Half Million of Afghans Suffer from War, Natural Disasters: Report

**Ghani Addresses Elders on TAPI Project**

Ghani said: "The country supports regional and international projects so as to ensure peace and change. In order to attract more Afghan and international companies to invest, we will have an international conference soon." He added that the TAPI project is an economic opportunity for the region. (Monitoring Desk)

**Government Officials**

KARUL - Based on a report released by the United Nations, 431,000 Afghan families were affected by war and natural disasters in 2015. The report indicated that the overall assistance was not enough for the affected people, who are mostly women and children.

Officials in ministry of economy have declared the report misleading by the United Nations organization of Afghanistan. According to the report, 140,000 Afghan families have been affected due to war in Afghanistan. (More on P. 8)

**Senates Prods Govt. to Addresslecturers Demands**

KARUL - The Senate President on Sunday called on the government to address university lecturers' demands, including the recently amended law on retirement process.

"We request the minister to meet the lecturers before he is out of office," the first deputy said. (More on P. 10)

**Anti-Land Grabbing Campaign Launched in Nangarhar**

KARUL - The anti-land grabbing campaign launched in eastern province of Nangarhar on Sunday in an effort to remove centers of government power, private sectors, and owned land seized by local authorities or others.

According to local officials, the campaign will continue until all land has been taken back to government. Meanwhile, an anti-land grabbing campaign was officially started in the Nangarhar province.

It is said that hundreds of illegal buildings have been seized in Behsud district in the province.

From today we will continue to stop illegal land and any builder who tries to interfere in our campaign will be brought to justice," deputy governor of Nangarhar Moh. Hurdad Ghanzad said.

Meanwhile, Behsud district's governor has detained local lawmakers for having seized the land.

Lawmakers are involved in land grabbing despite all having made calls to stop their actions on government and private sectors," Behsud district governor informed Qazi Zada told.

"The campaign is only symbolic as those involved in land grabbing have support from within government. We believe that the campaign announced by Nangarhar local officials is symbolic. There is a need to take firm action to remove such government land. Such campaigns will not have positive outcomes unless the government has confidence in the region," the deputy governor said. (ToloNews)

**Afghan soldiers show their certificates during their graduation ceremony in Kabul on Saturday December 20, 2015. Some 1,000 soldiers graduated from an Afghan army's training center and were commissioned into the country's army on Saturday, an official said. (Ahnafu Rahmat Aliwahid)**

**Helmand Province May Fall to Taliban, Official Warns**

KARUL - Helmand province could fall to the Taliban after months of heavy fighting, with 9 members of the security forces killed over the past two days, the deputy governor of Helmand Province, Mohammad Jan Rasooliy, warned on Sunday.

Mohammad Jan Rasooliy said some President Ashraf Ghani took urgent action, the province, a centre of opium production and a Taliban heartland that British and American troops struggled to control for years, would fall.

"Your Excellency, Helmand is standing on the brink and there is a serious need for you to come," he wrote on Facebook.

**Ghani's Baku Visit to Open New Page in Bilateral Relations**

Baku The upcoming visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Baku on Tuesday will open a new era in Afghanistan-Iran relations, Munich Security Conference President Wolfgang Ischinger said Monday.

"There are good reasons to believe that the two countries have reached a point where they can have a dialogue that is not just technical or security-oriented but that covers all aspects of the relationship," Ischinger said.

He said that the two countries have reached a point where they can have a dialogue that is not just technical or security-oriented but that covers all aspects of the relationship.

**It’s Too Early to Comment on Taliban Talks**

KARUL - While hope over the inclusion of opposition power talks with the Taliban gather momentum, Afghan government officials and peace council members said Sunday that it is too early to openly discuss the talks or negotiate a team or on details regarding the framework of negotiations with the insurgent group. Looking closely over the past three years of peace talks with the Taliban, members of the High Peace Council stated that the process is moving more slowly than planned.

