

(1) British PM...

government's initiatives at institutionalizing the counter-corruption effort. For his part, Ghani thanked May for the English government's and people's unflinching support with the people and government of Afghanistan and demanded continuation of her country's cooperation in future. (Pajhwok)

(2) Taliban Extend...

NATO forces should extend full-pledged support to the Afghan forces to block the Taliban's advance.

Meanwhile, an official in the Nad Ali administration told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban had captured some security posts during last night and this morning attacks.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said a police commander Haji Lal Jan was killed along with his forces during last night clashes, but he had no exact figures.

He also the rebels blew up a bridge between Marja and Lashkargah and two security posts on the same route had been captured by the insurgents.

The governor's house in a statement said nine Taliban militants had been killed and four others wounded during clashes with security forces in the Garamser district since yesterday afternoon.

The statement said the clashes left one security official dead and two others wounded.

The Taliban also claimed advancing in various areas of Helmand.

The Taliban overran the Khan-shin district on the night between Friday and Saturday, but the Afghan commando forces recaptured the town on Saturday afternoon. (Pajhwok)

(3) New Authority...

imports 95 percent of medicines valued at \$400 million from other countries and only five percent is produced at home, according to the minister.

The minister said 35 percent of drugs were imported from Pakistan, 25 percent from India, 15 percent from Iran and the rest from China, Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). (Pajhwok)

(4) Hundreds Rally ...

again triggering protests. Hundreds of people on Sunday protested against the president's decision to reinstate the graft-tainted mayor and blocked the Kabul-Kandahar highway for two hours against traffic.

Several members of the provincial council, tribal elders, civil society activists and common people took part in the protest demonstration.

They demanded the president refrain from fueling divisions among the people of Ghazni. One of the protest organizers and provincial council member Abdul Jami Jami said the new mayor had told them that they should not protest.

"But the people of Ghazni have emerged to demand their right and they will raise their voice until their demand is met," he said.

The public representative said the president had assured them that he would resolve the issue in one month, but they wanted an early solution.

He said they would stage a sit-in in Ghazni City on Thursday and they would remain there until the mayor was removed. The protestors said they would not accept Faridon Ahmadi as mayor.

Nimatullah, another protestor, said the president had first ridiculed himself and then people of Ghazni by removing a corrupt mayor and reinstating him.

"Supporters of Faridon are those who are involved in corruption and lang-grabbing, that's why they oppose his replacement."

The new governor of Ghazni, Abdul Karim Matin, yesterday urged the people not to protest against the presidential order and let the government do its job.

"I have no option but to implement the presidential order and the people of Ghazni

should also accept his order," the governor said.

Sources said the president had talked to the protestors over the phone and had assured them an early solution to the problem. (Pajhwok)

(5) Samangan ...

popular with the local populace.

Noorullah grumbled there was no more rain, so little water could be stored in Kunda and people were faced with an acute shortage of drinking water. There were no other sources to get water from, he said, adding some families had left the village, where only the rain-fed wheat crop could be cultivated.

Noorullah asked the provincial government to take immediate steps to address the issue of these villages. If no remedial measures were taken urgently, the villagers would have to leave their home and hearth, he warned.

Abdul Rauf, 47, from Damki village, lamented: "We can't regularly wash our hands and face in the morning due to lack of water."

Shah Jahan, 33, said the road, connecting Dara-i-Sauf with Hazrat Sultan, was in dilapidated conditions and asked the government to rehabilitate it. He also complained of high transport fares, saying in case of emergency they had to pay heavily for transporting patients from the village to Aibak, the provincial capital, for treatment.

"You have to pay 6,000 afghanis jus for 100 kilometres distance to evacuate you patient to the hospital in Aibak," he explained.

Mohammad Ibrahim, a former rebel who has just joined the reconciliation process, said residents suffered from lack of drinking water, transportation and health facilities. Residents have to walk two to five hours to reach a clinic. He asked government officials to address the issues.

Mohammad Rafe, hailing from Tawba Kunda neighbourhood, claimed 180 families lived in his locality, where there was no school. He said most people did not send their children to school because of the distance factor.

