

(1) War Intensified...

Stratofortress strategic bomber in Afghanistan for the first time in ten years to provide more ground supports for the Afghan security forces for pounding the safe houses of the insurgents in Afghanistan.

War in Helmand and Kunduz provinces have made thousands of the local residents to flee from their shelters and find better safe places either in the neighboring provinces.(Agencies)

(2) Ghani, Abdullah ...

Rahman, spokesman for the CEO. Meanwhile, the head of the commission monitoring the implementation of the National Unity Government agreement insists on the implementation of the agreement. He has said that tensions arose between the two leaders after Ghani appointed staff in key positions without consulting with his CEO.

Mohammad Natqi, head of the commission said: "Only the implementation of the political agreement can solve this problem."

In the meantime, a number of people close to the president have reportedly said that the disagreements between the president and the CEO are not that big an issue.

"The problem is not serious. There are just two issues, one is (the holding of a) Loya Jirga and the other is reforms which is not the president's problem. It is due to security threats", said Gul Pacha Majedi, an MP.

The implementation of the political agreement, the running of government, equal treatment of president and chief executive officer, the involvement of their views in foreign and internal policies, bringing electoral reforms, equal division of authorities, the financial and administration authorities of the CEO, Abdullah's involvement in taking big decisions within a national framework, the authorities of some of the president's advisors, and appointing new staff are all issues of concern reportedly presented by Abdullah to Ghani at their meeting last week.(Tolonews)

The implementation of the political agreement, the running of government, equal treatment of president and chief executive officer, the involvement of their views in foreign and internal policies, bringing electoral reforms, equal division of authorities, the financial and administration authorities of the CEO, Abdullah's involvement in taking big decisions within a national framework, the authorities of some of the president's advisors, and appointing new staff are all issues of concern reportedly presented by Abdullah to Ghani at their meeting last week.(Tolonews)

(3) Financial ...

donors. Funding profitable projects, identifying new-revenue sources, keeping national revenue from being embezzled, establishing a new custom system and the implementation of financial reforms were promises made to the international community in recent years by the national unity government.

It is these promises that will fall under the spotlight at the October summit.

"A problem that always exists is that government cannot identify productive projects and that it does not invest funded money into projects - but the international community wants government to invest their money in productive projects," said Sayed Masoud, an economic lecturer at Kabul university.

Meanwhile, officials at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry have complained about the current system in terms of tariff and tax collection. They have said the process has not been standardized and that a vast amount of revenue ends up in the pockets of private individuals.

Atiqullah Nusrat, head of the executive board of the chamber said: "Traders are not concerned about paying more tax, but are worried about the methods of paying these taxes. These methods are not fair and have lots of problems. We discussed this with government to find a solution."

However, officials from the ministry of finance said the Afghan government has done its best to fulfill its commitments to its donors and other international financial institutions.

The spokesman for the ministry of finance, Ajmal Hamid, said figures show that national revenue collected in the first six months of this year increased by two percent compared to the first six months of last year.

"Afghan government tries to cover most of its national budget through increasing and better collection of national revenue. We hope to have more revenue than the target determined by the International Monetary Fund and that we attend Brussels showing good achievements," said Ajmal Hamid, a spokesman for the ministry of finance.(Tolonews)

(4) UN, OIC Stress ...

raising awareness of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan at the international level and in our Member States with the objective of increasing their assistance and investment in sustainable development solutions for the people of Afghanistan."

Chairman of OIC Humanitarian Funds' Board of Trustees Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Thani said: "With this visit

marking World Humanitarian Day, and as needs continue to grow, we are looking into how the OIC Humanitarian Fund for Afghanistan can build on 15 years of presence to mobilise greater and more predictable funding for humanitarian programmes."

UN's Deputy Special Representative of Secretary-General Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mark Bowden said: "Afghanistan remains as one of the world's most protracted crises that has led to massive levels of internal displacement.

