

(1) Besides \$1b ...

He said a part of the fresh Indian aid would be spent on vocational education in Afghanistan in order to produce skilled workers and generate jobs for them.

During the visit, he said, President Ghani encouraged Indian businessmen to make investments in Afghanistan in areas of exports and a discussion on a joint cargo company in this regard followed.

He said the proposed cargo company of the private sector would export fresh fruits and other goods to India from Afghanistan and would transfer goods needed in Afghanistan from India.

Chakhansori said President Ghani urged representatives of the Indian private sector to provide proposals of five Indian leading pharmaceutical companies to the Afghan government in order Kabul could purchase medicines from them.

"India produces standard medicines which have 60 percent cheap rate compared to other countries excluding some European and American countries. Afghanistan will purchase for the first time medicines for its security and defence forces from the five distinguished companies," the spokesman said.

He quoted President Ghani as telling Indian officials that regional consensus was imperative to fight the challenge of terrorism.

To a question about peace talks with the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Chakhansori said considerable progress had been achieved in the talks. He said the peace agreement between the two sides were expected shortly, but provided no exact date. (Pajhwok)

(2) Iran Seeks ...

their connectivity with emphasis on the Khaf-Heart Railway track and other projects of connectivity. (Pajhwok)

(3) 'Afghanistan...

must be brought to a resolution. A way must be found to ensure stability in the government administration for the long term," he said.

The envoy believed as one of the world's most aid-dependent countries, it would be difficult for Afghanistan to achieve self-reliance as long as there has been conflict. The conflict diverted resources, which would be better spent on developing Afghanistan and helping its people. Peace was therefore a requirement. It was imperative that avenues for peace be explored with the utmost urgency and seriousness.

During his remarks, the UN special envoy welcomed President Ghani's comprehensive, long-term approach to tackling corruption, which sought to develop the architecture needed to prevent corruption, as well as held those responsible for corruption to account.

"The referral of the first cases to the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre demonstrates the Government's resolve. Successful, just, prosecutions would go a long way towards boosting public confidence," the envoy said.

These achievements establish a firm foundation for the Brussels Conference. By demonstrating the government's commitment to development and economic growth and stability, they can build confidence that development funds will be used for credible, effective plans.

The UN top envoy for Afghanistan welcomed the inclusiveness of the Government's vision for the Brussels Conference. Government attention to poverty reduction at the recent JCMB was widely appreciated.

He said the National Unity Government faced fundamental challenges, both from outside and from within. Security and political stability were the most fundamental.

On the security front, this has been another difficult year for Afghanistan. Intensive fighting continued in hotspots around the country, while Kabul had been the target of a series of horrendous suicide attacks.

Several provincial capitals - such as Lashkar Gah, Tirin Kot and Kunduz City - have been under serious pressure, but none had fallen. The Afghan National Security and Defence Forces had been able to display more effective responses compared to last year and, coupled with tactical operations, they have been able - for the most part - to hold their ground, he observed.

The diplomat said: "Impact of the conflict on civilians remained severe, however. It was with a heavy heart that I must report that, yet again, year on year civilian casualty figures are trending upwards. Nowhere is this trend more apparent than for children, among whom there has been an 18 per cent increase in casualties, with 388 children killed in six months." The attack - claimed by ISIL - against a demonstration in Kabul on 23 July was a particularly gruesome incident, with 85 civilians killed. The govern-

ment promised to investigate in full. UNAMA would share the findings of its own investigation with relevant stakeholders, he said

"I must once again remind all parties to the conflict to strictly abide by their obligation under international human rights and humanitarian law to always place the preservation of human life above any other consideration; and to give a measurable effect to their commitment to the protection of civilians, women and children in particular. Accountability for violations of these commitments remains weak and must be strengthened by all parties," he remarked.

The international community is deeply committed to supporting the National Unity Government, and would be reassured by continued stability and its effectiveness.

Tadamichi said Peace for Afghanistan was a necessity. Without peace, Afghans would continue to suffer and economic growth and prosperity would not materialize.

