

(1) US Vows to...

warring sides to pay attention to civilians' lives. Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General said: "5,166 civilians were recorded killed or maimed in just six months of this year of whom almost one third were children. This represents an increase of four percent the total number of casualties compared to the first six months of 2015 and is the highest half-year total since 2009. Anti-government elements remain responsible for the majority 60 percent of civilian casualties." Save the Children also said that the death of 400 children and wounding of more than 1,121 others in the first six months of this year was a cause for concern. (Tolonews)

(2) Large Islamic...

brigade commander Col. Jan Mohammad told Pajhwok Afghan News reporter in the area that the captured facility was a big centre of the Islamic State. "It was a marsh place of Daesh militants, they would organize attacks from here and besides a court, they have had established some other departments," he said.

The operation by the Afghan commando forces is not confined to the Sarai Bazaar area alone. Away from the area, there are two frontline areas called Faqir Baba and Ilyas Baba localities. All residents of these villages have been displaced. Several homes have been torched as a result of clashes between the warring sides. Bullet holes in walls of homes are visible. First battalion commander of the Special Operations, Col. Ghulam Hazrat, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Daesh militants were hiding in people's homes from where they engaged security forces.

"Our the past few days, we cleared areas from Janjal Ghundi to Ilyas Baba and now this area is being cleared of Daesh," he said. Ilyas Baba area links the Kot district with Haska Mena district. It is feared armed militants fleeing the operation might sneak into other districts and stage a comeback after the operation is ended. But the commando forces' second group service member, Syed Abbas, said the commandos had also launched their operations in Haska Mena, Nazyan and Achin districts. "After we capture an area, our second team comes and clear that area and then other security forces establish posts," he said.

A resident of Syed Ahmadkhal area in Kot district, which was recently cleared, Kabar Khan said there was now security in their area after the commando operation and some families had returned to their homes. He said several homes were damaged and household animals perished during the operation. Another resident, Mohammad Karim, said: "The government should start providing assistance to local residents because they incurred huge losses during the conflict."

About a month ago, hundreds of Daesh militants attacked residential homes in various areas and captured and plundered them, killing some civilians as well. Sometime ago, an operation codenamed "Shaheen 18" was launched against Daesh, but later President Ashraf Ghani ordered commando operation to have better results.

The commando forces are advancing and they have air support from the Afghan Air Force and NATO forces, but Daesh militants are keeping alive the conflict in remote pockets.

The Afghan Commando Forces commander general at the Ministry of Defence had said the operation in Kot and nearby districts against Daesh was a success and would continue.

Yesterday, local official said the Islamic State deputy military affairs commander, Sad Emirati was among 122 militants killed so far.

The group has so far said nothing to the media in this regard.(Pajhwok)

(3) Kabul Seeks ...

well appreciated and evaluated in Afghanistan ... we hope this cooperation will resume, because it is in the interest of all three parties," Atmar added.

At his meeting with Patrushev on Tuesday, he will raise a number of issues, including the delivery of Russia's Mi-17 and Mi-35 heli-

icopters. Kabul was ready to negotiate with Taliban if the militant movement shunned violence embraced the national constitution, the advisor said. Otherwise, he warned the insurgents of military action. Atmar reiterated: "If they don't accept our offer for negotiations, military action will be taken. If they say yes to peace, we will negotiate. It is now up to them to act."

Expected to float new proposals on a joint campaign against drug trafficking, the official confirmed receiving ideas from Russia about how to eradicate narcotics.

"But, generally, security cooperation between Afghanistan and Russia will have a direct impact on narcotics, and this cooperation will be in the field of training, education, as well as equipment and weapons."(Pajhwok)

(4) Bidding for ...

Mine and Petroleum Director Eng. Khan Aqa acknowledged insecurity had hampered the mining of natural resources in the province.

He said the governor had assured residents of Shah Walikot and Khakrez districts that the development of natural resources would be launched once the law and order was restored.

He said despite security issues, a ten-year contract of fluorite mine had been signed. The mine is situated in Nesh district about 160 kilometres from Kandahar city, the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

(5) 122 Daesh ...

Separately, a statement from the governor house said 20 Daesh rebels were held in Achin district by special force during offensive. Security officials seized weapons and ammunitions in the raid, the statement said.

Earlier this week, scores of civilians have been killed and wounded in Daesh claimed attack on a rally staged by the Hazara minority group in capital Kabul.(Pajhwok)

(6) Rabbani ...

issues, including the importance of Brussels conference on Afghanistan, preparation for the said conference and its sideline meetings, the MoFA statement concluded.

