

(1) South Asia Strategy...

peace in an area where a war has gone on too long already," Mattis added.

A number of Afghan analysts however said Pakistan's interests lay in supporting violence in Afghanistan.

"The tensions on the border and the Durand Line (between Afghanistan and Pakistan) always have been an issue for intensifying the crisis (by Pakistan)," international affairs analyst Sadiq Baqiri said.

"The continuation of war and the presence of insurgent groups will cause a number of regional countries and NATO to stay forever (in Afghanistan)," senator Nader Baluch said.

US President Donald Trump announced the new strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia nine months ago.

Fighting Daesh, weakening al-Qaeda and Taliban and putting more pressure on Pakistan over housing insurgents on its soil were the key parts of the strategy. (Tolo news)

(2) Working Women...

security situation had become worse in Uruzgan. Even in Tirkot, the provincial capital, girls avoided going to school because of cultural restrictions and street harassment.

A teacher at the same school, wishing to go unnamed, said her husband told her daily to quit her job. People in her neighbourhood are against women working in government offices.

Women activists complain if the situation remained the same, the incumbent female workers would also leave their jobs. A well-placed source revealed the only woman employee at the governor's house also recently left her job.

Obaidullah, a resident of Tirkot, said they had no issue with women working in offices. But insecurity and harassment prompted them to stop women going to work, he added.

When complete security was ensured in the province, the man believed, women would come out of home and work with complete confidence.

The Women Affairs Department, meanwhile, admitted cultural taboo, security issues and lack of public awareness -- issues that discourage educated women from working.

Women Affairs Director Najiba Mehrzad said when government vacancies were announced, women could apply. But educated women could not dare working in government offices, she added.

The number of women employees would increase if family members discharged their responsibility, she believed. The director confirmed the only female worker at her department had opted out.

She said violence against women in Uruzgan was on the increase and over the past few months a number of females had been killed or injured under mysterious circumstances.

But Deputy Governor Abdul Wahid Patan said there was no issue for women in public offices. Every educated woman meeting job criteria could take part in open competition, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(3) Clashes Displace...

as well.

About the issue, Governor Abdul Karim Mateen said Taliban militants had forcibly evicted civilians from their homes to use them as bastions.

He said the displaced people had so far not contacted them and they would be provided aid if needed.

But Taliban rejected they forced people into leaving homes. Zabihullah Mujahid said people had left homes due to security forces artillery shelling. "Taliban have not said to anyone to leave home", he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(4) 183 Civilians...

according to the CPAG 26 people were martyred and 136 others injured. The number of casualties has been high in Kandahar and Khost provinces.

According to the CPAG in May most terrorist incidents took place in the cities of different provinces.

The CPAG works for the protection of civilians' lives and providing them with justice. On the first day of Ramadan the group declared the demand of 600 people from 20 provinces of the country in which the killing of civilians was asked to be stopped during Ramadan. "CPAG asked armed groups to announce cease fire in Ramadan."

The CPAG again want to ask the Taliban and government officials to pay attention to the safety of civilians at least in the month of Ramadan. They should stop their fighters from attacks and operation in the areas where civilian population lives. (Pajhwok)

(5) 'Taliban Set up...

is not in large numbers. "Small groups of two to three-member are active and mostly being involved in mine planting activities in the district," he said.

Qarabagh district is located about 50 kilometers north of Kabul City, and 20 kilometers southeast of Bagram Airbase. The district is on the route between Kabul and Parwan Province. (ATN)

(6) Badakhshan's...

Kohistan district is located in the far west of Badakhshan province.

In addition, a commander of the local uprising forces, Nazir Mohammad Neyazi, said that nearly a hundred local uprisers participated in the clearing operation without any reward.

Meanwhile a number of civil society activists in Badakhshan said they are pleased with the government's clean up of the district, but they insist the area will not remain safe unless government establishes check posts. Kohistanat district fell to the Taliban about one month ago, while the group have controlled Badakhshan's Wardoj and Yamgan districts for four years. (Tolo news)

(7) Nangarhar Produces...

set up a peach orchard.

