

(1) Taliban Trying ...

National Security Forces, and the Taliban were greater this year than seen in a long, long time because of the number of engagements. The CIA director believed the Afghan forces were stepping up and engaged in the fight more, as U.S. forces have drawn down. But also "I think it reflects the intensity of the Taliban efforts," Brennan said. (Pajhwok)

(2) Pakistan Not ...

constructed inside Pakistani territory," said the Adviser. He said such border management steps will also help both countries in their combined efforts to combat terrorism as "unregulated movement allows infiltration of terrorists and smugglers", adding that all the other border crossings with Afghanistan will also be regulated in near future. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghanistan...

people and lawbreakers who gain through the illegal mining, but unfortunately it is the government of Afghanistan whose revenues are not even in scale of a single province," (NRMN) member Ibrahim Jaffar said. Natural resources which have significant impacts on the national economic development are now under serious threat of illegal extractions. The EU diplomat has said that the recommendations for the prevention of illegal extraction he submitted to the Afghan government weren't taken into consideration by the Afghan officials.

"They are not implemented yet, there is weak legislation which needs to be changed, there is a monitoring system that also is not able to do the job and it will need also to crackdown on those who get away with impunity currently with illegal mining activities," he said. Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman has reacted to the EU envoy's statement in this respect. "The legal and judicial center is expected to start its job soon. The center is responsible to oversee those elements who attempt illegal mining or plundering the public assets. (Tolnews)

(4) Torkham ...

delegation headed by deputy foreign minister would visit Pakistan and meeting officials there. the NSC did not give exact date for the visit.

Earlier Sartaj Aziz told lawmakers in Islamabad that he discussed the issues with Afghan NSA and asked him to visit Pakistan. Few days-back Pakistani forces tried to construct a gate at the border to check what they called terrorist movements, but Afghan border guards resisted their attempt, as the government in Kabul does not accept the Durand Line as an international boundary.

Troops have exchanged intermittent firing, leaving several security personnel dead and wounded on both sides. A Pakistan Army major succumbed to the wounds on Tuesday in Peshawar he had suffered in the clash. (Pajhwok)

(5) US Expands ...

a decade long U.S military engagement in the country aimed at fighting the Taliban and Al-Qaeda operatives. With the end in U.S combat mission in Afghanistan, the Taliban dramatically increased attacks on U.S and Afghan troops to prove the existence and the group launched several offensives to gain grounds in strategic locations, a move that sparked major concerns among Afghans over a possible surge in insurgency. Afghan officials have constantly urged for a greater U.S air support to Afghan forces. Meanwhile, the Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD) has said that the increase in the number of U.S air strikes on the insurgents are quite effective, but stresses that up to 75 percent of the attacks are carried out by the Afghan air force.

"The international forces are coordinating with us in air strikes. However, I reject the reports that majority of the attacks are carried out by them (foreign forces), a defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said. (Tolnews)

(6) UNHCR ...

government action on behalf of the world's forcibly displaced. The campaign aims to demonstrate public support for families forced to flee against a backdrop of dramatically increased displacement from conflict and persecution on the one hand, and heightened anti-refugee rhetoric and greater restrictions to asylum on the other. The petition will be delivered in ad-

vance of September's historic UN High-Level Plenary of the General Assembly on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants. Grandi said millions of people were newly displaced in 2015, adding again to the global refugee and internal displacement totals.

"Overwhelmingly, it was countries of the developing world that were most affected, but Europe too witnessed dramatic scenes, as hundreds of thousands of people crossed the Mediterranean in search of safety and refuge. Thousands died along the way," he said. (Xinhua)

(7) Ankara Could...

broad geographic layout of bases in Afghanistan, a move which could make it easier for the United States to keep more troops there as Kabul struggles with a resurgent Taliban threat.

NATO defense ministers who gathered in Brussels signaled a willingness to stay in the country, with British Secretary of State for Defense Michael Fallon saying flatly at a news conference: "This is the wrong time to walk away from Afghanistan."

