

**(1) Govt. Alone ...**

alone cannot deal with the so many challenges from the war to joblessness, corruption, internal differences and foreign interferences," he added. (Pajhwok)

**(2) US Think...**

representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, had originally intended," the report added. But such a solution is misconceived and too difficult to achieve in the short term in ways that would improve the current trajectory of the conflict in Afghanistan, the think-tank continued.

Authored by Ashley Tellis and Jeff Eggers, the policy paper said another version of the option was the concept of regional neutrality, wherein Afghanistan gradually walked out of its security-based partnerships in favour of implementing a cooperative security agreement signed by all neighbours and near-neighbours.

"This solution, however, is more implausible than it initially appears, as Kabul--without assistance from Washington--would have difficulty enforcing such an agreement if it were violated by one or more of Afghanistan's neighbours," the experts wrote. Eggers and Tellis said "Regional options--resolving the India-Pakistan conflict, creating a neutral Afghanistan, or squeezing Pakistan--are too difficult to rely on alone."

Yjey went on to warn that unilateral options -- either pursuing major escalation or a complete disengagement -- were equally implausible because of their high costs and risks. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Ghani Home...**

the departed souls of security forces martyred in terrorists attacks and wished swift recovery for those injured. Ghani along with his team went to Makkah city for performing Umrah. Ghani also met King Salman, US President Donald Trump and some other participants of the conference on the sidelines of the conference. (Pajhwok)

**(4) US Committed**

of state from more than 50 countries, including President Ghani and US President Donald Trump attended to the summit. It was Trump's first international trip as president. Ghani called the summit as vital and the meetings of heads of state as beneficial for joint efforts against terrorism. (Pajhwok)

**(5) MoPW Saves ...**

protection and care Mahmud Baligh said sidewall along a 50 kilometers portion of the Kabul-Nangarhar highway was completed at a cost of \$4 million. He said mobile teams to control heavy vehicles had been appointed and work on digitalizing truck scales was underway.

The minister said tax on heavy vehicles was increased from 296 million afghanis in 1394 solar year to 307 million afghanis in 1395 solar year.

The construction of a 60 kilometers railway line from Khwaf border of Iran to Ghorian district of western Herat province had also started and a 22 kilometers of the track had so far been built, he said.

The Aqina port in northwestern Faryab province would be also connected with Turkmenistan after completion of a 3.5 kilometers railway line project, Baligh said.

He said Torkham-Jalalabad, Turghundi-Herat, Sher Khan Bandar-Kunduz, Khulam-Mazar-I-Sharif and Shebrghan-Andkhoy-Aqina ports railway routes had been studied and the railways overall length was estimated at 688 kilometers.

Baligh said 15 billion afghanis were saved in road projects of Faizabad-Baharak, Baharak-Ashkasham, a road between Dara-i-Sauf district of Samangan and Yakawlang district of Bamyan, and a road between Qaisar area of Faryab and Laman area of Badghis province.

He said some contracts were awarded at lowest prices and changes were brought to others, thus saving the money. He said nearly 46 million afghanis were

spent on snow-clearing campaigns.

Fighting against corruption Baligh said organizational structure of the ministry had been changed, provincial posts were announced through the Capacity Building for Results (CBR) program and a special plan for procurement had been developed for prevention of corruption.

Eleven companies that failed to keep essential cooperation with the MoPW had been blacklisted and they would be no longer able to implement any projects, he said.

He said the ministry with support from the Asian Development Bank had created a strategic master plan for transportation infrastructure that would be implemented until 2036.

The ministry's own plans of protection and care of roads and construction of railways across the country have also been prepared. (Pajhwok)

**(6) 40 Violence...**

she said, suggesting that cases of four other girls should be decided by courts.

Provincial deputy governor, Mohammad Alam Ishaqzai, said prevention of crimes against women was the duty of all parents and officials, stressing awareness campaigns in districts and the provincial capital in this regard.

He directed the organizations concerned to deal with crimes against women in line with the Constitution. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Jamiat-E**

of the province.

Noor described the motive behind his likely decision as the major political activities he has eyed for the future, including the upcoming elections.

