

(1) Danish Says ...

In reaction to the first vice president's remarks, the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, one of the founders of the Coalition for the Rescue of Afghanistan, said Sarwar Danish "must be aware of realities on the ground".

"We did not expect such remarks from Danish. He as the second vice president should be aware of the Afghanistan's realities. The term coalition is the demand of millions of people and the stance of the alliance is the stance of millions of Afghans," said Bashir Ahmad Tayanj, spokesman for the movement.

Danish's remarks come amid recent political tensions inside government. Political affairs analysts said the nation must come together in order to overcome the current problems in the country. (Tolonews)

(2) New Checkpoints...

had been arrested in 196 different cases in the past one month on murder, kidnapping, armed robbery and street crime charges. Police also recovered a huge quantity of drugs in 64 raids. Heroin, opium, hashish, sheesha and alcoholic drinks were seized during the raids. (Pahwok)

(3) Iran Ready for ...

"Afghanistan possesses huge resources of iron ore and we are fully ready to explore and process the iron ore and there is a possibility to produce ingots out of iron ore for Iran owns enormous natural gas resources," Karbasian said.

He also pointed to the common border between the two countries and said constructing Tehran-Herat railway will be beneficial for both sides because it eases the transportation of minerals.

"During the former Afghan government, we didn't have sufficient collaboration with China and India in exploration and that is why we chose Iran as one of the rich countries in the realm of mines," said the Acting Director of Afghanistan Geological Survey Taher Rezaei. (IRNA)

(4) Kam Air Purchases ...

will help the company to conduct direct flights between Afghanistan and the United States in the near future.

"It (the airbus) will start flights (international flights) in the near future. For now we are giving the airliner to Ariana Airlines for hajj flights (to the Saudi Arabia) and later on the airliner will conduct international flights," said Kam Air CEO Osman Samadi.

Officials from Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) meanwhile urged government to support investors who are interested to investing in the aviation sector.

"The government should take necessary measures and revive the trust of the private sector. Government should cooperate in the field of tax exemption and loans because there are big companies which are willing to invest (in this sector)," the ACCI spokesman Seyam Pesarlai told TOLONews. (Tolonews)

(5) Afghanistan ...

military operation against insurgency, "we will agree with both sides and also the operation must be monitored by the U.S or China".

However, reports say that Pakistan has launched this operation without informing Afghanistan.

"Pakistan must take action against the Taliban and Haqqani network in its cities like Quetta and Islamabad where the insurgents are living with comfort," the MoD spokesman Dawlat Waziri said on Thursday. Pakistan's Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a press release said Wednesday that "the information about Operation Khyber 4 has been shared (twice verbally and in writing) with Afghan Forces as well as Resolute Support Mission, and ODRP".

The statement said that Pakistan Army looks forward for trust-based security coordination and cooperation for fight against common enemy.

"Rhetoric of blames and suggestive allegations are agenda of forces working against order and peace in the region which should be avoided," the statement added. (Tolonews)

(6) Pakistan Rejects

accused Pakistan of providing 'safe haven' to terrorists, saying the country had not taken any substantial action against the Haqqani network of Afghan Taliban.

The report said while terrorist-related violence declined in Pakistan for the second straight year in 2016, terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) continued to operate, train, organise and fundraise inside the country. The report, however, said Afghanistan experienced aggressive and coordinated attacks by the Afghan Taliban, including the Haqqani network and other insurgent groups, claiming a number of such attacks had been planned and launched from 'safe havens' in Pakistan.

Zakaria contested the claim, insisting that most of the militants fled to Afghanistan after Pakistan's successful operation in the tribal areas.

"As is evident from the statistics and media reports available, a considerable number of leaders and senior commanders of the

Haqqani network and other terrorists have been killed inside Afghanistan," he said, rebutting charges that the deadliest militant outfit was operating in Pakistan.

"Our efforts have been met with success, and acknowledged by a number of countries, including the US. Various delegations, who came to Pakistan from US and other countries, have visited the affected areas, which we successfully cleansed from terrorism," the spokesperson maintained.

On the Trump administration's policy review on Afghanistan, Zakaria said the process was yet to complete. "We will only be able to comment once the contents of review are shared with us," he added.

Regarding the proposed bill seeking tough restrictions on Pakistan, Zakaria said the bill was still

"However, Pakistan-US cooperation in diverse areas are longstanding. As far as our role in the context of peace in Afghanistan is concerned, Pakistan's position is clear. Pakistan wants to see peace and stability in Afghanistan, which we firmly believe is in its interest." (Pahwok)

(7) Trump Taps ...

the first such use of the weapon in battle. Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson have faced criticism over the pace of State Department nominations. South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsay Graham took the two to task in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" in early July, citing a lack of diplomatic leadership in Afghanistan and Pakistan as a particular cause for concern. (CNN)

(8) Highways in ...

