

(1) 'Tangible Reforms

said the panel would not be a symbolic body because the unity government remained committed to electoral reforms. The commission last Thursday formally began getting suggestions from political parties, civil society organizations, women rights activist and international stakeholders regarding reforms to the electoral system. Shah Sultan Akefi said the commission wanted to make the process transparent and the government was committed to bring reforms to the body. Electoral reforms are a major point of the US-brokered agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on a national unity government. (Pajhwok)

(2) Omar's Death....

dent Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah Abdullah honoured the efforts of millions of Afghan voters by ensuring the first peaceful and democratic transfer of power in the nation's history.

President Obama ended the US combat mission in Afghanistan, bringing the longest war in American history to a responsible conclusion, the official noted.

"But Afghanistan remains a dangerous place, and the Afghan people still suffer from a brutal insurgency that continues to take innocent lives and hinder Afghanistan's prospects for peace," Earnest said.

At this time of transition, the Taliban could choose to continue to fight their own people and destabilise their own country, or they could choose peace, Earnest said. "We encourage the Taliban to heed President Ghani's call for reconciliation and make genuine peace with the Afghan government." (Pajhwok)

(3) Feldman Lauds....

at Army House and discussed Afghanistan as well as security and stability in the region. Feldman hoped with all sincerity that talks would resume again soon in order to bring lasting peace in the region.

"Pakistan is ready to play any possible role in the reopening of dialogue between Afghan Taliban and the Afghan government where ever it is being planned," Adviser on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz had said during the first ever meeting of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee at Parliament House.

The first round of what Islamabad described as the 2+2+1 or the Murree Peace Process was held on July 7. Pakistan's foreign office in a statement at the end of the night-long deliberations said participants recognised the need to undertake confidence-building measures in order to engender trust among all stakeholders. (Agencies)

(4) Electoral Reform ...

is being conducted with all the necessary elements which are required for a modern democratic system," Yamamoto added.

The process has just started, Yamamoto said, adding that "...I am very confident that with these competent members and with the strong support of the national unity government and with the help of all the stakeholders in this country who will give us their views and opinions, there cannot be anything but improvement."

Yamamoto said that the United Nations would provide all its possible technical support based on its experience and its knowledge and its expertise. "I also know for a fact that the international community is committed to assisting in improving and strengthening the democratic process of this country including the electoral process." (Pajhwok)

(5) IS Presence...

of the Islamic State forces (Daesh) in Afghanistan. SIGAR member John Sapko said, "the following terrorist group is not only a threat to stability but also a serious threat to Afghan peace talks with Taliban."

However a member of the peace talks delegation said, "Islamic state (Daesh) cant be a threat to Afghan peace talks with Taliban because Taliban leaders still interesting in peace talks process.

Mr. Johan has stated the survey indicated that Afghan security forces have been acting so poor in the past three months ensuring peace in Afghanistan.

Minister of Interior Affairs Noorulqah Ulomi has provided not clear detail but insisted that Afghan security forces have high moral and capabilities in ensuring peace.

The other part of the report explains the poor cooperation of the United States of America on providing training on how to have the space control and no solid leaderships for practicing law within Afghanistan. (ATN NEWS)

(6) New Taliban

in a statement issued to Pajhwok Afghan News said that Taliban leaders and members pledged allegiance to Mansour at a gathering held on Thursday.

Taliban's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid released an audio message of Mullah Mansour's speech to the gathering to media outlets. The audio lasts 34 minutes and voices of participants and Azan (call for prayers) could heard twice besides a crying child.

The statement did not say where this gathering took place, but a minister during Taliban's regime, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok that it was held in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's Balochistan province.

In his address, Mullah Mansour stressed unity among the Taliban, saying disunity among them made the enemies happy. He warned the rebels that disunity and differences would create more problems for them.

"The leadership of Taliban council is a huge burden that is now placed on my shoulders. This is not an easy task. One or two people could not run the movement, but all have to join hands."

Mansour said problems and difficulties would increase as some circles would try to create rifts among them, but they would follow into footsteps of Mullah Omar and would not let the gains to go to waste.

