

(1) US Spent ...

Equipment and transportation accounted for almost \$18 billion, or 29 per cent. About 81 per cent of weapons provided to the Afghan security forces were rifles and pistols. The firepower funding also included more than 25,000 grenade launchers and almost 10,000 rocket-propelled weapons used by the Afghan Border Police. The Afghans were also given 162,643 pieces of communications equipment and nearly 76,000 vehicles.

The vehicles were primarily light-tactical vehicles like Ford Ranger pickups, cargo trucks and more than 22,000 Humvees. As many as 110 helicopters and 98 planes have also been delivered to the Afghans since 2007. (Pajhwok)

(2) Foreign Envoys ...

He said that insurgents are wrong in their calculation about attacks on the diplomatic institutions, adding that the international forces will continue their mission in Afghanistan until peace and stability is restored.

"If terrorists think we are leaving, they are wrong, we will stay and we will continue to work with our Afghan friends and international partners for a peaceful future of this country. This was also the message of my president who came to Kabul a month ago," said German envoy Walter Hassman.

The officials made the remarks during a ceremony to transfer the police mission from the German forces to the Canadian forces.

Outgoing minister of interior affairs Taj Mohammad Jahed expressed his gratitude to the two countries for their support and cooperation and said that he had introduced a range of reforms over the past year. Jahed warned against meddling by certain elements in the ministry of interior.

"The audit department at the ministry of interior has processed 1,155 cases involving 270 officers - including seven generals and 177 high level officers - who were referred to the attorney general and other legal and judicial institutions," said Jahed.

In addition, the Canadian ambassador to Afghanistan Kenneth Neufeld pledged that his country will continue its support to Afghanistan and to the ministry of interior in terms of bringing reforms.

"We are humble to take over the co-chair role at this key moment when the ambitious reform plan for the Afghan national security forces, the four year road map, is well underway; as I repeat the sentiments of my German colleague and commend minister Jahed and the partners for the many reform steps that are already taken," said Neufeld. MoI believes that the implementation of the four-year security plan will help overcome security issues in the future. (Tolnews)

(3) Most of Chardarah...

News most of the Chardarah district area was under the Taliban control, no services were being provided to the people by the government therefore gap between the masses and government has widened.

Brg. Gen. Khalilullah Zia, zonal commander of police, acknowledged security issues in Chardarah had been deteriorated but meanwhile rejected the claims made by the district chief.

He said all government institutions were under the security forces control and discarded the claim that over 80 percent of Chardarah district was under the Taliban control and people referred to the Taliban for their disputes resolution. (Pajhwok)

(4) Plan to Privatize ..

risks a repeat of the atrocities carried out by Blackwater guards in Iraq and Afghanistan during the 2000s.

Afghanistan's government has not yet officially responded to the proposal. But a senior Afghan defense official told VOA, "The plan has legal problems and raises questions about our mutual security agreements with the U.S."

The Afghan official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to publicly discuss the proposal, specifically cited the U.S.-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement, which went into effect in 2012, and the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA), which the U.S. and Afghanistan signed in 2014 during the first few months of President Ashraf Ghani's tenure as leader of Afghanistan.

His predecessor, President Hamid Karzai, had refused to sign the agreement, even after a traditional Loya Jirga (grand council) approved it.

Any amendment to the BSA in the face of the proposed plan to privatize the war could potentially call for another Loya Jirga, and that could further complicate an already complex situation in the country. Stalemate

There are about 9,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Most are in noncombat roles, aimed at training and advising Afghan forces, since U.S.-led NATO troops ended their combat mission in 2014.

But since taking over security control of the country, the Afghan military has been losing ground to the Taliban. The Kabul government now controls just over half of the country. Top Pentagon officials, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, now concede the U.S. is not winning the war. The war is also expensive. The U.S. is ex-

pected to spend about \$45 billion on Afghanistan this year alone.

"The United States, right now, is spending more than the entire U.K. defense budget, just in Afghanistan. And the U.S. can't continue that forever," said Prince, who claims to be able to do the job for less than \$10 billion a year.

Prince's plan Under Prince's proposal, the U.S. war would be coordinated by a "viceroy," who would consolidate what Prince calls Washington's "very chaotic and disorganized" approach to the country.

The 5,000 contractors would attach to Afghan military units and would "live with, train with and fight alongside them, when necessary," Prince said. They would report to Afghanistan's government, he added.

"These would be contracted professionals attached to the Afghan army. So even by United Nations definitions, those are not mercenaries. They would be attached to and serving with the Afghan forces," he said.

Prince also proposes a "big increase" in air support. The 90 planes in his private air force "would be badged as Afghan aircraft, with Afghan call signs, with an Afghan on board, and Afghans making the weapons release decisions," he said.

