

**(1) We will ...**

also sends clear signals to neighboring countries that the Afghan government is resolute in fighting terrorism and it will destroy the terrorists," said Mirdad Khan Nejrabi, head of parliament's internal security commission. (ToloneWS)

**(2) Pentagon Does...**

its last leader Mullah Mansour was killed in an US air strike on Saturday.

The responsible thing for the Taliban leadership to do at this point would be to pursue a pathway to a peaceful resolution with the unity government in Afghanistan, Cook said in response to a question.

"That would be the responsible thing to do, because the Afghan forces with the support of the United States, our partners there, are going to continue to improve and show more skills and capabilities," he said.

"And they're going to continue to be able to work towards ultimately securing the country on their own. That's the ultimate goal here. They're going to have our support in the process. So the wise thing for the Taliban leadership to do would be to factor that into their decision-making and choose a different path. We will wait to see what they do," Cook said.

In the meantime, the United States is going to do everything we can to support the Afghan forces, to continue to bolster those forces, to make them more capable, more able to defend themselves, to defend the country.

"We've talked about the aviation assets that are now coming online; the training that continues for Afghan forces. This is a difficult situation and this does present an opportunity for the Taliban to chart a new path should they choose to do so. Well wait to see if they do the responsible thing," Cook said. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Pakistan Claims...**

announced his replacement, Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhundzada. Aziz slams US

Aziz said "In less than a year the peace process has been scuttled twice, at that time and right now again."

Islamabad, in its future interactions with Washington, Aziz vowed, will "make them realize that it is not advisable to interrupt the peace process" through such actions and demonstrate "consistency" in the U.S. policy to promote the Afghan peace.

He recalled that Pakistan brokered and hosted the groundbreaking meeting between Taliban and Afghan government negotiators in July 2015.

Aziz said that those talks were "scuttled at a key stage" after the news of the death of Taliban founding leader Mullah Omar was leaked to the media.

Pakistani officials had blamed that disruption on the Afghan intelligence agency.

Aziz also accused Washington of "not respecting" an understanding reached earlier this month in four-way talks on the Afghan peace process that efforts for a politically negotiated settlement will continue because years of use of force has not helped achieve the objective.

"We believe that this (military) approach will further destabilize Afghanistan, which will have negative implications for the region, especially due to the presence of large numbers of terrorist groups in Afghanistan," he said. "This particular incident of Mullah Akhtar Mansoor's death in a drone strike on 21 May has added to the complexity of the Afghan conflict."

Drone strike implications  
The foreign policy advisor reiterated the U.S. drone action violated Pakistan's sovereignty and breached "the principles of the United Nations charter governing the conduct of states", adding Islamabad has conveyed its concerns to Washington that it would have "serious implications for bilateral ties.

Pakistani authorities are still awaiting DNA test results before releasing Mansoor's body to his relatives for burial, adding the results are expected in the next couple of days. (VoA)

**(4) Taliban Leader ...**

of the Daesh, which established a foothold in eastern Afghanistan.

"The announcement of hardline cleric Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada as the Taliban's new leader will not reunite the movement, nor will it stem defections to the Islamic State," the report added.

On Wednesday, the US Defense Department told Sputnik that the appointment of Akhundzada as new leader of the Taliban will not interfere with US efforts to achieve reconciliation between the group and the government 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. (Sputnik)

**(5) Govt. Again...**

and Mullah Omar's eldest son, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob were selected as Taliban's new deputies. Mansour was killed on Saturday in a U.S. drone strike that targeted the car he was traveling in, in Baluchistan in Pakistan.

In the meantime, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Dawlat Waziri said at the joint press conference that since Mullah Mansour's death was announced the security forces have made considerable achievements on the battlefields.

Waziri said that "our intelligence report showing that the Taliban commander's contact with their leader is reduced and they don't know what to do," adding that "some of the commanders accepted the orders and some of them don't."

However, he said that security forces have increased their military operations in different parts of the country to clear insurgents.

Haibatullah is 56 years old and is from Panjwai district of Kandahar province. He reportedly now lives in Ghous Abad of Quetta city in Pakistan and was administrative deputy to Mullah Omar.

Haibatullah is also a religious scholar and is known for releasing Taliban statements to justify their presence in their war against the Afghan government and foreign troops in Afghanistan.

However it is said that the selection of Haibatullah as the Taliban leader was done without consultation with Mullah Rassoul, and experts said that conflict still remains among the Taliban.

Although the main reason for the killing of Mullah Mansour is said to have been because he was opposed to the peace process, it is not known what stance his successor will take in this regard. (ToloneWS)

**(6) Enlightening ...**

"The alternative plan is a treacherous plot for ethnic division in Afghanistan," member of Parliament Ahmad Bahzad said.

