

(1) Ghani Speaks...

that the international community has 'accepted our perception about terrorism'. He said the world should know that Afghanistan has not equipped, financed, grown or trained terrorists. "Afghans want world powers to work with Afghanistan in order to find solutions for its problems. We want to overcome the problem of interference in Afghan affairs," he added.

On the issue of peace with the Taliban, he said: "We will embrace those who want peace, but we will fight those who work for others. This is our clear message."

He says it was highlighted at the conference that Afghanistan wants lasting, just and respectful peace.

In response to a query Ghani said: "Taliban is made up of several groups. Now is the time for the group to embrace peace. It will not take years, it will take only weeks." He said both US and China have promised to provide long-term support for Afghanistan's peace.

"As I did in Islamabad, I once again thank the Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) for their courage and resistance," he added.

He said: "We want to thank our 'real friends' who helped us in NATO's formation."

In addition he said work on the TAPI pipeline project will commence soon.

He said Afghanistan has been embroiled in an undeclared war for the past 14 years.

According to Ghani this past year has been one fraught with problems. "We made lots of sacrifices," he said.

He says no country has sacrificed for Islam as much as Afghanistan has. Our people want improvements and development.

He said the sacrifices made by Afghan forces were raised at the conference and security forces were thanked for their efforts.

"We passed through several phases. Our main goal is that what happened this year should not happen next year," he added.

He also said that the respect and trust which was given to the Afghan delegation and the president was not only for them but for victims of ANSF. (ToloneWS)

(2) Putin Warns ...

downing of its Su-24 warplane by Turkey on Nov. 24, which has sparked a fierce war of words between the two sides, Russia has deployed a sophisticated S-400 missile defense system at its airbase in Syria. Putin added that Russian forces in Syria were interacting not only with the Syrian government troops but also the opposition, including the Free Syrian Army.

"Currently, some of its (Free Syrian Army) units with a total strength exceeding 5,000 men are on the offensive against terrorists alongside the regular troops in provinces of Homs, Hama and Aleppo. Besides, we are providing them, as well as the Syrian army, with air support and are supplying armaments, ammunition and hardware," he specified. (Xinhua)

(3) Nabil Resigns ...

officials, including the provincial chief of the agency, who he said had neglected their duty to defend Kunduz. The Taliban held the city for several days before government troops could regain control. (Reuters)

(4) Ghani Appoints ...

Ghani did however pay homage to the authorities who serve in the NDS - for their efforts to provide security to the people, said the statement.

"The president, by accepting the resignation of Engineer Rahmatullah Nabil from the chairmanship of the National Directorate of Security, expressed his gratitude to him for maintaining security in the country," the statement read.

"The president announced the role of NDS at thwarting and detecting the security threats as important and expressed hope over more achievements by the NDS in the future," the statement added.

The meeting was also attended by deputies of the National Directorate Security (NDS). (ToloneWS)

(5) Consultation Process..

commitment of Pakistan for Afghan peace talks for which a joint steering committee would be formed to initiate the process.

He said the outcome of the Heart of Asia Conference, as clear from the Joint Declaration, was to bring durable peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Sartaj Aziz said bringing peace in Afghanistan was very vital for the region and all the regional states and

international community should jointly work to bring peace to the war-torn country.

One important breakthrough of the Heart of Asia conference, he said, was the arrival of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to Pakistan, which has improved tense relations between the two countries while the other success was participation of Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in the conference.

He said important bilateral and trilateral meetings were held on sidelines of the conference and its theme was security situation in Afghanistan, improvement in relations of the two countries and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. (APP)

(6) Karzai Rejects...

o strengthening ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

However, Karzai said he strongly rejects President Ghani's remarks for calling the residents of Waziristan 'Pakistanis', insisting that the Durand Line was imposed and drawn on the chest of Afghanistan during the British colonial government and therefore will never be accepted by the people of Afghanistan.

