

(1) 147,000...

were girls and more than 99,000 (67 percent) were boys. He said above 21,000 individuals had failed in the test.

Raza son of Ewaz, a student from capital Kabul, topped the exam by scoring 344.20 marks while Akhtar Mohammad s/o Chaman Ali from southern Ghazni grabbed second position with 342.6 marks. Zabihullah s/o Rahmatullah from Kabul finished third with 342.53 marks.

According to MoHE, the lowest marks in Kankor were 150 and whoever obtaining this figure were declared failed. Roshan said this year the entry test process had been more transparent as compared to previous years, thanks to the biometric system, which was used for the first time in the test.

Ahmad Javed Rasooli, general director for MoHE exams, said migration from one faculty to another or one province to another was seriously unavailable.

He said last year as many as 2,222 violations were recorded but the violations were reduced to 110 this time due to reforms in the exam. Gearing complaints from students would be started from tomorrow (Sunday) until next week, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(2) Coordinated ..

insurgents was also discovered and defused during the operations.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the reports so far.

The Taliban insurgents frequently use Improvised Explosive Device (IED) as the weapon of their choice to target the security forces but in majority of such attacks the ordinary civilians are targeted.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in its latest report said 40 per cent of all civilian casualties during the six-month period were incurred anti-government forces using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), such as suicide bombs and pressure-plate devices, which were responsible for the deaths of 596 civilians and injured 1,483.

According to UNAMA, a total of 1,662 civilian deaths were confirmed between 1 January and 30 June of the year 2017 which shows an increase of two per cent on the same period last year. (KP)

(3) Girls Follow ...

for modeling," Wak said.

The modeling girls have passed through many ups and downs to achieve their goals.

"I have a nice feeling that I am a model and that I am displaying traditional clothes," said Fatima Saeedi, a model. "This culture is neither mine nor of my team, it belongs to entire Afghanistan," Atifa Fasihi, another model, said.

Head of the modeling group, Ajmal Haqiqi, said they hardly managed to add five girls to their team.

"We have a three and half months of probation period in which the models are prepared and then appear on stage. Then, there is another category that the girls appear in their related categories," said Haqiqi.

Efforts are underway to expand modeling in the country, reports say. (Tolnews)

(4) 8,000 in the Run ...

Mohammad Abid, a student who appeared in the test, thanked Pakistani government for providing higher education opportunities for Afghan student. He said the test was conducted in transparent manner but complained the paper was difficult.

Wasim S. Hashmi, Advisor HRD Human Resource Development at HEC, said Pakistan had approved master's and doctorate scholarships for Afghan students for the first time, in addition to bachelor scholarships.

He said medicine, engineering, law, economics, pharmacy, computer science and other disciplines were included in the scholarships.

The scholarship includes tuition fee, health expenditures, hostel fee and food charges. In addition, the successful candidates will also receive monthly pocket money.

He said in past most of Afghan students were unable to complete studies. But now they will be taught a six-month language course ahead of their main course studies. (Pajhwok)

(5) Honorable ...

Organisation of Migration (IOM), with the government trying increase the aid. He said distribution of plots to refugee families was underway in some provinces and the government wanted to distribute one plot to each refugee family.

Balkhi said the European Union (EU) had pledged 150 million euro, Saudi Arabia \$30 million, World Bank \$110 million and Germany \$10 million for rehabilitation of refugees and repatriates. (Pajhwok)

(6) 'Peace Process...

Habiba Surabi, deputy head of the High Peace Council (HPC), also stressed greater political and social role for women. She said currently 12 women were part of the HPC 62-member team. (Pajhwok)

(7) Afghanistan's

and Chinese expertise to identify tangible areas for cooperation.

She said: "Afghanistan faces infrastructure challenges, but located at the heart of Asia, the country could serve as a transit and trade hub; connecting East to West and North to South [...], this will be a long-term project, but the UK and China remain committed to working together with Afghanistan."

According to the diplomat, infrastructure is a key area of British assistance to Afghanistan. Electricity and roads to link up Afghanistan are essential for prosperity, agriculture and trade for all. (Pajhwok)

(8) Saikal Calls f...

political, and social spheres over the past years.

