

(1) ANSF Fighting...

and eastern regions of the country to the Taliban. Reports however from the battle fields indicate that the Taliban has intensified its activities in several provinces across the country and fierce fighting is currently under way between the Taliban militants and Afghan security forces in Raghistan district of Badakhshan, Jalrez district of Maidan Wardak, Hesarak district of Nangarhar and Kamesh district of the eastern province of Nuristan bordering neighboring Pakistan. Early on Saturday, the Taliban launched a coordinated attack on Raghistan district of northern Badakhshan province. (Tolnews)

(2) McCain Blames...

for not consolidating the gains that we made," McCain said. "And this president (Barak Obama) has this idea for the last eight years that if we pull out of conflicts, those conflicts end." Obama did run on a platform of ending the military conflicts begun under President George W. Bush, and achieved his goal — at least temporarily — in Iraq. There are now US troops in that country assisting efforts to contain the Islamic State militant group. Obama announced last fall that he would keep thousands of US troops in Afghanistan until at least 2017. (Pajhwok)

(3) IMF, Afghanistan ...

staff-level agreement on an economic program to be supported by a three-year ECF arrangement which the authorities have requested."

In a statement, Duenwald said access under the arrangement was proposed to be set at 10 percent of Afghanistan's quota in the Fund (SDR 32.4 million, or about US\$45 million) in keeping with the current healthy international reserves position. "The arrangement is subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board, which is scheduled to consider the authorities' request on July 20, 2016." "Economic conditions remain difficult. Real GDP growth was only 0.8 percent in 2015, and, while a small uptick to two percent is projected for 2016, this remains far below the level that is needed to ensure increased employment and improved living standards," he said of Afghanistan economic growth. (Pajhwok)

(4) Aziz Oppose...

once would overstretch the armed forces and lead to more terrorist attacks.

"So we have to make sure that we move in a decisive way, but at a measured pace and according to our capacity, and ensuring that the blowback is manageable," he said. The Afghan officials are saying that the Taliban group and Haqqani network leadership councils are based in Quetta and Peshawar cities of Pakistan where they are openly convening meetings, planning and coordinating attacks in Afghanistan. The criticisms against Pakistani increased following the death of the Taliban supreme leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor in a drone strike in Balochistan province late in the month of May. (KP)

(5) Kabul Warns ...

on terrorism or classify them bad and good will pay the price of their job," presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri said. Meanwhile, Pakistan's National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz has said that moving too fast against the militants will leave negative consequences behind and there will be a blowback if hasty decisions are made against all militant groups.

"Obviously there is a blowback risk, because you see, there are not just one group. Within Pakistan also we are talking, what you call, intelligence-based operations against many networks around Karachi, around Peshawar, around Lahore, all these cities because people who escaped from FATA took shelter behind all these cities. And that operation, as ISPR press noted last month, they've made good progress so far. But there is still a long way to go. So, we have to make sure that we move in a decisive way, but at a measured pace and according to our capacity, and ensuring that the blowback is manageable. (Tolnews)

(6) Wolesi Jirga...

central Maidan Wardak province to capital Kabul, destroying two buses in Haidar Ali Khan area of Paghman district — 20 kilometres west of Kabul. The cadets were returning from a training centre in central Maidan Wardak and were heading to the capital on leave. The first bomber targeted the buses carrying trainee policemen and their instructors. A second bomber attacked 20 minutes later when police arrived at the scene on the Kabul-Kandahar highway to evacuate the dead and

wounded. The Taliban claimed 150 police had been killed and dozens more wounded. On Thursday evening, the Ministry of Interior put the toll at 30 dead and 58 wounded. But in a statement on Friday, the ministry revised the toll at 33 dead and 79 injured. Two of the wounded were civilians and the rest trainee police. (Pajhwok)

(7) NATO will...

