

(1) India Stands

when Afghanistan succeeded in defeating terrorism, the world would be "safer and more beautiful". "Because we know that extremism and terrorism cannot stop at your border or end at the boundaries of our region," the Prime Minister said.

The dam has been built by India at a cost of \$300 million on river Harirud in Chisht-i-Sharif in Herat neighbouring Iran. It will irrigate 75,000 hectares of land and generate 42 MW of power.

"This dam has not been built by bricks and mortar, but by the faith of our friendship and the valour of Afghans and Indians. And, at this moment of pride, we also stand in grief and gratitude for lives sacrificed so that Afghan people will have a future they so richly deserve and so deeply desire," PM Modi said.

In his around 25-minute-long speech, PM Modi touched upon the peace process in Afghanistan, the massive terrorist attack on Indian Consulate in Herat and reconstruction activities in that country and said Afghanistan's success is a deeply-held hope and desire of every Indian. (Pajhwok)

2) UK Renews

work of UK mentors and Afghan instructors and cadets. The UK, along with NATO partners, is providing essential support in helping the development of the academy.

A UK team of mentors is supporting instructors as they train the next generation of male and female Afghan officers, who are being trained to shape a more peaceful, secure and prosperous future for the country.

UK servicemen and women are playing a key role in this. The academy has now trained over 1,300 Afghan officers, illustrating the progress being made towards a peaceful Afghanistan. It is also committed to contributing £70m of sustainment funding for the ANDSF until 2020.

The secretary of state also met senior leaders from NATO's Resolute Support mission in Kabul, including General John Nicholson and Brigadier Ian Thomas, Commander of the Kabul Security Force.

"We discussed the ongoing work to ensure stability in the capital, and to support the work of ANDSF across the country in light of the challenges posed by the current fighting season," the secretary of state concluded. (Pajhwok)

3) Political

regional countries would be paid special attention, he promised.

About government departments led by acting heads, Ghani said political pressures and other obstacles were behind the compulsion. However, he assured the problem would be resolved in the near future.

At a separate meeting with civil society activists, the president pledged awarding deterrent punishments to terrorists and kidnapers. Civil society activists referred to the shortage of professional schoolteachers, kidnappings, governors' powers and an end to acting leadership.

In response, Ghani asserted his administration's determination to crush kidnapers and award them severe punishments.

Herat would be supplied reliable power, he said, adding railway lines and roads would convert it into a developed province. The president also met a number of ulema and influential figures.

They supported government's programmes, asking the president to take serious steps for combating corruption in government offices. Law should be applied equally to all people, including powerful individuals and warlords. The president, after hearing religious scholars' views, said those creating security problems would face strong action. He assured practical measures were being adopted to curb corruption. (Pajhwok)

4) Modi Conferred

India Friendship Dam, earlier known as the Salma Dam, that was rebuilt with India's aid.

Inaugurating the Dam, Prime Minister Modi said the event marked a 'historic moment' of emotion and pride in the relations between Afghanistan and India.

Salma Dam is a landmark infrastructure project undertaken by the Indian government on the River Chisht-e-Sharif, in Herat.

The Afghan-India Friendship Dam is a multipurpose project planned for generating 42 megawatt of power, irrigating 75,000 hectares of land, water supply and other benefits to the people of Afghanistan. (ANI)

(5) Al-Qaeda

to local forces to thwart threats. NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg has said that the alliance is committed to overcoming the ongoing challenges in Afghanistan that threatens the nation's stability.

"What we do in Afghanistan... what we are aiming at doing more often and that is to project stability not by deploying NATO forces into combat operations, but by projecting stability by training local forces," said NATO chief Stoltenberg.

Apparently the US and NATO forces are concerned about a resurgence of al-Qaeda operatives and the Taliban.

"We think that they have tried to become closer to the Taliban, primarily because they recognize that if the Taliban can carve out some space, then al-Qaeda can move in under the Taliban and they have got some freedom from US strikes, they have got the freedom and the ability to plan that type of thing," said Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, deputy chief of staff for communications for Operation Resolute Support, the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

"We don't think that the Taliban would have cut their ties with other terrorist groups, they are already in touch with al-Qaeda, Haqqani network and other groups," MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said. Meanwhile, a number of political analysts have said that sidelining the security threats in Afghanistan by the world community would have repercussions in future and Afghanistan must reassess its partnership with the world.

