

(1) Iran, India, ...

deepening energy ties. During the visit, India will sign a contract to build and operate the port of Chabahar on the Southern Iranian coast that is aimed at boosting connectivity with Afghanistan and central Asia. (FNA)

(2) Mansour's Death ...

innocent Afghan men, women and children. The Taliban should seize the opportunity to pursue the only real path for ending this long conflict - joining the Afghan government in a reconciliation process that leads to lasting peace and stability," Obama said.

"As an enduring partner of the Afghan people, the United States will continue to help strengthen Afghan security forces and support President (Ashraf) Ghani and the National Unity Government in their efforts to forge the peace and progress that Afghans deserve," he said.

"We will continue taking action against extremist networks that target the United States. We will work on shared objectives with Pakistan, where terrorists that threaten all our nations must be denied safe haven. After so many years of conflict, today gives the people of Afghanistan and the region a chance at a different, better future."

Obama went on to "thank our dedicated military and intelligence personnel who have once again sent a clear message to all those who target our people and our partners - you will have no safe haven. Today is a day for us to give thanks to all of the Americans who have served in Afghanistan for so many years with a selfless commitment to the security of our nation and a better future for the Afghan people."

Mansour was killed on Saturday when a U.S drone was fired on his vehicle in the southwestern Pakistan province of Baluchistan.

He had emerged as the successor to Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar, whose 2013 death was only revealed last summer. (Tolnews)

(3) Abdullah Calls ...

three main goals of the summit are:

1. Reaffirm commitments to humanity and humanitarian principles.
2. Initiate actions and commitments which enable countries and communities to prepare for and respond to crises and be more resilient to shocks.
3. Share best practices which help save lives around the world, placing affected people at the center of humanitarian action and alleviating suffering. (Tolnews)

(4) Mansoor Hindered ...

with a political, economical and social crisis as it attempts to tackle the Taliban's insurgency. The situation in the country has worsened in recent months, with the Taliban launching offensives in major cities. (Sputnik)

(5) Taliban Starts...

border. But Iran is still committed to peace and stability in Afghanistan," Hussain Jaber Ansarian, spokesman to Iran's Foreign Ministry said.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has slammed the U.S drone attack on its soil and said it was a violation of its national sovereignty.

"We will protest over the attack that happened after several years. The attack is a clear violation of Pakistan's national sovereignty," Sharif said.

Pakistan has said that so far it has identified one of the dead bodies at the site as a taxi driver; however, the second body is yet to be identified.

Meanwhile, a number of analysts said the Taliban in recent months tried to extend relationships with Iran and Russia to fight Daesh and that there is a possibility that Mansour traveled to Iran to escape ISI and talk with Iranian officials.

"Iran is afraid of Daesh presence in Afghanistan, because Daesh is an enemy to Iranian clerics; therefore, Iran wants to eliminate Daesh with the help of the Taliban. Previously, Taliban had strong affiliation to Saudi Arabia, but now there is a rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia and Iran

wants to expand its influence on the group [Taliban]," political analyst Shafiq Hamdam said.

"Taliban maintains close relations with Iran. There is a possibility that Mansour traveled to Iran for treatment, because Taliban does not trust Pakistanis," political commentator Nazir Mohammad Mutmaeen said.

It is said that Mansour became the target after he refused to endorse peace talks with the government in Kabul. (Tolnews)

(6) Mansour's Death ...

group and giving them safe havens," he added.

Mansour was killed in a drone strike carried out by U.S forces in Baluchistan province in Pakistan on Saturday.

He emerged as the successor to Taliban's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, whose 2013 death was only revealed last summer.

Meanwhile, Haroon Mir, a political analyst, said he believes that Mansour's death will not bring in any changes in the war in the near future.

"Mullah Mansour's death will not bring any changes on the battlefields, but overall, it is a very big change for Afghanistan and it will affect Taliban's future," he said.

A number of security officials meanwhile said that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is leading the Taliban's war in Afghanistan.

"If this strategy continues, they will bring other Mullahs to replace Mansour. They [Taliban] will be controlled from ISI's offices," Aminullah Amarkhil said.

Taliban carried out its bloodiest attacks in different parts of the country, particularly in Kabul, after Mansour became their leader. (Tolnews)

(7) 1,167 Militants ...

at least 711 operations have been conducted across the country since the operations were launched late in the month of March.