"Each year sees more families uprooted by conflict many of whom remain displaced and at the margins of survival. In this, the first World Humanitarian day following the World Humanitarian Summit, we must make more determined efforts to live up to international commitments made in Istanbul to leave no one behind and better address the needs of displaced people..."

It is critical that Afghanistan invests in sustainable development solutions to reduce the cycles of humanitarian needs. This will require a sustainable and effective health care system; durable solutions for the internally displaced and returning refugees; effective water management to reduce flooding and droughts; and the development of an effective disaster management system including early warning mechanisms.(Pajhwok)

(5) Helmand ...

to clear the route of insurgents in their bid to reopen the key artery to the public.

In the past three weeks heavy battles have been ongoing in Helmand between security forces and Taliban - with security forces making sure they hold the insurgents back from Lashkargah, the provincial capital.

As a result of the ongoing clashes, more than four thousand people have fled their homes and made their way to Lashkargah.

One displaced resident, Zaman, said: "I came from Nawa district and there was a battle. Our children are still there; no body from government has helped us. Half my family is here and the other half is stuck there and all my belongings were left behind. Now we are living here with nothing."

One elderly woman, who fled with her family to Lashkargah, said they are all living in one room without anything, not even a carpet.

"I escaped with only the clothes I was wearing," said Faizullah.(Tolonews)

(6) India Must...

at that time. I want India to have its own considerations, its own interests and be mindful of its own relations with Afghanistan."

According to Karzai, India is ideally located to provide Afghanistan necessary defence equipment, military hardware and training to our army.

The current government has provided some helicopters but we would want them to do more, Karzai said, adding that "We don't want Indian soldiers in Afghanistan. It has to be 'your equipment, our manpower'."

The remarks by Karzai came as the top US commander in Afghanistan General John Nicholson welcomed India's support to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), specifically with the last year's delivery of Mi-25 gunship helicopters.

During a visit to New Delhi, Gen. Nicholson hailed India's contributions to boost the capabilities of the Afghan Air Force by supplying Mi-25 gunships and said the U.S. is in favour of India providing greater security assistance to Afghanistan.(KP)

(7) Defense Ministry...

cannot be justified. This is an act of oppression against the soldiers of the country," said Mohammad Yasin Habib, a political analyst.

"In case there is a financial issue, in such situations even salaries of the generals must be allocated to soldiers," said military analyst Arif Pashtoon.(Tolonews)

(8) Afghan Forces ...

Security forces have however been deployed across the city to thwart a possible invasion by the Taliban.

An emergency meeting to review the situation was reportedly held on Saturday evening between security officials.

Meanwhile, a number of security forces who retreated from the Khanabad area earlier in the day blasted government for not supplying them with enough weapons and food.

Soldiers fighting the Taliban in the district claimed Saturday that they have fought the Taliban for three days with light weapons and without food.

The Taliban managed to seize control

of the district for a few hours on Saturday but battles also still continue to rage in Ali Abad district and on the outskirts of Kunduz city.

"All check points around us collapsed. We did not have sufficient weapons to fight and food to eat for four days. Finally our check posts collapsed and we evacuated the area and arrived in the center of Kunduz," said an Afghan National Police (ANP) officer Serajuddin.

"I want to call on Dr. Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah not to shed the blood of the soldiers more than this, I suggest they put aside their internal disputes and show mercy on the soldiers and the nation and address our problems," said Afghan National Army (ANA) officer Obaidullah.

Fighting between the Taliban and the security forces also continues in Toop Khana area near to the Kunduz airport while insurgents have also extended their offensives on parts of Ali Abad district.

"War is going on in Imam Sahib district and Dasht-e-Archi and Chardara, battles expanded in and around Khan Abad and Qala Zal," said Assadullah Sadat, a member of the Kunduz provincial council.

"It seems that last year's tragedy is going to happen again," said another member of the council Safiullah Amiri, referring to last year's fall of Kunduz city to the Taliban.

Residents in Kunduz province have also criticized the Afghan ministry of interior and ministry of not putting in place comprehensive security measures for the province.

