

(1) Afghanistan

forces' resilience, willingness to fight for their country and their drive to take significant risks in trying to defeat extremists.

"The Americans, our NATO partners and our men and women in uniform stand with the Afghan government and security forces, as they undertake that difficult mission. But this is a mission that has consequences for US national security," he remarked. (Pajhwok)

(2) Contracts...

projects such as Salma Dam, Kajaki Dam, the 500kv power line through Salang Pass were either put into service or being in progress.

He said national development projects would create a competitive environment between Afghanistan and its neighboring countries and that would be in the interest of all of them. (Pajhwok)

(3) Hezb-E-Islami...

government has signed the draft peace agreement with Hezb-e-Islami in mid-May amid hopes that the agreement would be signed by Hekmatyar in the near future.

Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Khan said last month that the party has agreed to have no links with the anti-government armed militant groups, insisting that Hekmatyar's only demand is to remove his name from the international blacklist. (KP)

(4) 18 Passengers ...

to free the passengers.

However, the Greshk police chief, Capt. Mohammad Ismail Khpalkwak, said 25 passengers were released and 18 others were still in Taliban captivity.

Residents of the Malgir area of Greshk said the Taliban had shifted the passengers to the Babaji area of Lashkargah, the capital of the province. The area in the fourth police district has been under Taliban's control for the past eight months. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi confirmed the incident and said the militants had seized suspect passengers from the three vehicles. He said a number of the individuals had been released, but 27 others believed to be security personnel had been taken to a safe place.

Investigation would be over soon and those found innocent would be freed, Ahmadi promised. But those working for security agencies would be brought to justice, he concluded. The Taliban have recently stepped up mass kidnappings of passengers on highways. Hundreds of travellers faced similar situations in Kunduz and Takhar provinces in recent days. (Pajhwok)

(5) Senators Call ...

Din Gayanwal, remarked: "Previously, we heard rumours, but now it has become clear that some people within the system had links with the Taliban." Many MPs expressed shock over the arrest of Qari Zahir in a police vehicle and slammed it as an act of treason.

Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar said: "Cooperation of the Maidan Wardak police chief with the Taliban was disappointing. We want the government to take action against the fifth communists within the system." He demanded a thorough investigation into the incident.

Muslimyar asked the government to ensure the peaceful return of Afghan refugees from neighboring countries. Currently, seven million Afghan refugees are living in different parts of the world. (Pajhwok)

(6) Kunduz Children...

collect toy guns from shops and ban their sales. The rally was organised by the Media Cultural and Communication Foundation (MCCF).

Sharifullah, one of the participants of the rally, blamed police for failing to crack down on the open sale of fire-crackers and other toys that promoted violence.

Police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangalbagh welcomed the rally as a positive move by poor children. He promised collecting all toy guns from shops ahead of the Eid festival. (Pajhwok)

(7) Lawmaker Urges...

insider attacks on Afghan police forces in southern Afghanistan. The Taliban has reportedly exploited so-called "bacha bazi" to launch attacks over about two years—at least six between January and April of this year alone—which have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Afghan forces.

"This is concerning given our interests in Afghanistan, but it also requires serious attention due to the presence of U.S. forces and their ongoing mission to train, assist, and advise the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces," Hunter wrote

in the letter to Carter on Monday.

"Not accounting for any recommendations that might come from ongoing reviews, it is my belief that we can begin taking immediate steps to stop child rape from occurring in the presence of U.S. forces and reduce any risk of coinciding insider attacks," he wrote.

The issue of Afghan forces sexually abusing children has been a subject of renewed focus since the New York Times reported last September that U.S. military members had been discouraged from reporting allegations of child sexual abuse at the hands of Afghan forces. Some service members, including Sgt. 1st Class Charles Martland, faced reprimands or worse after retaliating against alleged rapists. (Agencies)

(8) MTN Afghanistan...

to help and support all learners in the community especially who has no guardian and sponsor to oversee and supervise them, we give the first priority to the children educational development because we are confident that it would play critical role in the development of the entire society.

Our mission is as a telecommunication provider is not only to provide telecom services in the country ;but we have always used our best efforts to take active part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan in various sector including education, health, public awareness, sport, youth empowerment program, he added. "We hope that through our work with ISRA orphanage, would inspire other Companies and investors to take remarkable part for the development of the education sector of Afghanistan, added Hassan Jabber. (PR)

(9) Senate Approves...

while the approval of 12 articles is still in process.

Haseebullah Kalimzai, second deputy chairman of the house, asked senators to approve the country's WTO membership as it could boost economic growth by 2.5 percent.