He said the operations are mainly aimed at targeting the senior leaders of the anti-government armed militants and the key regions under the focus of the operations are northern Baghlan, northeastern Badakhshan and eastern Nangarhar province.

Sediqi also added that the Minister of Interior recently visited the southern provinces to coordinate the military operations in a bid to improve the situation of the southern provinces, specifically the southern Helmand province.

He said the Minister of Interior has instructed the Afghan police forces to use all force to suppress the insurgency activities of the Taliban militants. (KP)

(8) U.S Drone ...

Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) held on 18th May had reiterated that a politically negotiated settlement was the only viable option for lasting peace in Afghanistan and called upon the Taliban to give up violence and join peace talks." (Tolnews)

(9) U.N. Envoy...

we have a humanitarian fund targeting education," said Brown, the former British prime minister and now U.N. Special Envoy for Global Education.

"A fund that plans - not just for weeks or months - but for years in support of a child's development. And a fund with a contingency reserve allowing us to act when a crisis hits ensuring no begging bowl has to be circulated," he added.

On average, only two per cent of global humanitarian appeals are dedicated to education. Despite growing needs, funding for education in emergencies has almost halved since 2010, according to the London-based Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

"Without school, young children caught up in emergencies are at risk of becoming the youngest laborers in the field, the youngest brides at the altar, the youngest soldiers in the trench, and in some cases, the youngest recruits vulnerable to extremism and radicalization," Brown said. (Reuters)

(10) Mansoor's Death ...

declared his successor who did not only bring any changes to the

policies and approaches of the group but intensified committing more atrocities against the Afghan people.

The former NDS chief further added that the death of Mullah Mansoor opens new doors of opportunities both in terms of politics and military to Afghanistan. He said the Afghan government should mobilize thoughts of international community and Afghan people towards the main part of the war so that further pressures are brought on Pakistan besides increasing military aggression to weaken the group.

According to Saleh, unity among political elites, the government forces and further coordination among the security institutions in a bid to have better use from the available opportunity. Pentagon and the Afghan government have both confirmed that the vehicle of Mullah Mansoor was targeted in an airstrike in the southwest of the town of Ahmad Wal.

However, the Afghan government said an investigation is underway to confirm that death of Mansoor which would be announced as soon as they receive final information confirming his death. (KP)

out several days ago. Mansour has been Taliban's top commander since the death confirmation of the group's longtime leader Mullah Mohammad Omar in July 2015.

"I want to thank the US forces that carried out this important operation, and reaffirm that we will continue to disrupt networks and individuals that threaten the United States and our forces abroad," Carter said. "The Department of Defense will also continue to support the government of Afghanistan's effort to build a brighter and safer future for the people of Afghanistan."

Afghanistan is experiencing significant political, social and security-related instability, as radical extremist organizations, including the Taliban, continue to stage attacks against civilian and state targets. (sputniknews)

assets. This agency is reportedly funded by the U.S and is mentored by the CIA. When asked to comment, the CIA declined.

According to the report, Afghan and U.S officials said the program's goal was to exploit divisions that came in the wake of the announcement of the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Omar's, death last year.

The officials told the newspaper that the program targets Zabul, Helmand, Paktika, Farah and Herat provinces, where insurgents, unhappy with the Taliban leadership under Mullah Mansour, defected to Mullah Mohammad Rassoul's faction.

According to officials, Rassoul's faction and other splinter groups have been getting cash, ammunition and weapons from the Afghan government.

However, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi rejected these claims. "The Afghan government does not support any Taliban groups and we categorically reject such claims as baseless," he said.

The Wall Street Journal meanwhile quoted the Taliban as saying that a rival Taliban faction as well as Pakistan was spreading propaganda linking them to the government.

"We do not receive any assistance from the government and we have no relationship with them," said Mawlawi Ghulam Mohammad Hotak, a commander under Rassoul.

The report stated that the U.S-led force in Afghanistan also denied meeting or supporting any members of the group. A coalition spokesman said in response to queries about coalition resources and facilities being used to assist Rassoul's group it was "possible that the breakaway Taliban factions have been able to acquire some" weapons or other equipment, but they weren't given to the insurgents "directly or indirectly."

But Afghan officials familiar with

the program reportedly said they are willing to run such risks if the potential outcome is a weakened Taliban.

