

(1) US to Partner...

He asserted that this continues to be a challenge. And working together, all nations are going to need to do more.

The US strategy, he said, recognizes that no amount of military force will end the terror that is ISIL unless it's matched by a broader effort, political and economic, that addresses the underlying conditions that have allowed ISIL to gain traction. They have filled a void and we have to make sure that, as we push them out, that void is filled, he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) CEO Pledges ...

would take initiatives to deploy new personnel to the province.

"Security situation of Kunduz is unacceptable. I will share this issue with the national security council to work out a strategy," the CEO remarked.

He announced deployment of a new army brigade to the province to put an end to the force shortage. Regarding people's objections on government's inability to improve law and order, he added: "We are inherited problems from the previous government and we are trying to ensure security and development."

The CEO warned the local officials would be introduced to judicial organs if they neglected in their duties.

Kunduz Governor Mohammad Omar Safi told a meeting: "Kunduz has lack of security amid shortage of security forces."

Currently, the province has only one brigade of Afghan National Army (ANA) that operated in and around the province.

Mohammad Yusuf Ayubi, provincial council head, regretted that civilians and military personnel had suffered casualties because of deteriorated security in the province. He urged CEO to approve more troops for the province. The CEO is scheduled to speak later about the security of Kunduz.

Sayed Rahim, a local elder from Chardara, said more than 100 houses had been destroyed and thousands of people displaced due to fighting. "We were being hit both by the government and the Taliban," he complained.

For over two weeks, Dasht-i-Archi district has fallen to insurgents but the government forces have retaken Chardara district.

In recent clashes, more than 220 civilians have been injured amid mass displacement due to insecurity. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghanistan Justly ...

these threats must be challenged." Mr. Haysom, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, denounced recent threats and the listing of journalists and civil society activists as target for "punishment" on social media sites. Harassment and intimidation of civil society activists and journalists, he underscored, undermine human rights and the development of a democratic society which depend, in turn, on freedom of expression and thoughts. (PR)

(4) Kabul Delegation...

motion once the national unity government had decided on who to send as a representative delegation.

In addition to Hikmat Khalil Karzai and Haji Din Mohammad, other top national unity government advisors are also said to be involved in the talks. "Faizullah Zaki has attended the talks for the First Vice President after consultation with national unity government leaders," Junbish-e Milli Party spokesman Bashir Ahmad Tayanj told TOLONews Tuesday.

On the Taliban's side of the aisle, a source close to the First Vice President has said Mullah Abbas and a number of other members of the group are expected to attend the talks. "Maulvi Abbas is the negotiator for the Taliban," Tayanj also confirmed.

The abruptness of the announcement of talks has raised questions about the government's transparency about the process and its ability to manage it more broadly. "The fact that people are not aware of the talks is because the government is not sure about the results of the talks," Tayanj said.

Although the Foreign Affairs Ministry and High Peace Council have refrained from sharing a details about the talks, members of the national unity government have confirmed that a delegation has traveled to Islamabad to meet with Taliban leaders.

Despite the fact that Afghan government officials and Taliban lead-

ers meeting to talk peace in Pakistan is an undeniably landmark event, independently analysts have voiced their doubts about the potential outcome of such talks, so long as Pakistan has a hand in them.

"I am not optimistic about the results of the talks," university lecturer Nasrullah Stanikzai told TOLONews. "These talks will prove fruitful when they are held between Afghans, because Pakistan will seek its benefits whenever it wants to be involved in talks." Pakistani officials were in fact the first to spread the news that potential talks between the Afghan government and Taliban were on the horizon. (Tolonews)

(5) Concerns about ...

peace and prevent war," Afghan political analyst Abdul Rahim Pashtonyar told TOLONews.

For their part, Iran has been one of the most vocal countries in the region when it comes to the specter of Daesh. "Daesh is a regional threat [...] Daesh does not limit itself to a particular geography and according to our viewpoint Daesh is not just a threat for Afghanistan, but for Central Asia too," Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Reza Bahrami said on Tuesday.

According to Bahrami, Tehran is ready to help Kabul to fight affiliates of the group within its borders. "It is the duty of the Afghan government to plan an operational strategy against the group and if Kabul feels its needs Iran's support in this regard, undoubtedly, within the framework of bilateral cooperation, Iran will help Kabul," the ambassador said.

Recently, the top Iranian diplomat in Kabul said that a successful conclusion to the current nuclear talks between Iran and the 5+1 world powers could have a major positive impact on Afghanistan's security and development. (Tolonews)

(6) Ghani Urges ...

of Maidan Wardak province by Taliban insurgents.

The ALP members were killed when militants stormed their posts on Thursday and captured the posts. The rebels also decapitated some corpses of the ALP men.