"Taliban have captured Chahar Bandar area of Kunduz," said a resident of Kunduz.

"Sons of the people are being killed, there is devastation and government does not take action," said Shekib, a resident of Kunduz city.

However government has said that action is being taken.

"All security institutions are planning to attack the Taliban from four directions," said Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri.

"We will soon initiate clear operations in the localities to remove the opponents," said Assadullah Omarkhail, the governor of Kunduz province.

"We have established strong security belts around Kunduz city. Insurgents will never be able to infiltrate the city," said Masoom Hashemi, head of security of Kunduz police headquarters.

The development takes place just months after a report revealed that the number of Taliban fighters battling the security forces in Kunduz had increased radically.

Local authorities also said that the Taliban in the area have dozens of armored vehicles and heavy weapons.(Tolonews)

(9) 8 Afghan...

to maintain security and comfort for the people of Afghanistan," a statement by MoD said, adding that 8 Afghan soldiers were martyred during counter-terrorism operations against the internal and foreign terrorists.

The statement further added that the operations were conducted with the support of the Afghan Air Force and artillery units of the Afghan army.

According to MoD, at least 43 of the militants, including 4 commanders of the militants identified as Mullah Salam Uzbek, Mullah Naqibullah, Qari Naeem and Mullah Shahabuddin were killed in Baghlan Markazi district of Baghlan province.

At least 2 militants were killed and another militant was injured during separate operations conducted in Wardak, Paktika, and Ghazni provinces, MoD added.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.(KP)

(10) Helmand...

had been launched. "So far we have defused many roadside bombs and forced the militants to flee in the vicinity of the highway on both sides, he said"

Reza added, the Taliban insurgents had planted many landmines along the road and the residents feared to travel on the highway.

Abdul Qayoom, a soldier in the area, said that militants have been driven from the area, but threats were still existed in some part of the highway.

Syed Mohammad, the resident of locality said, "The highway is blocked and the passengers are obliged to travel through the village that is under the Taliban's control."

Besides passengers, farmers also faced hurdles to timely transfer their harvest of water-melon and melon to Lashkargah, the provincial capital.

Helmand Governor Hayatullah Hayat confirmed the highway between Hel-

mand and Kandahar was blocked to traffic from the past few days.

"The Taliban have planted landmine along the roadside and it was the only issue," claimed Hayat. He said the landmine threats were still there on two kilometers way which will be cleared soon.

He said the militants did not allowed security forces to defuse landmines and opened firing from Wazir, Manda and some other villages situated along the route.

However he said the security forces number had been increased on the highway and it would be soon reopened for traffic.

The highway closure triggered hike in the price of food items and other commodities.(Pajhwok)

(11) Taliban React ...

forces to suppress the Taliban-led insurgency.

The US forces in Afghanistan have launched strikes against the Taliban militants under the new expanded authorities granted by Obama earlier in the month of May.

Obama approved broader role for the US military to assist the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) to fight the Taliban-led insurgency.

The US forces were earlier accompanying the Afghan special forces only when it was needed.

According to the US officials, under the new policy the US commander in Afghanistan, General John Nicholson, will be able to decide when it is appropriate for American troops to accompany conventional Afghan forces into the field.(KP)

(12) Security ...

and fighters of local uprising groups driven the insurgents from the areas which were earlier in the Taliban control.

Taliban Spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, confirmed the clashes and claimed security forces suffered casualties and only two Taliban fighters had been killed in Nawa district.(Pajhwok)

(13) Fresh Fruit...

authorities would reopen the crossing, situated in the Spinboldak district of southern Kandahar province. Pakistani media reported Friendship Gate at Chaman had been closed indefinitely after a group of Afghan demonstrators attacked and set the Pakistani flag on fire.

According to Dawn, the incident that took place on Thursday evening resulted in suspension in the movement of trucks involved in trade shipments between the two countries and carrying supplies for NATO forces in Afghanistan.(Pajhwok)

(14) Monopoly ...

traders gathered in front of the airport custom office and kept the gate shut for three hours.