He said peach saplings provided by the agriculture department to him earned him 30,000 afghanis profit, although the trees were yet to reach fruit producing level.

Another farmer from Kama district Malak Zarab said he was pleased with growing peach farm on his land. His orchard is three years old and produced quality fruit this season. (Pajhwok)

(8) Missing Russian...

planes were shot down in Afghanistan, RIA Novosti reported.

When Soviet troops pulled out of the country in 1989, some 300 soldiers were listed as missing. Around 30 have since been found and most returned to their home countries, AFP news agency reports. (euronews)

(9) Haqqani Network...

the Ministry of Interior.

On Thursday, Kabul Police Chief Gen. Mohammad Daud Amin said footage obtained by security cameras shows that the attackers were driving two armored SUV vehicles that came from Sarai Shamali area in the north of Kabul - just 10 kilometers from the ministry's building.

The vehicles, the police chief said, were not searched on their way to the ministry.

"The interior minister discussed the issue of plate numbers for all armored vehicles the day when he came to parliament for a vote of confidence. Two years have passed, but the ministry has not been able to issue the plates. What can we expect from the ministry?" asked Hashim Mahdawi, an MP.

"All the chairpersons in the Ministry of Interior have tinted window vehicles. But they take a stance against MPs and claim that terrorists are being transferred in their cars," said Ghulam Husain Naseri, an MP.

The attack happened on Wednesday at midday when a group of militants tried to enter the new building of the ministry of interior.

The attack ended two hours later after three attackers detonated their explosives and seven others were gunned down by government forces.

At least one police force member was killed and six others were wounded in the attack, Interior Ministry said. (Tolo news)

(10) Al-Qaeda Warns...

by the Crown Prince, the terror network stated in its statement that the prince has opened the door wide for corruptoin and moral degradation.

Prince Salman has sent shock wavers through the Saudi society by instigating wide-ranging social and economic reforms after he was given the title of the Crown Prince by his father nearly a year ago.

The Saudi government has reportedly allowed the cinemas to reopen and the long-standing driving ban for women is due to end in the near future as part of the ongoing efforts to implement the reforms.

However, the Al-Qaeda terrorist network apparently seems more annoyed because of the recent WWE event hosted in the country, stating that "[Foreign] disbelieving wrestlers exposed their privates and on most of them was the sign of the cross, in front of a mixed gathering of young Muslim men and women.

"The corruptors did not stop at that, for every night musical concerts are being announced, as well as movies and circus shows," the terror network states in its statement. (KP)

(11) Group of Kyrgyz...

in turn presented the family with a house in Naryn region of Kyrgyzstan.

In Naryn the families were examined by doctors and children were enrolled in school. They soon settled in an now they live in several villages across Naryn region.

The students quickly learned to write in Cyrillic, the alphabet used in Kyrgyzstan, although many could already read some Dari.

They said they hope to get a good education and one day return to Afghanistan to help their Wakhan region develop economically.

However, their current wish is to return to Afghanistan, to

Wakhan, for their summer holidays but word is that it might not be that easy as currently the Eshkashim border crossing is closed due to insurgent activity in the area.

An easier route would meanwhile be through the border crossings at Gunjubay or Harkush, along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border. Through these border crossings the trip would take them only a day or so but these crossings are not open for the Afghan Kyrgyz.

The group of nomads have said they plan to appeal to the Kyrgyz government to ask the Tajik and Afghan governments to open at least one of the crossings for the so they can visit their families in Wakhan Corridor.

The Small and Great Pamirs has enormous potential for tourism similar to the burgeoning travel business in Gorny Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast across the border in Tajikistan but the Pamiris who live there are extremely poor and few people ever visit the area.

In October last year, the Kyrgyzstan government delivered aid, mostly flour, rice, warm clothes and yurts, to the people of Wakhan Corridor and plan to again deliver aid to the area later in the year.

