

(1) NATO Summit...

improve economic opportunities, which would have an important impact on migration," the declaration said.

It added since January 2015, the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces maintained full responsibility for security throughout the country.

At the request of the Afghan National Unity Government, the non-combat, conditions-based NATO's RS mission provided training, advice and assistance to allow Afghanistan to continue to build professionally trained and well equipped defence and security forces which demonstrated remarkable resilience and courage in meeting the challenges they faced.

While the Afghan Security Institutions and forces continued to develop and make progress, challenges and capability gaps persisted, and they continue to need international support.

NATO and its operational partners renewed their commitments and decided to sustain RS mission beyond 2016 through a flexible, regional model, to continue to deliver training, advice and assistance to the Afghan Security Institutions including the police, the air force and special operations forces.

NATO would continue to keep the mission and its configuration under review and continue national contributions to the financial sustainment of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, including until the end of 2020.

The alliance would urge the wider international community to remain engaged in the financial sustainment of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces.

To strengthen and enhance the Enduring Partnership between NATO and Afghanistan established at the 2010 Lisbon Summit, to further develop the alliance long-term partnership including through political dialogue and practical cooperation.

NATO stressed the need for good neighborly relations and regional cooperation and support to a secure and stable Afghanistan, remained essential.

The alliance would welcome the role played by the Istanbul Process in supporting the Heart of Asia region which included Afghanistan. A stable and prosperous Afghanistan would support a stable and prosperous region, the declaration said.

The joint declaration reaffirmed its belief that an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, which respected the Afghan constitution and human rights, including notably the rights of women, was the pathway to a sustainable resolution of the conflict.

The region and the international community at large must respect and support such a process and its outcome.

"The NATO-led efforts contribute to the wider international efforts, and we look forward to the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in October this year."

"Our task is not yet complete, and we remain resolute and united in our commitment to a secure and stable Afghanistan," read the declaration. (Pajhwok)

(2) British Defence ...

Academy (ANAOA). Personnel will also advise the fledgling Afghan Air Force, which took delivery of five US Cayuse Warrior attack helicopters last month, and will work alongside NATO Allies as advisors in mission's headquarters in Kabul and in the Afghan Security Ministries.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said:

This increase will support Afghan forces now leading security for their country. It underlines our long term commitment to help build a more secure and prosperous Afghanistan. Doing that will make the region more stable and the streets of Britain safer. With Afghan forces in the lead for security in their country, the extra British mentors will maintain the momentum of UK and NATO training efforts. Since 2014, the UK mentoring assistance has helped the ANAOA to train over 1300 high quality officers. Today's announcement comes as the UK reaffirmed its commitments to Afghanistan into 2017. As well as our on-going contribution to NATO's Resolute Support Mission, the Government in May confirmed that Britain would provide £210 million to the Afghan security forces year until 2020, giving around £70 million per year in funding. (Agencies)

(3) Peace is Our ...

between good and bad terrorists is being maintained in practice." The Afghan leader said the key problem among Afghanistan's neighboring states was an absence of agreed

rules of the game.

"Thus we seek regional and global support in creating those rules, which will bind us to collective security and harmony."

Ghani said the discussions within the Arab Muslim community had also been productive, especially the 2015 Mecca declaration against terrorism.

"The terrorist attack against the Mosque of the Holy Prophet in Medina has outraged the Muslim community and should result in a consensus against the tiny minority that is attempting to hijack our civilization."

The president said with NATO's resolute support, they would redouble efforts to create a democratic constitutional order and an accountable and effective state that could bring peace to the Afghans and secure their future from the menace of terrorism.

"Proud as I am of serving as the commander-in-chief of our heroic forces, the epithet that I would like to be remembered by is the peace and development president who served as a catalyst to making Afghanistan once again into an Asian Roundabout." President Ghani also paid tribute to foreign forces and citizens who paid the ultimate price to ensure Afghanistan freedom.