If any WTO member break trade rules, the Afghan government will be able to use its membership privileges to take legal action against the violator.

Most of senators voted in favour for the country's WTO membership. The WTO which regulates international trade was established on January 1, 1995 to replace the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). (Pajhwok)

(10) Work on 2...

Department's buildings. "Funds are also set aside for other projects which will be subsequently implemented," said the governor. Economy Department head Lotfulah Hashimi said 170 million afis had been allocated to his department's building construction.

He said currently they were operating from a rented house where staff faced many issues.

In Paktika, construction work on a school building was launched in Sara Roza district.

Deputy education director Mohammad Naseem told Pajhwok Afghan News the school building would have six classrooms, two administrative rooms, boundary wall, a playground and an organized water system.

The school is being reconstructed with financial support of Hamid Kandahari private company, he said, adding the structure would cost up to \$60,000.

A resident of Paraw village, Gul Dad said, currently their village's school was without a building and students were taught under the open skies. (Pajhwok)

(11) Hundreds ...

on Monday in the first senior-level talks and agreed to establish 'an effective mechanism for consultation and coordination of issues of mutual concern and interest.'

Like some other provinces, tribal elders, civil society activists and common people staged a protest demonstration to voice their support for the Afghan security forces. They chanted slogans in support of the Afghan forces and against Pakistan.

One of the rally organizers, Amir Mohammad Himmat, told reporters that their demonstration was aimed at preventing foreign interference in Afghanistan's soil. "The Pakistani forces have a history of attacks on Afghan soil, but they would never reach their goals," he said. A participant of the demonstration, Naqib Totakhel, said it was the duty of every Afghan to stand by their Afghan border guards.

He said building installations along the Durand Line by Pakistani side was not acceptable to the Afghans. (Pajhwok)

(12) Nepal to Send ...

Dahal told Xinhua.

Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Thapa, who is also in charge of foreign affairs, said that the government has made necessary preparations to send the aircraft to Kabul to bring home the injured and remains of the Nepalese killed in the barbaric terrorist attack.

The ill-fated Nepalese nationals were working as security guards with the Kabul-based Canadian Embassy, who were hired by Sabre International, a British security consultancy firm. Seven Nepalese security guards working with Canadian embassy were also injured in the incident.

Fourteen security guards (12 Nepalese and two Indians) were killed and nine people were injured after a suicide bomber struck a minibus in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Monday morning.

One suicide bomber had approached and targeted a mini bus carrying personnel of a foreign company at around 05:40 a.m. local time in Banahi area along Pul-e-Charkhi road which is also called Jalalabad road in eastern part of the city.

Meanwhile, Acting Ambassador at the Islamabad-based Nepalese Embassy Tirtha Raj Aryal has reached the Afghan Capital Kabul to initiate process to bring home the mortal remains of the Nepalese nationals. Nepal doesn't have diplomatic mission in Kabul and the Islamabad-based embassy is concurrently accredited to Afghanistan.

Bharat Raj Paudyal, a spokesman at the Nepalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Xinhua that all the 12 Nepalese killed in the incident have been identified.

Initially, the Afghan interior ministry had stated that 14 killed in the incident were Nepalese, however, during verification it was revealed that two were Indian nationals. (Xinhua)

(13) Kandaharis Seek...

been accelerated and would take up to 45 days to complete.

Kajaki dam currently provides 12 megawatts of electricity to Kandahar. The installation of the second turbine will increase the supply to 20 megawatts, the official added.

Naseri also referred to plans to provide solar energy to Kandahar, saying the procurement process had been completed. The project would take one year to complete.

Ninety percent of work on installation of power pylons from Kabul to southern Ghazni province has also been done and extension of power cables was 40 percent complete, Naseri said.

He acknowledged Kandahar would also gain access to electricity through Ghazni province in the second phase of power extension.

Governor Hamayun Aziz told DABS not to cut power supply to the province as residents would face problems. He asked the power utility to find an alternative source of power supply.

He regretted the solar power project had long been delayed and the relevant quarters should pay attention to the issue.

Energy Director Eng. Syed Rassoul said the extension of power lines for the solar system had already been completed but the authorities concerned were yet to start work on constructing the power station.

The solar power project was expected to be completed in July 2016 by the USAID at a cost of \$15 million, but practical work on the scheme is yet to be initiated.

Residents of Kandahar, meanwhile, expressed concerns over the delay in the project and asked the central government to launch and execute it as soon as possible.

