

(1) US Keeping...

itself to see are these additional ideas that they can deploy to defeat the threat being posed by ISIS.

"I don't think that there is any doubt that had we not destroyed Al Qaeda in the FATA (in Pakistan) that more Americans would have been killed. We might have seen more attacks like we saw on 9/11. We have maintained vigilance, recognizing that those threats still remain, those aspirations in the minds of these folks still remain, but it is much harder for them to carry out large scale attacks like that than it used to be," he said.

These lower-level attacks carried out by fewer operatives or an individual with less sophisticated and less expensive weapons can do real damage, he said.

Obama said ISIS poses a major security threat. "We're going to keep going after ISIL aggressively across every front of this campaign," Obama said. Even as the US and its coalition partners continue to be relentless in its fight against ISIL, Obama said ISIL still has the ability to direct and inspire attacks. "In fact, the decline of ISIL in Syria and Iraq appears to be causing it to shift to tactics that we've seen before; an even greater emphasis on encouraging high profile terrorist attacks, including in the United States," he said.

"We continue to take out senior ISIL leaders and commanders. This includes ISIL's deputy minister of war, Basim Muhammad al-Bajari; the top commander in Mosul, Hatim Talib al-Hamduni; and in yet another significant loss for ISIL is minister of war, Umar al-Shishani. None of ISIL's leaders are safe, and we are going to keep going after them," he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) HIA Delegation...

that an HIA delegation led by Eng. Karim Amin would arrive in Kabul over the next two days.

He said other members of the delegation were Mohammad Rassoul, Haji Abdul Malik and Haji Attiqullah Safi. Dr. Baheer said the two sides had differences over a few matters and the differences would be resolved during the upcoming talks.

He said the peace talks would be resumed from where they stalled and hoped this time around, the next round of talks would yield positive result.

However, he said it was up to the government who much it was interested in peace.

The HPC and the government have so far said nothing in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(3) First-Ever

teamwork, saying no programme could succeed without teamwork.

"You are not a generation to divide but to unite. Each one's blood has dignity, honor ... you are the generation which wouldn't let anyone disunite people and you will not only achieve unity but equality as well."

"The future of Afghanistan is secure in your hands. One day I will go but my responsibility is to give Afghanistan into secure hands. With the grace of Allah, Afghanistan's administration is developing and is on the way to professionalism."

He said last week when applications from 38 candidates for provincial agriculture director posts in 34 provinces were assessed, it was found that 70 percent of them had master's and PhD degrees.

"Out of the 20 newly appointed mayors, most of them are of the ages between 28 and 35 years," the president said.

First Lady Rula Ghani said the innovative conference reflected strong determination of the youth.

She said the youth constituted half of the country's population and she believed the Afghan youth had the potential to resolve challenges Afghanistan faced.

Mohammad Mohaqiq, the deputy CEO, said today the youth set up and organized the modeling of the UN to familiarize their society with the system available in the organization.

While addressing the youth, he said: "Today the world is globalized, our new generation should ignore and let go the past wars, violence and killings and implement peace and reconciliation in their lives." Farhat, one of the event organizers, the same design had been implemented in various countries since 1947. He said they had gained skills from similar conferences in the world and finally performed the programme in Kabul for the first time. He said the conference featured 350 students from various universities within Afghanistan and abroad and 35 percent of the students were girls.

The conference will continue for three days during which the participants will know different programmes implemented by the UN such as, diplomacy, ensuring international relations through talking, forming an investigative team in the fields of politics, economics, culture and social.

Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an educational simulation and/or academic competition in which students can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations. (Pajhwok)

(4) Iran, Afghanistan ...

Mohammad Javaf Zarif and CEO of Afghanistan's National Unity Government (NUG) Abdullah Abdullah.

During the meeting, the two officials also consulted on the latest developments in bilateral relations and the region, and underlined the necessity for more effective cooperation in fight against terrorism and extremism.