Karzai also added that the residents of Waziristan were forced to shift on this side of Durand Line after losing their homes in airstrikes and military raids, insisting that they have only shifted from one home to another home.

He said the residents of Waziristan are therefore not refugees of Pakistan and have equal and complete right similar as the Afghan people. (KP)

(7) Germany Contributes.

Head of German Development Cooperation, Mr. Klaus Kraemer, said "The German Government wishes to assist the Afghan Unity Government in its effort to address country-wide periodic costs and development needs through budget support."

According to the statement, the money from the ARIF's so called "Investment Window" is currently used for 20 development projects in five different sectors, such as agriculture, rural development, infrastructure, human development, and governance. In 2015, 8.7 million Afghans, 38% women, benefited from these projects. The contribution from the "Recurrent Cost Window" is used for state employees' salary payments.

The statement further added "Nearly AFN 1.5 billion of the 5 billion are provided for the Second Education Quality Improvement Programme (EQUIP II). The money helps the Afghan National Unity Government improve access to primary and secondary education all over the country, with a specific focus on reaching out to girls. The Ministry of Education (MoE) uses the fund to construct new school buildings and train teachers. So far, 860 schools have been built and 613,000 new teachers recruited. Over 78,000 headmasters and administrators have received management training. More than 11,000 scholarships were granted to enable women to attend Teacher Training Colleges. All in all, 8.6 million pupils, 3.4 million girls, have so far benefited from the programme."

"Another AFN 722 million are provided for the Third Emergency National Solidarity Programme (NSP)," the statement said, adding that "The programme aims at strengthening and maintaining community development councils (CDCs) as effective institutions for local governance and social-economic development. Of 41,000 communities estimated to exist in Afghanistan, 37,231 had already benefitted from the NSP in mid-2015."

Germany has contributed more than AFN 37 billion to Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund since 2002 which includes this year's payments. (KP)

(8) Security Incidents ...

compared to October, the report read.

The report stated that the beheading of seven hostages including three women and two children in Zabul and the killing of five children in Maidan Wardak and the stoning of Rukhshana were among the shocking security events in November.

"The operations rise and fall on the basis of the scale of threats. Military operations declined in areas where there was a decrease in insurgent attacks. But military operations will continue in areas where there is a threat, even special operations were extended in areas under threat," Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry said. (ToloneWS)

(9) Job Opportunities ...

operations and arrested a number of human traffickers," he said.

These concerns come after a year of mass migration by Afghans, who have largely sold up everything to get to Europe.

According to government statics so far this year more than 150,000 Afghans have fled to Europe. (ToloneWS)

(10) IS Penetration ...

were not sufficiently and properly took into account and analyzed, - she stated. - Now we are clearly seeing those unintended consequences, about which Russia spoke for so many years. Moreover, in addition to the internal struggle between the Taliban and ISIL members, for the control over a number of provinces of Afghanistan, the terrorists implement a strategy aimed at seizing territory in the immediate vicinity of the Afghan border with neighboring countries".

"Many times the terrorist groups, including the IS, have voiced their plans to form a base for a future destabilization of the entire region in Afghanistan, - noticed Zakharov. - These threats are beginning to acquire quite real. The capture of the Afghan provinces by the militants, who have affiliated with the IS, indicates that the current leaders of the "terroristic internationality" are really trying to implement in practice their threats".

"We need to seriously consider the scenario of prevention of the terrorist threat "overflow" beyond Afghanistan, especially as one of the very attractive, tidbits for terrorists is the territory of our allies, our neighbors and partners, the Central Asian states," - stressed the diplomat. (Asia-Plus)

(11) Daesh 'Recruitment'..

militants will pose a major threat come next spring. Meanwhile, Baghlan police department has confirmed Daesh militants were in the area. However, police reject rumors over the deployment of militants' families in Baghlan's Barkah district.

