

(1) UN will Try...

hailed Afghan forces' sacrifices in the fight against militants and shared his condolences with Afghan families who suffered as a result of terrorist attacks. Ban on behalf of the UN expressed his concern about a million Afghan children suffering from malnutrition and increasing displacement, asking the government to take effective steps for resolving the problem. Danish said the Afghan government was ready to co-host the Brussels Conference with the European Union and hoped their government and the international community would adopt a clear and effective framework for mutual commitments. He stressed importance of peace and stability in Afghanistan and called the peace deal with the Hezb-i-Islamic Afghanistan (HIA) as 'a positive step' towards peace in the country. He hoped the peace process would become powerful in future without harming national interests. Danish also called the quadrilateral meetings between Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and America as important but said satisfactory results could not be achieved from the meetings due to dishonesty of Pakistan. About electoral reform, he said the approval of the new election law was an important step about reforming the election system. The meeting was also participated by Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and Afghan envoy to the UN, Mahmood Saikal. (Pajhwok)

(2) President Sets ..

"Today's gathering is aimed at devising and formulating a roadmap for transparent, free, just and inclusive elections," the president said. The president also set a work commencing date for the selection committee, it added. The statement said Abdul Salam Rahimi, head of the Presidential Palace's administrative affairs, that they had sent five letters to institutions having membership of the selection committee. The selection committee's composition would soon be completed, he added. Rahimi said a secretariat for the selection committee had been established in addition to a proper place for its meetings. At the gathering, Justice Minister Abdul Basir Anwar said the election law would be published in the official gazette this week. (Pajhwok)

(3) MPs Want...

far spent less than 30 percent of their development budget," he said. He asked the house's administrative panel to determine the amount of money which should have to be spent this year on development schemes in order the house could disqualify the ministers concerned. Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim also expressed concern over development budget under-spending and asked the administrative delegation to summon the relevant officials for inquiry. Ibrahim said insufficient money was spent on uplift projects this year and officials lacking the ability to utilize development funds should be disqualified. He said the administrative delegation had time until next month Brussels conference to identify ministers not using enough funds. Currently development funds are issued to 50 government units responsible for uplift activities. (Pajhwok)

(4) Government's 9 ...

situation, we will be able to collect beyond the target until December 20 when the fiscal year ends," he said. He linked the increase in revenue to computerizing revenue collection system to prevent corruption and appointing honest people at relevant offices. He said the MoF was decisively fighting corruption and urged the people to support the ministry in ensuing transparency. Rahimzai said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had set the government 114 billion afghanis target for last year, when more than 121 billion afghanis collected. However, Abdul Qayum Arif, financial and banking faculty head at Kabul Economy University, said such increase in revenue could not be called an achievement because it was temporary. He said the government revenue increased after it increased custom duty, which he believed could negatively impact investments in the country. He said the revenue would decrease again with cut in investments. The government could increase revenue by eliminating corruption at customs offices and reducing customs taxes for more investments, Arif said. However, the MoF spokesman said the increased revenue resulted from fighting against corruption. (Pajhwok)

(5) MPs Blame ...

said Shekiba Hashemi, an MP from Kandahar. "The internal security and the defense committees of the Wolesi Jirga have been told to summon heads of security agencies in order to discuss urgent measures to address security challenges in the country - Uruzgan and Kunduz in particular," said the Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim. Meanwhile, the defense and interior ministries spoke out about large-scale military operations in order to retake parts of the country that are under the control of insurgents. "You will witness that soon we will launch our winter operations in order to suppress the enemies and retake the areas under their control," said Habiburrahman Afzal, deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Defense. Commenting on the Uruzgan issue, deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, Najib Danish, said: "It is very early to say who was responsible for the fall of some check posts in Uruzgan to insurgents. We are waiting for the report by our delegation which has been sent to the province." Former military official, Ishaq Atmar, meanwhile called on security agencies to use the opportunity to carry out an offensive strategy against militants rather than a defensive one. "Local commanders exchange areas by taking money and other privileges from militants and sometimes rifts among commanders lead to the fall of areas to insurgents," he stated. (Toloenws)

(6) '150 Helmand ...