According to another report, Minister of Foreign Affairs met Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Kabul, Erling Skjongsberg, in his office, a MoFA statement said.

According to the statement, at the outset, Ambassador Skjongsberg conveyed Foreign Minister of Norway's condolences in connection with the recent terror attack in Kabul and condemned the heinous attack in the strongest term. The ambassador said that as Norway reaffirmed its commitment in Warsaw conference, the country is willing to continue its cooperation with Afghanistan in different spheres as well as paying more attention to the success of Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process and women empowerment in Afghanistan.

In his part, Foreign Minister Rabbani thanked Ambassador Skjongsberg and the Foreign Minister of Norway for the sympathies, calling Norway a long-standing friend and partner of the Afghan government and people. The Minister also expressed appreciation for Norwegian assistance to Afghanistan over the last one and a half decades in various spheres. (Agencies)

(7) Attorney Gen...

from this incident?" asked one mother. Meanwhile, the Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said at the Council of Ministers Meeting on Tuesday: "This is an act by Afghanistan's enemies as they once claim responsibility for an incident but the next time they reject the responsibility."

The deadly attack sparked worldwide condemnation, and countless countries sent messages of condolences to the government and people of Afghanistan.(Tolonews)

(8) MoI Claims ...

militants who surrendered to the Afghan security forces along with several weapons, ammunition and explosives. MoI also added that scores of irresponsible gunmen were also arrested during the operations from Dara-e-suf district. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.(KP)

(9) Access to...

female employees have a strong role to play not just in the private sector but in the economy as a whole in Afghanistan. We must continue to support their efforts to pursue equality and economic empowerment through financial inclusion initiatives and internship programs such as those offered by USAID's FAIDA program," said Ambassador Michael McKinley. "It is through education and greater advancement opportunities in the workplace that we can change women's lives in Afghanistan," he added.

"We have come a long way, but have many more miles to go and difficult milestones to achieve before we can see women as equal and full partners in the transformation of our country," said Khan Afzal Hadawal, First Deputy Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank. "For the way forward, I strongly believe that women's economic advancement must be a top priority for our Government and for our partners. We must ensure effective, adequate access to finance for women led and run businesses," Mr. Hadawal continued.

(9) Access to...

Following the speeches, the women-owned enterprises held an exhibition to showcase their products - that included handicrafts, silk clothes, jewelry, embroidery, saffron, dry fruits, and spices - to the prominent government and international audience and participants at the ceremony. (PR)

(10) Impressive ...

skills in mid-2015. The pictures of the young men first started to circulate in international media which shows the men performing Parkour skills in Dar-ul-Aman Palace which was destroyed during the civilian war in 1990s.

The initiative displaying Parkour moves in Afghan police uniform has been widely welcomed as the service members of the Afghan police are busy facing the worst situation in the country with the rampant insurgency led by the local and foreign insurgents. Everyday dozens of Afghan police service members are losing their lives as they are facing the enemy in the frontline besides security personnel from other security institutions are contributing equally.

The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) took over the full security responsibility from the NATO-led coalition forces at the start of last year. ANDSF have proved to remain resilient as they went through a tough period following the transition despite hundreds of them lost their lives while combating terrorism.

In the meantime there have been unprecedented support to ANDSF on international and domestic level as the international partners of the Afghan forces reaffirmed long term support just few weeks ago but what effects could it have on the security situation of the country remains not ascertained.

The Afghan officials believe the ongoing violence in the country has foreign roots and insist on an international and regional cooperation in a bid to eliminate the terrorist safe havens and subsequently maintain peace and stability in the country and in the region.(KP)

(11) Hundreds of...

personnel. He expressed concern about local residents, who fled their homes due to the fighting. Ghulam Rasoul, a member of the youth council who arrived in Farah City with his family, said the Taliban attacked their village on Sunday and told people to leave their homes, as the rebels planned attack on security forces.

He confirmed hundreds of families displaced from Chik and Chaharmas villages as a result of the battle were currently staying in Farah City -- the provincial capital.(Pajhwok)

(12) 11 Afghan ...

and foreign terrorists. The statement further added that a number of key ISIS militants including Saad Emarati, Shah Khali and Hiadar were among scores of militants killed in past 48 hours and at least 20 others were arrested.

(12) 11 Afghan ...

