

(1) TIR Conference ..

Director Herbie Smith. "TIR also reflects the country's commitment to global rules of the road. This was confirmed by the hard work that led to the country's World Trade Organization accession in 2017." (PR)

(2) MPs Concerned ...

(group's command. "They (Hizb-e-Islami fighters) were told to keep their weapons, but avoid fighting against government, they need these weapons for their own safety, because no one can guarantee their security," said Saeed. Regarding the implementation of the peace accord, Saeed said that government was firmly committed to the peace agreement and that all Hizb-e-Islami prisoners will be released soon. He said efforts have been accelerated to identify the capabilities of these fighters in order to incorporate them into security institutions.

In a question relating to the release of 13 high profile Hizb-e-Islami inmates, who are accused of having plotted suicide attacks against foreign troops in Afghanistan, Saeed dismissed such allegations and said many cases against Hizb-e-Islami members had been fabricated.

"Not only will these thirteen individuals be released step by step but so will the majority of individuals (prisoners)," added Saeed.

This comes just a week after government ordered the release of the first batch of 50 Hizb-e-Islami prisoners in accordance with the peace agreement. There is an estimated 3,500 Hizb-e-Islami prisoners in jails across the country. (Tolnews)

(3) MPs Slam ...

Mohammad Nadir Baloch, another senator, alleged: "The national unity government leaders themselves are a source of corruption; they have failed to keep the promises held out to the people. The government will collapse if it continues to cling to self-interest and discrimination against tribes."

Second Deputy Chairman Mohammad Alam Ezydar also hit out at the president for what he called double standards in dealing with the two ministries. "Corruption exists in all state institutions."

Ezydar asked the government leaders to think twice before taking decisions as wrong actions might lead to further deterioration in the security situation, poverty and unemployment.

Deputy Secretary Faisal Sami also said denounced the president's remarks about the two ministries as uncalled-for and against the national interest. "The water is muddy from its source, so we should avoid statements that can damage national interests," he said.

Meshrano Jirga Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimy said: "Corruption is not confined to any particular tribe. Unfortunately, we can see tribal sentiments among the senators today,"

"The president did not mean to target the acting foreign minister and he does not have any problem with Salahuddin Rabbani, who retains the portfolio despite being disqualified by the Wolesi Jirga months ago," he added.

Muslimy said the Meshrano Jirga would not support the president if he promoted his own team and damaged others. But if he was seriously trying to eliminate corruption from the two ministries, the senators would be on his side, he continued. (Pajhwok)

(4) CSTO Approves ...

plan of CSTO consultations on foreign policy, security and defense in the second half of 2017 - first half of 2018. The meeting was attended by new CSTO Secretary General Yuri Khachaturov. (BelTA)

(5) Decision on ...

alliance, he said, would continue with its training, assistance and advice mission. "We'll make decisions within weeks on the total troop numbers and the composition of the force we have in Afghanistan."

He said the fundamental task of the mission in Afghanistan

was not going to change. "We will not return to a combat mission...Our combat mission ended in 2015. Since then we have been focused on training, assisting and advising the Afghans."

The NATO chief said the Afghan forces had proved capable, professional and had been able to take over responsibility for the security of their country themselves. "And that's a big achievement," he added.

Stoltenberg said they were now looking into requests regarding especially some areas like more education and training special operation forces and air forces. "These are key enablers ...because this is key for enabling the Afghans to be able to fight terrorism themselves and to stabilize Afghanistan. Stoltenberg and May met ahead of the upcoming meeting of NATO leaders in Brussels on May 25th. (Pajhwok)

(6) UAE Hosts ...

The aim of the event was to explore ways how to deal with and bring to a halt drugs cultivation, production and trade. Sadat said the Afghan youth needed world's attention to rescue them drug addiction and provide them facilities like education, health, sports and jobs. He said the Afghan youth between five and 30 years old constituted the country's 70 percent population. Sadat said the conference participants shared their presentations and ideas and each was tasked with a specific responsibility. (Pajhwok)

(7) Iran, Afghanistan...

human trafficking, militancy and smuggling. Earlier, speaking at a seminar called on Afghanistan to check cross border movement of terrorists. The Adviser also asked Kabul to take action against TTP operating from the Afghan soil.

The Adviser said Pakistan has always made sincere efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan. He stressed that political solution can only pave the way for durable peace in the neighboring country. He said peace in Afghanistan is vital for peace and security of Pakistan. (APP)

(8) Zakhilwal ...

to talk to resolve this."

