

(1) Senators Call ...

Unity Government and based on the second paragraph of the agreement in coming two years in order to modify the Afghanistan constitution loya jirga should be held. (ATN)

(2) Ghani Promises...

country, he said the programs of all the ministries would be run through NSP in order to develop the Afghan communities in all corners of the country.

"Ten under-developed provinces will be prioritized under National Solidarity Program," Ghani promised.

In addition, he announced the program will be launched in urban areas too.

During his speech, he expressed condolence to the families that lost their beloved ones and suffered extensive damages as a result of recent deadly earthquake in the country.

"Our effort is to make sure those who suffered a lot should be provided with more assistance," Ghani said. Before his speech, CEO Abdullah also addressed the attendees, saying that he would work together to overcome barriers towards having a developed community.

"This conference gives us a better chance to work with people, for the people, and through their own communities," he noted.

Calling the program successful, Abdullah said millions of dollars are being spent to develop the rural communities and improve the living conditions of the villagers.

"We are in a decade which is dedicated for sustainable development and we are committed to meeting the goals of this millennium," he stated.

NSP is a government-run program aimed at developing the ability of Afghan communities to identify, plan, manage and monitor their own development projects.

The program was launched to empower rural communities and change their lives and livelihoods. (Tolonews)

(3) Turks Cast ...

the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) with 16.29 percent and the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) with 13.12 percent, according to the Supreme Election Council.

In the snap election, voting began at 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) and will end at 5:00 p.m. (1400 GMT).

Some 385,000 security officers were called in to provide security since the country has been in tension of renewed clashes between government troops and the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) forces since July.

Over 54 million Turks are estimated to cast their ballots and the voting results are expected to come out late Sunday night.

A total of 17 political parties representing 85 constituencies in 81 provinces are running in the election. (Xinhua)

(4) Balkhi Speaks...

EU to find a solution to the alarming matter.

"We are ready to make decisions based on an agreement with the European Union over the matter," Afghan Refugees Minister Sayed Husain Alemi Balkhi said, adding that "The government of Afghanistan is not ready to accept the deportees outside of an agreed framework."

These statements came after Germany's interior minister Thomas de Maiziere announced last week that the country will send back majority of Afghan asylum seekers. The announcement has led to mounting criticism of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision, who after Europe started facing refugee crisis, was

Meanwhile, a number of Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) members on Sunday warned of a possible tragedy if the forcible expul-

sion of Afghan refugees is not managed properly.

"A logical decision should be made regarding the migrants," senator Nisar Haris said. "The weather is cold now and sending the refugees back will make big problems."

But some other senators criticized the government for not creating jobs for the citizens in order to avoid them from feeling the country.

"The government is responsible for giving the young people hope and employment," deputy chairman of Senate Mohammad Alam Izadyar said.

However the president's office said earlier that if the Afghan refugees are sent back, the government of Afghanistan is responsible to pave grounds for their respectful repatriation.

According to the UN Refugee Agency, the Afghans make 20 percent of 560,000-plus people who have arrived in Europe by sea in 2015. (Tolonews)

(5) Karimov, Kerry...

development of situation in Afghanistan," the statement said.

Afghanistan continues to be in a state of political and social turmoil as several militant groups, including the Islamic State, Taliban and al-Qaeda take advantage of instability in the country, which has persisted since the 2001 US-led invasion.

The US withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan in December 2014 contributed to the revival of militant insurgency and growing weapon-smuggling operations.

Kerry is currently on his first Central Asia tour, taking place on October 28-November 3, and is due to visit Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. The US diplomat is to conduct bilateral meetings with senior government leaders in each country. (sputniknews)

(6) ADB, Donor...

of ADB where he met the bank's president Takesiko Nako, Vice President, Executive Director for the United States Robert Orr and other members of the executive committee.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the announced grant would be used on infrastructure building from the year 2017 to 2020.

In a meeting with Mastoor, ADB leadership also expressed keen desire in remaining a reliable partner to Afghanistan and assured Bank's continued support and engagement in the country for many years to come.

The important financial contributions of ADB and donor countries will promote economic growth, energy transmission, private sector investment, and build and run infrastructure to promote security and development in Afghanistan. (KP)

(7) Anti-Unemploy...

continue our protest and will take new actions," Babak Hamidzada a civil society activist said.

Another protester warned of closing the Sapidar palace where the Chief Executive of Afghanistan Dr. Abdullah Abdullah office is located.

"This street is our place to protest, we closed the ministry today, we will close the Sapidar place tomorrow," Jamil Kawsar one of the protesters said.

Protesters warn of staging a bigger demonstration across the country.

"Afghans who kill themselves in the way to Europe to seek asylum is the result of unemployment," Kamila Afzali said.

Two of the protesters were beaten by the ministries guards while attempting to close the door of the ministry.

