

(1) Gov't, HIA...

working for peace, stability and reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

This is the first peace agreement inked by Afghan government with an armed opposition group since the overthrowing of Taliban regime in late 2001.

The agreement would come into effect after putting signature by President Ashraf Ghani and leader of his own faction Hizb-e-Islami party Gulbudin Hekmatyar. They are expected to ink the agreement within days. (Xinhua)

(2) It is Hoped ...

pave the ground for an early arrival of Hekmatyar to Kabul.

HIA political affairs head Dr. Ghairat Baheer congratulated the people of Afghanistan over the successful talks between the government and the HIA. He hoped the agreement would be enforced soon.

President Ghani thanked God for making a success the intra-Afghan dialogue after years of efforts.

He also praised efforts of High Peace Council Chief Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani and the HIA peace delegation and all those who contributed to the process. The president said the peace agreement with HIA was not against anyone or aimed at weakening someone, but it was taken forward in the larger national interest.

He said the important aspect of the deal was sending a clear message of peace to insurgents. "As a president, it is responsibility to take practical steps for establishing a dignified and lawful peace," the president said, and hoped Gulbudin Hekmatyar would soon arrive in Kabul.

The president also said he would discuss next week elections to Wolesi Jirga and district councils and said the agreement with HIA would have a positive impact on security and future elections. (Pajhwok)

(3) Corruption in ...

President Hamid Karzai.

Mohammad Shafiq Hamdam, writer, political activist and head of the Afghan Anti-Corruption Network, told Radio Sputnik that the amount of corruption in Afghanistan has actually increased over the last 15 years.

"The level of corruption in Afghanistan is very high. There are many reasons, but the principal reason is a lack of political will to tackle corruption within the government and within the international community which is backing the Afghan government," Hamdam said.

Hamdam said that despite a series of international conferences on the development of Afghanistan, the country is still lacking a framework of accountability which could be used to hold the Afghan government to account. "Afghan development has not met any of the benchmarks or tasks set by the international community to fight corruption and promote transparency," he said.

Corruption is also one of the reasons for continuing insecurity in Afghanistan, because of links between government leaders and warlords who control illegal poppy cultivation and armed drugs trafficking with south-central Asian countries.

"These warlords and corrupt leaders have been building their empire, and it's something which, unfortunately, I predict is an undefeatable force now," Hamdam said. Hamdam said that terrorist groups like Daesh and the Taliban are even secondary to the problem of corruption, because Afghan corruption enables them to profit from the cultivation of opium poppies and trade in narcotics, which has increased tenfold in Afghanistan since 2001.

"In the Middle East, in Iraq, the coalition is targeting the (income) sources of ISIL (Daesh), which is oil. But what about the (income) source of al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan, which is narcotics and (opium) poppies, and this has grown more than ten times since 2001." (Sputnik)

(4) Atmar Urges ...

second would be completed soon, but gave no specific date.

He thanked the president, the chief executive officer (CEO) and their deputies and others and said: "Whenever we have faced problems we never hesitated from taking comprehensive guidance, which gave us hope that the peace deal with HIA will lead to a successful end."

"Peace needs sacrifice and certainly Hekmatyar proved his sacrifice by expressing readiness for the peace process. There were some significant talks which needed compromise and the HIA in compliance with wishes of Afghan people showed its principled preparations for peace and I want to thank the group sincerely."

Atmar said the peace process also had another side — international supporters of Afghanistan — if they had not contributed to the peace process, it

would not have been a success.

"We didn't want our international supporters to be involved in the peace process because it is just an intra-Afghan process but we want them to facilitate conditions in which peace can be achieved."

Atmar said he wanted to thank the international community, especially the permanent members of United Nations' Security Council including the US, China, Russia, Britain and France, for their support and standing alongside Afghanistan in the peace talks.

He said these countries had promised Afghanistan that if the talks with HIA went successful, they would help Afghanistan in lifting all sanctions on the HIA. He asked other countries to help Afghanistan in this regard as they had promised.

He said all requirements of the Afghan people had been incorporated in the deal, which was based on Islamic principles.

