

(1) CEO Speaks...

made a lot of gains for the country, what I learnt from him is patience," said Ghani.

Abdullah said that on different occasions he tolerated the president's reluctance over national issues, but now he has no more patience.

"The election reform is a must, there is no alternative for it, the electronic identity card is also the identity of the people of Afghanistan, tens of solutions were found for it and all concerns from every faction were met and it had nothing to do with the ethnicity, but why is the process not moving forward, we do not discuss it," said Abdullah.

Abdullah also expressed concerns over what he called the monopoly of power. "Ministries now have their step sisters and brothers. One minister is awarded the medal of Wazir Akbar Khan, awarding the medal of Wazir Akbar Khan to a minister needs to be discussed within the government, Afghanistan's cabinet must discuss it to find out whether there is a gain in certain ministry or not," said Abdullah. Referring to upcoming Brussels International Summit on Afghanistan, Abdullah rallied the government to deliver on the promises it has made to the world community.

When asked about the timeline of the political agreement, Abdullah said that the agreement was not for a two month period.

Abdullah said that he would have serious discussions with the president on Saturday.

The only way to succeed is to work together and maintain our unity and solidarity, Abdullah concluded. (Tolnews)

(2) President Ghani...

digital national identity cards to the people of Afghanistan.

"If a person does not have the courage for a discussion, then he is not qualified for a chairmanship, the one who has not the patience of hearing someone, he is not qualified for chairmanship (presidency), said Abdullah on Thursday.

Abdullah's remarks over Ghani was rare since the officials agreed on the formation of national unity government following 2014 controversial elections. (Tolnews)

(3) Death Toll ...

wellbeing in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including deaths, injuries and displacement.

The study, "Update on the Human Costs of War for Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2001 to mid-2016," summarizes the pattern of killing in the Afghanistan-Pakistan conflict zone since 2001, with an emphasis on the most recent years.

Crawford notes in the report that the wars are interrelated. The war in Pakistan "began as Al Qaeda and the Taliban fled from Afghanistan into the northwest region of Pakistan in 2001," Crawford wrote, and is "underreported partially because the news media have been targeted for killing by both militants and security forces, and because the Pakistani government controls journalists' access."

Specific data on deaths from U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan is difficult to access, Crawford notes, because the strike program remains largely secret even after the recent release of data by the Obama administration. That data covers drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia, but it is not disaggregated by war zone. The Costs of War study includes estimates from the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, the Long War Journal, the New America Foundation and the Pakistan Body Count. Those estimates range from a low of 158 civilian deaths caused by U.S. drone strikes to a high of 2,657.

Based on reports from several sources, Crawford found that in total, the number of deaths caused directly by the wars in the two countries has risen by 24,000 to 173,000 since March 2015, when the Costs of War project estimated the combined death toll to be 149,000 people.

In the intervening period, the intensity of the war in each country has changed, according to the report, with violence increasing in Afghanistan and diminishing for a short period, in Pakistan in 2015. However, the report identifies an upward trend of violence in Pakistan in the first half of 2016.

"There is no disputing the fact that the wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to be devastating for civilians," Crawford wrote. "The first six months of 2016 indicate that there is as much or more war-related violence in Afghanistan as in 2015."

And the increased intensity of the fighting in Afghanistan, Crawford noted, could have a "spillover" effect in Pakistan.

"It is crucial that a nation at war, as the United States has been for nearly fifteen years, look rigorously at the facts about the impact of that violence on all concerned," added Lutz. "These numbers, moreover, reflect just those killed

directly. Many more have died as an indirect result of the wars and their destruction of infrastructure and community health."

The report is one of a series of periodic updates on the costs of the post-9/11 wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan by the Costs of War project, which launched at Brown in 2011 and counts 35 scholars, legal experts, human rights practitioners and physicians among its team members. Previous reports have aggregated and evaluated different facets of the costs of the wars. (Agencies)

(4) Helmand

Lashkargah and Kandahar was closed for traffic.

Governor Spokesman Umar Zwak said registration of the IDPs was underway through the refugees department and aid items would be distributed soon.

