

(1) EU Throws...

start a new era of instability," he warned. This comes as the Taliban and the U.S. are set to resume talks next month in Doha, Qatar. The Afghan government is increasingly feeling to be sidelined in this negotiation table. The Taliban are not willing to talk with the Afghan government, resulting in a stalemate. Calling for immediate ceasefire and resumption of peace talks in the war-ravaged country, Mogherini said EU would always remain on the side of the Afghans. (AA)

(2) No Military...

for regional peace and security. Qureshi and Mogherini agreed on the gravity of the threat posed by Islamophobia in the world, especially after recent attacks on two mosques in Christchurch, where 50 worshippers were killed. Mogherini also met Prime Minister Imran Khan and In Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa. Khan said Pakistan valued its relations with the EU and all its member states. The prime minister in his conversation touched on tensions with India and the role being played by Pakistan for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. In her meeting with Gen. Bajwa at the GHQ, the EU foreign policy chief discussed the regional security environment. (Pajhwok)

(3) Taliban Spreading...

talks, Bass said the Taliban were spreading unfair propaganda and information regarding the talks. He asked the Taliban to sit with the people of Afghanistan and talk instead of killing innocent people. He said the US never represented the people of Afghanistan in the talks underway in Qatar and stressed the people of Afghanistan should resolve their differences themselves.

He said four topics -- withdrawal of foreign forces, counter-terrorism, ceasefire and intra-Afghan dialogue -- had been discussed with the Taliban and there was progress on the first two topics. Referring to the coordination between Afghan government and the US chief negotiator, Bass said there was close coordination among the two sides and Afghan government was in the picture of all issues discussed in the talks.

He stressed that nothing would be agreed until everything was agreed. He said the ceasefire would not be observed only between the Taliban and US forces, but also with the Afghan forces. (DOA/Pajhwok)

(4) Interim Setup...

abide by internationally accepted norms of state behavior when it comes to relation between the two countries.

Atmar also expressed disappointed by remarks by ex-colleagues showing grave lapse of judgment. "Our team's past record of sacrifice for our country's independence speaks for itself. We've always stood & fought on the right side of history and shall continue to do so in future," he said.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday suggested an interim setup in Afghanistan as a possible solution to an apparent impasse in the ongoing peace process, while blaming the Afghan government for the stalemate in talks, Pakistan's Express Tribune said in a report.

According to the report, the suggestion came during Khan's interaction with journalists at his office in Islamabad on Monday. (Pajhwok)

(5) Paktika PRT...

Samkani told Pajhwok Afghan News that different types of equipment such as Humvee vehicles, cars, cupboards, computers, wood and others were taken away from the PRT in the name of scrap. "When I went to PRT and looked around, it made me cried, equipment and tools worth \$7 million were very unjustly taken out of this place and then sold," he said.

He alleged governors, police officials, intelligence heads and other government figures of the time were involved in the issue.

"A number of scrap vehicles are taken out of this place after the beginning of my mission here, I personally got out of my place and stopped a few of such trucks carrying the scrap and handed over the drivers to intelligence forces," he said.

He said there were only a limited equipment remained in the PRT and the government must investigate the issue.

Khosti says he contracted PRT equipment for 4m Afghans. However, businessman Khosti said he had signed a legal contract with the PRT

worth four million afghanis.

"I won the contract for four million afghanis, you can find 360 tons of scrap, used metal and nothing else." (Pajhwok)

(6) Aryubi Says...

connect 11 percent of the country through VCN and installation of 1,500 telecommunication antennas.

Seven telecom companies including AWCC, Roshan, Etisalat, MTN, Afghan Telecom, Salaam and Wasel Telecom have been offering services in Afghanistan, he said.

He said MCIT had connected 25 provinces of the country through fiber optic service during the last few years and the remaining nine provinces would be connected through the service over the next three years.