NATO civil senior representative for Afghanistan Ismail Aramaz said, "NATO allies and partners will take three major decision at Warsaw with respect for Afghanistan, firstly we will sustain our none combat resolute support mission beyond 2016 through a flexible regional method, to continue to training advise and assistants to the Afghan security forces, secondly NATO will commit to continuing of National contributions to the financial sustained of Afghan National and Defense security. (Agencies)

(8) Khalifa bin ...

after day and above the expected and we had to serve outside the mosque because of overcrowding at the Iftar inside mosques. Mr. Murad Qul of Jowzjan province, says that this Iftar became a point for me because I live alone in the city for work and my family in the village and thankfully this year, Khalifa foundation provided Iftar meal better than what I have over the years in my home with my family and may Allah accept it. Says Mr. Khair Mohammad of Kunar province that providing Iftar for fasting is a good idea which embodies the meaning of solidarity and social solidarity has received overwhelming response, by the poor in the society. Beneficiaries, Sorgul resident of Gardez City and Mr. Abdullah resident of Khost city and Mr. Aslam Khan from Logar Province and Mr. Abdul Quddus from Faizabad city in Badakhshan province, all thanked Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for providing this valuable and brotherhood assistance to their poor brothers in Afghanistan. It is worth mentioning that the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation executed Iftar Project in 36 mosques in 18 provinces all over the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan starting from Nimroz province towards Khost province and Paktia province and Lugal and Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar and Badakhshan and Takhar and Kunduz and Baghlan and Sari-e-Pul and Samangan and Balkh and Jawzjan and Faryab and Kabul and Parwan, where the benefits of the project per day was (9545) and the total number of beneficiaries through the holy month reached 276805 fasting.

It all comes in Implementation of the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of United Arab Emirates (may God preserve him), and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and follow up of HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of presidential Affairs and chairman of Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan humanitarian Foundation. (PR)

(9) Ghani Appoints ...

the Taliban from the Afghan nation and the body of Afghanistan, I cannot separate Hizb-e-Islami from the body of Afghanistan, they have fought Jihad, rendered sacrifices and martyrs," Kochai said. Political commentators and residents have said that the appointment of Kochai demonstrates the president's ethnic affiliation.

"The ministry of foreign affairs has changed into a collection of family members of government officials and this hinders the way for Afghanistan to define an effective foreign policy," university lecturer Juma Khan Mohammadi said. "This is shameful, they can not do anything for the people," Kabul resident Nasrullah Safa said.

"His (Abdul Qayoum Kochai) ability and qualification possibly was clear for the president, he might be a trusted man for the president, therefore, the chief executive has not any problem with his appointment," CEO spokesman Jawed Faisal said. The presidency and ministry of foreign affairs has yet to comment on the appointment. However, the office of the Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah has announced that the appointment was agreed upon by both the president and the CEO. (Tolnews)

(10) 2 Gas Exchange...

sitting on the world's largest natural gas reserves and enjoying enough capacity for gas exports, Iran's foothold in the area of exports of gas is not favorable. However, Iran exchanges gas with neighboring countries.

Turkey is the biggest importer of Iran's gas. According to mutual agreement, Iran should yearly export 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Turkey. Oman, Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia are among the countries to which Iran exports gas or swap it. (IRNA)

(11) U.S. Special ...

tense over recent border skirmishes that had caused casualties on both sides last month. Both sides also had the opportunity to discuss the efforts by the Quadrilateral Coordination Group involving Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States to push for the Afghan peace process. Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry while talking to Ambassador Olson reiterated Pakistan's commitment to as an effective forum to facilitate Afghan-owned and Afghan-led reconciliation process.

"The Foreign Secretary underlined Pakistan's focus on effective border management on Afghanistan-Pakistan border with a view to enhancing security and counter-terrorism efforts," a Foreign Ministry statement said. (Xinhua)

(12) Taliban Chief ...

"The Taliban have a clear policy for their political and military areas. We believe that Afghanistan is occupied by foreign forces and we are waging a campaign against them."

