

(1) We will ...

also said that servants of foreign countries will be arrested, or they will be suppressed. "We will arrest the ISI (Pakistan's intelligence services) servants and we will let no stranger interfere in Afghanistan," he added.

Dostum meanwhile vowed to resolve problems faced by the Afghan air force after he completes his mission - to clear Jawzjan and other provinces of insurgents.

Before the fall of Kunduz to the Taliban, the first vice president traveled to Faryab and cleared a number of areas of militants; however, parts of the cleared areas were retaken by the Taliban after he returned to Kabul. (ToloneWS)

(2) MPs Seek ...

by the Taliban for several days. They said the military base will fall to insurgents if reinforcements are not sent in quickly.

"There are sufficient forces in Faryab but there is no coordination among them. They do not have any morale against the enemy," said Abdul Rahman Turkistani, member of Faryab Provincial Council.

"We urge the government to send reinforcement troops to the district and also to use the local forces in order to restore security there," he added.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) however has not commented on the deaths of police officers and on the issue of police force members being captured.

MoI spokesman Sediq Seddiqi meanwhile said the district will be cleared of militants on Tuesday.

"Reinforcement troops have been sent to Ghormach and our goal is to clear the district of Taliban. The district will be cleared today [Tuesday]," Seddiqi told TOLONews.

In addition, some critics and senators pointed out that the first Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum's trip to Faryab will help ensure lasting security in the province.

"The first vice president went to Faryab and spent a lot of money but his trip did not have positive results. He could not ensure even relative security there," said senator Qais Wakili.

"The government should establish security check posts in areas which are cleared of Taliban in order to prevent their return," he said.

Dostum who spent a month in Faryab in August managed to clear several areas of Taliban; however, the militants returned as soon as Dostum returned to Kabul. (ToloneWS)

(3) ERC Works...

members think that they have executive authorities," Noor added. Meanwhile, deputy of ERC, Sidiqullah Tawhidi in contact with Arianews said to consider IEC's statements baseless, citing none of ERC's actions conduct without consultation of government leaders, particularly President Ghani.

The implementation of electoral reform and the establishment of a special commission were fundamental points in the National Unity Government agreement, which was signed on 19 September 2014.

Afghanistan's electoral reform process has been bogged down for months. While the National Unity Government agreement called for the "immediate establishment" of an Electoral Reform Commission, it took the president five months just to sign the necessary decree.

This comes as Afghans are waiting to have a transparent parliamentary election without any fraud and irregularities. (ATN)

(4) Afghan-Iran ...

planning's," he said. Karimzadeh added that Iranian and Afghan investors can launch joint ventures in the field of transit, mining, and re-export to strengthen their competitive edge.

The -16member delegation from Iran's private sector is led by Mohammad Samadi, member of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce and chairman of North Khorasan Chamber.

On the way to ease transfer of traded goods, the railway that connects Iran to Afghanistan will be put into use in the near future.

"Khaf-Herat railway will soon be put into operation and load and cargo would be transferred via this railroad directly," the Iranian Road Minister Akhundi said in a meeting with his Afghan counterpart Seyyed Saadat Mansur Naderi in Tehran, earlier this month.

"In order to make best use of this railroad it is necessary for it to be connected to the railways of

Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and China, the railway of the Silk Road through the southern coasts of Iran to China will be completed," he added.

Expressing content about the current trade turnover between Tehran and Kabul, the Iranian minister said that construction of the intended railway will ever increase this level.

The Afghan minister, for his part, said that Iran has always acted as Afghanistan's close friend and assisted the Afghans in various scenes greatly, for which the people and government of Afghanistan have always been thankful.

He noted that the objectives of his visit include being benefited from Iran's precious experience in trade and rural development fields.

"We intend to invite and encourage the Iranian merchants and capitalists to have a share in Afghan reconstruction," he said, adding that the government of Afghanistan is ready for full cooperation with them. Iran-Afghanistan railway links Iran, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and China. Two parts of the path are in Iran's territories and two parts are in Afghanistan.

