

(1) Nearly 2m ...

Most of the land has been encroached upon in capital Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Kapisa, Baghlan, Takhar, Nimroz, Khost, Logar and Ghazni provinces. The least land has been grabbed in Nuristan, Daikundi, Paktika, Panjsher and Ghor provinces where proper ground for townships do not exist.

Murtazawi said top land grabbers included tribal elders, powerful local individuals, jihadi commanders, some political parties leaders, village leaders, influential figures, investors, mayors, Afghan National Army (ANA) officers, lawmakers, provincial council members, governors and former ministers. These individuals have changed the usurped land into townships, residential areas, buildings, market places, fuel stations, warehouses, gardens and farming areas, he added.

The survey shows the land which has been usurped belongs to even mosques, education sector, kindergartens, cinemas and graveyards. Weak law enforcement, no follow up of cases of land grabbers, immunity enjoyed by powerful individuals and land grabbers, increase in value of land, administrative corruption and corrupt judicial organs have been cited as main reasons behind the massive land grabbing under former president Hamid Karzai.

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(2) Senate Chief ...

group. Mansour's appointment as successor to Omar led to the emergence of a rival faction under Mullah Mansour Dadullah and the two groups have fought several battles on various fronts across the country.

"This is an opportunity for the government of Afghanistan. However, the split among Taliban makes the peace process complicated. But it depends on the vigilance of government of Afghanistan on how to use the opportunity in the interest of the country," Muslimyar said.

In a recent move, a new Taliban faction comprising about 600 fighters announced its existence in Paktika province under the leadership of Mullah Honar. There are also reports that another faction is expected to announce its emergence in Faryab province.

The emergence of these new factions among the Taliban will also impact the war as Pakistan pursues new games to undermine the Afghan peace process, say critics.

"The split within the Taliban creates more dissimilarities, this helps the government of Afghanistan to get the benefit of the opportunity more and more. But simultaneously with the peace efforts, the government of Afghanistan should also plan more inclusive programs for continuing the war," civil society activist Ahmad Zaki said. But as hopes grow for a renewed round of peace talks, it's not yet known which faction, or how many, will join the peace talks process. (Tolonews)

(3) Russia Stops ...

interests, he said. Yuri V. Krupnov, an advisor to the head of Russia's antidrug agency Viktor P. Ivanov, told the daily the war on drugs had been an area of common interest for the Russians and the Americans.

But cooperation in the counter-narcotics campaign that stopped when the US Treasury Department imposed sanctions in 2014 on Ivanov, a close associate of President Vladimir Putin. Krupnov said the US, while pursuing its interests, was uninterested in the views of Russia or anybody else. "The Obama ad-

ministration buried this promising line of cooperation. All room for cooperation is exhausted."

An unnamed Afghan official told the newspaper Russia saw the Afghans as part of the larger game with the United States. Kabul had struggled to convince the Putin administration on certain issues, he said. (Pajhwok)

(4) Gilani Appointed ...

However, he had no information regarding other nominations for HPC, which was set up by the Karzai administration. Some cabinet members, Kabul mayor and a new attorney-general (AG) are also expected to be named this week. Former Independent Election Commission (IEC) head Fazal Ahmad Manavi may be appointed as new AG. (Pajhwok)

(5) Kunduz Governor...

shopkeeper told the governor: "We want security, nothing else."

Khair Mohammad, another shopkeeper, said: "We are tired of displacement. Please, find a solution to the conflict so that durable peace could be ensured."

Also on Sunday, the MoI announced the arrest of Syed Reza, Taliban's shadow governor for Chardara, during a raid by security personnel.

The Taliban leader was involved in insurgent activities in the district and other areas of the province, a statement from the ministry said. (Pajhwok)

(6) DABS Hopes...

the presence of insurgents in various areas of Baghlan where transmission lines passing by.

"Taliban fires from one kilometer distance, they are still making threats against BRESHNA employees," a member of Baghlan provincial council Zarif Zarif said.

In the meantime, the Afghan security forces are also stepping up efforts to push back the insurgents from Baghlan and secure the power supply.