The Taliban had still not demonstrated explicitly a clear commitment to a peace process, despite the many offers of engagement by President Ghani and the international community.

The agreement being negotiated between the Afghan Government and Hizb-e Islami showed that the Government was sincere about negotiations. Experience showed that peace processes could take months and years. Measures should be taken to build confidence between the Government and the Taliban, to prepare the way for substantive talks. The sooner a process is started, the less Afghans will suffer.

He urged both sides to come together to find a lasting peace for Afghanistan. He said Afghanistan had an opportunity to build on the achievements of the past fifteen years and move towards stability and self-reliance. With effective government and the continued support of the international community it has every chance of succeeding. (Pajhwok)

(4) UN Calls...

million Afghans homeless by the end of the year.

"We have predicted this very quick and immediate relief for extra resources to meet the spike of what we expect to be a million people on the move in Afghanistan by the end of this year, so that the next four months, September now up to December this year we have estimated that we need an extra \$150 million to meet the life saving humanitarian need and the protection of the civilian needs of people either coming from across the Pakistan border, maybe a few coming from Iran, but primarily also the internally displaced people," he said.

In reference to his meetings with the Afghan political leadership, the UN envoy said that he raised some key issues with the Afghan political establishment with the main focus on the implementation of reforms in key government sectors, good governance, accountability and transparency.

The UN has constantly urged warring factions in Afghanistan not to disrupt humanitarian work in the country so that the world body can rescue the affected communities.

As the winter season nears, the UN is trying to accelerate its humanitarian aid to Afghans in remote regions where there is the possibility of road closures, avalanches, flash floods and other natural disasters. (Tolonews)

(5) US Backs ...

all the countries of the region," he said, responding to a question on recent statements of Ghani in this regard.

"I'm not going to weigh in on the bilateral negotiation between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Afghanistan is a sovereign country and it has its own rights - it has rights to make its own decisions with regard to who it decides to allow trade relations with. But broadly speaking, again, it's in the interests of the region, it's been a consistent goal of ours strategically to promote stronger relations between all the countries," Toner said.

He also welcomed \$1 billion aid pledge made by India to Afghanistan this week. "The fact that India is willing to invest in that future we view as a very positive sign and we appreciate India's effort," he said.

"This is something - we obviously support India's generosity and focus on Afghanistan and willingness to help Afghanistan become a stronger, independent country that has the stronger economic growth, certainly, but also has the capacity to defend itself and provide for the security of its people," Toner said. (Pajhwok)

(6) Energy Issue...

have regular electricity. Power is not distributed equally to all the people. People have lots of problems in this regard," said Khan Zaman Amarkhil, a resident of Kabul.

Afghanistan needs 7,000 megawatts of power and currently Naghlo Dam in Surobi district of Kabul produces

80 megawatts, Salma Dam in Herat province produces 40 megawatts and Kajaki Dam in Helmand province produces 51 megawatts. But plans are in place for Bagh Dara Dam in Kapisa and Parwan dam to produce an additional 280 megawatts of power over the next five years. (Tolonews)

(7) Islam Rejects ...

war in Pakistan which the media doesn't speak about. There are 207,000 Pakistani forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. This violence needs coverage and understanding, and needs to be stopped," he said.

"Making a distinction between good and bad terrorism is an approach that is enormously short sighted. Those who think they can manipulate the psychology of this phenomenon or affect the pathology are mistaken," said Ghani.

"Terrorism will bite probably like a snake. States need to have a common perspective," he warned. Ghani also said the threat of terrorism is not a passing threat, and that terrorist organisations change very rapidly, even if their objectives remain the same. (Pajhwok)

(8) US Senator...

Member Ben Cardin joined Corker in expressing concerns about the security situation in Afghanistan. Is it possible to have a constructive role of Pakistan in Afghanistan, he asked, adding that there has been "signs of divisions" in the unity government.

The Special US Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (SRAP) Richard Olson told the lawmakers that Afghanistan would continue to require support from the United States and the international community even though the Taliban had been carrying terrorist attacks inside the country.

