Timmermans, vice president of the European Commission, said the new rules would close loopholes that have in some cases led to the abuse of European taxpayer money.

"We believe that with these targeted changes we can ensure a more democratic and transparent political landscape," Timmermans said at a news conference in Brussels.

The plan is part of a broader democratic drive by the EU at a time many Europeans complain about Brussels being too detached from citizens.

Timmermans quipped that he knows all too well about that perception. His oldest son, he said, often addresses him as an "unelected faceless bureaucrat" over their morning coffee at home.

Timmermans said current rules are "prone to abuse," with several cases of different members of a single national party registering more than one European party. In some cases a single person has also sponsored the registration of more than one party.

"These are not always genuine political parties with common goals, projects and debates. Some appear to be little more than fronts to extract money from the European taxpayer. This abuse must end, and quickly," Timmermans said. (AP)

Turkey, Iran and Russia to Deploy Observers Around Syria's Idlib

ANKARA/ASTANA - Russia, Iran and Turkey have agreed to post observers on the edge of a de-escalation zone in northern Syria's Idlib region, which is largely controlled by Islamist militants, Turkey's foreign ministry said on Friday.

The move is part of a broader plan under which Moscow, Tehran and Ankara will set up four such zones in different parts of Syria, an idea described by critics as de facto partitioning of the war-torn nation.

"Observers from these three countries will be deployed at check and observation points in safe zones that form the borders of the de-escalation zone," the ministry said in a statement after talks in Kazakhstan.

It said the observers' mission would be to prevent clashes between "the (Syrian) regime and the opposition forces, and any violations of the truce".

Russian negotiator Alexander Lavrentyev said Russia, Iran and Turkey will each send about 500 observers to Idlib, and the Russians will be military policemen.

Idlib province, in northwest Syria on the border with Turkey, is largely under the control of a rebel alliance spearheaded by the former al Qaeda offshoot Nusra Front.

Iranian deputy foreign minister Hossein Jaber Ansari, speaking in Astana to al Manar TV station, also said the "joint presence" in Idlib referred to a "secure cordon" with checkpoints.

Idlib was one of four regions across Syria, mainly controlled by opponents of President Bashar al-Assad, which Russia, Iran and Turkey agreed in May to designate as de-escalation zones in support of a ceasefire agreement. (Reuters)

More Than 200,000 Rohingya Children In Urgent Need Of Help

KABUL - An unprecedented 200,000 child refugees have fled Burma and are now in urgent need of help, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned, as the Rohingya crisis reaches new proportions.

Minors make up at least 60 percent of the 330,000 Rohingya who have crossed the border to Bangladesh over the past few weeks.

Highly traumatized, they are arriving malnourished and injured after walking for days, The Independent reported.

Quoted by The Independent, UNICEF communications chief for south Asia Jean-Jacques Simon said it was hard to imagine what the "streams" of people crossing had witnessed.

"It's reaching a new proportion every day... You have to wonder when it will stop," he said.

Simon said he had seen children as young as three arrive in Bangladesh without their parents.

"Was it because the parents put them forward for the crossing, or was it something else?" he asked.

This comes after the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Wednesday reiterated his call for Muslims from Myanmar's Rakhine state to be granted nationality or at least a legal status that would allow them to lead a normal life, while also urging the international community to help provide assistance for the nearly 380,000 people who have fled to Bangladesh.

"I call on the Myanmar authorities to suspend military action, end the violence, uphold the rule of law, and recognize the right of return of all those who had to leave the country," the Secretary-General said in his first press conference since the opening of the 72nd session of the General Assembly.

Guterres repeated his call for "an effective action plan" to address the root causes of the situation, which he said had been left to fester for decades and has now escalated beyond Myanmar's borders, destabilizing the region.

The Security Council was due to discuss the situation on Wednesday in an urgent closed-door meeting, following an official letter from the Secretary-General expressing his concern.

"The humanitarian situation is catastrophic," he said, noting that at the time of his briefing to the press last week, there were 125,000 Rohingya who had fled to Bangladesh. That number has now tripled to nearly 380,000 and people are arriving hungry and malnourished and finding shelter in makeshift settlements or with host communities.

"I urge all countries to do what they can for humanitarian assistance to be provided," Guterres said. He also called on Myanmar authorities to ensure delivery of aid by UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and others. The humanitarian community has this week launched a \$77 million USD appeal to aid some of the stateless refugees for the next three months. (Tolonews)