NATO statistics reveal that a number of al-Qaeda affiliates are present in Kunar, Pakтика, Paktia and Kandahar provinces, but they are not able to launch major attacks on the west.

This comes at a time that the Afghan security forces are struggling against the Taliban and other terrorist groups on multiple fronts with the Afghan officials persistently asking international partners to leverage the process of mobilizing a strong and capable air power and deliver more weapons to the army of Afghanistan to battle the insurgents effectively on the battlefields. (Tolnews)

(6) Hundreds

which had been granted project contracts, were either based in Kabul or had ceased to function.

Mohammad Hassan Asadi, a provincial council member, said the Tor Ghar Construction Company had been granted a contract for the construction of a retaining wall. Only half of the project has been done, but the firm has vanished into thin air.

A 30-bed hospital, whose construction was initiated by the Ittefaq Mirzad Company in 2009, was scheduled to be completed in two years. However, only 20 percent work had been executed so far, he claimed.

The firm was to pay three million afghanis to shopkeepers for the materials it had purchased from them, the provincial council member alleged. Since the bidding process was far from transparent, most of contracts were awarded on the basis of nepotism and political cronyism.

Ali Ahmad, a shopkeeper in Wars district, blasted the Ittefaq Mirzad, Company for failing to pay shopkeeper their money. The firm had promised them to pay the loans after receiving project funds, he continued.

Education Director Mohammad Ayub Amiri said as many as 101 development projects related to his departments had come to a halt. Of the 338 schools in the province, none has its own building. Earlier, 18 employees of the department, including its head and deputy head, were dismissed and jailed on corruption charges. (Pajhwok)

(7) Generals,

group to expand and causing Afghanistan to "revert to the chaos of the 1990s," the officials asserted.

Their warning came days before U.S. Army Gen. John W. Nicholson was expected to issue a review of the situation for the 90 days since he became the top U.S. commander there. The country's international backers are also set to meet in Warsaw in July and Brussels in October to discuss their continued commitments.

Obama's latest plan, announced last fall, calls for a reduction of U.S. forces by nearly half, from roughly 9,800 to 5,500 by early 2017. He had long planned to pull out nearly all U.S. troops before leaving office.

But since the withdrawal of most international combat forces at the end of 2014, the Afghan military has struggled to beat back the Taliban, who are believed to control the most territory since 2001.

In recent months, military and political leaders have urged a drawdown based on conditions on the ground, rather than a deadline.

A troop-level freeze would allow Obama's successor to assess the situation and "adjust accordingly," the retired generals and diplomats wrote.

"This step would be seen as a positive reaffirmation of America's commitment to that nation, its people and its security." (Pajhwok)

(8) Over 200

National Security Forces began large-

scale operations against militants after taking full responsibility of security from NATO forces at the beginning of this year. (KP)

9) Maliha Hassan

different sectors, including as commissioner in administrative reforms and civil services.

She has also served with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, United Nations Development Program, UNHCR, and other institutions, according to her biography.

This comes as the government of national unity promised to step up efforts in a bid to empower the women and increase their role in the leadership level of the government.

The government has so far appointed at least three female Ambassadors with Roya Rahmani being the last female Ambassador to take over duties in Indonesia last week.

The government also introduced the first woman Anisa Rasouli to gain membership in Supreme Court of the country but she was rejected by the Afghan lawmakers. (KP)

(10) Chahbahar and redefining Afghanistan's future. The two nations have come together to honour and celebrate Afghan determination to build a future of prosperity," he said.

"This dam has not been built by bricks and mortar, but by faith of our friendship and valour of Afghans and Indians," he added.

Modi left early Saturday for Afghanistan, the first leg of a five-nation tour that will also take him to Qatar, Switzerland, the US and Mexico. (Monitoring Desk)

(11) Salma Dam's

came to an end after 45 years of wait in July 2015. In 1978 India pledged constructing the dam, but the coup and subsequent conflict in Afghanistan left the project hamstrung.