Responding to concerns from lawmakers, Olson said Pakistan's struggle with terrorism would not succeed unless Islamabad "decisively shifts away from tolerating" externally focused terrorist group and end all safe havens inside the country.

At the same time, Olson praised the Pak Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif for taking strong actions against terrorist networks. But this is not enough, he underscored. (Pajhwok)

(9) Pakistan Shows...

has made and continues to make for peace and stability in Afghanistan," the Pakistan Foreign Ministry said. "We believe that it is important for both Pakistan and Afghanistan to closely work together for peace, progress and stability of our region. It requires a strong commitment for not letting our territories be used against each other. Pakistan is abiding by this solemn commitment," said the statement.

Afghan president warned last week that his government will not allow Pakistani trucks to use Afghan soil for trade with the Central Asian states if Afghan trucks were not allowed to cross the Wagah, the official border between Pakistan and India.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry said that Pakistan has been extending all facilities for transit of Afghan exports and imports through Pakistan's ports under a transit trade agreement between the two countries.

"We have also been facilitating the transit of Afghan fruits to India through Wagah," the statement said. (Xinhua)

(10) Karzai Attacks ...

militant movement to be more realistic in demands that have hampered progress in peace talks.

His comments on American involvement in the war were at odds with the government of his successor, President Ashraf Ghani, which has welcomed U.S. political and military support.

"How could the U.S. president authorize U.S. troops to launch attacks on their own in Afghanistan?" Karzai said, referring to Barack Obama's June decision to alter the rules of engagement for the American military.

"Don't we have a government here? Aren't we a sovereign country?" The new authorities, which U.S. officials say were agreed with the Afghan government, affect ground operations where U.S. troops provide support to Afghan forces as well as air combat, and Karzai has long been critical of U.S. air strikes in Afghanistan, be they by fighter jets, helicopters or drones.

He would ban them altogether, even though the Afghan armed forces, struggling to contain the insurgency, say they could not cope without support from the skies and want more. The former leader's opposition reflects broader unease among Afghans who believe innocent people have been killed in air attacks targeting militants, unease that may grow with new powers granted to the U.S. military. (Reuters)

(11) ARG Hits ...

more realistic in its demands that have contributed to stalled peace talks.

He said: "How could the U.S. president authorize troops to go and on their own launch attacks in Afghanistan, don't we have a government here? Aren't we a sovereign country? Don't we own this country? Is the U.S. president in charge of Afghanistan or are we in charge of this country? That charge must remain to Afghans then I am sure things will move in right direction, that charge is not now with Afghans, It isn't"

"The Afghan government has its own control on all operations, the operations are conducted at the demand of the Afghan government. These operations are carried out against the terrorist groups who target civilians. Therefore these operations are carried out within the frame of the security agreement and with complete coordination," said deputy presidential spokesman Shahhussain Murtazawi. Meanwhile, a number of analysts and former government officials accused Karzai of backing the Taliban.

"He wants to portray a national-oriented face of himself, the second issue is that Karzai from the beginning was supporting the Taliban and wanted to exploit the Taliban as a group or army or corpse in order to keep a balance against the resistant movements and the Mujahedeen, therefore when Karzai initially took power, he continued his support to the Taliban till the end and supported them under the peace process, even he supported the Taliban around Kabul," Ahmad Wali Massoud, head of Massoud Foundation and a former official under Karzai's government.

"Mr. Karzai talks against the sacrifices and efforts of the Afghan security forces. He talks by staying in the line of the Taliban and the militants. With the timeline of the political agreement on the establishment of national unity government comes closer, Karzai seeks to take concessions from the Americans," political analyst Asif Ashna said.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry spoke of the effectiveness of the airstrikes in eliminating militants on the battlefields.

"In a complicated geography, the U.S. forces have coordinated with us in complete consensus and harmony, the cooperation has helped us to suppress the enemy in the geography of Afghanistan," said a defense ministry deputy spokesman Mohammad Radmanish. (Tolonews)

(12) Parts of...

who are working with government to suppress Daesh are following their own benefits. They used to get money for 'Taliban project' in the past and now they are taking money for 'Daesh project'. Therefore, the presence of such figures is the main reason behind government's failure in fight against Daesh," said Ashab Wali Muslim, member of Nangarhar provincial council.

