

**(1) Abdullah Stresses ...**

America's commitment to equipping the Afghan Air Force.

Resolute Support Mission Commander Gen. Nicolson was also present on the occasion, the statement added. Earlier, Gen. Dunford served as US commander in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Surge in Child...**

said. "Beyond the eight international human rights conventions thus far, we have also signed the children rights convention. We have to performing our tasks to protect our children," said Wasil Noor Mohmand, deputy minister of labor and social affairs.

The participants also asked religious scholars to do their part in discouraging child marriages and to grow awareness among the people about the matter.

"It is the responsibility of the government to coordinate with the ministry of hajj and religious affairs to establish how the scholars can contribute. Unfortunately, the government's involvement in this respect has been feeble," said Abdul Aziz Mushawir, advisor to ministry of hajj and religious affairs. The AIHRC recommended that effective rule of law, enhancing awareness among the public, access of children to legal and judicial organs and bringing an end to the culture of impunity will help to reduce the growing trend. (Tolnews)

**(3) Observers, ...**

CEO Abdullah Abdullah, pledged to bring about comprehensive reforms in the election law after 2014 presidential election crisis.

As part of government's initiatives for election reforms, President Ghani issued two legislative decrees to deliver on his election reform promise, but the Afghan lawmakers rejected Ghani's decrees. It was a move that has sparked strong criticism from monitors and the public.

"They (MPs) rejected the decree, because of their privileges such as guards, vehicles and salaries," university student Dawoud said.

"They are involved in corruption and fear that they will not be re-elected by the people," Kabul resident Fazel Ahmad said.

The Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) Saturday made its third attempt to finally elect its members of the joint parliamentary commission for electoral reforms. The process once again hit a deadlock when some MPs accused others of holding President Ashraf Ghani's legislative decree on electoral reforms hostage for their personal motives.

While the fate of the reform package remains uncertain, MPs are set to go for summer recess within three days.

"The House of Representatives has to introduce its members for the commission for the trust of people of Afghanistan in democracy and government to be restored," senator Gul Ahmad Azimi said.

Amid the continued controversy, election monitoring groups have asked the government to implement the reform process by interpreting the article 109 of the Afghan constitution.

"The government must issue another decree during the recess and act upon it. Government should not wait for MPs to return from recess," said Rahmatullah Salehi, member of Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan.

"The process of election reform has started, government and people expect the national assembly to approve the legislative decree to ensure that the pace of reform process is accelerated," said deputy presidential spokesman Shahhussain Murtazavi.

Holding Afghanistan's parliamentary and district council elections and convening the Loya Jirga are among the main demands of the Afghan people. (Tolnews)

**(4) Turkey Coup...**

coup plotters. In coming weeks, he hinted at making increasing use of the power President Barack Obama conferred on him to support offensive Afghan operations against the insurgents. Obama's decision could have a game-changing effect on the war, he believed.

The decision meant encouragement for the Afghans to stay on the offense, the general remarked. "Armies win on the offense. The ability to help the Afghan security forces when they are on the offense is really where we want to be..."

He indicated greater use of US combat airpower, reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft and resupply planes. It could create enough Afghan offensive momentum to shatter the Taliban's confidence and that could compel them to reconcile with the Afghan government.

Nicholson said they had about 20,000 casualties last year, which others have said included 5,000-plus killed in action and 14,000-plus wounded. He said casualties in 2016 are running

about 20 percent higher than last year. (Pajhwok)

**(5) NPC Approves ...**

province. The installation of the third turbine at the Kajaki hydropower dam would increase the dam's power production capacity to 118 megawatts from the current 100 megawatts consumed in Helmand and Kandahar provinces. President Ashraf Ghani said the process of energy projects should be accelerated in order all provinces could benefit from electricity.

The meeting also discussed offer relating to bidding for fuel supply to the Ministry of Defence and approved the ministry's proposal to place the bid tender before an open completion. About the current fuel supply contract of the ministry, the president said it had been approved in line with the concerned department's policy, which called for strict approach to bidding process. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Obama Repeats ...**

pluralism, saying that any suggestion that religious screening be imposed on US Muslims in response to the attack was "repugnant."