He also informed Sartaj Aziz that the Pakistani forces had not only crossed into Afghanistan in Chaman alone but also in many other spots including in Angoor Ada, Ghulam Khan, Khwaja Kheder mountains and many other spots.

Zakhilwal said he suggested to the Pakistani advisor that their recent London agreement was precisely the mechanism through which such issues could be addressed and resolved before they lead to any unfortunate incidents or further deterioration of relations.

"The Afghan side has continuously conveyed its genuine desire for resolving our issues through constructive talks, engagement and with desire for improved neighbourly relation."

On Wednesday, Sartaj Aziz was quoted as saying by the state-run news agency, APP, that strengthening border management with Afghanistan and Iran was top priority to avoid terror incidents and cross-border infiltration of terrorists.

Replying to a question, Sartaj Aziz said: "Neither Afghanistan nor Iran is our enemy". (Pajhwok)

(9) WJ to Govt:...

demand. Nasima Niazi, another member of the house from Helmand, warned against giving the corruption issue an ethnic twist. The president, she said, spoken the truth, as a poor man's son would never be appointed as a diplomat due to corruption in the foreign ministry.

Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai, deputy speaker of the lower house, said the fight against corruption was the will of common Afghans and the issue should not be made ethnic.

He stressed the need for national unity and asked the president to take practical steps against corruption because the government was duty-bound to set things right, not to make a fuss. (Pajhwok)

(10) US Senators ...

"And all of those people who love Obama -- he's responsible for it and it's disgraceful and I'm outraged by it."

The final proposals for a planned troop increase in Afghanistan are expected to cross Trump's desk this week. US officials say the likely range for the US troop increase in Afghanistan is between 3,000 and 5,000 troops, but could be as low as 1,500. The increase would be to accelerate training missions for Afghan forces and well as to fight the Taliban. It is unclear when Trump will make a formal decision.

Democrats expressed skepticism over prolonged engagement in the conflict without a specific goal or endgame.

Armed Services committee member Bill Nelson of Florida said he supported sending additional troops but said the US did not have much of a choice.

"The alternative -- if they were to leave -- it's going right back into the hands of the Taliban," Nelson told CNN's Wolf Blitzer on Tuesday, saying that he wanted to work toward a peace settlement.

Nelson said the situation in the country presented difficult problem for the US, and reminded him of the situation in Syria.

"I think the increase of some three to five thousand troops is a step in the right direction but be sober about the future," he added.

Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin was skeptical the troops would make a difference.

"We have been engaged in this war for every 15 years and we are still struggling to determine how it can end favorably for the best interests of the United States and the Afghan people," he said on MSNBC Tuesday morning. "We have to ask ourselves a question: How long will this go on? How long will it be a battle, and when does it become a permanent occupation?"

Democratic Sen. Gary Peters, who sits on the homeland security and Armed Services committees, declined to weigh in until a plan was released.

"Over the last 16 years, the United States has spent trillions of dollars on the war in Afghanistan and lost over 2,000 American lives," Peters said. "I will be fully evaluating any plan that involves increasing the number of forces in Afghanistan to ensure that there is a clear strategy and end goal before the United States commits large numbers of additional troops." (CNN)

(11) Hekmatyar ...

warmly welcomed Hekmatyar and the HIA delegation and later the delegation offered fateha for the deported soul of the former High Peace Council head.

Ustad Rabbani was killed by a suicide bomber who posed as a peace envoy at his Kabul residence about six years back. The attacker had concealed the explosive in his turban.

Hekmatyar, who arrived in Kabul from eastern Laghman province about 20 days ago, wasn't in Kabul when Rabbani died. (Pajhwok)

(12) No Deadline ...

our allies," Spicer said. Meanwhile, the Afghan ambassador said the number of troops should be determined by a winning strategy. We would welcome any decision by the United States to support Afghan forces in the ongoing battle against terrorism, which threatens us all."

Hamdullah Mohib said Afghanistan had not invited the terrorist groups. "Our country is but the stage on which nearly two dozen of them have gathered to destroy a peaceful world order. They cannot be allowed to win." (Pajhwok)

(13) Afghan Migrant's ..

Sea in northern Turkey. A married father of two, Abbas told Anadolu Agency the reason for their migration was to try and have a better life.

He said that Afghanistan had many problems, as terror continues to claim lives and unemployment ruins daily life for ordinary people.

His film documents the hard journey faced by migrants and

the dangers many face along the way.

