

### (1) Mattis, NATO ...

the support of US and NATO allies to the Afghan conflict, and expressed determination to stop the country becoming a safe haven for terrorists. The foreign assistance would give Afghan forces a "compelling battlefield advantage over anything the Taliban stands to mass against" it, Mattis told reporters. "We will not abandon Afghanistan to a merciless enemy trying to kill its way to power."

Stoltenberg said: "The more stable Afghanistan is the more safe we will be," adding that more than 15 NATO members had agreed to send additional troops. US generals have for months been describing the situation in Afghanistan as a stalemate, despite years of support for Afghan partners, continued help from a NATO coalition and an overall cost in fighting and reconstruction to the United States of more than 1\$ trillion.

October marks the 16th anniversary of the start of the war. America is pressing NATO partners to increase their own troop levels in the country to help Afghan forces get the upper hand in the grinding battle against the Taliban and Islamic State.

The resurgent Taliban have promised to turn Afghanistan into a "graveyard" for foreign forces and have been mounting deadly attacks as they maintain their grip on large swathes of the country.

On allegations that Iran and Russia are actively propping up the Taliban, Mattis said it would be "extremely unwise if they think they can somehow support terrorism in another country and not have it come back to haunt them".

- Slapdash training -

Under Trump's plan, the US is sending more than 3,000 additional troops to Afghanistan, on top of the 11,000 already on the ground, to train and advise the country's security forces.

NATO allies have around 5,000 troops deployed around the country.

Critics have questioned what the extra US soldiers can accomplish that previous forces -- who numbered some 100,000 at the height of the fighting -- were unable to do.

Earlier this year Ghani ordered a near-doubling of the country's Special Operations Command -- the elite fighting force spearheading Afghanistan's war against insurgents -- from 17,000 as part of a four-year plan that also aims to strengthen Afghanistan's air force.

While Afghan authorities have welcomed Trump's open-ended commitment to increase US troop numbers, they know it will take time to improve the fighting abilities of their own forces.

Afghanistan's soldiers have been severely demoralised and weakened by huge casualties, desertions and corruption.

Earlier this week US watchdog agency SIGAR criticised US efforts to train Afghanistan's security forces, saying they were being hampered by slapdash instruction, shoddy oversight and failures in governance.

Mattis flew to Kabul from New Delhi where he met his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman, who made it clear that India would not deploy troops to Afghanistan as part of Trump's strategy. (AFP)

### (2) National Archives ...

documents and 50,000 photos and thousands of books in different languages dating back to first Islamic century and before were registered in the Afghanistan's National Archives, which was formally opened in 1977. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Speaker of ...

that corruption is at its peak in parliament. He called on the Attorney General's Office (AG) to take action against the problem.

"If the total budget is a hundred million Afs for a year, it is very clear that up to 50 percent of it was embezzled," said Nusrat. "I request the attorney general to tackle the issue seriously and avoid politicizing the issue, also whenever a top government official is accused of corruption, he must be brought to court," said Humayoun.

This comes two weeks after TOLONews revealed that over the past five years, more than 50 million Afs has been spent on rent for a house and office for Ibrahim. The report also exposed extensive purchases and secret contracts made by parliament.

Similar accusations were leveled against Ibrahim by lawmakers in the past. At the time, critics asked the Afghan legal and judicial institutions to probe the allegations. However the AGO later said that it had tasked the Supreme Audit Office (SAO) to investigate the allegations. (Tolonews)

### (4) Terror Safe ...

In Afghanistan, he said, the US was beginning to deploy additional forces in support of Trump's broader strategy. He also stressed the need for renewed focus to restore joint readiness and develop war-fighting capabilities needed to defend the nation.

"It will help to get the Afghan security forces to reverse the trends of the last two

years -- casualties and the lost ground that they have experienced," he said.

Earlier, in a written response to questions, Dunford said the new strategy applied multi-faceted pressure on the Taliban to incentivise them to participate in the peace process.

In the near term, the strategy has the objectives of enabling the Afghan forces to be able to conduct increased offensive operations and secure more of the population from Taliban influence.

"The strategic objectives also envision more effective Afghan counter-corruption actions, reduction in Pakistani safe havens and successful elections in 2018 and 2019.

"Indicators of progress longer-term include a decline in violence in Afghanistan, and the Taliban participation in peace talks," he said.

Dunford said the new strategy removed restrictions on military authorities and force levels to reinforce the US relationship with Afghan forces in support of a peace process.