"They (militants) have closed the road and have established two check points. We have removed one of their check points," said Samar Khan Atal, a soldier. Local residents also complained about the closure of the highways to traffic.

"We have been waiting here for more than two hours because the road is closed," said Enayatullah, a driver.

"The central government pays less attention to Kunduz. The deployment and administration of security forces are not proper in Kunduz. Lack of cooperation, poor management and poor use of the forces are the main problems of the Kunduz war," Abdullah Qaraloq, a senator from Kunduz said.

Reports indicate that at least 10 civilians were killed in the conflicts in Kunduz and Baghlan provinces.

"They (Taliban) have committed crime in the past five days and have killed and wounded a number of our brothers. They have destroyed people's properties and have threatened peoples' lives," Baghlan governor Abdulhai Nemati said.

Reports also state that Taliban has attacked Gozargah-e-Noor and Nahrin districts in Baghlan.

In Nahrin district, reports said, Taliban's attack has been pushed back by security forces.

Local officials said the situation will worsen in Gozargah-e-Noor district if reinforcements were not sent in.

"Our operations are ongoing and we continue our efforts to retake areas from the enemy," said Shouor Gul Khan, a deputy of the defense ministry.

Baghlan and Kunduz are two strategic provinces in Afghanistan's north. Analysts say security threats would affect other seven provinces in north and northeastern parts of the country. (Tolonews)

(9) Afghanistan...

emphasize access to education, the Strategic Plan now also highlights quality and governance. The plan is critical for coordination and assistance with organizations such as the Global Partnership for Education and the World Bank's education program," the envoy wrote.

He said as a result of the hard work of the Ministry of Education and the donor community, the US anticipated these two programs would serve children still waiting for their opportunity to go to school.

"Access to a quality public education is the right of every child, and the progress made in the last 15 years is truly remarkable."

Llorens said one of their local employees was from a small village in eastern Afghanistan. "When he was young, there was one primary and secondary school—for boys only."

"Now, when he returns to his home town, he sees more schools—a high school for boys, and now a high school for girls. This village has embraced the understanding that both boys and girls need schooling in order to build a better Afghanistan. This is a testament to the progress made in the last 15 years."

The ambassador said more work was needed to be done and working together, they would build on successes.

"In the last five years, USAID, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, printed and distributed 47 million textbooks to primary students in 34 provinces, and last year we expanded that to distribute an additional 11 million to primary and secondary students in 24 provinces."

He said over the next five years, USAID had committed to printing 135 million textbooks, enough for every child, in every school, in every province from first grade through high school graduation.

Earlier this year, Llorens said he was fortu-

nate to inaugurate another US-sponsored initiative called the Afghan Children Read Program.

"This five-year, \$70 million program will improve reading skills for boys and girls in grades 1 through 3. We expect more than one million Afghan children will benefit from this program."

He said through student-driven innovations and new technologies, or leveraging the technical expertise of the international community, Afghanistan was soaring to new heights in the pursuit of quality education.

"While universal public education is the ultimate goal in Afghanistan, affordable, quality private schools are also a viable alternative to explore. I passionately believe that education offers the best and surest path for a brighter future for Afghanistan." (Pahwok)

(10) IEC Seeks Financial

a general consensus on this issue. If the consensus is forged, there will be no problem on the way of elections," said Jandad Spinghar, head of Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

According to the IEC secretariat, election commissioners in a meeting with government leaders on Wednesday decided to engage the electoral body in discussions with the Kabul Poly Technic University and e-NIC department to ensure that the next elections are held with the help of technology.

The meeting was also attended by United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) representatives where the UN body pledged to secure the international community's financial cooperation for Afghanistan's elections.

Afghanistan's parliamentary and district councils elections were initially due to take place on June last year, but the polls were then postponed over reform controversy as pledged by the government leaders.

The elections are now set to be held on 7 July 2018. (Tolonews)

(11) Defense Ministry ...

engage in fundraising, including in the capital," it said.

"LeT's chief Hafiz Saeed (a UN-designated terrorist) continued to address large rallies, although in February 2017, Pakistan proscribed him under relevant provisions of Schedule Four of the Anti-Terrorism Act, thus severely restricting his freedom of movement," it noted.

The 2015 ban on media coverage of Saeed, JuD, and FiF continued and was generally followed by broadcast and print media, it said.