An employee of the ministry

also complains about lack of employment opportunities he says an acting director is managing the human resources department since one year and 200 vacancies have been announced since six months, but the ministry has recruited only five people.

Since the establishment of the national unity government of Afghanistan most of educated and youth Afghans have evacuated the country to seek a better life abroad the country because of the increased unemployment and poverty in the country. (ATN)

(8) China to Build ...

not brought a direct positive change in the lives of poor people or those with no shelter.

"But the construction of 10,000 residential units by China is a biggest and memorable grant for the people of Afghanistan," he said.

"Young couples who newly marry cannot afford to buy own houses because of high prices and no system of mortgage. But the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs and Housing in coordination with other institutions would generate a system to provide residential units to people with no advance payments and on cheap and long-term installments," Naderi said, adding that "a part of their salaries would be deducted for the long-term installments and they would become the owners of permanent shelters."

This comes as hundreds of thousands of families from villages and towns have moved into the cities across the country and live in rental homes from long time. Because of high prices in cities they have not been able to buy own permanent shelters. (KP)

(9) USAID, Agriculture.

During his speech, the minister appreciated the partnership and called it effective in developing the agriculture sector of Afghanistan.

"In respect to problems facing the agriculture sector, we need to allocate money to the areas which need pressing attention like increase of grains and finding markets for the agricultural products," Zamir noted.

Based on the program, the USAID will help develop strategic reserves of grains in the country, Smith said.

"USAID is collaborating with the ministry through the Afghanistan agriculture extension program to and the capacity building change management program to both design [and] to reinforce the capacity of the ministry at national and sub-national levels," he said at the event.

Furthermore, the agency will also help build women's skills in this sector. (Tolonews)

(10) Afghan Forces...

lice foiled their design. In a similar clash on the same day which flared up in Dasht-e-Archi district of the northern Kunduz province, 14 militants were killed.

"Security forces launched operations against Taliban hideouts in Nahr-e-Kohna village of Dasht-e-Archi district early Sunday and so far 14 rebels including Mullah Shakib the Taliban shadowy governor of the district have been killed," district governor Nasrudin Saadi told Xinhua.

Dasht-e-Archi had served as Taliban bastion in Kunduz and adjoining Baghlan and Takhar provinces from where the militants organized their offensives against government interests.

Government forces after recapturing Kunduz provincial capital the Kunduz city in mid October stormed Taliban bastion in Dasht-e-Archi and captured it.

The security forces, according to Saadi, are chasing militants in the villages of Dasht-e-Archi and neighboring Chardara district to ensure lasting

peace there. Taliban militants who have captured few districts over the past couple of months and have been attempting to consolidate their positions before the snowfall in the mountainous country haven't commented. (Xinhua)

(11) ANSF Fight...

is completely secure. Our personnel from national army, national police, local police, and border police are all here."

But fear among people in the area is growing. Residents say IS is increasing its presence in the surrounding districts. The government has promised to launch a full-scale operation against the group, but it appears to be tied down elsewhere in the country.

And, at least for now, there seem to be no efforts to clear out the IS safe havens in the mountains. (VoA)

(12) Afghanistan...

senger plane in which 224 people on board lost lives. Therefore, I express my deep condolences to H. E. President Vladimir Putin, families of the victims and people of the Russian Federation."

The Airbus A-321, operated by Russian airline Kogalymavia with registration number KGL-9268, was flying from the Sinai coastal resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to St Petersburg in Russia when it went down in a desolate mountainous area of central Sinai soon after daybreak on Saturday. (KP)

(13) Iran's Khamenei ...

its fifth year, has killed around 250,000 people and displaced millions more.

The Vienna talks were attended by 17 countries including the United States, which has called for Assad to leave power as part of a political transition process. He has refused to do so.

But Khamenei, who tolerated talks with the United States to reach a deal on Iran's disputed nuclear program in July, has ruled out negotiating with Washington on any other issue. (Reuters)

(14) UN Peace ...

has killed more than 250,000 people. For the first time, the meeting brought together all the main outside players in the crisis, including Russia and Iran, key allies of the government of President Bashar al-Assad.

But the Syrian government and the opposition were not represented.

Participants at the talks agreed to ask the United Nations to broker a peace deal between the regime and opposition to clear the way for a new constitution and UN-supervised elections.

But divisions remained on the fate of Assad, with Russia and Iran resisting Western and Saudi pressure to force the Syrian president from power. (AFP)

(15) Thirteen Migrants,

boat tragedies since Monday off the Greek islands of Lesbos, Kalymnos and Rhodes in which more than 60 people have drowned, at least 28 of them children.

On Friday alone 22 people, including 17 children, lost their lives trying to cross to the eastern Aegean islands from Turkey, to which more than two million Syrian refugees have fled.