He had a message for those considering leaving home, "Think twice before you decide on migration. It is not the easy route you dream of."

Turkey was his second port of call after Iran. "There were some problems in Iran," Abbas said. "Our children were not admitted to school and we couldn't obtain a residence permit."

"We migrated to Turkey because it provided what Iran did not."

For those on the road, there are many dangers, he warned. "Organ mafias are one of the biggest threats, if you cannot give the money they demand. You may fall into the trap of human traffickers, or be arrested by police."

"Freezing, drowning ... or being taken hostage are other risks on the way," he added. (AA)

(14) Young Actor ...

miseries of a society in a short artistic image," he said, adding it was the only Afghan youth who yet worked for his society through illustration.

Javid Abid has received bachelor in fine arts from Kabul University and had traveled to many provinces of the country for showing his skills. (Pajhwok)

(15) Locals Upbeat...

the area have welcomed the new development and said they are already using the route.

"We are traveling on the highway and so far we have not witnessed any serious problem on it," said Qurban Ali, a Maidan Wardak resident.

"Some days clashes break out but in general this year the situation is better compared to the past," said Hamidullah, a motorist.

Security officials said the reason for the improved security situation in the province is because the Taliban are now focusing their attention on the northern and north-eastern parts of the country and some in Waidan Wardak have withdrawn from the province.

"The information we have is that quite a few people came from northern Waziristan and other provinces but they suffered a lot and many of them were killed," said Faheem Qayem, police chief of Maidan Wardak.

Maidan Wardak is located just 35km from Kabul city and has eight districts. (Tolnews)

(16) Herat: Shadow....

in Merabad, Naharkhanjak, Poshta Aliabad and Dahan Ghar villages, the spokesman said.

He did not give information about the security forces casualties.

A resident of the area who wished to go unnamed said the Taliban target security forces to inflict casualties to them but he endorsed militants had been defeated in most of the areas. Taliban have not commented about the Adarskan operation. (Pajhwok)

(17) Slain Daesh ...

would try to help every student learn the lessons."

He said the ISIS leader had been a preacher (Tablighi) 2005 and 2009 and would visit various provinces. "Abdul Hasib was Salafi by orientation," one of the slain Daesh leader's cousins told Pajhwok Afghan News. Abdul Wali Wakil, a cousin of Hasib and a member of the Logar provincial council, said Hasib, his wife and a brother Abdul Hakim were killed and his mother was wounded in the raid.

He said Hasib had two wives --- one Afghan and one Chechen. His Afghan wife was killed with him in the incident, Wakil said, who revealed Hasib's real name as Hayat. "He was tall and capable and was known as Sheikh."

The cousin said Hasib from the Ahmadzai tribe was 37 years old and was actual resident of Akbarkhel area of Azra district. The ISIS leader survived by three sons and four daughters, said Wakil who named the sons as Abdullah Yemen, Abdullah Azam and Abdul Ahad. He said Abdul Hasib was fluent in Pashtu, Dari, English, Arabic,

Urdu, Chechen and Uzbek languages.

He said Abdul Hasib had studied in religious schools in Pakistan's Lahore and India's Deoband cities. Economic issues forced Hasib to join the Taliban five years ago and fought against Afghan security forces in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces.

About three years ago, Hasib developed differences with Taliban and defected to Daesh group, said Abdul Wali Wakil, who wondered Hasib's fast rise to the throne.

Hasbi was appointed as ISIS-Khorasan region leader after the death of the former chief in a US drone strike last year. Afghan and US authorities on Sunday confirmed the killing of Hasib in a joint operation.

Reports said 50 US Army rangers and 40 Afghan commandos were dropped by helicopter into Nangarhar and the Pentagon said the target was Hasib. Within minutes, the rangers were surrounded by heavy fire, causing the soldiers to call in support from an AC-130 aircraft, F-16s, drones and Apache helicopters.

The raid also resulted in the deaths of several other high ranking leaders of ISIS-K, the terror group's regional branch, and 35 ISIS fighters. Two American soldiers died in the attack, perhaps from friendly fire, the Pentagon said.

"This is the second ISIS-K emir we have killed in nine months, along with dozens of their leaders and hundreds of their fighters," said General John Nicholson, Commander US Forces - Afghanistan.

"For more than two years, ISIS-K has waged a barbaric campaign of death, torture and violence against the Afghan people, especially those in southern Nangarhar." In a series of Tweets on Sunday, President Ashraf Ghani's Office confirmed Hasib was killed in the attack.