"We thank political leaders, generals and officers, and the men and women who have fought shoulder to shoulder with us.

"We thank the taxpayers and the civilians from your countries who have dedicated their lives to helping us recover from the estimated \$240 billion of economic losses inflicted on us by invasion and conflict."

Having assumed full responsibility for national security in December 2014, the Afghan forces had displayed commitment to the nation and the constitution through immense sacrifice, thereby earning unprecedented public support and trust.

"They are resilient in the face of adversity, and they have made constant improvements in efficiently and effectively coordinating and building systems of leadership and management."

He said those developments had enabled the Afghan forces to face and overcome a series of vicious attacks from forces of disorder and terrorism in 2016.

"Thanks to our joint investment in our security institutions, Dr. Abdullah, the CEO, and I can confidently state that the combat role of NATO in Afghanistan is over for good."

He believed that the range of organized forms and techniques of violence today drew on previous waves of violence throughout history – anarchism, anti-colonialism, terrorism of the 1960's and 70s, and violent ethnic and identity movements of the 1980's and 90s.

"The symbiotic relationship between criminal economic networks—manifested in drug and natural resource wars—and criminal politics is making this Fifth Wave a medium term obstacle to global stability."

On Afghanistan economic growth, Ghani said through increasing national revenue by 22 percent, they were meeting Chicago commitments to the financing of Afghan forces.

"The key to our success lies primarily in our ability to transform the culture of the state from entrenched corruption to a citizen-centered governance system." (Pajhwok)

(4) MoI Set to ...

these claims and said that an assessment done found that 94% of the total were in fact actual members employed within the ALP structure.

"We dispatched our joint delegation to all provinces where the ALP operates, they conducted their assessments, we have good gains in this respect, the assessments were carried out in three phases," deputy minister of interior for security Mohammad Salim Ehsas said.

The MoI has said that up to 1,350 officers have however been dismissed because of their engagement with lawbreakers.

"Necessary work has been done regarding the implementation of reforms in the local police which also includes their training and education, biometrics, distribution of identity cards, and banking system," said Ali Shah Ahmadzai, a commander of the ALP.

"These individuals (ALP officers) must be responsible individuals of society; they must be recommended by the people and they must be trustworthy," MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said.

The ALP was initially created in 2010 in an attempt to help foil Taliban attacks on villages.

Based on MoI statistics, currently the ALP forces operate in 6,600 villages in 179 districts in four provinces. (Tolnews)

(5) US to Use ...

Indian satellite which is already oper-

ational and whose data is available at various American universities, senior Pentagon officials told US lawmakers during Congressional hearing on 'Weather Satellite Programs' convened by the House Science, Space and Technology subcommittee on Environment.

"Europe's Meteosat 8 is going to cover the critical components of our operations in Syria and Iraq. We will experience a short gap over eastern Afghanistan and our plan there is to work cooperatively with India to use Indian data to close that gap," Ralph Stoffer, Director of Weather, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, US Air Force, told Congressmen in response to a question.

"The Indian satellite is already operational. It's already there. The data is already available here in the US at a variety of Universities. It's a matter of getting it here quicker and more efficiently so we can use it operationally," Stoffer said.

"We are working in conjunction with our NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) partners to make that happen for us," he said.

Responding to a question, Stoffer said India was not the first option for the Pentagon.

"We were planning all along that the Europeans would provide us the capabilities over the Indian Ocean. They, like us, had their own priorities," he said.

"We looked at all alternative options. Certainly, there are other geostationary capabilities over the Indian Ocean, provided both by Russia and China. Our systems are capable of receiving Chinese data and we did an evaluation of that," he added.

But, we were told by NOAA that unless Chinese data was really operationally needed, we should not use it, he said. Once we were told that Chinese data is off the table, we had to find another alternative and we plan to use Indian satellite, the Pentagon official said. (Agencies)

(6) UK to Dispatch...

summit in Warsaw, will announce the deployment later.