Haji Obaidullah, speaking on behalf of his other colleagues, said goods transfer from the airport's custom office should not be monopolised by a single company.

He said businessmen, who owned vehicles, should be allowed to enter the airport to take out their goods through their personal trucks. The cost of goods transfer is set only by Banu Company, he alleged, saying 55 traders entered and 50 of them took their goods out on a daily basis.

"If this situation continues, a single company will monopolise the transportation of goods from the Hamid Karzai International Airport. Importers using the airport would stop their businesses," he warned.

Haji Asadullah, another trader, was of the same view. "No one in the free market has the right to monopolise a business. Monopoly is against Article 10 of the constitution."

Article 10 of the constitution says: "The state shall encourage, protect as well as ensure the safety of capital investment and private enterprises in accordance with the provisions of the law and market economy,"

He also criticized police for preventing traders from holding a protest demonstration.

However, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Asif Jabarkhel, chief of border police of Kabul Airport, said protest organizers should inform police 24 hours before any rally was held. However, traders did not do so.

Jabarkhel said border police at the airport were discussing the issue with the MoTCA, Ministry of Finance, Banu Company and traders' representatives.

Zarin Taj Malakzada, head of Banu Company, said they had no problem if any other firm was issued a licence

for the same business. She alleged the protest was aimed to avoid paying taxes.(Pajhwok)

(15) Taliban Condemn ...

Sahib, Mawlawi Mohammad Hanafi, and Qari Syed Murad.

Calling the serial killing of the individuals as 'cowardly', Mujahid said the slain individuals were refugees and called on Pakistani authorities to ensure the safety of the religious clerics in the country.

No group has so far claimed responsibility behind the serial killing of the religious clerics in Pakistan and this is not the first time individuals with specific links to Taliban group have been assassinated in Pakistan.

This comes as the Afghan officials are saying that the Taliban group leadership as well as the notorious Haqqani terrorist network leaderships are based in Peshawar and Quetta cities of Pakistan.

The Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for remaining reckless to act against the leadership councils of the Afghan militants in its soil which they use to plan and coordinate deadly attacks in Afghanistan.(KP)

(16) Takhar Bomb ...

evacuated to hospital, but no information about their condition was immediately available, the official said.

Earlier, the Takhar police chief's convoy was also hit by a roadside on the Durqad-Khwaja Bahawuddin highway.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

A couple of days back, security forces reopened the highway for traffic after six days of blockage. Police spokesman Col. Abdul Khalil Aser said militants had blocked the road and planted landmine on it.(Pajhwok)

(17) Roadside ...

police confirmed the incident but did not comment about casualties of the blast.(Tolonews)

(18) Rebels Kill ...

the boy went missing one week earlier from Tokhak locality of Doyam Kohistan district and his body was discovered Saturday in Tagab district.

The boy was killed by Taliban accusing him of spying, a written message left with his body said.

The corpse of the high school student was transferred to the nearby clinic from where some religious scholars handed over him to his family. Taliban have not yet commented over the killing of young boy.(Pajhwok)

(19) US, Ukraine ...

with a regular military exercise. Poroshenko's claim came after Russian President Vladimir Putin lashed out last week at Kiev over an incident on the frontier between Crimea, which Moscow annexed in March 2014, and Ukraine, accusing it of "practicing terror".

Two Russian officers were killed in the incident, in which Ukraine denied any involvement.

Putin on Friday visited Crimea to boost security measures there. It was his fifth visit to the Black Sea peninsula since annexing it from Ukraine.

Separately, Biden and Poroshenko discussed conditions set by the International Monetary Fund for disbursing the next tranche of much-needed financial assistance, the White House said.

