

**(1) Ghani Asks ...**

country was a prime victim in the campaign against terrorism and currently more than 20 terrorist groups were waging a war on the people of Afghanistan.

"Our nation is mourning and this because of the recent terrorist attacks that targeted our people, who rendered sacrifices in this war on a daily basis," the president said.

He added the people of Afghanistan wanted justice and hoped that regional efforts in the war against terrorism would proceed in line with Afghans' aspirations.

"Afghanistan hopes SCO members would work on a joint strategy to curb terrorism and drug trafficking and initiate dialogue on how to dismantle global terrorist networks.

"I am here to offer you greater support in the war against terrorism and joint efforts against regional networks that threatened Afghanistan and other regional countries," the president remarked.

He urged regional countries to clearly define global terrorism and state-sponsored terrorism. He noted growing cooperation among SCO members and South Asia as an important step.

Ghani said peace and stability was a key demand of the people of regional countries and thus there was need for more cooperation. He said Afghanistan enjoyed great economic relations with Turkmenistan. Ghani returned home on Friday night after attending the SCO summit. On the sidelines of the event, he met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif and other world leaders. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Govt. Slammed...**

evaluation of government's projects," said Abdul Satar Murad, the minister of economy. Meanwhile, the Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the answers provided by the government officials "were not convincing".

"The answers which we heard from the honorable officials could convince the parliamentarians," Ibrahim said.

A number of MPs said the National Procurement Authority is an obstacle for the implementation of development projects. But, the procurement authority officials said they reject the projects which are in violation of government laws. (Tolnews)

**(3) Russia Calls ...**

Qatar is reaching out for support abroad as it has fallen out with its Arab neighbours, who accuse it of sponsoring extremist groups and resent its ties to the Muslim Brotherhood movement and sponsorship of Al-Jazeera network.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have cut diplomatic ties Monday and are trying to blockade Qatar by air and sea.

Lavrov said that Russia is "ready to try to do everything in its power" to help resolve the crisis and said unity is needed to fight terrorism.

"For us, unity is clearly necessary for maximum effect on this front (against terrorism)," he said. (AFP)

**(4) NATO Officials...**

main reasons behind high casualties of police force members". "It is quite difficult to eliminate corruption in one and a half years because it is the heritage of the past 15 years. However, we will continue to boost our efforts in this respect. It is a shame when people call us corrupt every day," he said.

At the same event, Major Gen. Richar G. Kaiser, commander of Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan (CSTC-A), and deputy chief of staff of the Resolute Support, said the Afghan officials should overcome challenges inside the ministry at the first stage.

"You should not always look for answers outside. More

money, more equipment, more construction will not fix all the problems. Now I invite all you leaders to visit Wardak, go visit your national logistics center, go see how many supplies are available and ask why are they not being distributed," he said. He pointed out to the truck bombing in Zanaq Square in Kabul and said they praise the soldiers who stopped the tanker.

"Everyone at the table should remind themselves that it is our job collectively to make sure that the young men and women, that are the police officers of this country, have what they need to do their job. You have asked them to protect your families. Give them what they need. This is very important, ask yourself every day. Are the actions I am taking, are they helping the young men and women or they hurting them?" he asked.

Meanwhile, the UK ambassador to Kabul, Dominic Jermey, called for improvement in leadership of the interior ministry.

"There is the need for change, change amongst the leadership and the personnel within the police that you have talked about today," he said.

According to figures by the Ministry of Interior, so far at least 700 police officers including 12 generals have appeared at the court on corruption charges. (Tolnews)

**(5) MPs Outline ...**

the clearance of security institutions from suspected figures and the figures which people have doubt on them," said Fawzia Kofi, and MP from Badkshah.

Some MPs said most of demands of protesters have been included in the plan.

"Under the structure of the law, we support the legal demands of the protesters," said Obaidullah Barezai, an MP and member of the parliament delegation.

Meanwhile, sources have told TOLONews that President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah met on Saturday and discussed the demands of the Jamiat-e-Islami party.

