

(1) Ghani Cancels ...

items for hostels and hospitals and other items.

This comes as President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani earlier said work on key infrastructure projects including construction of water dams will start in accordance with the available resources. During a meeting of the National Procurement Commission (NPC) late in March this year, President Ghani reviewed a report by the Ministry of Energy and Water regarding the construction of 29 large, medium and small water dams.

President Ghani said necessary measures will be put in place for the start of key infrastructure projects, considering a balance and the available resources.

The Ministry of Finance was given the task to take necessary steps for the arrangement of funds for the said projects while the Ministry of Energy and Water was instructed to seek ways in attracting private sector investments as well for the implementation of the projects.(KP)

(2) Etisalat Celebrates...

dedicated team at Etisalat, without whom this would not have been possible,' said Dr. Salah Zerguerras, CEO, Etisalat Afghanistan. 'We would like to inspire people to do more with their lives. Etisalat's voice and data services enable the country to connect to the world in a more efficient and reliable way and we achieved it. We are not stopping here; we will continue to provide our customers with the state of the art technology and services and will support Afghans towards a better tomorrow.'

Currently Etisalat is providing 3.75G services in 24 provinces while the company covers 34 provinces across Afghanistan under its 2G and voice services.

The impact of Etisalat fast internet on Afghans life has been quite remarkable.

Now, people are using the internet to communicate, do business, shop online or carry out their monetary transactions, all with their smart phones, and this opportunity is the beginning of great achievements.

Economic growth propelled by technology is the direction for the future. Etisalat commits itself to provide world class technologies in real time. Etisalat has always put the 'Customer first' making it the number one choice for Afghans. (PR)

(3) US Military ...

financial support by Nato nations, as approved at Warsaw (Nato summit earlier this month), would continue out to 2020, he added.

The two leaders were responding to a question that continued US engagement in Afghanistan indicated that President Barack Obama failed to achieve his objective of ending the Afghan war during his presidency. Last month, President Obama allowed the US forces to support Afghan military missions by conducting air strikes against the Taliban and other insurgents.

Before this, US air strikes were largely limited to protecting American troops and rescuing Afghan forces in extreme circumstances, such as preventing a key town from falling into Taliban control.

On July 6, President Obama also announced that the United States will maintain approximately 8,400 troops in Afghanistan through the end of his administration.

"The new authorities were intended and are having the effect of strengthening the ability of US forces to support Afghan forces this fighting season," said Secretary Carter while explaining the US strategy.

The new powers would "make sure that Afghan security forces ... are successful in this fighting season" and recognise the fact that even though they've come a long ways since when they started, they still benefit from the support of US forces, he said.

Gen Dunford said he believed President Obama recognised that in some areas the Afghan forces "still lag in terms of capability development" when he authorised the US forces to step up their support.

"With regard to what's going to happen after this president, I think this president recognised, when he approved the request" for keeping some US troops in Afghanistan in 2017, that the conflict was not ending during his tenure, he said.

Gen Dunford also addressed a UN report, released on Monday, saying that there were more civilian casualties in Afghanistan in the first six months of this year than during the same period in any of the past six years.(Pajhwok)

(4) 10,000 Refugees...

coming home, certain NGOs are also providing them with cash which enables the refugees to consult health services," said Hafiz Ahmad Miakhail, media advisor for the MoRR.

"Following increasing tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the political pressure also increased on Afghan refugees, so repatriation levels increased in the wake of efforts made by government for voluntary repatriation; cash support also increased and these issues are the main aspects of the rise in the repatriations," said Miakhail.

Abdul Salam is one refugee who has returned. He lived in Pakistan for 35 years.

"Pakistan has imposed additional restrictions and pressure, police now easily arrest a refugee and investigate them, police arrested my son despite the fact he had a refugee card," he said. According to Salam, all his children have been denied an education in Pakistan.

But for another refugee this was not the case.

"We had a good life there, our children were at school, now we have returned to live in our

Up to 1.5 million Afghan refugees still live in Pakistan. However, Pakistan has given the refugees six months to leave.(ToloneWS)

(5) Govt. Expedites ...

