

**(1) US Plan is...**

not align itself with any terrorist organizations or countries that do. That's what winning looks like," he said.

He said the new plan was a dramatic shift in terms of the military strategy and that it will be based completely on the conditions on the ground.

Tillerson said: "We're shifting from a time-based military strategy that had very clear troop ceiling levels to now, as he (Trump) indicated, a conditions-based strategy, which means it will be dictated by conditions on the ground informed by battlefield commanders."

Tillerson went on to say that Trump had also delegated significant authority to US Secretary of Defense James Mattis to set troop levels but has also delegated more authority to military commanders in the field in the hope of turning the tide against the Taliban.

"I think we all recognize that for the past couple of years the Taliban has been advancing and Afghan forces have been unable to push them back. So there will be a definite change in military tactics on the ground," he said.

Tillerson pointed out that this is all directed at sending a message to the Taliban that the US is "not going anywhere; we're going to be here, we're going to continue to fight for the Afghan government, support the Afghan Security Forces."

He said the Taliban needs to engage in a reconciliation process with the Afghan government.

According to him Trump was clear in his speech that he's not setting any arbitrary timelines, he's not committing to any deadlines but that the US's "patience is not unlimited, our time is not unlimited. We are going to monitor the conditions on the ground, and our decisions will be formed around the progress on the ground," he said.

Asked by Fox News how the Trump administration defines victory in Afghanistan, Tillerson said the war against Daesh was clear. "The president's been clear that we will defeat ISIS (Daesh). We will eliminate ISIS' capability to organize, to raise financing, to plan, recruit new recruits to their fight to carry out terrorism acts throughout the world. That fight is progressing quite well. We are well on our way to defeating ISIS and we have now taken their caliphate from them in Iraq."

"All terrorist organizations have somewhat different objectives. So whether it's ISIS, al-Qaeda, the Taliban or others, our objective is to deny any terrorist organization any territory with which they can organize, raise financing, recruit new fighters, develop techniques for carrying out terrorist acts and then deploying those."

"We know that if we deny them the space to do that, we protect the homeland; we also protect Americans and our allies as well. So in the case of Afghanistan, Afghanistan has a history of being a refuge for some of the most devastating attacks carried out. As we all know, the attack of 9/11 was organized and carried out from Afghanistan. So on Afghanistan, we have to secure Afghanistan in a way that that can never occur again because there is no territory available to organizations to do so," he said.

According to him, Trump has called for the development of "policies and tactics both diplomatically and militarily to attack terrorism in its many forms wherever it exists in the world and wherever it might present a threat to the homeland or to Americans anywhere." (Tolnews)

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**(2) \$727 Million...**

fleet provides funding to procure 53 UH-60s, with refurbishment and modification of the first 18; 30 additional armed MD-530F helicopters; 6 additional A-29 attack aircraft; and five AC-208s."

He also added that the requested FY2017 Afghan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) budget, including the 23 additional funds for the first year of this proposed aviation initiative, went to Congress on 10 Nov 2016. (KP)

**(3) Pakistan ...**

Lisa Curtis, will also be rescheduled, according to a report.

Last week, US President Donald Trump announced his new war strategy for Afghanistan and south Asia and criticized Pakistan for allowing terrorists to maintain safe havens inside its territory.

The strategy also suggested that action could be taken against Pakistan if it did not stop harboring terrorists. (Tolnews)

**(4) Congo Virus Kills 15, ...**

director, said citizens should be careful while slaughtering animals to avoid contracting the Congo virus.

He said a butcher should use special glasses, coat, gloves, mask and shoes while slaughtering the animal.

People mainly contract the CCHF virus from infected ticks or contact with infected animal blood and tissue.

There are no vaccines available to immunize animals but precautionary measures include disinfection of livestock pens, submerging livestock in solutions for decontamination, and meat packaging safeguards.

The virus has had a presence in neighbouring Iran where the virus killed three people in 2015.

According to the World Health Organization, CCHF's mortality rate is about 30

percent and is endemic to Africa, the Balkans and Ukraine, the Middle East and Central Asia.

CCHF was first detected in the Crimea in 1944 and then in the Congo in 1969. In 2011, it was detected for the first time in ticks in Spain. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Voluntary Return ...**

Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees and Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation are overseeing the documentation process that got under way on August 16.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR-sponsored voluntary repatriation process is moving at a snail's pace. Some 48,000 Afghan refugees have returned from Pakistan to their homeland since April 3.

Last year, over 400,000 refugees went back to their country under the voluntary programme. But the process slowed down this year, as UNHCR has cut the return package from \$400 to \$200. (Pajhwok)

**(6) New US ...**

Last week Trump announced his new war strategy in Afghanistan and said the US could no longer stay silent about Pakistan's involvement in providing safe havens to terrorists.