At least 8 militants were killed and 18 others were wounded during a separate operation in Posht-e-Rod district of Farah

province, MoD said, adding 5 Taliban militants were killed and 4 others were wounded in Marjah district of Helmand.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the reports so far. There has been a steep rise in Afghan army casualties during the recent months as the Afghan forces have stepped up attacks to counter the terrorist activities of the militant groups.

Earlier the Afghan army casualties stood at 4 service members a day on an average basis, according to the defense officials.

However, the number of the Afghan forces casualties is relatively higher as the toll of the Afghan police and other security personnel are not properly disclosed. (KP)

(13)Shulgar Residents...

opened fire on the director's car. One person was killed and the attackers managed to escape, he added. No choice visiting Mazar-i-Sharif for medical treatment, he explained. Besides lack of health-care services, people were also in need of clean drinking water, Hadi added.

Mohammad Din, hailing from Siah Ab village, grumbled they were hard hit by absence of health services. "Traveling to Mazar-i-Sharif City is not easy; passenger cars go there only in the morning. If a person encounters a health issue around midday, we have to wait until next morning."

A tribal elder from Nawababad village, Haji Mirwais, said more than 3,000 families in nearby villages were faced with healthcare and potable water issues. People still use irrigation and stream water for drinking.

A provincial council member, Zabihullah Kakar, said he recently visited the villages to hear residents' complaints. About 18 villages, located far away from the district centre, lacked healthcare facilities, he acknowledged. The issue has been shared with the provincial council and action would be taken soon through the governor's house, he said.

Balkh governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, confirmed receiving complaints about problems in Shulgar. He promised the problems would be resolved in the near future.(Pajhwok)

(14)8 Afghans...

the same offence. The 25-year-old was later sentenced to one month in prison by a judicial magistrate. According to the daily, Habib Shah, 32, and Hazrat Noor, 24 were held under the same law and were sentenced to three months in prison.

Jabbar Khan (23) and Sardar Khan (32) were arrested by police on March 8 before being sentenced to three months in jail for illegally entering Pakistan.

Noor Mohammad (27) and Hashmatullah (28) had been arrested on June 4. Both were ordered to be deported by a local judicial magistrate, the newspaper said. (Pajhwok)

(15)Ghazni Women...

far claimed responsibility for the attack. No one has been detained yet in connection with the incident.(Pajhwok)

(16)Anti-Terror ...

plans to increase security at airports across Malaysia following recent terrorist events such as attacks at Turkey's Istanbul Ataturk Airport and Belgium's Brussels Airport in Zaventem. (Xinhua)

(17)Turkey-U.S...

police and judiciary. Both Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Binali Yildirim have called for Gulen's extradition, with the premier even declaring that "any country that stands behind Fethullah Gulen is not our friend." (Xinhua)

(18)Refugee Problem...

directly traced to the Islamic State (IS). The problem is not that the attacks were carried out under the order of the IS, rather than they were more or less under the influence of radical propaganda of IS with audio or video clips on platforms such as social media, which often inspire radical behaviors, Tophoven said. "The persons who carried out these operations are not trained by IS nor did they have any direct connection with it." (Xinhua)

(19)US Democrats...

clinch the Democratic Party's system and are free to support any candidate for the presidential nomination at the party's national convention. Clinton, a former first lady and former secretary of state, won 2,205 delegates and 602 super delegates, while Sanders, a senator of Vermont, garnered 1,846 delegates, as well as 48 super delegates. A Democratic candidate needs to clinch 2,383 combined delegates and super delegates to be the party's presidential nominee.

Sanders' supporters have long complained that the use of super delegates and other ways in the primary nomination process favored Clinton, who is poised to clinch the Democratic nomination on Tuesday night. (Xinhua)

(20)Turkey Says...

to come, he said "We have decided to continue the unfinished process to make a new constitution." Yildirim noted the gendarmerie and coast guard, which were previously under the command of the Turkish armed forces, would be fully tied to the interior ministry. (Xinhua)

(21)India Hosts ...

synergies among the existing cooperation mechanism, innovation of new cooperation mechanisms and continuation of mutually agreed existing BRICS cooperation mechanism, the local daily The Pioneer quoted an official of the foreign ministry as saying. (Xinhua)

(22)THAAD Deployment...

Asian region, which have already been escalated with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s nuclear and missile tests, with the THAAD deployment decision. Lee Jowoon, 24, one of the students joining the rally, told Xinhua that the U.S. missile defense system will raise war risks in his country as the deployment would trigger arms race in the region.

