

**(1) Parwan-Bamyan ...**

the spokesman for 2nd ground brigade in Farah, said the militants were killed in Afghan forces' heavy weapons assault in Asiadabad area of Pushtrod district late on Friday. He said the militants were carrying BMI rockets in a Corolla model car when came under attack. Both the car and the rockets belonged to the militants destroyed in the incident, Khaliqi concluded. Taliban militants did not comment on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Security Forces ...**

on our assessment," said Mahmud Danish, Kunduz governor's spokesman. The defense and interior ministries meanwhile called for the continuation of the process.

"We had a little problem. A team from the ministry has just gone to Nuristan in order to include the remaining areas in the system. We don't have a serious problem in other parts," said Najib Danish, the interior ministry's spokesman.

"All our soldiers have been included in the system. If anyone, even one person, goes out or comes in, they are registered in the system," said Dawlat Waziri, the interior ministry's spokesman.

There are concerns about ghost soldiers in some parts of the country.

"The first issue is that the delegation which is sent by the (security) agencies is under question and second, when the delegation arrives in an area, the local officials and commanders are aware about their arrival; therefore, they round up their supporters from districts and introduce them as their soldiers to the delegation," said Nadir Khan Katawazi, an MP.

This comes after the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said in a report in January that the US government is paying the salaries of "tens of thousands" of non-existent Afghan soldiers, police, teachers and civil servants. Afghan security agencies have often rejected such reports and have said that they are working to fight corruption in the police and army. (Tolonews)

**(3) Lack of US ...**

in place in Kabul is dangerous. Michael Kugelman of the nearly 10,000 U.S. troops are deployed.

Six months into his term, President Donald Trump has nominated 20 ambassadors and has had six confirmed. By this point in his first term, President Barack Obama had nominated 40, with three confirmed.

A delegation of prominent U.S. senators visited Kabul on July 4 — the Independence Day holiday in America — and called on Trump to quickly nominate a permanent American ambassador to Afghanistan, citing a critical situation there.

Diplomats needed

Republican Senator Wilson Center in Washington said, "The focus in the White House has been on military issues, on troop levels. But there are significant political problems in Afghanistan.

"You have a government that's totally dysfunctional. You have a unity government in which the two leaders at the top don't get along. And in the past, in the Obama administration, you had officials like Secretary of State [John] Kerry that were making trips there all the time to try to get these folks together and to try to help mediate disputes," Kugelman said. "You don't have any of that now, and the ambassador is the logical person to be that point person."

Kugelman told VOA he agreed that Tillerson should go to Afghanistan, but said he was doubtful that would happen anytime soon.

"The secretary of state is supposed to be our main link to the world, our top diplomat. And yet, Tillerson has largely been absent from the world. He's only made several trips overseas, whereas Defense Secretary [James] Mattis and other senior officials in the Trump administration have been very active and present in the world. I think, for me, that's the biggest drawback right there," he said.

State Department, USAID on the ground Asked for comment on U.S. diplomatic vacancies in Afghanistan, the State Department told VOA there are hundreds of dedicated State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development employees working in Afghanistan to ensure that the country never again serves as a safe haven for terrorists.

Lawrence Butler, a former U.S. ambassador and retired foreign service officer, told VOA he expected Tillerson to travel to Afghanistan, though it would not likely be announced in advance for security reasons. "It is a place he needs to go repeatedly, just to keep his finger on the pulse and to reassure the government of Afghanistan that there is senior representation and that there is understanding of what is going on there," Butler said.

Trump has also not yet nominated permanent ambassadors to Russia, France, Germany or South Korea, among others. (VoA)

**(4) II-Member ...**

realized that doing so wasn't in the interest of our country. Finally, we decided to join peace process." At the beginning of this year, Tala-wa-Barfak district fell to Taliban hands; however, it was later was recap-

tured by security forces. (Pajhwok)

**(5) MoEW ...**

water management issues.

This comes after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday at a conference in Tehran slammed the Afghan government for building the dams.

"An agreement has been signed by Afghanistan and Iran on Helmand River when Musa Shafiq was the minister of foreign affairs. Therefore, no issue has remained on water between the two countries," said Abdul Raouf Ibrahim, the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) speaker.

A number of economists said however said the National Unity Government has failed to start big dam projects, except to complete and implement projects that were started during the former administration.