But Trump's decision to intensify US involvement in Afghanistan was met with frustration in Pakistan. However, Afghan officials widely welcomed the new war plan and see it as a step in the right direction.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told Fox News on Sunday night that the new strategy was intended to pressurize the Taliban into negotiating with the Afghan government by "sending a message to the Taliban that we are not going anywhere."

"I think the president's been clear that this is a dramatic shift in terms of the military strategy," Tillerson said.

According to Tillerson the US move would be "dictated by conditions on the ground, informed by battlefield commanders."

"The president was clear that he's not setting any arbitrary timelines," Tillerson said.

But Pakistani military officials have said that the new war strategy is not something new.

These officials claimed that Pakistan is not providing safe havens to terrorists and implied that Trump needs to provide evidence to this effect. (Tolnews)

**(7) Former US Envoy ...**

been shifting in favor of the Taliban in recent weeks and months."

"They have been gaining ground," he said.

"So why should they negotiate for peace if they think they're going to win the war?" However, Khalilzad pointed out an important change in Trump's new strategy is its "sharp focus" on Pakistan.

"This has been in my judgment the single most important factor, the Pakistan problem, for prolonging the war," Khalilzad said.

"We have the leverage of cutting off assistance," he said. "We have the leverage of putting ... individuals who support groups such as the Taliban on a blacklist." But Lute disagreed. "I'm actually skeptical that we have sufficient leverage against Pakistan to change their strategic calculus," he said.

ABC reported however that both Lute and Khalilzad agreed more details are needed to fully assess Trump's Afghanistan strategy.

"We heard a lot about what it is we want to accomplish," Lute said. "We heard very little on how." (Tolnews)

**(8) Experts...**

the people had no ability of migration to other countries anymore. "It may become a reality if verbal clashes among certain groups are not prevented."

Abdul Shakor Salangi, another political affairs expert, said the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) chief had unexpectedly adopted an aggressive position on some political matters and his opponents had reacted. He said recent verbal war between Balkh Governor Atta Mohammad Noor and HIA leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar was aimed at mustering people support. He warned the verbal clashes between political leaders could lead to a hot war.

Recent political statements exchanged between Hekmatyar and Atta Mohammad Noor have become a hot topic on social media. Political expert Shahla Farid said an unfair political rivalry between political leaders was against the national interest. (Pajhwok)

**(9) AGO Orders...**

as soon as possible," said AGO spokesman Jamshid Rasuli.

The order comes a day after a number of armed men allegedly linked to General Din Muhammad Jurat, a former interior ministry official, assaulted a taxi driver, in public. Eyewitnesses said that Jurat's armed men assaulted the taxi driver and his son and then left the scene.

"The law clearly states this, if the defendant's side is harmed and (they) want justice, the case must be investigated according to the law," said acting minister of interior Wais Ahmad Barnak.

Meanwhile, legal experts have said that the police's failure to arrest the suspects at the scene was not acceptable and that

a person who assaults another is committing a crime.

"Individuals who beat people should be tackled according to the law. Based on the laws of Afghanistan, no individual must be beaten, if someone is beaten, then the Attorney General of Afghanistan is responsible to summon the suspect," said legal expert Ainuddin Bahaduri.

Angered by the police's inaction, a number of lawmakers in parliament said the police implement rule of law only on ordinary people, but they fail to take action against powerful people.

"The government should take on these lawbreakers; government claims that it is implementing the law, but it implements the law only on taxi drivers, on women or street sellers and vendors," said MP Naseema Niazi.

Eyewitnesses said the armed men had been in two vehicles. One was a black vehicle with tinted windows and no number plates and the other was a white car.

They also said the vehicles belonged to Jurat and the armed men were his bodyguards and that Jurat's son was involved. (Tolnews)

**(10) Pilgrims' Medical ...**

the Ministry of Health organized a tour for 40 medical missions from various Islamic countries in the King Abdullah Medical City in Makkah and a number of hospitals of the holy places.

The delegation was briefed on the city's medical departments, including the heart center, the oncology center, the intensive care departments, the emergency units and the hypnosis suites, and the hospital's preparations for the holy places. (Pajhwok)

**(11) A Picture and ...**

on Friday when at least two attackers in police uniforms stormed in, one exploding a suicide-bomb vest and the other firing indiscriminately at the hundreds of worshippers inside.

A picture by Reuters photographer Omar Sobhani showed Ali standing alone in the courtyard of the mosque as policemen taking cover behind a doorway called and waved to him. He survived the attack but his grandfather was among at least 20 killed.

Sayed Bashir, Ali's father, was nearby but not in the mosque for the initial blast and ran to check on his family.

"Right after the explosion I thought everything was finished," he said. "I called my father's mobile phone number and my son answered and said: 'They killed grandpa'. He wanted me to bring the car and get him."

