

### (1) US Calls ....

objective. "Obviously, these attacks underscore two things: that Afghanistan remains dangerous place and that the Taliban has not renounced the use of violence as a tactic and a terror device." "We want to see political reconciliation and a safe and prosperous and secure Afghanistan, and again, these attacks underscore that remains a challenge," he added. Earlier in the morning, Secretary of State John Kerry spoke with the President, Ashraf Ghani. They talked about the issue of terror safe havens and the need for both countries to continue to work together to eliminate them, he said. (Pajhwok)

### (2) UN Agency....

Osoimehin. In September, world leaders will formally adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs), a historic and universal agenda for people across the world. "The next 15 years offer a unique opportunity for a demographic dividend that will accelerate conflict-recovery and sustainable economic growth and development in many countries if we empower, support, educate and create employment for young people today," Osoimehin said. He said young women and men need protection from violence, and they have a right to access essential education and health services. "They also have the right to be at the tables where decisions and peace are made." (Xinhua)

### (3) ADB Vice ....

multilateral with a portfolio of over \$250 million per year, the statement added. Noting the great support ADB is providing to Afghanistan, finance minister said: "The Afghan government sincerely appreciates ADB's continued support for the economic development, particularly key infrastructure building, of Afghanistan, which has affected the lives and livelihood of every Afghan today."

Besides ADB's generous grant assistance to Afghanistan, ADB also administers the Afghanistan Infrastructure Trust Fund (AITF). Discussing ADB's Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) project, finance minister praised ADB's role in helping the region to become more prosperous and interdependent. Afghanistan believes that improved economic cooperation and interdependency between Afghanistan and countries in the neighborhood not only helps bringing prosperity to the people of the region but it also promotes peace and mutual trust amongst the countries. (Pajhwok)

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### (4) Pakistan ....

At present close to two million registered and an estimated one million undocumented Afghans are living in Pakistan. (IANS)

### (5) Haqqani Network ....

NDS spokesman noted that currently the network is planning most of its suicide attacks in direct cooperation with Pakistan to show the suspended presence of the government in the country. After President Ghani's serious stance against Pakistan's dual policy, NDS says there are enough evidences about Pakistan and Haqqani network that carry out and support terrorism in Afghanistan.

"The biggest evidence of Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan insecurity and killing of thousand of Afghans is the existence of Haqqani network which has training camps in its soil," Hasib Sidiqi, spokesman of NDS said. Afghanistan has often charged Pakistan and in particular its quest for "strategic depth" for undermining the country's security and stability. Pakistan's foreign policy elite and the military are the most prominent actors in subverting Afghanistan's security and stability. Meanwhile, NDS emphasized that in addition to Haqqani network, Quetta Shura, Miran Shah Shura (council), Peshawar council have a widespread activities in Pakistan and carry out terrorist attacks against Afghan people and government.

After Mullah Omar's death revealed that was declared dead two years ago, many controversies created among Taliban leaders. However NDS says that Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence ISI is trying to somehow revive the bankruptcy of Taliban.

The Haqqani network operates on both sides of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and many believe it is based in Pakistan. The Haqqani network is allied with the Taliban. (ATN)

### (6) Iran, Afghanistan....

portunity to reach high seas through Chabahar Port in South-eastern Iran.

Karbasian said that Afghanistan has signaled readiness to dispatch a delegation of economic and mining officials to Iran to explore ways for mutual cooperation. 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 to better link the two nations. Iran has also contributed more than \$50m annually to Afghan anti-narcotics efforts during the last five years.

In late April, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei underlined that Washington and its regional allies were not able to undermine Tehran-Kabul friendly relations.

"Of course, the Americans and some countries in the region are not familiar with Afghanistan's potentialities and do not favor empathy and cooperation between the two countries, but Iran regards security and progress of its neighbor, Afghanistan, as its own security and progress," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Tehran on April 19. (FNA)

### (7) Unemployment ....

survey shows that unemployment has been called as the second worst challenge.

Around 34 percent of those interviewed have accused the government of indifference while 49 percent more have said that government's efforts for creating jobs have been inadequate.

Title corruption mapping of Afghanistan the survey cites administrative graft as the third challenge to Afghan people. More than 80 percent of the interviewees have complained that government officials have created hurdles for them to get bribes.

At least 78 percent of them have stated that high-ranking officials were more involved in corruption than lower ranks. Tamim Asey, a researcher at AISS, said: "Unfortunately, administrative graft has become a norm in Afghanistan."