Zarif also stressed Iran's support for the Afghan government's efforts to establish security and move towards peace within the framework of all-inclusive talks among all Afghan groups. He also underscored the necessity for the implementation of all the agreements signed between the two countries in the past. (FNA)

(5) US Not to Pay ...

incurred costs in supporting counter-terrorist and counter-insurgency operations. Pakistan is the largest recipient.

"This decision does not reduce the significance of the sacrifices that the Pakistani military has undertaken over the last two years," Stump added.

According to Pentagon data, about \$14 billion has already been paid to Pakistan under the CSF since 2002.

The step by Pentagon not to pay the amount to Pakistan comes as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the militant groups, specifically the Taliban group and the notorious Haqqani terrorist network to use its soil for planning and coordinating attacks in Afghanistan.

The Haqqani terrorist network is accused of numerous deadly attacks in Afghanistan including a horrific attack on VIP protection unit in Kabul earlier this year that left at least 64 dead and over 300 others wounded. (KP)

(6) China-Mooted...

with military assistance and Afghan authorities have been pushing for more aid.

The formation of QCCM was originally China plan, but Pakistan Army Chief Gen. Raheel Sharif played vital role in the process and for this purpose Sharif visited China and Tajikistan in March.

The participants unanimously agreed that terrorism and extremism are serious threat to regional stability and ... reiterated to cooperate for tackling these forces for peace and stability of all member countries," a communiqué issued at the end of the meeting said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Intense Clashes...

Qala-i-Zal district, tribal elder Haji Rauf said a severe clash was underway in the limits of the district centre since last night, when huge bombardment took place.

He said the insurgents had suffered casualties in the airstrikes, but he had no figures.

But Kunduz police chief Gen. Qaseem Jangal Bagh said only one security post had fallen into the hands of insurgents in Imam Sahib district and rejected the Nawabad area had collapsed.

He said commando forces had been dispatched to the district and the situation would return to normal soon.

About Qala-i-Zal, Jangal Bagh said airstrikes had pounded insurgent centres in the district, but security forces were slowly advancing because the rebels had planted landmines near the district centre.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the fighters had captured nine security posts in Imam Sahib, inflicting heavy casualties on security forces. (Pajhwok)

(8) Moscow...

crash-landed in Logar province on Thursday when it likely met some technical faults.

The Pakistani Foreign Office said Thursday that it was looking into the matter and would provide details shortly.

Previous media reports said the plane was heading for Uzbekistan for overhauling. (Xinhua)

(9) Pakistan Seeks ...

the Taliban captured the crew and set the helicopter on fire.

Logar governor's spokesman Salim Saleh said the crew members were still with Taliban and according to their information, the hostages were in good health. He said the hostages had been kept within the district.

Pakistan Military's media wing (ISPR) director general Lt. Gen. Asim Bajwa tweeted that Army Chief General Raheel Sharif called Commander Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan General Nicolson and asked him to help in the recovery of the helicopter crew.

He said Gen Nicolson had assured all possible help in this regard. Giving de-

tails about the incident, Lt Gen Bajwa confirmed that seven people were on board the helicopter including retired military officers and a Russian navigator.

Afghan government and Afghan National Army authorities have also been contacted for necessary assistance in recovery of the crew members, Bajwa added.

Dawn.com quoted a Punjab government official as saying the helicopter was being sent to Uzbekistan for overhauling when it crashed in Azra district.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said they still lacked complete information about the helicopter crash.

"Telephone does not work in Azra, we have sent our men to Azra to collect information and we will share information with the media once they return."

A resident of Azra district, who declined to be named, said a local Taliban commander Mullah Sherin set the helicopter on fire and took the crew hostage. He said all the hostages were alive and kept in a secure place.

Yesterday, press attaché at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul, Akhtar Munir, told Pajhwok Afghan News Pakistan was planning to send a helicopter to Uzbekistan for overhauling and it was possible the same helicopter had crashed.

He said the Afghan government had been informed about the sending of the helicopter to Uzbekistan.

The Pakistani media said the helicopter belonged to the Punjab government and it was being sent to Uzbekistan for repair work.

Punjab chief minister Shehbaz Sharif met with families of the hostages and held out assurances of their safe recovery. (Pajhwok)

(10) Political ...

war against militants.