Mullah Mansour vowed to utilise all his energies to follow late Mullah Omar and his mission. "We need to be patient and should try to go to those friends who are unhappy. We will have to convince them and take them on board."

Blaming divisions in the Taliban on "enemy propaganda", Mansour swore to continue to fight for rule under Sharia and rejected peace talks as enemy propaganda.

He also cautioned against the killing of civilians. "In the name of jihad, the killing of innocent people is not Islamic. We need to win the hearts of people, then we can rule their hearts," he said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Ulumi Commends...

fielded, spread chaos and instability everywhere.

Senior commander of the foreign forces was present during the meeting. He praised the role of Afghan forces and termed the ongoing year as a deadly one for security forces.

He expressed satisfaction over the performance of security forces and praised their achievements against the enemy. (Pajhwok)

(8) Iran-Afghanistan...

electronic information, customs cooperation and joint border gate.

These three documents are said to be the most important documents for customs cooperation between the two countries and the Afghan side is assumed to voice their implementation in the following 45 days. A joint trade gate will be established by the customs departments of the two countries afterwards.

Iran and Afghanistan signed two MoUs to further expand their mutual cooperation in different areas in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Ashraf

Ghani in Tehran last April.

Iran was among the first who welcomed the formation of the national unity Government in Afghanistan with Dr. Ashraf Ghani as its President and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah as its Chief Executive.

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

Iran has built several roads, power transmission lines, border stations and many other infrastructure projects in Afghanistan to better link the two nations.

Iran has also contributed more than \$50mln annually to Afghan anti-narcotics efforts during the last five years.

Eastern Iran borders Afghanistan, which is the world's number one opium and drug producer. Iran's geographical position has made the country a favorite transit corridor for drug traffickers who intend to smuggle their cargoes from Afghanistan to drug dealers in Europe. (FNA)

(9) Military....

support the ground forces in the operations, he said.

The operation launched in order to clear the insurgents for the good governance in the province, he added.

Sherzad and Hesarak are the most insecure districts in which the Taliban insurgents have activities and often target local security forces and threaten government employees, said officials. (Tolonews)

(10) 44 Militants....

six Afghan Local Police (ALP) including two commanders Obaidullah and Mohammad Katla and wounding six others. The group's spokesman confirmed the death of two Taliban and capturing of a rocket, three Kalashnikovs, two pistols, a motorcycle and some bullets.

Elsewhere, militants blew up a 120 meters long bridge in the Qala-i-Zal district of northern Kunduz province, an official said.

Mahboobullah Saeedi, the district administrative chief, said residents of the areas and security forces were facing with huge problems as transportation and communications links had been cut off with several areas.

He said the bridge was constructed in three years with \$700,000 assistance by the World Bank (WB). (Pajhwok)

(11) Akbar Agha

to other religious scholars to explain the importance of peace and call on the people to cooperate in this respect.

"Today, the people of Afghanistan are in dire need of peace," a cleric named Maulavi Najibullah Haidari said on Saturday. "Every Afghan citizen is obliged to cooperate in maintaining permanent peace and security in the country."

Members of the High Council of Salvation have said that honest cooperation between the government, the public and civil society institutions is the groundwork needed for the establishment of longstanding peace and stability.

"From this tribune I want to divert the attention of our friends to think about the bitter events and chaotic era and the failures that we have faced over the past 35 years - let's not repeat them time and again," High Council of Salvation member Maulavi Abdul Baqi said. (Tolonews)

(12) 15 More

governor's spokesman, said Taliban had besieged security forces in Durqad district however; security forces repulsed Taliban back when Afghan forces got reinforcement. The gun battle was still underway till filing of this report.

Mohammad Taher, a resident of the locality, said the gun battle between security forces and militants lasted for two days. (Pajhwok)

(13) Paktia Clerics,....

every nation supported their security forces therefore we should also extend our support to our forces.

Ihsanullah, a representative of young, admired security forces for their efforts in combating

terrorism and said "security forces have so many achievements therefore we should appreciate their efforts."

Maulvi Abdul Ghafoor, director Hajj, admired organizing such a gathering in support of security forces.