The governor said they had been planning to resolve security related problems in districts near Lashkargah and extend operations to northern regions until the coming winter, but the plan could not be materialized because security forces on their own allowed the Taliban to enter Lashkargah City. He warned forces leaving their posts to Taliban without resistance would be referred to the attorneys and awarded severe punishment. A number of security personnel who had stolen weapons and other equipment from posts and brought them to Lashkargah would be also held accountable, he added. A police official, who wished not to be named, told Pajhwok that ANA forces left behind 23 containers of military equipment and food to the Taliban in Garamsir without any resistance. "Police forces also in Garamsir, Nad Ali and some other areas had left areas to Taliban without a response," the source said. A 215th Maiwand Military Corps official in Helmand said four officers had been detained over negligence in Garamsir. Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kintoz said corruption mafia groups, drug smugglers and powerful individuals were creating problems for police. He said he had begun reforming police and a number of officers involved in arbitrary actions had also been detained. Some police officials stole equipment from police posts that led to a number of posts falling to Taliban, he said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Top Security ...

major achievements during the period. But the local officials as well as the provincial council officials have said the security situation of the province deteriorated due to mismanagement of Abdul Qawi. The security situation of Uruzgan province sharply deteriorated earlier this month after the Taliban militants launched a coordinated attack. The attack by the Taliban put the key provincial capital on the brink of collapse as the group was close to take its control. Additional forces were deployed to Uruzgan to push back the Taliban offensive and the provincial police chief of Kandahar General Abdul Raziq visited the province to coordinate operations against the group. (KP)

(8) Most TTP

in Nangarhar Province. "Their goal was to establish their caliphate the Khorasan Province, with Jalalabad as the capital and Nangarhar as their initial caliphate. Now they've been frustrated in that by us and the operations in July have pushed them down into the mountains of southern Nangarhar," he said. "It's primarily in three to four districts. As you know, Courtney, there was a time when they had spread out to nine to ten districts last year in 2015. So the operations this year have helped to push them down. And we will continue these operations into the future," Nicholson said. According to him Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Afghanistan of

Islamic State Khorasan first formally applied to Islami State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) for membership as a franchise of an called Islamic State Khorasan and there is a formal application process that these satellite organizations go through. "I believe the number's around eight of them now. And they - and they have to meet certain criteria," he said. Nicholson said Hafez Saeed Khan was the leader of the Tahrir Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in tribal areas of Pakistan, so he and his fighters formed the initial nucleus of Islamic State Khorasan. "Then they attracted in other fighters, and so IMU would be the other group of foreigners. Then part of this was they did this through higher pay. So some of this was allegiance to a particular leader as he moved over, some of it in terms of the other fighters out that they've attracted has been through higher pay than the Taliban are paid," he said. Noting that there was a mixture of reasons for why people joined ISK, Nicholson said over the last year, their numbers have come down heavily. "Some of the appeal of this fighting for money has worn off. They do have effective information operations, an effective advertising campaign to attract fighters. So this is continuing to be part of their appeal," he added. According to Nicholson, the Afghan Government controls over 60-70 percent of the country, while Taliban has hold over 10 percent. "The Taliban clearly control 10 percent and the government controls roughly 65 to 70 percent. So, these are rough percentages... We view 20 to 25 percent of the country is contested, meaning the government and the Taliban are fighting for control of that," he said. Nicholson alleged that Pakistan is not putting enough pressure on the Haqqani network. This is the reason for the US Defense Secretary not giving the necessary certification for release of USD300 million in coalition support funds to it. "He (Carter) said he was unable to certify that there was sufficient pressure being placed on them to justify additional coalition support funds to Pakistan. Kind of a lengthy explanation, but it was his way of saying that there's not, not adequate pressure being put on the Haqqanis," he said. "I concur and with the Secretary's assessment on that. Then we, that the Haqqanis operationally have been able to conduct operations inside Afghanistan - they constitute the primary threat to Americans, to coalition members, and to Afghans especially in and around Kabul," he said in response to a question. (Pajhwok)

(9) Hikmatyar May...

