

(1) Danish Insists ...

situation had been assessed and a report in this regard shared with the United Nations. "Now it is up to the parliament. With approval of the president decree, you can open the door for electoral reform and with your wise decision, you can pave the ground for elections at an earlier date."

Three days ago, Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauffbrahimi had said electoral reform was crucial to restoring people's trust in elections. "Until reforms in the electoral system are not brought about, the international community will not provide assistance," the speaker had said. (Pajhwok)

(2) Taliban Tops ...

have direct contact with Pakistan's ISI and the ISI have relations with Saudi Arabia and other countries, and the Taliban is backed by those countries," said Rasouly.

The state department also said that the total number of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan increased by seven percent between 2014 and 2015, while the total number of deaths increased by 17 percent.

"Whenever Taliban face defeat in the battle field against the security forces then the Taliban turn to conduct horrible activities like [taking people] hostage and others. Taliban don't know any boundaries," said Qanbar Ali Tabish a university lecturer.

However, in Afghanistan the percentage of total fatalities comprised by perpetrator deaths was especially high - 47 percent, compared to 24 percent worldwide.

In the report, the state department said the increase in the number of perpetrators killed in terrorist attacks in 2015 accounts for 72 percent of the increase in total fatalities in Afghanistan. Like Iraq, India, Libya, and Syria, Afghanistan also experienced a large increase (55 percent) in the number of people kidnapped or taken hostage in terrorist attacks in 2015.

Information about perpetrator groups was reported for two-thirds of all attacks in Afghanistan in 2015 (67 percent).

Nearly all of these (95 percent) were attributed to the Taliban.

"America now sees that the Taliban not only has relations with other terrorist groups but they [Taliban] also have relations with the countries opposed to America so therefore America will take a hard stance towards the Taliban," said Ahmad Sayedi a political analyst.

Attacks carried out by the Taliban in 2015 killed more than 4,400 people, including at least 2,300 perpetrators, and wounded more than 4,600.

The Khorasan Chapter of Daesh emerged in Afghanistan for the first time in 2015, and was responsible for four percent of attacks.

Three of the 20 deadliest individual attacks in 2015 took place in Afghanistan - in Kunduz, Ghazni, and Kotalgu.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for all three of these attacks.

The report stated that attacks against police targets, especially police buildings, checkpoints, and security forces, comprised 45 percent of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan in 2015.

Police targets in Afghanistan were more than twice as prevalent as police targets worldwide (19 percent).

As in Iraq, suicide attacks remained especially frequent in Afghanistan, comprising eight percent of all terrorist attacks in 2015, compared to six percent worldwide.

However, the number of suicide attacks in Afghanistan decreased by 17 percent in 2015, compared to 2014.

Terrorist attacks took place in 33 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces in 2015, and were even more geographically dispersed than they have been in recent years. From 2012 to 2014, the five provinces that were most frequently attacked comprised at least 40 percent of all attacks in Afghanistan, and Helmand province experienced the most attacks by a relatively wide margin.

In 2015, only 34 percent of all attacks took place in the five provinces that saw the most attacks: Helmand (eight percent), Nangarhar (eight percent), Ghazni (six percent), Kandahar (six percent), and Kabul (six percent).

In 2015, the number of total attacks in Afghanistan did increase 127 percent between February (88 attacks) and May (200 attacks); however, this trend is obscured in the global statistics due to considerable decreases in the number of terrorist attacks in Iraq, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Nigeria during the first six months of the year, read the report.

The report also indicated a sharp increase in the number of kidnappings in Afghanistan in 2015. A total of 1,112 people were kidnapped, a 55 percent increase on the previous year. (ToloneWS)

(3) 50pc of ...

pocketed by private individuals, but named no one.

Kentoz said he launched investigation into the existence of ghost police personnel from the day one of his appointment as the police chief and he had so far sacked 200 policemen.

He said 80 of the sacked police had been serving with generals, lawmakers and others as personal servants.

He said former police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Rahman Sarjang had 270 police who actually did not exist but their salaries were paid.

He said 500 national police personnel existed in the books in Marjah district but on the ground there were only 150. Another 450 local police personnel did not appear for job.