The deployment of additional UK soldiers had been decided at a time when the US President Barack Obama this week announced a slow-down in the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(7) Obama Assures...

faced, peace process and most importantly election reforms were discussed during the meeting between US president and Afghan president and CEO. (Pajhwok)

(8) Abdullah Discuss...

say with confidence that the Afghan nation benefited greatly from the NATO engagement, not only in the security sector, but also with the concurrent civilian deployments to bridge the gap between reconstruction and security in many parts of Afghanistan."

He said Afghanistan is on the frontlines against various types of threats, including Taliban, Da'ish and Al-Qa'ida, and

our partnership matters to our people as well as yours.

The remarks by Abdullah comes as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the Afghan militant groups to use its soil to plan and coordinate attacks in Afghanistan.

The Afghan officials are saying that the Taliban group and Haqqani network leadership councils are based in Quetta and Peshawar cities of Pakistan from where they stage attacks against the Afghan forces and civilians in the country. (KP)

(9) Croatia ...

limits approved by Parliament.

Croatia has also declared its readiness to participate in strengthening of the military presence in the eastern part of NATO. On Friday, on the first day of the summit, NATO leaders decided to boost the forces with four multinational battalions, each of which will have between 600 to 1,000 soldiers who will be deployed in the three Baltic countries and Poland.

"Croatia is still considering how it will participate in these forces. We have declared our intention to participate with one company, but the final decision will be made by Parliament," said Buljevic. (Agencies)

(10) Canadian

of Sept. 11, 2001, before sending combat troops to the southern province of Kandahar in 2006. It also contributed billions in aid.

By the time the combat mission ended in 2011, 158 Canadian soldiers, one diplomat and one journalist had been killed. Canada continued to train Afghan security forces in the capital Kabul for the next three years,

until the last troops left in December 2014.

Since then, the security situation in Afghanistan has worsened. Violence has increased across the country, with the Taliban capturing territory and launching attacks on the capital as the U.S. and other allies have drawn down troop levels and increasingly left Afghan forces to deal with security.

The situation has gotten so bad that Trudeau was warned in a secret briefing note last November that the country could again become a haven for terrorists, which was why the West launched military action to begin with. The so called Islamic State has also been making inroads, making the situation even more desperate. (Agencies)

(11) Abdullah Urges...

with Afghanistan. For instance, a few days back China announced its military cooperation to Afghanistan; if this aid was dispatched to another country, it would create some reluctance, but regarding Afghanistan all countries have similar views," Abdullah said.

Meanwhile a number of analysts have said that government should concentrate on taking practical steps rather than chanting slogans against corruption in order to convince the world to continue their military and financial cooperation to Afghanistan. "Unfortunately we failed to deliver on our promises we made to the world and this is quite tragic, we must be serious regarding our war against corruption and take solid steps in the way of promoting good governance," said political analyst Mohammad Akram Arifi.

"The international community, particularly NATO member nations, keep some sort of interest in Afghanistan and they have come here to achieve their objectives; we must boost the capacity building to take advantage of their presence in Afghanistan and protect our interests," military analyst Ajmal Sais said. President Ashraf Ghani and his CEO last week formally announced the inauguration of the Anti-Corruption Justice Center in Kabul and said it was a sign of government's commitment to fighting corruption. (Tolnews)

(12) Nepal to Send...

the attack. After the Nepalese died in the attack, Nepal government has banned sending workers in war-torn four countries – Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and Iraq. Those who have come home on a leave can however go there under their own risk and under strict travel advisory.

Minister for Labour and Employment Deepak Bohora told the parliament on Saturday that a government team would go to Kabul within a few days. A team representing Ministry of Labour and Employment, Department of Immigration and Nepal Police will go to Kabul, said the Minister.

According to Bohora, the government was preparing to send the fact finding team as the Nepalese working even in the so-called 'green zone' were killed in the attack. Nepal does not have its own diplomatic mission in Afghanistan and Nepal's Pakistan-based embassy oversees the Afghanistan affairs. (Xinhua)

(13) NATO to ...

non-US commitments.