He said corruption was a national security threat and if continued it could undermine the legitimacy of the government. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Ghani Orders....

optic cables and that was a big problem," said Patyal Ghorzang, an official of National Procurement Commission.

The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) officials, meanwhile, welcomed Ghani's move and said the ministry had enough capacity to implement the project.

"We have good capacity and trained technical staff and they are able to manage the fiber optic project," deputy MCIT minister Baryalai Hassam said.

In addition, four out of 15 contracts worth over 700 million AFN were approved at the meeting.

The fiber optic network allows for more capacity and is less susceptible to electrical interferences as opposed to traditional copper cables. The fiber optic cable can deliver a better quality telephone, internet, television and radio broadcasts services at economical prices across Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (9) OSCE Starts....

and Afghan trainers.

By the end of the project in 2017, a minimum of 242 Tajik, 140 Afghan and 40 Kyrgyz officers will receive practical training on planning and conducting reconnaissance and observation missions through the use of map reading, land navigation, observation, mountaineering and patrolling techniques. Operational management and analytical skills will also be taught. The project has been made possible due to the financial support of Finland, Norway, Germany and the United States of America. Since its inception in 2008 the Patrol, Programing and Leadership Project has trained 587 border officials from Tajikistan and Afghanistan. (AKI)

### (10) Nangarhar Drone ...

Pakistan. The operation was launched to clear insurgents and will continue for a month, a spokesman for the Delab 201 Military Corps in eastern Afghanistan, Noman Atifi said.

Sherzad, Haskamina, Achin, Nazyan, Khoghiani and Hesarak are the most insecure districts in the province and Taliban insurgents often target local security forces and threaten government employees, said officials. (Tolonews)

### (11) Population Census....

against not mentioning the word "Afghan" in the ID cards. But some argue that the words "Islamic Republic of Afghanistan" identifying the card as an official state document means its holder is an Afghan.

In a statement, the coalition "Joint fortification of all Afghans to protect national values" said they had extended their deep concerns about the issue of biometric citizenship identity cards to the president through a delegation. The groups include Afghan Milli Ghorzang, Milli Sabat Group, Adalat Party and several others. They also include youth organizations, tribal councils and many civil society groups.

The coalition said President Ashraf Ghani through his representatives had assured them that the relevant law would be amended and the word "Afghan" would be mentioned in identification documents. The president had also promised that a permanent and trustable department would be set up for the issuance of national identity cards, the statement said.

It said the president had ruled out the launch of a test identity cards distribution campaign on August 19. "In addition to calling off our protest for the time being in response to the message from the president, we also urge all the Afghans to stay awake until the problem is completely solved and if the president backs out of his promises under pressure from opponents of national unity, we should be prepared for widespread protests in order to protect our national identity and national interests." (Pajhwok)

### (12) Govt.'s 'Double....

ranks is part of the new government's inheritance and has led to the current situation. "To purge the government of such elements ought to be a priority for the NUG," he said.

The is not however a new concept. Recently former Jihadi leader Abdul Rab Rasoul Sayyaf and Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, the First Vice President, both spoke out about so-called agents of neighboring countries inside the Afghan government.

Last week, Sayyaf referred to the Taliban's late leader Mullah Omar and his death two years ago and said: "I told you once that money comes in from abroad and is distributed here as salaries. No one should ask me where it comes from nor what it is for. I also said that insurgents are transferred from Mohammad Agha area of Logar, from Pul-i-Surkh of Maidan Wardak and from Khak Jabar district by tinted-glass vehicles."

However, analysts believe that clearing the government of foreign agents is a difficult task, but they emphasize that Kabul must start this process. "In think we will not reach any positive result, if we leave one and blame another," chairman of the National Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan, Sayed Ishaq Gailani, told TOLONews. "We will not achieve our goals if we don't work together to oust these agents inside the administration." (Tolonews)

### (13) Afghans ....

falsely acted against Afghanistan in commercial deals and if Pakistani products boycott, there will be no loss for Afghanistan. The two countries must overcome years of mutual hostility, however. Many Afghans accuse Islamabad of effectively controlling the Taliban insurgency against their government and supporting the terrorist groups. Pakistan is one of the largest trading partners of Afghanistan as it exports goods and services worth approximately \$3 billion annually and is also the main conduit of imports from elsewhere through the Karachi port. (ATN)

### (14) Presidential ....

Earlier on Monday, President Ashraf Ghani told a crowded press conference in the wake of series of

suicide bombings in Kabul that the recent wave of violence showed suicide training camps, facilities used for making explosive devices and sending them to Afghanistan to kill innocent people was still functional in Pakistan.