They urged the government not to disconnect power supply to the province during the installation of the second turbine at Kajaki dam.

Resident Qudratullah said the president, during his trip to Kandahar, had promised completing the solar power project, which would produce 10 megawatts of electricity.

The date given by Ashraf Ghani for project implementation was fast approaching but work on the scheme was yet to begin, remarked the inhabitant.

There are around 200 factories in Kandahar, where 5,000 people are working. But most of them are either shut or half-active due to the shortage of electricity. (Pajhwok)

(14) Pakistan Gives ...

Haqqania Nowshera will get Rs300 million to meet its annual expenditure," Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Minister Shah Farman said in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly this week.

He was quoted by Pakistani news agencies as saying that the Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in Khyber-Pakh-

tunkhwa was not raiding or targeting religious institutions, but has rather been cooperating and providing financial assistance to them.

A number of political analysts have said Haqqania Madrassa is one of the main centers spreading extremism in the region. They say the move to finance the Madrassa proves that Pakistan officially supports terrorism.

"There are more dangerous madrassas in Pakistan than Haqqania providing military training and recruiting the youth to become terrorists. The branches of the madrassas are in border areas, particularly in Para Chinar, Satta, Miranshah and in central parts of Waziristan," said Sayed Ishaq Gailani, MP and chairman of the National Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan.

According to Afghan security agencies, nearly 6,000 madrassas in border areas close to Afghan soil are promoting extremism and training people for suicide attacks.

The Defense Ministry said they will use all their forces to combat those groups or individuals who try to support terrorism.

"The Ministry of Defense is ready to use all its facilities and capacity against terrorists and is committed to ensuring peace and stability in the country," said deputy spokesman for Defense Ministry, Mohammad Radmanish.

The madrassa in Akora Khattak of the Nowshera district in the province is known for having several top Afghan Taliban leaders among its graduates, including Mullah Omar who received an honorary doctorate from the seminary. (Tolnews)

(15) MoD Pledges...

currently has no source of income. Farhadi has been under treatment at the Herat Zonal Hospital for the past one week.

Farhadi sold all his belongings and illegally migrated to Germany along with his mother for treatment, but doctors there told him his spinal cord condition was not curable. He has returned to Afghanistan but has no shelter.

Farhadi complained his monthly allowance was cut by the government a few months after the incident. He appealed to the authorities to provide him a house.

MoD spokesman Dawlat Wazir told Pajhwok Afghan News the soldier had been extended help in the past. The official promised more assistance to the needy individual.

"We read Pajhwok's report and sent letters to the defence minister, chief of army staff and others. We also discussed the soldier's plight in today's meeting," he added.

Waziri said the minister, while attending the meeting, ordered the Zafar Military Corps commander in Herat to visit the soldier and provide him the required help. (Pajhwok)

(17) Afghans Make ...

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(17) Insurgents...

Taliban's wrath did not send their daughters to the school on Tuesday. Other local officials showed unawareness about the high school's closure.

This is the first time this year that the Taliban have closed a school in Logar, where the rebels ordered shut 25 schools in Pul-i-Alam, Baraki Barak and Charkh districts last year. (Pajhwok)

(18) Taliban Claims...

claim they abduct security personnel and government officials traveling in the highways.

Numerous kidnapping incidents have taken place in northern Afghanistan following a major kidnapping incident that took place late last month in northern Kunduz province.

At least 185 passengers were kidnapped as they were traveling on the main highway in Kunduz last month but majority of them were released after they were interrogated. The Taliban militants killed at least 17 of the abducted passengers after they were accused of working for the government. (KP)

(19) 2 Indians Among...

responsibility for the attack.

Media reports said a Nepal Airlines aircraft will fly the injured and the bodies of 12 Nepali citizens, who were killed in the suicide bomb attack, to Kathmandu by Wednesday. The Government of Nepal had decided to charter and send an aircraft for the repatriation of the June 20 Kabul suicide attack victims. The Nepal Airlines aircraft is flying to Kabul this evening. (Pajhwok)

(20) 18 Militants...

battle with the Afghan security forces in Qaisar district two weeks ago. The senior Taliban commander was identified as Mullah Kamal and was involved in major terrorist activities in this province. (KP)

(21) International...

immigration and human trafficking. It was also emphasized that the internal security and order of the EU members must be protected.

Papp noted that the current situation was not conducive to the sense of security of the EU residents.

Over 390,000 migrants passed through Hungary in 2015 on their way to western Europe. (Xinhua)

(22) Jordan King...

area between Jordan and Syria.