"It's a game. The tactics of war: Sometimes a friend, and sometimes a foe," said a senior Afghan Special Forces battalion commander who has been involved in supporting Rassoul's faction. "We are military people. We execute orders."

The Taliban was thrown into complete disarray in July last year when news emerged that Mullah Omar, the group's leader, had in fact been dead for two years. Refusing to accept his successor, Mullah Mansour, a number of high-ranking members split from the group.

Rassoul was one who broke away and formed his own group - which is believed to be the largest of the splintered groups. (Tolnews)

(13) Common Enemy's...

they still they are faced with threats by militants in the district. "We go to areas, about which we receive information, and then we fight militants. They [insurgents] don't have the ability to resist us," said Mohammad Osman, a police officer in Herat.

According to reports, at least \$300 million USD was spent on the construction of the dam over the past decade.

The dam will produce more than 40 megawatts of power and will provide irrigation water for over 80,000 hectares of agricultural lands. (Tolnews)

(14) Airing Female...

Sana, a young girl who directs social programs in a radio channel in Kandahar, said she is concerned about the decision by the local government. "The order by Kandahar officials will affect women's roles in other sectors as well," she said.

Kandahar journalists meanwhile called on the Ministry of Information and Culture to avoid limiting the freedom of speech in the province.

"We urge the relevant organizations to defend journalists' rights to react in this regard and push the relevant officials to cancel the order," said Nasibullah Popal, a reporter in Kandahar.

"The decision by Kandahar officials is a violation of the freedom of speech and, in fact, it is silencing the voice of freedom," said journalist Abdulkawi Harooni.

Meanwhile, Kandahar Information and Culture Director Hazrat Wali Hotak said programs in a number of radio channels in Kandahar are not acceptable and that they had warned them to bring changes to their programs; otherwise, they will face legal action by local authorities.

"We have never ordered a ban on female singers' songs, but activities of a number of media outlets are not tolerable and they should bring changes to their programs," he said.

According to officials, 11 radio channels are active in Kandahar. (Tolnews)

(15) Ehsanullah Bayat...

among the top 25 Public Colleges in the United States.

The NJIT Alumni Achievement Award recognizes members of the NJIT community who have made exceptional contributions in the areas of Social, Educational and Technical projects. Dr. Bayat, a proud alumnus of NJIT's Class of 1986, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. (Monitoring Desk)

(16) 24 Development...

Since its inception in Panjsher province, the NSP has been able to execute 114 uplift projects in different sectors including transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, etc while the work of another 166 is currently in progress in various communities. (PR)

(17) Killing Taliban ...

Taliban is the only solution to peace in Afghanistan.

He said US has been generally opposed to engaging in peace talks with the Taliban, whether Afghan or Pakistan. "Though it backed the so-called Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process and

verbally supported talks with the Taliban, its actions haven't contributed to peacemaking in Afghanistan and Pakistan," he said.

Rahimullah Yusufzai, expressing his views, said that Taliban are committed to fight against US and in that case there are no hopes for the peace process in the war torn country. (IRNA)

(18) World Humanitarian...

responsibility," he said. "From now on everyone should share the burden."

"We have to adopt a new system that would put the human beings at the center," he said. (Xinhua)

(19) UK Drugs ...

"Barmy!" The head of research at top UK drugmaker GlaxoSmith-Kline said the hiatus would come at an especially bad time, given a raft of promising new treatments in company pipelines, including novel cancer medicines and gene therapies. (Reuters)

(20) At Least 145...

the bomb blasts underscored the need to press ahead with Geneva peace talks after a Feb. 27 ceasefire collapsed in April as violence intensified in a war that has killed at least 250,000 people. (AP)

(21) Singapore to...

said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in a statement on Monday.

Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan has also written to his counterpart Mangala Samaraweera to convey condolences, MFA added.

According to SRC, a team is on standby to be deployed for relief work in communities affected by Cyclone Roanu, which had left a trail of destruction in Sri Lanka. Secretary General/CEO of SRC Benjamin William said the organization are on high alert, watching the storm very closely.

"Working in partnership with Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, we expect SRC's humanitarian aid to reach at least 15,000 affected people within the next few days," said Benjamin William.

