

(1) Economic ...

to launch big development projects, multiply trade and business and stabilize economic aimed at countering challenges.

The soil of Afghanistan would not be used against the interest of other countries, he reiterated, adding that Afghanistan would be the center of regional cooperation not a center for regional rivalry.

The SCO was established jointly by China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in 2001; Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, India and Mongolia are given observer status in the organization.

The BRICS is a new association of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. (Pajhwok)

(2) Sen. Graham ...

Graham said that confronting violent Islamic extremists and the countries supporting them would be at the top of his agenda.

"In my view, the president consistently oversells our successes and minimizes the threats to our nation," Graham said. "There is no coherent strategy to grab and destroy ISIL and there are more radical Islamic groups with the capability, capacity and desire to strike our homeland than at anytime since 9/11," he added.

The senior U.S. senator said he believes bilateral ties between Washington and Kabul are much improved from where they were during the Hamid Karzai administration.

"The most frustrating experience I ever had as United States Senator was during Karzai, but we have a better partner today," Graham said. "If we go down to a thousand U.S. combat forces, that are Kabul centric and training the Afghan military, then that is a mistake for the ages [...] we will have the same outcome we did in Iraq."

According to Graham, Afghanistan still represents a key focus point for counter-terrorism operations that directly contributes to U.S. national security.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Interior Noor-ul-Haq Olomi has urged that Washington's support for the Afghan forces is a much better path forward than the return of U.S. troops to Afghanistan. "The Afghan National Security Forces have passed a tough fighting season and countered insurgent activities with strength," Minister Olomi said. "They have been praised for their outstanding achievements."

Security experts say the Afghan forces still lack the critical technology, supplies and training they need to more effectively combat the Taliban and other militant groups in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(3) ANA Problems ...

welcomed progress in recent talks but he added military operations would continue.

He promised to discuss problems of military corps with the council of ministers and find solutions to them. (Pajhwok)

(4) ISIL a Competitor...

(NDS), and Afghan political leadership are also collaborating closely to prevent this threat from expanding, he added.

In the assessment of General Dunford, ANDSF are strong at the tactical level and still needs assistance at the corps and institutional levels. They still need help in developing the systems and processes necessary to run a modern, professional army and police force.

They also need sustained support in addressing capability gaps in aviation, intelligence, sustainment, and special operations, Dunford said. "To address these gaps, our advisory mission and mentorship will continue to be vital. Our advisors are at the security ministries, at the army corps level, and in the police zones - those remain our main efforts," he added.

The United States, he said, should continue to support a political process that enables Afghans to sit down with other Afghans to determine the future of their country.

"We remain strongly supportive of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process whereby the Taliban and the Afghan government engage in talks toward a settlement to resolve the conflict in Afghanistan," he said.

In response to a question, Gen Dunford said the initial forward momentum of the Resolute Support mission has been stymied by delays in forming the full new 25-member Afghan cabinet.

In general, the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) are better trained and equipped

than insurgent forces, and continue to demonstrate tactical proficiency as they work together across the security pillars, he said.

"The ANDSF's most critical gaps remain in aviation, intelligence, and special operations, all linked to the ANDSF's targeting capability. These gaps will endure for some time, even with the addition of key enablers. RS advisors are also working to address developmental shortfalls in the areas of logistics, medical support, and counter-IED exploitation," Dunford said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Regional, Int'l ...

sought special cooperation of Belarus to get rid of militancy and terrorism in the region. "Afghan security forces are capable enough to stand against evil forces that challenge regional security and stability and my country needs stresses on regional cooperation."

President Alexander Lukashenko praised Afghanistan efforts, saying that Kabul would play pivotal role to connect regional states because of its geo-strategic location.

Meanwhile, Ghani met with President of Tajikistan Imam Ali Rahman. Ghani said: "We will like to strengthen our bilateral cooperation and support each other and it will be a precedent for others to follow suit."

The terrorists established hideouts in Afghanistan soon after Pakistani military operation against terrorists in tribal areas. The terrorists started their activities inside Afghanistan.

The president also mentioned insecurity and instability in northern Afghanistan. "Foreign terrorists challenge our security but our troops have capacity to thwart evil designs of the enemy," he noted.

"We need regional and international cooperation and support against Daesh since it is a joint threat for all of us," Ghani added. (Pajhwok)

(6) Ghani, Nawaz...

peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, expressing hope that these efforts would lead to lasting peace and stability in the country.

The Pakistani Prime Minister spoke of the need for both countries to persevere to overcome challenges and build a cooperative relationship on "strong foundations".

He reaffirmed Pakistan's desire to build a positive and forward-looking relationship with Afghanistan. Nawaz also extended an invitation to President Ashraf Ghani to jointly inaugurate the ministerial conference of the Heart of Asia process to be hosted by Pakistan in December 2015.