"Recently Daesh planned to establish a center in Barkah district, but the group faced a major backlash from the people and they fled the area," acting police chief of Baghlan Abdul Rashid Bashir said.

This comes just a few months after rumors surfaced that Taliban and Jandallah groups were trying to recruit in Baghlan. (ToloneWS)

(12) Balkh Police ...

country," Frotan said. Frotan said that he started fasting four years ago when Afghanistan was first rated as the most corrupt country in the world.

Frotan says that once off duty he spends his time praying and reciting the Holy Quran and that he asks Allah for the elimination of corruption and for lasting peace and stability in the country.

"I will continue my fasting until corruption is eliminated from my country and when this phenomenon decreases fifty percent I will go to Hajj and break my fast there," Frotan said.

Frotan is 35 years old and has worked for the public order police for more than five years. His interests also include sport and reading books.

Those who work with Frotan call him a righteous man and speak about his good behavior with other soldiers.

"It is almost six years that we know Nazamudin and in four and half years that we are living together and living in one room - he is a very good man," said Mohammad Hashim a public order policeman. (ToloneWS)

(13) Afghan Refugee...

Nancie Atwell was announced as the winner from the Top 10 outstanding finalists.

Aqeela Asifi (Girls refugee schools Pakistan), Neelofar Ali (the Rupani Foundation Pakistan) and Humaira Bachal (Dream Foundation Trust Pakistan) have been short-listed for prize.

Neelofar is an early childhood educator who currently works for the Rupani Foundation Pakistan. She set up the first Montessori school in Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan, and thus introduced its Early Childhood Development model and stimulating teaching style to the region. In collaboration with Plan International she went on to establish 34 ECD centers and train 98 caregivers in the Thatta District, providing support for marginalized children in villages.

In contrast to traditional approaches where the child is a passive listener, the ECD centres follow a hybrid approach that aligns the Montessori and high scope methods with the

objectives of the national curriculum. They acquaint educators with new learning styles, classroom management and teaching methodologies that engage the student and use all five senses. (ToloneWS)

(14) Five Degree ...

a comprehensive, regional understanding of the changing climate and its impact on water resources in five of the major river basins - the Indus, the Brahmaputra, the Ganges, the Salween and the Mekong.

The atlas was released jointly by the research institutes on the sidelines of the Paris COP-21 to mark International Mountain Day on Friday.

"This atlas sheds light on the state and fate of the water resources of the Hindu Kush Himalayas, a region that is highly vulnerable to climate change and one of the poorest regions in the world," Kathmandu-based ICIMOD director general David Molden told IANS in an email. The information in the atlas presents science-based information that will help develop solutions and take the necessary action to deal with changes in the region, he added.

It uses maps and info graphics to show how the region's climate is changing now and into the future, with severe consequences for populations - both local and downstream. Increased temperatures by 2050 will not only increase the rates of snow and ice melt but can also result in a change of precipitation, with the main loss in the Indus basin. Communities living immediately downstream from the glaciers are the most vulnerable to glacial changes. The Hindu Kush Himalayan region is home to 210 million people and providing water to over 1.3 billion people - more than the entire continent of Europe. (IANS)

(15) UNAMA Puts ...

customers. Of the 42 injured, at least 23 are civilian, including a woman and a girl," read the statement. The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack.

UNAMA in turn condemned the attack and said: "The Taliban initiated the complex attack on 8 December (Tuesday) with fighting continuing over a 24-hour period, during which time they (Taliban) intentionally targeted civilian areas of the base."

The statement added: "Initial reports indicate that Taliban fighters dismantled their vehicles in the bazaar and opened fire, killing and injuring civilian shopkeepers and customers. The fighting reportedly continued in the residential areas of the base accommodating the families of Afghan security forces and airport staff."