He said the Taliban had a clear policy regarding the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and the establishment of an independent Islamic system and this policy had been explained to the world by their political office (in Doha). "We will continue our efforts to find solution to the Afghanistan issue," said Haibatullah, who asked the US to withdraw forces from Afghanistan and choose a sensible policy instead of using force. (Pajhwok)

(13) Democrats...

its Philadelphia convention, the platform is the guiding document of the party's nominee Hillary Clinton for the next US president in the November elections. The platform supported President Barack Obama's decision to maintain a limited troop presence in Afghanistan and ensure that it never again served as a haven for terrorists to plan and launch attacks on the US.

"In Afghanistan, we will work with the NATO-led coalition to bolster the democratically-elected government as it assumes a primary role in tackling terrorism, forges a more secure future for the country, and safeguards advances, like securing women's rights," the platform said. (Pajhwok)

(14) Scores Suffer...

scene. "One ANA soldier and one policeman were also killed and another nine policemen wounded during the clash," the public representative said. He said it was a huge attack involving approximately 800 insurgents, asking the central government to send military choppers to target the assailants. Wahidzada also said ANA reinforcements came under Taliban attack on their way to the town from provincial capital Khost city in Dwa Manda area of Musakhel district. A doctor on duty told Pajhwok Afghan News on the condition of anonymity that they had received three injured ANA soldiers. (Pajhwok)

(15) Registered...

about illegal refugees." He rejected as unworkable suggestions that the Afghans born here should be granted Pakistani citizenship. Citizenship is granted on a birth basis but such a law does not exist in Pakistan.

"Some countries give citizenship to the people born there, but the UAE, Saudi Arabia and a number of other countries don't practice this law, which does not exist in Pakistan either," Baloch maintained. (Pajhwok)

(16) Family of American...

we will see our daughter again in this life, pray we will be able to hold our grandsons soon," he said. In 2013, Taliban released two video tapes of the hostages in which they pleaded for their release.

"I would ask that my family and my government do every thing that they can to bring my husband, my child and I to safety and freedom," Coleman says in the video footage released by Taliban. "Greetings to Maulavi Akhundzada and his deputy Seraj Haqqani and Mohammad Yaqoub, I am James Coleman and this is my wife Linda," father of the hostage said while pleading Taliban leader for release of their daughter and her family. (Tolnews)

(17) Baghlan Religious...

scholars called on Afghans to be united and say no to terrorism. "The attack on soldiers was a big disaster. It was done under the name of Islam. It is against the Afghan people and Islam," said Sayed Mohammad Baqir Hashemi, a religious scholar in the province. (Tolnews)

(18) 2 Dead...

hundred residents in fight against Daesh. There was no immediate responsibility for the attack, which came at a time when heavy fighting is underway between security forces and Daesh fighters in Kot district. According to the governor's office, 225 Daesh militants have been killed and scores wounded during a week-long security operation in Kot. (Pajhwok)

(19) 9 Civilians ...

area, Haji Sardar, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they had been invaded in the name of operation against Taliban. He said four days ago, local police from Dawlatabad, Andokhi and Khwaja Sabzposh districts entered their village along with uprising members in the name of operation against militants. "During the operation, each house was searched in a disorganized manner, people were misbehaved, mistreated and applied cruel tactics," he claimed. He said during the operation two Taliban militants, who had been forcibly living the district, were arrested while some residents were killed, arrested and even their houses plundered. (Pajhwok)

(20) Thousands Gather...

London, had made a banner for the march which read: "I will always love EU." Another protester, Philippa Griffin, 40, said she was "outraged" by the result and what she called the "lies the referendum was based on". "My ideal outcome from this march is that MPs realise that leaving the EU is not what people truly want - it feels like our country has already changed." The Met Police said there would be officers at the event to provide "flexible and appropriate" policing. (Agencies)

(21) Russian Federation...

agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), on January 16. After the JCPOA went into effect, all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran by the European Union, the UN Security Council and the US were lifted. Iran, in return, has put some limitations on its nuclear activities. (Presstv)

(22) US Strikes...

of Investigative Journalism, a British non-profit, the Obama administration conducted its first drone strikes shortly after Obama began its presidency in 2009. Although there were reports of alleged "militants" killed, said the group, at least 14 civilians were also killed that day. (Xinhua)