"The value of water will increase day-by-day. Currently we use only a small portion of our waters and most of it flows to neighboring countries. They (neighboring countries) have built dams on our waters," economic affairs analyst Azrakhsh Hafizi said. On average, the water volume in Afghanistan is estimated to up to 70 billion cubic meters annually. But 80 percent of these waters are flowing to Iran, Pakistan and other neighboring nations in Central Asian countries. (Tolonews)

**(6) Afghan Students ...**

cards from Monday. The political administration and FC had initiated the joint venture to facilitate hundreds of Afghan students enrolled in various schools in border area of Bacha Mina in Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

**(7) RS Counter...**

2016 as the planning-meeting for creating the ACJC, it said, adding the weekly event had since been continued and currently served as keeping stakeholders informed of improvements the ACJC was currently making or it needed to make.

"It remains an important forum for donors, mentors, and concerned organizations to monitor the ACJC's progress since its opening last October, and to oversee more generally the fight against corruption," the U.S. Army Col. John Siemietkowski, director of Counter-Corruption for Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A), was quoted in the statement as saying.

Since many members of the NATO coalition had made large contributions to the ACJC's development, this meeting allowed them to observe how their money had been supporting the counter-corruption mission in Afghanistan, it added.

"It's U.S., United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, E.U., British, Danish and various other nationalities coming together to create consensus. It's a vanguard of the international community's efforts in regards to the ACJC. It's about coordination, ensuring we don't overlap or duplicate efforts, and ensuring we're coherent in our approach to fighting corruption," the International Prosecutorial Advisor to the ACJC, David Friend, said at the meeting.

It said: "As the members of the meeting identify an issue in the fight against corruption and agree on a recommended course of action, they then bring the information to their respective organization leaders, who in turn engage their Afghan counterparts with the issue and recommended solution."

"For instance, the international community has raised concerns at very high levels of a rumored Presidential Pardon Decree. Recognizing its potential impact on ACJC corruption sentences, the Stocktake group was able to convey these concerns to our GIROA friends, all the while respecting Afghan sovereignty. Subsequently, our Afghan partners addressed these concerns in the decree's issuance language," Siemietkowski said.

The group's efforts and results were tangible on the citizen level as well, the statement stated, adding one of the group members pointed out that the Afghan government and local communities could benefit from counter-corruption measures like criminal asset recovery.

"The courts can designate criminal asset money to go back into the fight against organized crime and it can go back in to the communities that need them most, for whatever projects the local ministries decide on," Russell Thomas, National Crime Agency's Anti-Money Laundering and Criminal Assets Tracing mentor, was quoted as saying in the press release.

The statement added this group had the support of NATO, Resolute Support, the U.N., E.U., and many coalition nations.

"President Ghani, RS Commander Gen. Nicholson, and many other senior leaders recognize corruption as a cancer that kills Afghan society from within," Siemietkowski said.

Today's international Stocktake represented tangible proof of the coalition's collective efforts to fight this cancer, and tangible proof of successful results, it concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Dostum's Authorities...**

meeting, Dostum's chair had been removed.

The Presidential Palace said however that nothing should be read into this but it failed to give more details.

"The first vice president is practically away

from decision making. You better know that there is no return when a case is under investigation and process for judicial issues," said Mohammad Husain Fahim, an MP.

The tensions between the Presidential Palace and the first vice president increased last year after President Ashraf Ghani vowed to take serious steps to have the Eshchi case thoroughly investigated.

This came after Ahmad Eshchi last year laid complaints of having been abducted, tortured and sexually assaulted on Dostum's orders.

Following the alleged incident, the First Lady Rula Ghani announced Dostum had been placed under house arrest.

Dostum subsequently left Afghanistan for Turkey on the pretext of seeking medical treatment. However, some sources said government forced him to leave the country. (Tolonews)

**(9) JCMB's...**

growth, now predicted to be three percent." Other highlights included the release of funds on time by both the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These funds were only released after Afghanistan had fulfilled time-sensitive deadlines.

The IMF had also approved \$6.2 million for Afghanistan, bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to \$12.4 million. The approval came following the completion of the first review of the arrangement under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) in May 2017, it stated.

These developments would be discussed in the meeting of JCMB, a body that brought together senior Afghan leaders with members of the international fraternity, the statement said, adding they would look at progress made on mutual benchmarks agreed at the Brussels summit in October 2016.

One other key success in the economic sector was that revenue increased more quickly than the target for another year. In 2016, revenue collection improved by 26% compared to 2015, including one-off revenue, it said.

"Last year the country exceeded the IMF target by nine billion afs. About 34 billion afs has already been collected in the first quarter of 2017. As our domestic revenues increase, we have confidence that this year we will exceed our commitments", the MoF statement declared.

The Afghan government would also discuss the commitments achieved or in progress regarding the electoral reform, economic reform, economic and political women empowerment, Land Management Law revision and reforms, transparency and accountability of mine extraction, streamlining procedures for an enabling investment climate in the country, it expressed.

