

(1) Ghani...

issues of the country in this regard; therefore, steps were taken to implement the Afghan-Indian Air Corridor scheme."

Ghani urged authorities to take serious steps in resolving issues of businessmen at airports and submit a report to him by next week.

He also asked Afghan traders not to allow the Afghanistan products be wasted and focus on increased exportation.

Sediqullah Mujaddedi, the president's adviser, said the project was implemented due to the personal interest evinced by Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Afghan agricultural products would be airlifted to India for the first time, he said, adding the first flight on Monday carried 60 tonnes of medicinal plants. The second flight will carry 40 tonnes of dried fruits from southern Kandahar province.

The Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI)'s first deputy head, Khan Jan Alokozay, welcomed the launch of the project and expressed support for efforts by leaders of the two countries.

He said one of the issues Afghan traders faced was transit goods. The initiatives of the president to open alternative routes to Central Asia had led to the pleasure of traders, he acknowledged.

Alokozay asked the Customs duty administration and airport authorities to pay serious attention to simplifying the goods clearance process. Manpreet Vohra, the Indian ambassador, also spoke on the occasion. The Indian government would support expansion of the project into a huge network of business between the two countries.

He said the Indian government while backing common initiatives aimed at expanding bilateral ties between the countries was ready to address the issues existed in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(2) US-Afghan ...

said Nicholson.

Meanwhile, general Tariq Shah Bahrami, the acting minister of defense said that recent attacks by two Afghan Commandos against their foreign counterparts in Nangarhar and Balkh provinces had been plotted by some neighboring countries and intelligence services.

"The attack was plotted by the neighboring countries and the terrorist organizations; they wanted to harm our strategic partnership; but we want to say that this partnership is strong and it will remain sustainable," added Bahrami.

However, it appears the existence of infiltrators within the ranks of the Afghan Commandos - the most trusted soldiers within the army - has become a major headache for the Afghan government and the foreign forces.

This comes a day after a soldier from 209 Shaheen Corps Headquarters in Balkh opened fire on and wounded seven foreign soldiers in Dehdadi district in the province on Saturday afternoon.

The attacker was gunned down by his colleagues.

This comes ahead of an imminent decision by Washington to send in additional troops to Afghanistan in a bid to boost their train, advise and assist mission.

"There is a need to further strengthen the intelligence sector within the security forces so that the infiltrators are identified," said former deputy minister of interior Mirza Mohammad Yarmand.

"All legal proceedings must be taken into consideration during the recruitments so that friends are separated from the foes," said member of parliament's internal security commission Sher Mohammad Akhundzada.

Ten days ago an Afghan Commando opened fire on a number of foreign forces in Achin district of eastern Nangarhar province, killing at least three foreign soldiers and wounding two others. (Tolonews)

(3) Iran, ...

document, exploring avenues for closer cooperation between the two neighbors in diverse areas, including security, defense, economy, culture, and education.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the talks, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs Ebrahim Rahimpour hailed close relations between Tehran and Kabul, and expressed hope that during the negotiations the two sides would reach a "win-win" agreement in line with the two countries' interests. The negotiations had been planned during a recent visit to Afghanistan by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. (Agencies)

(4) US Has No ...

formally ended on December 28, 2014. However, on January 1, 2015, NATO announced a new mission in the country, called Resolute Support, to train and assist Afghan security forces. (Sputnik)

(5) U.S Needs ...

that is going to be won in a few years. We're not going to take a hill, plant a flag, go home to a victory parade. And we need to be there for the long haul, but in a way that is, again, sustainable."

He said the U.S has been in "Korea for 65-plus years because there is an important national interest for that."

On the back of this, when asked by the PBS NEWSHOUR journalist whether he meant the U.S needed to stay in "Afghanistan 60,70,80 years?" Petraeus said: "I wouldn't say 60, but I think we shouldn't approach this as a year-on-year mission."