Prince, a former Navy SEAL, said he also wants to keep about 2,000 U.S. special forces in the country to "maintain a unilateral ability to go after terrorist targets."

Pushback

But Prince's plan faces an uphill battle. Trump has said he is open to new ideas in Afghanistan. But if he decides to embrace Prince's plan, he may have to override top U.S. military leaders, who are said to dislike the proposal.

A wide range of Afghans are also skeptical. Former Afghan President Karzai said via Twitter he "vehemently" opposed the plan, calling it a "blatant violation" of Afghanistan's national sovereignty. (VoA)

(5) Anti-Polio Drive..

Shamsur Rahman Frotan, said giving anti-polio vaccine was important and those preventing it were destroyers of a nation. He said those who propagating against the vaccine without any reason were committed a major sin and violated Islamic principles.

UNICEF representative in Afghanistan, Adele Khodr, who was also present at the ceremony, said anti-polio vaccine was important in eradication of the virus and asked parents to vaccinate their children for protection against the disease.

World Health Organization (WHO) head for Afghanistan, Dr. Richard Peepkorn, in his message read out on the occasion, said many achievements had been made in polio eradication in Afghanistan in the past two years.

But five new cases were detected this year in southern parts of the country due to some problems and movements of people to the region from Pakistan's border areas. Detection of new positive polio cases in Helmand and Kandahar provinces was a matter of concern for WHO and children missed in previous rounds must be vaccinated, he stressed.

Peepkorn in other part of his message said WHO was committed to eradicating polio virus in Afghanistan. Besides Afghanistan, the polio virus is still endemic in Pakistan and Nigeria. (Pajhwok)

(6) Wais Barmak ...

and information technology minister and a minister designate.

Earlier, Mohammad Tahmasi was appointed as acting transport minister, Mohammad Shafiq Gul Agha Sherzai acting border and tribal affairs minister, Tariq Shah Bahrami acting defense minister, Abdul Latif Roshan acting higher education minister, Faizullah Zaki acting "labor, social affairs, martyrs and disabled" minister, and Nargis Nehan as acting mines and petroleum minister.

The acting ministers have also been nominated for the relevant positions to obtain a vote of confidence from the lower house. (Pajhwok)

(7) Clashes Ongoing...

said security forces courageously pushed back rebels from Tora Bora, Pachir Agam district of Nangarhar and Faryab and Ghor provinces.

The defense minister also hailed the courage of Atal Military Corps and said they had suppressed rebels in Maiwand, Shah Wali Kot, Khakrez, Nesah and other parts of Kandahar province.

Despite difficult situation, the minister said, it was being emphasized to ensure the safety and security of common people.

He said work on the four-year security plan was underway though which the number of commando forces would be doubled and the air force strengthened.

He asked the leadership of Atal Military Corps to work hard for eradication of corruption and give responsibilities to qualified people.

Governor Zalmay Weesa hailed the valor of security forces and said they were doing a great job despite shortage of resources. He asked the defense minister to empower leadership of Atal Corps. Weesa said the Defense Ministry was making appoint-

ments at a time when the leadership of the corps better knew who was capable.

The defense minister comes to Kandahar at a time when army losses in Khakrez, Shah Wali Kot and other district have surged. (Pajhwok)

(8) NATO Mission ...

had been unsuccessful in achieving what they desired and NATO was yet to reach a positive result.

Referring to recent political alliances and threats to some leaders, Hekmatyar said some circles still raised the slogan of war at a time when the nation was tired of the conflict.

He said the Afghans could not be ruled by force and those who desired to rule the Afghans at gunpoint were mistaken.

The HIA emir expressed his concern over alleged civilian deaths in NATO airstrikes in Nangarhar province, saying hundreds of innocent lives were daily lost to the conflict. Hekmatyar said there were elements inside the government and the Taliban who wanted continuation of the war, calling for such elements to be thrown out.

"We have tried to convince the Taliban to choose the path of peace because the war in Afghanistan only benefits the enemy."

He said there were Taliban militants who had been compelled into fighting and if the government ensured their security, many were ready to reconcile.

He asked the government to pave the ground for intra-Afghan dialogue with the Taliban and asked the rebels to think over the war which had no justification. (Pajhwok)

(9) Ghani Calls...

should be taken in a bid to prepare 80 to 100 tons of fresh fruits for export by coordinating with the private sector.

According to ARG Palace, President Ghani also instructed the Ministry of Finance and Customs House officials to assist with the allocation of necessary funds and take steps to provide necessary facilities in a bid to expedite the process as part of the air corridor initiative.

President Ghani also instructed the relevant authorities to take immediate steps in a bid to ascertain the main problems available to execute more flights.

He also asked the private sector to prepare the fruits for export on time, both in Kabul and Kandahar airports. (Tolnews)

(10) Defaulters:...

City to facilitate common people.