"The operation in Baghlan will continue until all areas are secured from the opponents," head of Baghlan security department Abdul Rashid Bashir said. Amid the controversy, critics blame the previous government for not initiating a working strategy to establish a sustainable power supply program for Kabul over the past 15 years. (Tolonews)

(7) Zabul Women's ...

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Mohammad Asal, executive head for Ghormach district, confirmed Rakiti had declared allegiance to Mullah Rassoul.

But Maj. Reza Rezaee, spokesman for the 209th Shahin Military Corps, said Taliban's splinter factions in the area were locked in fighting, using heavy weapons. The clashes erupted on Saturday evening, causing casualties on both sides. (Pajhwok)

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(9) Afghan Photo ...

country due to deteriorating security situation, uncertain future, lack of employment and corruption, mainly heading towards the European countries by passing through dangerous routes.

According to NAI, over 250 reporters and media activists have left the country during the past two years, which includes 70

journalists from Balkh province only.

The organization warned that the growing number of media activists leaving the country will have a negative impact on media sector of the country, urging the government of national unity to take necessary steps in ensuring security of the journalists and media activists. (KP)

(10) 'Wall of...

trousers, coats and jackets and some were picked by poor people.

Nasima, a 12-year-old girl who with his mother visited the wall of kindness, chose a jacket and a fabric doll from the wall. She told Pajhwok Afghan News there were many people in Kabul who lacked clothes and if such efforts continued no one would be left without clothes.

The organizers urged civil society activists to erect similar walls in various parts of the city in order to promote the culture of charity and restore faith in humanity. A member of the group, Farzana Hussaini, said they planned to set up similar walls in various parts of the central capital. (Pajhwok)

(11) Protest Held ...

and they used to collect money from people by using force and threaten people with elimination if they refused to pay money.

Another participant of the rally, Mohammad Khalid, said the uprising members last week beat a student to near death, sparking a protest in the district centre of Andar by local residents. The forces also severely beat another person last night, he said. He said the latest incident of beating took place in Kajri area of the district involving an uprising commander Shaheen, actual resident of Giru district.

Governor Mohammad Aman Halim said they were trying to reduce such problems, saying many people from Andar district had visited him in support of the ALP and uprising members. He directed the security organs to take action against ALP personnel and uprising members involved in intimidation of local residents.

On Thursday, Ghazni police chief Aminullah Amarkhel said police would take action against all those creating problems for local residents. (Pajhwok)

(12) Macedonia ...

European states, such as Austria and Slovenia. Zagreb's move led to an accumulation of migrants within Serbia.

Europe has faced an enormous influx of migrants fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa. Many refugees use transit routes through the Balkans to reach more prosperous countries in Western Europe.

EU border agency Frontex recorded over 1.83 million illegal border crossings into the European Union in 2015. (Sputnik)

(13) 4 Tribal ...

of Paktia."

On the other hand, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the fighters had not kidnapped anyone in the restive district, bordering Nangarhar province.

"Yesterday, pro-government militiamen captured some people, killing one of them and handing over the rest of captives to the authorities in Kabul," he added. (Pajhwok)

(14) Torkham Border ...

said the rockets were fired from the Landikotal area of Khyber Agency, where a radar system of the Pakistani border forces is located.

Two of the rockets hit the centre and others landed in surrounding areas, Sahak said, recalling the Pakistanis had invited them to a meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

Pakistan wanted to build terminal near the Torkham gate, but Afghan forces prevent the project, he added.

Attullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the rocket strikes but said the incident caused no casualties.

Shina, a shopkeeper in Torkham, confirmed the incident and said

the situation in the area had been tense over the past few days. (Pajhwok)

(15) Huge Quantity...

making factory during the raid. Separately, National Directorate of Security (NDS) operatives seized two trucks full of weapons and explosives in Paktika province.

A statement from the spy network said the trucks contained 1,200 kilograms of explosives placed in 250 bags under firewood.

The explosives belonged to the Haqqani network and were being delivered to fighters inside Afghanistan, the intelligence agency added. (Pajhwok)

(16) 3 ANA Soldiers ...

still underway in the area, the police official added.