On the issue of increasing U.S troop levels in the country, Petraeus said he felt the U.S needed to have a sustained commitment and that 3,000 to 5,000 more troops was sustainable.

"But also we should relax the remaining restrictions on the use of our airpower to support our Afghan partners who have shown that they are willing to fight and die for their country against al-Qaeda, the insurgents of various types and so forth," he said.

Petraeus also said the U.S's presence "did actually turn back the Taliban."

"We are not going to permanently win this. Keep in mind, there's a huge difference between Afghanistan and even Iraq when we did the surge there. You can't pressure the leaders of the Afghan Taliban, the Haqqani Network, and even some of the other insurgent groups, because they're out of our reach. They're in sanctuaries inside Pakistan."

"And, indeed, there should be a regional effort there to try to get our Pakistani partners to do more to deny this sanctuary to those elements that are making life so difficult for Afghans and the Afghan government," he said.

He also stated that the U.S's national security team is currently working on its strategy for Afghanistan and said "I do think you can anticipate an integrated strategy".

"Again, the troops are just a part of this. They're an important part, because, without them, without halting the erosion of security that has characterized Afghanistan over the last year or more, then you're going to have a serious problem on your hands," he said.

This comes after reports emerged Friday that the Pentagon plans to send almost 4,000 additional U.S troops to Afghanistan.

A U.S official said on Thursday that more troops would be sent and the decision could be announced as soon as next week.

Last week, the U.S Defense Secretary James Mattis said in a statement that the United States "will not repeat the mistakes of the past" and in setting new troop levels, its military will have greater agility in conducting operations in Afghanistan.

"This administration will not repeat the mistakes of the past. We cannot allow Afghanistan to once again become a launching point for attacks on our homeland or on our allies," he said. (Tolonews)

(6) Terrorist Groups ..

Afghanistan in terms of exchanging views about peace and fighting terrorism with representatives from other countries.

The Russian Ambassador said his country stoutly supported Afghanistan's policy against terrorism and was in favour of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

At the end of the meeting, Atmar stressed, "Terrorist groups aren't enemies of only one country, but they are common enemies of all of us; so regional cooperation is essential for fighting this nefarious phenomenon." (Pajhwok)

(7) U.S. Has no ...

affairs," She said.

Zakharova further added that this Washington policy would follow undesirable results.

"This is the problem with not just the current administration, which has not yet formulated a foreign policy concept for various parts of the world. The previous US administration also used this tactic, or its absence, and the tendency has been growing stronger over the past few years. We consider this approach to be counterproductive," Zakharova added.

U.S. President Donald Trump has recently given Defense Secretary Jim Mattis the authority to set troop levels in Afghanistan and the secretary will announce it in the upcoming days. (ATN)

(8) Envoy Says...

to bring the group to the peace talks table.

He said it was unfortunate that despite sixteen years of the West waging a war against terrorism in Afghanistan under U.S leadership, insurgent groups have still not been eliminated but have instead increased.

"Over the recent years, the activities of Taliban and Daesh groups have increased in Afghanistan. We are aware of this in northern Afghanistan. If this process continues, terror activities will further increase not only in Afghanistan but also in neighboring countries. We are not gaining anything from the war on terror in Afghanistan," said Kabaeve.

On the issue of Daesh in Afghanistan, he said the group posed a dangerous threat to Afghanistan, Russia and the region.

"I think Daesh is a perilous trend not only for Afghanistan, but for the region and Russia. With fragile economic and social conditions facing the citizens of this country, the Daesh ideology can be dangerous, especially for the youth," added Kabaeve.

Meanwhile a number of economic commentators have said that Russia's role in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan can be constructive.

"Russia has an accurate assessment of Afghanistan's territory; Russia can be the best option if we call for their support in the peace process," said political analyst Rajab Ali Ibrahim.