The movement said that if the route is not implemented through Bamiyan they will conduct wide scale protests.

"The government must cancel cabinet's decision and meet the demands of the people; these people will not be intimidated," Khalili said.

The commission on Tuesday suggested that the controversial line should go through Salang. The Enlightening Movement said that no other alternative except for the cancellation of the council of ministers' decision is acceptable for them.

The government meanwhile has pledged to provide 300 megawatt electricity to Bamiyan and central parts of Afghanistan.

The commission has suggested that a power network should be built in Doshi area and from there 300 megawatt electricity should be supplied to Bamiyan and central parts of Afghanistan.

The government has accepted the commission's findings and suggestions. (ToloneWS)

**(7) Gen. Brown ...**

and military experts are calling for Obama to lift the ban on targeting the Taliban, or as former U.S. Central Command chief and CIA Director David Petraeus recently put it, "take the gloves off."

"I hope this strike against the Taliban's top leader will lead the administration to reconsider its policy of prohibiting U.S. forces from targeting the Taliban," said Sen. John McCain in a statement issued hours after the announcement of the drone strike against Mansour. Brown, the three-star general in charge of U.S. Air Force Central Command, stressed that while he has the capability to expand the scope of airstrikes, it's not his call, read the article.

The Pentagon said this week that commander of the U.S. forces in Afghanistan Gen. John Nicholson will submit recommendations to Obama as soon as next week about whether to expand the air war in

Afghanistan, as well as whether to further delay a planned draw-down of U.S. troops. (ToloneWS)

**(8) Karzai Urges...**

country for the sake of honourable life.

Karzai also asked the Afghan government to stop executing death row prisoners because the only way to reach a lasting peace and stability was brotherhood and unity. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Kandahari Woman...**

areas, adhere to ancient tribal traditions, women usually stay at home and men are traditionally responsible as the bread winners. In Kandahar and neighboring Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan Provinces where Taliban militants are active and people deeply believe in traditions, women working outside the home is regarded as a taboo.

However, Kulsoom, along with her seven-year-old son, Abdul Chafcar, sells cucumbers from the handcart from dawn till dusk to support her three-member family.

"I have no choice but to work and support my family," Kulsoom explained emotionally, adding, "working on the street is not shameful, begging on the street is shameful, sitting idly at home is also a shame," she said. (Xinhua)

**(10) Habatullah ...**

the group's affairs in the past 15 years, he said.

He added that Mansour also had relations with Iran and Russia during his leadership, a capability he believed Habatullah was lacked of.

Raziq called the new Taliban leader a contentious person among the group and said, "All the Fetwas ordered for fighting were given by Habatullah during the leadership of Mansour,

Every Taliban official tried to take the leadership of their group and they even did not care about holding funeral ceremony for Mansour, he added.

"I have very accurate information that Mullah Habatullah, Mullah Yaqob, Mullah Agha and Sarajuddin Haqqani were moving in black film cars belonged to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for meetings, they finally chose Habatullah as new leader," Raziq said.

He added that Habatullah was chosen by Pakistan without considering suggestions of the Taliban's other officials.

Habatullah would announce his plan in the next few days and he would be then transferred to a safe place for his residence, he said. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Senior Advisor ...**

further details. However, Governor Aminullah Sharaq told Pajhwok in a telephonic conversation that he was in Kabul right now and had been busy meeting NDS and Ministry of Defence officials.

"I just became free and this is the first call I picked up, I am not aware of the issue (Azimi's arrest)."

The NDS had earlier detained two senior government officials and several other officials on corruption charges in the province. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Afghan War...**

would face defeat, he declared. The NATO official said the Afghan ground and air forces had improved during the past year and had many achievements.

By choosing offensive state, the Afghan forces could dismantle the plans of terrorists, he said, adding terrorists have been defeated once again in northern Afghanistan and now attention was being paid to southern provinces.

The Taliban have also no courage to fight face to face against Afghan security forces, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Hothkel Residents...**

consumption might be increased. Based on the calculation, the five years electricity charges could be accounted as 29 million afghanis, which has not been paid to DABS. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Construction ...**

for the project, MUDA said. MUDA earlier said the Phase-I of the housing project in Khwajah Rawash was supposed to be completed in the month of May 2013 but the project works was delayed due to administrative issues and increase of blocks from 30 to 77, consisting of 1,944 apartments.