According to him, the Afghan forces are fighting a nexus of regional and international terrorist groups including the Taliban, Daesh, al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Lashkar-e-Jangvi and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). He said that despite logistical constraints, our security forces have inflicted heavy losses on these groups and kept them from asserting control over any territories.

Saikal said the Taliban attacked a hospital in western Ghor province, killing close to 40 people, mainly civilians - pointed out to insurgent attacks in the country during the last week. "One day later, they attacked a bus carrying our educated young professionals in Kabul, killing and severely wounding more than 70 people. And on the 31st of May, the truck-bombing in the heart of the capital killed 150 people and left more than 500 severely wounded," he stated.

He said terror and bloodshed is a frequent occurrence in Afghanistan, propagated by terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries in the region. "Our people and our security forces will never allow the enemies of peace in our country to disrupt our journey towards peace, stability and development," he said. "We will continue our longstanding struggle against this menace with fortitude and commitment. In this context, we look to our international partners, including the UN to continue to stand beside us in our shared endeavor."

Beyond the battle field, Saikal said Afghanistan is working diligently to promote and advance regional cooperation to defeat terrorism. He said Afghanistan is committed to fighting terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations". (Tolnews)

(9) Civilians Pay...

According to Baghlan-e-Markazi residents, Taliban had used their houses as their strongholds.

They said they had left the district following the battles.

Mohammad Ibrahim, a resident of the district, said he returned to his home two days ago after the clashes reduced. "My house was used as stronghold and everything has been destroyed. Not only my house, but all the houses in the village are damaged," said Mohammad Ibrahim, a resident of Baghlan-e-Markazi.

Mohammad Saeed, another resident of the district, said his brother was killed when a rocket hit in the street near him. He said his brother has left a six-month-old child.

"He (Raz Mohammad) was in his car when a rocket hit the road near his vehicle and he was killed," said Mohammad Saeed, Raz Mohammad's brother. Taliban has however claimed that said they have not used civilian houses as their strongholds in Baghlan-e-Markazi war. (Tolnews)

(10) Mail Promotes ...

Meanwhile, Bamiyan farmers urged government to provide them with more modified wheat.

"We have a lot of problems in farming. We should be given suitable grains to collect good crops," said Ali Ahmad, a farmer in the province.

MAIL officials have said that at least three irrigation canals will be construct-

ed in Bamiyan in order to overcome the shortage of irrigation water in the province. (Tolnews)

(11) Kandahar Police ...

Yousuf Ahmadi denied the Taliban held civilians captive. He said the fighters attacked police check-posts in Shah Walikot district few days back and held 17 people during the clash but released all of them after investigation.

The Kandahar-Uruzgan highway has been blocked for the past few days after militants planted landmines on the road. (Pajhwok)

(12) Families of ...

(kidnappers) killed my four sons, changed their clothes and put their bodies on the road," said Delara, a resident of Shah Wali Kot.

"We saw our sons lied on the ground when we left our houses. We could not recognize them despite lots of efforts," said Shah Gul, another resident of the district.

According to Kandahar officials, efforts are underway to find and release the kidnapped passengers.

"Efforts are underway to identify the area and then we will launch a special operation to release the abductees," said Zia Durani, spokesman for Kandahar Police Headquarters.

The two villages that civilians were kidnapped from are located close to Kandahar-Uruzgan Highway.

Residents of the villages claimed that the Taliban were behind the kidnapping.

Taliban has however rejected the claim. (Tolnews)

(13) Suspected Taliban ...

Munich state court.

According to the prosecutor Muqadas joined Taliban in 2013 and he was involved in two attacks against U.S. soldiers and Afghan troops.

Muqadas is also accused of transporting bombs to Kabul in 2014 and 2015.

Muqadas was arrested in February 2017 in Germany. (Tolnews)

(14) Round-the-Clock ...

one kidnapper and a Haqqani Network member.

In addition, 50 kilograms of drugs and about 26 various vehicles and seven motorbikes were also destroyed during the operations, it concluded. (Pajhwok)

(15) Daesh Militants...