Member of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament), Fraidoun Khan Mohmand, meanwhile said government does not have the will to destroy Daesh.

"We doubt government's measures against Daesh, because we witnessed that President [Ashraf Ghani] and the NDS chief came here and vowed that they will eliminate Daesh with the help of foreign forces, but now we see that the local officials are deceiving us and they are not uprooting the militant group," he said.

Despite repeated efforts, Nangarhar officials would not comment on the report. (Tolonews)

(13) 5 Health...

A member of the provincial council, Ashab Wali Muslim, said the people of Shinwari zone had many times complained to the council about the closure of health facilities.

"But when we shared the matter with the public health department, they say they cannot reopen the health centres until the security situation improves," said the public representative. However, the deputy public health director said their efforts to reopen the facilities were underway. The Taliban have recently said they had nothing to do with health workers.

There are a total of 123 health facilities in Nangarhar, but a number of them have been closed due to insecurity. (Pajhwok)

(14) Paralyzed Army...

that God gives him his health," said his father Sawab Khan Bedar.

"The youth (wounded officer) should consult us, we will facilitate him with necessary support," said MoD spokesman Mohammad Radmanish.

The Afghan youths feel pride and honor to join the ranks of the armed services of the country to defend their motherland against terrorists. (Tolonews)

(15) Nimroz Traffic...

and said their health condition was stable.

A day earlier, a child was killed in another car accident in Zaranj City.

Nimroz Traffic Director, Capt. Mohammad Zarin said that the incident took place when a water tanker ran over a child in third police district of the city late on Wednesday.

Elsewhere in the province, a Taliban militant was killed during a clash with police in Khashrod district of Nimroz. Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Ghulam Jailani Abobakr said that a police patrol came under the Taliban attack on Zaranj-Dilaram highway in Khashrod district on Wednesday night.

He said one rebel was killed in retaliatory attack of security forces. Police and civilians suffered no casualties in the incident.

Taliban did not comment on the attack yet. (Pajhwok)

(16) 5 ALP Members...

control of four districts of Helmand including Musa Qala, Nawzad, Baghran and Dishu while periodic clashes are underway in several areas including those lying close to the provincial capital, Lashkargah. (Pajhwok)

(17) Kandahar Disabled

time and after him. He said the lack of shelter was a serious problem of disabled people because most of such people lived in ruined homes against rent.

He said disabled people were hardly offered jobs which could resolve their problems and could make them self-reliant.

Another disabled person, Abdul Samad, who lost many body parts to the conflict, is living in a dilapidated home in the old Kandahar city.

He also said people with disabilities faced many problems including homelessness and inability to afford house rent.

Abdul Samad said they had knocked at the doors of several government departments seeking the promised land plots, but to no avail.

He regretted government's inattention and the regime had forgotten those who deserved the most.

He feared the land promised to them had either been usurped or being usurped and the government should pave the ground for its distribution among the disabled persons.

Deputy head of disabled union in Kandahar, Faizullah Omaryar, said the government had turned a deaf ear towards their problems and the promise of land plots remained on paper alone.

As a representative of the disabled persons, Omaryar said he had repeatedly visited the government departments concerned seeking solution to their problems, but they were offered only promises.

He said eight years had passed since former president Hamid Karzai's announcement and since then no one had taken any step to allot the land plots to the disabled.

He asked the incumbent government to implement Karzai's decree.

Kandahar labour, social affairs, martyrs and disables department's financial affairs head, Hamidullah Mubarez, said it was explicitly mentioned in the Hamid Karzai's decree that 1000 land plots would be distributed to the disabled person in two areas - in front of the Kandahar airfield and west of the zonal police headquarters.

But he said the decree could neither be enforced during Karzai time nor later. He said large swaths of the identified land had also been usurped.

The official said if the land was retaken from usurpers and distributed to the deserving persons, it would help resolve to a great extent housing problem of the disabled persons.

