

(1) US and Allies...

wasn't enough time." Davis further added that the NATO leaders have confidence in Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to safeguard the international community's money. He also thinks that Afghan security forces can operate effectively under existing performance goals. According to Davis, the NATO leaders will most likely recommend keeping 9,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan into next year, although it's unclear how many of them will be American. (KP)

(2) Election...

at the IEC over the past nine years. I did my job in a critical situation and took over as acting secretary at a challenging time," he remarked. He explained he was ready to work in other positions and serve the country by using his management skills and experience. Meanwhile, IEC spokesman Noor Mohammad Noor confirmed Habibi had resigned last Wednesday. But he said his resignation had not been approved so far. (Pajhwok)

(3) Senator wants...

ommendations for the president to postpone the planned reduction of forces at the end of the year. Corker, who visited Kabul earlier this year, also called on the president to listen to the advice of his military commanders and maintain the existing US security presence, which is necessary to protect our national security interests in the region and help Afghanistan counter the resurgence of the Taliban and other terrorist groups.

"According to our commanders, retaining our current military footprint would provide political space while also affording the United States continued access to counter global terror networks operating in the region," he said.

"It is important to reinforce our commitment in a timely way with Afghanistan and its partners. I hope your response to their recommendation will sustain current force levels going forward and will be delivered well ahead of the Warsaw Summit," Corker concluded. (Pajhwok)

(4) Nicholson, Sharif ...

between the two countries over the construction of a gate at the zero point. Afghan officials confirmed the border reopening but said only Afghans having visa and passport were allowed to cross into Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghanistan ...

military cooperation between Kabul and Moscow.

The meeting was organized on the sideline of the 5th International Security Conference in Moscow late in April which was attended by over 500 politicians and military leaders of the world. In the meantime, the Russian helicopters company officials have said they are prepared to establish a service center in Afghanistan to provide repair and other technical services to the Afghan Air Force.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Russian Helicopters Alexander Mikheev said last month that the company is also prepared to assist the Afghan Air Force in training the Afghan technical staff and engineers.

According to the State-run Sputnik News Agency, Mikheev made the commitment during a meeting with Shakir Kargar, the special presidential envoy to Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mikheev has also proposed to send a group of experts of the Russian Helicopters company to Afghanistan to assess the technical condition of the helicopters, repair of the helicopters and extension of the resources of the Afghan Air Force helicopters. (Agencies)

(6) Lawyers Hit...

to accelerate the fight against corruption in the country, something Afghans want to happen.

On Saturday, the AGO once again reaffirmed strong commitment to investigate the large corruption cases in the country, a few weeks after the legal body implemented a number of reforms within its branches.

"In line with its commitment to the people of Afghanistan, the attorney general's office is determined to implement reforms in all levels," AGO spokesman Basir Azizi said.

Meanwhile, the Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan has hit back over the AGO's reforms strategy, arguing until interference of the members of parliament and powerful lawbreakers within the body aren't stopped, the AGO may not be able to implement reforms. In a recent move, the AGO reshuffled a number of key positions within the body in Kabul and the provinces in order to designate qualified and honest attorneys to closely deal with corruption and graft. "The AGO's counter corruption policy

works if successes are recorded to recuperate the assets of the government from parliament and lawbreakers," political analyst Mohammad Asif Bakhtash said. Law experts have said that the weakness of the government for bringing about reforms in the legal and judicial institutions of the country have led to a major mistrust over the government's anti-graft strategies.

According to law experts, in the first step, the government needs to investigate major corruption cases and serve justice on those who are involved in corruption, then we can expect something beneficial from these commitments. (Tolnews)

(7) Wolesi Jirga...

ACCI deputy head, Muzammil Shinwari, told today's session of Wolesi Jirga that four of 27 articles and rules of WTO law had so far been approved by the parliament while 12 draft laws were still under process.

He said resolving problems regarding transit, exports to world market, attracting foreign investment, implementing standards on imports, attracting technical cooperation, building capacity, resolving disputes constructively and gaining trust of foreign investors were benefits of WTO membership.

