

**(1) Unfair to...**

of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) warned that Kabul will use all its power in response to Pakistan if it did not stop rocket attacks on Afghanistan soil.

"We hope that Pakistan stops the attacks and that the relationship between the two countries will return to normal. If not, Afghanistan will not sit silent, but will use its internal, regional and international power in response to Pakistan's actions," Faramarz Tamana, Director of Strategic Studies at Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

President Ashraf Ghani said earlier that Afghanistan and Pakistan should unite against terrorism and not to differentiate among terrorists. "As long as we divide terrorists into good and bad terrorists, we will lose. If we do not differentiate among terrorists and mobilize our forces, we can eliminate terrorism," Ghani said.

In recent years Kabul-Islamabad relationships have repeatedly deteriorated over fighting terrorists. At times Western officials supported Kabul viewpoints in this regard.

Recently a number of American analysts said in a report that if Pakistan continues supporting terrorists, Washington's aid to Pakistan ought to be stopped and the international community should recognize Pakistan as a supporter of terrorists. (Tolnews)

**(2) Millions of...**

men sent out by their villages to migrate westwards."

"And they are heading here, they are heading for Germany or Britain.

"That could be the consequence if this entire country collapses."

In total 456 British forces personnel or MoD civilians were killed while serving in Afghanistan.

Troops lowered the flag at Camp Bastion in October 2015, ending combat operations in the country after 13 years, though some remain in training and support roles.

During the Munich event, Sir Michael was flanked by his French, Dutch, Canadian and Turkish counterparts, as well as retired US admiral Jim Stavridis, the former NATO supreme allied commander Europe.

As well as a risk of a migrant influx Sir Michael warned there was still a risk from "transnational terrorist groups", adding:

"That is why we went in in the first place - those transnational terrorist groups are still there and they still pose a threat."

He also said NATO should also act to protect its values, saying: "This is a democracy that we helped to establish.

"Seven million people voted in elections for a new future for Afghanistan, voted to choose a government, however fragile it is at the moment.

"That government has asked for our help and my view is we should stay with it until, as long as we can, until that job is done." (FTV)

**(3) Decision on...**

by international media outlets.

According to the Military Times, the secretary said: "We are putting our thoughts together now. It shouldn't take too long." He added the president "is open to my advice on it, but first of all I've got to formulate where I stand, so this is the normal collection of... information."

On Sunday, the secretary said he spoke for hours by video conference with top NATO/US commander General John Nicholson on the situation in Afghanistan. Nicholson has sought a few thousand more

troops.

Mattis added that his call with the commander and a meeting in Munich with President Ashraf Ghani in Germany were aimed to get a clear picture of the situation in Afghanistan.

Currently, 8,400 US troops are stationed in Afghanistan, training the Afghan security forces and fighting against the insurgents. But Nicholson wants the number to be increased by a few thousand.

Before deciding on the troop levels, President Trump would consult his defense secretary on reinforcements, according to his White House press secretary Sean Spicer. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Pakistan Welcomes ...**

shall continue this effort together," the army chief said. He directed for more effective border coordination and cooperation with Afghan Security Forces to prevent cross border movement against terrorists, including all types of illegal movement.

He also welcomed recent proposals from Afghan authorities to take forward the mutual coordination for result oriented efforts against terrorism. (Xinhua)

**(5) Afghan Villagers ...**

people dead and more than 350 wounded, police said on Monday.

Pakistan said militants operating out of eastern Afghanistan were behind the attack.

Amid a security crackdown, border crossings were closed and Afghan diplomats were summoned to Pakistan's military headquarters in Islamabad and given a list of 76 "most-wanted terrorists" that Pakistan said were in Afghanistan and demanded they be captured and handed over, the Pakistani army said.

Since then, Pakistan says it has killed "over 100 terrorists", including some in camps inside Afghan territory in shelling on Friday and over the weekend. On the weekend, the Afghan government summoned Pakistan's ambassador to protest against the shelling and to express condolences for the shrine attack.

NRC's country director in Afghanistan, Kate O'Rourke, said civilians have been caught in the cross-border firing.

"Whether indiscriminate or specifically targeted, such attacks forcibly displace civilians, violating international humanitarian law, and must stop," she said in a statement.

Afghan officials said a number of special forces had been deployed to the border to counter any Pakistani raids.

"If they continue their attacks we will respond in kind," said Attahullah Khogyani, a spokesman for Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province.

In Asadabad, the capital of Afghanistan's Kunar province, also on the border, hundreds of Afghans gathered to protest against Pakistan and to ask foreign governments to put pressure on it.

The uneasy neighbours have long traded accusations of harbouring anti-government militants. (Reuters)

**(6) "Where are ...**

two heads of government failed to fix the problems and that the bureaucracy culture continues to dominate.

Abdul Khalil, one of the hundreds of pensioners who served his country for 27 years, said he is now facing major problems when asking for his pension money. He has not been able to get his pension for the last two years.

"I served for 27 years and did not take a penny as a bribe, but now state employees take bribes in packets," said Abdul Khalil.