Ghani told journalists that "we hoped for peace, but war continues to be declared against us from Pakistani territory. In fact, it clearly shows vivid hostilities toward a neighboring nation. "Now it is proven to the region we have been right, but in Pakistan still there are gatherings of slaves and captives who send the message of war to us."

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah also criticized Pakistan for not supporting the peace process and said that Afghanistan had proved in action a good relation was based on mutual respect with Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan did nothing to improve the peace process, rather it financed militants to fight against Afghans.

Residents of some parts of the country have supported the recent speech of the president about Pakistan.

Fida Mohammad, a resident of Kabul province, said: "Afghans are tired of Pakistani government lies about peace building. There is no Taliban or Islamic State (IS), but it is Pakistan that fuel suicide attacks and bombings."

He welcomed the speech of the president and said that Ghani should learn from Karzai who had several trips to Pakistan without getting any positive response from Islamabad.

All Afghans are ready to sacrifice their lives for peace Afghanistan, but there should not be deals behind the scene, he remarked. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Number of ....

of drug addicts had increased but disputed the 200,000 figure.

He said the government alone could not deal with the menace of narcotics and people had to cooperate in this regard.

The director said the best campaign to combat drugs was social ways and the civil society could play a key role in assisting his department.

However, residents of some districts had confirmed the cultivation of cannabis in their areas.

A resident of Chamtal district, who wished not to be named, said people had cultivated cannabis inside their houses in remote areas.

He recalled farmers would grow poppy crop in their fields on high scale until the government banned its cultivation six years ago.

Two or three years after the ban, people started cultivating cannabis, the resident said.

Hordes of addicts could be seen taking drugs in different areas of Mazar-i-Sharif, creating problems for local residents. (Pajhwok)

### (16) In Badakhshan, ....

referrals have to be approved by the Supreme Court in Kabul. This situation is clearly against women, she insists.

Shahr-i-Bozarg resident Aasia, allegedly beaten by her husband, says NGO lawyer Sahila fought her case without fee. "In accordance with the court verdict, I have got divorce from my spouse. I'm so pleased with the lawyer's solid cooperation and thank her from the core of my heart."

Mah Gul, another woman from Yaftal district, suffered frequent violence at the hands of her in-laws. Consequently, she filed for divorce and won her case. She feels indebted to her defence lawyer for rescuing her.

Defence counsel Sahila, who has pleaded the cases of 30 victims of domestic violence in different districts. Ten of these cases have already been decided, with the rest still pending.

Her colleague Faizur Rahman Faez, who has been in the profession for five years, has been pleading women's cases over the past 18 months. A graduate from the Fiq and Shariah Faculty of Herat University, claims pleading 70 cases from Shuhada, Jurm, Kasham and Ragh districts during the 18-month period.

Forty of the cases related to domestic violence, separation, denial of sustenance, elopement, rape and murder have been disposed of. He has received evidence of injustice against women, including inordinate delays in litigation, from his district.

Kabul University graduate Mohammad Jan, who has been serving

a leg services NGO for two years, is also pursuing women-related cases. He offers free legal services to children and women faced with violence, pleading at least five such cases every month in the Badakhshan Attorney Office and courts. The number of cases he has argued is 50.

Last year, the Department of Women's Affairs says, it filed 131 such petitions in courts. They involved four murders, two rape incidents, six instances of illicit affairs, five divorce cases, 10 separation appeals, three engagement abolition cases, six runaway instances, two incidents of forced marriage, three petitions against sustenance refusal and four cases of beatings.

Women's Affairs Director Zofnon Hassam Nateq acknowledges continued violence against females. Her department is trying to raise awareness among the masses regarding the protection of women's rights. She identifies a shortage of women judges, lack of awareness about legal and religious issues, poverty and social limitations as huge challenges. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Committee to ....

chief executive of Nai, an organization that supports free media in Afghanistan, said out of the 49 journalists only case of one German journalist has been dealt with.

Mustafavi said work on draft law on privileges for journalists was underway and with its passing all rights of journalists would be ensured.

She said quantity in Afghanistan's media had improved remarkably, and it was time for quality to improve as well.

The two day media expo that would end today, more than 200 private and public media outlets had taken part and exhibited their achievements and activities. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Improved Security....

built at a cost of \$3.5 million to be funded by Turkey.

Some resident, however, complain that they did not benefit much from the welfare projects in the province. Sardash, a resident of Aqcha district and a civil society, said: "Security is deteriorating in Jawzjan also and it undermines the development projects."

Sardash said projects like health clinics, schools, irrigation and electricity were need of the hour and the government should pay utmost attention to resolve the direly needed problem.