They also "agreed on the importance of recent Ukrainian efforts to continue critical anti-corruption reforms", the statement said.(AFP)

(20) DPRK Says ...

instead handed him over to South Korea, which is keen on North-South confrontation.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said Wednesday that the DPRK's deputy ambassador to Britain has defected to South Korea with his family. If it is true, Thae would become the highest-ranking DPRK diplomat who has fled to Seoul. (Xinhua)

(21) Turkey to...

the influx of Syrians into Turkey, among others.

Turkey and Russia have moved toward ending the Syrian war after they started in late June to repair bilateral relations battered over Ankara's downing of a Russian warplane in November last year. (Xinhua)

(22) UNHCR Refugee ...

volunteers who devote their spare time to military training so they can be prepared to defend their country if necessary.

"It is the will of Latvia's people to defend their country that will keep us from ending up in the situation where people have to flee from their country," said Garisons.

Zoran Stevanovic, a senior spokesman for the UNHCR's Regional Representation for Northern Europe, told LETA news agency that the UNHCR has notified the Latvian Defense Ministry expressing its concerns about the campaign on Twitter but declined to comment on the tweet as it was not an official statement.

Stevanovic explained that the public awareness campaign was intended to show that the refugees fleeing war need protection.

"They are people just like us. They are fleeing conflict, they run to save their lives," the UNHCR representative said.(Xinhua)

(23) Obama to...

so the announcement of his visit to Louisiana does not mean he will be cutting his trip short like some have demanded.

"The President today directed his team to coordinate with Louisiana officials to determine an appropriate time for him to visit," press secretary Josh Earnest said in a statement. "The President is mindful of the impact that his travel has on first responders and wants to ensure that his presence does not interfere with ongoing recovery efforts."

Earnest said the president is "eager to get a first-hand look at the impact of the devastating floods, hear from more officials about the response, including how the federal government can assist and tell the people of Louisiana that the American people will be with them as they rebuild their community and come back stronger than ever."(Agencies)

(24) Aussie PM ...

disappointed some people. Maybe they think you shouldn't give money to people who are sitting on the street." The city's Lord Mayor has previously voiced his hard-line over Melbourne's - and indeed Australia's - homelessness. In an opinion piece published earlier in the year, he said giving money to beggars only encourages further begging and it "entrenches" homelessness within the city.

"(We) are a generous lot, but please don't give money to beggars - give it to the service providers like The Salvation Army and City Mission," Doyle said.(Xinhua)

(25) Suu Kyi...

government and eight ethnic armed groups was finally signed last year.

The Myanmar government formed an 11-member National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) on July 11 this year, led by Aung San Suu Kyi. Myanmar will hold a meeting called "the 21th century Panglong meeting," which aims to bring more ethnic armed groups to sign the ceasefire agreement and to participate in the peace process.(Xinhua)

(26) Philippine ...

announced later.

"As to the date, the schedule and how long the ceasefire will be (are) still under discussion" between Duterte and Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, he said.

Andanar said Duterte "has already walked an extra mile for peace."

"He is glad that the (communist rebels) showed a similar gesture of goodwill as a sign of sincerity to the peace process days prior to our talks in Oslo, Norway," Andanar added, referring to the formal peace talks between the government and the rebels that will start next week. (Xinhua)

(27) Iran Stands...

city in the summer of 2014.

Iran has been supporting Iraq in its fight against Daesh Takfiri terrorists. On August 10, Abadi hailed the presence of Iranian military advisors in the country's battle against Daesh terrorists and said the Iranian advisors are present in Iraq at Baghdad's request. (PressTV)

(28) China, India ...

Development Bank (AIIB), India has been drawing investment from China to tap its largely undeveloped human and natural resources, with substantial results over the past few years.

Success stories include Tebian Electric Apparatus (TBEA), which set up its first overseas production and research base in India two years ago.(Xinhua)

(29) Hammer...

competition after qualification, but had to settle for bronze. He said: "I was so disappointed with my competition because in the beginning I was really, really nervous. But I am the bronze medallist and that's all I can say. I thought I had a bigger throw in me but it wasn't to be."(Agencies)