Shamsuddin, a resident of locality, confirmed the fighting was still underway between the Taliban and security forces in Pul-i-Mominneighbourhood.

Four months back, the Taliban captured KhwajaGhar district, but security forces took wrested it back after three days. (Pajhwok)

(17) Afghan Forces ...

district, plunging the capital city of Kabul to darkness over the past three weeks.

Although the security forces have been fighting Taliban in Dand-e-Shahabudin and Dand-e-Ghori districts of Baghlan over the past nearly one month, the government has yet to restore power to Kabul.

In a related development, Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) or the country's spy agency on Sunday reported arresting six Haqqani militants, the military wing of Taliban outfit operating in Kabul and the eastern region of the country.

"Six militants of Haqqani network including two local leaders of the armed outfit have been captured in the eastern Khost province," said a statement of NDS released on Sunday.

Taliban outfit has yet to comment on military developments in the country on Sunday.

Taliban militants, according to local observers have intensified activities ahead of the proposed peace talks with the government expected to be held in the coming months. (Xinhua)

(18) Damascus ...

trenched in Homs's countryside, Syria's third largest city.

Last month, over 30 people were killed in similar bombings in al-Zahra'.

The ministry urged in its letters Sunday the UN Security Council to "immediately condemn the terrorist crimes through the adoption of strict deterrent measures against countries supporting terrorism."

Syria has long accused both Saudi Arabia and Turkey of supporting the ultra-radical groups fighting to topple President Bashar al-Assad. (Xinhua)

(19) Syrian Ceasefire ...

are controlled by the Islamic State (IS) and the Nusra Front respectively.

Observers believe the change in rhetoric was due to a senior Russian diplomat's warning that Assad may risk losing its long-time ally's support if he does not align his targets with that of Russia's.

Vitaly Churkin, Russia's envoy to the United Nations (U.N.), said Friday Assad faced serious consequences if he did not comply with Moscow over the peace process.

"Russia has invested very seriously in this crisis, politically, diplomatically and now also militarily," Churkin said, adding that the Kremlin would like to see Assad to respond accordingly. (Xinhua)

(20) Top DPRK...

Chief of the KPA General Staff Ri Myong Su. Ri Myong Su, former Minister of People's Security, has replaced Ri Yong Gil to become the new chief of the General Staff of the KPA. (Xinhua)

(21) Muslim Nations...

impacted us all." Notably ab-

sent from the coalition is the kingdom's regional rival Iran, as well as Syria and Iraq, which are battling to win back swaths of territory controlled by the Islamic State group.

Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia and Shiite-majority Iran are fiercely divided on a host of issues and support opposite sides of the wars in Yemen and Syria. Relations worsened after the execution of a popular Shiite cleric in Saudi Arabia last month, which triggered protests in Iran and the ransacking of the Saudi Embassy and another diplomatic mission there. The two countries then severed diplomatic and trade ties. (AP)

(22) Clashes in...

will carry out a massacre in the city."

Sayir estimated the number of detainees at around 60, while the lieutenant colonel said the figure was over 110 and a tribal leader said more than 100. (AFP)

(23) Turkey Says ...

remarks come after the United States, France and Russia all urged Turkey to scale back or halt its military action in Syria.

US President Barack Obama, in a phone call with Erdogan on Friday, urged the Ankara government and the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia to "show reciprocal restraint" in northern Syria. (AFP)

(24) Russia's Defense ...

air defense missile systems to Iran was delayed due to payment issues.

"The deal has not been paid for properly, so it is premature to speak about a concrete delivery date," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

Russia and Iran signed an 800-million-U.S. dollar contract in 2007 to supply Iran with five S-300 systems. In September 2010, then President Dmitry Medvedev canceled the contract in line with a resolution of the UN Security Council, which banned such supplies to Iran. (Xinhua)

(25) Iranians Expect...

and his domestic allies, the country should anticipate a big stride for political and economic reforms. "We are still waiting for the benefits from the nuclear deal, which Rouhani pledged during his presidential campaign and put a stress on it after the deal was clinched in July last year," said Alireza Taban who owns a business in computer-related hardware in northern Tehran. (Xinhua)

(26) Battle Lines ...

would threaten Britain's economic and national security, saying those wanting to quit Europe offered 'risk at a time of uncertainty - a leap in the dark'.