Birdi claimed the IS members stormed villages at night to punish violators of their orders, creating fear among the locals.

Mohammad Salim, a resident of Bato village, said the militants operated about 50 meters from the district centre at night. The fighters eat melons and drank tea in the district bazaar.

Two days earlier, the fighters locked snuff-selling shop near the district office complex, but no one had the courage to resist them; even the security forces could not stop them, he claimed. People, particularly shopkeepers selling drinks, snuff, chicken meat and dish antenna, were being troubled by Daesh sanctions, he said.

"Daesh has warned people those who violate their orders will be punished and those repeating the violation will be killed," Salim maintained.

Meanwhile, the acting district chief confirmed the complaints. He said the problem was previously limited to a few villages but the fighters were currently close to the district centre.

He said the rebels visited the district bazaar and imposed their orders on shopkeepers. The police personnel did not go out of check-posts after 5pm and there was a need for a large-scale operation to contain the militants, he added. However, the provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Rahmatullah Turkistani, vehemently denied the movement of Daesh in the Darzab district bazaar.

The sanctions existed in the past in areas under Daesh control but the claim that the militants had reached the district centre was wrong, he said.

Turkistani said an operation would be launched for the elimination of Daesh militants from Darzab after consultations with local elders. However, he did not give any timeframe.

Darzab district is located 105 kilometres west of Shiberghan, the provincial capital. Most parts of the district are being controlled by Daesh and Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(16) Top Faryab ...

"Corruption and bribery run in their veins, the education department head was previously involved in abuse of authority," said Ghori.

The Provincial Attorney Office staff worked independently under the law and allowed no one to interfere in their

affairs and decisions, said Ghori.

He said the people should support the attorney general office in putting hands on big fishes involved in corruption.

Provincial council chief Mohammad Sami Kheirkhah praised the attorney office for the move, saying every person involved in corruption should be arrested and punished in order to make them an example for others. (Pajhwok)

(17) Afghanistan a...

with Shankar and leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal giving the batting side a tough time. Sharafuddin Ashraf hit a 27-ball 39, including four boundaries and two sixes.

As India A launched the chase, Shreyas Iyer smashed a breezy 20 while Sanju Samson made 18. Nair, who scored a superb half-century, and Manish Pandey put together 67 runs to see their team dry and home. (Pajhwok)

(18) Diesel Price up, ...

-- same as last week's.

Ahmad Wali Panjsheri, who owns a grocery shop in Dahn-i-Bagh area, sold a 50-kg bag of Kazakhstani flour for 1,300afs and a 49-kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 2,100afs.

He sold a 16-litre tin of Khurshid ghee for 1,200afs, a 24-kg sack of Pakistani rice for 2,000afs, a kilogram of Indonesian green tea for 300afs and the same quantity of African black tea for 350afs, higher than wholesale rates.

Gold prices also remain steady. Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, said one gram of Arabian gold cost 2,300afs and the same quantity of Russian variety 1,850afs.

According to the moneychangers' union in Sara-i-Shahzada, one US dollar accounted for 68.40afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 630afs against last week's rates of 68.43afs and 635afs respectively. (Pajhwok)

(19) Helmand Clashes ..

Ahmad Lodin, member of the Justice and Protection Organisation, said many people had lost their parts of body due landmine blasts planted by the Taliban in Helmand and Kandahar province.

Abdul Haq Zwakman, head of the Walas civil society Organisation, said the government had no proper strategy to deal with displaced people and accused authorities for not giving proper information about people affected by war. (Pajhwok)

(20) 11 Taliban Killed, 5 ...

said dead and injured individuals of Tangi clash had been delivered to a clinic in Sarobai district. He said among the dead were two policemen; but he declined to give more information.

The Taliban confirmed Paktika clash. The group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said 11 policemen have been killed, five arrested, and five military tanks destroyed in the overnight clash. Mujahid did not provide details about the Taliban casualties. (Pajhwok)

Former HIA Commander Qalam Killed in Logar Clash

PUL-I-ALAM - Former Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) commander Qalam has been killed as a result of a dispute over land in the Bagrami district of central Logar province, an official said on Saturday.