Hekmatyar could stand in the next presidential elections. Hekmatyar would seal the agreement along with President Ashraf Ghani after he returns to Kabul. Qazi Hakim told the news paper: "Although it is premature to say anything now, I do not rule out the possibility of Hekmatyar becoming a presidential candidate," Hakim, who had also been involved in peace negotiations with the government, said his party would take active part in next parliamentary elections. HIA finally signed a long-awaited peace deal with the government that paves the way for the group to wind up its armed struggle and join mainstream politics. Hizb fighters and commanders would be 'recruited' into the security forces, according to the 25-point draft of the agreement. Afghan journalist Najam Burhani was of the opinion Hizb could emerge as a second political force to challenge its traditional rival, Jamiat-e-Islami, led by Foreign Minister Sayed Salahuddin Rabbani. Chief Executive Dr Abdullah Abdullah, who had earlier opposed the deal, also belongs to Jamiat. "I think HIA joining political activities will lower the influence of Jamiat-e-Islami and will end one party's domination. Hekmatyar's participation in politics will give a momentum to political process in Afghanistan," he said. Nazir Mutmaeen, a political affairs analyst, describes the peace accord as a 'big achievement' of President Ashraf Ghani; however, he said it would not have any effect on the military situation. "The agreement will not have any impact on the Taliban war. But the Hizb will be brought to Kabul to challenge the Northern Alliance," Mutmaeen told The Express Tribune from Kabul by the phone. He also said there was an impression in Kabul that the deal had been inked to prepare Hizb for 'fighting with the Taliban'. The Taliban have not officially commented on the Hizb peace accord but have used their official media to mock it as 'political marriage'. Section of the online media, which is considered very close to the Taliban, says that Hekmatyar's reconciliation has

no 'worth' in the changed Afghan scenario. Public opinion in Afghanistan expressed optimism the deal would lead to sustainable peace in the country. Qudratullah, a resident of Aino Mina area of the capital of southern Kandahar province, told Pajhwok Afghan News that people were happy after the peace agreement between the two sides was signed after a long wait. He said people were tired of war and destructions and they became happy with every step taken towards peace in the country. Izzatullah, another resident of Kandahar City, said hopes about lasting peace increased after the government and the HIA signed peace agreement. The successful talks between the government and the HIA would encourage other armed opponents to come forward and join the peace process, he believed. Soon after the peace agreement was signed National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar asked the international community to remove sanctions on the Gulbadin Hekmatyar-led HIA. Atmar said the first stage of the long-awaited peace deal had ended and the 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." (Pajhwok)

(10) Govt-HIA

told reporters at the Pentagon. "This is one of the most important steps we see towards an eventual resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan," Nicholson said. According to the News International, the US general added that he was concerned about the high level of casualties among Afghan forces, which mainly take place at check points that are often under-equipped. Earlier on Thursday, The Ashraf Ghani administration and the HIA led by Gulbadin Hikmatyar on Thursday signed a landmark peace deal after two years of negotiations. On behalf of the government, the agreement was signed by High Peace Council (HPC) Chairman Pir Syed Ahmad Gilani and National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar. Eng. Mohammad Amin Karim and Political Affairs head Ghairat Baher affixed their signatures to the pact, the first of its kind since 2001, which is expected to help boost prospects for lasting peace in the country. The HIA - the second largest insurgent outfit in Afghanistan after the Taliban - has agreed to embrace the country's constitution and dismantle its armed wing under the peace accord. In return, the government has promised the release of HIA prisoners and lifting all restrictions on the group. Release of prisoners by both sides, the appointment of HIA supporters to government jobs and inclusion of its leadership in the decision-making process on key political issues are among major points of the deal. The two sides have also agreed on making HIA part of the electoral reform process and repatriation of Afghan refugees from the Nasrat Mena camp and other parts of Pakistan. They pledged unconditional adherence to the principles of Islam. Under the agreement, protection of national interest and enforcement of the rule of law will be a joint responsibility of the two parties, which agreed the Afghans could ward off any threat through unity. (Pajhwok)