The DABS executive head meeting expressed his wish to make Kabul City smart by installation of computerized electricity meters.

More than 80 consumers of two power supply towers in capital Kabul owe 28 million afghanis in unpaid electricity bills while some use direct hooks illegally.

A copy of documents from Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) obtained by Pajhwok Afghan News show nine costumers of the third junction defaulted on electricity bills amounting to 9.2 million afghanis.

According to the documents, buildings belonging to Mohammad Karim Khalili, head of the High Peace Council (HPC), owes 5.6 million afghanis to the power utility. (Pajhwok)

(11) Poppy Grown...

districts of Balkh, with the government silently observing everything.

Mesbah said his information showed so far 336 tones of opium had been collected from this year's poppy crop.

Chamtal is one of Balkh districts where most of the poppy is cultivated. Mesbah said growing poppy and smuggling drugs had direct impact on insecurity.

Besides threatening human lives, the illicit substance had direct connection with sale and purchase of arms and protection rebels, he said. Ghafar, a resident of Chamtal district, said he cultivated poppy on 2.5 acres of land last year but this year he grew the crop on 15 acres of land.

"We can't dare grow poppy for the fear the government would flatten the crop. There was rumor that the government has allowed growing poppy and may not react, so we also grew," he said.

Gul Khan, a resident of Chahar Boluk district, said big smugglers lived in insecure areas and transferred the illicit substance to other areas though small smugglers.

Mesbah said the government was silent over the massive cultivation of poppy in the province.

Officials from the provincial government strongly rejected the growing of poppy on a large scale in Balkh.

Governor's spokesman Munir Farhad acknowledged poppy had been cultivated in Balkh but rejected the amount claimed by Khat organization.

He said provincial officials were committed to eradicating poppy in Balkh and for this purpose, poppy crop on 150 acres of land was destroyed this year.

He asked Khat organization to explain how and from where they collected information about cultivation of poppy in the province. (Pajhwok)

(12) Access to....

chairman of the access to information monitoring committee.

But ground reality shows that since its establishment the commission monitoring access to information has not made any breakthroughs and that it is also grappling with issues itself.

"The government must help us with a development budget in the next fiscal year. We already have the land for construction of a separate building for the access to information commission ... the benefits which should have been provided to the commission were not given to it and the institutions have not cooperated with the commission," said deputy minister of information and culture Sayed Muzhgan Mustafawi.

In the National Access to Information Strategy it is stated that government institutions and the general public must cooperate to make sure information is accessible to all people.

The strategy also urges the commission monitoring access to information to act independently. (Tolnews)

(13) Takhar Residents...

commander for the shooting.

"When we wanted to enter the mosque commander Bashir's armed men seized the mosque and opened fire on us," said Ahmad Gul one resident.

"Bashir Qanet's people were armed; they had heavy and light weapons and they opened fire on the people," said Mullah Khaliq another resident.

Chah Ab district mosque's Imam Mawlavi Mahfozullah said that he wanted to deliver a speech about injustice and the illegal activities of Qanet's men when the gunmen opened fire on the people.

"A few days ago Bashir Qanet warned me to not give prayers to the residents and I informed the police and I started my speech when I heard the firing and they attacked us," said Mahfozullah.

"My sin is only that I have raised my voice against illegal armed men's activities," Mahfozullah added.

Previously, however, the imam had declared jihad against Qanet. His supporters said Mahfozullah had no right to do this.

"This mosque imam must know that if Bashir is an unbeliever, then he should be punished and if not, why then did the imam called a Mujahid an unbeliever," said Mahbubullah, one of Qanet's supporters.

Although Qanet denies the allegations the residents of this district have said that his men carried out the attack and suppressed the people of the district.

"I did not attack (them) and I don't know about it; if anyone in this district does something they blame me for it. I don't know about the attack and this is a big allegation against me," said Qanet.

Residents said however that after Ramazan, close to 90 residents in the district were killed by Qanet's men.

On Thursday, a mosque imam was killed when he spoke out about illegal armed men in the district.

This comes after three people were killed and six wounded in July after supporters of a Hizb-e-Islami commander and supporters of a senator clashed in Chah Ab district. Some residents of the northeastern province established a sit-in camp in front of the governor's office in protest against a sharp increase in activity by illegal armed men in the district.

Meanwhile, Takhar security officials said government forces will arrest the perpetrators and send them to court. (Tolnews)

(14) Hundreds of..

needed support of the agriculture ministry," he said.

Besides Bamyān's capital, the districts also benefited from the program that was completed today, he said, adding Bamyān gardeners collected 10 to five tons of fruits annually. Main fruits of Bamyān include apricot, apple and cherry grown in different districts of the province, he said.