Earlier in the day, Garamser district of the province fell to the Taliban hands and more families were expected to be displaced. (Pajhwok)

(5) 'Western

Russian made helicopters like Mi-25 and Mi-35 to Afghanistan. Last year in December, India agreed to supply four Mi-25 attack helicopters to Afghanistan.

"I cannot speak for the Afghan government. But I know that they have requested more and would like more and I think there is an immediate need for more as these aircraft can immediately get into the fight," said Gen. Nicholson. According to experts US strategy to involve Pakistan in Afghan war and rebuilding had failed and Washington was now looking for other allies in the region such as India in the rebuilding of Afghanistan and strengthening its defence.

Afghanistan has intensify its diplomatic efforts mobilizing different channels to persuade Indian for more military cooperation but New Dheli was looking skeptical in it defence cooperation with the war-torn country. (Pajhwok)

(6) President, CEO ...

of the computerised identify cards and others.

Abdullah expressed his displeasure over the non-implementation of the unity government deal in the given two years, saying he was the first person who accepted Ghani as president, adding discussion and debate was usual practice in governance but if a person had no patience to discuss issues he had not right to be the president.

But an individual at Presidential Palace, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News, Abdullah criticising comments regarding president Ghani came at a time when grand meeting of the JI was scheduled in the coming days, saying the CEO was a part of the party and key member of JI were not happy with Abdullah.

He said the CEO comments were more about point scoring a head of the JI meeting in which party affairs and future plans would be discussed. According to the source the CEO was present in key meeting of the government including the meetings of economic council, National Security Council, procurement commission and other meetings held at Presidential Palace. He said the CEO had more understanding on various issues compared to anyone else in the government and his comments were merely to impress the JI members.

According to the source the JI might introduce another candidate for the CEO post because Abdullah was introduced on the behalf of the party and it was the party right to replace him. (Pajhwok)

(7) Troops Ask ...

control of the strategic province of Helmand in the south and infiltrate neighboring provinces.

The Kandahar Air Brigade that operates under the command of 205 Atal Army Corps has about 20 different types of aircrafts - a figure security officials claim is nothing near what they need to deal with the current scale of security issues that have undermined large swaths of land in the south.

He called on the central government in Kabul and NATO alliance to make sure there is a delivery of more aircrafts to conventional forces so that they can tighten their grip on the war with the terrorists.

Kandahar Air Brigade has at least 900 employees and technicians.

"777 special unit is also set to assume its job in the southwestern region, our air brigade also conducts missions during the operations," said Sherzai.

"We need cooperation, foreign forces should deliver us more aircraft and equipment so that we get more strength," said an Afghan pilot in Kandahar Air Brigade.

Meanwhile, a number of security sources on condition of anonymity in the southern provinces have said that air support and reinforcements are not being sent to them on time.

"We expect the government to deliver us the latest aircraft which can meet the needs of current times, they should also provide us latest technical training,"

said Afghan National Army soldier in Kandahar.

"Ground forces give us the plan and suggest us to come to a certain area and conduct operations. Both 205 Atal Army Corps and 2015 Maiwand Army Corps are supplied by us," added Sherzai.

The Afghan Air Force (AAF) has 150 aircrafts which operate from Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Nangarhar and Balkh provinces and conduct missions to support ground forces. (Tolnews)

(8) Threat to....

said today's morning attack by Taliban insurgents on Garamer had been pushed back and threats posed to Lashkargah, the provincial capital, neutralized.

Security forces were supplied every moment whatever they needed by the ministries of defence and interior, Sediqi concluded. (Pajhwok)

(9) Baghlan...

soldiers under siege by Taliban said that if reinforcement forces do not arrive soon in Dahan-e-Ghori they will lose their sons.

"We urgently request extra troops because we are under siege here. Three hundred Taliban attacked," said Ghulam Sakhi a resident.

"If Dahan-e-Ghori district collapses then Puli-khomri will also collapse," said Shamuddin another resident.

Taliban attacked Dahan-e-Ghori district on Wednesday and so far they have captured ten military checkpoints and several villages. (Tolnews)

(10) Noor Endorses ...

with mutual understandings. He warned that unilateral decisions would not be in favor of anyone and would take the country towards a crisis.

Abdullah made the remarks during a gathering in Kabul on Thursday as he was addressing a group of young people in his office garden.