(23) Over 600...

had hoped for a period of calm during holy Ramadan, a month of peace and compassion, but unfortunately the violence continued to take its toll on civilians," said Kubis. He noted that terrorists did not spare an occasion to strike at markets, mosques and areas where people gathered in order to exact maximum casualties among civilians "in total disregard of the values of Islam." (Xinhua)

(24) Pentagon Confirms...

efforts to clear key terrain south of Mosul of ISIL forces, Cook said. Bajari, a former member with al-Qaida who brought his military skills into IS, oversaw the June 2014 offensive to capture Mosul, and has led the Jaysh al-Dabiq battalion which is known for using vehicle-borne bombs, suicide bombers and mustard gas in its attacks, Cook said. (Xinhua)

(25) UN, Partners ...

Fund (UNICEF) is the only assistance that has been provided since the attack, but due to disruptions within the community and insecurity, water has not been delivered consistently enough to keep pace with needs," Dujarric said. (Xinhua)

(26) India Clears...

eight such aircraft induced by the Indian navy in 2013-2015 under a 2.1-billion-US dollar deal, said the report. The Navy is using the eight P-8Is, armed with deadly Harpoon Block-II missiles, MK-54 lightweight torpedoes, rockets and depth charges, to keep an "intelligent hawk-eye" over the entire Indian Ocean Region, said the report. (Xinhua)

(27) Security Council...

said. "As far as the date for a second straw poll is concerned, it is not decided at this moment." "The straw poll is done so that the candidates them-

selves and the countries who are recommending the candidates can make up their minds as to how to proceed from there," he said. "The same for the Security Council members. They need to consider the results of the straw poll and to think about the next step. Some countries will say that they would need some time to consider between the first poll and second poll and third poll. (Xinhua)

(28) Chinese Economy...

for China. Under the new circumstances, China will continue to maintain and grow its relations with the EU and the UK. We hope to see a united and stable EU and a stable and prosperous UK, he said. He further added that the theme of the forum, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution and its Transformation Impact", offers people a new perspective and is thus forward-looking and relevant. Let me share with you a few thoughts in this connection. First, to promote steady recovery of the world economy, we must actively carry out structural reform. To address the deep-seated problems in the world economy, we need to both strengthen demand management and advance structural reform to eliminate the root causes that trigger problems. Countries may face different situations, yet they should all move toward addressing economic imbalance by way of promoting fiscal and financial reform, easing regulation, facilitating competition, supporting innovation and expanding opening up, and should all work together to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth of the world economy. Second, to promote steady recovery of the world economy, we must speed up economic transformation and upgrading. For the world economy to walk out of the woods, the ultimate solution lies in shifting the growth model and replacing old growth drivers with new ones at a faster pace. The advent of a new round of technological and industrial revolution has provided a historical opportunity for this. The emergence of new technologies, new tools and new materials, which are of pace-setting and transformational significance, has given a strong boost to the growth of the new economy and the upgrading of traditional industries. Countries should follow this prevailing trend by focusing their policies on supporting economic transformation and upgrading, and strengthen the new drivers of economic growth. Third, to promote steady recovery of the world economy, we will need efficient and orderly global governance. In the face of common challenges, we need to uphold the spirit of solidarity and work for common progress. This is a sure way for us to move forward. Countries need to adopt more growth-friendly policies, strengthen macro policy coordination, steadfastly advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, firmly oppose protectionism and build a fairer, more just and open international economic system. The world's major economies, while making macro-economic policies, should consider not just their own growth needs but also the spillover effects of their policies. This September, the G20 Summit will be held in Hangzhou, China. The ongoing Summer Davos has a special session on "China's G20 Agenda". I find it highly relevant as it will contribute insights and recommendations to China's hosting of the G20 Hangzhou Summit. This year, despite continued slowdown in global growth, the Chinese economy has on the whole maintained stability while making steady progress, and has performed within the appropriate range. This is indeed not easy. China's GDP expanded by 6.7% in the first quarter of the year, and registered steady growth in the second quarter. Summer grain production is expected to be another bumper harvest. Corporate profits in the industrial sector are steadily rising. The service industry is growing rapidly, and market sales are steadily expanding. CPI is basically stable, the drop in PPI has narrowed, and energy intensity and emissions of major pollutants have continued to fall. In particular, the employment situation is stable. In the first five months of this year, 5.77 million new urban jobs were created, completing 58% of the annual employment target. The surveyed unemployment rate of 31 major cities in May was 5.02%, he added.