He was responding to a demand by a senior member of the U.S House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich.

Obama, who spoke earlier on Friday with French President Francois Hollande, said he met with French Ambassador Gerard Araud to offer sympathy and help.

At least 84 people died in the attack on the French Riviera city of Nice on Thursday.

Police sources said the truck was driven by a 31-year Tunisian who was known to authorities for petty crime but not Islamic radicalism. The man was eventually shot dead after an exchange of gunfire with police. (Tolnews)

**(7) Afghan Forces...**

strengthen its security forces and bring about reforms.

"The Afghanistan Special Forces stand among the region's best forces and we want them and our air force to be further strengthened and equipped," the president said. (Pajhwok)

**(8) US Delivers**

is achieved by main-rotor blades six inches longer than the MD 500E. The tailboom is extended eight inches and the tail rotor blades have been lengthened to provide increased thrust and directional control at high altitudes."

At a price of about \$5 million each, the MD-530 provides both an economical and critical air-to-ground capability, enabling Afghan pilots to engage the enemy. As with all major systems procured for the AAF, the MD-530s were purchased using the Afghan Security Forces Fund. (KP)

**(9) Uruzgan ...**

Nayab, however, dismissed reports on the possibility of collapse of the province, stressing that Afghan military forces are in control of all cities of the province.

Back in May, the Afghan security forces began a push to break the Taliban's hold on a crucial southern highway through Uruzgan Province.

While the most public and urgent security concerns in the south have been focused on the fighting in Helmand Province in recent months, the insurgency has also been slowly choking the city of Tirin Kot, the provincial capital of Uruzgan.

Afghan government forces have launched operations against the Taliban in 18 provinces of Afghanistan as fighting has intensified since the start of the militants' spring offensive in April. (Tasnim)

**(10) Nangarhar ...**

House of Parliament), Zahir Qadir, said Daesh wanted to take control of more districts in Nangarhar. The government is not able to eliminate the terrorist group alone.

"Daesh fighters neither accepts Islam nor are they Muslims. They only say that what they believe in Islam. We will not let them achieve their evil ends," he told the gathering.

He warned that a number of districts in Nangarhar could fall to Daesh if the government remains reluctant to take serious action against the group.

"Our government is supported by the international community, but the people should stand together against terrorism and terrorists. We should all stand together," he said. (Tolnews)

**(11) Helmand ...**

a resident of Musa Qala district, said: "People are really happy to cultivate poppy for a second and third time because it has become an occupation and a source of income."

Mohammad said most of the youth had picked up weapons fighting against their own security forces due to unemployment, but now some of them had put their guns down and were busy in cultivation of poppy.

He said currently the price of one kilogram of opium was 20,000 Pakistan rupees in the province.

Mohammad said some people in Manda locality of the district had prepared their fields for cultivation of poppy crop for second time, adding that most people chose to cultivate the illicit plant due to economic problems. Syed Ahmad Wror, head of the provincial Counter-narcotics Department, confirmed the second time cultivation of poppy in northern parts of the province.

"In the past, farmers did not know the crop can be grown for a second and third time, but now they have learned it," he said.

He expressed concern over the increase in poppy cultivation, saying more poppy production meant more insecurity and lawlessness.

Police Chief Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kintoz said the government was committed to eradicating poppy in the province.

He said Helmand was a place where more poppy was grown and as a result, the province witnessed more insecurity and lawlessness.

According to local officials, poppy was cultivated on 80,000 hectares of land last year, when the harvest season passed off without any problem. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Drug Trade...**

world is threatened by drug smuggling," said Danish.

"Up to 95 percent of opium is cultivated in insecure areas. That insecurity is the biggest challenge we face in our work," said Baz Mohammad Ahmadi, deputy minister of counter-narcotics.

"The government has used all of its capacity to combat the drug trade. Despite the government's best efforts, large swaths of land are still being cultivated with poppies for opium production. This is a matter of serious concern for the government and its citizens," Danish added.

"Let's join hands and fight against the menace. Do not allow our youths to become the victims of drugs," minister of counter-narcotics Salam Azimi said.

