

**(1) Reciprocate...**

said Yamamoto. "The way forward must not rely on a military solution but rather a democratic process, and I once again urge the Taliban to take up President Ghani's peace offer and start direct talks with the government to put an end to the suffering of the Afghan people." He said the United Nations continued to stand with all Afghans in solidarity, and remained committed, along with the broader international community, to an Afghan-led peace process that will end the war. (Pajhowk)

**(2) President...**

said Yue Bin, Ambassador of China in Tajikistan. He said being a neighbor of Afghanistan, Tajikistan has been affected by the influence of terrorists and that Tajikistan needs the support of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. "A decision should be made against the countries which have membership of the organization so that they stop funding terrorists and producing terrorists," said Abdul Qadir Zazai Watandost, a member of the International Relations Committee of the Afghan parliament. The office of the Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah meanwhile said Afghanistan needs regional and international cooperation in fighting terrorism. "In order to eliminate terrorists whose threat is common, we need regional and international cooperation," said Omid Maisam, the chief executive's deputy spokesman. President Ashraf Ghani, the acting foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani and other senior government officials will attend the summit. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs says Kabul continues its efforts to get permanent membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. (Tolo news)

**(3) Nearly 6m...**

being entered in the database and currently around 100,000 had become part of the database. (Pajhowk)

**(4) Ghani's Announcement...**

"Peace takes the courage of dialogue, engagement, of compromise and reconciliation. The moment for this courage is now, in order to build a better future for all Afghans." (Pajhowk)

**(5) NATO Defence...**

Ghani's recent offer of peace talks with the Taliban, stressing that "an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process is essential to a long-term, inclusive political settlement." During their two-day meeting Ministers also took decisions to strengthen the Alliance's deterrence and defence, discussed means of enhancing efforts to project stability and fight terrorism, and explored ways of further boosting cooperation with the European Union. It was the last meeting of NATO Ministers before the Summit in Brussels on 11-12 July. (Monitoring Desk)

**(6) Ceasefire with...**

Pompeo said the US and its international partners look to the Taliban to honor the ceasefire and demonstrate their respect for the people of Afghanistan who have long called for a reprieve to the Taliban's campaign of violence. "The United States welcomes President Ghani's offer of a temporary ceasefire between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban to allow the Afghan people to celebrate Eid al-Fitr without fear of violence. This ceasefire further demonstrates the Afghan government's commitment to explore ways to end the conflict," he said. This ceasefire follows the Afghan

Ulema Council's call for the Taliban to end their campaign of violence against the Afghan people and government, he added.

"The Afghan government's offer of a temporary ceasefire underscores its commitment to peace as both a national and religious responsibility. We stand with the Afghan people as they lay the foundation for an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process," Pompeo said. (Pajhowk)

**(7) Taliban Cannot...**

said that military force plays a role in helping to set conditions for an ultimate peace settlement. "We also believe that the Taliban will have to accept that they cannot achieve their own objectives on the battlefield," Curtis said. "Of course, we recognize the scope of the challenge with which we are faced. One positive point that we can look at today is the consensus within the Afghan government on the necessity for a peace process. Given the sheer brutality of this conflict and attacks by the Taliban and the Haqqani network, including those that have recently taken place in Kabul, a natural reaction would be to pull back from talking about peace," she said. "However, as we saw in today's courageous ceasefire announcement, our Afghan partners are sustaining their focus and pursuing with persistence the goal of a peaceful solution," Curtis said.

"A political settlement must be negotiated through a process that is Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. Unfortunately, the Taliban spring offensive announcement and wave of heinous attacks, especially those we've seen in Kabul call into question the Taliban's interest in a peace process," she said.

"The Taliban must understand that it can only achieve its goals at the negotiating table, and let me assure you that the US, for its part, prioritizes the pursuit of a peace process," she said.

In her remarks, Curtis blamed Pakistan for the continued existence of sanctuaries within its territory. "The fact is that the Afghan Taliban, including the Haqqani network, has enjoyed sanctuary in Pakistan throughout the past 16 years of conflict," she said.

"We have asked for Pakistan's assistance in facilitating a peace process and we have sought to understand the Pakistan's own core security concerns and ensure that it's interests are taken into account in any peace process," she said.

"However, we have to be clear that Pakistan's interests are not served by a Taliban resurgence in Afghanistan. Pakistan has a fundamental responsibility to address the use of its territory by these malign actors. One can acknowledge Pakistan's complex security calculus without absolving it about it's a responsibility to do something about these malign actors," she added.