(11) Tehran Welcomes ...

on Friday. "Backing stability and security as the main ground for development in Afghanistan is Iran's fundamental policy, and Tehran welcomes any development which will help strengthen stability and restore security" to Afghanistan, he added. The Afghan government inked a historic peace deal with Hekmatyar on Thursday following lengthy negotiations that could pave the way for him to make a comeback to political life. "This agreement is signed after two years of negotiations between the High Peace Council (HPC), the leadership of the Afghan government and the Hizb-i-Islami," Habiba Sorabi, the HPC deputy chief, said, referring to the group headed by Hekmatyar. "The peace negotiations... have been successfully completed," she added during the signing ceremony in Kabul. The Iranian envoy expressed hope that other opposition groups would pursue the same strategy. He said all friends of Afghanistan are duty-bound to help promote such policies in a more serious way in a bid to bring about a bright future for the

Afghan people. "The most important factor that can promote and sustain the peace talks is the political will of the Afghan leaders and opposition groups. This political will guarantees the peace process and helps other opposition groups and factions join the peace process," Bahrami pointed out. He said all countries seeking to help establish stability in Afghanistan should support such approaches, because it would help promote peace in the region and across the world too. He emphasized that it would be impossible to counter terrorism without collective cooperation among regional and world countries. Hekmatyar, a former anti-Soviet commander in the 1980s who waged a guerrilla war against the Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan, stands accused of leading a militancy that allegedly killed thousands of people, mostly civilians, in Kabul, during the 1992-1996 civil war. In the wake of Taliban's reign of terror in 2001, Hekmatyar was designated "global terrorist" by the US for his alleged links to the Al-Qaeda and Taliban terrorist groups, and was hence forced to go into hiding. If the peace accord is finalized with the country's second-biggest militant group after Taliban, it would be a symbolic victory for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who seeks to revive peace talks with the much stronger Taliban, and who has so far failed to bring total peace to the country despite election promises to that effect. (Agencies)

(12) WJ Welcomes...

The Afghan parliament also thanked both government and the Hizb-e-Islami for their efforts to reach the agreement. MPs also called on other armed anti-government groups to lay down their weapons and join the peace process. They urged the nation to support the peace deal with Hizb-e-Islami. The Afghan government and Gulbadin Hekmatyar's Hizb-e-Islami signed the long-awaited peace agreement in Kabul at midday on Thursday, bringing to an end two years of negotiations. The peace agreement sparked widespread reaction among Afghans with some supporting the deal, but others expressed their doubts over the deal. In response to the deal, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a statement on Thursday that it was encouraged by the signing of the peace agreement. Alongside the UN, the European Union (EU), and the US embassy also welcomed the peace agreement, calling the move a sign of strong hope for suffering Afghans. Hizb-e-Hambastagi party meanwhile said it was strongly opposed to the inclusion of Hekmatyar in the peace process. They called on the Afghan people not to remain silent over the alleged war crimes committed by Hizb-e-Islami. (Toloenws)

(13) Bamyan Historic...