Fallon said U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter told the ministers during closed-door talks that U.S. troop levels were again being reviewed.

Carter declined to confirm that at a news conference, saying it was "not a topic of discussion." He said U.S. President Barack Obama would be willing to consider the security conditions in Afghanistan and their impact on force levels later in the year. "I expect he will do that again as the year goes on," Carter said. (Agencies)

(8) Taliban ...

rethink about shifting their leadership councils to Afghanistan amid growing international pressure on Pakistan, specifically following the death of top terror leaders, including the Al Qaeda network leader Osama Bin Bin Laden, Mullah Mohammad Omar and Mullah Akhtar Mansoor who was recently killed in Baluchistan province of Pakistan. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani asked Pakistan to take actions against the leadership councils of the Afghan militants in Peshawar and Quetta cities late in the month of April. (Tolnews)

(9) US Rules ...

These clashes have only just popped up in recent days. But that aside, we still want to see the reconciliation process move forward," Kirby said as he ruled out the US jumping in as a mediator between the two countries.

"We've not taken a mediation role, and we've talked about this before. This is an Afghan-led process. We obviously support it and we want to see it succeed. We've expressed that support privately and publicly. But this is President Ghani's initiative; he's taking it on. We know he wants to get it back on track and we fully support him in that effort, but this is not for the United States mediating between Afghanistan and Pakistan," he said.

The United States, he said, wanted Kabul and Islamabad to work through these differences bilaterally, which they can do because they've done it in the past. "This isn't the first time that we've seen clashes even at that crossing, and they have been able to work through it in the past and we're absolutely confident that, with moral courage on both sides, they can continue to work through it," he said. (Pajhwok)

(10) Govt. Urged ...

attention to this matter," said Jawed Mujaddidi, member of Badakhshan provincial council. Meanwhile, Badakhshan residents called on local officials to strengthen the security of Faizabad city.

"Taliban wants to attack the city from different sides. They have destabilized Baharak-Faizabad Highway. They have a huge presence in Espengal village which is located in two kilometers distance from Faizabad.

They [Taliban] have been seen in Dasht-e-Qurugh area near the city, but security forces are silent," said Ahmad Jahid, a resident of Faizabad city.

Activists in the province meanwhile said the central city will fall to Taliban if government paid no attention to the province. (Tolnews)

(11) 'Once Afghanistan ...

with Taliban and negotiate and work out the differences. However, those individuals who do not come to the table, all four of the countries will deal with them by all necessary means. There was a feeling on the part of the US that Mansour was not going to negotiate and they took this action against him. (RT)

(12) IEC Says...

which are being considered are the only option to remove the scandal from the face of Afghan election law. Following the establishment of the national unity government under president Ashraf Ghani and his CEO Abdullah Abdullah, the two leaders vowed to implement necessary reforms to the election law. Two years have however passed since then and the government has failed to deliver on its commitments to election reforms. "The previous commission has no legitimacy, the date which is announced by that commission is invalid," said Mujiburrahman Rahimi, spokesman to Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. While many consider the holding of elections under the present IEC officials to be the burial of democracy in Afghanistan, the IEC still seems defiant and insists on announcing the election date.

"For holding transparent elections, we need to bring about necessary reforms in the election structures and legal framework. Only then will we be able to conduct the elections," said Mohammad Naem Ayoubzada, head of the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, an IEC commissioner Sarir Ahmad Barmak, has said that by firing the current election commissioners will not be a solution to the ongoing deadlock that has hit the reform process. There is not enough time for the new commissioners to conduct the polling, he said.

He added new commissioners will need approximately one year in order to conduct the polling.

"We want to assure the people of Afghanistan that where we really are in terms of conducting the elections, are we able to conduct the parliamentary and district council elections on time or not. Unfortunately we have lost the time," Sarir Ahmad Barmak said.