As an example, he said the Afghan forces were able to reopen the Kandahar-Uruzgan highway, which had been closed by the insurgents, after rendering many sacrifices.

The US general said the Afghan forces were bravely fighting against armed rebels in a number of provinces, particularly in Helmand, to ensure that the people lived in peace.

However, he said the conflict remained fierce and the fighting season had not yet over. "You know we killed Mullah Mansour because he was a hurdle to the peace. Similarly, hundreds of Daesh affiliates and leaders have been killed in Nangarhar province recently."

This he cited a reason behind warning the Taliban that they could not succeed through violence. "I hope some militants understand they can achieve nothing through the war, they should put down their weapons and join the peace process."

John Nicholson said the United States and its NATO allies had pledged continued military and financial assistance with Afghanistan at the Warsaw summit.

"The United States of America and NATO standby you," he said, urging tribal elders and

"There must be political differences in some matters, but the differences should not affect the security," he said. He asked local officials and tribal elders to share their problems with them in order they could jointly work on the issues with Afghan officials.

Kandahar Governor Humayun Azizi said the security situation in Kandahar was better when compared to several other provinces despite insurgent threats in 10 districts. (Pajhwok)

(11) Herat AIHRC ...

work in order to feed my family," Ewaz said.

Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) said that so far no particular institutions take any action over child vendors but that nearly 4,000 children work and are deprived of education. "Children are like mirrors and their reflection will come back to us and we must not forget the children," AIHRC head Abdul Qadir Rahimi said. Meanwhile provincial governor Mohammad Asif Rahimi said that soon special programs will be conducted for children of poor families in order to let their children attend school. "At the moment we are working on a plan with the help of international institutions especially UNICEF and we hope that the documents are completed soon and that Herat charity institutions plus international institutions are able to send more children from the streets to schools," Rahimi said. Reports indicate that at the moment more than 2,000 children are working in Islam Qala and Torghondi border areas of Herat province in order to feed their families. (Tolnews)

(12) President can ...

agenda of the National Assembly during the last year of the legislative term. The body observed the working mandate of Wolesi Jirga had ended on June 21 and it was a presidential decree that extended the house term until new elections were held. The holding of elections was also linked to the approval of the decree, it added.

The ICOIC remarks were welcomed by some electoral watchdogs and the Meshrano Jirga's secretary. Hikmat Safi, a leading member of the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA), welcoming the ICOIC viewpoint, asked President Ghani to issue and execute another decree on electoral reforms to final bring to an end the election impasse.

Mohammad Naem Ayoubzada, head of the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA), also welcomed the ICOIC advice.

He said as the previous decree had been rejected and now the National Assembly was on summer break, the president should avail the opportunity and take necessary steps regarding electoral reforms.

He said the government, after holding parliamentary and district council elections, would be able to send the decree to a new parliament.

Upper house secretary Abdullah Qarlah also voiced support for the ICOIC remarks and said the president could lawfully take decision and determine the fate of the decree.

He said the ICOIC's consultation had a legal basis and the government by acting on the advice should take necessary steps.

However, Wolesi Jirga secretary Abdul Rauf Inami told Pajhwok Afghan News why the ICOIC didn't give such advice earlier.

Inami said the fate of the previous decree was yet to be determined and the president shouldn't issue another decree.

He said the second decree was rejected by the lower house because it did not land in the house at the specific time and many lawmakers wanted elections to be held and the lower house just wanted some amendments to the measure.

He said the assembly wanted the government to hold elections in line with the Constitution in order the next parliament did not face serious problems.

Mohammad Usman Farahi, a Wolesi Jirga member, held similar views and dubbed the ICOIC as a pro-government body. The MP said the ICOIC advice was what the government had demanded. (Pajhwok)

(13) Helmand Battle ...

police, NDS operatives and the Border Police are faced with lack of equipment and weapons," said Ata Jan Haqbayan, head of Zabol provincial council.

Meanwhile, officials in Kabul said they will push back the militants and ensure security in the province.