He said there were about 10,000 national and local police personnel on the payrolls in Helmand but half of them non-existent, but all received salaries and other incentives.

He said not only salaries of these personnel would be stopped, but legal action would also be initiated against them.

"I don't afraid of anyone. I will not accept pressure. I will work until my last day here, but I don't want to go from this province with a bad name," Kentoz said.

He said he wanted to discharge all ghost personnel and replace with young officials to complete the police strength and send them to the trenches against the armed opponents.

The Helmand police chief the eight-month-old siege of Marjah district had been broken and the highway to the district had been reopened and work on the establishment of security posts was underway.

He said the second plan was to conduct operations in all parts of Marjah and in the third plan, in some parts of Nad Ali district and all parts of Babaji area of Lashkargah to bring these areas under government control.

Kentoz said police well coordinated with other security organs and police and army personnel worked together. He said weapons with police did not match those with the insurgents, but the Afghan National Army had better weapons and security forces could jointly suppress the enemy.

He said the Taliban had recently received countless anti-personnel landmines from Pakistan and Iran and the devices were only challenge the police faced.

President Ashraf Ghani, who arrived in Helmand two days ago, also made a mention of corruption in the province and said if the former police chief, Abdul Rahman Sarjang, was found guilty of corruption he would be sentenced to 20 years in jail. (Pajhwok)

(4) Peace in Afg. ...

Tariq Fatemi said the drone strike has also put a question mark on the United States' intentions about peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan believed that dialogue is the only option to ensure peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, as peace in Afghanistan is also vital for peace in the region.

About the Indian bid for membership of the Nuclear Supplier Group, Fatemi said the objective of non-proliferation cannot be negated with discriminatory approaches in the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

He said as the NSG was created in reaction to the Indian nuclear tests, now offering NSG membership to India would give a negative signal on proliferation. (Agencies)

(5) Afghanistan ...

protect Afghanistan cultural heritages. Aghan writers have blasted Iran and Turkey for announcing Rumi's MasnaviMa'navi, who is also known as Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi, as a common heritage of the two nations. The Iranian officials have said that although Rumi was buried in Konya city in Turkey he wrote his poems in Persian, and therefore Iran and Turkey are keeping the rights to share Rumi as a common heritage.

"Maulan (Rumi) belongs to present day Afghanistan and yesterday's Khorasan. It is the responsibility of the Afghan government to take swift action about it to protect our heritage," Poet HaidarWojudi said.

"We were informed about the topic through the Afghan embassy in Tehran, the ministry of foreign affairs consulted the Afghan embassy in Paris and asked them to discuss the topic with UNESCO," MoFA spokesman ShekibMustaghni said. (ToloneWS)

(6) Danish wants ...

government always tried to put an end to the acting charge of state organs and it believed the security forces needed an effective leadership and trust of the people.

Hailing the nominees as skillful and experienced individuals, the VP said: "As you know the current conflict is mostly intelligence-based, I request you to vote for the two candidates to help control the security situation and

go for peace and stability."

MoD has been led by an acting minister for the past two and a half years. The NDS has also been spearheaded by an acting head after Rahmatullah Nabil resigned as spymaster in December, 2015.

A number of lawmakers have previously complained that one major cause of insecurity in the country was acting leadership of security organs. However, Danish told the session the enemies of Afghanistan always exploited fragile and sensitive situation-stoke differences among different communities.

He stressed the need for national unity, saying the government was ready to deal with different issues of importance in coordination with parliament. (Pajhwok)

(7) McCain Lends ...

7,000 to 11,000, with each visa-holder entitled to bring spouses and their children to the US. "It is time for the Senate to stop treating U.S. immigration policy like a Christmas tree that they can simply add more baubles to on a whim," said a press release from Numbers USA sent to Senate.

"Americans have to pay for each of those baubles - through higher taxes, fewer jobs, lower wages, and, tragically, higher health care costs for soldiers and their families."

Congress cut healthcare benefits to veterans in the 2016 budget by increasing pharmacy co-pays - using some of those savings to fund an expansion of the programme. (Pajhwok)

(8) 70pc of Schools ...

rest were taught under open skies. He said the 33 closed schools were located in various districts and they had launched efforts in cooperation with tribal elders to reopen them.

