

(1) Politicians...

unit in Kabul, the minister said some committees had been formed and investigation into the incident was underway. But some lawmakers claimed the attack on the elite security agency was carried with help from inside the facility.

Lawmaker Mohammad Alam Eyzedyar termed the security situation of the country as dangerous and said organised crimes such as kidnapping, robberies and armed attacks were on the increase in capital Kabul and no steps had been taken to prevent their growth. Acting NDS Chief Massoud Andarabi told lawmakers that investigation into the recent bombing was underway but refused to share details in front of media due to sensitivity of the case. (Pajhwok)

(2) Chief Justice...

female judges to cooperate with the Supreme Court in the fight against corruption.

The First Lady Rula Ghani also spoke at the event and stressed the need for rule of law and the fight against violence against women. "Other steps to be taken for social stability is uprooting violence, which will increase hopes for the future," she said.

AWJA is a working unit of the Supreme Court, which was established about three years ago. (Tolonews)

(3) Ghani Expected...

and measures taken by the government in tackling various situations.

"National assembly hopes that the president clarifies his stance on peace and war. The issue of jobs of caretakers are also an important issue which needs to be addressed," MP Niamatullah Ghafari said. "The decision works if it is not short term and symbolic and that the decision must not change color when it gets a green light by Pakistan," senator Abdullah Qarluq said.

"President's strategy will be effective if there is a clear explanation from the friend and the enemy including peace. The president should also make it clear what is the price of war. We believe that it was the armed opponents that announced war and they have to stop it now," Sediq Patman, a member of Jabha-e-Milli Naveen-e-Afghanistan party, said.

The attack in Kabul has had major repercussions on the political and military fronts with the Afghan officials accusing the Taliban of deliberately killing Afghan people. In a policy shift, the Afghan government announced that it will take a hard stance against the Taliban in the wake of the deadly attack last week.

Also on Sunday, the Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD) announced that while the peace process with the Taliban has hit a stalemate, the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have no option except to take the war to the Taliban to eliminate them. (Tolonews)

(4) Senate Summons...

The senators in Sunday's session lashed out at government for failing to prevent the incident.

"The issue of the punishment of terrorists and criminals should be discussed as a red-line for people of Afghanistan in the National Security Council. It has been discussed several times in the past by government leaders. However, neither the previous government, nor the incumbent government has paid any attention to the issue and it gives the enemy courage," said Mohammad Alim Ezadyar, a senator.

"There were several flaws. Soldiers were asked to go there, they should have been armed, but they were ordered not to have arms," said Rahmatullah Achakzai, another senator.

"Our people, women and children, are being killed, the government must take steps," said Mohammad Hashim Alokozai, another senator. Jahid meanwhile admitted to intelligence lapses in the MoI, and he said favoritism in appointments, was one of the main weaknesses in the police force.

"I promise to people of Afghanistan that based on the plans that we have and based on rules and regulation, if I couldn't reform Afghan police, based on the resolve that I have and if don't face any obstacles, I will be accountable before people of Afghanistan," he said. (Tolonews)

(5) Dasht-E-Archi ...

Once cleared of the Taliban, the troops raised the Afghan flag in the main bazaar.

The footage also reveals that army troops carried out a well-coordinated military operation to take back control of the area from the Taliban. Their operation lasted for at least two weeks as it is believed this was a key base for the insurgents.

According to troops, they found a stockpile of bread and food in the area, which was taken by the insurgents from local residents.

Saifi said that at least 40 insurgents were killed in the operation and a further 70 injured. However, six soldiers were wounded.

"Defeating the Taliban in Dasht-e-Archi means they are defeated in the northeastern parts of the country," he added.

Residents of Dasht-e-Archi meanwhile said the insurgents used their houses as strongholds and that they forced many of the people to leave their homes and to give them food and bread.

"They [Taliban] placed mines in our houses and they were destroyed. Taliban left nothing for us," said Abdullah, one Dasht-e-Archi resident.

The residents also said that the district's main market had now reopened - six months after closing due to insecurity. They added that their children are also once again able to play outside and spend time in the local playgrounds. (Tolonews)

(6) HIA to ...

refugees from neighbouring countries.

Karim insisted on transparent elections and suggested the next elections should be held on party basis and said HIA leaders wished the release of all prisoners under an agreement.

HIA council head in central Parwan province, Abdul Ghafar Rashidi, said their delegations wanted to ask the government why the peace process had been slow going.

All members and supporters of HIA wanted peace and brotherhood in Afghanistan, he said, asking the president and other officials to properly advance the process.

