

### (1) Pakistan Gets ...

reimbursements. The central State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in a one-line press note said it had received a total of \$336.8 million under the CSF programme, which is the first tranche of a \$1.5 billion for the current fiscal year ending June 2016.

Pakistan has received a total of \$13 billion in CSF payments since the programme began.

US-led NATO forces ended their combat mission in Afghanistan in December, leaving local forces to battle militants alone, but a 13,000-strong residual force remains for training and counter-terrorism operations.

The Afghan government meanwhile conducted its first face-to-face talks with Taliban cadres on July 7 in a Pakistani hill station, aimed at ending the 14-year insurgency.

But despite the willingness to engage in talks there has been no let-up in militant attacks, which are taking a heavy toll on civilians.

Almost 1,000 civilians were killed in the conflict during the first four months of this year, a sharp jump from the same period last year, according to the United Nations. (Agencies)

### (2) Electoral Reform...

duties and authorities of the electoral commissions through a legislative decree.

"After this stage, we will start our evaluations over the structure and capacity of elections commissions and at this moment the Independent Elections Commission (IEC) will be prepared to declare the dates for the next parliamentary and district council elections," he noted.

"We examine all conditions for nomination of commissioners in elections commission. We will try to add cases in the law to guarantee the neutrality of the high-ranking officials," he continued.

Legal obstacles would be developed in order to prevent any elections commissioner or other officials to prevent them from working for a particular candidate or work for one during elections period, he noted.

Issuing voters list and electronic identity cards, Tawhidi concluded, would also be discussed in the electoral reforms commission. (Pajhwok)

### (3) MoD to Take....

Afghan delegation's visit to comes as Pakistani attacks on the Afghan territory have intensified. Building facilities inside Afghan territory in the Angoor Adda area of Barmal district of southeastern Paktika province and firing rockets into border areas of Nangarhar and Kunar provinces would also come under discussion.

Some days back, deputy foreign minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai summoned the Pakistan ambassador in Kabul and shared the Afghan government concerns with him about recent tensions in the border area. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Afghanistan....

affairs, common threats and an exchange of prisoners, Ghorzang said. Atmar said improved security was in the interest of all Central Asian countries.

"We want to improve cooperation with Uzbekistan to battle security challenges before complete withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan," he added.

The NSC spokesman added Atmar also conferred on exchanging of intelligence information, cooperation in enhanced intelligence capacity and strong links in the military field. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Kohistanat ...

17 Afghan National Policemen (ANP) personnel and the district police chief had been missing since the militants overran the district, he added.

ALP commander Farooq surrendered on his way to the district centre along with his companions through Sayad district. Jabbarkhail, however, did not comment on evacuation of the ALP personnel from the area.

Mohammad Noor Rahmani, head of the provincial council, said the insurgents had stormed the district center at around at 9:00 pm and they got control of the town early Tuesday morning.

Locals looted weapons, ammunition and other equipment before the Taliban got complete hold of the district, a setback for the security forces, he informed. Asadullah Khurram, provincial council member, said provincial government families had left for secure areas but he did not have information about number of the households. At least 200 ALP personnel had joined Taliban militants, he claimed.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, the Taliban spokesman, confirmed taking control over the Kositanat district, which changed hands a day after a key police base fell in northeastern Badakhshan province. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Rural Development..

categories including administrative, economic development and execution of uplift projects in far-flung areas.

He said the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Ministry had promised to rehabilitate and strengthen 280 local industries, a target 98 percent achieved by enabling 275 groups.

The minister said he had pledged organising 280 local councils for rural rehabilitation and development and had so far managed to organise 277 councils in 15 provinces.

Durrani said money for around 1,304 local councils had been dispatched through bank accounts against the 700 target set in the 100-day action plan.

He said around three million people benefited from execution of development projects in a short span of time. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Indian Embassy ....

School of International Affairs, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy and Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities.

The M.A. DLB is the first of its kind in Asia, as it combines knowledge from the interrelated disciplines of International Relations, International Law and International Business Studies. It develops strong analytical skills about the interactions among states, legal regulatory frameworks and markets. Unlike conventional International Business degree programmes, the emphasis on geopolitics and international political economy is very strong in this programme, giving students the unique opportunity to hone their skills about political developments within and between regions, and how these in turn impact upon forecasting, rating and business intelligence.