He hinted there were still some pledges due to come in, adding, "We are very close (to the target) and I'm certain that we will reach that level." The United States has been keen to secure the target of a billion dollars annually to support more than 350,000 Afghan security forces as it draws down its own military presence in the country.

The Pentagon has budgeted \$3.45 billion in annual US funds to pay for the Afghan forces, with the Afghan government providing an additional sum of around \$420 million, for a total yearly budget of nearly \$5 billion. The alliance leaders reaffirmed their long-term political partnership and practical cooperation with Afghanistan.

"Together with President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah, we discussed the security situation, the Afghan Government's reforms and our continued partnership," Stoltenberg said.

The secretary general said Afghanistan was making progress that must continue especially when it came to human rights, anti-corruption and electoral reforms.

"Working towards reconciliation should also be a priority," Stoltenberg said, adding the Afghan security forces were now responsible for security across the whole country. "They are defending the Afghan people with dedication and courage. We

continue to train, advise and assist them."

Stoltenberg confirmed Afghanistan still faced serious instability and violence. "So our continued political, military and financial engagement is of great importance," he believed.

He also praised Germany, Italy and Turkey and all other allies and partners that contributed to the mission. Additional planning would be conducted in the coming months to define NATO overall presence in 2017, he said. (Pajhwok)

(14) McCain Calls...

senators like McCain join us and call for Pakistan's practical steps on the issue of fighting militancy, this is in-fact the indicator of Afghanistan's rightful position," deputy presidential spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi said.

"Whatever so far has been done on political relations and political negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Pakistan's sincerity has always remained in doubt," political analyst Hadi Miran said.

"Pressure by the international community, slapping economic sanctions on Pakistan and the U.S and its allies cutting financial aid to Pakistan will likely to force Pakistan to take solid action against terrorism," MP Mirdad Khan Nejrabi said.

Afghanistan has constantly blamed Pakistan for harboring the Taliban group and other insurgents that wage war in Afghanistan, something Pakistan has denied but has instead said Islamabad strongly value peace and stability in Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

(15) KP Cannot ...

ambassador and federal minister Abdul Qadir Baloch and discussed with them the process of refugees' repatriation in an honourable way. He said that they had agreed to evolve a proper strategy for return of Afghan refugees after six month extension given by the federal government. However, he vowed that the repatriation of non-registered Afghan refugees through Torkham border would continue as the province could not afford their presence. Answering a question, he said that the overall security situation in the province had improved. (Dawn)

(16) Dept. of Municipality...

was underway after which the cleanliness derive of the city will be made privatised," he said adding currently the department had 3,500 workers. He said earlier, the private cleanliness programme was experienced in the 11th police district which had positive outcomes.

He said the currently capacity of municipality would get the support of private sector after the department was privatised and the problems in maintaining the city clean may be reduced. (Pajhwok)

(17) Forceful Repatriation...

world attention had been drawn to the country.

President Ghani briefed the European politician on regional economic connectivity and the role of Afghanistan in the economic prosperity of the region.

She recalled EU economic cooperation with Afghanistan and said that the international community would renew their economic cooperation pledges with Afghanistan in future Brussels meeting which would mainly focus on economic cooperation with Kabul.

She also stressed over the repatriation of Afghan asylum seekers and urged for a legal and transparent manner in this regard.

Ghani said that international community should resolve the refugees' issue permanently looking at of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(18) Deadly Bombing...

groups have been attempting to increase attacks main cities of the country, including capital Kabul.

The Taliban group has vowed to carry out more attacks as they announced their spring offensive earlier in the month of April. (KP)

(19) Hundreds Storm...

Haji Mohammad Ayub, told Pajhwok he recently purchased seven kilograms of pistachio for 200 to 400 afghanis. He said he bought the fruit at a low price because it was not completely ripened.