A source in HIA, who wished anonymity, said the second delegation had been invited by President Ashraf Ghani to Kabul to him, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and High Peace Council (HPC) officials.

It was scheduled that the delegates would meet the president at 4pm on Saturday, but the meeting was postponed for unknown reasons. (Pajhwok)

(7) UNDP to ...

old before they become rich. From Bangladesh to Vietnam, from Afghanistan to Sri Lanka, the report recommends development policies that will improve the lives of current and future generations in terms of education, jobs, healthcare etc.

"The window of opportunity is now! If countries don't act, they will miss out on a unique opportunity to power human development and risk growing old before they grow rich," the statement added. (Pajhwok)

(8) Severe Food...

our food now. They [residents] give half the grass to the cattle and eat the rest. If government does not help us, we will have no choice but to leave the country because we share a border with three countries," said one of the Pamir residents.

Residents claim that roads connecting them to the outside world, which allows for food to reach their villages, are closed due to security threats. In addition, access to a key market for them, in Tajikistan, is also now closed.

Badakhshan provincial council members have said that recent clashes in the province have closed the roads into Sheghnan, Zibaak, Ishkashim and Wakhan districts.

"Lots of cattle belonging to our Kirghiz brothers have died. Pamir's problem is a serious one. A disaster will reach Pamir region's residents if government stays silent and does not help them," said deputy chief of Badakhshan provincial council, Talabuddin Qaderi.

Badakhshan governor Faisal Begzad meanwhile said they are aware of the problem and that they will assess it as soon as possible.

"Transferring of foodstuff to other districts takes some time due to security reasons but I have been informed that a number of traders

have started sending food to the areas," he said.

According to officials, it takes at least 15 days for people to get to Faizabad city from Sheghnan, Ishkashim, Zibaak and Wakhan districts as they have to walk because roads are not passable. Officials said insecurity is now an additional problem. (Tolonews)

(9) 80 Insurgents ...

province. A provincial council member, Hassan Reza Yousufi, acknowledged Ghazni residents had always supported the security forces. He said the government had promised building a township for security forces in the province, but the pledge had not been honoured so far.

On the other hand, residents of the province expressed concern the Taliban would return to the areas cleared during the operation. The fighters had done so in the past, he recalled, they recalled.

Mohammad Omar, an inhabitant of Ghazni City, told Pajhwok Afghan News the security personnel should stay in the areas they had purged of insurgents. The gains made could thus be preserved, he argued.

The Taliban have not yet commented on the offensive, but they claimed inflicting heavy casualties on security forces in different areas of the province. The militant movement, however, gave no specific figures. (Pajhwok)

(10) Air Pollution ...

morning," said Sherzad. Many drivers in Kabul city know Sherzad and say they miss him.

"I have never seen him (Sherzad) sit and not do anything," said Taza Gul, a taxi driver.

"We pray to Allah Almighty for his recovery," said Ahmad Jafar, another taxi driver.

Sherzad is however not the only person who has developed asthma and other respiratory problems from Kabul's low air quality.

"Air pollution is considered as one of the main factors in health of a society, particularly respiratory diseases," said Wahidullah Majroh, director of international affairs at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

He said that air pollution is the cause of one percent of all cases in Afghanistan's hospitals. Meanwhile, facebook users in Afghanistan have shared pictures of the traffic officer on their pages and called on people to support him. (Tolonews)

(11) Civil Society...

asked the civil society activists to work for spreading awareness over growing fundamentalism and militancy the victim of which were Afghan youth.

Mohammad Muhaqiq, another member of the AYCCS said the youth portion of society was both sources of human power and a concern. "When someone becomes adult He/She wants to do something for society and play a role."

He said education was the only source through which the menace of extremism and militancy could be prevented.

AYCCS Member Abdul Samad Hakimi said extremist ideology had negative impact on freedom, rights and trust in society.

A resolution was also passed at the end of gathering in which demanded the government to spread awareness regarding the dangerous consequences of extremism and militancy. (Pajhwok)

(12) Poppy Crop...

Provincial council chief Abdul Karim Khadimzai acknowledged that more poppy had been cultivated in Uruzgan this year, blaming it on government's negligence. He lamented the illicit plant had been even cultivated in an area 20 meters from the governor's house and the police headquarters.

He said farmers had cultivated the poppy in areas under both Taliban and government control.