"They (government) want to implement their own wishes in the election process in Afghanistan," said Yousuf Rashid, head of the Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan (FFEA). This comes at a time that President Ashraf Ghani's legislative decree on election reform is heading to the senate for voting. If the senate approved the decree, a joint commission of House of Representatives and the Senate will start discussions on the decree to clarify fate of the much-awaited legislation. (Tolnews)

(13) Taliban Giving ...

the most dangerous. We assess that it is trying to increase its influence in Africa and to plot attacks in the region and in Europe," Brennan said.

He added meanwhile, ISIL's Sinai branch in Egypt had established itself as the most active and capable terrorist group in all of Egypt.

"The branch focuses its attacks on Egyptian military and government targets, but has also targeted foreigners and tourists, as we saw with the downing of a Russian passenger jet last October," he said. (Pajhwok)

(14) MPs Mediate ...

Afghanistan have asked members of parliament to respect the law and not to resort to bullying.

"Within the current situation most problems for the people are created by the government officials. Those problems should be reduced," said Ahmad, a student.

"Members of parliament or government ministers must not oppress the people. They should instead respect them," said Kaka Gul, another resident.

A number of citizens have criticized the misbehavior of members of parliament.

"Any action from the buildings of parliament, whether good or bad, affects as all. If a person is beaten or bullied by a member of parliament, this practice should be stopped," said Saleh Mohammad Saljoqi, a member of parliament.

After the beating of Doctor Najibullah Usmani, eye doctors protested in Kabul and called for an end to such bullying. (Tolnews)

(15) Torkham Border...

Pakistan. Most of the good had decayed and each container daily cost \$100, he said.

He said Afghan traders imported most of their goods via Karachi sea port and the closure of Torkham border crossing had prevented their goods from entering Afghanistan.

"The prices inside Afghanistan have increased by 25 to 30 percent. Even daily-use commodities do not reach remote parts because the commodities are slowly decreasing as Afghanistan largely depends on imports. If our im-

ports stopped for a single day, we run out of commodities and we also don't have enough storage facilities to preserve already imported goods."

"So if we calculate the losses, they reach nearly \$10 million on a daily basis," he said, adding that businessmen were trying to withdraw their investment from Torkham as they feared if the tension escalated, their factories and go-downs would be destroyed.

The ACCI official urged Afghan traders to think about imports and exports from other countries and if they continued their trade with Pakistan, it was possible they might incur huge losses. He said 60 percent of Afghanistan's imports arrived via Torkham and each year the two countries traded goods worth \$2.5 billion and each day from 1,500 to 2,000 vehicles crossed the Torkham border. (Pajhwok)

(16) Gen. Nicholson...

former general staff chief of operations, said that to stem casualties, improve capacity and boost morale, Afghanistan needs close air support, heavy weaponry and, most of all, training.

"Training is a big issue," he said. "It has to be done even on the front line." The lack of war offensive skills is said to be an important challenge before the Afghan forces.

Military experts say that the lack of modern technology and weapons have created major challenges to Afghan forces in their struggle against the militants.

"The biggest option and the best solution is to boost the capacity of Afghan security forces and provide them with sufficient weapons. (Tolnews)

(17) Pakistan ...

over this issue," said Karzai. He stressed that Afghanistan is a sovereign country and is not taking dictation from any other country but "Pakistan government has taken some steps on Durand Line which are angering Afghans".

When asked as to why Afghanistan does not approach UN or International Court of Justice over the Durand Line issue, Karzai said it is not an international issue but 'inheritance of imperialism' and only the respective governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan can resolve this matter.

"If the United Nations and the Americans really don't meditate the issue will not be solve. Those suicide blasts will be continued and seizure of land which is today in Torkham, tomorrow will be in Jalalabad and Kandahar and Paktia," Afghan senator Jumauddin Geyanwal said.

"Pakistan seeks its interests in Afghanistan crisis. When America donates millions of dollars to Pakistan to fight terrorism but Pakistan develops terrorism in order to seek more benefits," Afghan civil activist Abdul Ghafar Nazari said.