Speaking a ceremony in Mazar-e-Sharif city on the eve of Nowruz on 21st March in Mazar-e-Shari city, Noor thanked President Mohammad Ashraf Ghan for trusting him to once again assume charge as the governor of Balkh.

However, he said he has intentions to step into major political activities, emphasizing that the decision regarding his resignation will be taken once consulting with the elders, his political allies, and others close to him. (KP)

**(8) Etisalat ...**

to join them in this humanitarian act and help their own people who are in need of blood donation,' said head of Central Blood Bank of Afghanistan, 'We assure all the donors that their donated blood will only be given to deserving patients.'

As a part of its social responsibilities, Etisalat Afghanistan has been committed to support Afghanistan in the areas of health, education and other key areas that lead the country toward a better tomorrow. (PR)

**(9) 6 Badghis ...**

National Army (ANA) had been relocated to a military base in the area. Only three policemen were injured in the clash.

A local security official, who requested anonymity, confirmed Bahauddin's statement and said security forces were equipped in the area and would soon launch an operation.

The source said security posts would be moved back to Bom Dara valley once the area was cleared of militants.

However, a Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi claimed the militants had overrun Bom Dara. He said Afghan forces had suffered heavy casualties and a large number of weapons had been seized by Taliban. (Pajhwok)

**(10) USAID....**

systemic injustice. While Afghan women have taken dramatic strides forward, female participation and contribution to the justice sector is an area that has been drastically inadequate to address these social issues women face daily.

A recent survey of the International Development Law Organization found that in 2013 Afghan women made up only

eight percent of the country's judges, six percent of prosecutors and less than one fifth of lawyers.

US Ambassador Hugo Llorens, representatives from the US Government, USAID, Afghanistan's Attorney General Mohammad Farid Hamidi, the Minister of Women's Affairs Delbar Nazari, and other dignitaries welcomed a number of the interns at the US Embassy and recognized the challenges faced by the women of Afghanistan.

"We are here to celebrate these remarkable young women who are pioneers and future leaders of Afghanistan's justice system and to celebrate their achievement, applaud their courage and inspire them to move forward and realize their dreams," Ambassador Llorens said. "As they do, they will be driving social change in Afghanistan and are key architects in creating a system of justice that promotes and protects all members of society."

"We are committed to increasing the number of female prosecutors in the country, and address the issues so many Afghan women face through our justice system," said Attorney General Hamidi. "We pledge our full support to the interns, and this program to address these lingering issues on a permanent basis."

This program is funded under USAID's Strengthening Education in Afghanistan, Phase II. The internship curricula includes: pre-entry training focusing on the development of practical skills, six months of internship in an AG Office; and a second week-long skills development workshop to provide additional training in the areas of legal writing, courtroom behavior, and the development of a network. The overall objective is to support the women in successfully completing their internships, to pass the open and merit-based AGO entrance examinations, and be employed in the AGO as female prosecutors. (PR)

**(11) 16 Suspects ...**

unless high level officers who are accused of conspiring over the incident are also prosecuted. "You should be confident that anyone who committed negligence while on duty will go on trial and will be investigated according to the plan. There are 24 suspects, so far sixteen of them have appeared in court," said MoD spokesman Mohammad Radmanish.

The hearing comes after a recent announcement by government that it had arrested over 24 individuals in connection with the attack, including some high ranking officers.

But, at Tuesday's hearing, only sixteen of the 24 suspects appeared in court. No details were disclosed about the court ruling on the suspects.

The attack on the military hospital is one of the most complicated attacks ever against a military installation in the country. Meanwhile, the report prepared by the fact finding committee has also not been shared with the public.

"We want to see if they are prosecuting lieutenant generals and officers who were on the list or if they are only prosecuting the lower ranking and less powerful individuals who have no backers," said head of the senate's security and defense commission Mohammad Hashim Alokozai.

"If they do not provide the media with information, the people will be unaware of the facts which will damage government's credibility and increase negative sentiments towards government," said a member of the access to information commission Ainuddin Bahaduri.

Back in March, a group of militants apparently associated with Daesh disguised themselves as doctors and stormed the heavily-guarded hospital in Kabul killing over 50 people and wounding dozens more.