Chinese Premier said that we are also aware that given the complex and challenging international environment and the deep-seated domestic problems accumulated over the years, the foundation underpinning stable performance of the Chinese economy is yet to be strengthened. The driving effect of external demand on growth

is waning. Private and manufacturing investments are sluggish. Latent risks still exist in the financial and other sectors. In some industries with serious overcapacity and regions with monotonous economic structure, there have been relatively more problems. Downward economic pressure remains and the difficulties are not to be underestimated. However, the fact that we have recognized and stood up to challenges shows that we have the determination and ability to overcome difficulties. For the Chinese economy, there is always more hope than difficulties. Looking ahead, the Chinese economy has huge potential, strong advantage, broad space and bright prospect. China has a 900 million strong workforce, among whom 170 million have received higher education or training in professional skills. Every year we produce over seven million college graduates and over five million graduates from secondary vocational schools. We are No.1 in the world in terms of the number of science professionals and No.2 in R&D input, with an input of over RMB 1 trillion made last year. China is the second biggest economy, the largest manufacturing country, a major trading nation in goods and services, and a major destination and source of foreign investment. It is also the world's second largest consumer market. Its middle-income population is in the hundreds of millions and is still expanding. The number of the rural poor is falling year by year, while that of permanent urban residents is growing by over 10 million each year. All these make China a major emerging market with the biggest growth potential. It makes China a big stage where people from every corner could tap into their intellectual potential and start their business. We are optimistic about the current state and future prospect of the Chinese economy. Optimism is a sign of confidence, and in market economy conditions, confidence guides people's expectations. This in itself generates powerful strength. He further added that the Chinese economy is at a crucial stage of transition from old to new growth drivers and a stage of economic transformation and upgrading. We will focus on development as the top priority and promote steady progress as we pursue innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. We will ensure that the government's macro policies are stable, industrial policies are well-targeted, micro policies are flexible, reform policies are solid and social policies meet people's basic needs. While appropriately expanding aggregate demand, we will steadfastly advance supply-side structural reform, concentrate on cutting overcapacity, reducing inventory, deleveraging, lowering costs and strengthening weak links, so that China's development could be less reliant on natural resources and be more driven by human resources and innovation. This will enable the Chinese economy to maintain medium-high growth rates and move to medium-high development levels. (PR)

(29) Iran, Turkmenistan...

cooperation in transportation infrastructures and implementation of the economic agreements reached between the two countries. President Berdimuhamedov pointed to the two countries' brotherly and friendly relations, and said, "The two nations have plenty of affinities and common grounds to broaden their economic cooperation." Akhouni serves as Iranian co-chairman of Joint Economic Commission with Turkmenistan. (FNA)

(30) At UN, Pakistan

sentative Tehmina Janjua had pointed out that the drone strikes were also a violation of the UN charter and international law, including human rights and humanitarian law. (Dawn)

(31) Chinese Envoy...

actively participate in and promote multi-lateral and bilateral counter-terrorism cooperation," he added. On Friday at the meeting, the 193-member General Assembly adopted a resolution on UN global counter-terrorism strategy, urging member states to ensure no tolerance for terrorism. (Xinhua)

(32) No Obstacles...

of relations between the friendship states of Armenia and Tajikistan; the two countries effectively cooperate within the framework of the CSTO and various international platforms. (News.am)

(33) Gunmen Kill...

diplomatic enclave Gulshan. "We've managed to capture one attacker alive," he said. Some 13 hostages, including one Japanese and two Sri Lankans, were rescued. (Xinhua)

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