"We assure the countrymen that the security forces will put their hearts and souls into their duty. They will fight to ensure people's safety," said Defense Minister Abdullah Habibi.

"The situation is concerning in Helmand compared with other southern provinces. We take this seriously," said Interior Minister Taj Mohammad Jahid. (Tolnews)

(14) Pakistan Sought ...

MoD spokesman Dawlat Waziri acknowledged to Pajhwok Afghan News that a Pakistani Mi-17 helicopter had performed an emergency landing in Logar province due to a technical fault.

After the landing, he said, the Taliban attacked the crew and took them hostage. He said Pakistan through the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs had sought permission from the Afghan Ministry of Aviation to use the Afghan airspace for sending the helicopter to Uzbekistan for overhauling.

"Investigation in this regard is underway to determine if it was the same helicopter," Waziri said, adding that the Afghan government had ordered the national security forces to make efforts at securing safe release of the hostages.

Pakistan Army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif phoned President Ashraf Ghani and requested his assistance for the safe recovery of the kidnapped crew, the army's media wing Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General (DG) Asim Bajwa said.

President Ashraf Ghani assured the COAS of "all possible assistance" in this regard, tweeted Asim Bajwa.

The Pakistan Foreign Ministry is also in touch with the Afghan government about the incident. "We are consulting, and high level consultations with the Afghan delegation are underway at the Foreign Office," said Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz.

The Mi-17 chopper, which was on its way to Russia via Uzbekistan for maintenance, crashed in Afghanistan's Logar province, where Taliban insurgents took the crew hostage before setting the aircraft on fire.

Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif on Friday visited the families of the helicopter's pilots Col. (ret'd) Shafiqur Rehman, Col. (ret'd) Nasir Mehmood

and Col. (ret'd) Safdar Hussein in Lahore and expressed his heartfelt sympathies. (Pajhwok)

role in supporting in Afghanistan amid deteriorating security situation.

Earlier China's Chief of Army earlier pledged over \$70 million to help support and equip the Afghan security forces.

During his visit to Afghanistan earlier in March, Chief of China's People's Liberation Army Mr. Fang Fenghui, announced the fresh military aid, saying the latest aid will follow besides Beijing's ongoing cooperation in development and economic sector.

Gen. Fenghui also added that China will call a regional summit to implement the proposal by President Ghani during Shanghai conference for fight against terrorism.

Reiterating China's commitment to fight terrorism in the region, Gen. Fenghui said Afghanistan is located in a strategic location and acts as an important economic belt, which is continuously threatened by the terror groups. (KP)

(15) China Pledges...

former president further criticized those calling for more airstrikes and troops in Afghanistan, saying such actions would be against what the majority of the Afghan people want.

"They are very wrong - they are terribly wrong," he said of those "who ask foreign forces to bomb Afghanistan," adding "they are not representing the Afghan people or their interests."

His comments come as Afghan forces continue to sustain major losses against the Taliban in Helmand province. Many are demanding Afghan commanders call on Washington to carry out more airstrikes.

While the current government as well as the U.S. disagree with Karzai on the presence of foreign, a recent report showed the amount of territory controlled by the Afghan government has shrunk from 70 percent in 2015 to 65.6 percent early this year despite foreign troops becoming more and more involved in the fight with the Taliban.

Just last month, U.S. President Barack Obama announced that 8,900 soldiers will remain in the country until 2017, further delaying his own 2008 presidential campaign promise of full withdrawal. "The way things are done, it has been in vain for us," Karzai added. (Agencies)

(16) US 'Owns' ...

voluntarily return of the Afghan refugees to their home land.

He also asked the Afghan government to resolve shelter problem of the returning Afghan families by constructing camps and townships for them.

According to the UN agency for refugees, UNHCR, 1.5 registered and about one million unregistered Afghan refugees are still living in Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

(17) Pak, Afghan....

Pakistan to Afghanistan voluntarily a day while the figure was only ten families in the past," said Poyan.

"In the past only ten families were repatriating voluntarily (a day), but now more than five hundred families come here. We want to increase the capacity of registration centers amid rising reparations," a UNHCR official in Peshawar said.