Meanwhile Karzai maintained that terrorism and extremism is a menace which has not only affected people of both Pakistan and Afghanistan but added that "we (Afghans) think they have found safe havens and are getting aid from Pakistan."

"When this will stop, Pakistan too will see peace," said Karzai to BBC. (Tolnews)

(18) Slain Journalists: ...

and another journalist Nazar Mohammad Majnoonyar was killed in a foreign forces' airstrike in Helmand.

To remember the slain persons, journalists on Thursday held a gathering in Lashkargah, the provincial capital. Besides the governor, the appellant attorney, the provincial National Directorate of Security head and a number of other government officials attended the event.

Helmand union of journalist president Zainullah Stanikzai speaking on the occasion said the cases of slain journalists should be investigated and the killers brought to justice. (Pajhwok)

(19) 13 Troops,...

Thirteen soldiers have also been killed during the raids. It said security forces would render every sacrifice required for the safety of the motherland. Militants have not yet comment about recent incidents. (Pajhwok)

(20) Tarinkot-Dihruad...

Samimi said the road was opened for traffic and people stated traveling. He said security forces would launch operations for the opening of other roads leading to the districts in the province. (Pajhwok)

(21) Petrol Price...

of Indonesian green tea for 250afs. Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahi area, told Pajhwok Af-

ghan News the price of one gram of Arabian gold increased from 2,300afs to 2,370afs and the price of the same quantity of Russian variety from 1,850afs to 1,900afs. He said the price of gold had in international markets. According to Sadaqat Money Services in Sara-i-Shahzada, one US dollar accounted for 69.40afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 654afs against last week's 68.33afs and 65afs respectively. (Pajhwok)

(22) AJF to Saleh...

activities lose their cover in the field of intelligence, tradecraft dictates that they should be either terminated or absorbed officially into the structure of the government," Saleh suggested. Pajhwok, an independent and impartial news agency, in an emailed letter, has asked the former intelligence chief to substantiate his claims. However, he did not respond to the emailed query directly and instead restated his previous views. Later, Pajhwok sent a complaint to AJF, saying Saleh's allegation had badly tarnished of the news agency and posed direct threats to dozens of its employees in Kabul and other provinces of the country. (Pajhwok)

(23) 8 Taliban...

security forces and civilians stayed unhurt during the firefight. Abdulrahimzai said the security forces also confiscated one vehicle, one rocket launcher, one Kalashnikov and two walkie-talkies from the attackers. Mohammad Nasir, a resident of Alwizo area, where the clash took place, said: "A fierce clash broke out after sehri (pre-dawn meal) and then no one could sleep due to fear."

He had no information about casualties in the clash, but said the cross firing broke window-glasses at many homes. (Pajhwok)

(24) 3 ANA Soldier...

Taliban." Brig. Gen. Mustafa Mohseni, Ghor police chief, confirmed the clash and said four insurgents were killed and another six were wounded during the clash.

However, he denied the insurgents briefly overran a security post and said the insurgents attacked the post, but faced stiff resistance and were pushed back by security forces on Thursday morning. (Pajhwok)

(25) Soldier Paralyzed...

shelter and money, the doctors let them to stay in a corner of the hospital and the doctors provide them medicine.

Namatullah also lost most of his family when terrorists targeted his home and his family in Shendand district of Herat province and killed his wife and child.

Namatullah was serving beside Army forces and in an operation in Paghman district targeted by the Taliban and was wounded in the attack and after the incident he spent two months in hospital but was left paralyzed. (Tolnews)

(26) Uruzgan ...

struck the Taliban planted bomb. He said the vehicle belonged to civilians in which the driver was killed and ten others wounded.

Taliban have not yet commented over the incident. (Pajhwok)

(27) Obama again...

failed to push stronger gun control laws.

The laws, whose sections included expanded background checks and bans on assault weapons, were stymied in Congress after staunch opposition from Republican lawmakers and gun-rights lobby groups.