That followed another black day on Wednesday when 24 migrants -- 11 of them children -- died in five shipwrecks off Lesbos, Samos and Agathonisi. (AFP)

(16) World Leaders...

to provide U.S. assistance, if needed, it added.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Saturday also expressed condolences over the Sinai plane crash, saying the European Union stands with the Russian people and with the families of the victims. (Xinhua)

South African President Unveils Anti-Rhino Poaching Centre

CAPE TOWN - South African President Jacob Zuma on Sunday unveiled an anti-rhino poaching centre in the Kruger National Park (KNP) as rhino poaching continues unabated.

The Joint Operation Centre is expected to boost integration of actions in the fight against rhino poaching and enable faster decision making and reaction and often more proactive operation.

"This enables us to employ resources more intelligently and to be one step ahead of the poachers," Zuma said.

As part of the ceremony, Zuma witnessed the capture and translocation of a rhino within the KNP in northeastern South Africa to a facility where the rhino will become a foster parent to rhino calves orphaned by poaching.

The president paid tribute to the efforts by rangers in the fight against poaching during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Ranger Memorial at the main gate of the KNP.

The president also inspected a guard of honour formed by KNP rangers who are almost daily engaged in conflict with alleged poachers, and have dedicated their lives to ensuring the survival of this key member of the Big Five, which refers to the rhino, lion, elephant, buffalo and leopard.

Unveiling the Joint Operations Centre at the Skukuza Camp in the KNP, Zuma said, "Today I witnessed firsthand what is being done by our brave men and women to combat rhino poaching and other wildlife crimes here in the Kruger National Park."

Since the declaration of rhino poaching as a national security threat in 2011, the government has increased its efforts in curbing the scourge of rhino poaching. The cabinet approved the Integrated Strategic Management Approach to Rhino Poaching in 2014. (Xinhua)

IS Overruns Central Syrian town Near Key Highway

DAMASCUS - The Islamic State (IS) militant group captured a town southwest of Syria's central city of Homs, becoming around 20 kilometers from the key international road connecting areas in the south with cities in the north, activists and pro-government media outlets said Sunday. The IS said in a statement carried by activists that its militants fully took control of the town of Maheen southwest of Homs, capturing several arms depots in that town. It added that the town has a strategic importance as it's located only 20 kilometers from the international road connecting the capital Damascus in the south with Homs and other government-controlled cities in the north and the coast in the west.

Meanwhile, the pro-government Sham FM said the IS militants carried out two suicide car bombings that targeted military checkpoints at the eastern and western entrances of Maheen, killing four soldiers and injuring nine others.

The town wasn't technically under the government forces' control, said the radio, adding that truce was concluded between the Syrian army and other militant groups inside the town for months.

It said the militants, who

were observing a truce with the army forces at the outskirts of the town, pledged alliance with the IS militants upon storming the town. The IS unleashed their attack against Maheen from the nearby town of Qaryateen, which was taken by the IS recently. The report said the battles, which were waged by the IS on Saturday, continued until Sunday morning, adding that the Syrian forces retreated to nearby positions. (Xinhua)

Nepal Gov't, Ethnic Group Say Positive Progress Duringtalks

KATHMANDU - Talks on Sunday between Nepal's government and the main ethnic group protesting against the country's new constitution made some progress, but protests that have led to a severe fuel shortage and have left dozens dead will continue, officials said.

Following the one-day talks, Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Thapa said the government would address the Madhesi ethnic group's main demand of a bigger state than what was assigned to them in the new constitution through discussions with other political parties.

Initially the government was insisting that the issue of the size of the states be resolved through a government-appointed commission, but Thapa said it would be discussed as a political issue, as demanded by the protesters.

The government also agreed to the United Democratic Madhesi Front's demands that the families of protesters who have been killed be given monetary compensation, that the government pay for the treatment of those who have been injured, and that cases against those who have been jailed be withdrawn.

LalBahadurRawat of the United Democratic Madhesi Front said that Sunday's meeting was positive and that the two sides would meet again for further talks.

He said, however, that the protests would continue in southern Nepal, where the demonstrators have blocked a key border point with India, stopping supplies of fuel and other essential goods to Nepal.

At least 45 people have been killed in the protests since August, including 35 protesters, nine police officers and a child. There is no official count of the injured. (AP)

Italian Vessels Entered Waters without Permit: Libya

BENGAZI - Libya's internationally recognized government says Italian vessels entered the country's territorial waters without permission and vowed to use "all means" to protect its sovereignty. It says three Italian vessels were spotted off the coast of the eastern city of Benghazi early Sunday. The ships are likely part of an international effort to stem the flow of migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Europe.

Last month, the U.N. authorized European Union countries to inspect vessels and use force to disrupt migrant smuggling on the high-seas off Libya, but not in its waters. Libya slid into chaos following the 2011 toppling and killing of dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Smugglers have exploited the turmoil, sending tens of thousands of migrants off in rickety boats to Europe. (AP)