Shinwari asked lawmakers to approve the country's WTO membership. Of 151 lawmakers present, 142 approved Afghanistan's WTO membership.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) which regulates international trade was established on January 1, 1995, to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). (Pajhwok)

(8) Experts Question...

of lawbreakers particularly government leaderships and the parliament is curbed," head of lawyers union Abdul Ghayour Barsam said.

The statement comes a few hours after the Wolesi Jirga (lower house of parliament) lawmakers were briefed about the inclusion of Afghanistan into World Trade Organization (WTO).

"If the current working process continues in parliament, this will create a crisis for our country," Kabul resident Hamid said.

"I think the current illegal tenure of parliament is not in the interests of the country," another resident Masood said.

In the past, accusations were made against some lawmakers about their involvement in providing weapons to illegal armed men, corruption in contracts, illegal mining, interference in the appointments in key government posts and supporting drug smugglers. "A parliament which has not a legal tenure, all legislations undertaken by such parliament do not have credibility," Ainuddin Bahaduri head of the lawyer's union said.

"The majority of parliamentarians are busy with their personal issues, sometimes they go for foreign tours and they remain absent from the house," Balkh resident Nargis said.

Amid the speculation, meanwhile, a number of lawmakers have said that the continuation of work of the current parliament is not in the interest of the country.

"We are also against the illegal tenure of the parliament, we want the government to take steps and announce the calendar for parliamentary elections," MP Irfanullah Irfan said.

"A number of MPs who are involved in illegal activities including the beating of government servants and other violations, their behavior has caused major harm to the manifesto of the national assembly," MP Saleh Mohammad Saljoqi said.

Afghan people have persistently accused members of parliament of deals and corruption, saying that parliament has done nothing effective for the development of the country. (Tolnews)

(9) Taliban Still...

highway or Baghlan-Kunduz highway," defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said.

Passengers are still feeling fear while travelling in northern highways.

"There is no security alongside Kabul-Takhar highway. Security is very fragile in Baghlan, Kunduz, Khan Abad and Takhar, Taliban take the passengers," a driver on Takhar highway Najibullah said.

This comes a few days after the Taliban kidnapped people on passengers buses on Kunduz highway, killing at least eleven passengers. There are still some passengers being held hostage by the group's fighters. (Tolnews)

(10) Efforts on...

private pockets.

About 10 days ago, President Ashraf Ghani arrived in Helmand and said problems in the security sector of the province would be resolved.

Three days after the president's trip, Helmand police chief Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kentoz claimed half of the police in Helmand consisted of ghost personnel. He had also alleged that his predecessor Brig. Gen. Abdul Rahman Sar-

jang had been receiving salaries of 270 personnel who actually did not exist. The allegations against Sarjang are currently being investigated by the Attorney General Office (AGO).

Kentoz said they had chalked out plans for training and recruiting new police personnel to replace the non-existent ones.

Similarly, Helmand governor Hayatullah Hayat told Pajhwok Afghan News they had launched efforts to complete the police formation in the province.

But he warned those found involved in the ghost personnel issue would be brought to justice in order others could learn a lesson.

Maj. Gen. Asmatullah Dawlatzai, the 505 Bost zone police commander, also confirmed to Pajhwok that a fresh police recruitment process had been launched at the Maiwand Military Corps headquarters.

"The only reason behind the deteriorating security situation in Helmand has been the presence of ghost police personnel," he said, adding that he had many times provided information in this regard to the officials concerned. Dawlatzai also said still unprofessional individuals were being appointed as district police chiefs in various districts under pressure. However, he did not elaborate.

President's special representative on security for Helmand Abdul Jabbar Qahraman told Pajhwok that he had in the past shared the issue of corruption in Helmand police with the president.

"Our national security forces are equipped with advanced weapons and facilities. The armed opponents (militants) cannot create problems for our forces if the issue of corruption is tackled."

Provincial council's deputy head Abdul Majeed Akhuzadza praised the provincial police chief's efforts against the issue of ghost personnel and insisted all issues in this regard should be addressed.

He said the issue of ghost personnel needed to be thoroughly investigated because the corrupt practice had crossed all the limits. The public representative also claimed half of the Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel were non-existent.