Later, Afghan defense officials confirmed that some individuals from inside the hospital had helped the insurgents infiltrate the facility. (Tolnews)

**(12) 103 Militants ...**

increased their insurgency activities in some parts of the province during the recent years. The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces have stepped up counter-terrorism operations to suppress the insurgency activities of the terrorist groups as they attempt to increase attacks as part of their spring offensive normally launched every year as the weather gets warm across the country, allowing the insurgents to easily move between the provinces, plan, and execute attacks. (KP)

**(13) Militants ...**

13 wounded during a raid by Afghan special forces in the eastern province of Nangarhar, the provincial governor said. Among the those killed were two women and a child, the governor's office said in a statement. Six children and three women were among those wounded. Defence Ministry spokesman Waziri said officials were aware of the report but had not confirmed it.

"An investigation is ongoing," he said.

Afghan forces, backed by U.S. troops and air strikes, have been battling both Taliban and Islamic State-linked militants in Nangarhar, which is on the Pakistani border. (Reuters)

**(14) Explosion ...**

the report so far.

This comes as the Afghan intelligence operatives foiled plans by the Taliban group to carry out a series of attacks in capital Kabul.

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) in a statement said last Wednesday that a hideout of the Taliban insurgents was busted in capital Kabul, resulting in the killing of a Taliban insurgent and apprehension of two others.

According to NDS, the Taliban insurgent killed during the operation was actively involved in terrorist attacks and bombings along with his two other companions. (KP)

**(15) Taliban's...**

province.

This comes as the provincial police commandment in a statement said Monday that the Taliban group's shadow district chief for Qala-e-Zal was among 8 militants killed in the airstrike. The statement further added that the Taliban leader killed in the airstrike has been identified as Mawlawi Dost Mohammad. Kunduz is among the relatively volatile provinces in northern Afghanistan where the Taliban insurgents are actively operating in its various districts and often carry out insurgency activities.

The Taliban insurgent seized the control of Qala-e-Zal district earlier this month but the Afghan forces managed to retake it by launching a major operation on Tuesday, the 16th May. (KP)

**(16) 3 Rebels ...**

vehicles and four motorcycles were recovered from the smugglers.

Separately, three rebels were killed and four wounded in a clash that erupted during a clearing operation in Kashak-i-Kohna district, said the provincial police spokesman. Abdul Ahad Walizada.

He added the insurgents were killed in Khawaja Qalandar, Bawar Khan Shoji areas of the district. Security forces escaped unhurt during the offensive.

Taliban have not yet commented on the clash, but their spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi claimed two Afghan soldiers were killed and four others wounded in the Aman area of Shindand district. (Pajhwok)

**(17) 12 Killed,...**

injuries in the incident.

The majority of the road accidents are taking place due to bad conditions of the roads, lack of traffic signs as well as reckless driving which largely contributes to deadly incidents in the country.

This comes as at least 20 people were killed and dozens more were wounded in a similar incident on Kabul-Kandahar high-

way in mid-February this year.

At least 18 people were killed in separate road accidents on Kabul-Jalalabad highway and western Herat province of Afghanistan earlier in November last year. (KP)

**(18) Six Policemen ...**

attacked a police check post and clashed with security forces, provincial police chief Aqa Noor Kentozai said.

"The insurgents also took Abdul Malek, the commander of the check post, with them after he was injured in the clash," Kentozai said.

However, he did not provide further details about the attack. This comes just a day after at least 20 local and national policemen were killed in clashes with Taliban insurgents in southern Zabul province, local officials said on Sunday.

The clash started in Shajoy district of the province on Saturday night after Taliban insurgents attacked the district and clashed with police, said officials.

At least seven check posts fell to the insurgents but by late Sunday security forces had regained control of all check posts. (Tolnews)

**(19) 5 ISIS ...**

the largest non-nuclear bomb on ISIS hideouts in Achin district last month that resulted into the elimination of the largest tunnels network of the terror group besides leaving nearly 100 ISIS militants dead, including some of their senior leaders. (KP)

**(20) India's Election...**

Smriti Irani of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and opposition Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s general secretary Sitaram Yechury are two of the Rajya Sabha members whose terms expire in August. (Xinhua)

**(21) Turkey Summons ...**

and Turkish security personnel during Erdogan's visit.