"Basically, I oppose any introduction of (U.S.) weapons system (to my home country). The deployment of THAAD will encourage North Korea (DPRK) to produce more nuclear weapons. In the end, it will raise war risks," said Lee. (Xinhua)

(23)UNSC Renews...

threat is for all Iraqis to work together by addressing needs in security as well as the political realm," the resolution said.

UNAMI is a political mission established in 2003 by the Security Council at the request of the government of Iraq. (Xinhua)

(24)Knife Attack...

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Sudan's President Accuses ICC of Corruption

NOUAKCHOTT - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has accused the International Criminal Court (ICC) of engaging in corruption. The Sudanese president was speaking during the 27th edition of the Arab League Summit that was held in Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott.

"This institution is undermined by corruption and its actions do not contribute to justice at the international level, but only tarnishes our country's image," al-Bashir said.

"Media recently released information linking ICC to corrupt activities and we have documents that show real evidence," the Sudanese president said.

In 2009 and 2010, the ICC issued two arrest warrants against al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity and genocide. The two arrest warrants are in relation to the violence that occurred in Darfur, western Sudan, where over 300,000 lives were lost. (Xinhua)

Obama's Half Brother Says to Vote for Trump

NAIROBI - A half brother of U.S. President Barack Obama said Tuesday that he will vote for Republican nominee Donald Trump in the presidential election this November.

Trump is "down-to-earth" and "cool," but Barack Obama has neglected his family since taking office in 2009, Malik Obama

told reporters by phone from the western Kenyan village of Kogelo, President Obama's ancestral home.

Malik Obama, born in Hawaii, has dual citizenship. He said he has voted in U.S. elections since the 1980s.

"This Trump guy is a really cool guy. He appeals to me and also I think that he is down-to-earth and he speaks from the heart and he is not trying to be politically correct. He's just straightforward. It is not like someone is prompting him," said Malik.

He also praised Trump's emphasis on national security, saying: "Trump is so much concerned about security and he wants to make America great."

He said Trump's stance against Muslims coming to the United States was understandable.

"I'm a Muslim, of course, but you can't have people going around just shooting people and killing people just in the name of Islam," he said. (Xinhua)

2 Turkish Generals Detained in Dubai Airport over Coup Attempt

ANKARA - Two Turkish generals linked to the failed coup attempt were detained at Dubai International Airport early on Tuesday, according to state-run Anadolu Agency.

The two detained generals serving in Afghanistan were identified as Turkish Task Force Commander Maj. Gen. Cahit Bakir and Kabul Training, Support and Advising Commander Brig. Gen. Sener Topuc.

As a result of Turkish Foreign Ministry and National Intelligence Agency (MIT) officials' cooperation with the Emirati authorities, two generals were brought to Ankara on Tuesday morning for further legal processes, according to the report.

Around 13,000 suspects, including military personnel, police, judiciary members and civil servants have been detained so far in a nationwide probe.

The failed coup attempt on July 15 left at least 290 people, including more than 100 "coup plotters" killed, authorities said. (Xinhua)

Japan's OECD Ambassador Appointed as New Envoy to EU

TOKYO - Japan's ambassador to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Kazuo Kodama, was appointed by the Japanese government Tuesday to be its new envoy to the European Union.

The appointment of Kodama, 63, which comes into effect immediately, follows the departure of Keiichi Katakami from his post as Japan's EU envoy last month, as Katakami was promoted to the position of deputy foreign minister in charge of economic affairs.

Kodama, a veteran envoy, took up his duties as permanent representative of Japan to the OECD in 2013 and prior to that had held a number of positions at overseas embassies and consulates and in foreign-based PR bureaus for Japan. (Xinhua)

Japan PM to Visit Iran at Appropriate Time: Diplomat

TEHRAN - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has not cancelled his scheduled visit to Iran and will travel to Tehran at an "appropriate time," an informed source at Iran's Embassy in Tokyo says.

On Monday, Japanese Kyodo News Agency quoted government sources as saying that the premier had canceled a trip to Iran reportedly scheduled to take place in late August, adding that Abe will wait until after the US presidential election in November to decide if he will visit Tehran.

"Shinzo Abe's trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran is still on the agenda and will take place at an appropriate time given growing trend of bilateral cooperation," the Iranian official said on Tuesday.

He added that the reported date of the visit - late August - had been merely media speculation and noted that no official Japanese organization has yet announced an exact date. (Presstv)