Iran is one of the most important donors to Afghanistan which has kept its promises to help to the reconstruction of the war-hit country.

Iran has built some roads, power transmission lines, and border stations, among the other infrastructure projects which would better link the two nations.

Iran has also contributed more than \$50mln annually to Afghan anti-narcotics efforts in the last decade. (FNA)

(5) Dissident ...

anti-Mansour faction will seek to challenge him on the battlefield, how many fighters they control or how much money they have.

A leadership battle within the Taliban could create space for militants loyal to Islamic State to expand their foothold in the region, and could discourage Mansour from resuming Pakistan-backed peace talks with the Afghan government.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani is pushing for a negotiated settlement to the -14year insurgency, which has escalated markedly since tens of thousands of NATO combat troops withdrew ahead of an end2014-deadline.

The two sides held inaugural talks in Pakistan in July, but many commanders, including prominent dissident Mullah Abdul Qayum Zakir, opposed the process. It has since stalled.

Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi, a spokesman for the anti-Mansour faction, said a new leader would be chosen within days.

"There is one agenda, and that's to choose the new emir (leader) unanimously and get rid of Mullah Mansour," he said.

Niazi said the dissident commanders would not accept Mansour despite the Taliban's brief occupation of Kunduz earlier this month, their most important military success since the U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban government in 2001.

Just weeks after the peace talks, Mansour was hastily appointed head of the Afghan Taliban when Kabul's intelligence agency leaked news that Mullah Omar, the reclusive one-eyed founder of the Taliban, had been dead for more than two years.

During that time, Mansour issued statements in Omar's name, a subterfuge he said was necessary to unify the insurgency. But many commanders were furious over the deception and refused to accept him. A spokesman for Mansour was not immediately available for comment. ALLIANCES AND CASH

One complicating factor is Mansour's relationship with neighboring Pakistan. Mansour appointed Sirajuddin Haqqani, a militant leader alleged to have close ties to elements in the Pakistani military, as his deputy.

Taliban insiders say that was partly to offset the influence of Zakir, a prominent commander formerly held in the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay.

Zakir used to be an aide to Mullah Omar, until Mansour replaced him, and is a prominent member of the anti-Mansour alliance. The Taliban say Zakir has a power base in his home province of Helmand, but Mansour has more money and men. "In our faction, there are brave and trained people, but we don't have as many resources as Mansour," said one anti-Mansour commander.

"For more than two years, he controlled all the resources. Nobody challenged him, as he would say: 'its Mullah Omar's orders,'" he added.

The dissident Taliban faction includes Niazi, a former Taliban

provincial governor close to Mullah Omar; Zakir; Mullah Hasan Rahmani and Mohammad Rasool, two Taliban leaders with substantial power bases; and Mullah Abdul Razaq, a former Taliban interior minister.

The dissidents say they also have the support of Tayyab Agha, the former head of the political office in Qatar. (Reuters)

(6) Former Taliban...

networks of the UAE and Pakistan. Neither Taliban nor Afghan government has commented on the report.

But Motasim Agha Jan who was a high-ranking official of the Taliban was also anonymously arrested in UAE while he was supporting a peace deal between Taliban and Afghan government. He was later set free. (KP)

(7) Civil Society...

till they can answer to any attacks of insurgents.

This comes as Afghan security forces have suffered record casualties this year as they combat Taliban rebels largely without the benefit of U.S. air power and other international military support.

The number of Afghans in the police and army killed or wounded has increased %70 in the first 15 weeks of 2015, compared to the same period last year; The casualties have averaged about 330 a week.

The United States and its international allies have been gradually reducing their presence in the country, as it transferred more responsibility for the battle against the Taliban to Afghanistan's military. (ATN)

(8) UNICEF...

of children as "soldiers" is globally denounced and is considered a war crime.