Governor Mohammad NazirKharoti confirmed poppy had been grown on a large scale in the province, but said soon a campaign to eradicate the plant would be launched. He said the Ministry of Counternarcotics had set the province of eradicating the plant on 120 hectares of land. (Pajhwok)

(13) 31 University...

months in jail for propagating against the government under Article 7 of the constitution and Article 144 of the criminal law. AttallahKhogyani, the governor's

spokesman, welcomed the ruling. Student ZabihullahGhazisaid the university had a positive image among people in the past, but recent protests had bruised its reputation. (Pajhwok)

(14) Presidential ...

along with another man. Two other individuals were wounded in the suicide attack, he added.

Omari quoted eyewitnesses as saying the suicide bomber entered the vehicle of the tribal elder and detonated his explosive vest. (Pajhwok)

(15) 4 Bagram ...

police had taken measures to control the demonstrators.

He said Parwan governor Mohammad AsimAsim met the protestors and assured them foreign forces would not arbitrary search residents' houses in future.

The protest ended after the governor convinced them, he said, adding the Ministry of Interior should provide information about the raid.

Chanting death to the US and down with invaders, the protestors gathered in the Shakah area of Bagram district, where the residence of ex-jihadi leader named Kamandar was arbitrarily searched by American troops in the morning.

One of them, Hashmatullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News the US forces searched Kamandar's house around 4am. He said arbitrary action of foreign forces sparked anger of local residents.

Foreign forces should coordinate with their Afghan partners before searching any civilian house, he said, asking international troops to demonstrate respect for Afghan culture, traditions and values.

Another protestor, Sayed Ahmad said that foreign forces opened fire on the gathering of protestors and left four people wounded.

Niamatullah, one of the injured who plastered his hand told Pajhwok Afghan News that he was slightly injured and joined back to the protest after bandaged his hand in a clinic in Ghulam Ali Bazaar.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of the Resolute Support, Michael T. Lawhorn, said "We are aware of the reports, but have no reports that Coalition forces were involved."

Last year, the international troops destroyed a depot of weapons belonging to a former jihadi commander of the Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(16) Daikundi ...

department and there are no documents to reveal how the money was spent.

Mohammad Ali Wasiq, the education director, Syed Mustafa, finance and administrative affairs officer, Syed Zamin, revenue department head, and Syed Naeem-Musavi, revenue control manager, were detained along with seven other officials and referred to the attorney's office for prosecution. (Pajhwok)

(17) 6 Killed...

operations over the past 24 hours, the ministry said earlier in the day. A Taliban judge named Mawlawi Abdul Rahman was among the killed, according to the statement. The statement also confirmed loss of two army soldiers during the raids.

The Taliban has yet to make comments.

The Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants recently as spring and summer known as fighting season is drawing near in the country. (Xinhua)

(18) One Killed...

major and another security personnel, reports Khaama Press.

The officials added that the injured personnel identified as Major Farukh and Havaldar Imran Khan have been taken for treatment to Peshawar by a helicopter.

Goshta district located in the north-east of Nangarhar Province borders Durand Line between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

A similar incident took place in the district last month after Pakistani militia forces attacked Anarki area of Goshta district. (ANI)

(19) Major ...

from cities to establish permanent peace and resume the political process.

The envoy said these demands are based on the UN Security Council resolution 2216 on Yemen conflict, which was issued to restore the power to Hadi's government. (Xinhua)

(20) Britain ...

in chaos since Western-backed rebels overthrew President Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Hammond said he did not think it was likely that Libya would invite foreign military intervention, but highlighted the risk that an Islamic State stronghold in the country could pose to mainland Europe.

"If Daesh (Islamic State) became established in Libya and sought to use that established base to infiltrate terrorists into Europe, that would be a threat to all of us," he said. (Reuters)

(21) Erdogan ...

for criticizing Turkey's then rulers. "Thirty years ago, I was imprisoned for being critical of the regime," Tusk said late on Saturday. "My good friend, President Erdogan, 15 years later also had a similar experience for expressing his views."

Criticism of Turkey in Europe poses an obstacle to the deal struck by European Union leaders with Ankara last month because approval of the EU's side of the bargain, notably waiving visas for Turkish travelers by June, requires support in the European Parliament. (Reuters)

(22) Syrian ...

have also been coupled with mortar shelling.

At least 10 people were killed and many more wounded a day earlier when the rebels fired over 40 improvised rockets into government-controlled areas in Aleppo, said the local Sham FM radio. It added that many civilians are still stuck under the rubble.

The radio report also said early Sunday's attacks were the most violent in two months. (Xinhua)

(23) Migrants ...

is seeing?" Human rights organizations say the living conditions at Idomeni are appalling.