He said if the ANA formation was completed, the insurgents would not be able to create problems for people and security forces in Helmand.

A police official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said some district officials had been called to Kabul over the issue of ghost personnel. But he did not go into specifics.

He said more than half of the police in Nad Ali, Greshk, Marja and Garamsir districts were non-existent. He said some sacked police officials had taken home their weapons and continued to pocket salaries.

About his claims, the provincial police chief said two persons in this regard had been identified and referred to the prosecutors. He also stopped short of going into detail.

Over the past 15 years, ghost police, ghost disabled persons, ghost teachers and schools have been creating problems for the countrymen. (Pajhwok)

(11) Torkham...

shawar.

Mohammad Ayub Hussainkhel, commander for the 301st border zone in Nangarhar province, told Pajhwok Afghan News deputy border police chief met a Pakistani delegation in Torkham on Friday night.

He added the Pakistani side reopened the tense frontier for traffic and people at 8am.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News that the reopening of the border after five days of closure. The move would resolve problems of traders and patients, he hoped.

National Security Council (NSC) spokesman, Tawab Ghorzang on Friday said Pakistan's Foreign Affairs Advisor Sartaj Aziz telephoned National Security Advisor Hanif Atmar late on Thursday and discussed the clashes and tensions.

He said both sides conferred on the Torkham issues and ways of resolving it peacefully. He added Aziz had invited the minister to visit Islamabad for talks on the situation.

Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani or Atmar is expected to travel to Islamabad today or tomorrow for talks on defusing the border tensions, he said. (Pajhwok)

(12) Unknown ...

robbers looted an office in the heart of the provincial capital, Pul-i-Alam. The public representative said security departments should find the thieves and bring them to justice.

Deputy police chief Lt. Col. Nisar Ahmad Abdul Rahimzai confirmed the incident and they had shared the issue with the governor.

However, Salim Saleh, the governor's spokesman, said security organs were responsible to provide information to

the media on their own.

PMU is a foreign organisation that has been providing technical and other assistance to the National Solidarity Programme in Logar province. (Pajhwok)

(13) Hydroelectric...

kilometers in length, the ministry said. Meanwhile, the ministry inaugurated two irrigation projects in Surkh Rod district in Nangarhar, which will help irrigate over 2000 hectares of land in the province. (Tolnews)

(14) Insecurity ...

men and then smuggled to Panjsher province in central Afghanistan.

"The armed men that smuggle and extract lapis are supported from within and from outside government. They smuggle thousands kilograms of lapis lazuli to Panjsher on a daily basis and then they transfer it to Pakistan," said Bashir Samim, chairman of Badakhshan provincial council.

Badakhshan deputy governor Gul Mohammad Bedar meanwhile said powerful figures use insecurity as a tool to improve their illegal business and that this will not be stopped unless security is strengthened in the province.

"Illegal extraction of lapis lazuli will not be prevented as long as government launches clearance operation to eliminate terrorists in the province. Government has a plan to carry out a military operation for this purpose in the near future," Bedar added.

According to reports, the illegal extraction and smuggling of lapis lazuli has turned into a good financial source for the Taliban, as they support their war through this illegal business.

"The central government and local officials in Badakhshan have not taken any step to ensure security and stop illegal mining in the province. If this situation continues, Taliban will take control of Badakhshan, using the money they collect from lapis smuggling," said political analyst Basir Haqiq.

This comes after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree last year where he banned the illegal extraction of lapis in Badakhshan. (Tolnews)

(15) Wheat ...

Afghan News wheat production was not satisfactory for farmers and the authorities concerned in 2016.

"Last year, wheat production in Kunduz was recorded at 480,000 tonnes from 182,000 hectares of land. But in 2016, the yield is expected to fall to 411,000 tonnes from total 184,000 acres of land, showing a 20 percent reduction," he added.

The reason behind the fall in the production level was lack of snowfall and rains in the winter and most of the fields were attacked by pests across the province in the spring and summer, he said.

In addition to the production fall, some of farmers voiced concern over the decline in wheat price in the local market.