He said the presence of some Russian nationals in the ranks of insurgent groups in Afghanistan has been a matter of great concern for Russia as there is the possibility that these people could return home and carry out terror attacks in their own country. (Tolonews)

(9) ISIS Loses ...

been foiled by the Afghan security forces, the acting Minister of Defense Tariq Shah Bahrami said Saturday. Bahrami further added that the Afghan security forces have launched 12 large operations so far and dozens of medium and large operations while hundreds of airstrikes have been conducted on the hideouts of the terror group.

According to the acting minister of defense, at least 2,500 militants of the terrorist group have been killed during the operations until now and around 800 others have sustained injuries. (KP)

(10) Ghani Warns ...

"Whoever attacks Afghanistan and kills the people, they should realize that it will not deter us from our determination. This country will welcome all those who come here as guests, but if they come as an enemy, they will be eliminated," Ghani said. Ghani's calls for the elimination of militant groups and for neighboring countries to stop interfering comes as lawmakers in parliament raised deep concerns over the growing activities of the Taliban near Kabul.

"The countries which have ties with Afghanistan should decide between peace and development or the war; but if they choose the war option, they should remember it is not only our people dying alone," added Ghani.

Meanwhile a number of lawmakers in parliament have criticized government's security policy.

"The situation in Logar is critical. The Taliban are present just 15 kilometers away from Kabul in Logar province, they search the vehicles and government is not doing anything about it," said MP Mohammad Akbar Stanekzai.

"What is going on here. The security situation in Logar is deteriorating day-by-day. The security officials in Logar are very weak and they are not aware of the issues," said MP Ezmarai Padkhabvi.

A surge in the Taliban and the group's activities and that of other militant groups has also forced Afghanistan's Western allies, the U.S and NATO alliance, to seriously consider sending more troops to the country.

Just last week, a report by the Associated Press stated that the Pentagon plans to send almost 4,000 additional U.S troops to Afghanistan.

The AP quoted a Trump administration official on Thursday as saying that more troops would be sent and the decision could be announced as soon as this week. According to the report, the additional troops will train and advise Afghan forces. Others would be assigned to counter terror operations against the Taliban and Daesh militants. (Tolonews)

(11) Afghan Forces...

commander of the Selab Military Corp 4th unit, said security forces were in a high moral and the Daesh militants had lost their courage to fight security forces.

Malak Tor, a tribal elder, said security forces had reached to the Tora Bora Tangai and cleared majority of the area from insurgents.

Some families had returned to their homes while security forces bared some other displaced families from returning because clearing operation was under way.

It is pertinent to mention, the few days back Daesh captured the strategic Tora Bora from the Taliban. Huge caves and tunnel existed in the area which earlier the Al Qaeda leaders used as sanctuaries. (Pajhwok)

(12) AGO Says ...

security forces are almost finished, also we have officially called on those who participated in the rally and families of victims and the wounded to cooperate with us in this regard," said Rasuli.

This comes after the Meshrano Jirga (the Upper House of Parliament) on Sunday summoned security officials to answer questions regarding a string of deadly attacks early this month and the shooting of protesters. According to the head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Massoum Stanekzai, two policemen had also been injured in the shooting.

"Some police were hit by stones and some by wood and two others were wounded when shot," said Stanekzai.

However, Salim Asas, the head of the police force at the Ministry of Interior, rejects Stanekzai's remarks. "Until now there has been no report to say we have (policemen) wounded," said Asas.

Meanwhile, members of the Uprising for Change Movement, who organized the rally, said government wants to hide the names of those responsible for the killing of protesters and that government is not looking for solid evidence.

"The contradictions made by senior security officials in the Senate show that government makes accusations," said Fahim Fetrat, a member of the movement's leadership team. "As long as the issue is prolonged, more problems will be created," Rahman Sakhi Zada, a protester said.

Defense and interior ministries meanwhile said the Kabul garrison commander and the Kabul police chief will remain suspended pending the outcome of investigations by the AGO.