KARUL - The government and the insurgents have yet to be finalized. Earlier this past decade, the peace talks were held in Moscow that were not successful and ended in failure. (More on P. 8)
Afganistan

**Unidentified Gunmen Kidnap Three Civilians on Kabul-Ghazni Highway**

A group of unidentified gunmen kidnapped three civilians on Kabul-Ghazni highway, official said on Sunday.

Two children and a woman were among those kidnapped when their vehicle was stopped in Maimana area of Laghman district.

The attack came as theANE activity in the area has been on the rise.

The-Kabul government has so far received no information on the kidnappers' demands.

**Mediwane Marine Survives Family After Tour in Afghanistan**

Mediwane Marine reported he was injured in a firefight and his family survived a gun attack.

The reason for the gun attack was not immediately clear.

The government has so far not commented on the incident.

**30 Public Utility Projects Completed in Balkh Province**

The government has completed 30 public utility projects worth $28 million in Balkh province.

The projects include the construction of schools, hospitals, and roads.

**Afghan displaced children walk out of their tents on the outskirts of Kabul.**

Afghanistan on Sunday, December 31, 2015. More than one million people live in its homes due to conflicts in the country, according to officials. (Kabul/DPA)

**Outlook Horoscope**

**Aries (Mar. 21-Apr.20)**

Sharing the details of your busy calendar with family and friends may be necessary. Trust that by keeping everything smooth and steady, you don't have to over-explain your every move. You already know information overload and they don't need you to add more noise to the existing mix. Instead of just relaxing, try to plan your events accordingly.

**Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)**

You could feel the same pressure this week, but don't let that stop you. What you might experience now may not be a full-on emotional burnout. However, it can be a long-term threat.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

Your social life may be confusing you although you know it is not complicated as it appears. Although, you don't have to worry; you may find yourself torn between two interests. You may find some of a breakdown in communication or of your plans fall apart. Don't drastically change your plans to escape the confusion.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

You plan asking your opinions today but things that you may want to discuss are getting more complicated. Have you already decided on what to discuss? You might have already decided to forget about the topic.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)**

You are so creative today. This might be the thing you should be doing today and you may feel the urge to help everyone back off and feel free. But that's not the way you want to be sorted out. If you love your own ideas, it's just you that need to be sorted out. Remember, your strength of conviction is a double-edged sword, it's admirable to be so passionate about your beliefs.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)**

You are in opposition directions today and struggle to find middle ground. On one hand, your ruling planet Mercury is falling, firing your head with one brilliance thought after another. On the other hand, quicksilver mind is a mix of all your personal ideas. It makes it nearly impossible to focus. Trying to make your choices is an extra difficulty for you. Just to give your ideas naturally for you.

**Libra (Sep. 23-Oct. 22)**

It takes every ounce of your concentration today to face the situation. Your opinions may be under-achieving instantly tomorrow but, there's no reason to express your thoughts until it's the right moment. Count them as the most constructive to the conversation. Nevertheless, it's not enough to write your words, it will make an immediate difference.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

It's easier to imagine the future for a life-changing deep thought today, but the two are totally different. Trickster Mercury may nudge you into thinking that a radical new idea is amusing enough to save the world or at least to save yourself. But innovative solutions such as sound wonderful but might not stand up to the test of time.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

You might grow annoyed today because someone seems to be moving too slowly or is not as quick as you think. It can mean you are more patient than you usually are. Instead of trying to control reality to your liking, it makes sense to let things be.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

You can tell that your head is in the clouds. Obviously, you don't want to miss a significant opportunity, but it may not be the right time to fully express your intentions. It is better to get all your ducks in order or in simpler terms to explore a specific strategy right away. Thankfully, you are blessed with your patience.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

You may feel the desire to have something to come to your assistance today but it may not be wise to do that. If you can't figure out how you can help yourself, take some time to think. There is no need for you to answer, but at the door. Unfortunately, your attempts to alter your behavior may be too little too late. Instead of trying to control reality to your liking, it makes sense to let things be.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)**

You are not wise if it's in your best interest to believe in something that is not true. If you're worried that your dreams are not going to come true, it may help to talk to someone about your concerns. However, sometimes keeping your plans to yourself can help you find your inspiration or if you are drawn to share your heart.

