

(1) Ghani Calls...

to start in schools and mosques – but he also spelt out a number of sectors of primary concern.

One is that relating to government contracts. He says 350 projects have been reviewed by the National Procurement Authority. However, 28 have been rejected because of non-compliance with procurement law and that 8.5 billion Afs was saved by government through this review process.

Another area of major concern is that of property- and land-grabbing in Afghanistan. He said one of the problems is that owners do not possess title deeds to property they own in accordance with customary law.

Ghani said that for example, 65 percent of industries in Kabul do not have title deeds to their properties. However, government is working on resolving the problem and will issue legal deeds to those who own property.

Ghani said another major problem within the sphere of corruption is that of drugs. He said today there are an estimated 3.5 million drug addicts in Afghanistan.

According to him, the drug problem is also a driving force behind corruption. "Growers, producers and those who process, traffic and consume narcotics are all responsible," he said.

"To fight the criminal economy and mafia-like activities, government has focused efforts on developing agriculture through investment and support," he said adding that he wants Afghanistan to develop into a nation known for its legitimate exports.

In addition, he stated that government wants to restore the trade balance and prevent the importation of unhealthy foodstuffs from some of Afghanistan's neighbors.

Another area of major concern in terms of corruption is that of smuggling, said Ghani.

According to him, political influence and interference is a primary reason for corruption in the customs sector. He says shortcomings in the customs system has contributed to the spread of corruption and smuggling.

Ghani announced that in tackling this, government has decided to bring reforms in the customs sector and create customs police and establish a customs academy.

Another issue was that of mines – and their contracts. He said these contracts are apparently not transparent and that they are currently under review. Meanwhile, the issue of historical antiques and artifacts of national heritage was also raised and he said that over the years, millions of dollars' worth of such relics has been smuggled out of the country.

Touching on the Kabul Bank issue, he said that all documents relating to the multi-million dollar corruption scandal have been reviewed and currently government is recouping the money. In line with this, he said all banks in the country have come under scrutiny and that reforms to the sector can be expected.

In conclusion, Ghani emphasized that government was committed to fighting corruption and said that they will take action against those involved in illicit dealings.

He said the country needs a national Jihad to eliminate the scourge and thanked the Ulema Council for "caring about the issue of corruption".

Ghani said it is one of government's main tasks to fight corruption and that they have undertaken fundamental measures to eliminate the problem. (Tolnews)

(2) Talks Between ...

ties between the two nations.

The relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan were improving until the recent attacks in Kabul adversely affected them. (Agencies)

(3) Kabul Ready ...

receive more international assistance and aid in order to implement regional projects.

"Trade and infrastructure issues, Tax collection and customs systems, creating facilities in other regional initiatives, overcoming hurdles, and details of implementing big projects like CASA-1000 and TAPI pipeline project will be discussed at the summit," said Wahidullah Waisi, director of the Economic Cooperation Department of MoFA.

MoFA spokesman, Shekib Mustaghni said: "The RECCA summit will reduce reluctance in implementing a number of big projects that will help

improve regional cooperation and connecting the regional countries."

According to MoFA, economic analysts will discuss industries, mining sector and cooperation of private sector at sideline meetings at the summit. (Tolo News)

(4) ASCEN Floats ...

programme in school curriculum, ensure women's presences on electoral bodies, prevent illegal privileges and enhance capacity of election staff.

A day earlier, election watchdogs welcomed the ERC suggestions about reforms in the electoral system, but called their implementation as difficult in the current circumstances.

Mohamad Naeem Ayoubzada, the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA) chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News they welcomed the ERC's suggestions, although incomplete and had their own flaws.

He said two suggestions about rearrangement of voter lists and distribution of computerised identity cards seemed not possible to be materialised in a short time.

The TEFA chief said if the government was not in a position to distribute the computerised identity cards then it should come up with an alternate plan to make the upcoming elections transparent. (Pajhwok)

(5) Pakistan Rejects...

talks that I had in the last few days, he too is convinced that only the overcoming of bilateral difficulties can bring success to the struggle against terrorism and the continuation of successful talks with certain groups," said Steinmeier.

It has long been suspected that the main stronghold of the Taliban and the Haqqani Network is in Pakistan but Pakistani politicians continue to deny this.

"Today, the region and the world have realized the truth of Afghanistan and always ask Pakistan to deal with terrorist groups who are active in Pakistan," said Syed Zafar Hashemi, President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman. However, the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of Parliament, Qazi Nazir Ahmad Hanafi said that in saying Haqqani's infrastructure has been destroyed in Pakistan, the government is now admitting to them having been there.