Presidential Palace and the CEO office have not commented on this. (Tolnews)

**(6) Over 1,200...**

commercial and business administration, computer science, medical science and healthcare, natural sciences, engineering, law and mass communication. Enrolment process for the 2017 scholarships programme begins in August.

The DAFI scholarships have made a substantial contribution to the education and development of many young, talented refugees, enabling them to expand their horizons and explore their full potential. (APP)

**(7) US Experts ...**

terrorist attacks in Kabul, he said the situation was grave.

"The war seems to be towards downward spiral," he said, adding that the country had experienced the highest level of civilian casualties since 2001. The Taliban, he added, had no incentive to negotiate with the government.

Ioannis Koskinas, also a senior New America International Security Program fellow, said Afghanistan needed a long-term approach. "Of course, a political settlement is good but no one talks about how to get there," he said, and called for a comprehensive strategy. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Concerns...**

Salahuddin Rabbani and Mohammad Ismail Khan supported the demands of protesters and slammed government for lack of reforms in security institutions.

Meanwhile, a number of political parties and figures including Hekmatyar, Sayed Mansur Naderi, head of the National Solidarity Party, a number of MPs and the Rights and Justice Party of Afghanistan supported President Ashraf Ghani's stance towards the protesters'

demands.

In addition to this, a number of figures and governors also held meetings in support of government.

"In such a critical time, the only way that can help Afghans to overcome the situation is wisdom, a political wisdom, as well as looking wisely to the situation and dealing wisely with the current political issues," said Hadi Miran, an international relations analyst.

"The current tension can have harmful repercussions for Afghanistan. I don't think government will remain by the time that has been specified in the Constitution if the situation prevails," said Abdulhai Akhundzada, an MP. (KP)

**(9) 500 Taliban...**

presence in Kunduz especially in Imam Sahib, Mobin said security forces were fighting against all armed militant groups. Over the past few days, security personnel inflicted heavy casualties on insurgents, including foreign terrorists, he added.

"Insurgents' most focus had been on Imam Sahib, and in the span of five days security forces backed by people killed and wounded some 500 insurgents, including Pakistani, Tajik, Arab, and Chechen nationals." On the other hand, area residents said they were tired of the war and wanted the government to ensure security.

Shir Mohammad, a resident, told Pajhwok Afghan News insurgents had created many problems for people in the holy month of Ramadan. The government should purge the district of insurgents in order people could continue a calm life.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied the presence of foreigners in Taliban ranks and casualties to the fighters in Imam Sahib district, saying clashes over the past few days in the district had resulted in the killing and injuring of 45 soldiers. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Policemen ...**

against the Taliban. US troops in Afghanistan number about 8,400 today, and there are another 5,000 from NATO allies, who also mainly serve in an advisory capacity -- a far cry from the US presence of more than 100,000 six years ago. (AFP)

**(11) Taliban Vehicle ...**

a statement said at least three Taliban insurgents were killed during a clash with the security force in Khogyani district.

According to the officials, all the incidents took place within the past 24 hours.

The Taliban insurgents frequently use IEDs as the weapon of their choice to target the security forces and government officials but in majority of such incidents the ordinary civilians are targeted.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released its latest civilian casualties report in April, covering a period of three months since the start of 2017.

According to the report, the Anti-Government Elements caused 62 per cent of civilian casualties - 1,353 civilian casualties (447 dead and 906 injured), reflecting a five per cent increase compared to the same period in 2016.

The UN mission also added it recorded a 12 per cent increase in civilian casualties caused by pressure-plate improvised explosive devices - 218 civilian casualties (86 dead and 132 injured). (KP)

**(12) 7 Rebels...**

couple of days back, security forces defused two roadside bombs planted by the rebels in Khogyani and Sorkhrud districts.

Taliban have not commented about the fresh incidents of violence. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Kunduz Police ....**

northern Afghanistan which connects northeastern Takhar with Badkshah and Kunduz provinces.