He said insecurity also prevented education officials from assessing the education process in some districts. He asked the Ministry of Education to make efforts required at resolving their problems. Paktika residents have contributed at least 16 million afghanis during the past one year to the education department by dedicating their land to school buildings and contributing to reconstruction costs and making available textbooks. But a resident of Barmal district, Mohammadullah, said the education department didn't want to improve the education process in remote districts.

"Education department officials have all kind of facilities but they don't want to wholeheartedly perform their duty. They are busy pocketing money." He confirmed schools in several districts have been closed owing to insecurity, depriving a large number of students from education. Similarly, there is no school in Khoshamand district.

A resident of the district, Abdul Wahid, said local tribal elders had many times shared the issue of no school in the district with the education department but to no avail. (Pajhwok)

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(9) AACN Slams

promises," AACN Board Member ZabiullahWardak said. Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani's second Vice President Sarwar Danish has assured the nation that all necessary arrangements have been taken ahead of the Warsaw Summit.

2016 is said to be an important year for fighting corruption in Afghanistan. However, government's war on corruption has faced major setbacks this year as analysts say that government failed to achieve visible gains in the way of combating corruption.

This comes after Ghani's recent visit to the southern province of Helmand where he pledged that he will start fighting corruption from within the cabinet. "The anti-corruption council will instigate its job within a week, I have ordered that every minister, governor and official be held accountable if they are found guilty of corruption," Ghani said.

The Warsaw Summit, scheduled for next month, is said to be crucial for Afghanistan in terms of it needing on-going international assistance. But what are the measures government needs to take against corruption in order to satisfy its international partners?

"Some efforts were stepped up and a little work has been done, but these efforts are not sufficient," said SayedGhulamHussainFakhri, head of the Office of Oversight and Anti-corruption. Meanwhile, the presidential palace has said that government is resolute in fighting corruption.

"If Kabul makes achievements in fighting corruption before the Warsaw Summit, which is scheduled for 8 July, this will remove the stain of corruption from the image of Afghanistan and it will convince the international community to continue assisting Afghanistan," said Sayed Zafar Hashemi, deputy presidential spokesman. (ToloneWS)

(10) Critics Blast ...

leadership has hindered the Afghan

National Security Forces (ANSF) in terms of taking the war to the Taliban. "Following the necessary directions of leadership of the national unity government, the Afghan security forces are continuing their jobs wherever they are; some of them are continuing with the operations while some of our forces are in defensive positions," said SediqSediqqi, spokesman for the ministry of interior.

The statement comes at a time that embattled Afghan security forces have been battling the Taliban in several regions in Helmand, Uruzgan, Baghlan, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Faryab, Jawzjan, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces - amid growing insurgency that analysts believe could further deteriorate the security situation in the war torn country.

"There are no signs of large scale operations anywhere. However, there are some local operations. The Taliban are leading the war, but not us," military analyst AtiqullahAmarkhail said.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Defense said that the Taliban seem to have plotted major programs this year to target the security forces, urging that the Taliban were not alone in their campaign against the government.

"If they were only the Afghan Taliban we would have eliminated them by now, because they cannot face the Afghan security and defense forces alone," deputy spokesman for the ministry of defense Mohammad Radmanish said.

According to military analysts, poor leadership within the security forces was the main reason for the rise in Taliban insurgency.

"We move forward in a classic way while the Taliban use advanced tactics, they (Taliban) are only five to ten or fifteen fighters when they launch an attack, they cannot resist for more than half an hour; security forces must surround them and eliminate them," former deputy minister of interior Mirza Mohammad Yarmand said. Statistics released by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) reveal that over the past three months, 925 militant activities were recorded across the country. (ToloneWS)

(11) Doctors on ...

lawmaker from northern Takhar province, entered Dr.GhulamIshanUsmani clinic and beat him and his son, Dr.NajibullahUsmani, in Baharistan area of Kabul city.