Education Director Syed Abdul Qader acknowledged issues facing the vital sector. He said the areas had been under militants' control in the past and two months earlier the government established its writ there. He said 19 schools existed in Dara-i-Sauf. Only one school in Zerki Aimaq village is closed due to insecurity. Qader added 20 percent of teachers at these schools were professional, with the remaining 80 percent serving on a contract basis.

Governor Mohammad Hashim Zare earlier visited the area after the villages were retaken from rebels, most of whom have joined the reconciliation process. He asked the residents to write down their problems and send them to his office. (Pajhwok)

(6) Ex-Footballer ...

the footballer added, another man, named Al, told him what was going on and offered him 1,000 euros per head to transport the 10 people.

The former footballer, who has played 41 times for the Belgian side Sporting Charleroi between 2002 and 2005, will be deported after he has served his sentence

for the Israeli team Maccabi Petah Tikva, he scored once in a short nine-game stint for the club. Lokembo-Lokaso then moved to Cyprus, playing for two second division teams and one top-level club. (Pajhwok)

(7) Afghanistan ...

Mohammad Nabi castled Stephan Myburgh back in the 10th over for 23. Nabi then ran Tim Gruijters out for nought before Mirwais Ashraf trapped Peter Borren, the captain, lbw off the very next ball to reduce the home side to 59 for 3 by the 13th over.

Seeing the opportunity, Asghar Stanikzai, the Afghanistan captain, kept attacking the Netherlands' batsmen with close-in fielders, allowing Dawlat Zad-

ran and Zahir Khan, the china-man bowler, to apply pressure and bag more wickets.

The Afghanistan bowlers remained on top, and the Netherlands batsmen could not get going.

Dawlat had three wickets against his name, while Zahir returned figures of 4 for 29 to be the main wicket-takers.

Earlier, Hashmatullah Shahidi, who started the day unbeaten on 9, went on to score 83 off 184 balls, his knock studded with 10 boundaries. Stanikzai, who was unbeaten alongside him at stumps on the first day, was bowled by Rippon for 24 in the 13th over of the morning session.

Nabi added another 17 runs to the score before Roelof van der Merwe went past his defense to reduce the visiting team to 224 for 6 at one stage.

But Shahidi and Ashraf then got together to string a seventh-wicket partnership of 68 off 110 balls to frustrate the Netherlands bowlers. Ashraf scored 42 off 64 deliveries and was eventually trapped lbw by Rippon in the 97th over of the Afghanistan innings.

Shahidi did not get any more help from the rest of his teammates, and was the second last batsman to get out just after stretching the total past the 300-run mark.

Rippon accounted for the wickets of Yamin Ahmadzai and Dawlat Zadran to pick up a five-wicket haul. He ended with figures of 5 for 79 in 24.2 overs.

However, with the Netherlands bowled out for 117 in its first innings on Friday, the Afghanistan batsmen had given their team a big enough lead, which turned out to be enough for the bowlers to deliver victory on the second day. (Tolonews)

(8) Former Legislator...

added. No one has been arrested so far in connection with the shooting.

While confirming the murder, Logar governor's spokesman Salim Saleh said Himmatyar would be laid to rest later in the day in the graveyard for parliamentarians in Kabul.

A day after, a bomb explosion hit the vehicle carrying the the HR department head of the the Wolesi Jirga, leaving him dead along with another individual. Sher Wali Wardak, another MP, was killed in an explosion in Kabul last month. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban Militants ...

informing anyone. The Taliban militants have not commented regarding the report so far.

This is the not the first the group has been accused of sexual violence against the ordinary civilians of the country. Earlier the group was accused of raping some women in a hostel in northern Kunduz city which was briefly captured by the group last year. (KP)

(10) 8 Militants...

Nasim, Ezzatullah and Shafiqullah from Shah Wali Kot district, Rahmatullah from Maiwand and Ajab Gul from Nawa district.

The detainees have confessed to their crimes during preliminary investigation, according to the spy service. (Pajhwok)

(11) Helmand's Nawa

Lashkargah, the provincial capital. Since it lies close to other districts, all residents could come here for sightseeing.

Haji Juma Gul, a Provincial Council (PC) member, said: "We are happy that at least we have such a place where a large number of youth come here and enjoy staying in the relatively peaceful situation."

He believed law and order was not good enough in other districts, whose youth streamed to Nawato enjoy themselves.