(KP)

**(15) "Keeping History ...**

Afghanistan's rich cultural heritage since 2002 and also a view to the future and the important work that lies ahead. It highlights the diversity of this heritage and the need for continued engagement to protect and preserve the country's valuable cultural treasures. The ceremony was held in the Babur Gardens, one of the world's most famous Islamic gardens which have been restored after historic efforts held since 2002 by Prince Karim Aga Khan. The garden subscribes layers of meaning rooted in religious symbolism which set them apart from their European counterparts, despite the fact that conceptual, social and political aspects maybe shared. (PR)

**(16) Mansour's ...**

sustainable US commitment regarding counter terrorism struggle and the US had proved its co-operation with Afghanistan in this regard.

He said the Afghan government had asked the US to include the two Pakistan-based groups in its black list for committing terrorist and disruptive activities.

He said security forces had been ordered to deal with individuals spreading anti-Afghanistan propaganda in accordance with the law.

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Tuesday arrested a political analyst after he called the slain Taliban leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, as a martyr. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Analysts Negate...**

and hope it is prepared for the signature. We have to create proper grounds inside the party members about the agreement and we have to also persuade the Taliban to enter inter-Afghan dialogue. We also suggested some conditions for reforms within Kabul government which are acceptable to all parties including the Taliban," Hekmatyar said.

He called on Afghans to work together and naturalize the conspiracies against the peace process in the country.

"We want to urge upon our nation to foil plots of those interested in war. The nation must recognize the internal and external enemies of the peace [process] and not ask any foreign country for peace, but ensure peace through their own determination and understanding," he said.

Meanwhile, critics have dismissed Hekmatyar's remarks and perceived siding with the Taliban, asking government to clarify the conditions agreed upon to bring him to Kabul, terming secrecy in the peace talks with the militant group as national treason.

Joining the critics, meanwhile, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) said that those groups who enter the peace process must denounce violence and cut ties with terrorists. (ToloneWS)

**(18) Blockade...**

security while going to their offices.

Also a government officer, Rahman was waiting in Pul-I-Mahmod Khan area for opening of the road to go to Kabul Market and shop his needs.

"We have only Friday weekend and should shop all our needs for one week today, but the blockade of roads has created problems for us," he said.

Abdur Raouf, a shopkeeper in Jambhorat Market, said that he was not allowed by security forces to open his shop without any reason. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Analysts ...**

a number of Afghans whose sons had been killed in the Syrian war. "Parents have sent their sons to defend the sanctum of the Ahlulbait (family of Prophet Mohammad). Everyone is not prepared to make sacrifices, only those render sacrifices who the most faithful among Muslims," Ayatollah Khamenei said, speaking to families of the victims.

Some Afghan citizens meanwhile have expressed regret over the issue. (ToloneWS)

**(20) 12 Daesh ...**

in the Khogyani district. He said the attack took place in Pirakhel area of Wazir region and the dead militants included a commander. Meanwhile, Nangarhar police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal said an airstrike killed two Islamic State militants in the

Kot district.

The Daesh group has so far said nothing about the drone attacks. (Pajhwok)

**(21) Policewomen ...**

he was fighting alongside them against the Afghan forces.

But she eventually managed to dissuade her father from fighting with the Taliban and got him to join the peace process.

Dalawar said that she only wants to serve her country and along with fellow police force members is trying to implement the law and prevent terrorist activities.

"When you wear the uniform you must defend the country, you must have dignity and no one can be a police officer if you are not educated or not a champion or not clever," she said.

Officials at the police training center said Dalawar was a brave woman.

"Najiba's heart is very big and she is unflinching and always defends her stronghold, government and government policies," said Noor Alam Naweed the training center office manager.

Dalawar serves the country shoulder-to-shoulder with men and she said that she will defend her country to her last drop of blood. (ToloneWS)

**(22) Officials ...**

Shinwari and Ghorband districts which are among important areas. Terrorists can be seen here and they have some activities," he stated.

Security officials meanwhile said they have overcome the insecurity problem on the highway which is still insecure, according to those traveling through it.

"We were faced with lots of problems on the highway in previous years and the reason was lack of personnel, but now public order police force members have been sent to the area and also there is a reserve unit of the army which clears the highway of militants, if needed," said Ziaurrahman Faez Sayed Kheli, security chief at Parwan police headquarters. (ToloneWS)

**(23) 6 Bus ,...**

at their disposal, they would start constructing them and would put them into service.

Kunduzi thanked the ministry for approving the project for Nangarhar and assigned a commission with land acquisition for construction of the proposed terminals and reporting back on the process in next meeting.

Deputy provincial council head, Dr. Lal Mohammad Durrani, also pledged support to the provincial government in constructing the terminals. (Pajhwok)

**(24) Gold Price ...**

African black for 260afis and the same amount of Madina green tea for 240afis.