In addition, the statement read: "UNAMA reiterates that international humanitarian law, which applies to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, including the Taliban, prohibits attacks against civilians at any time and in any place. This includes families of Afghan security forces and other civilians not participating in the conduct of hostilities. Additionally, parties to the conflict must take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population against the effects of attacks." The UN Mission expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and a speedy recovery to the injured, the mission said. (ToloneWS)

(16) Global Climate ...

economy will start falling from around 2030, and does not want to revisit the target. Delegates said China had also reasserted demands that developed nations do far more to curb greenhouse gas emissions, mostly the result of burning coal, gas and oil. (Reuters)

(17) MSF Members ...

Obama has since apologized for the bombing and launched an investigation, but the medical charity is demanding that an international commission created under the Geneva Conventions in 1991 should be activated for the first time to handle the inquiry.

Neither the United States nor Afghanistan were signatories to the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC), but MSF officials are asking Obama to allow the commission to investigate the attack.

The group held a demonstration in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House on Wednesday, holding photographs of colleagues killed in the attack and boxes of petitions they say support their demand.

Marchbein paid tribute to those killed in the bombing, but said the damage it caused goes far beyond the families of those who died.

"The staff were brave individuals committed to providing health

care for all regardless of ethnicity or political persuasion," she told the crowd.

The Afghan Ministry of Defense said Taliban fighters had attacked the hospital and were using the building "as a human shield", which the medical group denied, while pointing out it would be a war crime not to treat the wounded.

MSF said that the commission's inquiry could gather facts and evidence from the United States, NATO and Afghanistan, as well as testimony from MSF staff and patients who survived.

This comes after the MSF strongly criticized the U.S. earlier this month over their findings following their investigation into the airstrike.

Speaking to TOLonews at the time, MSF country director for Afghanistan Gilliam Mulini said the organization had been shocked by the statement made by Gen. John F. Campbell the Resolute Support mission's commander in Afghanistan. (ToloneWS)

(18) Russia backs...

the Free Syrian Army," Putin told an annual meeting at the defense ministry.

"Now several of its units numbering over 5,000 troops are engaged in offensive actions against terrorists, alongside regular forces, in the provinces of Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Raqqa," he said, referring to the Free Syrian Army. (Reuters)

(19) Afghan Analysts ...

this juncture. "Since the Taliban outfit has been divided into small groups following the confirmation of the death of Mullah Omar in July, it is difficult for the government to decide who should initiate the peace talks," political analyst Khan Mohammad Daneshjo told Xinhua.

The first-ever face to face talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban outfit with the mediation of the Pakistani government was held in late July in the scenic city of Murree some 100 km from Islamabad.

But the Taliban's new leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansoor halted the talks following the confirmation of the death of Taliban former leader Mullah Mohammad Omar in July. Mullah Akhtar who named himself as Amirul Momenin (commander of the faithful) or Taliban leader in early August in his first address to his supporters, blasted the peace talks as being a meaningless practice and instead vowed to push for war.

However, Mullah Omar being succeeded by Akhtar Mansoor has divided the Taliban group, as Mullah Omar's family challenged Mansoor leadership as being illegitimate and called for his resignation, a demand that was refuted. (Xinhua)

(20) Russian ...

slowly expanding influence in Afghanistan. There have also been deadly clashes between Taliban and IS militants in recent days. (VoA)

(21) Taliban...

cial government, Omar Zawak, in a meeting with local media, rejected Taliban's claim as baseless, saying clashes between security forces and Taliban are going on in Khanshin district.

The southern Kandahar and Helmand provinces, both notorious for growing poppy and militancy, have been regarded as traditional hotbeds of Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

(22) Afghanistan ...

About "Fruitful" Meeting With Afghanistan Board Officials

"First of all I would like to thank BCCI and Greater Noida Authority. We compliment the support of BCCI towards Afghanistan cricket development and the commitment they have shown so far is immense. We were trying a lot from the last few years to get some sort of support from BCCI as Afghanistan, you all know, is an emerging nation, which is knocking the door of Test cricket," Shafiq Stanikzai, CEO ACB, told media here. (BCCI Non-Committal on Afghanistan's Home Ground Request)

"Afghanistan have done well in the last two years and to qualify in the World Cup, it showcases their hardwork. And they will play in India and like India played a big hand in Bangladesh becoming a full member, India will also play a big part in Afghanistan becoming a full member as well," Thakur said.