In response to a question regarding inability of BUSTOS Company in managing the Real Time Data Management (RTDM) system, he said that the company was chosen after assessment of the National Procurement Commission and a committee had been tasked with evaluating the company's performance.

The 10 percent tax collection of telecom users law was approved on September 23, 2015. Officials say more than 14 billion afghanis have been collected so far.

On October 14, 2015, the Wolesi Jirga suspended the 10 percent tax on mobile phone users until a transparent system for the tax collection was activated but the Meshrano Jirga later approved it.

Later, a joint commission of both the houses approved the draft. But communications commission of the Wolesi Jirga rejected the draft again in 2017.

Non-transparency in the tax collection system is still criticized. But the MCTI has signed the contract of RTDM system of the tax collection with an American company, BUSTOS, for transparency. (Pajhwok)

(7) Study Finds Racial...

The study also finds:

- 207 people were fired from their jobs because of ethnic discrimination
- 275 people were deprived of promotion because of their religious, language and racial affiliations
- 360 people eligible for a job were deprived of their financial privileges
- 272 people faced discrimination while consulting legal and judicial organizations
- 289 people faced discrimination while applying for business and ownership
- 401 people faced discrimination while trying to have access to healthcare services
- 407 people faced discrimination while trying to have access to education services

"Discrimination is a source of violence and it is practically a key factor for the continuation of violence in Afghanistan. We witnessed ethnic wars in Afghanistan and even today attacks are carried out on the people because of their religion and ethnicity," said Samar.

"Our research team travelled to 29 provinces and talked with the people," said Azim Bisharat, AIHRC commissioner.

According to the study, 1,544 people have said that they know people who manipulate ethnic discrimination in social media. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was adopted and opened for signature and ratification by General Assembly resolution 2106 of 21 December 1965 entry into force 4 January 1969, in accordance with Article 19.

"In this Convention, the term 'racial discrimination' shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life," Article 1 of the convention states. The convention urges states parties to condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and promoting understanding among all races.

The document also states that each State Party should undertake efforts to engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against persons, groups of persons or institutions and to ensure that all public authorities and public institutions, national and local, shall act in conformity with this obligation; Each State Party.

The document also asks States Parties to condemn all propaganda and all organizations which are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin, or which attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination and, to this end, with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Tolo news)

(8) QRCS Project to...

teachers of the Darul-Uloom College in Bagrabi district of Kabul. In western Afghanistan, 66 water wells will be dug and equipped with manual pumps to meet the water needs of more than 990 families. (Pajhwok)

(9) Trump to Announce...

withdraw 1,400 troops. Obama declared an end to U.S. combat in Afghanistan in 2014.

The new Trump strategy also aims to pressure Pakistan, a nominal U.S. ally, to take greater measures to crack down on Taliban insurgents and other militant groups that launch cross-border raids into Afghanistan.

Whether the strategy will restore stability is far from clear. Despite a variety of American initiatives, the Taliban holds sway over rural areas and controls more territory now than at any time since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001 toppled the group from power, according to U.N. estimates.

In a statement, the White House said Trump would address the nation at 9 p.m. EDT Monday from Ft. Myer, outside Washington, instead of the White House or the New Jersey golf resort where he has spent most of the month.

Trump will "provide an update on the path forward for America's engagement" in Afghanistan and South Asia, the statement

Trump's decision emerged from a meeting he held Friday with Vice President Mike Pence, Chief of Staff John F. Kelly, national security advisor H.R. McMaster, Defense Secretary James N. Mattis and other top advisors at the presidential retreat at Camp David, a rustic compound in rural Maryland.

"The process was rigorous," Mattis said Sunday, speaking to reporters in Amman, Jordan, as he visited the region. "And it involved all members of the Cabinet, of the national security staff, writ large."

Without going into detail, Mattis said the strategy "involves significant allies," presumably members of the NATO coalition that have fought at the U.S.'s side in Afghanistan since the invasion that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist "The president has made a decision," Mattis said. "I am very comfortable that the strategic process was sufficiently rigorous."