Shahabuddin, a resident of Shiberghan, said security situation in the province was relatively better than other provinces, but not major reconstruction efforts have taken place as per need of the residents. "We still don't have enough clinics and schools."

Deputy Governor Abdul Rahman Mahmoodi said they were planning to conduct a conference in order to generate funds for development projects in the province. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Rebels in Ghor....

Hamid Natiqi said the residents of Nawi Aspand village were poor who had rented farmlands from people of Lal-Wa-Sarjantal for cultivation.

Taliban harassed the villagers and looted their belongings, he said, demanding the government to pay attention to protect people of the locality.

Ghor police chief Maj. Mohammad Zaman Azimi said police force had been deployed to the area to control the situation. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Militants Kill....

A provincial council member Hassan Raza Yousufi said the engineers were residents of Jaghori district of Ghazni province.

In a separate incident, three civilians were injured in a roadside bombing on Kabul-Kandahar highway in Ghazni city.

Ghazni Civil Hospital Director Baz Mohammad Himat confirmed receiving three wounded with two them in critical condition.

Taliban did not comment on the incidents as of yet. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Scores of Rebels....

The rebels' commanders wounded in the operations included Mullah Ziauddin, Mullah Abdul Samad, Maulvi Faizulla, Maulvi Hakim, Qari Ahmad Andkhai, Mullah Adam Khan, Mullah Noorul Haq and Mullah Abdul Haq, he said.

He said the offensive codenamed Sword-7 was conducted by Afghan National Army (ANA) in

which 73 villages were cleared of rebels while 12 rebels including a Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Haq were arrested in Kohistan district.

Afghan forces also seized four rockets, 32 weapons, a machinegun, 35 motorcycles, eight bombs, 220 kilograms of explosives and 20 remote control sets from militants.

However, Bariz did not say anything about casualties suffered by security personnel casualties.

However, provincial council head Sayed Abdul Baqi Hashimi said that 10,000 families have been displaced to safer areas as a result of fights during the past one month. He said that 7,000 families turned back to the areas cleared of militants.

But he said that around 3,000 people who were suffering in hard condition were shifted to the capital of Faryab and Balkh province. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Militants Suffer....

and air operation by Afghan forces in Worikhmin Tangi area on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, said Numan Hatifi, the 201 Selab Military Corps spokesman in the east.

He said the operation was carried out after a group of militants attacked security forces from hilltops, but the forces remained unhurt. The corpses of three militants were still lying at the clash site.

Meanwhile, the Selab Military Corps in a statement said another eight rebels had been killed in eastern Nangarhar province during the ongoing operation "Iron Triangular." Two more militants were wounded, it said.

The statement said eight insurgents were killed during a clash in the Badpakh district of eastern Laghman province.

Meanwhile, the 203 Thunder Military Corps in the southeast in a statement said the troops had killed four armed militants during a clash in Syed Karam district of Paktia province.

Another seven militants were killed during an operation in the Daimardad district of central Maidan Wardak province, the military said, adding the dead militants included some foreigners, but did not reveal their nationalities.

Attallah Khogyani, the Maidan Wardak governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News four militants from Pakistan's Waziristan tribal region were among nine killed during the joint operations by Afghan security forces.

The 203 Thunder Military Corps also said four Taliban militants were killed in a bomb blast caused by their own explosives. (Pajhwok)

### (23) Obama to....

Seoul of South Korea in 2012, and The Hague of the Netherlands in 2014.

These summits have "achieved tangible improvements in the security of nuclear materials and stronger international institutions that support nuclear security," the White House said. (Xinhua)

### (24) Turkey Vows....

on the rise following a tumultuous week which began with an Islamic State (IS) suicide bombing July 20, killing 32 individuals and injuring 104 activists in the town of Suruc in the Sanliurfa province bordering Syria.

The People's Defense Forces (HPG), affiliated with the PKK, claimed responsibility for killing two police officers in retaliation to the Suruc bombing, insinuating that the officers were linked to IS.

According to a statement by the Turkish prime minister's office, Turkish security forces have detained over 1,300 individuals with suspected ties to IS, PKK and leftist groups, whilst the military unleashed several airstrikes on PKK posts in northern Iraq.

Approximately 40,000 individuals have been killed since 1984, when the armed group launched its very first attack. (Xinhua)

### (25) Greece,....

as a next step, a political assessment will be made," European commission spokeswoman Annika Breidhardt said in Brussels. Still, officials in skeptical northern European countries remained cautious, pending final approval of the deal. (Reuters)