According to the State Department, the Pakistani government did not publicly reverse its December 2015 declaration that neither JuD nor FiF is banned in Pakistan, despite their listing under UN sanctions regimes, although in January 2017, Pakistan placed both organizations "under observation" pursuant to Schedule Two of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Meanwhile, a number of Afghan analysts said they welcome the Afghan government's efforts to convince the international community to put more pressure on Pakistan.

"Afghanistan should conduct its lobbying activities smartly in this situation in order to sideline Pakistan," said Nasrullah Stanekzai, university lecturer. (Tolonews)

(12) Ata Mohammad ...

of the parties informed regarding the formation of the coalition on Friday and said the political front has been established to rescue the country from the ongoing crisis.

The formation of the political front has attracted mixed reactions by the government and political parties and leaders.

The leader of Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in his latest remarks has said the new political coalitions or fronts are formed mainly to seek share in the power.

According to Hezb-e-Islami leader, the political coalitions should not be formed to counter each other and stand against each other but must have specific perspectives and slogans which should not reflect their personal interests.

Hekmatyar further added that Hezb-e-Islami will support any movement or coalition that is formed for bring peace and stability, end the violence and conflict, and ensure the Islamic values are protected. (KP)

(13) US Envoy to ...

and signed by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani during the period of around nine months.

The minister of justice also added that reviewing the judicial and criminal code and laws was one of the main commitments made by the government of national unity in London summit on Afghanistan.

The Afghan government for the first time finalized a law to criminalize the bullying and sexual abuse of children 'Bacha Baazi' late in February this year.

This comes as numerous reports emerged during the recent years regarding the worsening situation of the children subjected to abuse and bullying.

The issue attracted attention of the global human rights activists as there are concerns regarding the health and mental condition of the victims of the stigma.

The Afghanistan Independent Human

Rights Commission also expressed concerns regarding the mental situation of the victims, saying the majority of the children kept as slave are repeatedly raped.

On the other hand, the international human rights activists are saying that in majority of cases the victims become perpetrators which help the stigma to further continue after they become adults and keep other children as their slaves. (KP)

(14) Hekmatyar Takes ...

All parties should do their best to end the conflict and uphold Afghan and Islamic values, he stressed, urging heads of political groups to help promote national reconciliation.

He believed the people of Afghanistan could resolve their disputes, saying outsiders, including the neighbours, could do it for them.

He said government leaders should positively respond to genuine public demands and acknowledge their failure. He asked youth to stand united for the development, peace and prosperity of the country. (Pahwok)

(15) Jawzjan Women....

"This program is important because it helps women improve self-reliance."

Another woman, Benafsha, said the program helped women learn reading and writing which played a role in improving their handicrafts-making as well. She said they had put on display products to find market for them.

However, Jawzjan women's affairs director Najiba Quraishi criticized the organizers of the program and said women should be imparted education that could help them in future.

"The subjects taught to women in this program do not relate to their social life, the training they receive about handicrafts also cannot help them to improve their families' economic situation," she said.

She added that women's problems should have been surveyed first before launching such a program for them.

The day-long exhibition in Shiberghan that kicked off at 9am was visited by hundreds of people until evening. (Pahwok)

(16) Taliban Use ...

coordinated the attacks.

He said 10 security officials had been killed while three had been injured in the attacks. Security forces had gunned down 43 Taliban militants, he added.

Umar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor, has confirmed that six members of the Afghan forces had been injured, while 18 Taliban attackers had been killed.

The Taliban however claimed in a statement that 30 policemen had been killed, while a military base and many check posts had been overrun.

Earlier this week, Afghan forces backed by U.S. airpower managed to reclaim the restive Nawa district in Helmand, a year after Taliban had entirely taken up its control.

Lying south to the Taliban's birthplace Kandahar, Helmand remains one of the most insecure provinces in Afghanistan with militants controlling large swaths of land. (AA)

(17) Conflict Intensity ...

and as many wounded in the operations in Greshk district.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi said government security forces were inflicted heavy casualties in a car bomb attack and direct clashes in Greshk. He said the clashes were still ongoing.

Greshk is situated about 40 kilometers north of Lashkargah, the provincial capital.

Meanwhile, the governor's house media office in a statement said an airstrike targeted a Taliban hideout in Zheri area of Garamsir district, killing 19 and injuring 31 others on Friday afternoon.

The brief statement said seven vehicles belonging to the insurgents were also destroyed in the blitz. (Pahwok)

(18) Report Shows ...

an increase of more than 65 percent from the 545 airstrikes launched during the same period in 2016, military data shows.