"From one side the continuation of the daily war against Afghanistan and from the other side the eviction of Haqqani Network from Pakistan, it means they [Haqqani Network] did exist in Pakistan, and we [Pakistan] funded them and equipped them and now we evicted them. This is a confession that Sartaj Aziz admitted," said Chairman of Legislative Committee of Parliament, Qazi Nazir Ahmad Hanafi.

This comes after Washington recently cut its \$1 billion USD aid program to Islamabad on the back of their decision that Pakistan was not doing enough towards counter-terrorism operations in north Waziristan in order to squash Haqqani.

The US has been reimbursing Pakistan for operations and maintenance costs incurred in direct support of its operations in Afghanistan since 2001. So far \$13 billion USD has been reimbursed to Pakistan under this arrangement. (Tolnews)

(6) Terrorist...

the threat was addressed. He hoped Islamabad would help ensure necessary progress against the Haqqanis. The State Department and the White House also echoed the Pentagon's view. "We have indicated on a number of occasions that there is more work we believe that the Pakistani government can do to confront extremist groups and others that pose a security threat to the interest of the Pakistani people as well as the national security interests of the United States," the White House press secretary said.

Josh Earnest told reporters abroad Air Force One the issue was part of the discussion that Ambassador Susan Rice had held with the Pakistani officials. He was confident the matter would be on the agenda when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visits the US later this fall.

At a separate media briefing, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said: "We recognise that there's still threat from these terrorist groups emanating from Pakistan. We want to see Pakistan take additional steps to address some of these threats..."

"National Security Adviser (Susan) Rice was just there (in Islamabad) and

she had very frank and productive conversations with her counterparts about the continuing threat and violence in the region and ways we can best counter act it," Toner said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Dostum Returns...

destroyed and they want to destabilize the security in central Asia," Dostum said.

Referring to the northern battle, Dostum said troops have now cleared northern Faryab and Sar-e-Pul provinces and "it is now the duty of the security organizations to maintain stability in these provinces."

Dostum joined the security forces on the frontline in northern Faryab province earlier this month and survived at least two assassination plots and ambushes by insurgents groups.

Before his return to Kabul, Dostum said on Monday that plots against Afghanistan in Sar-e-Pul by Pakistan's Inter-Services intelligence (ISI) have been foiled after the Taliban were defeated in Kohistanat district.

This comes after the military operation that Dostum was leading managed to stamp out insurgents in the area and restore law-and-order.

He termed the retaking of Kohistanat as a big victory and congratulated the people for it.

Dostum called on Kohistanat residents to unite, and work hard at maintaining security in the district. He also appealed to the locals to prevent the Taliban from making a comeback in the area.

A number of tribal elders in Sar-e-Pul praised Dostum's efforts to stabilize the province.

Dostum said a few weeks back that he had donned his military uniform and joined troops in the north in a bid to eliminate insurgents, motivate security forces and ensure security.

The mountainous areas in the province can serve as a safe haven for the insurgents therefore the security forces were asked by Dostum to adopt serious measures to prevent the infiltration of the Taliban into these areas; otherwise the locals said they will once again witness insecurity in the district. (Tolnews)

(8) Clinton's Emails...

kept in an ISI safe-house in Quetta; his militia was lodged in the sprawling suburb of Pashtunabad."

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar presided over the Taliban military committee and war chest. Gulbadin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hezb-i-Islami, was lured back from exile in Iran and allowed to operate outside Peshawar, it alleges.

Jalaluddin Haqqani, one of the most violent Taliban commanders, was given sanctuary in North Waziristan. Other groups were dispatched to safe houses in Balochistan, the article claims.

By 2004, the US filmed Pakistan Army trucks delivering Taliban fighters at the Afghan border and recovering them a few days later; wireless monitoring at the US base at Bagram picked up Taliban commanders arranging with Pakistani army officers at the border for safe passage as they came in and out of Afghanistan.

"Western intelligence agencies concluded that the ISI was running a full training programme for the Afghan Taliban, turning a blind eye as they raised funds in the Gulf and allowing them to import materiel, mainly via Dubai. By 2005 the Taliban, with covert Pakistani support, were launching a full-scale assault on NATO troops in Afghanistan and being given covering fire as they returned to their bases in Pakistan," the report said.

In another email, an analyst – whose name has been redacted – recommends that the only way to bring peace to Afghanistan was direct talks between the US and the Taliban.

"The senior Taliban leaders would need to be brought across the border into Afghanistan, to get them out from under the control of the ISI. All this would need deception and trickery," the analyst wrote in the email which was brought to the attention of the then secretary of state. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban ...

Qaisari, the town's administrative chief, said one military tank, vehicle and two trucks of military equipment had been captured by the Taliban after security forces withdrew from Khawaja Kitni.