The anti-government armed

militants are usually threatening the highway by conducting insurgency activities, mainly in Kunduz province where the Taliban insurgents are having a widespread presence. (KP)

**(14) 3 Taliban ...**

rebels to harass people.

Baghlan police chief, Brig. Gen. Ikramuddin, confirmed the incident and said three militants were killed and two others injured.

Ajmal, a resident of the district, said the Taliban were openly operating in their area. "They are forcing people into giving them Ushr," he alleged. The Taliban, however, have not yet commented on the issue. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Security Forces ...**

through a sensitive situation and moves that could create problems and divisions be avoided, the politician said, while underlining the need for unity.

Pointing to recent incidents and protests in the capital Kabul, Sabawoon said demonstration was the right of every Afghan but it should be within the framework of the law.

About the demands of protesters, he said the removal of security chiefs was not a solution. Instead the security should be morally supported, he believed.

The current government was not clean, but bringing it down would not be a proper course of action, the HIMA chief said. "We should float positive suggestions to the government instead of threatening it." Sabawoon added.

Sabawoon believed the ongoing protests had created problems and sadness for people. Legitimate demands for improving security are acceptable to all, but creating tensions is not in the interest of the country, he argued.

The politician said his party wanted reforms in civil and military organs of the government in compliance with the constitution. The government had come into being through the public vote and people should let it complete, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(16) EU's Tusk ...**

we have to agree on the divorce and exit modalities and then we have to envisage the architecture of our future relations. I do hope that the result of the elections will have no major impact on the negotiations we are desperately waiting for," he said. (Xinhua)

**(17) Brexit Negotiations...**

Scotland to secure a working majority in a hung parliament," he said.

Niblett said: "Having made Brexit the rationale for the election, she nevertheless made no effort during the campaign to explain how she would manage the negotiation or what a successful deal would look like."

May has said that she will begin to form her government, with the support of the DUP (Democratic Unionists Party). (Xinhua)

**(18) Trump Partially...**

tweets hinting the White House has recordings of his meetings with Comey, Trump was reluctant to confirm the existence of such recordings.

"I'll tell you about that maybe sometime in the very near future," Trump told reporters, adding that "you're going to be very disappointed when you hear the answer." (Xinhua)

**(19) Trump Affirms ...**

NATO "obsolete" and hinted that the United States may not defend its members unless they lived up to their financial obligations, had publicly affirmed his commitment to Article 5.

During the NATO summit last month, Trump did not personally affirmed his commitment to Article 5, raising widespread concerns across U.S. allies in Europe. (Xinhua)

**(20) Naming Qatar-Link...**

American University in Cairo. "The sanctions list, which com-

pletes Egypt-Gulf procedures against Qatar would further tighten the screws on Doha," Fahmy told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

**(21) British PM...**

Hill, as the price for allowing the 60-year-old vicar's daughter to stay in office.

May announced Friday she would seek to form a minority government with the help of a small Northern Irish party, the far-right Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

She put on a brave face, refusing to show any contrition for the election gamble that spectacularly backfired, but observers say she has been deeply wounded.

"From hubris to humiliation," said the left-leaning Guardian. "May stares into the abyss," wrote The Times, while Conservative-supporting The Sun tabloid said succinctly: "She's had her chips." (AFP)

## Cyprus Peace Talks to Resume in Geneva on June 28: UN

NICOSIA - Peace negotiations aimed at ending the division of Cyprus will resume in Geneva on June 28, the United Nations said Friday.

The conference will be held at a political level under the auspices of the UN secretary general, according to a statement by the secretary general's spokesman Stephane Dujarric made available here.

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, representing the Greek Cypriot community and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci will be present at the conference, along with Greece, Turkey and Britain as guarantor powers and the European Union as observer.

Anastasiades and Akinci agreed to resume negotiations, which were stalled last month in disagreement over the modalities of the conference, after meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Sunday.