He said Dr.NajibullahUsmani's one hand and nose were broken and one of his eyes was also wounded in the attack. Dr. Faisal didn't say what prompted the beating but said a week before the incident, Habiba Danish had visited Dr.NajibullahUsmani and had warned him against posts on his Facebook wall against her family.

ZabihullahMahroz, another doctor, termed the beating as insult to all doctors and said all doctors of the Noor Hospital, Kudri Hospital, Chashm-e-Aman Hospital, Chashm-e-Omid and all other private clinics had gone on strike.

Awrangzeb, a 60-year-old eye patient, said he came to the Noor hospital at 7:00am for eye surgery, but doctors refused to operate on him and told him to visit some other day. (Pajhwok)

(12) Afghanistan Bans

from the use of drone cameras, insisting that such a device could create security issues for the security organs of the country due to its vast coverage. It is yet not clear if such drones have been used by the anti-government armed militant groups so far.

This comes as the security situation of the country has sharply deteriorated amid rampant Taliban-led insurgency across the country.

The Taliban group has intensified its attacks in various provinces of the country since they announced their spring offensive earlier in the month of April. (KP)

(13) Afghanistan Orders ...

whole country, but only to sensitive areas like government and military facilities, according to an official at the Ministry of Information and Culture who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official cited a recent incident in which a local TV news company flew a small drone over the presidential palace in Kabul while covering a large protest. Many other countries have enacted similar restrictions as they grapple with how to regulate the expanding use of commercial and private remote-controlled aircraft.

Still, the news raised some eyebrows in a country rife with unmanned U.S. military aircraft.

"How about you banning killer drones instead?" wrote one Afghan user on Twitter.

Since the American-led military campaign began in Afghanistan in 2001, foreign militaries have used hundreds of unmanned aircraft to conduct surveillance and air strikes. Nearly 15 years after a drone first fired

missiles in combat, the U.S. military programme has expanded far beyond specific strikes to become an everyday part of the war machine.

Unmanned aircraft now log up to eight times as many flight hours as the few remaining manned aircraft in Afghanistan.

Earlier this year, the Afghan military received its first surveillance drones, which have been deployed in restive Helmand province. (Agencies)

(14) A Dozen ...

incidents, both civilians and the insurgents had suffered casualties.

ZaziMaidan borders Pakistan's semi-autonomous region of Kurram Agency. Its residents are pro-government and keep security of their areas themselves. (Pajhwok)

(15) 7 Terrorists ...

is among the volatile provinces in southeastern Afghanistan which falls on the main highway connecting Kabul with the southern provinces.

The Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the insurgent groups are active in a number of its districts where they often carry out insurgency activities.

The Ministry of Defense said Tuesday at least 14 terrorists were killed in an airstrike carried out by the Afghan Air Force in Nawa district of Ghazni.

The Afghan forces have stepped up operations against the militant groups across the country which comes amid deteriorating security situation as a result of the Taliban-led insurgency.

The Taliban group announced its spring offensive earlier in the month of April and vowed to carry out more attacks across the country. (KP)

(16) Taliban Commander ...

packed with explosives was also destroyed in the air raid.

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

Both Wardak and Paktika provinces are among the relatively volatile provinces in southeastern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating.

The Afghan forces have stepped up counterterrorism operations to suppress the insurgency activities of the militant groups as they attempt to increase attacks as part of their spring offensive. (KP)

(17) Taliban Execute ...

cause for concern among residents. Meanwhile Ghazni representatives in parliament raised their concerns over the security of Ghazni province.

"Unfortunately Ghazni is one of the insecure provinces and nowadays there are threats that terrorists want to conduct an aggressive attack on Ghazni city," said Mohammad Ali AkhlaqiGhazni MP.

There has been a sharp rise in kidnappings in the country recently.

Last week, insurgents in Kunduz stopped a number of busses and kidnapped about 200 people. They immediately killed 10, and later beheaded another two. Most of the hostages were released but the fate of at least eight remains unclear. (ToloneWS)

(18) 3 of a Famil ...

Zonal Hospital, confirmed receiving the burnt bodies of a woman and two children.