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and National Security Advisor Hanif Atmar were also present during the meeting.

In efforts to foster a closer relationship, Afghanistan and Pakistan recently signed a landmark intelligence-sharing agreement.

The relationship between the two seemed tense as Afghan intelligence accused a Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence official of being involved in the brazen Taliban attack on the Afghan parliament.

Nawaz Sharif in an earlier visit to Afghanistan this year pledged support in the fight against the Taliban saying that "we agreed peace and stability in the region will remain elusive until the menace of terrorism afflicting the region is comprehensively addressed."

The Pakistani premier also met Chinese President Xi Jinping who had visited Islamabad earlier this year. (Pajhwok)

(7) Putin Calls on ...

the framework of the SCO, we must step up the pace of cooperation on monitoring and relief of external and internal threats. We should continue practicing the anti-terrorist exercises," Putin said.

He also noted the seriousness of the risks to regional security coming from the threat of drugs from Afghanistan.

"Over the past year, cultivation of opiates originating in Afghanistan increased by 7%, the volume of annual production of drugs reach 5-6 thousand tons. The more striking fact is that the funds from the drug trade are spent on financing of terrorist operations," he explained.

Putin added that the mechanisms to counter the aforementioned threats were included in the program of cooperation of SCO states in the fight against terrorism, separatism, and extremism for 2016-2018 years, which is expected to be signed by the end of SCO summit in Ufa. (AKIpress)

(8) Xi Pledges ...

of war in neighbouring Afghanistan, where the Taliban have been trying to re-establish their hard-line Islamist regime after it was toppled by US-led military intervention in 2001.

Beijing is keen to see a stable Afghanistan, worried about what it says are separatist groups in China's far western region of Xinjiang, which borders the Central Asian country.

"Increasing security cooperation suits both countries' interests. China will continue to supply Afghanistan with security supplies, technology, equipment and training assistance," Xi told Afghan President Ashraf Ghani during a meeting in Russia.

Xi is in the Russian city of Ufa for a summit of the leaders of the BRICS emerging nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, during which Afghanistan's security is to be discussed.

The statement did not give further details on Chinese assistance, but Beijing has long pledged security cooperation with Afghanistan and has been bracing for more responsibility there as US forces have scaled back.

China says it does not seek to replace departing Western troops in Afghanistan but has promised to play a "huge" commercial role in helping rebuild the country. (Reuters)

(9) Afghanistan Faces...

problem, however, the Afghan Banks Association has warned that if the government fails to take action, banks will decrease lending activity.

"Currently, we are facing major issues, when the loans we provide become unrealized, then the banks are forced to inject more money and it also reduces our cash reserves, which creates financial issues for us," Banks Association head Siyar Quraishi said on Thursday. "Today, you can see that 30 percent of 500 million USD in loans provided by the banks in Afghanistan are unrealized while in Pakistan only three percent of 20 billion USD remains unrealized."

In response to emerging lending crisis, economic experts have criticized the Central Bank of Afghanistan (CBA) for not pursuing a more cohesive and comprehensive strategy when it comes to the lending market.

"Despite the gains we have made in the banking sector, the central bank still has not formulated a proper strategy for bank loans," economic analyst Abdul Majid Jabbar Khail told TOLONews. "We need to focus on this area and new laws should be in place to repay the loans and resolve the disputes."

Providing loans to customers with easy conditions is considered a profitable activity in banking sectors around the world, yet Afghan banks have largely failed to do so over the years. Afghanistan's banks are said to keep some four billion USD in deposits. (Tolonews)

(10) Taliban Demand ...

the inclusion of their first-tier leadership.

The talks took place in Murree suburb of Islamabad on Tuesday in which beside Pakistan representatives from the United States and China also took part. (KP)

(11) NATO has Done...

Kabul administration to bring about transparency in using the US-funded money.

Abdullah cited efforts and activities the unity government had carried out since coming into power to combat corruption.

He said the National Procurement Committee had been assisting the anti-corruption effort, saying the government was working to empower ministries and provinces in order to speed up their activities.

The meeting also discussed the appointments of the defence minister and the attorney general. In this regard, Abdullah said the government was working in this regard keeping in mind the importance of the posts, which would be filled with eligible persons.

Spoko said the attorney general's help with efforts to combat corruption was unparalleled and hoped the post would be filled in a timely manner. (Pajhwok)

(12) Ulomi Visits...

it to Baghlan, Samangan, Takhar, Faryab and Sar-e-Pul," Ulomi said, promising to not allow insurgents mark 2015 a year of success, as the Taliban announced after launching the summer offensive.

However the lawmakers from Faryab warned if government failed to prevent Taliban attacks on the

province, many districts would likely collapse into the hands of Taliban.

"If Faryab situation is not taken serious and if it collapses, the government, from the president to the lowest level, will also be assumed collapsed," Faryab MP Naqibullah Faiq warned.