Ismail Khan told Pajhwok Afghan News 97% of work on the dam had been completed during his tenure as minister of energy and water. The water reservoir's construction began a year back.

He said with the completion of the dam, farmers' problem of irrigation water shortage would be resolved. The project would create jobs for residents of Herat and other provinces. Khan concluded. (Pajhwok)

(12) 40 Police

the clash. Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Ghulam Jilani said security reinforcements had been dispatched to the area to rescue the besieged police officials.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi claimed scores of policemen had been killed and their three vehicles destroyed during the clash. The Taliban fighters also captured some weapons and ammunition, he added. (Pajhwok)

(13) Massoud (of Afghanistan has said that the corruption trend is much more dangerous than the issue of militancy in the country.

Massoud went on to say that the money that flowed into the country in recent years has not been spent properly. "Thousands of acres of land has been grabbed, but no one has the power to bring the land grabbers to justice, major fuel contracts have been signed, but again no one has the power to bring fuel mafia to justice," he said.

The lack of coordination between police and the attorney general and courts, security threats, political inefficiency, cultural issues, lack of monitoring systems over the contracts between donor countries, and bureaucracy in government institutions are apparently the main challenges in the way of fighting corruption, experts have said.

"Corruption is the biggest enemy of the people of Afghanistan. It is a great danger to the people of Afghanistan. Corruption is more dangerous than terrorism and enemies of the people of Afghanistan. It is like a sword beside our heart and we must deal with the issue. Therefore the government of Afghanistan must prioritize fighting corruption and comply with its commitments it made in this respect," ACO Farid Hamidi said.

"There are a lot of cases about those involved in corruption since 1380 (2001). However fate of these cases remains uncertain," said Sharif Sharifi, general director of Supreme Audit Office.

Meanwhile, experts have said that to overcome the issue of corruption, there will be an end to the culture of evasion from the law and just implementation of the law on the criminals.

"Equal implementation of the law must be carried out on all criminals regardless of their political affiliation or group," said Sayed Ghulam Hussain Fakhri, head of Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption. (Tolnews)

(14) MPs Blast

province, demanding the removal of Noor.

Abdul Rahim Ayoubi, a lawmaker

from southern Kandahar province, told Saturday's session that provoking ethnic disputes especially in the current situation was not good and wasn't in anyone's favor.

He asked the house administrative board to appoint and assign a delegation with investigating the clash and the differences.

He said if the lower house didn't take a step to resolve the issue, then the enemies of Afghanistan would misuse and exploit the situation.

Escalation of disagreements between the Junbish and Jamiat parties, armed clashes between them and negligence of the government had made the north insecure.

He termed the government's silence over the tension as questionable and said the government should take action and resolve the issue at the earliest possible.

Zakarya Sawda from northeastern Badakhshan province said the intensifying dispute between the two parties had insecurity in northern parts of the country.

He said the recent armed clash between supporters of the two groups had worried people and if the government didn't pay attention, the situation in the north could worsen.

He also criticised government's negligence and silence over the issue and said the regime should react and resolve the dispute.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the lower house had made continuous efforts to resolve the issue within the ambit of law.

"Dispute within the government that we experienced earlier has not led to the desired outcome. While it doesn't relate to us and we don't have the executive authority to give an order, but we want the unity government to bring to an end the dispute between the prominent government figures." (Pajhwok)

(15) Worsening

and would sack officials creating such issues.

Provincial council deputy chief Abdul Majeed Akhuzada also said 'ghost personnel' existed in security forces in Helmand.

He said the number of security forces in Helmand reached 32,000, but 12,000 to 15,000 personnel appeared for duty. About the clashes in Marja, Nad Ali and Greshk districts, the governor said 69 Taliban militants were killed and 60 others injured during last night operations and airstrikes.

The Taliban also confirmed the clashes. Their spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi said 24 security personnel were killed and several others were wounded during last night clashes in Marja and Nawaw districts. He said the fighters suffered no casualties during the clashes.