"The commander's job will be suspended until his case is finalized," said Najib Danish, an interior ministry spokesman.

"We accept whatever the judicial institutions decide," said Mohammad Radmanesh, the defense ministry's deputy spokesman. (Tolonews)

(13) Direct Peace ...

but its fate was yet to be cleared, but the Real Peace Council members including Azizullah Fazli, Atiqullah Zazai, Dr. Khalil Safi, Eng. Rahmatullah Zaland and Hamidullah Amarkhel will start direct intra-Afghan peace talks with the Taliban within 10 days after the Eid-ul-Fitr."

Fazli said no any members of the council had connections with any political parties and they were people who wanted peace for their country.

Peace is the need of every single Afghan because most of the victims of the ongoing war are youngsters; people are tired of the current situation and they no longer want the continuation of conflict, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(14) Iranian ...

International Documentary Festival, Canadian Diversity Festival, Irish Silk Road Film Festival, Spain's La Costa Film Festival (LCFF) and the White Nights Film Festival in St. Petersburg.

The festival in the Swedish capital wrapped up on June 17. (IRNA)

(15) Illegal Gunmen...

inhabitant of the provincial capital and a civil society activist, expressed concern over the movement of unauthorised armed men in the city. He claimed the government never went after them.

"The presence of these armed men is contributing to insecurity in the province. We want the government to curb the movement of gunmen, a move that will help maintain law and order," he believed. Another civil society activist, Noor Agha, opined human trafficking, murder, burglaries and other grave offences happened due to the presence or armed groups.

"Unfortunately, the provincial ad-

ministration hasn't taken stringent steps against illegal armed men. We heard of police arresting these people," he remarked.

Agha charged police with having developed an understanding with the gunmen. These individuals travelling in unregistered vehicle were never held accountable, he continued.

The provincial government says in line with the decision of the military council, carrying unlicensed arms is not allowed inside the city. The individuals with such arms will not be allowed to enter Jalalabad.

Governor Mohammad Gulab Mangal acknowledged public concerns at the display of arms, saying efforts had been intensified to control the movement of illegal gunmen. He said police were not allowed to bring heavy weapons to Jalalabad from their duty stations. (Pajhwok)

(16) Pakistan...

trusting their roles, and that's why I'm incredibly proud of that dressing room because they did that. They kept on believing.

"We had some good, hard conversations [after that defeat], but we didn't train anymore because we knew the base had been done. All that had been put in place. We trusted the players. We trusted what we had put in place, but we had some good honest conversations. And the players almost drove that conversation, which for us was very new, but also showed a maturity, and the way they turned it around was unbelievable," Arthur said.

He said he hoped the win would nourish passionate fans starved of watching their team play at home.

"I hope that the nation of Pakistan is really happy tonight because they deserve it. For what they've been through - you talk about our players not playing at home. But also the fans not identifying with heroes because they just don't see international cricket. That's massive for the country. So let's hope that this really kick-starts that momentum in Pakistan again."

India captain Virat Kohli could do little more than praise an opponent who did everything right on the day, reported the ICC.

"We give our best every time we go out on the field, and I'm really proud of the way the team has played in this tournament.

"But you have to accept that the other team has outplayed you and they've shown better skill than you, they've shown better composure in pressure situations than you.

"Yes, we have shown the composure in pressure situations most often in this tournament, but that is no guarantee that you're going to do it every time. You will have failures, and one team has to lose on the day, and today was our day to lose because the opposition played much better than us." (Tolonews)

(17) Warlords, ..

unlawful acts of local strongmen. He stressed the provincial council would continue its job as representative of people and hoped positive changes would gradually come about.

He said a high-level meeting, chaired by the Balkh governor, was held on the activities of illegal armed groups in the first week of Ramadan.

Attended by provincial council members, MPs, representatives of political parties, scholars and tribal elders, the meeting decided to take serious action to thwart arbitrary actions by illegal armed men. (Pajhwok)

(18) Insurgent ...

said adding that "the clashes continued for nearly three hours but there were no security force casualties."