Murtazawi assured the nation of government's commitment to fighting the trend by defining more inclusive anti-corruption measures ahead of the Brussels Summit in October.

He said that all government institutions are expected to outline their anti-corruption policies at a special meeting on Thursday.

Referring to government's counter-corruption strategy, corruption monitoring groups have cautiously welcomed the announcement.

The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) has however cast doubt over the effectiveness of government's anti-graft policies in the past, urging the political leadership to make sure that the newly established anti-corruption justice center starts its work soon.

The center aims to probe corruption cases of government officials.

The MEC has called on government to finalize major corruption cases in the country in order to revive the trust of the international community.

The Brussels Summit in a way will revive the commitments made by the international community to Afghanistan during the Warsaw Summit earlier this month, however government needs to take firm steps to combat corruption ahead of the next summit.

While government is convinced of the future-effectiveness of the anti-corruption justice center, critics still cast doubt over government's anti-corruption policies.

"The Afghan government takes such initiatives before every summit, but when the summits are concluded, government also stops its efforts and this is not a good approach," said Yama Turabi, head of MEC.

But, government still defends its anti-corruption measures.

"High Council of Governance, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption convenes its first meeting tomorrow; the ministries are expected to define their anti-corruption measures which are concrete and practical work will start," said presidential spokesman Haroon Chakhansuri.

But, monitoring groups have said that government needs to take solid action to combat corruption before the Brussels Summit.

"The government needs to prioritize corruption and address the issue firmly; the anti-corruption justice center must assume its work before the Brussels Summit and it should assess a number of major corruption cases," head of Integrity Watch Afghanistan, Sayed Ekram Afzali said.

The question being asked however is why have those appointed to the new center not started their work?

"The anti-corruption justice center will start its job in the near future and it will investigate major cases of corruption," said Basir Azizi, spokesman for the Attorney General of Afghanistan.

The Brussels Summit on Afghanistan is scheduled to take place on 4 and 5 October in Belgium. At least 70 countries and 30 international organizations are expected to attend the key summit. (ToloneWS)

(6) Russia Expresses...

support to the Afghan National Defense Force.

In an interview with Sputnik on Monday, Atmar said Afghanistan was interested in enhancing its cooperation with Russia against international terrorism.

"The reason I am here is to ask Russia for help [fight Daesh]. Russian help was extremely helpful and effective [in fighting terrorism]," Atmar said.

He also told Sputnik that Kabul hoped for renewed cooperation between Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on Afghanistan.

"NATO and Russia cooperation has been extremely well appreciated and evaluated effectively in Afghanistan.

This NATO-Russian cooperation was very helpful. And we hope that this cooperation is resumed, because it is in the interests of all three parties, it is in the interest of Afghanistan and, Russia and NATO," Atmar said.

Speaking to Russia's TASS news agency earlier this week, Atmar said Afghanistan was interested in buying Russian-made Mi-35 combat helicopters to combat terrorists.

"We need combat helicopters and other weapons to rebuff terrorist groups acting in the Afghan territory more efficiently," he said.

"Now we have obsolete modifications of Russian combat helicopters. We would like to replace them by more modern Mi-35 rotorcraft and to organize training of pilots and technical personnel to service these helicopters. This is issue is of top priority importance for us at the moment." (ToloneWS)

(7) Senate Approves...

shall be nine months every year, and when needed, the Assembly shall extend its term."

"Extraordinary sessions of the Assembly during recess shall be convened by Presidential order," it adds.

Meshrano Jirga secretary Najiba Husaini said if the WTO draft laws were not approved, Afghanistan's membership of the group would be suspended for the next five years.

She said the president had requested an extraordinary Senate session to approve the laws before an Afghan delegation visited the WTO headquarters next week.

Ghulam Nabi Farahi, the parliamentary affairs minister, welcomed the president's request for holding the meeting about approval of the draft laws.

The minister told the lawmakers that the laws had already been passed by the Wolesi Jirga or lower house and hoped the upper house would also endorse them.