According to the U.S. Air Force figures, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) had dropped 1,634 munitions in Afghanistan as of June 30, marking a dramatic increase from the same period in 2015 (298) and the following year (545).

CENTCOM oversees U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

The data shows that the number of munitions dropped in Afghanistan this year has already exceeded the total 947 and 1,337 during all of 2015 and 2016, respectively.

According to a report by the Washington Post, U.S. Navy Capt. Bill Salvin, a spokesman for the U.S.-led mission in Afghanistan, indicated that majority of the airstrikes launched this year have targeted the Taliban.

The report added that the U.S. military also attacked the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) also known as Daesh, but to a lesser extent.

By the time U.S. President Dolan Trump took office, the Taliban had gained control of more territory than during any other time since the U.S. military removed it from power in 2001.

Former U.S. President Barack Obama declared the U.S. combat mission over in Afghanistan at the end of 2014.

The U.S. Air Force figures show that the number of airstrikes decreased nearly every full year after 2014, which covers American airstrikes between 2012 and the end of June of this year.

The number of bombs launched so far this year is on track to come close to the 4,083 dropped in 2012, the figures show. American military pilots dropped more bombs in 2012 than during any other year covered by the U.S. Air Force data.

By the end of 2012, the Obama surge troops had returned home, and his withdrawal plans were underway.

U.S. president has granted the military broader authority to target jihadists in Afghanistan, allowing the Pentagon to set the number for the expected increase in the U.S. military's footprint in the war-ravaged country.

On Tuesday, Trump had lunch with a group of senior service members in a bid to come up with ideas on fighting the war in Afghanistan.

Trump said before the lunch that he wants "to find out why we've been there for 17 years, how it's going and what we should do in terms of additional ideas."

He said: "We have plenty of ideas from a lot of people, but I want to hear it from people on the ground."

This comes as Trump's aides search for an improved strategy in tackling the war – a war that has been ongoing for 17 years.

It was widely expected that Trump's new strategy would be unveiled by mid-July, however this has not happened. (Tolonews)

(19) Annual Poetry...

languages should also deeply study literary works in other regional languages.

"How many living legendary poets we have today who are considered international celebrities?" asked the governor, stressing the need for studying literary works of foreign and regional poets.

"Another thing is that I wonder why our poets remain stuck in the beautiful hairs of their beloved and write nothing about humanity and other important subjects."

Paktia information and culture director Mohammad Shifa Mushfiq besides reading a message from acting Information and Culture Minister Rasool Bawari added that literature reflected the culture of a society and thus needed quality work.

"Afghanistan has a rich culture, it a joint responsibility of all of us to promote our culture and literature and preserve our historic places and traditions. A lot of work is needed in this regard."

Later, poets from Paktia, Kabul, Khost, Paktika, Nangarhar and other provinces presented their poems and ghazals.

It was the 12th annual poetry session called "Nakhtar" in Paktia.

Kabul university teacher and advisor to the president on academic and culture affairs, Lal Pacha Azmoon, said Nakhtar was among major annual poetic sessions in the country.

He said the latest session was carried out in a professional manner, hailing the music program that followed the poetry recitation.

"It was a fantastic poetry session and was held in a poetic environment at a time when bomb blasts and misfortunes have gripped the nation."

He said such events had a significant impact on the development of literature. "Previous poetry sessions would only take place at daytime. Now fortunately these events are organized at night." (Pahwok)

(20) Taliban Storm ...

He said a large number of local uprising forces had reached the two districts to reinforce the security forces.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, however, said the government forces sustained heavy casualties in last night clashes in the two districts. He said the fighters had besieged the Guzargahi Nur district centre.

The attacks on the two districts come amid ongoing fierce clashes between security forces and Taliban insurgents on the outskirts of Pul-i-Khumri, the provincial capital, and Baghlan-i-Markazi district.

An official at the provincial civil hospital, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said they had received more than 90 casualties, including civilians, at the hospital during the past few days. (Pahwok)

(21) 24 Daesh, 2 ...

still taken positions against each other.

The resident said civilians had so far suffered no casualties in the clashes, but some houses were hit by stray bullets.

Meanwhile, the media office said the Afghan commando forces last night raided suspected militant hideouts in the Moman Dara district of Nangarhar, killing two Taliban suspects and injuring as many others. (Pahwok)

(22) Samangan Man ...

He said the incident resulted from domestic violence and the alleged killer had escaped and police had launched a manhunt for him. A surgeon on duty at the civil hospital in Aibak, Dr. Esa Raufi, said they were delivered the dead body of a woman and two injured persons, including a woman, at about 12am last night.

He said the victims had been hit with an axe and a pickaxe. (Pahwok)