Thousands of pensioners and public servants visit Kabul

every year where they process their documents to get their pensions. However, they wait for weeks here to get the money.

"So far I have spent 18,000 Afs including car rents and bribery money to the employees here," said a resident of Logar province Noorullah.

"I was retired eleven months ago and so far the fate of my pension remains uncertain. Sometimes they send me to the Kabul bank and sometimes to Maiwand Bank, they ask me to go Jalalabad and then to Kabul, I spent a lot of money while travelling here and there," said a pensioner Abdul Jalil.

Although the government claims that it had brought about fundamental reforms in the population registration department, those consulting this department argue that nothing has been changed on the ground.

"Twenty days ago, I arrived here from Baghlan to process my ID card, but until now it is not known when these problems will end," said a resident of Baghlan Khudaidad. (Tolnews)

**(7) UN Envoy....**

reducing the tension was on a key agenda point.

Fatemi stressed the importance of a politically negotiated settlement as the most viable option for peace and stability in Afghanistan, for which Quadrilateral Coordination Group remained an effective forum.

Expressing appreciation for Pakistan's positive role for promoting durable peace and stability in Afghanistan, Yamamoto apprised Fatemi about various activities being undertaken by the UN for peace and development in Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

**(8) Insecurity Increases ...**

and their properties. "We ask those investors who have been threatened to share the information with us. We now have the capacity to identify those people who threaten investors," said Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman of the ministry.

The new concerns over security has been raised after the industries association had earlier said investment in production in Afghanistan has decreased by 20% percent this year. That the figure was however rejected by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. (Tolnews)

**(9) NDS Nabs...**

that we cannot do this, because we had not committed to such a job," said another of the arrested officers.

It is said that more than 80,000 munitions and bullets have been sold to the Taliban by these officers.

Badghis governor said that the criminals were operating under a network and were selling the ammunition to the Taliban in a highly secret way despite knowing that these weapons were used by the Taliban to kill the civilians and security forces.

Badghis officials have said that the involved officers have close ties with other officers who were accused of selling weapons to the Taliban in some other parts of the country, adding that there was a possibility that similar networks exist in other provinces within the security ranks. "Those who have been arrested are first lieutenants, their crime of selling the bullets is unforgivable," said Badghis governor Ishaqzai.

This comes at a time US army officials also earlier reported similar problems in the ranks of Afghans forces.

Previously the US announced that it has terminated the payroll for 30,000 ghost soldiers within the ranks of Afghan forces. (Tolnews)

**(10) Taliban Leader...**

11,418 civilian casualties between 1st January 2016 to 31st December, 2016.

According to the report, 61 percent of all civilian casualties were incurred through attacks by the anti-government elements which includes a total of 6,994 civilian casualties (2,131 deaths and 4,863 injured). (KP)

**(11) 10 of a Family ...**

driver, who had been threatened by insurgents repeatedly.

However, the man had left his job long ago. There has been no claim of responsibility for the attack so far. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Policeman Guns...**

number. However, a resident of the area, Mohammadullah, claimed seeing three police vehicles torched as of 6:00am. Rahimi said a delegation had been appointed, comprised of representatives from the slain man's family, to investigate the incident.

Details would be shared with the media, promised Rahimi, who assured whoever was found guilty would be punished in line with the law.

The victim's cousin, Hamid, said Haji Malyar was on his way along with a friend to a swimming pool in Kart-i-Chahar area when the police official shot him dead. He said the wounded man was Malyar's driver.

He claimed a guard of former Helmand police chief Abdul Rahman Sarjang's son had opened fire at the vehicle.

A brother of the slain individual, meanwhile, said the policeman was under the influence as two bottles of alcohol were recovered from his vehicle.

Presidential advisor on tribal affairs Mohammad Yunus Hotak confirmed the policemen, who opened fire, was drunk and two bottles of alcohol recovered were from his vehicle. He said the incident was under investigation. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Harsh Weather...**

two months of heavy snow and rain in 22 provinces of Afghanistan," Mohammadi said. More than 520 houses were destroyed and about 420 damaged over the same period, he added. (Reuters)

**(14) Addicted to ...**

he was injured in a Taliban clash three months ago and still he felt severe pain and he used drugs as painkiller.

For drugs, the ANA soldier comes to Ghazni city and uses drugs with other addicts under the bridge.

"I also can purchase drugs in Argun, but their prices are high there so I have to come to Ghazni city to find drugs at lower price," he said.

Desperate for treatment, the soldier said the society did not treat drug addicts as humans because the addicts were notorious for robberies.

With tears rolling down his cheeks, he said: "I wish I was dead but not addicted, I don't know what to do, I need to be treated."

Dozens of youth like the ANA soldier use drugs under the bridge. Local residents say they are tired of asking the government to take the addicts to treatment centers.

Noorullah, a resident of Ghazni city, said: "We are fed up with the drug addicts, they beg and sometimes steal people's belongings."

Provincial police chief Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel said police had recently seized a large amount of narcotics and arrested a number of drug traffickers in Ghazni.

He said drug business had been growing faster before his appointment as Ghazni police chief but it was significantly controlled under his leader-

ship.