Afghan students who might join the programme will benefit immensely as it helps build scenario planning and situation analysis skills, especially regarding the interconnectedness of global capital movements and the covariance of political events and market trends

JGU offers this MA programme with 50 percent tuition scholarships to all Afghan applicants and 100 percent tuition scholarship to Afghan women applicants. For more information on this scholarship scheme: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/indian-university-offers-scholarships-to-afghan-students-114121500659\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/indian-university-offers-scholarships-to-afghan-students-114121500659_1.html)

The Embassy of India, Kabul requested the interested students who have completed Bachelors level education must go online to submit applications at <http://www.admissions.jgu.edu.in/jsaadmissions/Applications> are currently being accepted on a rolling basis until July 30, 2015. (PR)

### (8) Scores of Rebels....

airstrikes in which militants hideouts and strongholds had been targeted.

Waziri said a delegation of the ministry left for Pakistan today to discuss border issues and rocket attacks in border areas. He added the delegates would discuss with their counterparts the movement of insurgents across the Durand Line. (Pajhwok)

### (9) 'Stop Creating ...

to intensify the peace process and allow those individuals who represented all the Afghans to take part in the second round of peace talks with the Taliban.

Another religious leader, Maulvi Hazrat Khan, said if the gov-

ernment was sincere in bringing peace, it should crackdown on administrative corruption as a second major step after peace talks with the Taliban.

"Administrative corruption is the most evil thing that hurts peace. That's why our nation has been in numerous troubles." Tribal elder Haider Gul Mangal urged the government and the Taliban to avoid discussing trivial issues and reach agreements on matters of huge national interests.

He said they fully supported the peace process and wanted the mediating countries to spare no effort in making the process a success. (Pajhwok)

### (10) MoI Launches ...

evidence to back this up.

"Commander Jalal who was in charge of local police surrendered to the Taliban as part of a deal and other soldiers who witnessed the situation fled the area and surrendered to the security forces," said Gen. Baba Jan Badakhshan police chief. Despite the security force members having been released, there are fears that the weapons seized by the Taliban could be used against troops in other districts in Badakhshan.

"The base was not a base that could easily collapse. Hundreds of mortars were coming but there was nothing serious that could not be controlled," said one of the Teergaran base soldiers.

The Taliban reportedly forced the mass surrender of over 140 security officers at the base on Saturday - pushing closer to a strategic pass at the border with Pakistan.

In addition to seizing weapons and ammunition, the Taliban also seized food.

Meanwhile, Badakhshan provincial governor Shah Waliullah Adib told Reuters that an offensive to retake control of the base will be launched soon.

The capture of the base on Saturday, after days of fighting, was perhaps the Taliban's greatest advance in Badakhshan since being ousted from power in 2001, according to a Western security report.

It said the Taliban gains cut off the route to China and left just one significant government outpost before a strategically important crossing at the Pakistani border.

"If successful, they [Taliban] will be able to establish a corridor... facilitating the cross-border movement of fighters currently based in Pakistan," the report said.

The Taliban said in a statement that local elders had negotiated the release of 120 captured policemen, and that it had obtained guarantees they would not return to battle.

This is not the first time the Taliban has seized a base in Badakhshan and gotten away with light and heavy weapons. Recently, clashes in Jurm and Yamgan districts led to the killing of a number of security force members. The Taliban were also able to make off with military hardware in these incidents. (Tolonews)

### (11) Jirga Formed to ....

besides all spheres, the current and past conflicts had caused severe damages to the education sector as well.

He said more than 100 schools had been shut due to insecurity and other problems and the operational schools faced numerous problems. The Jirga would help identify and resolve problems keeping low the education standard.

Governor Azizi thanked the Jirga for voluntarily working to bring about reforms and improvement in the education sector. He urged the Jirga to identify individuals interfering in the education process for their personal benefits.

He asked the education director to respect the law and identify powerful individuals who created problems for the education sector. There are about 400 schools in Kandahar where 220,000 students, including 50,000 girls, are studying. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Kochi-Hazara....

with the president. Governor Hayatullah Hayat welcomed the advisor and thanked President Mohammad

Ashraf Ghani for taking note of the situation. The government, he stressed, should do everything to garner support of the masses to reform the judicial system.