Haji Habibullah, a local elder, acknowledged improved security in Nawa. He said the district was populous and had wonderful sites that lured a large number of people -- most of them

Abdul Khaliq, a youngster who came to Nawa for sightseeing, enjoyed a lot staying with friends in the beautiful district. Hashmatullah another young man from Lashkargah, said: "On Fridays, I come here with

my friends and enjoy our visit a lot." They swim in the river, go fishing and do other exciting activities. Haji Pahlawan, a resident of Nawa, called for the government to bring more development to the town so that more people came here for picnic. The tourism potential of the district would be unlocked by development projects.

District police chief, Col. Ahmad Shah Saleem assured visitors of improved law and order. He asked people to visit the district without any fear.

Ghulam Ghaus Dawar, the youth department head, complained concrete efforts had not been made to improve the lives of youth. He said due to unemployment youth turned to violence, drug addiction or left the country.

But the governor's spokesman Omar Zwak said 192 youngsters appeared in a test for different posts. More employment opportunities were provided for youth including recruitment in armed forces, police and other sectors, he claimed, saying tourist sites in Nawa district were being developed. (Pajhwok)

(12) UN Chief...

when people suffer human rights violations because they are considered somehow less than equal, the heritage of humanity is betrayed and our future wellbeing is placed in peril, he said. (Xinhua)

(13) Iran, Turkey...

city of Istanbul on July 15.

A day after the coup bid was declared foiled and over, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused US-based opposition cleric, Fethullah Gulen, of being behind the coup attempt. The opposition figure has, however, denied any role in the foiled putsch.

Velayati further urged Tehran and Ankara to tap into their common interests to strengthen cooperation in all fields. (Presstv)

(14) Yemen Peace...

Nations that called for withdrawal of Houthi militias from Sanaa and other provinces."

The UN-proposed deal also demanded the Shiite Houthi group to release the political detainees and lift siege imposed on Yemeni cities within 45 days, the source said. (Xinhua)

(15) Top UN...

of civilians have been displaced after recent fighting in Juba and Wau, there is escalating food insecurity and malnutrition across the country, and a cholera outbreak has erupted in Juba and Jonglei.

Prior to the eruption of fighting in Juba on July 7, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan was already dire, with unprecedented levels of food insecurity and one in five people displaced. (Xinhua)

(16) Turkey Dismisses...

highschools that train non-commissioned officers, which will be replaced by a new university called the National Defense University under the Defense Ministry. (Xinhua)

(17) US, Israel...

will continue its advisory military assistance to the Syrian government until the crisis in Syria is over.

Iran has sent military advisers to Syria to help in the fight against Takfiri terrorists wreaking havoc in the conflict-stricken Arab country. (Presstv)

(18) Hunger, Poverty...

government alone cannot feed the whole North East or Borno state alone, and that is our greatest challenge," the Senator said.

He appealed to well-meaning individuals, non-governmental agencies and the international community to help address the situation in the North East.

According to him, current efforts by the government to tackle insurgency had been yielding positive results, adding that immediate measures should be taken by stakeholders to ameliorate the suffering of the people in the zone. (Xinhua)

(19) Kenya to...

the world to honor relative-

ly unknown individuals who discovered remains of ancient man.

Wario said the government has set aside funds to boost research and training on paleontology in the institutions of higher learning.

"The next generation should be knowledgeable on the origins of man hence the need to incentivize researchers to undertake excavation in pre-historic sites where ancient fossils are buried," said Wario. (Xinhua)

Indian Court Convicts Film Director for Raping U.S. Researcher

NEW DELHI - A local court in India's capital city New Delhi has convicted film director Mahmood Farooqui of raping a 30-year-old researcher from U.S., officials said Sunday.

Farooqui, who was out on bail, was arrested on Saturday immediately after the court verdict.

"The judge held Farooqui guilty of rape under Indian law," an official said. "The judge said decision on the sentence would be announced on Aug. 2."

The researcher from Columbia University last year filed a rape case against filmmaker saying he sexually assaulted her at his house in south Delhi last year, when she had gone to get his help for her research work. Farooqui was immediately arrested but later on granted bail in the case after a seven-month imprisonment.