The senators approved all of the laws without suggesting any amendment to any part.

The WTO finally accepted Afghanistan membership in November 2015. According to Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the WTO has set Afghanistan July 2016 the deadline to process legal procedures for its membership.(Pajhwok)

(8) Govt. Seeks ...

help; however we faced deadlocks in our attempt; but government will announce the next step by the end of the week and then details will be shared with the media," said Maisam Umid, deputy spokesman for the CEO.

Both the presidency and the CEO's office have rejected rumors over disagreements between the president and the CEO regarding the electoral reforms issue.

However, monitoring groups claim government does not have the political will to reform the law.

"The electoral reform process is one of the priorities in line with the political agreement (signed at the establishment of the national unity government), however no practical steps have been taken until now and we are massively concerned about the approach; if a similar track continues, international pressure and outrage among opposition forces will likely increase," said Mohammad Naeem Ayoubzada, head of the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, members of the public have also blasted government over constant delays that have hit the much-awaited process.

"No leaders have disagreements on the scale of Ghani and Abdullahi; I personally will not vote in the elections," local resident Muharram Hussain said.

"The government tells lies, it has not delivered on any of its promises," said University student Rohullah.

"Even pro-government MPs reject the decree in parliament, because government leaders were trying to put their responsibilities on the shoulders of parliament," said MP Raihana Azad.

"According to the law, the decree is already implemented. The government has the legal authority to undertake its job whether it is electoral reforms or any other job but keeping in mind the time the decree was issue. When the MPs return from the summer recess, government can resend the decree to parliament for approval," MP Ghulam Farooq Majroh said.

The European Union and foreign donors have said that they will not provide financial assistance to Afghanistan's election management bodies unless the reforms are effected in the elections law.(ToloneWS)

(9) NATO....

Pakistan still neglect, it will face huge problems exert from the International community."

Meanwhile Deputy Committee member of the security in upper house of the parliament still sees Pakistan as

dishonest country, believed holding such session will not give good results. Deputy Committee member of the parliament Afzal Shamil said, "If we witness 100 of such session it will not give good results, Pakistan is not punctual and honest."

Recently Pakistani military have started building military construction at the edge of Duran line which provoked the concerns of the Afghan security forces who engaged in between each other where both sides lost dozens forces.

During past week or so dozens of Daesh militants were killed, their safe houses in Kot district of Nangarhar province were captured by the Afghan special forces, the foundation was built for their activities were destroyed, one of their top commander called Saad was killed by the air strike.(Agencies)

(10) Afghan IS

the Islamic State group.

"They have applied for membership, they have been accepted, they had to meet certain tests, they have been publicized in Dabiq," the IS magazine, he said.

IS bases in the eastern province of Nangarhar, which borders Pakistan, are currently being targeted by an Afghan military offensive, backed by U.S. troops.

The offensive, part of the Afghan army's Operation Shafaq, began on Saturday, hours after the IS group claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb attack in the capital Kabul that killed around 80 people.

The attack targeted ethnic Hazaras, who are also Shiite Muslims - considered apostates by IS - who were demonstrating to demand that a regional electrical project to be rerouted through their province of Bamian to boost economic growth in the impoverished central highlands.

More than 200 people were wounded in the worst attack in Kabul since the Taliban's insurgency began in 2001. It was also the first major attack in the city claimed by IS, raising concerns about their strength and capabilities in Afghanistan.

Afghan security forces, backed by U.S. air strikes, have been targeting IS in their Nangarhar holdouts for several months. Nicholson said that the nine or 10 districts where they had a significant presence had been reduced to three ahead of the current offensive.

Now, he said, they were retreating out of the Kot valley toward the south. Once the region was cleared, he said, civilian forces such as the Afghan Local Police would move in to make sure there was no return.

The Afghanistan branch of IS is often referred to as Islamic State-Khorasan Province, a reference to a historic region that included parts of what are now Afghanistan.