Within minutes members of the main powerhouse in British politics, the Cabinet, split, with six of Cameron's top team saying they back leaving the EU.

Britain's cabinet operates on the principle of collective responsibility, with government ministers expected back the prime minister, or resign.

Cameron, though, is giving his ministers freedom to take support either side.

Already dubbed the 'gang of six' the cabinet members wanting to leave are Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, Commons Leader Chris Grayling, Culture Secretary John Whittingdale, Northern Ireland Secretary Theresa Villiers, Justice Secretary Michael Gove and the Minister of State for Employment Priti Patel. (Xinhua)

(27) Austria Seeks...

for Thursday, she said. From Friday, Austria began limiting the number of migrants it lets in daily at 3,200.

Though Austria's move has angered European Union leaders in Brussels, Mikl-Leitner is pledging her country will introduce even stricter controls.

The EU's migration chief has said the cap on asylum claims would break EU as well as international law.

The pace of migrant arrivals in Austria has slowed since 15,700 arrived from Hungary on a sin-

gle day at the height of the migration crisis in September, but it is expected to accelerate this spring when weather improves and more people fleeing war, violence and poverty in Syria and the Middle East head northwards. (Reuters)

(28) Hollande Could ...

at an 18-year high of 10.6 percent, on a convincingly downward trend by 2017.

If Hollande decides to run and a primary is held, it will be the first time a sitting French president has faced a primary challenger from his own camp.

Socialist Party head Jean-Christophe Cambadélis told Journal du Dimanche newspaper in an interview that December or January would be a good time to organize the primary, which many in the socialist camp have been calling for due to Hollande's growing unpopularity.

"If this primary, without preconditions and without prejudice, allows us to select the best candidate of the left, it's a good idea, and it must be organized," he said. (Reuters)

(29) Belgrade ...

in China and across former Yugoslavia, and we wished to attract Chinese tourists to Belgrade by having Zivojinovic in our 30-second promotion video which already became popular in Serbia," Popovic said in an interview at the fair considered to be the biggest in South East Europe. (Xinhua)

Over 50 IS Militants Killed During Syrian Army Advance in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - More than 50 Islamic State (IS) militants have been killed over the past 24 hours during intense battles against the Syrian government forces in the countryside of the northern province of Aleppo, a monitor group reported on Sunday. These militants were killed during heavy shelling, air strikes, and battles against the Syrian army since Saturday, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The UK-based watchdog group said the Syrian army is advancing in the eastern countryside of Aleppo, adding that large number of the IS militants are besieged by the Syrian troops in 16 towns located on the road between Aleppo and al-Raqqah, the de facto capital of the IS. A day earlier, the Syrian state TV said the Syrian army captured parts of the road connecting Aleppo with al-Raqqah, adding that the Syrian forces fully secured the road in the areas of al-Ma'amel, through Aleppo's Thermal Station, and the airbase of Kweris in the eastern countryside of Aleppo. The progress is the latest achievement of the Syrian forces backed by the Lebanese Hezbollah group in Aleppo, as reports said that the Syrian troops are closing in on al-Raqqah. Less than a week ago, the oppositional observatory said the Syrian army was preparing to advance toward al-Raqqah. The UK-based watchdog group said the Syrian army are a few kilometers away from the provincial borders of al-Raqqah, following the rapid progress it has recently achieved on the desert high way near the town of Athraya. (Xinhua)

Leader of Rioting Caste Group in N. India Calls to End Violence

NEW DELHI - A leader of the rioting Jat caste group Sunday called for an end to the week-long violent agitations in the northern Indian state Haryana, after meeting with Indian Home Minister Jatnath Singh here, said local media. Jat Sangharsh Samiti leader Jaipal Singh Sangwan said the demands of the rioters have been met by the government, according to Press Trust of India. At least 10 people have been killed and 150 injured as protests by the Jat community in the northern Indian state Haryana demanding Other Backward Classes status entered the eighth day on Sunday, said police. (Xinhua)