Farooqui co-directed a known film "Peepli Live" along with his wife Anusha Rizvi. The film depicted problems of farmers in India and was centred around the theme of farmer suicides and the subsequent media and political response. The film was acclaimed internationally. (Xinhua)

At Least 16 Killed in Hot Air Balloon Crash in Central Texas

HOUSTON - At least 16 people were killed on Saturday after a hot air balloon caught fire and crashed into a pasture near Lockhart, a city in the central part of the southern U.S. state of Texas.

The accident, the deadliest of its kind in the U.S. history, happened shortly after 7:40 a.m. (1240 GMT) on Saturday near Lockhart, a city about 50 km south of the Lone Star State capital of Austin, when the hot air balloon carrying at least 16 people crashed, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) confirmed in a statement.

Local police also said that the balloon was occupied and it did not appear at that time that there were any survivors of the crash.

When a Xinhua correspondent arrived at the scene, where a heavy police presence could be seen, investigators from the FAA, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the Department of Public Safety of Texas and the parties concerned were busy searching for evidence to handle the accident.

The Xinhua correspondent tried hard to reach the site from another road also blocked by the police. Before being forced out of the site, the Xinhua correspondent saw the wreckage of the crashed hot air balloon. (Xinhua)

Militants Kill 4 Workers in Attack at Iraq Gas Facility

KIRKUK, Iraq - Unidentified militants on Sunday stormed gas facility in northern Iraq and killed four workers after planting bombs, a security source told Xinhua.

The attack occurred in the early morning when gunmen broke into a gas facility in the oil-rich province of Kirkuk and planted bombs in the facility after they shot dead four workers, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The attackers fled the scene before the security forces retook control of the facility and defused the bombs, the source

said.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack in the gas facility, but Islamic State (IS) militant group has previously targeted oil facilities in the province with explosives, repeatedly targeting oil wells at Khubbaz oilfield southwest of Kirkuk.

Iraq has been hit by a new wave of violence since the IS terrorist group took control of parts of Iraq's northern and western regions in June 2014. (Xinhua)

Refugee Athletes to Show World How Sports Transfer their Lives through Rio 2016

RIO DE JANEIRO - Yusra Mardini and her teammates from the first ever Refugee Olympic Team (ROT) told a press conference here on Saturday that bearing the Olympic flag in the upcoming Rio Games is a life-changing opportunity.

"It's absolutely an honor for me to compete in Olympics. It's all athletes' dream," said the Syria origin, who will attend the women's 100m butterfly and 100m freestyle swimming in Rio 2016.

"I want to send a message not only to refugees in Syria but those all over the world that you have to move on since life has to continue even though your country is broken," added the 18-year-old who was received by Germany after the war in Syria intensified in 2015 and has been since training at a German club in Berlin.

Ten refugees including Yusra will participate in the Rio Olympic Games under the International Olympic Committee formed the unique team for athletes that have fled conflict-riven countries and regions.

The team includes five runners from South Sudan, two swimmers from Syria, two judokas from the Democratic Republic of Congo and a marathon runner from Ethiopia, besides five coaches and five other officials. (Xinhua)

Moroccan King Calls for More Mobilization, Vigilance to Face Security Challenges

RABAT - Moroccan King Mohammed VI called on Saturday for more mobilization and vigilance to face mounting security challenges and increasing conspiracies hatched against his country.

The king made the remarks in a speech to the nation on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of his accession to the throne.

"Maintaining order is a major responsibility, which is not limited in time or space, and a great mission incumbent upon all of us," he said, stressing the need for coordination between security departments with citizens.

"The security of Morocco is a national duty that leaves no room for exceptions. It should not be the subject of any trivial disputes, complacency or leniency," he said.

He also expressed to the various security services his appreciation for their tireless efforts and sacrifices when fulfilling their duty. (Xinhua)

'Musharraf Doesn't Own Property in DHA'

LAHORE - Defence A police on Saturday told the district and sessions judge that former president Gen Pervez Musharraf did not own any property in the Defence Housing Authority (DHA).

The judge had asked the Defence A station house officer to submit a report about Musharraf's property in DHA Lahore in light of an order of a three-judge special court in Islamabad.

The special court had ordered the authorities concerned to freeze bank accounts and confiscate property of the former president as he had failed to attend hearing of a treason case against him despite repeated notices.

Judge Nazir Ahmad Gajana directed his staff to forward the police report to the special court in Islamabad. (Dawn)