"If the fruit completely ripens, its seven kilograms cost 1,000 afghanis to 1,500 afghanis because one kilogram of the fruit is sold at 1,000 afghanis in Aibak city," he said. (Pajhwok)

(20) Cricket Series...

Yamin Ahmadzai. Dawlat Zadran, Hamid Hassan, gulbadin Naib, Mirwais Ashraf, Javed Ahmadi, Najibullah Zadran, Amir Hamza Hotak.

The reserve players include Nasir Jamal, Imrn Janat and Afsar Zazi, according to the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB). (KP)

(21) Obama Cuts...

Obama would meet acting Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and "other government officials."

Obama will then travel from Madrid to Rota and from there, "return to Washington on Sunday night, a day earlier than planned," according to the spokesman. (Xinhua)

(22) UN Relief ...

civilian infrastructure, and hindered humanitarian aid operations."

The United Nations calls on all parties to the conflict to take all measures to protect civilians, as required under international humanitarian law, in order to safeguard the lives of all civilians living in Aleppo city, he said. (Xinhua)

(23) Kremlin Urges...

increasing presence in eastern Europe, while NATO members insist that Russia poses a threat to Europe, citing its involvement in the Ukraine crisis and rearmament of its armed forces. (Xinhua)

(24) U.S., Polish...

increase of U.S. and NATO's presence, and the Polish nation can be sure that the NATO will stand hand in hand under any circumstances.

"We want to be present in Central and Eastern Europe, the U.S. will continue to increase its defensive and discouraging capabilities," Obama said. He said around a thousand of American soldiers will serve here on rotary basis. (Xinhua)

(25) Over 14,000...

in need. UNICEF, he revealed, requires about 155 million U.S dollars for emergency needs, and of which only 30 percent is available.

"We are very much under funded. We had programs in Wau but now about 70,000 people have been displaced in recent upsurge of fighting there," he said.

He added they have treated about 160,000 children of malnourishment and immunized 13,000 children and mothers against polio, meningitis and malaria in Wau. (Xinhua)

(26) Iran Offers...

targets inside Iran as well. Daesh and al-Nusra Front, the most brutal of such groups have been carrying out campaigns of terror in the region, most notably in Iraq and Syria.

Enayati also remarked on the claims made by an alleged Daesh-linked terrorist suspect, identified as "Ali Mohammad Omar" and said to be recently arrested by Kuwaiti security apparatuses. The arrestee has alleged that the terror outfit had cooperated with Iran and Syria.

The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait said such allegations are aimed at "falsely incriminating and slandering the Islamic Republic." (Presstv)

(27) Bulgaria PM...

JCPOA on January 16.

After the JCPOA went into effect, all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran by the European Union, the Security Council and the US were lifted.

Iran, in return, has put some limitations on its nuclear activities. Bulgaria can serve as a gateway for the Iranian products to European, the Commonwealth and Asian countries. (Presstv)

(28) Pakistani PM ...

services for humanity.

"This is not only a loss for Pakistan, but a tragedy that has made waves internationally, and rightly so. He was a humanitarian and a man of the people till his very last breath, and we cannot thank him enough for being a guiding light towards empathy in a nation divided," the prime minister said in his condolence message.

All provincial governments have also announced three-day mourning to pay homage to the great social worker, who had never any political ambitions and served the people without any discrimination of religion, colour and cast. (Xinhua)

(29) Iran Seizes...

the Iranian police conducted over 2,522 operations and dismantled 3,017 drug gangs in the same period. The Iranian anti-narcotic police have always staged periodic, but short-term, operations against drug traffickers and dealers, but the latest reports - which among others indicate an improved and systematic dissemination of information - reveal that the world's most forefront and dedicated anti-narcotic force (as UN drug-campaign assessments put it) has embarked on a long-term countrywide plan to crack down on the drug trade since five years ago. (Farsnews)