"We were running everywhere in search of my son but the police were stopping us and didn't let us get close," Bashir said. Bashir called the number again and was speaking to Ali when another explosion went off.

"I lost hope. I said to myself that everything was finished. I tried the number again but it was switched off," Bashir said.

In fact, Ali had run around behind the mosque, disregarding the policeman frantically signalling to him in the courtyard. He was rescued soon afterwards but the effects of the attack may take much longer to heal.

Bashir, a building worker who lives in a district with many Shi'ite families, said Ali was still traumatized and having difficulty coming to terms with what happened.

"After the incident, my son has some problems. He's scared a lot at night," he said.

The attack, the latest in a series targeting Shi'ite mosques, was claimed by Islamic State Khorasan, the local branch of the group which takes the name of an old region that included what is now Afghanistan.

According to the United Nations, at least 62 civilians have been killed and 119 injured in six separate attacks on Shi'ite mosques this year. (Reuters)

**(12) Kam Air Gets ...**

Europe and will start flights as soon as the European Union lifts its ban on local airlines. Following a rigorous nine-month assessment process, the ACAA renewed Kam Air's license and approved its application to fly to Europe.

According to Kam Air officials, Afghanistan now just needs the European Union's civil aviation authority to remove Afghanistan airlines from its blacklist.

Kam Air officials said as soon as this has been done, they will start flights to Europe. The ACAA said they were now working on getting Afghanistan removed from the EU's flight blacklist.

"Our success in the assessment process has enabled us to have the right to fly to Europe and in the near future we will start the flights," Kam Air deputy head, Farid Paikar said.

Kam Air bought an Airbus A340 last month which can carry over 300 passengers and has a flight range of up to 16,000kms. Kam Air officials said this will enable it to fly to Europe.

The Afghan aviation sector was blacklisted by the EU six years ago in light of repeated instances of mismanagement and irregularities - which led to Afghan airlines being banned from flying to 27 European countries.

The Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) meanwhile urged government to assist in enabling Afghan air-

lines to fly to Europe.

"Afghan flights to Europe will pave the way for more investment in Afghanistan and it will benefit our trade sector," ACCI spokesman Seyam Pesarlay said. (Tolnews)

**(13) Peshawar University...**

the plan, which was discussed with a four-member delegation of the UN agency to the department.

Oscar Mundia, head of the UNHCR sub-office in Peshawar, led the delegation that discussed prospects for establishing the centre for refugee and migration studies at the university.

Prof Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, chairman of the department, Prof Taj Moharam, dean of the social sciences faculty, and other senior teachers attended the meeting, the statement added.

Given the large refugee presence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and new dynamics of the impact on local population, the centre would not only be helpful for the UNHCR in research-oriented decisions.

The future of Afghan refugee students studying in the University of Peshawar also came up for discussion at the meeting. Focal persons were appointed to deliberate on the proposal and work out modalities. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Pakistan, Afghanista...**

Yaftali agreed to the proposal. However, Afghan officials have not yet commented on the proposal.

Bajwa reportedly claimed that Pakistan had already cleared all its areas indiscriminately and has started unilateral border security measures including fencing.

Besides border security management, other key factors discussed was that of returning Afghan refugees to their homeland.

He also reassured the Afghan side that Pakistan was open to any suggestion that facilitated peace in Afghanistan, reported Dawn News.

The meeting was attended by senior military leadership of member countries Gen Li Zuocheng from China, General Sobirzoda Imomali Abdurrahim from Tajikistan and General Sharif Yaftali from Afghanistan and General Qamar Javed Bajwa from Pakistan.

This comes after US President Donald Trump unveiled his new war strategy for Afghanistan last week.

In the wake of this, Gen. John Nicholson, the commander of US Forces and NATO in Afghanistan, told TOLONews on Saturday that the US knows the Afghan Taliban leadership is in the Quetta and Peshawar areas.

He said the issue of outside sanctuaries has to be addressed but that it was "being addressed in private between the US government and the Pakistani government - but it does need to be addressed."

"Support for terrorists and insurgents has to be reduced, has to be stopped," said Nicholson.

On whether a diplomatic solution could be found, he said this was a possibility but that a significant military effort inside the country would be carried out and that together the US would work with the Afghan government to increase its military capabilities.

"I am primarily focused on activities inside Afghanistan," but other officials are looking into the issue of sanctuaries in Pakistan, he said.

According to him, the issue of sanctuaries was a serious one and one that needed to be addressed. (Tolnews)

**(15) 140 Militants...**

also able to detect 65 different criminal incidents.

He assured that security forces were fully prepared to protect the country and urged people to cooperate with security forces in maintaining security. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Restoration...**

women, have been assigned to work on the project.

"We started mapping the designing process shortly after the cleaning process of the roofs and walls was completed," said one engineer at the site Nastaran Bahar.