"Islamic Sharia has discussed role of the government, elders, Jirga, governance and several other state related branches and according to the teaching of Islam we extend our support to policies which favor Islam and common men," he said, adding that supporting security forces could be equally important as supporting peace process in the state. (Pajhwok)

(14) Strike Shuts

He said teachers had sent a formal letter to the Education Ministry complaining against Sherzad, but he could not be removed due to his strong connections.

Another teacher, Noor Rahman Ahmadzai, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Sherzad should be sacked and referred to the attorney's office as soon as possible. He said they would continue their strike until their demand was met.

"Relations between the centre head and teachers have been uneasy for the last eight months and it has badly affected our studies," said student Habibullah. He urged the authorities concerned to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Logar Education Department spokesman Mohammad Shahpur Arab told Pajhwok Afghan News teachers' complaints against the Teacher Training Centre head had been shared with the authorities concerned. He said a commission had been formed to investigate the matter.

But Sherzad rejected all allegations leveled against him by the teachers. "I have never committed any corruption," he said.

He said the protesting teachers wanted to be independent in their activities and thus looking for excuses to get him removed.

Established eight years ago, the Teacher Training Centre has branches in five districts. More than 1100 male and 400 female students have been studying in the centre. (Pajhwok)

(15) Helmand's

toward destruction," one visitor told TOLONews.

According to one of the watchman at the ancient fort, a small renovation job was conducted during the Sardar Mohammad Dawood Khan government, but it was incomplete. Other efforts to rehabilitate the site, such as those under King Mohammad Zahir, have been ad hoc and unsustainable.

"The Bost Fort is three thousand years old. It was built before the Christ," a watchman named Amir Mohammad said. "But day-by-day the fort goes toward disaster and the government doesn't concentrate on it."

Responding to questions about the fort, head of Helmand's Information and Culture Department, Ali Shah Mazloomiyar, said security threats are the main obstacle to restoration. "We have consulted UNESCO, Feroz Koh, French Cultural Center and several embassies about rehabilitating the fort, but the relevant bodies say that security threats are the main challenge in the way of renovating the fort." (Tolonews)

(16) Foreign Taliban

any kind of weapons and any kind of fighter, locals, foreigners, young and old."

Manan said he ran away from home and joined the insurgent group only to eventually leave to return home.

Local officials meanwhile said that the Taliban launched their local offensive from Akhsheer village in Badakhshan. Initially they had only seven members but that has grown to over 250 local insurgents - including 10 former police officers, said officials. This figure excludes the foreign fighters.

Officials said the insurgents have also stolen security force vehicles following attacks on checkpoints and that some vehicles were handed over to

commanders by former local police commanders.

Habibullah Sharifi, a 37-year-old local police commander said that foreign Taliban members fight alongside Afghan Taliban. "Warduj is very important for the Taliban. They well know that if they take control of Warduj they will easily take control of other districts," he said.

A number of analysts believe that the strategic Silk Road, which links Afghanistan to China, is one of the main reasons why insurgents are trying to take control of the district.

"This is a historical way which is a link to East Asia and to South Asia and a link from Asia to Europe," said one analyst, Hazrakhsh Hafizi said.

Today Afghanistan has close relations with China and it seems that a number of regional countries which are involved in regional events are not happy about this, he said.

Meanwhile, acting governor of Badakhshan, Shah Waliullah Adib said: "Right now, hundreds of foreigners and their families have been placed in Khostak area of the district [Warduj] and they are organizing attacks and the local Taliban does not have any authority. This group is also trying to pave the way for insurgent networks such Jundullah, Ansarullah and Turkmenistan, to enter the country," said Adib. (Tolonews)

(17) Mother-Child

"The governor stressed parents to allow their children to get education.

Nassar Kamawal, deputy head of provincial council, pointed out that people in far-flung areas confronted with multiple issues in health sector which should be addressed. "The issues and problems of remote areas can be reduced, had the graduates prefer to serve there," he mentioned.

Samina Azizi Dara Noori, a graduate, said: "My family has allowed me to serve at district level therefore the government should find jobs since we have completed our three years course."