Nicholson said a "significant proportion, a majority of fighters" with IS in Afghanistan come from Pakistan's Orokzai agency, over the border from Nangarhar, and are former members of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, also known as the Pakistani Taliban.(AP)

(11) Afghan, Iran ...

Fazli, who also heads the joint Iran-Afghanistan commission, assured of Tehran's commitment to the meeting's decisions and said his country was ready to implement decisions made at the conference.

Pointing to shared challenges and capacities, Fazli urged the joint cooperation to be more effective in dealing with security problems and narcotics.

Herat governor Mohammad Asif Rahimi also met with Iran's deputy interior minister Dr. Babak Dinparast on the sidelines of the conference.

The two officials discussed problems regarding Iran's consulate in Herat and urged early solutions to them.(Pajhwok)

(12) Kot Residents ...

been cleared of insurgents has been a growing problem across the country. Residents in remote districts have raised the matter on a number of occasions saying once security forces leave following military operations, insurgents simply return.

Local bodies have also repeatedly called for more inclusive measures to be taken in remote areas in order to improve governance and rule of law. Residents in many of these areas have said a lack of strong governance has allowed militants to reintegrate into these remote regions.

However, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance said such situations are assessed and problems addressed following successful operations.(ToloneWS)

(13) 15 Irrigation...

would be rebuilt in Bagrami and Chahar Asiab districts of Kabul, he said. The projects would cost 98 million afghanis from the ministry's development budget, Azmir added.

The projects would help cover 1,800 acres of irrigation land and help 13,000 families benefit from the facilities, he said.

Kabul Governor Hamid Ikram, who was present at the contracts' signing ceremony, said despite some security problems, the implementation of a large number of development projects, particularly reconstruction of irrigation canals, was good news for people.

"Although our farmers lack education, they obtain food from the heart of land, our experts should launch projects based on farmers' demands," he said.

Ikram said Kabul was suffering from imbalanced development, stressing that all the districts should be paid equal attention.

He asked the agriculture minister to give a role to women in implantation of the projects so they could improve their families economic condition.(Pajhwok)

(14) Pakistani ...

further details in the statement. Karzai during his government visited Pakistan 20 times and often criticized the country for not playing its role in strengthening ties between the two countries. (Pajhwok)

(15) Senators Condemn ...

through a mammoth rally in Deh-mazang square of Kabul city on July 23. The Islamic State (IS) group has claimed responsibility for the carnage.

The Hazara minority tribe staged a second big rally in Kabul to renew their demand for execution of a transnational power line called TUTAP power project through central Bamyan province rather than the Salang Pass.

President Ashraf Ghani through a decree tasked a delegation under the authority of the Attorney General Office with investigating the tragic incident.

Senator Nisar Ahmad Haris told an extraordinary Senate session that explosives used in the twin suicide attacks by the Afghanistan's enemies were only available with governments. He said the explosives and lethal materials used in the bombs were available with neighboring countries especially Iran and Pakistan.(Pajhwok)

(16) Taliban Trying...

made many attempts to take control of Andar district so from here they would stage attacks on Ghazni city, the provincial capital easily," he said."

Despite worries due unstable law and order situations Desiwal said the development work was going smoothly in the district.

He believed the development of infrastructure and execution of uplift projects was the only way to improve the law and order situations.

Many youth had joined insurgents' ranks and fought against government due to unemployment, he said, adding if here were more development projects and other job generating activities the youth might not choose to take arms.

About the education system he said all schools in the district were open and students attended the schools.

He, however, said some schools were without buildings and in some other areas the students didn't go schools due to fear of insurgents.

He said the residents were bored with everyday of fighting and explosions and fully support the government and were cooperative.(Pajhwok)

(17) Windies to...

Cricket Board for agreeing to be hosts for the series."

ACB chairman, Nasimullah Danish, said facing a nation with the calibre of West Indies would be a boost to Afghanistan.

"Playing with the Twenty20 champions will boost technical prospects for us," he noted.

Afghanistan made a bold statement during the Twenty20 World Cup in India last March when they stunned eventual champions West Indies by six runs in Nagpur, in the first-ever meeting between the two teams in an international.