Provincial Council (PC) member Abdul Wali Wakeel told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash erupted between the Malangi family and Kochis from Azra in the Band-i-Ghazi area of the district late on Friday night.

"Last year, a similar clash had happened in the area. Yesterday, commander Qalam and Haji Sher Agha, commander Zardad's brother, had gone to the area to resolve the dispute," the public representative said

According to Wakeel, members of the Malangi family opened fire at them and gunned them down Qalam and Haji Sher Agha. Three others were wounded in the shooting.

An inhabitant of the area, who did not want to be named, linked the clash to a land dispute between Qalam, the Malangi family and another person named Pacha.

He said Pacha had a real estate office, which was set alight by Qalam's gunmen. Subsequently, Zardad sent his brother Haji Sher Agha to resolve the problem between them.

Agha met Pacha and convinced him to resolve the problem through dialogue. He added Agha returned to Qalam. Pacha also came there with his people, prompting Qalam to order his men to disarm Pacha's loyalists.

Thus the clash erupted and the casual-

ties took place, the resident explained. Deputy district chief, Ahmad Javed, also confirmed the incident, which happened at 9:00pm.

He said the property centre was attacked and destroyed at 6:00pm by commander Qalam's fighters. Police arrived in the area after Qalam's men attacked Agha and Pacha. An investigation has been launched into the incident. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Kill Tribal Elder in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - A tribal leader was shot dead by Taliban militants in Batikot district of eastern Nangarhar province where a woman was rescued by police from murderers in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said Saturday.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a tribal elder, Malik Naseb was gunned down in Batikot district while heading from to the district bazaar at around 6:30am this morning. Police launched an investigation about the incident, he added.

Taliban did not comment yet on the attack.

According to another report, police forces rescued a woman before being killed in Behsod district of Nangarhar.

Attallah Khogyani said two men named Hukom Khan and Wazir were trying to kill the young woman in Faram area of the district, but police reached to the area on time and rescued the woman.

He said Wazir who was detained confessed to his crime while search for the detention of the second man was underway. (Pajhwok)

Pro-Houthi Forces Attack UAE Warship Off Yemen Coast

ADEN - Naval forces loyal to the Shiite Houthi group said Saturday they targeted a United Arab Emirates (UAE) military ship travelling near the western Mocha coast in Yemen's territorial waters.

In a statement, the pro-Houthi forces based in Sanaa said their naval forces fired several rockets at a UAE military ship of the Saudi-led coalition after it sailed within striking distance of their troops off the Mocha port.

Local media affiliated to the Houthi group said the footage and more details about the attack will be released later Saturday.

No confirmation or comments have been issued by the anti-Houthi forces in Yemen or the Saudi-led coalition.

The coastal Yemeni city of Mocha was captured by the Saudi-backed government forces in an all-out military offensive waged against Houthis earlier this year.

The Houthi forces have claimed responsibility for several previous attacks against Saudi, UAE and U.S. ships in the Red Sea.

Last month, the UAE Armed Forces General Command said its ship carrying medical aid was hit by a rocket launched by Shiite Houthi militia off the port of Mocha.

The attack caused no damage to the vessel, but left a crew member injured, the General Command said, adding that it is tracking down those behind the attack.

Since March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition has been fighting the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in the Arabian Peninsula country. The UAE is part of the coalition of nine Arab states to support Yemen's internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi in the fight against Houthis. (Xinhua)

Hizb-e-Islami Commander Ready To Support ANDSF Against Taliban

KABUL - A local commander of Hizb-e-Islami in Baghlan has said that he is ready to support the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces (ANDSF) against the Taliban in the central province.

Mirwais Jihadyar, who has at least 1,000 fighters, said from now on, he will fight against those groups which threaten the national interests of Afghans.

He claimed that he controls the areas that are out of government's control in Baghlan, especially in Baghlan-e-Markazi district. The Hizb-e-Islami commander said they have local courts where they address peoples' judicial problems. According to him, he has control over 150 villages in the province.

"We fight and stop those who by foreigners' order fight against people and harm them," said Jihadyar. (Tolnews)