Atmar said the commitment of both sides to the Afghanistan Constitution and observance of all Afghanistan citizens and ethnic groups' rights was part of the peace agreement.

He said both the sides committed themselves to supporting under any circumstances the achievements of Afghan people with regard to independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, justice and good governance.

"The Afghanistan government takes responsibility of the peace deal; firstly as the deal gets implemented, we will take a step towards lifting sanctions on HIA and pave the way for the return of its leadership and members with honour and safety. We will facilitate all needed political and security conditions for sustainable reintegration of HIA, which will lead to a just and stable peace."

Atmar said the government paved the way for HIA's participation in political system and all the mentioned items would be done in accordance with the Constitution. (Pajhwok)

(5) US, UNAMA, ...

It added the US continued to support an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process that would result in armed groups ceasing violence, breaking ties with international terrorist groups, and accepting the Constitution, including protections for women and minorities.

UNAMA said it supported the efforts by Afghanistan's National Unity Government to engage all those interested in establishing an equitable peace.

"This agreement demonstrates the preparedness of Afghanistan's government to seek peace with armed anti-government elements. A credible peace process must remain owned and driven by Afghans," according to the statement.

The UN welcomed agreements that would contribute to a lessening of violence in Afghanistan and allow Afghans to live in peace. "After decades of war in Afghanistan we welcome steps towards reconciliation, inclusive peace and a lasting end to the conflict."

In a separate statement, the British diplomatic mission in Kabul welcomed the conclusion today of the peace agreement between the Government of Afghanistan and Hizb-e-Islami Gulbudin Hekmatyar

"The British Embassy welcomes the conclusion today of the peace agreement between the Government of Afghanistan and Hizb-e-Islami Gulbudin Hekmatyar in Kabul," read the statement.

The conclusion of this agreement marked a positive step and UK looked forward to its formal coming into force and full implementation, it said.

The UK supported the Government's efforts towards a comprehensive Afghan-led peace settlement and called on all parties to support such endeavours to bring an end to the conflict and promote security, stability and prosperity for all Afghans." (Pajhwok)

(6) CEO Accepts ...

prioritizing their personal interests when it comes to the economic development of the country, saying government workers should not exploit investments for their own gains.

Abdullah pledged to take steps and wipe out issues facing investments and the private sector.

"We are determined to remove obstructions facing the private sector," said Abdullah.

He said government officials working at any level must prove their service to the people.

It is believed that a surge in violence in Afghanistan in recent years has had a major impact on investment in Afghanistan.

"The security problems should not mean the termination of work in other sectors. It means that we should work to better utilize available opportunities," said Abdullah.

Economic commentators suggest

more government efforts to fight corruption.

Economic analysts meanwhile have suggested the government take more steps toward fighting corruption.

"Concerns about corruption can be removed after practical steps are taken. Anyone guilty of corruption should be referred to the law and they must be disclosed to people by media," said Senator Mohammad Asif Sediqqi. (Tolonews)

(7) Afghans Hope ...

the peace agreement would pave the way for permanent peace in Afghanistan.

Farid Ahmad, a resident of eighth police district of Herat, hoped other militant groups would learn from the peace agreement and shun insurgency and contribute to stability in the country.

However, Asadullah Habibi, a political science student in Herat University, said: "I do not think people would get the result they expected from this peace agreement. If history is any guide, past governments who struck peace deals with HIA in the past 30 years had caused the sides to clash, but anyways we hope this agreement would give fruitful results."

Mohammad Kamran, a resident of southern Ghazni province, said the peace agreement with HIA had many advantages and it would encourage other militant groups to join the peace process. He asked other armed opponents to stop violence and join the peace process.

Resident and writer from Ghazni City, Mohammad Arif Noori, called the reconciliation with Hekmatyar a good step, but said the agreement would not leave any impact on security situation of the country.

Mohammad Anwar, another dweller of Ghazni, said the government should enter peace deals with Taliban who he said had an active role in the country's instability.