"This year production of wheat is less and even could not meet the cultivation costs. On the other hand, wheat prices have also fallen after showing a surge in the growing season," said Ghulam Mama, a 60 years old farmer.

Last year, he cultivated five acres of land with wheat, which produced 3.5 tonnes, but this year the same land produced 1.54 tonnes - an yield that even could not meet even the cultivation cost.

While complaining of lower production, another trader from Chardara district, Karim, asked the government to assist them with improved wheat seeds and chemical fertilisers. (Pajhwok)

(16) Taliban Exploit...

Abdul Rashid Dostum. The two parties are among the influential parties in northern Afghanistan.

In the latest development, loyalists to both parties have once again engaged in confrontation in Faryab that left dozens of loyalists of the two parties dead including three civilians, something which has sparked strong reaction among residents about a possible rise of the Taliban.

"Regardless of their political affiliation, those who commit violence and create problems for the people should be dealt with according to the law," MoI Spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said.

As signs of Taliban's new efforts, the group operatives reportedly gained control of Almar district in Faryab province. Amid the controversy, meanwhile, Jamiat and Junbesh officials have escalated their war of words over the ongoing disputes between the two powerful parties with each one of them blaming the opposite side of plotting against the rival.

"Almar problems have roots outside Almar and are backed by the acting governor of Balkh which make us to see such a situation every day, if it was not like that, we were able to resolve the problem at a local level," spokesman to Junbesh party Bashir Ahmad Tayanj said. "There is a recorded audio tape of the governor who has called

general Farooq and says we are fully prepared to attack you, the Jamiat has the evidence," Zabi Fitrat spokesman to Jamiat party said. On the ground, the continued tension between the parties has had a significant impact on business activities as reports disclose that investors have been showing reluctance to invest in the north in the wake of the latest clashes. Following the escalation of tension, reports from some northern provinces suggest that dozens of families have fled their homes to escape threats. This comes at a time that the National Unity Government under president Ashraf Ghani and his CEO Abdullah Abdullah had pledged to take robust action against the illegal armed activities in the country, something analysts say that the government leaders failed to do.

"It is regrettable to say that in Afghanistan all political parties and ethnic parties have access to weapons and weapon depots, this is quite perilous to the future of Afghanistan," political analyst Aziz Rafae said.

"The weapons in the hands of both sides belong to the ministry of interior, they use heavy weapons during their confrontations, but casualties occur among the civilians, ten or more people are killed during every battle," senator Gul Mohammad Rasooli said. (Tolnews)

(17) Taliban Suffer...

The Afghan forces also discovered and defused at least 10 Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during the operations, the 209th Corps added.

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

The security situation in Baghlan province has been sharply deteriorating during the past few months as a result of the Taliban-led insurgency.

The Afghan National Security and Defense Forces (ANSDF) managed to end siege of at least three military bases in this province recently which resulted into the rescue of over 100 trapped security personnel.

The security situation in Baghlan started to deteriorate earlier this year following the launch of a military operation in Dand-e-Ghor and Dand-e-Shahabuddin areas near the provincial capital. (KP)

(18) Taliban's Shadow...

injured in the explosion.

However, Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid said two militants were killed in the attack in AabBand district.

He added seven Afghan security personnel were killed in an attack on their posts in the district last night. However, security officials did not comment on the incident. (Pajhwok)

(19) Police Killed ...

this year. However, the Afghan forces have stepped up counter-terrorism operations against the militants of the group and have managed to thwart numerous coordinated attacks in various provinces of the country. (KP)

(20) 3 Militants,...

shell struck a house in Yaquobi district, Khost province.

The incident occurred when Taliban militants attacked an army base in the area, sparking a clash lasting for hours, an army source, Captain Abdullah Khan, told Xinhua, adding that one army soldier was also wounded during the clash.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since early April when the militant group launched its annual rebel offensive in different areas of the country. (Xinhua)

(21) Lawmaker's...

Wolesi Jirga member, was shot dead by unknown armed men around 8pm. Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

On the other hand, one robber was killed and another wounded during a clash with police in the Kohistan district of Kapisa.