"The last line of effort is encouraging better relations between the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan and we have certainly been encouraged by the reinvigorated dialogue between Kabul and Islamabad that has happened in recent months," Curtis said.

Noting that regional engagement is central to America's efforts, she said one must ensure Afghanistan's near and far neighbors all agree that Afghanistan should be stable and peaceful. "This means obtaining buy in from key regional stakeholders through engagements like the Kabul Process conference, the Tashkent, as well as other diplomatic efforts that we're pursuing on a bilateral basis," she said.

The concluding statement of Kabul Process Conference made clear the international community support

for a practical plan for peace and reconciliation. "Our second line of effort focuses on encouraging grassroots peace initiatives. This means working closely with the Afghan government to ensure that there are ways for Taliban fighters who are ready to stop fighting to return to civil society. This does not mean that we attend to recreate earlier efforts that were largely unsuccessful," she said. (Pajhowk)

**(8) Kalimzai Vows...**

residents said changing officials would not help improve the situation in Ghazni.

Naqibullah, one of the residents, said the situation in Ghazni had lately deteriorated. "Every day there are blasts, killings, security posts are captured, this has worried people. The authorities should find solution to these issues by devising effective plans." (Pajhowk)

**(9) Germany...**

a refugee rights group - called the planned resumption of deportations "incomprehensible and appalling".

Her government no longer saw any justification for holding back on deporting people to Afghanistan on security grounds, Merkel told lawmakers Wednesday.

"From our point of view, the restrictions are dropped" following a recent foreign ministry report on the situation in Afghanistan, she added. (Pajhowk)

**(10) Thousands Policemen...**

from paycheck to paycheck," he said. "They borrow groceries from a shop with the promise of paying at the end of the month."

Abdullah, a police officer in the Sarkano district of eastern Kunar Province who uses only one name, said he had missed the biometric team's visit to his headquarters because he had been dispatched to a front-line position. The team was gone when he returned, and he has not been paid for two months.

"I have borrowed so much that the shopkeepers have stopped lending to my family now," he said. "I am lost and I don't know what to do."

For years now, donor countries have been frustrated by what are known as "ghost soldiers" - corrupt commanders and generals pocketing the salaries of men who exist only on paper.

Last year, the American-led NATO coalition withheld the salaries of tens of thousands of army soldiers, forcing the generals to expedite the biometric data registration. The army, officials say, has since improved the accounting of its soldiers.

The American military, which has increasingly limited the information it releases on the state of the Afghan forces, does not give exact figures on how many Afghan soldiers or police officers have been unaccounted for. But the military said last year that it had saved \$62.4 million in "cost avoidance" by not paying the unaccounted-for personnel.

But the police force, its leadership widely seen as extremely corrupt, has lagged behind, Afghan and Western officials say.

The depth of the problem in the Interior Ministry was revealed, once again, when two large fighting units of the Afghan police were incorporated into the army. When it came time for the transition, the numbers on paper were off by thousands from the actual number of men that could be accounted for, two senior officials said.

Mohammed Saber Sarwary, the head of finance and budget at the Afghan Interior Ministry, said the donors had cut off pay for 30,000 police officers since March. The number was confirmed by one other senior official.

"We have reached them time and again and asked them to give us access to the system to execute and process the salaries of 30,000 police who are fighting in the front lines, but they did not listen," Mr. Sarwary said.

Donor countries put the money for the police salaries into a fund that is run by the United National Development Program. The salary freeze hit particularly hard, Mr. Sarwary said, because it is the month of Ramadan, which is followed by the festival of Eid al-Fitr.

The donors' response to repeated pleas that they release the money?

"You know, there is a saying which goes, 'He who feeds you can also command you,'" Mr. Sarwary said. A spokesman for the American-led coalition directed requests for comment to the United Nations Development Program. Officials from that agency would not comment.

While the police in major cities have gone through biometric registration, reaching all of them in far-away districts has been a difficult task.

Officials in Kunduz, Zabul, Oruzgan and Farah Provinces, where there has been intense fighting, say the registration teams go to provincial centers and expect police officers from other districts to come to them. The roads are often either blocked or heavily infiltrated by the Taliban.