The Chief Executive said he had struggled to achieve much progress with President Ghani during the two years of their government on the issue of electoral reform.

He said President Ghani is not having time for him even in months so that he can have one-on-one meeting with him.

Abdullah insisted that "if someone does not have the patience for discussion, then they are not fit for the presidency, either." (KP)

(11) Afghan ...

which is blamed for plotting suicide attacks on Afghanistan.

"In terms of our conversation with them very clear with the highest levels of the Pakistani government that Pakistan must target all groups, I note that general Sharif had actually spoke on this very recently, now Pakistan and broader region stability requires that the military threats be addressed in a comprehensive way, instability in Afghanistan is not in Pakistan's interest and will undermine the significant progress the Pakistani military has made in shedding down terrorists' safe havens," US official Elizabeth Kennedy said.

With an unprecedented influx of militants from Pakistan on Afghanistan's eastern and northeastern regions, Afghan officials once again hit back at Pakistan's count-terrorism policy, saying Pakistan instead of eliminating the terrorists is nourishing them to destabilize Afghanistan. Afghan envoy to Islamabad Hazrat Omar Zakhelwal in an interview with Pakistani media revealed that there was huge mistrust between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"You see Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed and there was a Pakistani passport in his pocket, he travelled abroad twenty times from Karachi airport, where was Mansour killed and where was Mullah Hibatullah appointed. It appears that the Zarb-e-Azb operation eliminated only those who were threatening the stability of Pakistan and Afghan Taliban were never targeted, Haqqani network also not harmed. There is a gap in words and action," said Zakhelwal.

Meanwhile, a number of analysts have said that mistrust of Pakistan on international levels has increased and that Pakistani will no longer be able to deceive the world by pursuing its deceptive policies on terrorism.

"It appears that there is a fresh wave of pressure on Pakistan in the international level and these pressures are mounted each day, Pakistan as a main ally to US is now under mounting pressure by Washington which makes it difficult for Pakistan to deal with US, China and Russia in a single period and continue its policies in the region," said political analyst Hussain Ramoz. (Tolnews)

(12) Hashmat Khalil ...

whose dream was to see a stable and peaceful Afghanistan. The president said Hashmat Karzai belonged to an influential family, but had a place in the hearts of common people

because his only objective was to serve the people. He was a generous personality, wanted to live among his people was keen to see the youth educated and the war-torn country stabilized, Ghani said.

CEO Abdullah recalled achievements of Hashmat Karzai and said: "Martyrdom brings unity, national integrity and strength to the nation and." The CEO urged the people not to differentiate among the martyrs as all of them had sacrificed their lives for a single cause.

He said Hashmat was a brave, strong believer, generous and a strongman. "I did not meet him, but heard about his bravery and good things he did which was extremely inspiring," he added.

In line with a presidential order, Hashmat Khalil Karzai was conferred the title of Shaheed-i-Millat and his son was awarded the state medal of Ghazi Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan during the ceremony. (Pajhwok)

(13) 'Govt-HIA...

agreement was also final and ready for final signature, but was delayed due to some issues.

"The government now shows willingness to finalize the deal and has invited the HIA delegation to Kabul. During the visit, final date and place for the peace deal would be announced," the statement read. (Pajhwok)

(14) Land Grabbing...

said Mohammad Hanif Gardiwal, deputy of Nangarhar governor.

These concerns arose after Ghani visited Nangarhar and ordered the local government to stop land grabbing and arrest the culprits, but provincial council says that local officials are unable to carry out the orders. (Tolnews)

(15) Experts Question ...

"In a recent development up to 1,000 judges were reshuffled across the country including in the office of the attorney general. There have been significant changes in the leadership of the provinces and these changes will continue," said presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri.

But, analysts say that government's efforts for undertaking necessary reforms in the legal and judicial bodies were insufficient.

"Afghanistan's legal and judicial institutions are thinking about their own safety rather than thinking about economic and judicial opportunities for the people of Afghanistan," said law expert Zekirya Osoli.

"Over the last two years no government official was introduced to court for their involvement in corruption," university professor Hikmatullah Shahbaz said.

This comes less than two months ahead of the Brussels International Summit on Afghanistan. The Afghan government needs to take steps and deliver on the commitments it had made to the world community including commitment on the fight against corruption, improving good governance and promoting human rights.