Mohammad Reza, a resident of central Bamyan province, said there was no better way than peace to stop violence and destruction in the country. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghanistan to

welcomed the signing the Heads of Terms agreement.

The Mazar Independent Power Plant, a landmark project is expected to lead the way for private sector participation in addressing Afghanistan's critical energy needs.

IFC, the International Finance Corporation, played a key role in developing the agreement, signed today in Kabul, the statement said.

The agreement set out key terms under which the Group would be contracted to build, own and operate a 50-megawatt gas-fired power plant near Mazar-i-Sharif and sell electricity over the next 20 years to Da Afghanistan Breshna Shekat, the country's national utility company.

When completed, the project will mark the first time a power plant in Afghanistan is fully financed, designed, built and operated by the private sector.

The facility aims to provide power to around 1 million Afghans and will boost the country's power generation by around 30 percent, helping to address a severe power shortfall resulting from years of conflict and under-investment in infrastructure.

"Sustainable, long-term energy supplies are critical for the development of Afghanistan's economy," said Professor Mohammad Qayoumi, Chief Energy Advisor to the President.

"This project will mark an important step in the country's efforts to build a privately funded power plant capable of serving the ever-growing demand for electricity." (Pajhwok)

(9) US Accuses...

talk about issues in the world. In the session, McCain said that support provided to the Taliban by Afghanistan's neighbors has increased the violence in the country.

"Resurgent Taliban backed by Afghanistan's neighbors continues to destabilize and terrorize the country while Afghan national army casualties remain unsustainably high, and yet was in this environment, the president Obama chose to withdraw another one thousand four hundred troops, nowhere however America's strategic draft clear then in Syria," said McCain.

"To maintain approximately 8,400 hundred troops in the country in the next year, this decision sends an important message to the Afghans, our allies, the Taliban and others in the region that the United States is committed to ensuring a stable Afghanistan," said senator Jack Reed.

"Our assessment is that they continue to control about 70 percent of the country, and they take far more casualties they weren't comfortable with, they have still capability gaps, special operation capability, their aviation

enterprise, intelligence, logistics and of course broadly at the ministry of defense, ministry of interior level and that is our focus right now is to further develop those capabilities so that they can mitigate the casualties that they are suffering which is of great concern as well as some of the tactical setbacks," said Joseph Dunford. (Tolonews)

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(10) Ghani, Abdullah..

that the president and the chief executive should work together when making appointments in the legal, judicial and local government institutions so that they can keep a balance in the sharing of power, something the CEO's office says was not done properly.

Initially signs of disagreements between the president and the CEO appeared over the nomination of cabinet ministers, however the disagreements hit new heights after the president took a unilateral step and announced the appointment of Nadir Nadiri as head of the independent administrative reforms and civil service institute and Ahmad Yousaf Nuristani, former head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) as Afghan ambassador to the Spain.

"We diverted from the track we were supposed to walk on, disagreements over the appointments have roots in personal and party agendas, I believe that the monopolist circle inside the ARG (presidential palace) tries to move all programs towards their desired direction and without consulting the people," said political analyst Asif Ashna.

There is a perception that the continuation of differences between the president and the CEO have left remarkable impacts on the governance in the country and these issues hinder the implementation of work on government projects. (Tolonews)

(11) President Rules ...

Joyenda, Malang Ibrahim, Royal Sanga and Nabi Khalili attended the meeting on behalf of civil society.

They thanked the president for regularly sharing national issues with civil society and promised the government continued cooperation on issues of national importance.

The civil society activists shared their concerns with the president about the peace agreement with the Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan. They stressed women rights and achievements of the past 15 years should not be harmed.

"Those imprisoned for crimes such as murder should not be freed in the name of peace," they suggested. Women's and human rights must be protection, they stressed.

President Ghani hailed civil society organisations for showing solidarity with his administration, respect for the constitution and efforts to bring positive changes to society.

"Your questions and discussions show our society is in the midst of hope and fear, seeking stability in an environment of insecurity," he told civil society activists. He said the Afghan society needed a balance in all areas.

Civil society, state-building and the economy remained reliant on foreign support, he acknowledged, hoping stability would come about once insurgent groups stopped fighting and joined the peace process.