On May 17, the U.S. State Department summoned Turkish Ambassador Serdar Kilic, and condemned the violent attack by Turkish security personnel on protesters as an assault on free speech. (Xinhua)

**(22) German Lawmakers**

visit. The confirmed German officials, who are to travel to Turkey as part of the official visit, include Green Party members Claudia Roth and Luise Amtsberg, Christian Democratic Union member Matthias Zimmer, as well as Social Democratic Party of Germany representative Niels Annen. The officials will not visit the Incirlik airbase, where German officials were previously denied access this month, a move that further worsened political tensions between the two nations. (Xinhua)

**(23) UNICEF Seeks...**

to sanitation and hygiene services," UNICEF said. The number of people in need has increased to 6.7 million, including 3.2 million people in crisis. (Xinhua)

**(24) NATO's Feel-Good ...**

vein, Trump, a New Yorker, is expected to unveil a memorial to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, placed at the entrance to the new NATO building that has been almost two decades in the making at a cost of 1.1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion).

NATO officials hope the steel wreckage from one of the Twin Towers will remind Trump that the only time the alliance has activated its collective defense clause was following the attacks on New York and Washington, a decision that also sent NATO into Afghanistan to fight the militants behind them. (Reuters)

**(25) Former CIA...**

open and closed sessions, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hear from Trump's top intelligence official, Dan Coats, and the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency regarding national security threats. Trump's national security leadership has said repeatedly that Russia is among the top threats because of its cyber capabilities. (AP)

**Distribution of e-ID cards start on August 14**

KABUL - Electronic identity cards or e-Tazkira officials on Tuesday insisted the written exam for post of ID cards distribution officers had been transparent, announcing August 14 the date when distribution process of the cards would begin.

On May 5, some 6,500 people participated in a written test to be appointed as e-ID cards distribution officers in provinces, with 500 aspirants making it to the office.

But some people complained about the conduct of the exam, saying the test should not have been taken in Dari language only.

On May 16, the Meshrano Jirga or upper house of parliament debated the issue and 20 lawmakers walked out of the house in protest.

The walkout was staged against not appearing before the house by Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) head Nader Naderi and Electronic Identity Card Authority (EICA) chief Humayon Muhtat, who had been summoned to provide information about the exam.

However, on Tuesday, both Naderi and Muhtat attended the house's session and briefed the senators about the exam and distribution of e-ID cards.

Naderi said the exam had been transparent and successful candidates were chosen based on their score.

He said most of the successful candidates came from poor families and they had not worked in any other offices before.

He said the successful candidates would be employed in Kabul and separate exams would be arranged in provinces.

He said the candidates would be given the right to choose language of his choice.

Naderi said such exams in future would be taken in both Dari and Pashto languages.

He said administrative reforms were vital for stability of Afghanistan and that all people should be provided equal services and the Afghans should support reforms for transparency in all the processes.

"Hundreds of other posts are still vacant in e-ID cards distribution offices, we want to make decisions by considering people's demands," he said.

Humayon Muhtat said the EICA had attracted commitments from donor countries to help generate jobs for thousands of Afghan youth.

He said there were no legal hurdles in the distribution of e-ID cards and the cards distribution process would begun on August 14 in compliance with a presidential order.

The employment process of officers in Kabul has been completed and their training and preparing related equipment are underway, he said. A majority of lawmakers at the end of the session agreed with the statements of the two officials. (Pajhwok)

**S. Korea Fires at Suspected Drone at Border with North Amid Missile Crisis**

SEOUL - South Korea's military fired warning shots at a suspected drone from North Korea on Tuesday amid tension over Pyongyang's latest missile test which drew international condemnation and a warning from China.

The identity of the object remained unclear, the military said, but Yonhap news agency said it was possibly a drone, more than 90 shots were fired in return and it disappeared from radar screens. The incursion came with tension already high on the Korean peninsula after the North's test-launch of a ballistic missile test on Sunday which Pyongyang said proved advances in its pursuit of building a nuclear-tipped weapon that can hit U.S. targets. The United States has been trying to persuade China, North Korea's lone major ally, to do more to rein in North Korea, which has conducted dozens of missile launches and tested two nuclear bombs since the start of last year, in defiance of U.N. Security Council sanctions and resolutions. (Reuters)