Thakur also insisted that rubbing shoulders with the greats of Indian cricket will certainly open a new world for the young Afghan players. "Not only they will play their matches here but will also get added support like a chance to get help from top

coaches and a chance to rub shoulders with India's best cricketer's. Greats like Sachin Tendulkar, Anil Kumble and Rahul Dravid might not travel to Kabul but can certainly give these players a tip or two when they are in India. So BCCI will certainly help them in every manner," he said. Shukla said, "I, on behalf of UPCA, welcome this arrangement done by BCCI, Afghanistan Cricket Board as well as Greater Noida Authority. So far they were witnessing Ranji Games, we also plan to have Deodhar Trophy there and now Afghanistan will have their home base there instead of Sharjah.

"So I think it is a good opportunity for all of us. People will also be able to watch international games in the future. We are delighted that everyday five to 10 thousand people watched the Ranji game," Shukla said.

On being asked about the time frame for international matches to be hosted on this ground, Thakur said, "Look ICC has this procedure that whichever stadium has to have international matches, a match referee has to inspect the venue and if it fits the bill for an ICC venue then it gets permission for it.

"The ICC did a recce of this ground and it was found fit to host affiliate and associate matches and also for Under-19 and 'A' level cricket. To host an international match the venue still needs to be equipped with a few more facilities," he said.

"And the way the authorities of the Greater Noida Development Authority have told us they are working on the shortcomings of the ground to host international matches in the future. And Afghanistan board will also be able to play their international matches in the future," he added. (PTI)

(23) Georgian ...

maintenance training with the 81st Fighter Squadron.

The two had been at Moody since February as part of training aimed at improving the Afghanistan air force. The military hasn't released their names. (AP)

(24) US Sergeant

supervisor, the release added, awarded 217 such contracts worth approximately \$30,760,255 from January 2008 through September 2009.

The US Sergeant, according to the release, sent roughly \$22,000 to his family in Kentucky, spread among numerous greeting cards "to avoid drawing attention to the thickness of any particular envelope."

He also used the bribe money to purchase a Harley Davidson motorcycle, which he now has to forfeit along with the Rolex and cash, the release added. (Sputnik)

(25) First Planeload...

to bring in 25,000 by Dec. 31 would not allow enough time for security checks.

The plane carrying 163 Syrian refugees touched down in Toronto just before midnight on Thursday and will be followed by a second military airlift to Montreal on Saturday. Trudeau has said 10,000 will be resettled by the end of the year and a further 15,000 by the end of February. (Reuters)

(26) Geneva Talks...

government and Houthis as rebels. We won't negotiate outside the UNSC 2216 resolution but will be flexible in the implementation mechanism."

Many Yemeni political analysts and observers agreed that the upcoming UN-sponsored peace negotiations will raise hopes for an end to the current political deadlock in case the two-warring sides agreed to sit together on one table to discuss and solve their disagreements peacefully. (Xinhua)

(27) Manchester...

region count collation centers, with the results from each sent to the chief counting officer in Manchester, who will oversee the collation of the votes and certify the overall result as accurate before making the final announcement. (Xinhua)

(28) "Refugees" Named ...

country would exit the eurozone remained a pressing question then. This is the 40th time that the GfdS has announced "Words of the Year." Instead of frequency, the main criteria for choosing the words are the significance and popularity of the words, the GfdS said. (Xinhua)

(29) Australian...

intelligence and security matter Dan Tehan, has asked the states to uniformly come up with a system that would cover all states and territories. Western Australia's Premier Colin Barnett told reporters on Friday that there would be little contention from the state leaders. (Xinhua)