This comes after a number of Afghan and international human rights organizations accused the Taliban of having committed war crimes in Kunduz - which the group overran for 72 hours after a massive and well-planned attack late last month. (Tolo News)

(9) Number of ...

Aegean islands of nearly 8,000 people, bringing the total to some 502,500. The total number of arrivals so far in Europe via the Mediterranean is now over 643,000," Melissa Fleming, UNHCR spokesperson told the press.

She said the spike in arrivals in Greece is sharply increasing pressure on reception centers on the islands. Many of the refugees and migrants are desperate to quickly move onwards, fearing subsequent borders will close.

"It is of utmost importance here, as in other parts of Europe, that reception conditions be adequate to the task. Without this essential element, the relocation program agreed by Europe in September is in serious peril and may fail," she added.

According to UNHCR, after chaotic and miserable scenes over the past few days, borders along the Balkan routes have reopened. On the Serbian border with Croatia, some 3,000 people were left waiting amid uncertainty in the rain from Sunday until late Monday afternoon without shelter and with minimal assistance on hand.

At least 123 people have died or gone missing in Greek territorial waters so far this year (in all, at least 3,135 have perished in the Mediterranean to date in 2015).

UNHCR expressed concern over the potential for this number to rise further as people try to beat the onset of winter and fears of new border closures. UNHCR urged search and rescue operations be further strengthened in the area to reduce risks. (Xinhua)

(10) Pakistan Welcomes...

Embassy in Islamabad since August 2015 .7. In this situation, Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul is constrained to close the commercial section which is authorized to issue Road Passes to our Afghan businesses and transporters.

This Embassy assures its Afghan brothers that Afghan traders and transporters will be immediately issued Road Passes once the visa to the officials of the commercial section of this Embassy is issued and the section resumes its normal commercial activities.

Furthermore, the Embassy reiterates that it has always facilitated and welcomed Afghan business community and transporters as well as the Afghan brothers keeping in view our traditions and brotherly relations and will continue to do so. (PR)

(11) Ghormach...

and his men were captured by the Taliban. Fayeq said this was because of a lack of air support during the clashes.

Heavy clashes have been ongoing for a few days in the district. But officials say the Taliban has sustained a heavy casualty toll.

The Taliban has not yet commented on the incident. (ToloneWS)

(12) Dunford Plays ...

of Staff, that he would welcome Russian air strikes against Islamic State militants in his country.

But Dunford said U.S. officials had since been reassured that Abadi had made no such request to Moscow.

"Subsequent to that, U.S. officials engaged Abadi and he did not request Russian air strikes," Dunford told reporters traveling with him.

Russia's military intervention in Syria has radically changed the landscape in the U.S.-led campaign against Islamic State, which seized vast tracts of Iraq and Syria last year. Iraqi officials are frustrated with the pace and depth of the U.S. military campaign against Islamic State.

Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias leading the fight against Islamic State in Iraq say the United States lacks the decisiveness and the readiness to supply weapons needed to eliminate militancy in the region. Washington denies this.

A senior Iraqi parliamentary figure said last week that Baghdad had already begun bombing Islamic State jihadists with the help of a new intelligence center in Baghdad staffed by Russian, Iraqi, Iranian and Syrian officials.

Dunford landed about half an hour later than planned in Erbil, capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, after his military aircraft was rerouted by air traffic controllers in Baghdad who were unfamiliar with his flight plans. (Reuters)

(13) Missing Ghormach...

while the country faces widespread insecurity the NUG leaders think of their own interests.

"After fall of Ghormach district, army forces cried out for help but neither the central nor the local government heard their voice. 40 soldiers have been killed and some have also captured by the armed Taliban," Sanator Gul Muhammad Rasouli said.

Sanator Zulmai Zabuli has also claimed that the Taliban announced at 10:00 AM to the soldiers along with their commander. We should wake up the government leaders and make them realize their responsibilities.

About 18 Afghan police officers are missing along with their commander after the Taliban seized Ghormach district in the northwestern Faryab province.