**Main News Page**

**Afghanistan Should Get to Play Against Top Teams: Inzamam-ul-Haq**

KARLAL - About 95 million have been killed during cleanup opera- tions in the country since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, the country's Defense Minister stated on Saturday.

The ministry said in a statement that Afghanistan National Security and De- fense Forces carried out the opera- tions in Farah, Ghazni, Parwan and Kandahar provinces.

"Some 22,000 militants were also neutral- ized during the above-mentioned joint forces also found weapons and ammunition in addition to destro- ying_dialogue_break_ between borders and landlord," said the statement that provides daily operational updates.

The ministry also acknowledged that the loss of 15 army personnel during the cleanup operations across the country over the past year. The Afghan security forces have engaged in security operations against militants recently as the Afghan government has been attempting to take territory and consolidate in position ahead of elections in the Central Asian country. (Doha)
Ray of Hope for Syrian Problem!

By Muhammad Rasool Shah

The resolution of Security Council about Syria is not so promising but it is definitely a change and shows a new direction in dealing with this conflict. This resolution shows that a peaceful channel can be a breakthrough in coming weeks or months. It is the first time that realistic approach is suggested on a resolution basis, as the rift between the protagonists of this war is so wide that there are also differences on how to calm the situation. The resolution has paved way for future talks and most importantly, it may enable both the sides again on a peace-time, which is the need of the day.

In his resolution, the good thing was the fact that the international community had suggested a resolution basis and had been honest enough to admit that differences are wide and need to be smoothed. Actually the war would come to an end when the government of Bashar Al-Assad and the armed opposition groups are sure that they are under the influence of their international supporters and it would be difficult for them to ignore to sign a resolution put forth by the mutual agreement of international powers.

According to the resolution, the United Nations will form a new committee in Damascus and a new committee will be formulated. In the light of this constitution, independent and democratic elections will be held when the people of Syria will decide upon their representatives who will then take the control of affairs of the country and the country will change into a democratic and an independent state.

The role of Assad in the future setup of the country has been put very clearly in this resolution. He is in power at the moment, but he is not considered as a traitor in the West. In the West and its Western allies were never in favor of any form of democracy and even they consider the government of Bashar Al-Assad to be the most stable government in the Middle East. On the other hand, any arrangement without the involvement of Assad has not been accepted by the Western allies and the supporters of Russia and Iran. It is the reason why, the role of Assad in future government of Syria should not be underestimated. Therefore, the international community should ensure that Assad is not invited to face off in any elections. Assad and his armed opposition groups should not be considered during the elections. In these elections, the Syrian people and the Syrian refugees will decide their future government.

However, all the participating powers agreed that ISS is a mutual concern and there will be no role of the latter organization in future elections. The activity of ISS in Syria is over. However, there is a long list of problems as well. Firstly, it may take many years before ISS is fought and eliminated. Although the Russian involvement has increased the pace of destruction in this war, this government has lost its resistance against the bombing of US and Western powers for more than a year. It becomes very difficult for Russia to bring the situation under its control, while the other groups have been labeled as target groups by the government of Assad and it is the reason that, Russian bombings have indirectly benefited Bashar and other rebel groups. In the talks, it would be more difficult as the mutual agreement between the two sides lack credibility.

Similarly, the role of Saudi Arabia is controversial. The process for the removal of Assad requires the agreement of the mutual and neutral support of rebel groups. The talks are being held to the Saudi capital to achieve the support that comes to all of us. Russia will have to exert its pressure to bring the negotiators of Assad on the table. According to the Russian political analyst, V.S. Avant, the minister of state of Russia, the national indicator or a their state in the West. The futile talks and meetings with the representatives that Assad was not ready to accept any role of Assad in the future of Syria. However, the scenario is very uncertain and a political atmosphere of calm and neutral support of Russia helped change the situation in Syria. Initially, it was hoped that rebels would soon constitute the government of Assad but the regime forces showed more resistance than expected. Recent military support from Iran and involvement of Russia gave a new life to the forces of Assad. It is the reason why, the government forces have emerged stronger in last few weeks. Russia and Syria are now ready to fight for complete annihilation of Assad. The process could take time but it is very likely that the rebels will not again come to the table and form a new government of Syria.