"It is a South Asia strategy," he added. "It is not just an Afghanistan strategy."

Trump has said little in public about the long-running war, either as a candidate or in the White House. He ran on a platform of reducing American foreign military entanglements, and during his first seven months in office, he has balked at authorizing more troops.

He repeatedly deferred a decision as his chief advisors produced multiple proposals for resolving the long conflict and engaged in sometimes bitter internal debate.

Some in the administration, including recently ousted strategic advisor Stephen K. Bannon, questioned the goal of sending more Americans into a war that has dragged on for 16 years without producing a clear result, according to U.S. officials who asked not to be identified in disclosing internal discussions.

Bannon instead reportedly advocated outsourcing the conflict to what many in the military establishment consider mercenaries, rather than sending in more troops, as Mattis and others had urged. Bannon reportedly backed a proposal floated by Erik Prince, founder of the now-defunct private-security firm Blackwater, to hand over key elements of the U.S. military's mission in Afghanistan to private contractors, obviating the need for major troop increases.

That idea — and Prince's high-powered lobbying — met strong resistance in the Pentagon as well as in the circle of current and retired generals around Trump — Kelly, Mattis and McMaster. To traditionalists in the ranks of the military and the diplomatic corps, the notion of

outsourcing a core government function was deeply distasteful.

U.S. commanders say extra troops are needed to help train and advise Afghan units in hopes of breaking what the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John W. Nicholson Jr., has termed a "stalemate."

Over the last year, the Taliban has launched fierce attacks on government-held provincial capitals, and the growth of Islamic State in eastern Nangarhar province has triggered a sharp increase in U.S. airstrikes.

Nicholson had publicly sought 3,000 to 5,000 more troops since January to help train Afghan military and police forces. After the 2001 U.S.-led invasion aimed at eradicating a sanctuary for Al Qaeda, which carried out the Sept. 11 attacks, it proved relatively easy to oust the Taliban from power but difficult to pacify or unify a poverty-stricken country ruled by warlords.

The U.S. continues to play a large counter-terrorism role in helping defend the country from the Taliban and a mosaic of Muslim extremist groups including Islamic State, providing more than \$4.1 billion in annual aid to the Afghan military.

Afghan forces have suffered from complacency and corruption, however. They take orders from a fragile and fractured government, and they lack intelligence-gathering capabilities and air power to ward off attacks.

Civilians caught in the crossfire are paying a high price. The number of civilians killed and injured during the first six months of 2017 is at the same record levels as last year, according to a midyear report from the U.N.

A total of 1,662 civilian deaths from suicide attacks and fighting were confirmed as of June 30. (Monitoring Desk)

(10) Most Baghlan...

while 369 have no drinking water facility while 356 were without retaining walls. Mujahid said the issue had been shared with the ministry who assured to resolve it. (Pajhwok)

(11) Five Civilians Killed...

the National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) to abide by strict rules for preventing civilian casualties in their operations against militants.

A UN report from last month shows that a record number of civilians were killed in 2018.

"As President of a responsible state, I must say that civilian casualties are the most tragic event in times of war, it pains me as much as any other Afghan when I hear about harm to civilians," Ghani said.

He made the remarks at a meeting with senior security officials from his cabinet as well as from the NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan.

Ghani said the Afghan security agencies have taken urgent steps whenever they have received any reports on civilian casualties.

The United Nations in a report released last month said the organization has documented 3,804 civilian deaths, including 927 children, in 2018.

In total, UNAMA documented 10,993 civilian casualties (3,804 deaths and 7,189 wounded), representing a five percent increase in overall civilian casualties and an 11 percent increase in civilian deaths compared with 2017.

In this report, UNAMA attributes the majority of civilian casualties — 63 percent — to anti-government elements (37 percent to Taliban, 20 percent to Daesh, and 6 percent to undetermined anti-government elements).