The issue of 'ghost security personnel' in Helmand had also been raised previously and the central government sent a delegation to investigate the issue, but the media is yet to be shared any information about the delegation's findings. (Pajhwok)

(16) Balkh Protestors

They chanted slogans like "we want end to the rule of a single party, the acting governor be removed and we want a governor not linked to a particular group."

Deputy head of the provincial council, and member of Junbish-i-Milli Islami party, Shujaudin Shuja, one of the rally organizers, told the protestors in his address that they had gathered in protest against injustices in the province.

"You know the power is monopolized in Balkh, through said. "You deceived the people of Balkh for the past 14 years, now stop it."

He accused the governor of doing nothing to strengthen security in Balkh and said people themselves maintained security of the province.

He also claimed the governor made various attempts to prevent the protest demonstration, but the justice seeking protestors could not be scared and they came out. (Pajhwok)

(17) Herat Ind

land-grabbing, better management of city entrance gates and construction of the Herat-Chesht-i-Sharif road.

The president said his government supported the private sector and investors and their economic plans would be discussed in the high council of economic affairs. Also their issues would be underlined in the meeting.

About reforms, the president said new policy on appointments at customs offices would be introduced in order to prevent nepotistic hiring.

The president said preventing land-grabbing was prime responsibility of governors, police chiefs and other officials concerned and said effective measures were being taken in this regard.

Ghani said the government had ended the culture of immunity for corrupt individuals and would never tolerate corrupt officials. (Pajhwok)

(18) Herat

Herat residents said the construction of the dam has brought them new hope. They said the inauguration of the dam was a historic moment and an example of true friendship between the Indian and Afghan nations.

"This is a positive step for electricity generation and agriculture sector, people waited for years for the project to be completed," senator Amina Afzali said.

Meanwhile, former minister of water and energy said the dam was testimony to the real friendship between Afghanistan and India.

He paid tribute to the efforts of Afghan security forces for providing security for the key project.

"It is the biggest project which has been established in the country in 40 years. I congratulate the residents of Herat for the construction of this dam. The dam will bring changes for the residents living in Herat, because it generates electricity and also provides water for agriculture," the former minister of interior Mohammad Ismail said.

In addition, a number of industrialists in the province have said that the dam will help boost factories - many of which stopped operations due to electricity shortages in Herat's Industrial Township.

"With the production of electricity from Salma Dam in Herat, dozens of investors who stopped their machines due to power shortages will be able to restart their activities. This will also attract investors from foreign countries to come to Herat and invest," a Herat factory owner Mohammad Hamkar said.

Elaborating on the economic significance of Salma Dam, meanwhile, a number of residents have said that government must step up efforts to establish the same types of dams in other regions of the country including the renovation of Kajaki Dam, in Helmand.

"Afghanistan has a lot of capacity. It is hoped that the government of Afghanistan does not rely on this dam, our expectation is that the government will also focus on the renovation of Kajaki Dam in order to bring similar happiness to residents of Helmand and Kandahar provinces," a civil society activist Suraya Pakzad said.

It is said that Kajaki Dam has more potential than Salma Dam. However security threats have left the dam unfinished, an issue that has kept Helmand and Kandahar provinces in darkness.

Salma Dam is 20 km in length and three kilometers in width, and has a water storage capacity of 640 million cubic meters. This will be utilized to generate 43 megawatts of electricity for 40,000 families and will irrigate 80,000 hectares of farmland, belonging to 50,000 families. (Tolnews)

(19) 12 Dead,

Insurgents belonging to the Taliban group and the newly emerged Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are actively operating in a number of its districts. (KP)

(20) Several Shops (buildings with low standards and lack of standard precautionary measures by shop owners are believed to be the main motives behind devastating fire incidents in the country. (KP)

(21) 18 Dead, 30 district, he said, adding the bus was heading from Kabul to Herat. Malyar linked the incident to rash driving.

Public Health Director Dr. Abdul Jabbar Shaeq said that one dead body and 18 injured people were brought to the Farah Civil Hospital from the site. One of the injured succumbed to his wounds at the hospital.

Mohammad Naser, a resident of Kunar province who was injured in the incident, also blamed the driver for "deadly negligence". Of the 60 passengers on the bus, only 10 escaped unhurt, he added. (Pajhwok)

(22) 2 Prominent

groups have not commented regarding the reports so far. (KP)

(23) UN Chief

in the number of children recruited and six times more children killed and maimed compared to 2014, the report said.