Dost Mohammed Nayab, a spokesman for the governor of Oruzgan, said the biometric team had set up in the provincial capital, Tarinkot. "The problem is that the districts are cut off from the center," Mr. Nayab said. "We are targeting two districts now - DehRawood and Gizab - bringing the police by aircraft to Tarinkot for biometric and then taking them back. It is difficult, but we are committed." (Pajhowk)

**(11) Afghan Forces...**

they would suspend operations against the Taliban in line with the ceasefire, but would respond firmly if attacked.

President Ashraf Ghani announced for the first time an unconditional ceasefire with the Taliban coinciding with Eid, the end of the Muslim fasting month, but excluding other militant groups, such as Islamic State.

"It is not a laying-down of arms," a senior official told Reuters.

The ceasefire followed a meeting of Islamic clerics this week that declared a fatwa, or ruling, against suicide bombings, one of which, claimed by Islamic State, killed 14 people at the entrance to the clerics' peace tent in Kabul.

The clerics also recommended a ceasefire with the Taliban, who are fighting to reimpose strict Islamic law after their ouster in 2001, and Ghani endorsed the recommendation, saying it would last until June 20.

The United States wants to step up military operations against Islamic State militants in Nangarhar during the ceasefire, the top U.S. general in Afghanistan said on Friday.

"(Operations against IS) will continue, in fact, will be even intensified, during this period of ceasefire, as we focus on ISIS," General John Nicholson, commander of U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan, told reporters in Brussels. (Reuters)

**(12) Rashid's Las...**

before he inevitably tied them down.

Tamim Iqbal too fell loosely, attacking perhaps unnecessarily in the face of a modest target. He hit Mujeeb Ur Rahman down extra cover's throat as the rest of Afghanistan's bowling attack stepped up, with the exception of medium pacer Karim Janat, who bowled the 19th over which had seemed pivotal and conceded 44 from his quota.

Earlier, Afghanistan had made their way to 145/6 after a solid if uninspiring batting display. Opening pair Mohammad Shahzad and Osman Ghani set the tone, the latter particularly struggling but hanging in there in a first-wicket stand of 55, which consumed 7.4 overs.

The stand ended as Shahzad missed a reverse sweep and was struck on the pad. Soon after, Ghani's tortuous stay came to a close as he gloved through to the keeper.

Captain AsgharStanikzai helped arrest the slide. He struck three sixes in a 17-ball stay before being caught at long-on attempting a fourth.

The dangerous Mohammad Nabi came and went, chipping Abu Jayed to mid-off, as Afghanistan struggled in the slog overs. NajibullahZadran scored at less than a run a ball and SamiullahShinwari didn't fare much better. Still, the latter's unbeaten 33 lifted Afghanistan to some sort of total, the ICC said in a report on its website. (Tolo news)

**(13) Women's Handicraft...**

they have become self-reliant through their work and they are very happy," said Kazmi. Also on display at the expo are handicrafts made by schoolgirls. (Tolo news)

## Iran to Sue Boeing for Unilateral Cancellation of Deal

TEHRAN - Tehran will sue Boeing at international tribunals after the US planemaker said it will not deliver aircraft to Iran in light of American sanctions, an Iranian lawmaker says.

"The Islamic Republic will seriously pursue the cancellation of the Boeing agreement through international, legal and judicial tribunals," MP Taqi Kabiri who is a member parliament's economic commission said on Friday.

Kabiri's comments came two days after the aerospace giant said it would not fulfill a December 2016 contract to sell 80 aircraft to national flag carrier IranAir, effectively aborting a pair of large contracts with Iran.

"We have not delivered any aircraft to Iran, and given we no longer have a license to sell to Iran at this time, we will not be delivering any aircraft," a Boeing spokesman said Wednesday.

"From the very beginning, we should have got a strong guarantee from the aircraft manufacturer so that they would not be able to easily violate their contracts," Kabiri said. Nevertheless, "such actions will have no effect on our determination and they [the US] cannot harm us in this way," he added.

The US Treasury said in May licenses held by Boeing and Airbus to sell passenger jets to Iran would be revoked after Washington announced its withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal.

Airbus has signed a contract with IranAir for the sale of 100 jetliners worth about \$19 billion at list prices, with only three planes delivered so far.

According to the Washington Post, Boeing and Airbus would lose \$39 billion from lost Iran deals if the European planemaker also decided to back out of the contract.

Boeing's announcement to revoke contracts with Iran follows President Donald Trump's decision last month to pull the US out of the landmark 2015 nuclear accord, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Trump has said he would reinstate US nuclear sanctions on Iran and impose "the highest level" of economic bans on the Islamic Republic. (Press TV)