According to the report, pro-government forces caused 24 percent civilian deaths (14 percent by Afghan national security forces, six percent by international military forces, and four percent by other pro-government armed groups and forces).

The report says that key factors contributing to the significant increase in civilian casualties were a spike in suicide attacks by anti-government elements, mainly Daesh, as well as increased harm to civilians from aerial and search operations by pro-government forces.

The report says that 2018 witnessed the highest number of civilian casualties ever recorded from suicide attacks and aerial operations. (Tolo news)

(12) Mujeeb Shines...

Buttler was then joined by Sanju Samson (30) and the pair added 30 runs for the second-wicket.

The home side was cruising towards the target when a well-settled Buttler was

"Mankaded" by Kings XI Punjab's skipper Ashwin.

This dismissal was the turning point of the match as Steve Smith, making a comeback into the IPL following his one-year ban, could manage only 20 runs (1 four, 1 six) and was dismissed by Sam Curran.

This was Kings XI Punjab's first win in Jaipur. (Tolo news)

(13) Trump's Golan...

normally follow Washington's foreign policy lead.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait — Washington's accommodating Gulf allies which host US military bases — have criticized Trump's move.

"It will have significant negative effects on the peace process in the Middle East and the security and stability of the region," a statement on Saudi Arabia's state news agency SPA said. Saudi Parliament Speaker Mishaal bin Fahm al-Salami reaffirmed Riyadh's "principled position" that the Golan Heights is Syrian land.

NATO ally Turkey also lashed out at Washington. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that the US has "ignored international law" by recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Washington's northern neighbor Canada echoed similar concerns.

In a statement, Ottawa said that it "does not recognize permanent Israeli control over the Golan Heights." (RT)

(14) 'Dark Day for...

"dark day for internet freedom."

Article 13 or 'The Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market' makes all platforms legally responsible for the content hosted and shared on their platforms.

The process of updating the bloc's copyright laws began in the European Commission two years ago, ostensibly to protect Europe's publishers, broadcasters and artists and guarantee fair compensation from big tech companies. (RT)

(15) EU Parliament...

responsibility for copyrighted material that's uploaded to their platforms.

Opponents claim that could restrict freedom of speech, hamper online creativity and force websites to install filters.

Over the weekend, tens of thousands of people marched in cities across Germany to protest the planned copyright reforms that they fear will lead to online censorship. "We have agreed a new set of rules which will do exactly the opposite of killing the internet," said German EPP legislator Axel Voss, the driving force behind the legislation who welcomed the vote with a massive sigh of relief.

"Unfair remuneration for journalists and creators means there are less people willing to do the job, which ultimately means less quality content on the internet." (AP)

(16) Gerrymandering...

advantage to 10 Republicans and three Democrats," said a member of the redistricting committee, "because I do not believe it's possible to draw a map with 11 Republicans and two Democrats."

The plan was successful: in the 2018 congressional vote, Democrats won a majority of votes statewide, but only three of the 13 districts.

"A Democratic wave thus failed to breach the gerrymander's defenses," argue the plaintiffs.

The Maryland case, on the other hand, hinges on one rural district, which remained in the hands of the same Republican for 20 years. It underwent a redistricting exercise in 2012, which added more urban voters, and flipped to the Democrats two years later.

Gerrymandering came before the Supreme Court in cases related to Wisconsin and Maryland last year, but both were kicked back to lower courts on procedural grounds.

When it last considered such a case in 2004, the court voted 5-4 against reform: four judges voted unequivocally against reform, four in favour.

Judge Anthony Kennedy tipped the balance by voting against reform — but said he might be persuaded in future if courts were presented with a "workable standard" by which to assess whether a district had been gerrymandered.

With Kennedy's retirement however, the make-up of the court has changed.

His replacement is conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was appointed by President Donald Trump last year. His position on the matter remains unknown and is eagerly awaited. (AFP)