Meanwhile, the elders in Faryab claimed about 3,000 families that had risen against the Taliban were currently being surrounded by the militants in Almar district.

Faryab is one of the restive provinces in North which has long experienced attacks by the Taliban and other Central Asian terror groups. (Tolonews)

(13) Congo Virus ...

brother had nasal bleeding and severe fever. When we took him to the hospital, he was reported to have Congo virus," said Nasir, a resident of Herat.

According to the doctors, Congo fever is a tick-borne infectious disease which is mainly transferred to humans from pets. It is also transferred from touching animal's blood or eating half-cooked meat.

The symptoms of the virus included diarrhea, vomiting, bloody urine, headache, high fever, back pain, joint pain and stomach pain. "We have livestock at our home. When I ate lamb meat, I got fever and then my family took me to the hospital," said Shadi Khan, who is also diagnosed with the virus.

According to Herat doctors, most of their patients with Congo disease were the butchers.

"When I got stomach pain I went to a doctor and got some medicines but it didn't effect me rather my pain got worse. But when I went to the regional hospital, doctors said I had Congo virus," said another patient named Wali Mohammad. Meanwhile, the Herat doctors complained they lacked enough resources to fight the virus, which is said to be curable.

"Thirty-two patients were brought to the hospital over the past two months, of which 10 died including six women," a doctor at the regional hospital told TOLONews. (Tolonews)

(14) Hundreds ...

hit by the floods.

"We raised our voice for assistance at the very beginning of the disaster. If the affected families do not receive aid, we will likely witness a huge human tragedy," the district governor Abdul Maroof Khairkhowah said.

A number of women and children were in a very bad condition, he added.

But the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) officials said the aid packages considered for the affected families would be delivered soon to the area.

"We have prepared food and tents which are on the way towards the affected area," NDMA director in Badakhshan Sayed Abdullah Hamayoun Dehqan said.

According to the locals, a number of children were in bad condition who they said had been sheltering on the mountains. (Tolonews)

(15) SIGAR Vows ...

Spoko said the Afghan government had carried out effective measures to discourage corruption and they would work jointly with the Kabul administration to bring about transparency in using the US-funded money.

Abdullah cited efforts and activities the unity government had carried out since coming into power to combat corruption.

He said the National Procurement Committee had been assisting the anti-corruption effort, saying the government was working to empower ministries and provinces in order to speed up their activities.

The meeting also discussed the appointments of the defence minister and the attorney general. In this regard, Abdullah said the government was working in this regard keeping in mind the importance of the posts, which would be filled with eligible persons.

Spoko said the attorney general's help with efforts to combat corruption was unparalleled and hoped the post would be filled in a timely manner. (Pajhwok)

(16) CEO Unhappy...

angry mob savagely beat the 27-year-old Farkhunda to death on March 18 before setting her body ablaze after she was falsely accused of burning a copy of the holy Quran, a charge rejected by the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs.

Earlier, the Kabul primary court had convicted and sentenced four

men to death for their role in the mob killing of Farkhunda and sent another eight defendants to jail for 16 years each.

Safullah Mujadeddi, the primary court judge, awarded capital punishment to Zain-ul-Abidin son of Gulabuddin, Mohammad Yaqoob son of Mohammad Yasin, Mohammad Sharif son of Sharafuddin, Abdul Bashir son of Abdul Shkoor on the charges of killing Farkhunda and burning her body.

But the appellant court in its last week ruling quashed the death sentences and changed them into 20 years imprisonment.

A higher court has been moved against the appellant court verdict, however, the time of hearing is yet to be determined. (Pajhwok)

(17) Govt. Urged...

plant improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and force them to conduct suicide attacks, Zerrougui said, reflecting findings outlined in the latest of the Secretary-General's country reports on Afghanistan, which covers the period 1 September 2010 to 31 December 2014.

"I am aware that the talks between the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban are in their early stages, but I strongly encourage the government to keep the protection of children uppermost in their mind as they proceed," the top UN official said. (Pajhwok)

(18) Report Details ...

will be permitted to intervene in schools for political purposes.

"We do not allow teachers to involve students in political activity inside the schools either, because educational departments are non-political and non-military organs," MoE spokesman Mahmoud Haqmal told TOLONews. "But when it comes to the issue of who students and which teachers interact with, it is then a part of Afghan society. After official time, undoubtedly anyone could have a relations outside of school." (Tolonews)

(19) Gigantic Anti...

ordination among security forces were of paramount importance before initiating the offensive in the provinces.

The operation should be intelligence based rather than ground battle to avoid casualties among security forces, he said, suggesting equipping security check posts with weapons well before initiating the operation.

Azizi also asked security organs to strengthen intelligence to establish security which would be really a creative task. He also emphasized strong government write at district level for bridging the gaps between government and masses.