"Specifically, we're shifting from a timeline to a condition-based approach, and we are adjusting our authorities to increase the effectiveness of our train, advise, and assist efforts with the Afghan forces," he added. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Wardak Police Chief ...

in insecurity, we will also expose him to you."

Local officials in the province have made similar accusations against each other in Maidan Wardak in the past. Analysts say that government must come up with comprehensive security measures to address the challenges in the province.

"Unfortunately the necessary documents and other related papers which needed to be shared with people were not revealed due to certain reasons, but we cannot reject that many have ties with the armed opponents and the Taliban," said political analyst Barna Salehi.

Over the past few months Maidan Wardak police chief has lodged complaints against what he calls the violation of security plans. But questions have been raised over whether these claims are genuine. (Tolonews)

### (6) Domestic Investment...

and instead they had to purchase their own land.

"If government focuses on industrial development and job creation, this will help people find jobs," said a marble factory owner Liaqat.

They said that many investors and businessmen are willing to invest in the country but to make this happen, government needs to outline programs which could be helpful to attract domestic and foreign investment.

"We have bought the land with our own money, but some of this land is still disputed. We also don't have electricity, we have electricity only for one or two hours a day," said another factory owner Abdul Latif.

Meanwhile the ministry of commerce and industries said government will soon establish a formal township for the factory owners.

At present, more than 40 factories are operating in Arghand-e-Bala area. (Tolonews)

### (7) ACJC Slaps ...

"The volume of these cases sent to the anti-corruption criminal justice center is very large while the resources provided to the body are not enough. The concerns are that government could have deliberately provided fewer resources to this body so that it cannot investigate all cases," said Naser Taimoori, a member of Integrity Watch Afghanistan.

"The establishment of this center is a major achievement of the national unity government, it can keep its reputation among the people until the time it legally deals with the cases and their actions are not political," said MP Ghulam Farooq Majroh.

Back in June, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani ordered the establishment of the

### (8) Illegal Mining ...

capacity and the issue it is the proper time for us to start the extraction of the mines," said acting minister of mines and petroleum Nargis Nehan.

"Daesh terrorist group works hard to get access to the natural resources so that it can finance its terror activities through this," said Ramazan Jumazada, head of parliament's natural resources commission.

The EU has pledged that it will do whatever it can to help the Afghan government take control of illegal mining. "The EU will support the government of Afghanistan to strengthen the regulatory and legal frameworks. We have available funds that we can allocate to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum to support its reform agenda," added the Mayaudon.

"This creates for all of us an obligation to react, not least since illegal mining delivers its adverse effects at a critical juncture of Afghanistan's post2001- trajectory," he said.

In the meantime, a number of investors have criticized government for its mining

policy, saying government has suspended work on the mining sector and that this has impacted the economy of Afghanistan. "The government has stopped the work on the mines because of marble, emerald or other precious stones," said one local investor Basir Ahmad Tahiri.

"Unfortunately a few people who are not more than four are trying to preventing work on mines in Afghanistan," said another investor Sayed Mohammad Anwar Hussaini.

According to Afghan government officials, Afghanistan is one of the countries which has the largest amount of minerals and natural resources. However there is a need for investment on the mining sector to boost Afghanistan's economy. (Tolonews)

### (9) Afghanistan's First ...

participated in elections with enthusiasm and 42 percent female voter turnout in the last presidential election was unprecedented. (Pajhwok)

(10) Taliban Impede Anti-Taliban Impede Anti-Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid rejected the claims and said they had no problem with the vaccination campaign. "People themselves oppose the vaccination campaign in some areas, but we are trying to convince them."

According to Kharoti, about 217,000 children should be vaccinated in Paktika province. Two days ago, a three-day anti-polio campaign started nationwide. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Consensus on...

HPC Chairman Mohammad Karim Khalili also commended the position the president outlined during the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in New York. "Your statement representing the nation and the state of Afghanistan was all inclusive and created more hope for the future," Khalili told the president.

Calling peace a vital need, he thanked the president and donor countries for supporting the reconciliation effort in Afghanistan.

Ghani appreciated HPC efforts and achievements in creating general consensus. "I assure you that I the government, the state and the people are supporting you. HPC being a national organisation needs our strong support."

He said the current national and international consensus on peace was unprecedented in the past 40 years and Afghanistan believed the new US strategy would pave the ground for stability.

"Our main goal is to ensure lasting peace and stability, national authority and law enforcement in the country, and reset our relations with regional countries in a way to ensure stability here," he said.

Afghanistan is a country of jirgas, a culture that should be revived, Ghani noted. All people, particularly the HPC, could play a key role in this regard, he believed.