Violations committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and neighboring region continued to have a devastating impact on children, including persistent child recruitment and use and boys featured as child soldiers in social media and in some cases as executioners. (Xinhua)

(24) UN Police

from 2,000 in 1999 to more than 13,000 today. They are deployed in 13 UN peacekeeping missions as well as five special political missions worldwide.

The summit is expected to become a platform to discuss how peace operations and national policing complement and mutually reinforce each

other when addressing current and emerging challenges, such as transnational threats. (Xinhua)

(25) China Urges

and communication so as to manage and bridge differences, he said.

Echoing Sun on bilateral ties, Toru Mura said Japan-China relationship is one of the most important bilateral ties for Japan.

Dialogue and communication between the two countries helps to boost mutual understanding, improve bilateral ties as well as maintain international and regional peace and prosperity, the Japanese official said. (Xinhua)

(26) UNHCR Hails

place in Brazil on Aug. 5 to 21.

"We are very inspired by the Refugee Olympic Athletes team - having had their sporting careers interrupted, these high-level refugee athletes will finally have the chance to pursue their dreams," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. (Xinhua)

(27) Over 40

Syrian army is also engaged in battles against the Nusra and likeminded groups in the southern countryside of Aleppo, mainly near the town of Khan Tuman.

Aleppo, Syria's second largest city and once an economic hub, holds its significance due to its location near the Turkish borders. Each party of the conflict is now fighting to consolidate positions, and claim more territory in that key area. (Xinhua)

(27) Iraqi Forces

northwest of Fallujah, leaving 16 extremist militants dead and four of their vehicles destroyed, the source added.

In addition, the security forces repelled an attack of dozens of IS militants in Albu Hawa area in south of Fallujah, on the western bank of Euphrates River, killing some 24 IS militants, the source said without giving further details about casualties among the security forces.

Earlier in the day, the security forces and allied paramilitary Shiite and Sunni units, known as Fashd Shaabi, entered around noon Saqlawiyah in northwest of Fallujah and recaptured the central part of the town, a security source anonymously told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

(29) Boxing Legend training at 12 years old and won the world heavyweight championship at 22 years old in 1964. He won the title again in 1974 and 1978. (Xinhua)

(30) Rousseff Meets

gathered thousands of participants, mostly women, in Rio de Janeiro, to express opposition against Rousseff's impeachment.

Rousseff was temporarily removed from office in May for up to 180 days after the Senate agreed to open an impeachment trial.

With no charges of corruption weighing against her, Rousseff is being judged for administrative misconduct and disregard for the federal budget as well as delaying payments to public banks.

Calls between politicians recently leaked to the Brazilian press indicate that the impeachment process was seemingly conceived as a way to quickly oust Rousseff from office and to halt a corruption investigation which is getting close to the country's high-profile politicians. (Xinhua)

(31) 32 Soldiers

The eastern part of Niger, close to the border with Nigeria has witnessed since February 2015 repeated attacks launched by Boko Haram, who has claimed the lives of hundreds of Nigerian civilians and soldiers, the group has also displaced thousands of Nigerians as well as Nigeriens. (Xinhua)

(32) Chinese Admiral welcomed NATO's decision to participate in the upcoming 7th Xiangshan forum in Beijing in October.

For his part, Pavel said NATO is willing to conduct communications and dialogue with China, and appreciates China's support to Afghanistan where NATO has led a Resolute Support mission.

He said NATO holds positive attitudes toward the proposal made by China. The two generals held their meeting on the sidelines of the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue. (Xinhua)

(33) Leader Urges

The Leader said enmity with Iran stems from its revolutionary spirit. "The pressures which are being exerted are due to this revolutionary (spirit) because the enemies are afraid of it."

"Why they oppose the revolution, because the country was entirely under their control. Besides, it has become a source of inspiration for other countries" after the revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei said. (Agencies)

(34) Uzbekistan

Asia, with some extraordinary mineral resources of gold, platinum, gas, with significant oil reserves, and also