Qaderi said the clash happened after the robber attacked the policeman. He said three relatives of the police officer were also injured in the incident. (Pajhwok)

(22) Russia Calls...

did bring about considerable difficulties for the country's economic growth, but they didn't succeed in dragging it into collapse. MUTUAL BENEFITS "We bear no grudge, and we are ready to meet our European partners halfway," Putin said at a plenary session of the forum on Friday.

Analysts say that Moscow has sent a clear message to the EU to put aside their differences and join hands in strengthening multilateral cooperation. (Xinhua)

(23) Iraqi PM...

The battles continued in the day to free the northern part of the city with some IS militants still fighting in some areas,

the source added.

Abadi also promised that the security forces will soon start their advance toward the northern city of Mosul to free it from the largest IS stronghold in Iraq. "We congratulate all Iraqis on this victory, and (another) victory is close, very close with God willing in Mosul to drive out the last IS militant from the land of Iraq," Abadi said in his address. (Xinhua)

(24) Trump Defends...

Second Amendment." Trump said that his presumptive Democrat opponent, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, would destroy the second amendment granting Americans the right to bear arms.

On his immigration policy, Trump reiterated his plan to protect the U.S. border with neighboring Mexico by building a wall.

"It's going to be as beautiful as a wall can be. I have to make it beautiful because maybe one day they'll name it the Trump Wall," he said. (Xinhua)

(25) UN Building...

and medical care, he noted.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is rapidly building two new camps to relieve overcrowding while the Iraqi government has erected more than 2,350 tents in the last days and is expected to provide another 1,000 shortly. (Xinhua)

(26) 12 Arrested...

statement on Friday evening that Belgian man Youssef E.A. was under arrest due to "participation in the activities of a terrorist group, terrorist murders and attempts to commit terrorist murders."

Around 150 garage lockups were also searched, the prosecutor's office said, adding that no weapons or explosives have been found during the searches so far. (Xinhua)

(27) British Police...

shocked the whole country, and the campaign for Britain's EU referendum has been suspended over the weekend. The police said earlier on Friday they are investigating alleged links of Mair with rightwing extremism. (Xinhua)

(28) Al-Qaida-Linked...

managed to capture the towns of Zaytan, Khalsa and Burneh.

The four-day-long battles were coupled with intense airstrike by the Syrian air force against the positions of rebel groups south of Aleppo.

The rebels' capture of the three towns have besieged the Syrian government forces in the town of al-Hader in southern Aleppo. (Xinhua)

(29) Congress Rejects...

still working with the old arrangement, which would soon expire, requiring Congress to work out a new arrangement. Any new arrangement has to be approved by both the Senate and the House.

While discussing the proposed cuts, Congressman Poe called for reducing the suggested amount by \$200m on the basis of reports that Pakistan was supporting the Taliban.

Congressman Rohrabacher made similar accusations and also pointed at detention of Dr Shakil Afridi as evidence and that Pakistan was an insincere partner of the United States. (Dawn)

(30) Iran Congratulates...

capital in Iraq since June 2014 - was very close as it is the Iraqi forces' "next destination" in their campaign to flush the militants out of the country.

The Iraqi military's most important victory against the terrorists so far has been their liberation of the central city of Ramadi, Anbar's provincial capital, last December. (Presstv)

(31) China's Ambassador...

According to these protocols, the Chinese embassy grants vegetable seeds to about 1,100 farms and a number of wheelchairs for the wounded persons, people with disabilities and those affected by the terrorist bombings which took place in Tartous province recently.

The ambassador said that assistance in productive projects has a long-term benefit and helps to ensure a better future for the people. He said the recent aid aims to support and develop agriculture in this area and to enhance the life conditions for the people. Saadi, for his part, expressed gratitude to the Chinese stance in supporting the rightly cause of the Syrian people in confronting terrorism. (Xinhua)

(32) Belt and Road...

Belt and Road Initiative with the development plans of Uzbekistan.

Earlier this year, the construction of the 19.2-km Qamchiq Tunnel, a cooperation project between China and Uzbekistan and the longest railway tunnel in Central Asia, was completed. It is part of the 169-km Angren-Pap railway line, a major state project connecting the capital city of Tashkent with the eastern city of Namangan. (Xinhua)