Ten days back, security forces regained the control of Khawaja Kitni

from Taliban after four years, but could not hold its control for a long time.

In addition, the Akhter Khan locality and its main bazaar also fell to the Taliban in the afternoon.

The district chief said ANA soldiers retreated from these two areas to their base in Ghormach district.

The official said Taliban staged the comeback to avenge their earlier defeat in the areas. (Pajhwok)

(10) Military Airfields ...

help jump start the economy.

Army Colonel Tom Tickner, the director of the Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan, said that most of the airfields are in operational condition, where some would need a bit of investment from Afghanistan and international investors who are willing to takeover.

Military teams are however, upgrading them ahead of an international road show organized by the Afghan and US governments due to be held in Dubai next month.

On offer are modern airports at Kandahar in the south, the biggest with a 20 km perimeter; Shindand and Herat in the western Herat province; Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Balkh province; Jalalabad in eastern Nangarhar province; as well as Bagram, 50 kms north-east of Kabul; and Kabul, adjacent to Kabul International Airport.

The global economic crisis has taken a toll on Afghanistan, which has been compounded by the recent departure of most international combat troops and charities.

Bases that fuelled local economies have closed, and those remaining – including the airfields – have been pared to skeleton staff, no longer employing thousands of locals to do laundry, carpentry, vehicle repair and translation.

Speaking on the handover, Resolute Support Maj. Gen. Semonite said: "Mez (Mazar-e-Sharif), Herat and Kandahar have always been at the intersection of basically the ring road and major avenues coming into the country, so those three nodes are very popular. They have a lot of interest in the private sector already. We think that those would really, really flourish." (Tolnews)

(11) Fewest Women...

vacancies for females and women should be given a priority in government employment."

A female civil society activist, Zainab, said the number of educated women was on the increase in Khost but their presence in government departments was on the decline.

She said this situation of the women was due to government's negligence which had grown pessimism among educated women and had reduced their interest in education.

"Some women have such nice ideas which men don't have. If women are allowed presence in every department and programme, they will not be heartbroken."

The lack of security and cultural restrictions turn out to be the big hurdles preventing women from jobs and education in much of Afghanistan.

But Administrative Reforms Commission head for Khost Haroon Mujahid denied discrimination against women in getting government jobs.

Khost Governor Hakam Khan Habibi reiterated his resolve to address problems women face their appointment to government positions. (Pajhwok)

(12) Training Course...

their knowledge and skills required to effectively combat illegal drug trafficking, identify the illegal drug trafficking routes across the borders.

The aim of the Information Networks along the Heroin Route project is to promote regional and trans-regional cooperation, assisting law enforcement along the route to develop future operational strategies against heroin trafficking. (Asia Plus)

(13) 53 Militants...

are 53 armed militants led by their five commanders including Abdul Qayum, Qari Khalid, Adam Khan, Waqif and Kabir. They reconciled with the government as a result of efforts by the National Directorate of Security," the peace negotiator said.

He said 10 rocket launchers, some explosives, light and heavy weapons the group turned in had been handed over to the Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) programme.

One of the give commanders, Waqif alias Qari Yasin, told Pajhwok Afghan News that he joined the peace process

with his 20 fighters.

"We had been committing sabotage activities in the Shinwari zone. Now when foreign troops had left, the Afghan soldiers are our brothers and we don't want to fight against them. We will fight those killing our elders, religious scholars and civilians." (Pajhwok)

(14) Mobile Money...

services, which have been proven to reduce opportunities for leakages," said Ghani, in his essay Realizing Self-Reliance. Mobile banking not only provides a more reliable method to distribute pay, but also ensures only registered employees receive salaries.

The initiative kicked off in Kapisa because the province had been relying 100 percent on trusted agents for payment. Trusted agents are Ministry of Interior appointed personnel that physically deliver salaries in cash to remote areas where banks are currently unavailable; a position that is highly corruptible and dangerous. EFT is a much safer method for payment than the current practice of using trusted agents, which 59 percent of all Afghan Local Police use.

The mobile money pilot program allows policemen and women to receive salaries through their mobile phones and use cash withdrawals without having to step foot in a traditional bank. Instead, registered users will be able to go to an approved shop in their district or even transfer funds electronically to any other user with a text-based software program installed on their phone. Police received their bank and sim cards as part of the registration.

The Ministry of Finance is managing the mobile money program in conjunction with Afghan Wireless Communications Company and New Kabul Bank, with plans to expand to additional telecom and banking institutions. The Essential Function One Directorate within Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, which encompasses planning, programming budgeting and execution, is providing oversight of the program. (KP)

(15) Haqqani Member ...

asked Rafiullah Bidar Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission spokesman.