He said drugs were not openly sold in Ghazni now and police used to act on information shared by drug addicts against drug peddlers.

Amarkhel said police seized and torched around 2,000 kilograms of drugs in the province this year.

Around 4,000 addicts have so far been cured. Dr. Mohammad Ismail, director of the drug addicts' treatment center in Ghazni, said most addicts returned to drugs after treatment, linking it to joblessness.

"Unfortunately we have limited resources and the center has only 50 beds, we will be able to treat more addicts if the treatment center is expanded," he said. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Prolonged Rain...**

assessed.

Natural Disasters Management Authority head in Farah Abdul Ghafoor Ayubi said they had received reports about areas reeling from the flooding.

He said the affected families were dire need of assistance and efforts in this regard were underway. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Most Americans...**

from that position after his inauguration in January by reaffirming the U.S. commitment to the NATO and agreeing to attend its summit in May.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence reaffirmed the "unwavering" commitment to the NATO on Saturday during a speech to the European security conference held in Munich, Germany. (Xinhua)

**(17) Trump's Defense...**

example of his policy differences with Trump. Trump has acknowledged that Mattis did not agree with him about the usefulness of torture as an interrogation tactic but, in a sign of Mattis' influence, said he would defer the matter to his defense secretary. (Reuters)

**(18) France's Le Pen ...**

in the second round.

With nine weeks to go to the first round, it was still not clear whether Macron, a centrist, or Fillon, a former conservative prime minister, would go through to the knockout against Le Pen. (Reuters)

**(19) ASEAN Ministers...**

community building and integration efforts as well as exchange views and ideas on ASEAN's relations with its external partners and also exchange views on regional and international issues of common interests and concern," Philippine Foreign Assistant Secretary Charles Jose told a news conference.

Specifically, he said that the ASEAN foreign ministers will discuss "the many changes that are happening in the world," including political, economic, social and environment.

"They have to plan on what step that ASEAN has to take in order to forge ahead in ASEAN's community building efforts. And what do we have to take stock of? There are many challenges that we are facing right now, including transnational crime like terrorism, violent extremism, human trafficking, and even illegal drugs," Jose said. (Xinhua)

**(20) Merkel to Visit...**

statement. The oil-rich North African nation is working on diversifying its economy, as part of the government plan to reduce its dependence on hydrocarbons revenues.

Algeria is keen to attract more German companies to launch new industrial projects in the fields of renewable energies, car assembling, as well as chemistry and pharmaceutical industry.

Over 200 German companies are already established in Al-

geria, while trade exchange between the two nations hit 3.07 billion U.S. dollars in 2016, according to official figures. (Xinhua)

**(21) US Vice ...**

"share the same heritage, the same values, above all the same purpose to promote peace, prosperity, freedom, and rule of law."

Earlier on Monday Pence met with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who in her tweet hailed the "excellent meeting" as "good basis for our cooperation".

Pence will meet with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg later on Monday.

Pence is on his diplomatic foray to Brussels as U.S. vice president, after attending the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

Pence said Saturday at the conference that his country would "strongly support NATO" as European members of the military alliance were worried about security uncertainties arising from possible change in U.S. policy.

While seeking to reassure European leaders, Pence also urged NATO members to shoulder their fair share.

"NATO requires your commitment as much as ours," he said. (Xinhua)

**(22) Pakistan Says ...**

have found refuge in Pakistan as well as the locations of 32 insurgent centers it wants Pakistan to destroy, an Afghan Foreign Ministry statement said. (AP)

**(23) Turkmenistan...**

state. At the ceremony of inauguration which took place on February 17, following national traditions, the President of Turkmenistan took an oath of allegiance to the fatherland and people and paid a tribute of respect to the national flag," the statement said.

The national flag of Turkmenistan features a white crescent (symbol of Islam) and five stars; those stars represent the five regions of the country. Placed upon a green field is a symbolic representation of the country's famous carpet industry. (AKI)

## UN Agencies Warn Severe Food Shortages Affecting 2 Mln Refugees in Africa

GENEVA - The Executive Director of the World Food Program (WFP) Ertharin Cousin and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi warned Monday that critical shortages in food assistance are affecting some 2 million refugees in 10 countries across Africa.

The two agencies said the shortages could worsen in coming months without new resources to meet food needs.

The number of refugees in Africa nearly doubled from 2.6 million in 2011 to nearly 5 million in 2016, according to the UN agencies, who said donor funding for refugee assistance did not keep pace with the rapidly rising needs despite increased donation during the period.

As a result, the humanitarian response is significantly underfunded, which has forced cuts in food assistance to some refugee groups, said the agencies.

The two agency heads warned dire consequences of the shortages on health and protection of the vulnerable people, calling for urgent support.

"Refugees are extraordinarily resilient, but cuts in food assistance, sometimes as high as 50 percent, are having a devastating impact on the health and nutrition of thousands of families," said UNHCR's Grandi in a statement.

"The right to food is a basic human right. We are working with WFP to ensure that no refugee goes to sleep hungry, but support has to come quickly," Grandi added. (Xinhua)