Meanwhile, police spokesman, AbdurRoufAhmadi, said the blast took place as result of carelessness of the family. (Pajhwok)

(19) Kabul University ...

of some students were located far from the university.

"Besides other issues, girl students do not observe hijab in Ramadan and it was another reason that prompted us to demand vacations."

He warned if their demands were ignored, they would continue their protest and would likely close gates of the Ministry of Higher Education and the university. Sana Gul, a sociology department student at the university said: "We want to convey our demands to the ministry that our course has completed and we are served bad quality food and in such warm weather, university students should be sent home on Ramadan holidays."

Another student, Mohammad Bashir, said they had many times shared their problems with the university administration but it didn't pay attention and they were forced into carrying out the protest. At the end, the rally participants issued a resolution letter in which they had asked the higher education ministry to positively answer their 'legitimate demands', otherwise they would continue protesting.

In response to the protest, Faisal Amin, the higher education ministry spokesman, said, "universities across the country were supposed to go on summer vacation from July 15, 2016 but now due to the protests by

students, we have sent a draft to the Presidential Palace, if approved then we will be able give a positive answer. (Pajhwok)

(20) Hillary Clinton ...

enough support of superdelegates to claim the party nomination.

On Tuesday night, Clinton further expanded her lead over Sanders in delegate count, notching victories in New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota, three of the six states voting Tuesday.

Clinton also unleashed harsh criticism against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump for his past incendiary remarks against women, Muslims and immigrants and took specific aim at his latest comments about a Hispanic-American judge because of his ethnic background. (Xinhua)

(21) Turkey President ...

constitutional amendment goes into force after the approval of the president, all 600 waiting files of summaries of proceedings will be returned to the Prime Minister's Office within 15 days in order to be sent to the judicial authorities.

The ruling party and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) aims to lift the immunities of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) lawmakers. (Xinhua)

(22) UN Chief ...

the Paris Agreement, "demonstrates the growing momentum towards the rapid entry into force and successful implementation of the Paris Agreement," said the UN statement.

"The secretary-general encourages all countries to accelerate their domestic processes to join or ratify the agreement to ensure its early entry into force," the statement added. (Xinhua)

(23) US Lawmakers ...

letter noted that according to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "is the sole body competent for monitoring" the implementation of the agreement's nuclear provisions.

"In the modern era, visits to sites or parliamentary or other delegations to monitor elections are made upon invitations and through bilateral agreements between sovereign states or based on reciprocal arrangements, and not upon unilateral demands by self-arrogating individuals or parliamentarians," the letter read. (Presstv)

(24) Iraqi Security ...

also wounded during the clashes. IS militants frequently attack security forces sent from Baghdad to the Makhmur military base beside the semi-autonomous northern region of Kurdistan in order to chase away IS militants from Mosul, 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. (Xinhua)

(25) Havana Inaugurated ...

The competition began in 2011, and after seven selections, the panel of New-7Wonders experts announced the verdict in December 2014.

The Swiss foundation said it took into consideration cities that best represent the achievements and aspirations of the global urban society, have potential for sustainable growth and to leave a historical legacy in the future. (Xinhua)

(26) Iraqi Forces ...

the extremist IS militants from the city. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced on May 23 the launch of a major offensive to claim Fallujah and surrounding towns and areas. (Xinhua)

(27) Russian Defense ...

amorphous talk about whether northern Kazakhstan was at risk. Such talk-of Kazakhstan being the "next Ukraine"-may be without concrete substance, but the state's reaction to it has been firm. For example, in November 2015, a 26-year-old in the eastern Kazakhstan town of Ridder was sentenced to five years in jail. (Agencies)

(28) Chinese Gov't ...

departments. Public medical information needs to be better applied to improve the government's management of major public health issues.

Internet Plus will play a bigger role in making medical consultation more convenient. Also, more efforts will be made toward national portability of medical insurance schemes and direct expense settlement at the provincial level. The government will work together with social capital to make better use of premium medical resources via Internet Plus. (Xinhua)

(29) Muslims must ...

them to solve problems, challenges and threats to Muslim nations, adding that the legislative chamber would welcome any dialog and constructive interaction in this regard. (Presstv)