The Brussels Summit will determine the world's economic and political support to Afghanistan in the next four years. (Tolnews)

(16) Pakistan has...

had no plans to do so in the future. Whey powder, used in confectionary items, is not manufactured in Pakistan. A total of 20,252 tonnes of whey powder were imported in July-April 2015-16 from France, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, whereas 264 tonnes of meat were imported from Malaysia, India, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia during the same period, the minister said. (Agencies)

(17) Taliban Likely...

another PC member, acknowledged clashes between militants and security forces. "If security forces in the district did not get support from air and ground the district will fall to the Taliban," he believed.

Deputy Police Chief Masum Hashami confirmed clashes in the district, but said Imam Sahib would never fall to Taliban. He said enough troops were in the district and clearing operation was also launched in which heavy losses were inflicted on the militants. (Pajhwok)

(18) Roads to ...

away from Lashkargah, the Ainak area which connects Nawa to Lashkargah and Chahanjir areas of the province have been under intense fighting over the past few days.

"Helmand province will be protected at any cost, Helmand province will be cleared and no threats will reach Lashkargah," a defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said.

Helmand has 14 districts with five of them out of government's control including Musa Qala, Nawzad, Desho, Nawmesh and Baghran.

Insurgents are also trying to tighten grips on seven other districts of Marjah, Greshk, Nad Ali, Sangeen, Kajaki, Kajaki and Washir. In recent waves of violence, the fight-

ing has expanded in Garmsir and Nawa districts.

"If Helmand collapses, five more provinces will also collapse," said senator Hashim Alokozai.

"It is a normal routine that sometimes the enemy gets more strength and units are forced to retreat from certain areas," said Waziri.

"In the past the commanders have not focused on the security issues and all issues were tackled through smuggling," said MP Naseema Niazi.

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) has not provided an exact figure about the number of security forces and the Taliban fighters in Helmand, but analysts say that the number of government forces fighting the insurgents in the province were much higher.

The only question before the residents of Helmand is how the Afghan forces despite having more military strength and personnel than the Taliban failed to eliminate the Taliban in the volatile province. (Tolnews)

(19) Security ...

conference in the province to give details of the military campaigns against the militants in the province.

The officials said that the war in Helmand was quite complicated as the insurgents try to exploit civilian populations and use the people as human shields in their campaigns against security forces.

"Insurgents have been violating norms and all Islamic principles and human rights values during the war," said Hayatullah Hayat.

Insurgents plant land mines in residential areas and use the civilian population as human shields, he said.

The provincial governor pledged that the enemies will not be allowed to seize even a single district in the province.

When asked about the death toll among the insurgents, the governor said that 250 militants so far have been killed in Helmand war.

According to Hayat, 15 government soldiers were also killed and 35 others wounded in battles. (Tolnews)

(20) Analysts See ...

conference in Brussels. He said the Warsaw conference was more vital than the Brussels one.

However, another political analyst, Dr. Faiz Mohammad Zaland, said there were various reasons why the fighting intensified.

He told Pajhwok the unity government had lost its legitimacy and people's trust and in the meantime foreign interference and proxy war were behind the intensifying fighting.

He said the emergence new terrorist groups including Daesh and their funding by foreign intelligence agencies were factors behind the increasing unrest.

He claimed the Afghan government lacked motivation to win the war because many civil and military leaders were out of the country and had built homes abroad. He also cited mafia groups and personal interests as other reasons behind the raging fighting.

Zaland said the Taliban by intensifying their attacks wanted to show themselves strengthened and to put pressure on the government to accept their demands.

Hassan Haqyar, another political analyst, said the insurgents had intensified attacks to show themselves powerful after the death of their supreme leader Mullah Mansoor and several others.

He said the peace process had stopped and insurgents by intensifying their attacks wanted their conditions to be accepted internationally and by Afghanistan.

He dubbed the current fighting as intelligence and proxy war and said besides other factors there was also narcotics mafia's hand in the fighting in Helmand province. (Pajhwok)

(21) Crew of ...

Taliban militants held them hostage.

The Afghan government has said nothing about the recovery of the crewmembers and their shifting to Pakistan.