Afghanistan produced almost 75 percent of world's drugs in 2015. The issue has been of major concern to both to Afghanistan and its international partners. About 3.5 million Afghan are addicted to drugs. (Tolnews)

**(13) Terror Attacks...**

Akhtar Mansour as well as the killing of one member of Taliban's Quetta Shura.

In addition, six provincial governors, 13 district chiefs, 48 commanders and 214 group leaders were killed.

According to the report, government forces' counter-terrorism operations were reduced by 13 percent during this period. At the same time the activities of armed opponents also dropped by 26 percent compared to first six months of 2015.

Air operations of the foreign and Afghan forces against insurgents were increased by 75 percent during first six months of 2015.

"Until the military interference in Afghanistan is halted, until the Taliban enter the political negotiations, until there is an firm political commitments in place and those commitments are fulfilled, war conditions in Afghanistan are likely to remain unchanged," senator Mohammad Alam Eziydar said.

The Afghan and foreign forces conducted 2275 military operations, including 584 arrests and surveillance activities. A total of 187 air strikes were conducted against insurgents.

The insurgents conducted 493 face-to-face attacks. There were 193 landmine explosions, 129 other violent incidents, 37 suicide attacks and 37 mortar attacks. "In 2015 we remained in defensive positions while the enemy tried to attack Afghan security forces. This year, the Afghan security forces have been pursuing the enemy," said Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman to ministry of defense. According to the report, the Afghan security forces' main focus was to improve the sovereignty of the government in remote regions of the country while insurgents were also trying to gain swaths of terrain in remote areas. (Tolnews)

**(14) Pakistan PM ...**

elimination of TTP terrorists responsible for the APS tragedy. He said that Pakistan was fighting against terrorism and was fully committed to eliminating the last terrorist from its soil. While doing so, Pakistan's security forces had given unequalled sacrifices, he added.

"I will lead the campaign to eliminate every terrorist from my country. Terrorism is a common threat to both countries and must be eliminated through better coordination," the prime minister stressed.

Earlier, Ambassador Dr. Omar Zakhilwal wrote on his Facebook page that President Ghani ordered the July 9 air-

strike on Khalifa Omar Mansour, alias Khalid Khurasani, after Afghan forces detected his location.

The ambassador said the Afghan forces shared their information about the Taliban's Tariq Gidar group leader with American forces in Afghanistan. They subsequently launched the drone strike.

He said Omar was killed along with seven fighters in the strike. "The killing of Khalifa Mansour proves that Afghanistan is not using terrorists for its interests but targets them without any differentiation." (Pajhwok)

**(15) More than...**

Some of the illegal foreigners were also found to be involved in various criminal activities, the report claimed.

Meanwhile, Daily Times quoted another police official as saying that 11 members of a gang had been held in raids in various areas of Peshawar. An Afghan teenager, Usman, headed the ring with the help of two other aides, DSP Rokhan Zeb said.

The ringleader and his associates were arrested during the search and strike operations by Phandu police. Once arrested, the teenager allegedly confessed to his crimes, which mainly involved robberies. (Pajhwok)

**(16) 20 Development ...**

been able to disburse AFN 1,716,669,615 for execution of 1,992 uplift projects in different sectors including transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, etc while the work of hundreds of others is currently in progress in various communities.

**(17) Grape Exports...**

to 150 tonnes within a few days when the harvest season would reach its peak.

He believed over 20,000 tonnes of grapes might be sold abroad this year. Fresh fruits are largely exported through Pakistan, but traders expect a new window of export opportunity with the launch of trade activities at Chabahar Port.

Afghanistan fruits have a good market in Asia and Europe, but there are no facilities to transfer them.

Subsequently, the Afghan merchants had to rely heavily on Pakistan, according to FFDA head, who revealed 20,000 tonnes of grape exports were registered while 20,000 tonnes went abroad without registration. He put the value of the total exports at \$10 million.

The neighbouring country often created huge hurdles for Afghan exporters, inflicting huge losses on them, Agha alleged, saying that Pakistan's diplomatic missions had assured them of more facilities. In addition, they pledged to clothe the main gates for sometime for travellers so that trucks could cross the borders without interruption.