"He was responsible for ordering the attack on the 400-bed hospital in Kabul, kidnapped girls and beheaded elders in front of their families," the President's office said. The Presidential Palace has also confirmed the death of Hasib. (Pajhwok)

(18) Explosion ...

recorded a 12 per cent increase in civilian casualties caused by pressure-plate improvised explosive devices - 218 civilian casualties (86 dead and 132 injured). (KP)

(19) Herat....

incident took place in the limits of Adarskan district early this morning.

He said seven civilians, including three children and two women, were killed when their vehicle struck landmine.

Jailani Farhad, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the incident but, he was unaware of casualties resulted in the blast. He, however, said an operation was ongoing in Adarskan district against militants and Mullah Hamid, the Taliban district chief was killed by security forces earlier.

Taliban have said nothing about the roadside bomb. (Pajhwok)

(20) Kandahar: ...

sparking a heavy clash between the sides.

Durrani said eight insurgents were killed and another six injured when the police returned fire. Security personnel escaped unharmed in the firefight.

Meanwhile, a civilian was wounded in a landmine blast in Misrabad area of Arghandab district, said the police spokesman, who blamed the Taliban for planting the landmine.

In Kandahar City, special security forces detained two suspects based on intelligence information in the seventh and 12th police districts. The detainees were accused of having hand in terrorist activities. The incidents come amid an uptick in targeted killings these days in Kandahar province. (Pajhwok)

(21) New Pictures ...

Defense James Mattis in Kabul on Monday.

"The strike in Achin was to send a very clear message to ISIS. If they come to Afghanistan they will be destroyed," he said.

Gen. Nicholson further added "We are going to keep going until ISIS-K is defeated in 2017. There is no space for ISIS-K in Afghanistan."

A number of the tribal elders also appeared in a gathering after the airstrike was conducted and urged for further strikes to clear the province from the presence of ISIS militants.

Nearly 100 ISIS militants including several of their key leaders were killed in the airstrike and the main tunnels network and other hideouts were totally eliminated. (KP)

(22) Afghan Christian...

German newspaper Bild that she 'was killed because she was a Christian'.

Police spokesman Stefan Sonntag said that 'a religious motivation is being examined, although we cannot confirm this yet'.

Dozens of neighbours, friends, and Christian leaders reportedly gathered to support the relatives of the mother at the victim's funeral, where about 200 attended. (Agencies)

(23) Trump to Decide ...

with his team ... and come to a decision on what's (in) the best interest of the United States."

It's reported that Trump's cabinet and top officials are deeply divided about whether the U.S. should pull out. Tillerson and Ivanka are said to want the U.S. to stay, while Pruitt and White House strategist Steve Bannon reportedly have been pushing Trump to leave the international agreement.

Trump himself has threatened to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement during his presidential campaign. (Xinhua)

(24) China Calls ...

integration process of Europe," said Liu. "We welcome a united, stable and prosperous Europe."

He said China stands ready to deepen China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership through Belt and Road initiative and other platforms for mutual benefit and win-win cooperation. (Xinhua)

(25) G7 Seen Urging...

official said. "The G7 is the best place for that because it's an informal setting where talking about multilateral issues is the priority." (AP)

(26) Trump Fires...

concur with the judgement of the Department of Justice that you are not able to effectively lead the bureau."

"It is essential that we find new leadership for the FBI that restores public trust and confidence in its vital law enforcement mission," Trump said.

Comey was appointed as FBI director in 2013, and has been embroiled in controversy during the presidential election in 2016 after announcing an investigation into the emails of Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton days before election day, a move Hillary said was partially the cause of her loss. (Xinhua)

(27) Trump Meets...

Tillerson said relations with Russia were at a low and needed to be rebuilt.

A Russian plan to stabilize Syria after more than six years of civil war was the most urgent foreign policy topic on the Trump-Lavrov agenda.

But their meeting will be impossible to separate from the Trump administration's unfolding political drama in Washington, where FBI and congressional investigations are looking into possible collusion between Trump campaign associates and the Kremlin related to the 2016 election.

U.S. intelligence agencies have asserted that Moscow meddled in the election to help Trump's chances of victory. (AP)

(28) India, Russia ...

of foreign affairs said. Rogozin came to India to attend the India-Russia inter-governmental commission on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation.

"The meeting was held as the two countries are celebrating 70 years of diplomatic relations," the statement said.

Rogozin arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday morning. (Xinhua)