Meshrano Jirga secretary Abdulh Qarlag told reporters President Ghani on Monday assured the house administrative board that security problems would be solved and officials who had committed negligence in the Jalrez incident would be brought to justice.

The president also ordered the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to ensure that Cabinet members responded to Meshrano Jirga demands and questions from senators, Qarlag said. "The senators should end their protest and get back to work," Qarlag quoted Ghani as saying.

However, Qarlag said the house members would decide next Saturday whether to continue their protest or resume attendance.

A Meshrano Jirga member Haseebullah Kalimzai said senators would protest again if the president failed to honour his promises. (Pajhwok)

(7) 155 Kabul ...

they failed to clear their dues and visit the Kabul Bank special tribunal.

He added the AGO has sent letter to municipalities and Da Afghanistan Bank branches, asking them to freeze assets of the defaulters.

"The defaulters are obliged to pay their debts. They can't even have a single afghani of the country's treasury," he remarked.

Once the country's largest lender, the bank plunged into deep crisis in 2009, when it lost \$987 million in fraudulent property deals, massive off-book loans and credit to fake corporations, prompting the government to take over the bank's affairs and change its name to New Kabul Bank. The government had to finance a bailout of \$825 million to the bank.

Of \$987 million squandered money, the government says it has so far obtained \$437 millions. Twenty-four defaulters have paid their debts until now.

Some of the major shareholders of the bank, including Mahmood Karzai, Gulbahar Habibi, Hassin Fahim, Daud Nassir, Mohammad Anwar Jigdalak, Mohammad Tahir Zahir, Mahboob Frotan, Mohammad Ismail Ghazanfar and Amrullah have started paying their debts in installments. According to AGO the debts of these individuals are not frozen anymore.

In October 2014, the president ordered the reopening of the Kabul

bank case and reinstate its assets. Prior to Ghani's order, the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption and Evaluation Committee revealed the New Kabul Bank had lost around 47 million dollars during the past four years. (Pajhwok)

(8) 2,500 Families ...

Qarayee said: "We and residents of Qarayee area are under siege of Taliban. We need urgent reinforcement and support from the government."

He said ALP forces in the area on Monday received some equipment by helicopters to fight Taliban.

Amin Big, a local elder in Qarayee area, said security situation in their area was a matter of serious concern. He added it was the negligence of government that the Taliban get more powerful and capture more areas with each passing day. However, a Wolesi Jirga member Mohammad Hasham Ortaq said he and a number of his colleagues shared the issue with the interior minister on Monday.

"We warned the minister if insecurity continues in Faryab it would cause a humanitarian tragedy similar like Maidan Wardak and Badakhshan incidents where several security personnel have been killed," Ortaq said. (Pajhwok)

(9) Industry Leaders ...

Association (AIA) head Ahmad Sakhi Payman said of the government's economic policy failures. "Hundreds of licenses are waiting for approval by the AISA chairman, which has not been appointed yet."

The leadership vacuum at AISA and the ensuing backup in licensing has already begun to cause problems among factory owners.

"The unknown fate of AISA has decreased support for investors," one factory owner named Ali Ahmad told TOLONews. "This situation has presented us with several problems," he added.

When contacted for comment on the subject of AISA and its future leadership, the Presidential Palace declined to speak with TOLONews. There are rumors that President Ashraf Ghani has established a new organization named the Afghanistan Investments Agency, but that has yet to be substantiated, and the Presidential Palace. (Tolonews)

(10) Iran Nuclear...

Iran will have more access to Afghanistan in terms of investment once the economic sanctions have been lifted.

Iran is currently engaged in negotiations with the Western powers to reach an agreement on nuclear deal with a breakthrough expected until Thursday.

The US Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday that the U.S. and Iran are closer to reaching a final nuclear but expressed uncertainty about hitting their 48-hour deadline.

The Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also said Saturday that the teams representing Iran and US made significant headway by reaching a tentative agreement on some sanctions now being imposed on Iran for its nuclear program. (KP)

(11) MoF Admits to...

collection.

"Corruption exists. The goals that need to be accomplished before the emergence of problems in tax payments are ignored because of corruption, so the government needs to focus on the issue and take necessary steps so that taxes are collected professionally," economic analyst Hasibullah Mawhid told TOLONews.

Independent estimates puts the number of Afs that would go into the government's budget if it taxes were more effectively collected in the billions. Many commentators blame mismanagement on the part of the finance ministry for the waste.

The MoF's treasury department has said government revenues could rise by 30 percent if taxes were properly collected. (Tolonews)

(12) Samkani District...

clashes forced hundreds of families to migrate to safer places, Mangal informed.

Haji Sardar, a local edler, said the warring parties were using heavy and small weapons against each other positions, which created a sense of insecurity among residents.

Maj. Gen. Zalmai Orykhail, provincial police chief, confirmed the firefight between Taliban and security forces and said: "Taliban

have suffered heavy casualties in the battle and we would fight according to our strategy."