The heavy rainfall in Sri Lanka has caused a devastating impact. At least 92 people have been killed while 500,000 people have been affected by the floods and landslides which lashed out across the island country since last week. (Xinhua)

(22) India Tests ...

using air-breathing propulsion. The seven-metre RLV prototype was used as a flying test bed to evaluate technologies the state-run space agency developed to reduce the cost of launching satellites into the Earth's polar and geo-stationary orbits.

"The long-term objective of this mission is to reduce the launch cost by 80 percent of the present cost by using a reusable vehicle," Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) director K. Sivan told local media.

Rockets and support systems for launching satellites and space exploration missions are made at the space agency's VSSC at Thiruvananthapuram in southern Kerala in southern India. (Xinhua)

(23) Britain Grants ...

act as a guarantor.

A government spokesperson told Xinhua from capital Male that they had heard of Britain's decision but would refrain from commenting further at the moment. "We have heard about Britain's decision and will be discussing it," the spokesperson said.

A criminal court sentenced Nasheed to 13 years in jail last year on charges of terrorism, which Nasheed said was an act of political revenge by the present government.

Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) said the trial, which lasted less than three weeks, was "blatantly politicized" and was widely criticized in the Maldives and abroad. His party said Nasheed was repeatedly denied legal representation and the right to appeal. Nasheed was elected into office in 2008 and in February 2012, he was ousted in a coup. (Xinhua)

(24) 2 Terrorist ...

responsibility for the latest suicide bombings, although the Yemen-based al-Qaida offshoot is believed to be behind most such

attacks in the past, which usually targeted security and government officials.

Yemen, an impoverished Arab country, has been gripped by one of the most active regional al-Qaida insurgencies in the Middle East. (Xinhua)

(25) Israeli PM ...

that negotiators from his party hit "an impasse" with the treasury over the demand of better pension terms for former Soviet Union migrants.

"Our conditions for entering the coalition were known in advance," Lieberman said in a statement to the press on Monday. "I am waiting for a good offer. All we have received thus far has not been acceptable to us," he added. The lawmaker said the party is making an "honest effort" to solve the disagreement, yet said that "we can't move forward if the will isn't there on the other side," referring to the treasury's stance.

Around 1.6 million migrants from the former Soviet Union reached Israel between 1989 and 2006, according to official figures. Lieberman himself and many members of his constituency are former Soviet migrants. (Xinhua)

Anan Calls for Transformation of Africa's Agriculture to Meet Nutrition Needs

LUSAKA - Former United Nations (UN) secretary-general Kofi Annan on Monday called for transformation of Africa's agriculture in order to meet nutrition needs. Speaking at a high-level meeting aimed at achieving nutritional security in Africa on the sidelines of the African Development Bank (AfDB) annual meetings in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, Annan said transforming Africa's agriculture will result in nutrition security. "Malnutrition remains a major barrier to development in many African nations, but we have global consensus on what targets we need to reach, along with a roadmap for action," he said.

"One of the most critical steps we can take to achieving nutrition security is to transform the continent's agricultural sector, because it's not just about the amount of food that we grow, it's also about the type of food that we eat. We need agriculture to be nutrition-smart," he added.

The event was organized in partnership with the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition and outlined a vision for a new high-level effort for increased investment in nutrition across Africa. Co-chairperson of the Global Panel and former Ghanaian President John Kufuor during the same event outlined intent to create the African Leaders for Nutrition, which aims to bring together Heads of State, Finance Ministers, and leaders from key sectors across the continent to champion increased investment in nutrition.

"The African Leaders for Nutrition will be an opportunity for Heads of State and ministers to use their voices to commit their actions to invest and their positions to truly lead. Not only is it about health, but is also about economics. The potential gains are significant and lasting. That's why we're calling on leaders across Africa to join us in elevating the issue of nutrition on the continent and to make investment a priority," he said. (Xinhua)

Calls for Dialogue to Restore Peace in Republic of Congo

BRAZZAVILLE - One of the nine candidates in the March 20, 2016 presidential elections in the Republic of Congo, Anguio Nganguia Engambe, over the weekend urged Congolese authorities to organize national dialogue to restore lasting peace in the country. "One of the most powerful weapon in our society is dialogue. This is why we believe there is need for all Congolese political leaders to sit together and find consensual solutions to the challenges facing the country," Engambe said. He said the proposed dialogue should be led by the prime minister and representatives of the nine candidates in the March 20 presidential elections. (Xinhua)