The attacked military post was dedicated for serving the Syrian refugees in the area.

More than 50,000 Syrian refugees are stranded at the no man's land as Jordan discovered a large number of them were members of the Islamic State (IS) group or supporters and majority of them came from areas under the control of the terrorist group in Syria.

Since 2011, the Jordanian army foiled many attempts by terrorists to infiltrate into the country. (Xinhua)

(23) US Justice...

the DOJ admitted Monday afternoon in a joint statement with FBI that the release of uncensored transcript came after "unnecessary distraction" caused by GOP complaints.

"Unfortunately, the unreleased portions of the transcript that named the terrorist organizations and leaders have caused an unnecessary distraction from the hard work that the FBI and our law enforcement partners have been doing to investigate this heinous crime," said the statement. "As much of this information had been previously reported, we have re-issued the complete transcript to include these references in order to provide the highest level of transparency possible under the circumstances," the statement concluded.

In addition to the transcript, the FBI also released on Monday summaries of three calls between Mateen and negotiators at 2:48 a. m., 3:03 a.m. and 3:24 a.m. on June 12. It was revealed in the summaries that Mateen called himself an Islamic soldier and claimed that he had equipped himself with explosives.

Later investigation found no explo-

sives.

Forty-nine people were killed and 53 others wounded, including a police officer in the June 12 shooting at a popular gay nightclub Pulse in Orlando, Florida. It was the deadliest terror attack in U.S. history since the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001. (Xinhua)

(24) Modi Leads...

will give to yoga and what all (ailments) will it rid you of... It helps in getting mukti (salvation) from health issues," he said.

In the Indian capital, President Pranab Mukherjee led a sessions at his official residence, the Rashtrapati Bhavan, where around 1,000 people took part, while 57 ministers led yoga sessions across the country.

Local TV channels showed footage of millions of others doing yoga at similar events in hundreds of Indian cities and towns. Preparations are also being done for yoga sessions in Britain and at the iconic Times Square in New York.

The United Nations announced the International Day of Yoga in 2014 after Modi, a yoga enthusiast who says he practises the ancient Indian art daily, lobbied the world body to declare June 21 as the International Yoga Day. (Xinhua)

(25) 50 Saudis...

against "habits and traditions that are against religious teachings".

Saudi Arabia, an absolute Islamic monarchy, is a highly conservative country.

Women dress from head to toe in black and are not allowed to drive or mingle with unrelated men.

But more than half of Saudi citizens are under the age of 25, an Internet-savvy generation that spends much of its life online away from official strictures.

One of the kingdom's most powerful figures, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, 30, is leading the Vision 2030 reform drive to diversify the economy and also bring social change. (Dawn)

(26) Eight School...

it from behind."

Reports said 17 children of varying ages below 13 were inside the van, besides a teacher and the driver.

"Of the injured children, one is critical," the official said. "However the condition of remaining seven children, driver and teacher is stated to be stable."

The van was taking children to a privately-run Don Bosco School in Kundapur.

Witnesses said the van was crushed in the accident. However, the passengers inside the bus were left unhurt (Xinhua)

(27) 5 Killed...

the Iraqi security forces and allied Hashd Shaabi units are carrying out operations to drive out the Islamic State (IS) militants from the areas in northern the province, including the IS-held town of Shirqat, which is located some 280 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source said.

The operations in northern the province are part of a major offensive to free the areas in south of Mosul, including the town of Qayyara, to be able to surround Mosul itself from both the south and east, before heading towards the major IS stronghold in Mosul in order to flush out IS militants from the city, which lies 400 km north of Baghdad. (Xinhua)

(28) China Pledges...

head of the NHFPC, said the measures would provide affordable, accessible and effective treatment.

As of 2015, there were only 3.66 hospital beds and 1.28 licensed medical workers on average for every thousand people in China's 832 impoverished counties, well below the country's average level. (Xinhua)

(29) Iran Warns

repressing its people while the United Nations, the U.S. and Western countries maintain their "meaningful silence."

Soleimani has left Iraq for Syria to oversee resistance operations as the fight with terrorists takes a violent turn recently, said a local report. (Xinhua)

(30) Pakistan's Former ...

Aziz said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, CASA-1000, and the Tapi and Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline projects are concrete achievements that will help increase regional connectivity. He also claimed that Pakistan's political role would be enhanced through membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. He highlighted Pakistan's 'historic and religious' relations with Muslim countries, saying that ties with Iran are "moving in the right direction", and that after the lifting of sanctions against the Republic, Pak-Iran relations will be strengthened. (Dawn)