The Kabul government has tasked a commission with investigating the helicopter crash and rescuing the crew.

The development comes a day after Logar provincial member and resident of Azra district, Abdul Wali Wakeel, told Pajhwok Afghan News a Pakistani delegation had arrived in the district to negotiate the release of the hostages.

He had said the Taliban councils in Peshawar and Quetta had mounted pressure on the captors to release the crewmembers.

He said the Pakistani delegation was comprised of tribal elders from across the Durand Line, some Afghans living there and the deputy spokesman of the Pakistan Army.

But Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Shakeb Mustaghani had said Pakistan had not formally informed them about the arrival of its delegation to Azra district. (Pajhwok)

(22) 4 Civilians ...

the mine was planted to target security forces but was exploded on civilians. Taliban have not spoken about the inci-

dent. (Pajhwok)

(23) AUAF in...

of German forces in Mazar-i-Sharif for medical care.

With the Taliban yet to comment on the ambush, security officials said no one else was harmed in the incident. (Pajhwok)

(24) ANA Troops...

statement said. During the clashes with rebels 11 ANA troops also lost their lives, the statement did not give details about the slain security officials. (Pajhwok)

(25) Hillary Clinton...

On the U.S. auto industry. Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe also said last month that Clinton would support the TPP deal or seek to renegotiate it if elected president.

But John Podesta, chairman of Clinton's presidential campaign, responded at the time that "she is against it before the election and after the election." (Xinhua)

(26) U.S. Calls...

ensure the safety of infrastructure and citizens there.

"The people who seized power in Kiev ... have switched to terror tactics instead of searching for ways for a peaceful settlement," Putin told a news conference. The United States called for the avoidance of any actions that would escalate the situation in Crimea, Trudeau said. (Xinhua)

(27) UN to Help...

mentor and train Iraqi investigators, the UN said in the statement released after the signing ceremony with the Iraqi government.

Naoufel al-Hasan, the Chief of Staff of the Office of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, said "ending impunity is at the center of our reform agenda. We have reached out to the UNDP to provide technical assistance to strengthen our capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption cases," according to the statement. (Xinhua)

report, with the CENTCOM senior leaders using operational reporting as a "justification to alter or 'soften' an analytic product so it would cast U.S. efforts in a more positive light."

Additionally, analysts said senior leaders consistently "softened" intelligence assessments to provide more uncertainty about possible outcomes. (Xinhua)

(28) U.S. House ...

the rape and killing of an Australian woman missionary during a jail riot in Davao City in 1989.

Last Saturday, Duterte slammed Goldberg, saying he was annoyed by the "gay ambassador." (Xinhua)

(29) Duterte Says...

62 billion won worth of local stocks. Individual investors sold shares worth 181 billion won, but institutional investors raised stock holdings by 100 billion won.

U.S. stocks gained ground overnight, and global crude oil prices jumped, boosting appetite for risk assets such as stocks. (Xinhua)

(30) S. Korean ...

(SPLM-N), and the National Umma Party.

The council members welcomed the support of the roadmap by other members of the Sudan Call, an opposition alliance bringing together Sudanese armed groups and opposition parties, the statement said. (Xinhua)

(31) UN Security ...

coup attempt.

Tens of thousands of soldiers, police officers and bureaucrats have been detained, dismissed or investigated for alleged links to the coup attempt, which Turkish authorities blame on U.S.-based cleric Gulen

Meanwhile, Cavusoglu said Turkey and Iran were on the same page about territorial integrity of Syria. (Xinhua)

(32) Turkey Says

the exercise was conducted in Russia. Kazakhstan hosted the exercise in 2010, Tajikistan in 2012, and China in 2014. Meanwhile, the SCO Peace Mission exercises have always invoked skepticism among Western observers. "Looking Towards the SCO Peace Mission 2016" by Daniel Urchick that was posted on the RealClearDefense's website on July 16 notes the exercises have invoked skepticism among Western observers "due to their large scale and similarity to more traditionally defined military exercises. (Asia-Plus)

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In particular, Uzbekistan is interested in purchasing high technology, modern and reliable French equipment, while France is interested in intensification of cooperation in agriculture and tourism industry with Uzbekistan. (Trend)

(33) Tajikistan to...

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