Masoud Shinzai, deputy head of the provincial council, questioned the role of the provincial government and accused the judiciary of poor performance. He said there was a dire need for drastic changes to reform the justice system. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Governor Takes....

governor's steps and assured complete support of PC members and local community if he would continue his actions against nixing corruption in the province.

Mohammad Asif Shinwari, civil society activist and political analyst, appreciated termination of three Torkham scale employees but criticized termination of police commanders.

"As far as I know the police commander of Haska Mina was an efficient person I am afraid the district might fall to Taliban after his termination," he added. The commanders had stopped opium trade in the districts therefore the traders complained against them to the governor, he added. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Jawzjan Gun....

old university student out of his house on Monday night and stabbed him to death in Dehmiran area.

At least six persons had been arrested and Ziaullah, one of the suspects, accepted the murder and said that he killed him due to personal dispute, the district chief added.

Separately, the district chief said that 13-year-old boy was killed and another boy 12 was wounded in a land mine explosion. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Militants Frisking ..

said he neither saw militants searching passengers nor security check posts on the highway. Attaullah Khogyani, the Maidan Wardak governor's spokesman, said some problems on the highway were harassing passengers. He said public order police posts were deployed on some parts on the highway to ensure security situation there.

The governor would soon hold a meeting with public order police officials in the province to discuss problems and resolve them, Khogyani said. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Traders Seek....

Paktika. "I have talked to government leaders and had asked them to provide us 500 acres of land for establishing factories and the chamber of commerce in Paktika and they had promised to do so."

He said the chamber of commerce would also enable Paktika traders to showcase their products in exhibitions at home and abroad.

Director of Economy Mohammad Ayub Salarzai said business activities were being carried out in a disorganised way due to the absence of a chamber of commerce branch in the province.

He said even the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had no office in Paktika and traders were concerned about that. The government was responsible for providing security, land, electricity and other facilities to traders, he added.

Many Paktika traders have made investments in neighbouring Ghazni province, according to officials, who claim a 60 percent decline in trade activity in Paktika in recent years. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Ex-Balkh PC....

shared information of imminent attack on provincial council building, Amin claimed, adding that the spy network had arrested Abdul Rashid on same charges.

Pajhwok Afghan News tried repeatedly to get version of NDS officials but to no avail. Security officials in Balkh said they did not have complete information regarding the arrest of Abdul Rashid.

Col. Razzaq Qadri, police chief, said he got information regarding the arrest from media sources while he did not have personal information.

Mohammad Ibrahim Khair Andesh, head of provincial council, confirmed that former PC member had a plan of suicide at-

tack over the provincial council building and NDS had arrested him on same charges.

Pajhwok Afghan News tried to reach to Abdul Rashid for his version but his cell phone was not responding. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Kunar Violence....

National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed and 17 other militants and several civilians including four women wounded in the firefight, he said.

The district is situated three kilometers east of Asadabad, the provincial capital.

Hazrat Bilal, a resident of Asadabad, said fear gripped the area and most of the people restricted to their homes. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Taliban Pressure....

"Emarati has been Daesh leader for over a year in Logar and has Afghan, Arab, Chechen, Pakistani and Uzbek fighters under his command," the public representative said, adding he maltreated and killed innocent people.

Taliban militants, Stanikzai said, built tremendous pressures on Daesh group in general while Emarati on particular to get them out of the area and Emarati fled the area without any fight and left heavy weapons and ammunitions in the area.

Taliban fighters took control of the area which Daesh fighters had snatched from them last year, Stanikzai said.

Tawabudin, a local elder in the area, confirmed Daesh leader left the area and said Emarati was a cruel man who severely victimized local people.

"Emarati and his fighters have left the area for last one week and Taliban commander Qari Ashraf and other militants took control of the area," he added.

Abdul Hamid Hamed, Khushi district chief, confirmed Daesh fighters had fled the area. Taliban had developed a plan to attack Emarati's residence to kill or arrest him but he chose to leave the area. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Cylinder Blast....

were shifted to Maidan Wardak, the home town of Eng. Mahmood for funeral. Ibadullah Razin, police spokesman, confirmed the incident and said that cylinder blast caused huge fire which torched the house and killed a mother and her four children.