JCMB was established in accordance with an agreement between the Afghan Government and the international community for overall strategic coordination on implementation of the Afghanistan Compact endorsed at the London Conference in 2006. JCMB provides a platform for strategic coordination, joint policy formulation and problem solving in Afghanistan. It ensures the mutual accountability of the government and its development partners.

The National Unity Government (NUG) leadership and high ranking government officials, special representative of UN Secretary General to Afghanistan, U.S, UK, German ambassadors and other international community's representative will participate at the meeting.

Afghanistan government will reaffirm its commitment toward fighting corruption, promoting transparency and accountability, judicial reform and government revenue collection system at this JCMB meeting. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Zakhilwal Seeks...**

there from Afghanistan. They were allegedly taken by FIA officials to a secluded room at the airport, where they were forced to wait for five hours. Later, the officials removed the victim's sister from the room on the pretext of stamping her visa. Subsequently, the accused entered the room and attempted to assault the complainant, who said she managed to flee the scene after raising an alarm. Other airport staffers laughed at her plight. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Taliban Not ...**

the fighting strength of the Taliban had not diminished and interlocutors expected the militants could field significant numbers of fighters inside Afghanistan, it said. The UN report said many fighters from Al-Qaida-affiliated groups, who formerly operated in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area, have integrated into the Taliban, leading to a marked increase in the military capabilities of the Taliban. Taliban income from the narcotics trade increased during 2016 owing to an increase in poppy growing areas in Afghanistan as well as a marked increase in the profits generated from opium production inside the country. Illegal mining activities and systematic extortion by the Taliban continue, adding to the income of the Taliban, it said. According to the report, ISIL in Afghanistan continues to obtain regular financial support from ISIL-core in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, and appears well equipped and funded. Despite

the considerable military pressure exerted on the group by Afghan and international forces and the concentration of the majority of the group's fighters in the east of the country, ISIL was able to conduct one high-profile attack, in Kabul city, it said. "A significant number of foreign terrorist fighters who seem to have entered the country from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area continue to operate inside Afghanistan," the report said. The UN report alleged the Taliban continued to benefit from safe havens in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area, which enables their fighters to rest and recuperate. Several member states highlighted to the team that during 2016, some of Quetta Shura officials considered relocating to Helmand province in order to send a strong political signal that the Taliban had truly returned to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Gold and ....**

a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afs and the same amount of African black tea 300afs, the same rates as last week's. But Ahmad Wali Panjsheri, a grocer in Dahn-i-Bagh area, sold a 50-kg bag of Kazakhstani flour for 1,300afs, a 49-kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 2,150 afs and a 16-litre tin of Khurshid ghee for 1,200afs. Similarly, he sold a 24.5-kg sack of Pakistani rice for 2,000afs, a kilogram of Indonesian green tea for 300afs and the same quantity of African black tea for 350afs, higher than wholesale rates. Fuel prices remain unchanged. Abdul Hadi, a worker at the Wazir Abad Fuel Station, said one litre of diesel cost 40afs and the same quantity of petrol 44afs, the same rates as last week's. Ahmad Javed, a liquefied gas seller at in Taimani area, said a kilogram of the commodity cost 50afs. Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweller in the Timor Shahi area of Kabul, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold declined from 2,300afs to 2,250afs and the same quantity of the Russian variety from 1,850afs to 1,800afs. According to Sara-i-Shahzada Moneychangers Union, one US dollar accounted for 68.33afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 638afs against last week's rates of 68.10afs and 638afs. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Afghanistan ...**

unacceptable. Monawar Shah Bahaduri, a lawmaker from Herat province, said the DABS ignored the Wolesi Jirga orders to distribute bills to the customers based on monthly basis. The power utility currently distributes electricity bills once in each two months. He accused officials of the DABS for charging extra money on ordinary customers in order to fill the gap of long-unpaid arrears of powerful individuals. Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the electricity related issues were complex and needed professional approach to be settled. He tasked the Wolesi Jirga's communication commission to investigate the issue and submit its report to the house. Wahidullah Tawhidi, the DABS spokesman, rejected the lawmakers claims regarding corruption in the power utility and said the DABS was ready to answer all questions of the lawmakers. He said the plan to distribute electricity bills on monthly basis was almost completed would be implemented in the next two months. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Pakistani Army...**

will include more pressures on Pakistan, specifically to target the safe havens of the Afghan militant groups, including the notorious Haqqani terrorist network.

The Afghan officials have long been insisting that the leadership councils of the Taliban group and the notorious Haqqani terrorist network are based in Peshawar, Quetta, and other parts of Pakistan from where they plan and coordinate attacks in Afghanistan.

This comes as the US Department of Defense in its report said last month that "Afghan oriented militant groups, including the Taliban and Haqqani Network, retain freedom of action inside Pakistani territory and benefit from support from elements of the Pakistani Government."