Haji Roohullah, a fresh fruit merchant, also complained of Pakistani officials' attitude toward Afghanistan's fresh fruit exporters. He viewed the Chabahar port as a golden opportunity for Afghan businessmen to swiftly move their goods and services across borders.

The Chabahar port is situated near the Persian Gulf on Iranian territory, 700 kilometres from the Afghanistan's southwestern Nimroz province. The port is economical for Afghan businessmen, particularly fruit exporters. He explained airlifting of fruits was not economical and the cost of commodities could rise multiple times. He lamented the government had held out promises to provide more facilities for Afghan businessmen and explore new markets but the pledges were yet to be honoured.

Orchard owners, meanwhile, urged the government to explore market for their produce. This year's production of grapes is better, but they may not benefit farmers as the exports are confined to Pakistan and some other countries. Resident Haji Sarwar called Zherai and Panjwai districts the main grape-producing districts of Kandahar. He said thousands of residents of Kandahar and neighbouring provinces were engaged in harvest in orchards. He demanded the exploration of international markets and facilitation of transporting fruits and other products outside Afghanistan.

Eng. Abdul Baqi Beena, deputy head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), said 97 percent of grapes were exported to Pakistan and India. A small portion is also sent to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He said they were in contact with Iranian authorities to explore ways of fresh fruit exports from Afghanistan via Chabahar port. Last year, Kandahar produced \$68 million fresh and dried fruits. (Pajhwok)

**(18) Nearly Dozen ...**

used against security forces by the rebels. Lal Mohammad, the local uprising group leader, said the offensive was

underway successfully and security forces established check-post in most cleared areas.

Separately, 15 Daesh rebels have been killed in foreign forces airstrikes in the Spin Zaea locality of Nazaryano district, Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman said.

He said the airstrikes were conducted late on Saturday. Daesh militants have not yet commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Rebel Training...**

facility, but no action could be taken as yet.

"From the past two years, insurgents have been training recruits at the centre. They provide weapons, equipment and training how to plant landmines and carry out suicide bombings," he said.

The district chief, Amanuddin Quraishi, acknowledged the Taliban's training centre existed in Jangal locality.

He said the centre had been active over the past three years some 13 kilometers from the district centre.

But provincial deputy police chief Col. Masoom Hashimi said he was unaware about the existence of such a Taliban training centre in Imam Sahib district.

"We don't have exact information about the centre, but will issue directives to intelligence officials to gather details about the facility," he said.

Earlier, residents and local officials of Dast-i-Archi district had claimed militants were imparted training in a seminary in the district. (Pajhwok)

**(20) Taliban Allow ...**

"Our children were long deprived of education. Now we demand of the government to construct schools and clinics in our district as soon as possible."

Another resident of the district, Munir Ahmad, also said the Taliban had allowed schools and health centres to be operational in the district.

"The Taliban have softened their stance, even they have told local residents to support the security forces against Pakistani aggression. Now the government should take advantage of the opportunity," he said.

He said most of the district residents were illiterate and they had to take their patients to Sharana, the provincial capital, Kabul or Pakistan.

Izzatullah, another resident of the Khoshamand district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban had provided a good chance to the people and the government should avail the opportunity and should construct buildings for schools and health centres.

He said if the government did not seize the opportunity, it would tantamount to a great betrayal of the Khoshamand dwellers.

Other residents held similar views. The town's administrative chief, Gulab Khan, also told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban had allowed schools and health centre to become functional in the district. However, he did not elaborate.

Paktika education director Kuchai Zazi said there had been no school in the district due to insecurity and other related reasons over the past 14 years.

"We had the plan to build schools in Khoshamand, but it did not happen and thus people were deprived of education."

He said if elders of the district cooperated with the education department, they would soon launch construction works on school buildings.

Paktika public health director Dr. Wali Gul Nazar also said they would establish health clinics in the Khoshamand district under an organized plan.

He said construction work on a clinic had already been launched and the project was 50 percent complete.

The Taliban also confirmed the residents' account. The group spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the Taliban had allowed schools to operate in Khoshamand and other several areas but on the condition that the curriculum would be of their choice.