He called terrorism a threat to the region and the world, stressing cooperation on countering the menace. Afghan forces were in the frontline in the fight against terror and defence of the country, Ghani observed. (Pajhwok)

(12) NUG to

such as employment, security, improvement of the economy and fighting corruption and that government does not have any big achievements to present to the international community.

"Brussels Summit is mainly for good governance and financial aid. Thus the conference is vital for Afghanistan," said Mohammad Natiqi, head of the commission monitoring the implementation of the political agreement.

"Corruption is widespread in all government systems. We do not believe in government's work and don't know where our taxes go; to government accounts or to the individual pockets?" said Mahboba Saraj, a civil society activist.

Insecurity and unemployment have risen sharply in the past two years which has left a question mark over the NUG's effectiveness. Analysts have said that if the NUG cannot solve its problems, it should establish an interim government instead.

"Fighting is going on in many parts of the country, corruption has not been eradicated and they (government) do not have anything to present to the Brussels Summit.

They have to respond to the people's questions and how they want to convince people is not known," said Sayed Ishaq Gillani, head of

Hizb-e-Nuhzat Hambastagi Milli party. (Tolonews)

(13) Illegal Gunmen ...

house of parliament demanded the government to get blood money for families of the victims.

Gen. Raziq, who is spearheading the operation in Uruzgan, said those killed in the airstrike were illegal armed men. He said the foreign forces bombed the security post in which illegal gunmen had taken position and had been firing at police with heavy and light guns, threatening the highway security.

The police chief for southern Kandahar province said detective police had shared information with foreign forces on Tuesday (Sept 20) at about 12pm about the presence of illegal gunmen and sought air support.

He explained police had abandoned several posts in Sagai area on the Kandahar-Uruzgan highway under pressure from Taliban militants and a new post in the same area had been established. (Pajhwok)

(14) SIGAR Blasts ...

and lacking independence.

The report further added Karzai submitted his asset declaration form in September 2015, he listed cash in a German bank account but did not give an account number and left the source-of-money field blank.

The latest report by SIGAR comes as the Afghan government has been struggling to root out corruption in a bid to ensure the flow of international aid for the reconstruction of the country.

The Transparency International watchdog group ranked Afghanistan 166th out of 168 nations in its annual corruption index this year.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said during a recent speech "we promised that we would end the corruption that violates our deepest spiritual values and pollutes the soul of our nation," Ghani said, adding that "there will be howls of protest and pain as the noose against corruption grows ever tighter." (Tolonews)

(15) Khost Municipality's ...

worth 250 million afghanis were currently underway in Khost City. When completed, the schemes will provide residents badly-needed facilities.

"Six of the 14 projects, including the asphalt of a 12.5 kilometers road, have been executed and the rest are underway. It's for the first time that so many projects are ongoing in Khost City simultaneously," he claimed. (Pajhwok)

(16) Hezb-E-Islami ...

He said a special tribunal should be established to try those who have been involved in war crimes, including any member of Hezb-e-Islami.

The draft peace agreement with Hezb-e-Islami was signed during a ceremony in Kabul after almost six months of negotiations between the Afghan government and the party.

The agreement is expected to be signed by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbudin Hekmatyar. (KP)

(17)Flow of...

foreign missions in Afghanistan and multinational companies there.

But based on a poll of the individuals working in more than 20 companies in Afghanistan, no less than 50,000 Nepalese have worked in the country since 2001. About 1,000 Nepalese are said to be working with US troops alone. (Pajhwok)

(18)18-Year...

elderly man called for legal action against the rapist.

Meanwhile, resident Abdul Ghafoor said Amir and Parweena were currently in Darqad, planning to tie the knot. He confirmed Amir's offer of his 4-year-old niece to the victim's family as a dispute settlement mechanism.

On the other hand, Khair Mohammad has rejected the offer. Ghafoor quoted the girl as telling tribal elders that she had been speaking to Amir over the phone for the past four years. (Pajhwok)

(19)22 Policemen...

clash, according to the public representative, who said a brother of the Afghan Local Police commander for Uruzgan had also gone missing.