century historical marvels - dotting the checkered landscape of Bamyan - have been a major haunt for foreign tourists. However, the monuments have been in a state of neglect in recent years. Necessary arrangements for rehabilitation of one of the destroyed Buddha statues have been put in place with UNESCO help. Governor Mohammad Zahir Wahdat hoped rehabilitation of the statue would help revive cultural heritage and play an important role in the province economic development by attracting more tourists. That was why local authorities strived to muster support of UNESCO and other donors for rehabilitation of the statue, he said. "Our efforts for reconstruction of the centuries-old statues are part of the country's cultural master plan." Esmatullah, a resident of Qul Akram locality, said cave dwellers were in terrible economic conditions and they used the caves as stable. He said families living in the caves did not know about history of the places therefore not concerned about their protection. Thousands of cave-dwellers near the Taliban-dynamited Buddha statues wallow in abject poverty and unemployment. Around 3,000 caves are dotted around the famous Buddha statues, inhabited by 250 families from Bamyan and other provinces. Caught up in grinding poverty, the people living here do not have other shelters. Some of the caves at the base of the statues were used by the Taliban for storing weapons. Later on, destitute civilians used the rock structures as their abodes. For nearly three centuries, the Buddhists lived in the caves. But Abdul Hamid Jalya, in charge of the historic sites protection, said some cave-dwellers in the Qul Akram locality used the historic caves as shelter for their animal and there were unaware of the caves importance. He acknowledged rains and natural disasters hit hard the his-

toric sites and the authorities paid no attention to their preservation. He said tourists would not visit Bamyan if the historic sites vanished due to the lack attention. (Pajhwok)

(14) Some Circles...

bring to justice law violators. Wafadar assured that the Afghan National Army (ANA) jointly with other forces had thwarted this conspiracy and deployed new units to all regions of the province. Militants have retreated from the city during the operation that was still underway, he said. More than 290 rebels have been killed in the operation so far.

After southern Helmand province, militants launched heavy attacks in Uruzgan and reached close to the provincial capital. The clashes between Afghan forces and the Taliban are still ongoing in the province. Kandahar police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq is also leading the operations in Uruzgan. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has summoned Uruzgan police chief, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Wais Samimi and his deputy Abdul Qawi over negligence. (Pajhwok)

(15) Delivery of ...

the Afghan intelligence operatives from the vicinity of 11th police district of Herat city. The Afghan intelligence also added that two suspects were arrested in connection to the transportation of the weapons and are in custody of the NDS for further investigation. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. Herat is among the relatively peaceful provinces in west of Afghanistan but the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in a number of its remote districts and often carry out insurgency activities. (KP)

(16) UNSC Adopts

conditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states and nuclear-weapon-free zones. (Xinhua)

(17) UN Chief

pressure the developed world to do its part," the secretary-general said, referring to an international document adopted here by UN member states to address the issue of large movement of refugees and migrations. "It is critical to address root causes," he said. "Poverty, human rights abuses and violence drive people from their homes." (Xinhua)

(18) Syrian Government ...

confirming the advance said "large numbers of terrorists" had been killed. Dozens of people have been reported killed in eastern Aleppo since the army announced the new offensive late on Thursday, burying any remaining hope for reviving a ceasefire that was brokered by the United States and Russia, but which Moscow and its ally President Bashar al-Assad abandoned after a week. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was left pleading this week with Russia to halt air strikes, but was ignored. (Reuters)

(19) Syrian Army...

Which had been used by the rebels as a main supply route to areas under their control in eastern Aleppo, before the army captured it a couple of months ago. In the beginning of last month, the rebels took control of the entire camp, following battles with the army. (Xinhua)

(20) Habitual Liar...

misrepresents her own record, but given the historic nature of how much Donald Trump lies, it cannot be only on her," Clinton communications director Jennifer Palmieri told reporters by phone on Friday. "If the moderator is not willing to stand up and challenge lies, [then] to not do that is to give him a very unfair advantage". (Agencies)

(21) U.S. Apologizes ..

Deir al-Zour, incurring a strong response from Moscow, which accused Washington of violating the cease-fire accord in Syria. On Sept. 10, Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry announced a nationwide cease-fire in Syria, which demands all warring sides stop attacks and airstrikes, and allow access to besieged areas, including Aleppo. However, crossfire has resumed in the first hours after the truce deal expired on Monday. (Xinhua)

(22) UN Chief Urges...

the conflict is taking on the civilian population, both in terms of casualties and damaged infrastructure, he said. "He reminded the Government of its obligation to respect international humanitarian law, including as it relates to protecting civilians from harm and civilian infrastructure from damage." (Xinhua)