"We want a complete justice process in this regard. The decision should be made justly in order to safeguard citizen's rights," he said. (Tolnews)

(16) New Library ...

Committee (DDC) in Khanabad. Technical and financial assistance for planning and managing the construction and equipping the building came from Germany's Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through its regional capacity (RCD) programme. (Pajhwok)

(17) Zabul Insecurity ...

of Zabul province from Iran and Pakistan, but none of these vehicles had ever been captured.

"As long as we don't have a strong intelligence and unable to fully utilise the available resources, war alone is not a solution," he said.

Helmand provincial council chief Mohammad Karim Atal said government officials did not consider their advice. He said they had informed the officials concerned in advance about the possible fall of Musa Qala and Nawzad districts, but nothing happened to secure the towns.

Governor Mirza Khan Rahimi acknowledged that security problems were widespread in Zabul and urged tribal elders and religious scholars to cooperate with his administration in doing away with corruption and injustices. (Pajhwok)

(18) Balkh Rape...

He said the act was unforgivable, and that "We came here to seek justice. They did an un-Islamic act with my daughter."

He added: "The two perpetrators are married. They have families. They have committed such a bad act."

He said the girl was raped 20 days back but officials have not addressed the case because one of the suspects is allegedly the cousin of Sholgara district's criminal manager.

According to him, officials tried to hide the incident.

The victim herself has also called for justice to be served. "They took me to the desert at night. They must be punished."

Meanwhile, the head of the women's court in Mazar-e-Sharif, Fawzia Ha-

midhi told TOLONews that 16 cases of violence against women have been registered so far this year. She said most of the alleged perpetrators are local powerful figures.

"Most of the cases are committed by local powerful figures or the local commanders. They are still armed. They interfere in such issues as they have power and the people dare not raise their voices against them. They [the locals] accept any kind of pressure from such individuals," Hamidi said. (Tolnews)

(19) Wazir Families

but UNHCR and WFP have assisted most of these families."

Dr. Wali, the civil hospital director, said the UN had dispatched mobile health teams to Barmal few months ago, but the teams had recently returned. He said the refugee families could easily visit health clinics for treatment in Barmal and Marghai district, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(20) Baghlan AG...

the vehicle, survived. Provincial police chief Col. Abdul Bashir said a police party had been dispatched to the site for investigation. No arrests have been made so far.

No any groups have so far claimed responsibility for the attack on Mansoor, who previously served as an interrogator. (Pajhwok)

(21) Young Boy,...

law. Ahmad and Zarmina were released from the prison after receiving their punishment.

Faruqi said that Zarmina was transferred to a safe house for her own safety.

According to the court, Ahmad and Zarmina have a child as the result of their illegal contacts. (KP)

(22) West Ceasing ...

of Syrian citizens instead of mercenaries, will make concerted efforts and coordinate their actions, Lavrov specified.

"The main thing is that the forces opposing the Islamic State do not interfere with each other," he said. (Xinhua)

(23) Germany,...

common European refugee and asylum policy.

The Spanish prime minister expressed support for Germany's proposals in the EU regarding the influx of refugees, saying his country is ready to take in around 2,700 refugees.

In addition, Rajoy has called for readmission agreements with those countries from which migrants come to the EU for economic reasons. (Xinhua)

(24) Obama Paints...

escalating crisis already disturbing Alaskans' way of life.

"We will condemn our children to a planet beyond their capacity to repair," Obama said. Alluding ironically to the threat of rising seas, he castigated leaders who deny climate change as "increasingly alone – on their own shrinking island." (AP)

(25) Migrants...

lation of EU rules they now have little power to enforce.

The arrival of hundreds of thousands of migrants has confounded Europe, which has eliminated border controls for travel between 26 countries of its Schengen area but requires those seeking asylum to remain in the country where they first arrive until their applications are processed. (Reuters)

(26) Millions of...

coal mining sectors are among those expected to walk off the job, according to union leaders.

Modi won a landslide election victory last May, promising a string of business-friendly reforms to attract foreign investment and revive Asia's third largest economy.

But the opposition has blocked flag-ship tax and land reforms, aggravating investor concerns, while the unions are increasingly angry over the reforms.

Two unions linked to Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party have pulled out of the strike. But hawkers, domestic workers and daily wage labourers from the country's poor informal sector are expected to take part for the first time. (AFP)

(27) UN Special...

Leon expressed hope that the General National Congress (GNC) will reinjoin the talks in Geneva after staying away from the talks in Skhirat following the resignation of two members of its dialogue team and its request for time to reorganize their team. (Xinhua)