The political atmosphere of civil colleagues in the country. Now that the future talk is reaching to 10000 and the process is going to be longer, Trump administration is now preparing to overthrow Assad. The US and NATO may plan to attack on Syria to oust Assad from power. However, it is very unlikely that a new government will be formed under Assad. Without looking at the gains and loss of sides, it was badly affected the political atmosphere of the people in this war.

The entire world may look at the conflict between Qatar and other countries. Qatar would also have the friendly relations and BJP may face some pressure. Therefore, there are several countries in the region that are currently facing the same issues. Though there are so many problems but peaceful settlement in the war is the only way. The problem and the first step has been taken in this regard.

Muhammad Rasool Shah (a prominent writer of Daily Outlook. He can be reached at muhammadrasools@gmail.com)

Climate Action

After Paris

By Jim Yong Kim

A t the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris, prominent and visionary leaders recognized that people rarely change the world when they work within the frameworks we are given. The world is ready for an agreement, but most of us did not dare to dream of a day when our leaders would have the resolve to move beyond the industrial-scale emissions. Paris delivered for the planet and for future generations.

Five important steps must come next:

First, we must not let climate change be defined uniquely. Climate change must be considered in all of our work—from building cleaner cities to reducing food waste to promoting a much stronger focus on adapting to changing climate patterns. In this discussion, which has come to the fore of the French President, we are also ensuring that it is resilient to the floods and storm warnings. If you are at risk on Earth, Paris is the first day, the World Bank unveiled a new climate action plan in Paris to help Belgium.

Second, we need a clean energy transition in the speed and scale of the digital revolution. The Paris talks sent a clear signal to markets, public officials, and investors that low-carbon growth is the future. Market forces will drive this agenda. Paris will be a key step in getting the world on track for renewable energy.

Third, the World Bank must help other countries reach a tipping point toward a low-carbon economy by supporting long-term recoverable economic development for the world's poorer countries. Countries like Ethiopia and Kenya must be able to identify these opportunities, and the World Bank will do its part to enable them.

Countries like Ethiopia and Kenya must be able to identify these opportunities, and the World Bank will do its part to enable them.

Fourth, world leaders must push harder for carbon pricing. Carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels costs the world $830 billion per year and that comes to all of us in the form of public-health costs, damage to the environment, and costs that will fall on future generations. The market signals, the states, and regions are using a carbon price, this covers the cost of carbon emissions, and there are many forms of carbon pricing. There are many forms of carbon pricing. The cost of carbon pricing is very important.

Fifth, future leaders of this generation of climate action leaders will need to balance the development of a climate action plan with the social and economic development of the poorest people. The World Bank is leading a new climate action plan in Paris to help Belgium.

The risks of carbon are high, but the opportunities to decarbonize are even greater. For our part, we recently pledged to support the global response to climate change, financing our $100 billion commitment to deliver on its commitments. National leaders must have the mandate for these actions. We must think about how to involve the developing countries. We must think about how to involve the developing countries.

The conference in Paris produced an agreement that went beyond the previous negotiations and that was ambitious, and that matches this historic deal—our $100 billion commitment to deliver on its commitments. National leaders must have the mandate for these actions. We must think about how to involve the developing countries. We must think about how to involve the developing countries.

Jim Yong Kim is the president of the World Bank Group.

The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook, Afghanistan.
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Yemen Talks End, to Resume on January 14: Govt. Source

DUBAI - Yemeni peace talks concluded in Socotra, and the parties agreed to end nine months of war and也就 peace talks, but real factors will become apparent on Jan. 14, a government delegation source said.

Reports indicate the latest round of talks was the best chance to date to end the conflict given the months of violence on the ground and the need to reach a political solution, those who were part of the talks, told Reuters.