But wholesale prices varied from retail rates in parts of the city. A retailer in Dahna Bagh area, Ahmad Navid, sold a 24-kg sack of rice for 1,800afis and a 50-kg bag of Kazakh flour for 1,350afis.

Similarly, he sold a 49-kg bag of sugar for 2,350afis, a 16-kg tin of Shaista ghee for 1,100afis, a kilo of black tea for 280afis and the same quantity of Indonesian green tea for 260afis. (Pajhwok)

**(25) G7 Summit**

But the summit failed to come up with detailed action plans on bolstering growth, only noting that the G7 member states should act "individually and collectively."

On countering terrorism, the G7 leaders "strongly condemn terrorism in all forms and manifestations ... terrorist organizations pose serious challenges to peace and international security." France, a G7 member, and Belgium were attacked by militants related to the Islamic State, which also launched attacks in other countries. (Xinhua)

**(26) Extension...**

decision to Russia's fulfillment of the Minsk agreement on the Ukraine crisis.

The West has long accused Moscow of failing to meet its obligations, which Russia has denied. (Xinhua)

**(27) Putin Visits ...**

Putin's visit to Greece "is particularly important and will only have positive results", Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for International Economic Relations Dimitris Mardas told ANA-MPA shortly before the talks. The Russian leader's visit was organized as part of the 2016

cross-cultural Greece-Russia Year and following Tsipras' visit to Russia in 2015 and Pavlopoulos' visit to Moscow in January. (Xinhua)

**(28) Islamic State...**

Islamic State said in an online statement it had captured several villages near Azaz.

International medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres said it evacuated patients and staff from a hospital in the area as the fighting got closer, and that tens of thousands of people were trapped between the front lines and Turkish border. (Reuters)

**(29) Greece ...**

the tents that housed up to 13,000 refugees at Idomeni since February in the muddy field next to the border crossing.

The squalid Idomeni camp, which had become a symbol of Europe's policy of border closure, was sealed off to media and most volunteers since Tuesday, when police units started transferring the 8,500 refugees who remained in the area to newly established centers some 100 km to the south at the suburbs of Thessaloniki. (Xinhua)

**(30) Delay in...**

the Syrian moderate opposition to accept the cessation of hostilities and separate themselves from the al-Nusra Front, but Moscow said this issue has not been solved so far.

The plan on ceasing hostilities, backed by Russia and the United States, took effect late February. (Xinhua)

**(31) Saudi Arabia ...**

"he said.

"To know its interests and its friends and enemies, the Iraqi nation doesn't need the remarks by the foreign minister of a country which has been the biggest agent and sponsor of instability and terrorism in Iraq, the region and the world," he added.

"Instead of trying to deceive the public opinion and distort facts, Adel al-Jubeir must not forget that his country is currently perceived at the international level as the first and most dangerous sponsor of terrorism and the spread of insecurity in the world," Jaber Ansari added. (PressTV)

**(32) Iraqis Fleeing ...**

with help from a U.S.-led coalition, are expected to push later this year to retake Mosul, Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq.

"We've seen actually a spike in the numbers of Iraqi refugees who are risking the dangerous crossing into Syria in a desperate bid. Just picture this, we have refugees fleeing to Syria. So it's a desperate bid to escape (IS)-held Mosul," UNHCR spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said. (Reuters)

**(33) Cyprus Says...**

Akinci scheduled for Friday and canceled a meeting with a UN official after Akinci's presence at an official dinner in Istanbul which was offered to world leaders attending the World Humanitarian Summit. (Xinhua)

**(34) EU Launches**

shows that grassroots efforts help environmental policies to take hold ... We need to step up our work with member states to close the gaps. The earlier we act, the less costly it will be," said European Commissioner Karmenu Vella for environment, maritime affairs and fisheries. (Xinhua)

**(35) Al Qaeda**

natural gas export facility at Belhaf, Shabwa is divided among al Qaeda, government troops loyal to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, Houthi forces and armed tribes. Tribal sources say all sides are benefiting at a time of extreme fuel shortages around the country. (Reuters)

**(36) China Expresses ...**

global concern," Hua said. As the holder of the G20 presidency this year, China hopes G7 members will join the agenda of G20, which is more representative platform, and play a more constructive role in global economic governance, Hua said. (Xinhua)

**(37) Tajikistan ...**

These mine-strewn areas are a legacy of the country's disastrous civil war in the Nineties

Asked about clearing the areas along the Tajik-Uzbek border, Ibrohimzoda noted that that problem would be solved only after demarcation and delimitation of the dispute stretches of the Tajik-Uzbek border. (Asia-Plus)