The Taliban, via its official propaganda outlet, Voice of Jihad, released a statement claiming it has taken Ghormach and has laid siege to "the PRT building and nearby Tapa check post" after six days of fighting.

The situation in Faryab somewhat mirrors that of Kunduz, where the Taliban took control of several districts since it launched its offensive in the province in May.

After months of fighting and several failed attempts to take the capital of Kunduz city, the jihadist group succeeded in doing so on Sept. 28. The Afghan military drove out the Taliban in a two-week counterattack. Meanwhile, some of Afghan senators have also announced the Taliban's attack on Helmand areas and Daesh presence in Nangarhar.

This comes as the first vice president; Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum arrived in Sheberghan city of Jawzjan province to launch military operations in three northern provinces of Afghanistan. (ATN)

(14) Trump Still

%22 - the only two GOP candidates in double digits. Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio are tied for third place at %8 each, followed by Mike Huckabee and Rand Paul at %5.

Another outsider candidate, Carly Fiorina, is tied for seventh place at %4 along with Chris Christie and Ted Cruz.

The CNN poll came a day after an NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey also showed Trump and Carson well ahead of the field, a month after the last Republican debate in California. The GOP candidates meet again Oct. 28 in Boulder, Colo.

Meanwhile, in an interview Tuesday on CNN, Trump defended the 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, reversing comments he made to the network earlier this month.

In an Oct. 6 interview, Trump said he wondered whether U.S. troops

were going to be in Afghanistan "for the next 200 years" and "we made a terrible mistake getting involved there in the first place."

On Tuesday, Trump said: "We made a mistake going into Iraq. I've never said we made a mistake going into Afghanistan." (Agencies)

(15) Taliban ...

about civilians fleeing in large numbers."

Provincial Governor Mirza Khan Rahimi said heavy fighting had been going on for two days in the district of Gereshk to the north of the city. The fighting has threatened Highway One, the main transport artery linking the major southern city of Kandahar with Herat.

Government officials said Lashkargah would not fall but one security source said the town of Baba Ji, to the north of the provincial capital had fallen and the Taliban itself said it was making major advances.

"The fighting is ongoing in full force and we have killed 25 government forces and seized a number of weapons," said spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi.

Helmand province is one of the world's biggest centres of opium cultivation, with a complex mix of warring tribal groups and Taliban insurgents creating a chronic problem for the Western-backed government.

The fall of Kunduz at the end of last month came as a profound shock in Afghanistan, piling pressure on the government of President Ashraf Ghani and raising questions over the capacity of security forces to maintain stability.

Afghan government forces, which have taken on the bulk of fighting since international troops ended most combat operations last year, have struggled to contain the Taliban, which has stretched the army in a series of operations across the country.

Having briefly taken Kunduz at the end of September, the Taliban last week threatened the city of Ghazni, south-west of Kabul, cutting off the main route between Kabul and Kandahar for three days.

Earlier this week, they were also reported to have overrun the district of Ghormach in Faryab province on the northern border with Turkmenistan.

The deteriorating security situation prompted US President Barack Obama last week to delay plans to pull American forces out of the country next year, with at least 5,500 troops now due to remain after 2017. (Reuters)

(16) Southern ...

tion on Monday, urging citizens around the world to call on U.S. President Barack Obama and the U.S. to consent to the independent investigation.

The IHFFC, the only permanent body set up specifically to investigate violations of international humanitarian law, has formally offered its services.

"MSF is calling for the United States and the Obama administration to consent to an investigation into the Kunduz hospital bombing. Consent is required before an impartial truth-seeking investigation can be launched," the statement said.

The attack completely destroyed the hospital, cutting off access to emergency trauma care for hundreds of thousands of people in northern Afghanistan, representing a grave violation of international humanitarian law.

"Respect for the laws of war is what protects our staff and patients in conflict zones throughout the world," said Mohammed Dalwai, MSF Southern Africa president. (Xinhua)

(17) ANP Solider...

performance in defusing mines over the years, no officials have come to see him.