Meanwhile, a number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan have said that they are willing to come back to their country.

"We decided to leave Pakistan as we know that Pakistan now wants us to leave," said an Afghan refugee in Peshawar. (Tolnews)

(18) 500 Afghan...

but the heroism of the police was real.

New York City Police Commissioner at the time Bill Bratton said the two officers were NYPD heroes and the heroes of New York City.

Amani is the second Afghan man hailed for his bravery to save thousands of people from a possible attack. A young Afghan refugee was also hailed as a 'champion' following the Munich shooting that left at least 9 people dead, an attack that was carried out by a German-Iranian. (KP)

(19) Afghan American...

including the US and UK, have long-standing travel advisories warning against all but essential travel to Afghanistan due to the security situation throughout the country.

In 2014, two foreign aid workers with the International Assistance Mission were killed in the city of Herat. (CNN)

(20) Taliban Claims ...

economic problems.

A civil activist, Ahmad Javed, said such incidents stemmed from poverty and unemployment. He said the government should pay more attention to creating jobs. (Pajhwok)

(21) Baby Boy...

National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) launched a major operation

against the loyalists of the terror group nearly two weeks ago to eliminate their presence from the province.

The operations were launched amid concerns that the terrorists are attempting to expand foothold in the country with the coalition officials saying the loyalists of the terror group has direct links with the main group in Syria and Iraq. (KP)

(22) Airstrike Kill ...

incidents in the city have taken place mainly due to short circuits.

A huge fire swept through a market in the same area nearly four years ago leaving around 600 shops in ashes while incurring a loss of \$50,000 to each shop owner.

Commercial buildings with low standards and lack of standard precautionary measures by shop owners are believed to be the main motives behind devastating fire incidents in the country. (KP)

(23) Fire Sweeps...

to defend against ballistic missile attacks.

Stoltenberg said NATO is talking with Russia to hold another meeting of the NATO-Russia Council shortly after the Warsaw Summit. "We remain open to dialogue with Russia. The NATO-Russia Council has an important role to play as a forum for dialogue and information exchange, to reduce tensions and increase predictability," he said. (Xinhua)

(24) NATO Warsaw....

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(25) Over 250,000...

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of how gender stereotypes pervade our society," he says. "You see the subtle and not-so-subtle social cues transmitted through culture. You feel the enormous pressure girls are under to look and behave and even think a certain way." (Xinhua)

U.S. voters are more accepting of differences on the issues because that is a legitimate part of electoral discourse. (Xinhua)

(26) Obama Calls...

minister to respond to allegations of graft in his ministry, which led to waste of billions of dollars in the ministry's deals and the weakening of the armed forces.

However, Obeidi revealed, during a closed parliament session, details of blackmail by politicians and officials, including the speaker Salim al-Jubouri and other lawmakers, relating to weapons contracts and graft. (Xinhua)

(27) Trump's Piling...

security, and that economic stagnation would bring unexpected risks and dangers.

The G20 summit to be held in Hangzhou, East China, in September offers a platform for heads of state and government and central bankers to exchange views on macro-economic policy. The members have long recognized the need to shift their strength to economic growth to enhance the base of world security instead of falling into "geopolitical trap." (Xinhua)

(28) Iraqi Judiciary...

in that city.

Deir al-Zour holds a strategic importance to the IS, due to its proximity to the IS-controlled areas in neighboring Iraq. (Xinhua)

(29) Current World...

be patient in terms of foreign investment, which the country needs to renovate its infrastructure.

He warned that investments take time and that, if the Macri government continues with its reform agenda, both countries will benefit. (Xinhua)

(30) Syrian Army....

in protest against the deployment of THAAD in South Korea.

On July 13, Seoul and Washington announced an agreement to install one THAAD battery in the Seongju county by the end of next year, claiming that it is aimed to deter ballistic missiles from the DPRK. (Xinhua)

(31) U.S. Supports

Shorten has long been a proponent of, however Turnbull said accountability would come once the banks face up to the Australian people.

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(33) Aust'n PM ...