In November last year, a number of Pamiris from Wakhan walked to Faizabad, the Badakhshan capital, to lodge complaints about what they said were serious food shortages and a lack of health care facilities in their district.

The residents, from both Pamirs, said that government had forgotten about them and was not addressing their problems.

Both valleys are extremely remote and it took the Pamiri's 18 days to reach Faizabad on foot.

"We do not have food, roads, clinics or schools," said Haji Rawzatullah one Pamiri.

"Due to the cold weather and the lack of health services, our population has not increased. Our population today is equal to the numbers that existed 30 years ago," said Qurban Big another Pamir resident.

"If government does not pay attention to us, we will have to migrate to other countries," said Lotfullah Big another Pamiri.

During winter, Pamir is completely covered by snow and cut off from other regions. The area is in fact so remote that the Pamiris do not use money to buy and sell goods, instead they exchange their products for other necessary items. (Tolo news)

(12) Afghan Players...

is all of 19 but he has got the mind of a 30-year-old. He knows exactly what is expected of him," he added.

The historic test match between India and Afghanistan will kick off on 14th of June and will be hosted in Begaluru.

This will be Afghanistan's first Test match after obtaining the Test status from the International Cricket Council. (KP)

(13) Afghan...

to Mohmand the archaeologists were on their way to Logar. They would leave Kabul every Saturday and return home on a Thursday.

So far no group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack. (Tolo news)

(14) India's Saha...

The batting mainstay opted to play for the English county championship side Surrey in June but was ruled out after injuring his neck while fielding during the IPL.

Saha has been India's regular gloveman since the retirement of former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni in December 2014. He has played 32 tests and averages above 30 with the bat.

India begin their tour of England in July with three Twenty20 internationals and three one-day internationals before a five-test series starting in August. (Reuters)

(15) Taliban Reject...

Afghanistan is making such claims," Mujahid wrote.

Due to step down this summer, to be replaced by Lt. Gen. Austin "Scott" Miller if Miller is confirmed, Nicholson did not reveal who was involved in the 'secret talks' but had said all stakeholders were engaged.

The Taliban said they did not want to enter talks with "unauthorized sections" and waste time.

A few months back, the Taliban had asked the US for direct talks but Washington replied by suggesting the rebels should hold talks with Afghan officials.

The Taliban have not yet responded to President Ashraf Ghani's unconditional peace offer which the president made at an international conference in Kabul months ago. (Pajhwok)

Singapore Will Bear Some Costs of Trump-Kim Summit: Minister

SINGAPORE - Singapore will bear some of the cost of the planned summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, its defense minister Ng Eng Hen said on Saturday, a day after Trump put the meeting back on agenda.

Kim's trip to Singapore, which would be the furthest he would have traveled as leader, poses logistical challenges that are likely to include using Soviet-era aircraft to carry him and his limousine, as well as dozens of security and other staff.

The Washington Post reported earlier that some unresolved logistical issues relating to the summit were who would pay the hotel bills of the leader of the cash-strapped country, whose economy has been squeezed by a series of U.N. and unilateral sanctions for its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

Singapore, a small but wealthy Southeast Asian city-state, is determined to successfully host the summit and is willing to foot at least some of the bill.

"Obviously yes, but it is a cost that we're willing to bear to play a small part in this historic meeting," Ng told reporters without elaborating, when asked if Singapore will be bearing the cost of the summit, which is scheduled for June 12.

Kim Chang Son, the de facto chief of staff for the North Korean government was seen this week at The Fullerton, a centrally located, five-star hotel that is a refurbished government building overlooking the Singapore river. Media reports said he was in Singapore to meet U.S. officials to work out logistics for the summit

The Fullerton was North Korea's lodging of choice, the Washington Post said. The presidential suite may set the government back by at least 8,000 Singapore dollars (\$6,000) a night, it said.

The hotel declined to provide the room charge for the presidential suite. (Reuters)