During his presidency, Obama presided over more than a dozen of high-profile mass shootings, and in an interview last year he called the failure to reform U.S. gun laws "one of the greatest frustrations" of his presidency.

The shooting massacre was the 176th mass shooting which happened in the United States in the past 168 days so far in 2016, according to the group Mass Shooting Tracker. (Xinhua)

(28) UN Vows...

U.N. secretary general told the conference.

The Chinese delegation to the three-day U.N. conference was headed by Wu Haitao, the deputy Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations.

The Vice Chairman of the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDFP), Jia Yong, took the floor at the general debate of the U.N. event and shed light on how the Chinese government has taken great efforts to promote the rights and well-being of the people

with disabilities in his country. (Xinhua)

(29) Iraqi Forces...

district of the city with some IS militants still fighting in some areas, the source added.

The liberation of the southern part of the city enabled more than 30,000 people who were trapped by the battles to leave their homes to safer areas outside the city, he said. (Xinhua)

(30) CIA Chief...

hundreds more in Egypt, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Moreover, "as the pressure mounts on ISIL, we judge that it will intensify its global terror campaign to maintain its dominance of the global terrorism agenda," said Brennan.

As for the Orlando shooting which left 50 dead including the shooter Omar Mateen on Sunday, Brennan said the current investigation has not been able to uncover any direct link between Mateen and a foreign terrorist organization. (Xinhua)

(31) ISIS Committing...

ings, sexual slavery, enslavement, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment and forcible transfer causing serious bodily and mental harm," the report warned.

It added that ISIS also has taken measures to prevent Yazidi children from being born, including forced conversion of adults, the separation of Yazidi men and women, and the transfer of Yazidi children from their own families and placing them with ISIS fighters so as to cut them off from beliefs and practices of their own religious community.

"ISIS separated Yazidi men and boys over 12 from the rest of their families, and killed those who refused to convert, in order to destroy their identity as Yazidis," the report noted. (Xinhua)

(32) Hamas Leader...

Mahmoud Abbas security forces. "The Arabs have always been linking the normalization with the Israeli occupation with the success of the signed peace agreements, but unfortunately normalization became a priority without having successful deals," said Haneya. (Xinhua)

(33) U.S. Confirms ...

further details. "It was unwarranted and inconsistent with the positive and constructive agenda that we seek with the government of Nicaragua. Also, such treatment has the potential to negatively impact U.S.-Nicaraguan bilateral relations, particularly trade," he warned. (Xinhua)

(34) UN Envoy ...

dermining the whole process, particularly the setting up of joint patrols." Since 2012, Mali had sunk into an instability, with crisis hitting its northern region.

Presenting UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's report on major developments in Mali since the end of March, the UN envoy said that although the peace agreement was a package, for some time now, the process had been reduced to discussions about the establishment of an interim administration, which had been slow to occur. (Xinhua)

(35) Pakistan's Entry...

work with the member States to promote peace and development in the region. LI Huilai elaborated China's contribution and support to SCO and said it was done for a win-win situation and mutual benefit. They, he said laid special focus on upholding Shanghai's spirit that aimed at achieving common prosperity and promoting socio-economic collaboration and cultural exchanges. (INP)

(36) P5+1 Must ...

trend of his country's relations with Iran and said Bern is keen to make use of various opportunities created by bilateral ties and to cooperate on regional developments. Takht-e Ravanchi is in Switzerland to hold political talks with the country's senior officials few months after Tehran and Bern agreed on a road map for improving relations in different fields. (Presstv)

(37) Iran, Tajikistan...

great Persian poets as the common heritage of Iran and Tajikistan. In a relevant development in March 2015, the Iranian and Tajik officials explored avenues for expanding economic, trade and cultural interactions between the two countries. The discussions were made in a meeting between Iranian Ambassador to Dushanbe Hojjatollah Faqani and Saqad province's Governor-General Abdolrahman Qaderi. (FNA)