On the other hand, local security official revealed the ALP commander himself had been killed in the overnight gunbattle that began at 7pm and ended at 10pm. (Pajhwok)

(20)Highway...

safety of the highway," said Fazl Noor, a commando in Uruzgan.

"We can reopen the highway within 24 hours, but the problem is that we want to protect civilians in our military operations," said Adam Khan, another commando in the province. (Tolonews)

(21)Paktika Residents

through representatives of the two sides.

Fazal Rabi acknowledged HIA chief Gulbudin Hekmatyar had dropped self-interest for the sake of peace in the supreme national interest. No one should be allowed to hamper enforcement of the deal, he suggested. (Pajhwok)

(22)Injured Afghan...

bombing had deprived Haq of his foot, it would not deprive him of his spirit, Haq said resolutely, adding that although he hated war, he would be back fighting the insurgents as soon as he was fit.

"Yes, I undeniably hate this war, but the Taliban roadside bombing has strengthened my resolve to fight insurgent groups and as soon as I am discharged from hospital I will continue to do so until the country gets rid of these terrorist menaces."

"It's difficult to see the war in Afghanistan coming to an end in the near future, but I live in hope that one day I'll be a witness to the end of this war and see the return of lasting armistice to my country," the injured policeman said optimistically. (Xinhua)

(23)Faryab Prosecutor..

and took them to safety on motorbikes.

Abdul Basir said: "I work in the counter-narcotics section of the attorney office. Ten months back, I was seized by the Taliban in the Jangal area of Dawlatabad. I was on my way to Kabul when ordered down the car..."

He added: "During 10 months, the Taliban beat, insulted and humiliated me. Several government officials including security personnel were killed in front of my eyes. (Pajhwok)

(24)True Cost ...

triggered.

World Trade Organisation rules mean that the UK exporters would be hit with the EU's Common Customs Tariff — a wide range of taxes on imports. (Independent)

(25)Moscow Concerned..

Ulyanov.

Steps taken by the U.S. Congress are contrary to the international obligations of the United States and hamper the settlement of the crisis in Ukraine, he added.

The United States, the European Union and some of their allies has, since 2014, imposed several rounds of sanctions on Russia over its annexation of Crimea and alleged involvement in the Ukrainian crisis. (Xinhua)

(26)ASEAN Energy...

ASEAN energy mix and reduce energy intensity by 20 percent in 2020 based on the 2005 level.

Myanmar Deputy Minister of Energy and Electricity Tun Naing said the meeting reached an agreement on enhancing connectivity for energy security and accessibility through the construction of more gas pipelines, promoting the technology for use of coal and clean coal, and implementing civilian nuclear energy in 2016-17. (Xinhua)

(27)NATO to...

loss training.

The Lithuanian Air Force will provide the transport aircraft, while Latvia and Estonia will provide ground air controllers. (Xinhua)

(28)S. Sudan...

has been sentenced to death by firing squad," Koang explained.

The soldiers were read to their charges ranging from theft, looting, loitering and embezzlement at a parade amid tight security.

"This was a culmination of a legal process that took three months.

After the July clashes the military leadership formed the General Court Martial (GCM) to try SPLA soldiers accused of different crimes," said Koang.

He said the GCM cited the SPLA Act 2009 to punish those who committed crimes. (Xinhua)

(29)Bombardment...

the renewed calls of the Syrian authorities for people to abandon rebel-controlled areas in eastern Aleppo.

A source told Xinhua that the political intelligence branch in Aleppo offered invitations to the civilians in eastern Aleppo to come to the government areas.

"You have 48 hours only, that's the time-frame the leadership has set," one of the messages said. (Xinhua)

(30)Russian Troops...

told local media that the development "reflected increased cooperation between the two countries."

Russia agreed last year to sell four Mi-35 attack helicopters to Pakistan that was considered as a sign of defence cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan and Russia had struck a bilateral defence cooperation deal in November 2014 to boost military-to-military relationship. (Xinhua)