He rejected the notion that the district could fall to Taliban and said that militants had been pushed back.

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, claimed inflicting heavy casualties on security forces in the Samakani district fight. (Pajhwok)

(13) 70 Rebels ...

drone strike and said at least five militants were killed in the attack. He feared the number of dead militants might surge but he did not share more details.

The drone left members of two anti-state armed rebels' groups dead. Daesh, recently, has intensified activities in the province.

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, rejected reports of killing of any militants in drone strike. Separately, Sarhadi Zwak, spokesman for Laghman governor, said a Taliban commander was killed and another militant was wounded when Taliban fighters stormed a police check post in Alishang district.

Meanwhile, one fighter was killed and another wounded in a fight with security forces. (Pajhwok)

(14) Daesh A Major ...

the fast-emerging Daesh group was a major threat to the security of the country, region and the world.

He said the world should join hands to fight the common menace. He said that precise airstrikes by NATO pounding militants' positions in coordination with Afghan forces were effective.

"Such strikes sabotage gathering of enemy and air assault caused more damage to the enemy. Until our own air force gets these qualities we need foreign troops' air support," Seddiqi continued.

According to Seddiqi, the drone strikes in Achin district of Nangarhar province have taken place in coordination with Afghan forces that inflicted heavy damage on Daesh group. Fifty members of the group, he added, had been killed in the strikes on Monday night.

Dawlat Waziri, deputy spokesman of Ministry of Defence, said: "Daesh or any other terrorist group is Afghans enemy and we will sternly fight them."

Currently, he said, seven operations were ongoing in eight provinces where heavy casualties have been inflicted on insurgents. (Pajhwok)

(15) HIA Decision ...

he believed the HIA had announced its support to the Daesh group due to its weak representation in the unity government.

He said Hekmatyar and particularly the HIA had many supporters in Afghanistan and their support for the IS group could pose a serious threat.

Ibrahimi said the government should prevent other militant and political groups from joining Daesh.

Another participant of the gathering, Syed Mohammad Yazdan Parast, said the HIA had been pursuing an ambiguous policy in Afghanistan's politics over the past 13 years.

He said some members of the group had emerged as opposition leaders, some worked in the government and others engaged in an armed struggle against the government.

He said it would be good if the HIA announced its fundamental stance against the Afghans. He said the IS fighters were not familiar with Afghanistan's geography and their this problem would be resolved if the HIA joined them.

He said joining forces by the two groups could prove disastrous for Afghanistan.

Another activist, Mohammad Din, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Afghan government should strongly prevent the Hekmatyar group from joining forces with Daesh. He said the government should warn Hekmatyar through other jihadi groups and civil society that his support for the IS would not be in favour of Afghanistan and the Afghans. (Pajhwok)

(16) RSF Asks ...

information, a statement released by the RSF said Tuesday.

The Taliban, and now members of Islamic State, are sowing terror in several northeastern provinces including Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Baghlan and Nuristan, the statement added. Freedom of information in these provinces has gone from being limited to non-existent,

giving rise to new information black holes.

Media outlets have been the targets of armed attacks. They include Radio Donya Novin in Charikar (Parwan province) and the regional bureaux of the independent Afghan news agency Pajhwok and the US government-funded Voice of America (VOA) in Jalalabad (Nangarhar province) on 12 June, when at least two VOA journalists were injured. Several sources described this as "the first Islamic State action" in Afghanistan.

Fighting has been so intense in some regions, especially in Badakhshan and Nangarhar that journalists have been forced to stop working altogether and entire villages have fallen under rebel control. These provinces now rank alongside Helmand in the south and Khost in the east as regions where the Taliban have terrorized the media. (Pajhwok)

(17) Bamyan Lawmakers

work due to opposition by some lawmakers.

During a ceremony arranged in his honor, Zahir had said: "Bamyan has a democratic community and people can express their views openly. There is support and opposition but I think that opposition cannot hamper development activities."

Bamyan was reeling under widespread corruption, he claimed, pledging he would help improve education, health and media sectors in cooperation close cooperation of local people and departments.

Lawmakers Mohammad Akbarik, Safura Elkhani, Syed Fakor Behisti and Abdul Rahman Shaidani ended their protest today but the sit-in turned violent as some of their supporters attacked the governor office with stones and eggs.

Safura Elkhani said they had decided to end the protest and attend the Wolesi Jirga session on Jalrez carnage in which the lower house would impeach government officials who committed negligence. At least 30 militants and 24 ALP men were killed and 18 other rebels wounded in Kabul-Bamyan Highway clashes in central Maidan Wardak province on Friday.

The ALP force also lost control of 12 security posts. However, security officials had said Afghan forces regained control of all 12 posts in Jalrez district. (Pajhwok)

(18) Only Private ...