To a question, Mubarez said there were a large number of disabled persons in Kandahar and the 1000 land plots were insufficient. However, he said the 1000 plots should be distributed among the most deserving persons.

Mubarez said nearly 8000 disabled persons, a quarter of them females, were registered with his department.

Deputy Kandahar mayor Mohammad Nasim Razai said he would discuss the issue of land plots distribution to disabled persons with the provincial government to find a solution.

He said the municipality would give priority to disabled persons when it would start land distribution process.

The governor's spokesman, Samim Khatiwak, said disabled persons had many times met the governor, Dr. Humayun Azizi, and had shared their problems with him.

Azizi had promised the creation of an authorized commission to resolve the issue and give the disabled persons their right, Khatiwak said. (Pajhwok)

(18) Waziristan Refugees

ernment to resolve their problems. Abdul Wakil Jalalzai, a civil society activist in Sarobi district, alleged Pakistan had recently forced many families to leave the country. He said the families were living in Sarobi and Orgun districts amid many problems. Refugees and Repatriation Director Ihsanullah said they had no informa-

tion about the displaced families in Sarobi. The households that legally returned to the country are helped by the department. Ihsanullah said his department would assist them when possible.

About a year ago, thousands of families fled to Orgun, Barmal and other areas of Paktika province after the Pakistan Army launched a major offensive against militants in the tribal region near the Afghan border. (Pajhwok)

(19) Early Stage...

adoption of the Agenda, they have devoted considerable time and resources in analysing the implications of the 2030 Agenda and the relation between the sustainable development goals and targets and their national priorities; in putting in place consultation and coordination processes around the SDGs; in integrating the SDGs into their national strategies, plans and budget processes; and in setting up monitoring and evaluation systems." (Xinhua)

(20) Russia Cuts...

warned that continued revival in production activity was still "unstable and patchy" across Russian industries and regions, and more time was needed for positive trends to develop and get rooted.

Certain industries stagnated or showed output growth slowdown, while investment continued to contract, it said. (Xinhua)

(21) Over 1 Mln ...

aid agencies are finding it increasingly challenging to cater to the needs of the 1.61 million people who have been internally displaced since the conflict began in December 2013.

According to figures, most refugees who have fled the war-struck country have sought refuge in Uganda, where 373,626 South Sudanese have arrived. (Xinhua)

(22) EU Informal...

balance between the priorities of member states and those of the Union lie in national capitals," wrote Tusk.

"The institutions should support the priorities as agreed among member states, and not impose their own ones," he added. (Xinhua)

(23) Trump Aims workforce, and not part of our economy," Trump said. "It's a silent nation of jobless Americans."

He vowed to bring jobs back to America's poor communities, putting coal miners and steel workers back to work. Both coal and steel industries are now suffering in the United States, due to alternative energies and competition from overseas. (Xinhua)

(24) SDF Sign ...

SAU started its operations from the academic year 2010. The university now offers post-graduate and doctoral programmes in various disciplines that include Development Economics, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Mathematics, Sociology, International Relations and Law.

About SAARC Development Fund SDF was established by the eight SAARC Member States in April 2010 to promote the welfare of the people of SAARC region, improve their quality of life, and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region. The Fund is to serve as the umbrella financial institution for SAARC projects and programs which are in fulfillment of the objectives of the SAARC Charter. SDF has three funding windows viz. Social, Economic and Infrastructure. (PR)

(25) UN Team...

South Sudan's officials on critical issues of accountability, and said the officials indicated their willingness to cooperate with the AU on the establishment of the hybrid court.

The team said it will come out with a full report about rights violations during the civil war. (Xinhua)

(26) S. Africa ...

missile launches in flagrant violation of the DPRK's obligations under various UN Security Council resolutions. South Africa supports a negotiated solution that addresses the issues of the Korean Peninsula in a holistic manner, and urges the DPRK to fulfill its commitments under the Six-Party Talks with a view to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, Monyela said. (Xinhua)

(27) Pakistani PM ...

Afghanistan," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

On the sidelines of the UNGA, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with a number of world leaders, including the UN secretary-general, and he is also likely to interact with business leaders and select members of the media. (Xinhua)