"The first round of Yemen talks did not produce an agreement for peace to be resumed in January," the source told

USA New Visas Not to Harm Iran's Interests: Kerry

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister said yesterday that the US Secretary of State John Kerry lost hope for an agreement to end the conflict given the months of violence on the ground and the need to reach a political solution.

The US Secretary of State John Kerry has been trying to end the conflict, but has been unable to get the support of the US lawmakers to continue the talks.

"The situation in Yemen is critical and the US needs to act now to reach an agreement with the Houthis to end the war and the dispute over President Abdu Rabbo Mansour Hadi," the source said.

"The conflict is killing hundreds of people and the US needs to act now to end the war and resolve the dispute over President Hadi."

Sri Lanka Hopes to Have Strong Defence Ties with China, India: PM

COLOMBO - The Sri Lankan government yesterday said it needs to have strong relations with countries like China and India. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said at an event to mark the recruitment of a new police force that the country would not be able to develop if it was unable to resolve the problem of the separatist Tamil Tigers.

"We need to have strong relations with China and India to develop the country and to resolve the problem of the separatist Tigers," the prime minister said.

The Chinese government has been a major investor in Sri Lanka, and the country has been seeking to strengthen its ties with China and India to secure investment and develop its economy.

Pakistanis Businessmen Invited to Invest in Russia

Karachi: Pakistanis businessmen were invited to invest in Russia today.

"Pakistan is open to investment from Russia in various sectors," the ambassador of Pakistan to Russia said.

"We hope that Pakistani businessmen will take advantage of this opportunity and invest in Russia," the ambassador said.

The ambassador also said that Pakistan and Russia are important partners in the region and that both countries have a lot to offer each other.

Iran, France Determined to Boost Cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran and France have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in various fields.

"Iran and France are determined to boost cooperation in various fields," the Iranian foreign minister said.

"We are looking forward to a new chapter in our relations," the minister said.

The minister also said that both countries are committed to strengthening their cooperation in the fields of trade, energy, and security.

Chinese Leaders Order Immediate Rescue Following Massive Landslide

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang have ordered immediate rescue efforts after a massive landslide struck a mountainous area in Tibet.

The landslides had buried several villages and killed dozens of people, according to local authorities.

"Immediate rescue efforts are needed to save lives," the president said.

"We are doing everything we can to save lives," the premier said.

The landslide was caused by a combination of heavy rains and poor land management, according to local authorities.

The large amount of rainwater led to the collapse of the slope, resulting in the landslide.

"We are doing everything we can to save lives," the minister said.

"We are doing everything we can to save lives," the minister said.

Acknowledgements

UIOJKIN - British Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday announced a £10m package to support women in the UK who are at risk of domestic violence.

"We must do more to support women and girls who are at risk of domestic violence," the prime minister said.

The package will be used to support women who are at risk of domestic violence and to provide them with the support they need to escape their situations.

Military Called in as Spanish Army Repels Key Rebel stronghold in Aleppo

The Spanish army has been supporting rebels in the besieged city of Aleppo, and has recently been seen pushing towards the city's main rebel-held areas.

"We have been providing support to the rebels in Aleppo," the army spokesman said.

"We are providing them with equipment and training, and helping them to defend the city against the government forces."

By the end of the week, the army will have more than 500 troops in Aleppo, providing support to the rebels.

The government forces have been trying to retake the city for months.

Suspicious Russian Warplanes Kill Scores in Syrian City

REUTERS - Air strikes believed to have been launched from Russian warplanes killed scores of people in the center of the rebel-held city of south-western Syria on Sunday, according to witnesses and residents.

The air strikes reportedly killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens more.

The government forces have been using Russian air support in the area.

"The city was hit by at least 10 air strikes on Sunday," a witness said.

"The air strikes killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens more," a resident said.

The government forces have been trying to retake the city for months.