Gen. Abdul Razziz, Kandahar police chief, said security organs had close coordination and police, ALP and border police had initiated operations on bordering districts while the military operation would be initiated with complete support of public order police and ANA in other areas.

He specifically mentioned that they would examine Zabul check posts which had been established ten year ago. He also ensured that security organs would strengthen districts which had been under Taliban attacks for long time to avoid threats of falling them to Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(20) Daesh Leader

He was the second most senior commander of Daesh in Afghanistan being killed in a week and the third over the past few months.

Pakistani Taliban sacked Shahid as its spokesman last year in October after he sworn allegiance to Daesh along with five other TTP commanders.

Daesh, which has seized large cities in Iraq and Syria, have been dramatically growing in Afghanistan as scores of Taliban and other militants have sworn allegiance to the extremist group.

Recently, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoI) announced the establishment of a joint unit aimed at heightening coordination among security institutions to more effectively combat Daesh affiliates in Afghanistan.

"Wherever Daesh are active and threatening the safety of our citizens will be targeted and eliminated," Sediqi stated.

Meanwhile, lawmakers and independent analysts welcomed air strikes against Taliban and Daesh sanctuaries in Nangarhar. They asked the government to launch a coordinated and massive ground operation against the militant groups.

"As long as air strikes continue,

Daesh's expansion will be curbed," MP Mohammad Iqbal Safi said. (Tolonews)

(21) Lull Noticed...

started patrolling in 69 areas which had controlled insecurity to great extent, the border police stated.

Brig. Gen. Mohammad Nasim Sangen, commander of 201st military brigade, said security forces had increased patrolling on Torkham-Jalalabad and Jalalabad-Kumar highways. "Within a week, we have nabbed a suicide bomber along with explosive material who was planning to carry out attack in Jalalabad."

Security forces would extend their air and ground strikes and would weaken Taliban strength not to challenge security forces. (Pajhwok)

(22) NDS Release...

Intelligence, Analysis and Operational Unit.

He said the Special Force has been formed based on the anti-Daesh strategy of the government.

According to Sediqi, the Special Force began its operation they killed Mullah Abdul Rawouf in southern Helmand province.

He also added that recently the Special Force arrested a group of six members of Daesh in Achin District of eastern Nangarhar province, noting that one of the six was previously a key commander of Taliban.

The video of the Special Task Force which was released this afternoon by NDS, demonstrates the capabilities of the forces while conducting training exercises. NDS special task force I (KP)

(23) Gold Prices ...

Union, said a 50-kiogram sack of Pakistani flour accounted for 1,230 afghanis, a kg of Vietnamese green tea was priced at 180af and the same quantity of African black tea at 210af. He said 40-kg of Pakistani sugar cost 1,620af and a 16-liters tin of Momin ghee at 950af, 24-kg of rice 1,550af - same rates as last week's rates.

But a retailer in the Dahan-i-Bagh area of Kabul, Khan Ali, sold a 50-kg bag of flour for 1,350af, a 50-kg sack of sugar for 1,850af and a 24-kg bag of rice for 1,800af. He sold a 16-liter tin of Momin ghee for 1,050af, a kilo of African black tea for 280af and the same quantity of Indonesian green tea for 270af - higher than wholesale prices. Moneychanger Ahmad Shah said buying rate of one US dollar was 60.50af, while 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 587af. Last week's exchange value of dollar stood at 60.50af and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 584af. (Pajhwok)

(24) 3 Security Personnel

"We hear heavy and small weapons fire and we are unable to go outside of our homes," he said, fearing the district might fall to Taliban if government failed to send reinforcements.

Militants confirmed killing of a security official in the clash.

They claimed that 13 Afghan soldiers and two Taliban fighters had been wounded in the gun battle. Police rejected Taliban claim as baseless and concocted.

Security situation turned violent Khwaja Ghar district when Taliban captured Dasht-e-Archi district in Kunduz, paying way for rebels to enter there. (Pajhwok)

(25) 6 ALP Officials...

Six ALP officials, including their commander, were killed in a mine blast in Astana Baba locality of the district.

Taliban have planted two bombs under a tree, with one of the device was defused by a police party while the other went-off leaving six policemen dead on the spot. (Pajhwok)

(26) Deserved Nangarhar

several local and foreign Afghan businessmen and had sent the donation which had been distributed among deserving families.

Abdullah Hood, another volunteer, urged well-off individuals and businessmen to provide donation to the group so that they would better support vulnerable families. Shah Mehmood 65, a thalassemia patient and a beneficiary, thanked the organization to support families in Ramzan. He said he did not have any source of income so the aid would provide some relief to his family for few days.

The Zhwand Welfare Organization also assisted thalassemia patients and had donated over 2,000 cc blood to the patients so far. (Pajhwok)