"Saqi Apricot is the best apricot that is grown in Kahmard, Yakawlang-1 and Yakawlang-2 districts of Bamyān," Mohammedi said. Abdul Sattar, a farmer, said the agriculture tools would help farmers a lot. "We previously collected apples by shaking trees, when apples would damage after dropping on the ground, but now we would use ladder for that," he said.

Fatima, who grows vegetables for sale, said the money she earned helped her economically support her family. She also said the agriculture tools she received were helpful. (Pajhwok)

(15) Afghanistan Reviews ..

Commerce and Industries (ACCI) officials said the APTICA meeting should resolve Afghan traders' problems in Pakistan. ACCI officials said they have shared their suggestions with the government in this regard.

ACCI said Pakistan should promise that it will allow Afghan and Indian traders to use Gwadar port for transit.

"We have numerous problems with Pakistan that should be resolved. They take from us bank guarantee to not unload our goods in Pakistan and when they pay us back, then they withhold 25 percent of the money," Khan Jan Alokozay, ACCI deputy head said.

In the last APTICA meeting two years ago, Pakistan requested that Tajikistan also should be included in the agreement and Afghanistan said India also should be in-

cluded. Pakistan rejected Afghanistan's request. (Tolnews)

(16) Senior IS Commanders ...

Afghanistan this year.

The group's emir, Abu Sayed, was reported killed in a strike on his headquarters in Kunar in July, the third Islamic State emir in Afghanistan to be killed since July 2016.

In April, Nicholson deployed a 21,600-pound (9,797 kg) "Massive Ordnance Air Blast" bomb against Islamic State positions in neighbouring Nangarhar province, one of the largest conventional weapons ever used by the United States in combat.

On Saturday, Afghan officials said as many as 16 civilians, including women and children, had been killed by a U.S. air strike in Nangarhar, but American officials said only militants were killed.

As part of an increased campaign against both Islamic State and the Taliban, the dominant Islamist militant group in Afghanistan, the U.S. Air Force has dropped nearly 2,000 weapons in the country as of the end of July, compared to fewer than 1,400 in all of last year.

Despite some battlefield successes by Afghan and American special operations troops, Islamic State has continued deadly attacks around Afghanistan, fuelling fears that the group is seeking to bring the group's Middle East conflict to Central Asia. (Reuters)

(17) Samangan ...

production of almond but at same time annoyed over the decline of price due to bumper production.

Haji Zia, a farmer from Aibak, the provincial capital, said he collected 1.7 tonnes of almond from 800 trees this year and earned 380,000 afghanis.

He complained against the low price of almond and said last year one kilogram of Shakori almond was accounted for 1,850 but this year the same almond was allocated for 1,200 afghanis.

Rozi, one of the businessmen, linked the lower price of almond with increase in supply. (Pajhwok)

(18) Half of Afghan ..

living miserable lives and a number of them pass days and nights on the streets. Some Afghan refugees have demonstrated in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, over the possible deportation.

A number of Sweden citizens also joined the sit-in protest and pass the nights in the tents with the asylum seekers to urge their government not to deport the refugees.

Refugees also said the Afghan government is behind their deportation and refusal of their asylum applications.

"There are lots of problems. The Afghans' problems are not being addressed, because our president has sold us out," Massoud Azimi, a refugee said.

Within the protesters, families along with their children, also spend days and nights in the tents.

Some Sweden citizens meanwhile said the situation in Afghanistan is dangerous and urged their government not to deport the refugees.

"We have participated in the protest to put an end to the deportation of the refugees. We know that Afghanistan is insecure, but the department for refugees is acting strictly against Afghans," Ailyana, a Sweden citizen said.

The refugees said they left their country due to challenges and risks that they were subjected to and have come to Sweden for a better future.

"If Afghan officials had not come here and not signed agreements, then why they deport us?" Nusratullah, a refugee said.

Since 2015 a few Afghan refugees killed themselves after their applications were rejected and 40 others have been deported to date.

According to the Afghanistan embassy in Sweden, more than 165,000 refugees have come Sweden since 2015, many of whom are from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

(19) 3 Civilians, ...

mosque in Momand Dara district. He said militants were making landmines in the mosque in 28 Weyala area when the blast occurred.

The Taliban have not yet commented about any of the two incidents. (Pajhwok)

(20) Herat Man Kills ...

down in the limits of the 9th police district in Kocha Babai Barq area of Herat City on Saturday evening.

Torjan, an inhabitant of Badghis province, had earlier killed a man in Badghis and his murder appeared to be a result of that enmity. (Pajhwok)

(21) Logar Gunbattles ...

struck their house during the heavy gun-battle last night.

In Kabul, the Ministry of Interior also confirmed the clashes in Logar, saying that nine militants were killed in Barak-i-Barak district and the provincial capital, Pul-i-Alam. Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed three policemen had been killed by the group's fighters. He said the insurgents suffered no casualties. (Pajhwok)