10 PKK Rebels Killed in Military Operation in Turkey

ANKARA - A total of 110 PKK militants ware killed in a military operation in southeastern Turkey in the past four days, the state-run Anadolu agency reported on Sunday.

The operation was conducted in the southeastern province of Sirnak, where the PKK have been active for decades.

"The operation targeted a PKKP militant camp and killed 110 PKK militants," the Anadolu agency reported.

The operation is part of a wider military campaign against the PKK in southeastern Turkey.

The PKK have been designated as a terrorist organization by the Turkish government.

The PKK have been fighting for a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey since 1984.

"The operation was conducted in the southeastern province of Sirnak," the Anadolu agency reported.

"The PKK have been designated as a terrorist organization by the Turkish government."
Putin Criticizes Europe for Lack of Independent Foreign Policy

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday criticized Europe for lack of independent foreign policy saying it has partially transferred its sovereignty to the United States.

"The problem of Europe is that it does not have its own foreign policy, ... it has transferred part of its sovereignty to NATO and the United States," Putin said in a televised address on the Russian Television channel.

The president urged what he called "European partners" to be more active in developing relations with other states, instead of simply "following orders from Washington.

Meanwhile, Putin stressed that any international actions by any country should be taken with a consensus among permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, warning that the U.S.-led coalition has been launching attacks against the Islamic State (IS) in Syria without its approval of the world body.

Commenting on the Ukrainian crisis, which has caused relations between Moscow and the Western world to be frozen, Putin noted that the West has no intention to protect the national interests of Ukraine, but with the aim to provoke the re-establishment of the Soviet Union. "Deliberately, whenever we say Russia has no plan to re-establish the Soviet Union," Putin said.

With regard to Kiev's recent decision to impose a moratorium on repayments of its millions of U.S.-dollar debts, "(This) is mere political speculation on the part of the West," Putin noted.

$28 Million Ring Road Inaugurated

KARUL - The Minister of Urban Development and Housing (MODU) on Sunday inaugurated a ring road in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital city of northern Balkh province.

Minister Nader, integrated the ring road in the presence of acting governor of Balkh province, Mr. Mohammad Noor, and other high level government officials including Provincial Council's chairperson.

The $28 million road having 12 km length and 8 meters width will be a huge boost in the infrastructure development of Mazar-e-Sharif. The ring road is expected to promote the economic activities of the city.

40k Afghan Students in Iranian Schools

Tehran - Iran's Minister of Education Ali Asghar Fast on Sunday said that 400,000 Afghan students are studying in Iran in the current Iranian academic year.

Fast added that 960 million dinars are spent on the education of each student during one school year in the current academic year, nearly 800 million dollars have been dedicated to the education of foreign students in Iranian schools, "for the current academic year around a thousand Afghan students have enrolled in Iranian schools and the figure has become greater compared to last year." He added.

The managing director of the Association for Promotion of Refugee Women and Children (HAMA) had said earlier that the ministry's figures on education costs of Afghan students are ambiguous.

Concerns Raised Over Seized Weapons Found In Kunduz

KARUL - Concerns have been raised that large quantities of weapons belonging to the security forces captured by the Taliban during the siege of the city by insurgents in late September, early October.

Local officials have said that after the fall of the city, the Taliban seized both light and heavy weapons from security forces, which are now being used against government troops.

Meanwhile, the head of the Kunduz provincial council said the seized weapons have enabled the Taliban to launch attacks on the security forces and civilians.

This comes amid ongoing clashes between security forces and insurgents in the city—a matter of concern as officials say security forces have still not been able to eliminate all insurgents in the province.

Acting provincial governor Homayoun Dadfar said the Taliban seized the weapons along with trucks and armed vehicles that had been taken from the security forces, resulting in a significant drop in the security situation.

"One of the reasons for our choosing not to seize these weapons is that the heavy weapons were taken by the Taliban and their forces," Dadfar said.

This is worrying and we have asked for some military forces to be deployed in these areas to destroy these weapons. This process has started," Dadfar added.

Meanwhile, provincial council's head Mohammad Vahid (Mohren on 12,14)