Fellow Syrian Eyas from Damascus said he would attempt to cross the Albanian border further west. "There is a chance you will get there through the Macedonia route but the Macedonian military will send you back," he told Reuters. (Reuters)

(24) Kenya ...

are in Nairobi to discuss security issues. Kenyan officials say the security wall whose construction stalled

due to lack of funds, will provide a long term security efforts to secure the border, adding that once the wall's construction is completed, it will only be crossed by entering through the appropriate border points.

The Islamist group has carried out series of deadly attacks in north-east Kenya and other towns, including the capital city of Nairobi since the East African country sent its military into Somalia in 2011 to fight the Al-Qaida linked group.

Mandera town is situated at the Somali border and stretches for about 20km from Border Point One, making it prone to frequent terrorist attacks. (Xinhua)

(25) Rockets ...

and six others wounded when rockets fired from Syria hit Kilis on April 22.

IS militants, over the past few weeks, have repeatedly fired rockets at the town in the southeast of the country, where many of the 2.7 million Syrian refugees Turkey now hosts concentrate.

In response, Turkey returned each of these strikes on Kilis with howitzer fire to neutralize the launching positions of the militants.

On Saturday, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu vowed that his country "will respond with force" to attacks on its territory. (Xinhua)

(26) Gov't Forces...

provided air power and air-covered the pro-government forces that engaged in armed confrontations with al-Qaida near Mukalla city.

"The fighter jets fired sever missiles and struck buildings controlled by al-Qaida including the 2nd Military Base and the Republican Palace in Mukalla," the military source said on condition of anonymity.

Local residents confirmed to Xinhua that headquarters of Yemen Economic Cooperation (YECO) held by scores of al-Qaida militants were hit by air strikes.

Local medical sources at IbnSina Public Hospital said that more than 12 al-Qaida militants were killed and dozens others injured

including civilians.

Extremist groups of the al-Qaida and the Islamic State (IS) are in control of the coastal city of Mukalla and other neighborhoods in Hadramout province for about a year. (Xinhua)

(27) Sisi Vows...

The move has triggered criticism against Sisi and his government, with calls for mass nationwide anti-government demonstrations on the national day for Sinai Liberation which falls on Monday.

"Any right should be protected by force and certainly needs a wise mind capable of making the best use of state tools to preserve national security and fully bring back usurped rights," he stressed. (Xinhua)

Children Still Need Safe, Stable Classrooms in Nepal: UNICEF

KATHMANDU - A year after a devastating 7.9- magnitude earthquake in Nepal, 1.6 million school children are starting the new academic year in affected areas in temporary classrooms.

While recovery and reconstruction efforts are moving ahead, much remains to be done to ensure a rapid return to normal learning environment for these children, according to UN children's fund UNICEF.

On the first anniversary of the disaster, UNICEF said on Sunday that there is a need to redouble the efforts to ensure that children can study in safe transitional or permanent classrooms as early as possible.

"The devastating earthquakes last year destroyed or severely damaged over 35,000 classrooms. After that, tremendous amount of efforts were made to bring children back to school as soon as possible to minimize disruption of their education and exposure to risks of neglect, exploitation and violence," said TomooHozumi, UNICEF representative to Nepal. The April 25 quake cost Nepal in financial damages and losses equivalent to 36 percent of its GDP. Further prolongation of uncertainty can affect not only the education of children but also their health, nutrition, protection and overall development. (Xinhua)

British Military Could Face Homicide Charges if Military Personnel Die in Training Exercises

LONDON - The British military could face homicide charges in the law courts for first time ever, under proposals put forward Sunday by a House of Commons committee.

Although members of the Parliament (MPs) are not planning to lift an exemption preventing prosecutions when members of the armed services are killed or injured during operations, the Parliamentary Defense Committee, says different rules should be applied to military training exercises. Currently the Ministry of Defense and the armed services in Britain can only be penalized by Crown Censure for serious failings in hazardous training and selection events. A report issued on Sunday by the parliament states that between Jan. 1, 2000 and Feb. 20, 2016, 135 armed forces personnel died while engaged on military training and exercises. Since January 2000, there have been 11 Crown Censures: the highest penalty that can be issued to the Ministry of Defense (MoD) by the Health and Safety Executive. Currently the MoD and armed forces have exemptions where they cannot be prosecuted under the Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007. "While strongly endorsing the existing exemption for military operations, the committee says that this must change in relation to hazardous training and selection events," the MPs say in their recommendations to Parliament. Their report, "Beyond endurance? Military exercises and the duty of care", calls for the MoD to be subject to charges under the Corporate Manslaughter charges without exemption.

The findings are the result of an in-depth inquiry by the Defense Sub-Committee. (Xinhua)