More than 600 nurses have been graduated in 27 batches from the institute so far. Most of them, according to officials, have been appointed to civil health centers. (Pajhwok)

(18) Los Angeles....

items, no one claimed the album, despite its obvious sentimental value, Pedregon said. But police did not want the memento to be lost forever. So Pedregon said it was set aside until police announced on Facebook in mid-July that they were seeking its owner. The post received media attention.

As a result, a relative put police in touch with the couple, who now live in the northern California city of Modesto, Pedregon said. (Reuters)

(19) NDS Detain....

were killed and six other rebels wounded when Taliban stormed police check posts in Muladin area in southern Zabul.

Two policemen had been killed in the gun fight, a source said. Taliban militants have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(20) Rocket Attack....

had been thwarted. "Faizabad people live in peace. Those who disrupt the security environment are our enemies." Militants hold sway in parts of Warduj and Juram districts and an Afghan military base was also captured by insurgents some 10 days ago.

Elsewhere, an NDS personnel was killed by militants in central Parwan province. Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Mamoza said the NDS officer was ambushed in Tatmadra area of Charikar, the provincial capital, last night.

An investigation by Afghan forces was underway to arrest the perpetrators, he said. The Taliban have so far not commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(21) Moscow to

added that the condition and

serviceability of Russian army's weaponry increased dramatically in the past years to the current 98 percent.

"The share of modern and advanced weaponry in some categories of (Russian) troops currently amounts to 62 percent," he said.

Amid possible NATO deployment near Russian borders, President Vladimir Putin revealed in June that Russia's armed forces will be equipped with at least 70 percent of modern armament by 2020.

The ministry official on Friday noted in particular that the Russian Air Forces is facing a historically unprecedented task of improving and modernizing 80 percent of its aircraft, including helicopters and related equipment.

Meanwhile, he said that the Russian defense industry is carrying out quite successful measures to get rid of Ukrainian spare parts, as 53 percent of the defense equipment will be produced in Russia by the end of 2015. (Xinhua)

(22) Merkel to....

There are no term limits in Germany and the last CDU chancellor, Helmut Kohl, ruled for 16 years before losing his bid for a fifth term in 1998 to Gerhard Schroeder of the Social Democrats (SPD). Neither were as popular among voters as Merkel.

In a country that cherishes stability after the Weimar Republic's chaos contributed to Hitler's rise, Merkel is only the eighth post-war chancellor. Her CDU has no obvious successor.

(23) Indian Security....

this week. Two of them have been released while two others' whereabouts remain unknown, according to local media. (Xinhua)

(24) Japan to

The Japanese government could not be reached for comment so far.

U.S. State Department deputy spokesperson Mark Toner said the U. S. government has not received any formal or informal protests from Japan.

"We do not think Japan will take this as a problem," said Toner.

Julian Assange, WikiLeaks editor in chief, said on the website, "The lesson for Japan is this: do not expect a global surveillance superpower to act with honor or respect." (Xinhua)

(25) Exiled Yemeni....

targets overnight in Jafna and Balak areas, while ground battles continued in the oil-rich province between pro-Hadi forces and the Houthis.

The airstrikes also targeted the 35th brigade in the Red Sea port city of Mokha in Taiz province, which is loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and military sites in Lahj province. Meanwhile, the Houthi group said it fired rockets against military targets in Saudi Arabia's southern provinces of Najran and Aseer, the Houthi-controlled Saba news agency reported late on Friday.

In response, the Saudi interior ministry said the rocket shelling killed three Saudi soldiers and injured seven border guards, according to the Saudi official SPA news agency report. (Xinhua)

(26) Iran's Parliament..

galleryThe Head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization … The Head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi walks through a garden at the Be ... Iran nuclear deal reached with six world powers on July 14 imposes strict limits on its nuclear program in exchange for relief from international sanctions, breaking decades of mounting hostility with the West.

Hardliners in parliament and the security establishment began sniping at the deal within days but have been unable to persuade Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's highest authority, to withdraw his cautious support for it. (Reuters)