The report further added "Although Pakistani military operations have disrupted some militant sanctuaries, certain extremist groups—such as the Taliban and the Haqqani Network—were able to relocate and continue to operate in and from Pakistan. The United States continues to convey to Pakistan at all levels the importance of taking action against all terrorist and extremist groups." (KP)

**(15) \$19.6 Million ...**

launch of the project. In the meantime, the head of the Asian Development Bank said the new tunnel will play a key role in the transportation and transit in Afghanistan besides having a key role in the economic growth and regional connectivity. The Japanese Ambassador said the government of Japan is committed to bear the 53 per cent cost of the project for the technical studies. (KP)

**(16) Road Blockade...**

road or provide an alternative solution. He warned the US forces would face with strong reaction of the provincial council and the people if the road was not reopened. "We for the last time, voice on the local administration, central government and the US forces in Chapman Camp not

to test people's patience and not oblige the nation for upraising," he said. Qamar Ali Lakanwal, another provincial council member, said that they given a 10-day deadline for local government and the US forces to resolve the problem. "We would discuss with the public and civil society institutes if our demand not addressed, the government would be then responsible for any consequences of the public action," he said. A civil society activist, Hamidzai Bawar, told the conference that people were at great trouble and some patients transported on subways died after the road has been blocked. He asked the government and the Chapman Camp based US forces not to create problems for the public and reopen the road for traffic. Governor's spokesman, Mubzar Mohammad Zadrn, on last Wednesday said that the local government was aware of the problem. He stressed on a permanent solution for the trouble. The road has been blocked due to security threats, but an alternative has also been discussed and the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) promised to cooperate in this area, Zadrn added. "Governor Hakam Khan Habibi has recently met with the public works minister who promised to send a delegation to Khost for survey and design of a new road and allocate budget for that," he said. A week back, residents of four eastern districts of Khost have blocked subways to Khost city in protest against the blockade of their main road by US forces. Both foreign forces and Afghan forces are stationed in the Chapman Camp but security of the base is maintained by Afghans. The road has several times blocked whenever security posts of the military base came under coordinated or suicide attacks of militants. (Pajhwok)

local elders, would be deployed in the Tora Bora region to maintain security and keep IS fighters at bay. Tora Bora Last month, IS launched attacks on villages and Afghan Taliban positions in the region. The assault prompted local residents, who see IS militants as a serious threat to their region, to take up arms and join forces with the Taliban to push IS out. Tora Bora, known for its complex set of mountain caves and rough terrain, was the site of a U.S. military offensive in December 2001, where now-deceased al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden reportedly was hiding before he sneaked into neighboring Pakistan. The ongoing Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan has stretched the security forces thin on several front lines across the country, pushing locals in Tora Bora to take matters into their own hands and defend their region in the absence of an Afghan military presence. Parts of the area also have been in the Taliban's control from time to time in recent years.. (VoA)

**(17) Afghan Government...**

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**(18) ISIS and ...**

three militants dead, the police commandment said, adding that the dead militants belong to Afridi group and the militants killed in the airstrike have been identified as Abdullah, Zakir, and Kochi Afridi.

According to the police commandment, the Taliban insurgents also launched coordinated attacks on various check posts in Hesarak district and at least two militants were killed and two others were wounded after the Afghan forces responded to their attack.

The local officials are saying that the local residents and security forces have not suffered any casualties in the operations. (KP)

**(19) Afghanistan...**

itches and helping with coaching, not least of children all around the country. We do this through working with Afghan Connection, a charity which had already become successfully involved with supporting Afghan cricket," says Matthew Fleming. "Afghans love cricket so much," says Dr Sarah Fane, Founder and CEO of Afghan Connection. "But they hardly have any equipment. So Afghan Connection made a delivery to the national team and began supporting grassroots cricket around the country for the young. "Within a year MCC began backing Afghan cricket through Afghan Connection's projects. Since 2009 this has led to 100 cricket pitches being built, serving well over 100,000 Afghan children, as well as provision of equipment and coaching for them." Since 2002, the Afghan Connection has funded the construction of nearly 50 schools in remote areas of northern Afghanistan, serving about 75,000 boys and girls in almost equal numbers, along with training programmes for over 900 teachers. "Afghan kids love going to school. And cricket has become such a large part in the lives of so many," said Dr Fane. (Pajhwok)

**(20) 32 Rebels...**

Khalid and Shinki were among the dead, he added. Jamshidi added many militants' hideouts had been destroyed and weapons seized during the offensive. Several landmines were also defused. He denied any casualties to security personnel or local people. On the other hand, local people complained many residential buildings destroyed during the offensives. (Pajhwok)