The full-fledged conference will discuss security and guarantee arrangements after a solution ending the 43-year-long division of Cyprus, while Anastasiades and Akinci will discuss outstanding internal aspects of a settlement, namely territorial adjustments, the future of mostly Greek Cypriot properties, power sharing and relations with the European Union.

Cyprus was divided when Turkey mounted a military operation in 1974, in response to a Greek inspired coup, resulting in the occupation of 37 percent of the island's territory.

Security and guarantees are expected to be the most thorny issues, as Greek Cypriots want to end any presence of Turkey on the eastern Mediterranean island, while Turkey wants to keep a military detachment and preserve intervention rights it obtained when Cyprus became independent in 1960. (Xinhua)

## UAE Central Bank Orders to Freeze Accounts Related to "Terrorism" List

DUBAI - The Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) issued Friday two notices to order banks in the UAE on transactions with Qatari banks to freeze the accounts related to an issued "terrorism" list, UAE state news agency WAM reported.

The UAE Cabinet Friday issued Resolution No. 18 of 2017 on the adoption of a joint statement issued by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain, which ranks 59 individuals and 12 entities on its lists linked to Qatar and banned them from entering to or doing business in the four Arab states.

The central bank directed banks and other financial institutions operating in the country to search for and freeze any accounts, deposits or investments belonging to any of the persons and entities on the list.

A number of financial institutions "have been identified, which have opened bank accounts for these individuals and terrorist entities," said the WAM report.

The UAE Central Bank in Abu Dhabi also ordered banks and other financial institutions operating in the country to immediately apply enhanced due diligence procedures on transactions with any of the following Qatari banks: Qatar Islamic Bank, Qatar International Islamic Bank, Barwa Bank, Masraf Al Rayan, Qatar National Bank and Doha Bank. (Xinhua)

## French Legislative Poll: What You Need to Know

PARIS - French voters go to the polls on Sunday in the first round of a legislative election with newly elected President Emmanuel Macron keen to win a strong parliamentary majority to push through reforms.

His victory in May was a political earthquake for France, and his Republique en Marche (Republic on the Move, REM) are aiming to win an absolute majority in the second round on June 18.

Here are key facts you need to know about the election:

- How it works -

There are 577 lawmakers up for election, including 11 who represent French who live overseas. Each constituency represents about 125,000 inhabitants.

If no candidate wins over 50 percent in the first round, the two top-placed go into the second round -- as well as any candidate who won the votes of more than 12.5 percent of the electorate.

A total of 7,882 candidates are standing nationwide in a process expected to produce a deep renewal of parliament -- not least because over 200 of the outgoing lawmakers are not running for re-election.

The average candidate's age is 48.5 years and more than 42 percent are women. In the outgoing parliament women represented only 26.9 percent of deputies, or 155 out of 577, which was itself a record. (AFP)

## Germany Calls on Persian Gulf States, Iran, Turkey to End Qatar Crisis

TEHRAN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on [Persian] Gulf Cooperation Council members to cooperate to resolve the Qatar crisis that has been unfolding since a number of Arab states severed diplomatic ties with Doha over its alleged support for terrorist organizations.

"This situation is deeply concerning, and we hope that Gulf Cooperation Council members will work together," she said, adding that "a political solution can only be found when everyone is in contact with each other."

Merkel stressed that Turkey and Iran needed to work together with other nations in the region to address the Qatar crisis, but also on Syria, Libya and Iraq.

The chancellor emphasized that Germany had no mediating role in the Qatar issue but would act in its own interest to combat terrorism and preserve the balance in the region.

As US President Donald Trump accused Qatar of being involved with radicalism and supporting terrorism and backed Saudi Arabia in its new campaign project against Doha, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel announced that US President is responsible for stirring up conflicts in the Middle East.

"US President Trump's recent giant military contracts with Persian Gulf monarchies raise the risk of a new spiral in arms sales," Gabriel said in an interview with the Handelsblatt daily. "This policy is completely wrong and is certainly not Germany's policy...I am very concerned with the dramatic escalation and the consequences for the whole region," he added. (FNA)