However, he did not provide further details.

The Taliban have not yet commented on the clash or the arrest. (Tolonews)

(19) 5 Killed,...

Mamand area of Achin district. He was a poor man working here.

The remaining four men belonged to the area," he said. Meanwhile, Taliban denied their members were killed in the incident.

The group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the people killed did not belong to the rebel movement. About a week ago, three civilians - a man and his two sons - were killed by US troops in the same district. American forces opened fire on them after their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in the area. (Pajhwok)

(20) Afghanistan ...

major step toward Test cricket.

"Afghanistan submitted application to move up from associated to full membership of ICC for further development of the cricket game," Af-

ghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) said in a Twitter post.

"We cannot give any time frame at the moment, it is upon the ICC, they will decide when to give Afghanistan the Test status, and it is not in our hands," chairman of ACB, Atif Mashal told AFP during a recent interview.

"Afghanistan deserves Test status because their performances are good. Once they get to play Tests, more and more players will come forward just like happened in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh - Kenya suffered because they were not awarded.

"I think it will be the ICC's best decision of the century," he added.

"For any team to make its mark, it takes a while to really get a hang of it no matter how good you are at the shorter versions.

"It's extremely important to provide Test status for Afghanistan and perhaps Ireland, because it is also a virtuous circle."

Earlier this month, ACB officially sent an application to ICC for full membership and this week's meeting in London is expected to announce the decision. (ATN) (21)Xi Says

favorable international environment and working to make the international order more just and equitable. "The BRICS cooperation is an innovation, which transcends the old pattern of political and military alliance and pursues partnerships rather than alliances," Xi said.

"The BRICS mechanism surpasses the old mindset of zero-sum game and practices a new concept of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation," he said. (Xinhua)

(22) Russian FM ...

discourse, still in high demand though, would only cause regret.

It urged the Trump administration to pay attention to the anti-blockade resolutions repeatedly adopted by the UN General Assembly, which represent the almost unanimous voice of the international community on Cuba.

The ministry also reiterated Russia's "unshakable solidarity" with Cuba, adding that Moscow is for dialogue and cooperation, instead of blockades, sanctions or outside interference in internal affairs of sovereign states. (Xinhua)

(23) Iran Says ..

republic.

"The message of this operation against terrorist groups and also their regional and international sponsors is that they should never try to undermine the national security of Iran," he was quoted by Press TV as saying. (Xinhua)

G-20, in two weeks, we will renew the pressure on the U.S. president to review his positions on the Paris climate accords."

Trump declared this month he's withdrawing the U.S. from the deal. (AP)

(25) France's Macron..

France's lower house of parliament, reaching 38.7 percent - up from 26.8 percent in the outgoing Assembly.

After Macron vigorously campaigned on a promise of renewal of the political landscape, other parties also made efforts to promote new faces. (AP)

(26) From David ...

in Brussels. British newspaper The Guardian newspaper labelled him "the old knuckleduster leading Britain out of the EU."

Theresa May, British Prime Minister: The 60-year-old prime minister emerged victorious from a bitter and divisive leadership battle after her predecessor, David Cameron, quit following Britain's vote a year ago to leave the EU.

But her leadership has been thrown into doubt after her decision to call an early election in order to bolster her hand in Brexit negotiations backfired spectacularly this month. Her Conservative Party's comfortable majority in the lower house of the British Parliament evaporated following a lackluster campaign.

While May supported Britain remaining in the EU, since taking office she has pledged that "Brexit means Brexit." (AP)

(27) Merkel Seeks..

come to an agreement over how Britain's departure from the EU will affect cross-border trade - and avoid a "hard Brexit."

The Mechanical Engineering Industry Association, known by its German initials VDMA, says that that goal of the two-year negotiating process is "damage limitation" because Brexit won't benefit either side. (AP)