Governor Azizi called the lack of electricity one of the major issues the people of the province faced. He believed if the problem was resolved, it would help turn Kandahar into an agricultural and industrial zone, create jobs for the youth and eventually bring peace.

He said the Kajaki hydropower plant was not a basic solution to the electricity problem in Kandahar because the supply was not reliable as it was cut off four to five days a week.

The governor said the problem could be resolved with import of electricity and he had talked to businessmen in this regard as part of his first 100-day plan, which he had presented to the president.

He said the president had endorsed his plan and luckily the electricity act had recently been approved. The governor said he had encouraged USAID officials to assist the private sector in making investment in solar energy. (Pajhwok)

(19) Protesters Want...

residents of central Bamyan province took to the street against the killing of 24 ALP members by rebels and criticised the government for demonstrating what they called negligence.

Hundreds of Bamyan residents including civil society activists and members of provincial council held a protest in Bamyan City, accusing security officials, particularly ministers of defense and interior of negligence.

Taiba Khawari, chief of Bamyan provincial council, had said that people of the province warned the illegally-formed government and its leaders to defend other Afghans.

"The security forces suffering from hunger and facing acute shortage of weapons while the government was watching them as silent spectator," she alleged. (Pajhwok)

(20) Divorce Rate...

now she was living with her father. "I did not return to my husband despite my in-laws repeated requests," she added.

"My last decision is get myself divorced or they should separate my

house from my mother-in-law," she added. Nasrin who left school after marriage has one daughter of two years.

Akhtar Mohammad, father of Nasrin, said that his son-in-law did not pay the doctor fee and buy medicine for Nasrin when she was ill.

He said that he had paid 80,000 afghanis Nasrin's health issues. Mohammad added that her daughter was infected with typhoid and rheumatism about a month ago and he shifted her to Kandahar and Kabul hospitals for treatment. However, Nasrin said she had referred two times to the department of women affairs to get divorce from her husband but she was advised by elders to be patient and live with her husband.

Amina Hakimi, director women affairs, said that she had once resolved Nasrin's problem and convinced her husband family not to treat her badly. (Pajhwok)

(21) Helmand Farmers...

government for failing to construct a separate marketplace for watermelons and serving farmers' interests.

He said in the absence of a government-run market, they had to take their produce to a privately-run market where they were not allowed to trade independently. He did name anyone.

Mohammad Wali, a farmer from the Karez area of Lashkargah, made similar complaints and said he sold five tonnes of watermelons for 11,000 Pakistani rupees.

From that amount he paid more than Rs2,000 to the market owner and as many to Municipality officials and for transport and other expenses. He said he could not make profit after paying these expenses.

Prices control official at the Municipality, Noor Mohammad, said they charged 270 afghanis each vehicle carrying watermelons in return for the municipality's services.

He said legally they could not interfere in the open market affairs, but they could act on complaints.

Farmers in Garmasir and Nawa districts prefer growing watermelons and other food crops instead of poppy crop. Around 300 vehicles carrying watermelons come to Lashkargah on a daily basis daily from the two districts. (Pajhwok)

(22) Attack on NDS...

suicide car bomb reportedly hit a convoy of foreign troops in the capital city.

The blast took place in Shah Shahid area of Kabul when a vehicle belonging to foreign forces was passing by the area.

Kabul Police officials confirmed the blast and said a foreigner and an Afghan civilian were harmed in the blast.

But the eyewitnesses told TOLONews that five people including foreigners were injured. (Tolonews)

(23) 6 Militants...

and as many wounded during an air strike by the ANA troops, he added. Earlier, security forces had claimed killing 17 local and six Pakistani and Uzbek militants in the province. In northern Jawzjan, one Afghan Local Police (ALP) man was killed and four others wounded by a roadside bombing in the Nawabad area of the provincial capital, Shiberghan. Col. Abdul Hafeez, deputy police chief, said the bomb had been planted near a police check-post, accusing the Taliban of emplacing the improvised explosive device. (Pajhwok)

(24) Sharan Square ...

in southeastern Paktika province. The gun battle erupted after Pakistan soldiers tried to create a check-post deep inside the Afghan territory. A security official wishing anonymity confirmed Commander Najibullah was killed in the overnight fighting on the border. Paktika officials named a square after Najibullah. The square connects Sharan-Gardez, Paktika Attorney General and Municipality roads to each other. (Pajhwok)

(25) Senior Daesh...

Afghanistan named Gul Zaman was killed along with his deputy Jahanyar and five others in a drone strike in Khurasan province," Seddiqi said. Daesh announced to unify the whole region into one province under the name of Khurasan Caliphate. Recently, the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoI) announced the establishment of a joint unit aimed at heightening coordination among security institutions to more effectively combat Daesh affiliates in Afghanistan. (Tolonews)