"My one brother was martyred and he had three children and the other brother is also paralyzed as a result of a magnetic mine on his vehicle and he has seven children and no one did anything for them. Now my third brother has lost his hands. Even the Ghazni police HQ did not call and no one came from MoI to visit," said Mohammad Sami Nazir.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) called Nazir Ahmad and other police officers true champions and promised Ahmad help.

"The Ministry of Interior will do everything possible for the family and to support these champions," MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said. (Tolo News)

(18) Female ...

later said was in keeping with the constitution.

But in an interview with RFE/RL following the demonstration against her in Firoz Koh, Joyenda said that "armed commanders" - whom she called "bullies" - have made threats against her and her family.

"I'm afraid they will kill me or my family members," said Joyenda, who did not reveal the names of the individuals or when the alleged threats were made. "They can do this because they have power and weapons."

The -44year-old mother of nine said the "armed commanders" had demanded that she leave her post as governor of Ghor.

Among those participating in the October 18 rally - the second such protest in the past week - were Ghor provincial council members who accuse Joyenda of being incompetent and unable to manage the province's affairs.

Her critics cite her failure to curb growing insecurity in the province and to improve its citizens' economic prospects as reasons for her to leave office. Joyenda says there is really only one reason behind the calls for her removal - she is a woman. (RFE/RL)

(19) U.S Fighter ...

it was likely small arms because anything larger would have brought the plane down.

It is rare for F16-s to encounter small arms because they usually fly at altitudes out of the range of the weapons. They do sometimes fly at lower altitudes in a "show of force," a scare tactic to simulate a flight pattern used when munitions are dropped.

The Taliban had reported it downed a jet last week, but the U.S. military initially said there was no information about the incident until a French news agency provided photographic proof. (UPI)

(20) Russian...

recently, with the government troops declaring a broad offensive on several rebel-held areas in central and northern Syria, with the help of Russian planes in the air and Iranian militias on the ground.

Russia has been conducting airstrikes on targets in Syria since Sept. 30. Moscow said precision weaponry has been used to hit militant groups' positions. (Xinhua)

(21) UN Chief...

Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jenin, Tulkarm and Nablus. The trip follows a message by the secretary-general on Monday, when he took to the airwaves to speak directly to the peoples of Israel and Palestine.

The secretary-general urged the leaders on both sides to end the "posturing and brinkmanship" and get serious about pursuing the two-state solution - "the only solution capable of durably stanching the bloodshed hatred and fear."

Ban called on both sides not to allow extremists to further escalate the conflict and to maintain the status quo in the al-Aqsa mosque compound, a site holy to both Muslims and Jews. (Xinhua)

(22) Liberal ...

campaign, one of the longest in Canada's history. Trudeau also said he would take in thousands of refugees from Syria, battle climate change, and make "a better government" boosting the struggling economy of Canada, which has suffered from a big drop in oil prices as the world's fifth largest oil producer.

"Canadians from across this great country sent a clear message tonight - it's time for a change in this country, a real change," Trudeau said in the victory address.

Harper, who took power in 2006 and had been in low popularity while seeking a fourth term in office, was defeated by Trudeau's strong desire for a change in governance.

"The outcome is not the one we hoped for...We gave everything we had to give and we have no regrets," Harper said in a concession speech.

In the election, the Conservative Party won 99 seats, followed by the New Democratic Party with 44 seats, the Bock Quebecois with 10 seats and the Green Party with one, according to Elections Canada. (Xinhua)

(23) Destructive...

are the target of continuous aggression" by Iran, Jubeir said at a Monday joint presser with his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier in the Saudi capital Riyadh. (PressTV)

(24) China's ...

Even during its slowdown, China continues to grow at a pace that other major economies envy, according to the Wall Street Journal. China's economy is nearly twice the size it was just six years ago, meaning at lower growth rates it remains a major engine for global consumption and production. (Xinhua)