He did not go into specifics. Mujahid said they did not oppose health centres because they served common people. Currently, 381 schools are operating in Paktika, with 239 schools lacking buildings and the remaining 32 have been closed due to insecurity. (Pajhwok)

**(21) War-Induced...**

aid and he wanted the government to pay him attention.

He said he had been trying to complete documents of his slain family members over the past few years, but was yet to succeed.

He said he was concerned about the future of children left behind by the martyred family members while the government seemed unwilling to assist him.

Mohammad Jan said he was opposed to the ongoing war in the country because the war had brought catastrophe to every home.

He called on the parties to the conflict to shun violence and let the people live

a peaceful life. (Pajhwok)

**(22) Minor Girl...**

Desiwal, the district's administrative head, confirmed the incident and said the injured had been evacuated to central and district hospitals. "Of the three girls later succumbed to her wounds, while another was referred to a Kabul hospital."

Local officials blamed the Taliban militants for planting landmines on roads, killing and maiming innocent civilians. The Taliban, however, have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

**(23) 14-Year-Old...**

organs," said Mohammad Azam, the victim's father.

Zahra's step-mother, Taza Gul, claimed that she also suffered from domestic violence and to escape abuse, she left the house with her husband.

"No one paid attention to Zahra, even when she was stabbed, beaten and harassed. We lost her," she said.

"She was pregnant. She aborted while she was being burnt. Here, we have witnessed two murders and two crimes," said civil society activist Baqi Samandar.

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) condemned the act and called on government to investigate the incident thoroughly.

"We urge the government to bring the perpetrators of this act to court and ensure justice for the victim," said the AIHRC chairperson Sima Samar. (Tolnews)

**(24) Man Brutally...**

have grown significantly. The officials are saying that the majority of the murder cases take place due to personal enmities, domestic violence and insurgency activities.

This comes as a prosecutor was shot dead by unknown gunmen in northern Balkh province and his vehicle was set on fire.

No suspect has been arrested in connection to the murder of the prosecutor as security officials are saying an investigation is underway. (KP)

**(25) Jawzjan Man ...**

least six tribal elders and the man sustained injuries after he pulled the pin of the grenade.

Aziz further added that an investigation is underway regarding the incident and injured people have been taken to hospital for treatment.

Incidents involving rape of the children are not rare in Afghanistan as the sexual abuse and rape of children have been rampant in Afghanistan, specifically in northern parts of the country. (KP)

**(26) Turkey Closes...**

and foreign policy advisers, where he received an update on the situation in Turkey, where reportedly at least 194 people were killed and 1,100 others wounded in the military coup attempt on Friday. (Xinhua)

**(27) Republican Donald ...**

petitive general election with former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as the standard-bearer of the Democratic Party.

Once calling himself as "a Christian, a conservative and a Republican, in that order," Pence is also a beloved social conservative among the devout evangelical conservatives within the party. (Xinhua)

**(28) Syrian Forces...**

mainly the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front, have unleashed repetitive attacks to break the government troops' offensive, but failed to curb the momentum of the Syrian army.

Aleppo, strategically located near the borders with Turkey, is Syria's largest city and once an economic hub. It has been a focal point of clashes between the Syrian army and the rebels.

In the summer of 2012, thousands of armed militants stormed residential districts of Aleppo from its countryside, striking the economic nerves of the Syrian government, which has repeatedly accused Turkey of supporting the rebels for undeclared interests in Aleppo. (Xinhua)

**(29) U.S. Sanctions...**

imposed comprehensive economic, trade, and financial sanctions against Sudan. He said that the government of Sudan is unable to import medicine, and companies found selling to Sudan are penalized, an act that is affecting women and children.

Dr. Babikir Mohamed, a Sudanese Legislator said that heavy penalties are placed on companies found trading with the government, hence pushing them out of business and forcing them to relocate to other parts of the world.

He said that currently Sudan is unable to import agricultural equipments, spare parts for the national airline and equipment for the once vibrant sugar factories. He attributed the latest two air accidents that involved the national carrier, the Sudan Airline, to lack of spare parts. (Xinhua)