Eng. Mahmood Saeed belongs to Maidan Wardak and presently works in Uruzgan province. He is a prominent civil society activist. (Pajhwok)

### (21) No one Should....

after his plans to extend his 27-year rule were met with massive protests. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni secured a change to the constitution in 2005 allowing himself a third term. He still holds the nation's highest post after first assuming office in 1986. More recently, Burundi's Pierre Nkurunziza ran for a third term despite controversy over whether he was eligible to run again. A United Nations observer mission said the elections were not inclusive free and credible. (Agencies)

### (22) Sri LankaCalls....

ister Ravi Karunanayake and other senior government officials.

In the Maldives, the Sri Lankan President assured continued support for the socio-economic development of Maldives. The discussions he had there placed particular emphasis on strengthening the economic engagement between the two countries including in investments and tourism, the Foreign Ministry said.

Having discussed various aspects of regional and international issues of concern, President Sirisena articulated Sri Lanka's approach of working with the international community adhering to the objectives and principles of the United Nations, Commonwealth and SAARC. (Xinhua)

### (23) Libyan Court....

swift criticism abroad, with Human Rights Watch and a prominent international lawyer saying it was riddled with legal flaws and carried out amid widespread lawlessness undermining the credibility of the judiciary. (Reuters)

## Iraqi militias train young teens to face the threat of IS

BAGHDAD - In the steamy Baghdad night, sweat poured down the faces of the Iraqi teens as they marched around a school courtyard, training for battle against the Islamic State group.

This is summer camp in Iraq, set up by the country's largest paramilitary force after Iraq's top Shiite cleric issued an edict calling on students as young as middle-school age to use their summer vacations to prepare to fight the Sunni extremists.

These young fighters could have serious implications for the U.S.-led coalition, which provides billions of dollars in military and economic aid to the Iraqi government. The Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 says the United States cannot provide certain forms of military support, including foreign military financing and direct commercial sales to governments that recruit and use child soldiers or support paramilitaries or militias that do.

Hundreds of students have gone through training at the dozens of such camps run by the Popular Mobilization Forces, the government-sanctioned umbrella group of mostly Shiite militias. It is impossible to say how many went on to fight IS, since those who do so go independently. But this summer, The Associated Press saw over a dozen armed boys on the front line in western Anbar province, including some as young as 10.

Of around 200 cadets in a training class visited by the AP this month, about half were under the age of 18, with some as young as 15. Several said they intended to join their fathers and older brothers on the front lines.

Dressed in military fatigues, 15-year-old Asam Riad was among dozens of youths doing high-knee marches at the school, his chest puffed out to try to appear as tall as the older cadets. "We've been called to defend the nation," the scrawny boy asserted, his voice cracking as he vowed to join the PMF. "I am not scared because my brothers are fighting alongside me."

Another 15-year-old in the class, Jaafar Osama, said he used to want to be an engineer when he grows up, but now he wants to be a fighter. His father is a volunteer fighting alongside the Shiite militias in Anbar and his older brother is fighting in Beiji, north of Baghdad. "God willing, when I complete my training I will join them, even if it means sacrificing my life to keep Iraq safe," he said. It's yet another way minors are being dragged into Iraq's brutal war as the military, Shiite militias, Sunni tribes and Kurdish fighters battle to take back territory from Islamic State militants who seized much of the country's north and west last year. The Sunni extremists have aggressively enlisted children as young as 10 for combat, as suicide bombers and as executioners in their horrifying videos. This month, Human Rights Watch said that Syrian Kurdish militias fighting the militants continue to deploy underage fighters. The U.S. does not work directly with the Popular Mobilization Forces and has distanced itself from the Iranian-backed militias which are among the fighters under its umbrella. But the PMF receives weapons and funding from the Iraqi government and is trained by the Iraqi military, which receives its training from the U.S.

When informed of the AP findings, the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad issued a statement saying the U.S. is "very concerned by the allegations on the use of child soldiers in Iraq among some Popular Mobilization forces in the fight against ISIL," using an acronym for the militant group. "We have strongly condemned this practice around the world and will continue to do so." For Iraq's Shiite majority, the war against the Islamic State group - which views them as heretics to be killed - is a life-or-death fight for which the entire community has mobilized. (AP)