"25 percent of the project has been done by female engineers and they are busy with mapping, engineering and other related work," Najma, another engineer said.

Experts have expressed hope that they will complete the project within three years. Construction of the Darul Aman Palace initially began in the early 1920s as a part of the endeavors of King Amanullah Khan to modernize Afghanistan.

The palace is an imposing neoclassical building on a hilltop overlooking a flat, dusty valley in the western part of the Afghan capital. Designed by French and German architects, it was one of the first buildings in the country to get central heating and running water. (Tolnews)

**(17) APL Teams ...**

around the world □ watched the 2016 APL tournament while 7,000 spectators attended the finals last year.

This year, the opening ceremony will be broadcast live on TOLO TV, Lemar TV and simulcast on Arman FM and Arakozia FM. (Tolnews)

**(18) 22 Killed...**

according to Hotak. He added two border police were also killed in the clash and the

dead rebels included a notorious commander, Momin.

A resident of the district, Gul Agha, said one woman was killed and three children were wounded as a result of the clash between Taliban and security forces in Giyan.

The Taliban have said nothing about the incidents in Giyan and Mata Khan incidents, but the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the fighters killed several security forces in Urgun and Khoshmand districts.

In Helmand province, five Taliban fighters, including a notorious commander, Mullah Mahbob, lost their lives to a landmine blast in Majetak area of Garamsir district, police spokesman Lt. Abdul Salam Afghan said.

While a security official, who did not want to be named, said two policemen were killed when a roadside mine hit their vehicle in Nawa district. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Work on 2 ...**

section and an office for the doctors. Governor Abdul Jabbar Naem, during the launching ceremony, said the facility would provide health services to residents of the area and passengers traveling between Badpesh and Mehterlam.

Separately, reconstruction work on a building for the Department of Statistics began in Nuristan.

The project costing 7.9 million afis would be completed in six months. Governor Hafiz Abdul Qayyum said after the completion of work the employee would find best suitable place for work. (Pajhwok)

**(20) Frustrated with ...**

of the Afghan soil is under the control of the Taliban insurgents.

He was apparently responding to the criticisms of the US President Donald Trump who criticized Pakistan regarding the existence of the terrorist sanctuaries while announcing the new US strategy.

The US President Donald Trump on Tuesday unveiled the new US strategy outlining the approaches for Afghanistan and South Asia as he harshly criticized Pakistan for harboring the terrorist groups besides he vowed continued support to Afghanistan and war against terrorism.

President Trump said "For its part, Pakistan often gives safe haven to agents of chaos, violence, and terror. The threat is worse because Pakistan and India are two nuclear-armed states whose tense relations threaten to spiral into conflict. And that could happen."

He said the next pillar of the new strategy is to change the approach and how to deal with Pakistan, emphasizing that we can no longer be silent about Pakistan's safe havens for terrorist organizations, the Taliban, and other groups that pose a threat to the region and beyond, emphasizing that Pakistan has much to gain from partnering with our effort in Afghanistan. It has much to lose by continuing to harbor criminals and terrorists. (KP)

**(21) Mullah Omar's ...**

and at least fifteen leaders of the group have returned to Kandahar.

Without providing further information regarding the identities of the returnees, Gen. Raziq said some of the high ranking leaders of the group are also among those who have returned and some of them have previously served as governors and in other high posts when Taliban regime was in power.

In the meantime, Gen. Raziq said the Taliban leaders and family members of Mullah Omar were encouraged by the local officials in Kandahar to return and rejected any other party's involvement in the process.

The Taliban insurgents group has not commented regarding the report so far.

It is also yet not clear if the son of Mullah Omar is also among those who have returned as he was appointed the military commission of the group after the death of his father and appointment of Mullah Ahtar Mansoor. (KP)

**(22) Mohmand Asks ...**

fabricated the case and said it is a conspiracy against him by political opponents. Mohmand said on Monday that his case should not be politicized and that it was a legal issue.

"Don't politicize my case, I have problems with Atta Mohammad Noor, this is a legal case, Mr. President, I request and give you one more week," said Mohmand.

Noor said: "The guy who has been asked to plot against me is nothing to me; he is not a rival of mine, but you (the president) can be a rival to me," said Noor.

But Mohmand is intent on seeking justice and said if government fails to take action he will conduct a sit-in protest.

"I was kidnapped by Atta Mohammad Noor and he took me to his residence; I was beaten and my ear was cut off; my head was also wounded and this is not hidden from anyone," said Mohmand.

Noor has rejected all allegations and said if the investigative team proves that any of his relatives mistreated Mohmand, he will deal with them. Last week Mohmand also warned that he would lodge a complaint with the international courts against Noor if his case is not investigated by the country's judicial institutions.

The allegations stem from the alleged arrest and assault of Mohmand by Noor's men when the former landed at the Mazar-e-Sharif airport recently. (Tolnews)