The president also appreciated the sacrifices and bravery of the Afghan forces. "We would not have been here today if our forces had not sacrificed," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Indo-Afghan Trade ...

Afghanistan's Silk Road heritage, including an array of businesses offering fresh and dried fruit and nuts, spices, textiles, marble, gemstones, and carpets. In addition, businesses with innovative investment opportunities in clean energy, finance, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and health services, and education will be at the exhibition.

During the three-day exhibition, featuring Indian private sector businesses and organizations are expected to sign more than 40 letters of intent with Afghan partners to build new economic and private sector relationships.

Highlighting the importance of the bilateral engagements between both the countries, Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati, India's Minister for Civil Aviation, said both the nations needed to consolidate their economic relations in consonance with their political, strategic, and most importantly historic relations".

Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of Afghanistan, said the event illustrated the goals both Afghanistan and India to bring peace and prosperity to the region. "The show reinforces the ambitious plans that were announced by two countries to stimulate trade and investment at the December 2016 Heart of Asia conference."

Finance Minister of India, Shri Arun Jaitley, expressed his immense satisfaction at such a large event being organised with the specific purpose of building trade and investment relations between India and Afghanistan. He also mentioned about India's increased commitment towards Afghanistan and involvement in sectors like infrastructure, agriculture, industry, public health, education, human resource development, etc. in Afghanistan.

The initiative demonstrates the mutual US-India collaboration and commitment to Afghanistan as reflected in a joint statement between the two country's leaders in June.

In addition, the event is a deliverable from the December 2016 Heart of Asia ministerial when Indian Prime Minister Modi and Afghan President Ghani announced ambitious plans to stimulate

trade between the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi described Afghanistan as a critical economic hub between Central and South Asia, including connecting Afghanistan directly to India through the establishment of an air transport corridor. President Ghani also set a target of increasing bilateral trade and investment to 10\$ billion in five years.

On the second day of the event, Shri Suresh Prabh, the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry would be addressing the Plenary Session titled "Emerging India-Afghanistan Business Relationship".

The Passage to Prosperity is the first in a series of events USAID is supporting in the coming years to rejuvenate the economic bonds Afghanistan shares with its Central and South Asia neighbors.

"The India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show will promote reforms, attract buyers and investors, and adopt improved practices," said US Embassy Kabul Special Chargé d'Affaires Ambassador Hugo Llorens.

"Indian and Afghan businesses can also lead public-private stakeholder efforts to address constraints to trade competitiveness, capture opportunities to expand trade, demonstrate both countries' productive potential to investors, and facilitate greater investment in the region."

"Passage to Prosperity builds upon USAID's efforts to revitalize Afghanistan's private sector and reconnect the country with regional markets," said US Embassy New Delhi Chargé d'Affaires MaryKay Carlson. (Pajhwok)

### (13) MoI Warns of ...

vests while the other two were gunned down by security forces.

Officials also said at least one mortar, an RPG and several explosive devices including two suicide vests were recovered from the house and a suspicious vehicle has been detected in the area.

According to the ministry, explosions heard on Wednesday night in the city were also that of controlled detonations of some of these devices.

The MoI warned the public however that more controlled explosions could be carried out through the night.

Reports indicate that anywhere between 30 and 45 rockets were fired off during the course of the day, which resulted in the total lockdown of Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul city.

Aviation authorities said all flights into the city had been diverted and all outgoing flights were stopped.

Early reports indicated no damage had been sustained to the runway but that officials had to clear it of shrapnel.

The attack was launched at about 11am on Wednesday and carried on for most of the day - with local residents stating heavy gunfire could still be heard in the area at 7pm.

Residents in PD9's Qala-e-Mir Abbas have however fled the area in droves - many seeking shelter in the homes of relatives in other parts of the city.

Around mid-afternoon foreign coalition troops carried out an airstrike on the targeted house but both bombs missed the target, eyewitnesses reported.

Officials have said that a number of guest houses and military facilities around the airport have been badly damaged, along with dozens of houses.

Security officials said late Wednesday afternoon that at least one civilian was killed and 11 wounded.

Sources also told TOLONews that damage had been sustained to the NATO base at the airport. No details were given nor were any casualties mentioned.

The rocket attack was launched just after NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and US Defense Secretary James Mattis arrived in Kabul.

Meanwhile, a Kabul resident living next door to the house the attackers used said: "I am worried about my family. The house (next door) was rented (to the attackers) about a month ago."