The success came against the backdrop of positive results last year when they beat Zimbabwe in limited overs series in Harare and in Sharjah. (Agencies)

(18) ANP Officers...

a nearby cave. The 55-year-old mother said her family has lived there for thirty years.

Her older son is a drug addict and the younger one serves in the ANP, she said. He is her family's only breadwinner.

"The Taliban had asked the local residents to leave their homes and evacuate the area. I was not here at that time, but when I returned I saw people around my house and they told me that the Taliban had shot my husband in the head," said Halima.

Salman, 14, is Halima's son, he is at school and is in class seven.

"We cannot come out of here during the winter when it snows; stones also fall from the top of the hill; if we go out, we get hit," Salman said. (ToloneWS)

(19) Foreign Forces...

in front of the governor's house in protest.

The protesters asked local authorities to prevent such arbitrary actions by foreign troops.

Shaikhani said the provincial council members had many times met with foreign troops and had told them to have police personnel with them while paroling at night.

He said if foreign troops and police jointly patrolled at night then there wouldn't be such incidents.

Meanwhile, government officials in Bagram district also confirmed the killing of Gulan by foreign troops. (Pajhwok)

(20) School Torched...

guttered some tables and chairs," he said. Mohammad Arif, a resident of the area, confirmed the school burning incident.(Pajhwok)

(21) 7 Afghan Soldiers...

were killed in the vicinity of Posht-e-Rod district of Farah province, 7 were wounded, 3 Hatchback vehicles were destroyed along with 3 motorcycles," MoD added.

MoD also added that 3 militants were killed during separate operations conducted in Ghazni and Jawzjan provinces and at least 7 others were wounded. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.(KP)

(22) U.S. Democratic...

their relationship through serious ordeals and Hillary's support for her husband gave her much credit.

In 2000, Hillary was elected senator for New York State, which was believed to be a place hostile to Democrats. She easily won re-election in 2006.

Hillary launched her first White House bid in 2008 and was immediately viewed by many as the front-runner in the Democratic field. However, she was defeated by then first-term Senator Barack Obama from Illinois in the nomination race, who later became the first African-American president of the United States. (Xinhua)

(23) UN Sets ...

progress was made during the one-day talks Tuesday, though a number of details remained to be worked out. (Xinhua)

(24) UN Refugee...

would return to Somalia during 2017 and possibly in early 2018. To date, more than 17,000 Somalis have returned to Somalia from Dadaab since December 2014. (Xinhua)

(25) Security Council ...

the recommendation of the Security Council. In practice, the Security Council, particularly its five permanent members, will make the final choice and send a single candidate to the General Assembly for approval. (Xinhua)

(26) Syrian Army ...

of allied fighters to successfully complete their mission in northern Aleppo, by cutting all of the supply routes the rebels used.

It added that the military campaign came in the framework of restoring peace and stability to Aleppo.

The statement also urged the civilians to cooperate with the Syrian army in achieving a cessation of violence, and a return of tranquility to Aleppo. (Xinhua)

(27) EU Refuted ...

communities in Turkey.

Before the end of July, the EU would manage to bring total disbursement up to 2.15 billion euros, which would actually prove that Brussels has respected its commitment, the spokesman stressed. (Xinhua)

(28) Airstrikes Kill...

attacked IS position in Albu Ali al-Jasim area in north of the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, the source added.

Government troops and allied militias have been fighting for months to reclaim key cities and towns from IS militants in the province of Anbar, including Ramadi and Fallujah, as militants attempted to approach Baghdad after seizing most of the province. (Xinhua)

(29) Some Russian ...

Athletic Federations (IAAF), which excluded from the list of participants not only athletes caught using doping, but also "clean" athletes. Putin said many Russian athletes suffered unfairly, as no specific charges were put forward against them, adding that "a blow has been delivered to the entire world sport and the Olympic Games." (Xinhua)

(30) Opportunities of...

families of victims of terrorist attacks in Nice and Rouen and noted that Tajik government was ready to expand cooperation with international community in combating extremism and terrorism. (Asia-Plus)