"Six of my family members were stuck in the house (during the attack)," he said.

Hundreds of security forces including foreign troops converged on the area and during the course of the afternoon used a drone to identify the launch site and to determine the number of attackers in the house.

But when military helicopters were brought in to bomb the house, they reportedly missed their target.

TOLONews reporter Tamim Hamid who was close to the scene at the time said: "I was at the scene and I heard that security forces called over the radio that the choppers missed the target area."

Both the Taliban and Daesh have claimed responsibility for the attack, while the Taliban said that Mattis had been the target.

During the attack, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani held a joint press conference with Stoltenberg and Mattis - all of whom condemned the attack.

Stoltenberg said Wednesday's attack on Kabul airport was a sign of weakness on the part of the Taliban, while Mattis called the attack "a crime". (Tolonews)

### (14) Asif Claims Pakistan ...

President Donald Trump strongly criticizing Pakistan for harboring and sheltering terror groups.

"For its part, Pakistan often gives safe haven to agents of chaos, violence, and terror. The threat is worse because Pakistan and India are two nuclear-armed states whose tense relations threaten to spiral into conflict. And that could happen," President Trump said while announcing the new policy last month.

The Afghan and US officials are saying that the conflict in the country has links with the sanctuaries of the terrorist groups, particularly the Taliban and Haqqani network which have remained intact in the key cities of Pakistan. (PK)

### (15) Thousands of ...

people had promised him that they would support him in implementing his plans. "The retaking of thousands of acres of land from its grabbers is a sign of people's cooperation," he added.

Sami said public property would be retaken from their illegal grabbers at any cost.

The same delegation has previously recovered around 4,000 acres of land including 2,600 acres in Chakhansor and 800 acres in Zaranj city.

Meanwhile, Azizullah Basir, provincial justice department head chief, told Pajhwok that 134,000 acres of land in Chakhansor and Khashrod districts and the provincial capital remained grabbed by more than 1,000 occupants.

"Most of the land is grabbed in areas under Taliban control," he said.

Mohammad Akbar Sharifi, Nimroz agriculture, irrigation and livestock director, said his department had been able to recover 266 acres of land in the past four years.

He said the recovered land had been allocated to a -400bed hospital, a stadium and a forest farm.

Nimroz residents, particularly civil society activists, appreciated the local administration's efforts at recovering the usurped public property.

Abdul Hadi Baidar, a civil society activist, said many powerful figures encroached upon green and recreational areas in the past few years.

He asked the government to free public areas from their illegal occupants.

Mohammad Nazari, a tribal elder in Nimroz, also said that recreational areas in the capital were usurped in the past years. (Pajhwok)

### (16) ICC Introduces Changes ...

the rest of the match for any serious misconduct.

The changes will be applicable across all formats, as will be a change in the decision review system rules, meaning a review will not be lost in case of a decision that remains unchanged, solely as the result of an 'umpire's call'.

As for DRS in Test matches, there will be no more top-up reviews after 80 overs of an innings -- there can only be two unsuccessful reviews in each innings, while the DRS will now also be allowed to be used in T20Is.

A batsman will not be run out if he/she is running or diving towards the crease with forward momentum and has grounded his/her bat behind the popping crease but subsequently lost contact with the ground at the time of the wickets being put down. The same interpretation will also apply to a batsman trying to regain his/her ground to avoid being stumped.

For boundary catches, airborne fielders making their first contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within the boundary, otherwise a boundary will be scored. (Pajhwok)

### (17) New Paktika ...

administrative corruption and powerful individuals, saying he had arrived with a special plan to Paktia. He also promised restoring security on unstable highways in a short span of time.

A resident of Yahyakhel district, Haji Noor Mohammad, at the gathering, said the security situation had recently deteriorated in the province. "Our province had no police chief for seven months, rendering many areas insecure and enabling Taliban to capture some localities during the period."

Meanwhile, a resident of Sarobi district, Haji Khan, alleged that besides Taliban insurgents, Afghan Local Police (ALP) were also responsible for creating insecurity in some areas and killing people. "Seven civilians have been killed by ALP members in our district alone."

Residents asked the new Paktika police chief to seriously address all these issues. At the end of the gathering, Hashimi promised to strongly deal with oppression and injustice and not to compromise at any cost.

Paktika has 18 official and unofficial districts. Many areas fell to Taliban during the past few months. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Acting Nad Ali ...

not provide information about casualties. Nad Ali police chief, Col. Omar Jan Haqmal was killed in a Taliban attack on Saturday. (Pajhwok)