

(1) Over 700 ...

According to Sami, around 45 more bodies were recovered from a shipwreck on Friday and many more were reported missing.

Meanwhile, the AFP news agency reported that 19 refugees were rescued from a boat in English Channel in a separate development. (KP)

(2) US Presence ...

a defense ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said.

It is said that the US forces so far have directed several missions in which dozens of top insurgent commanders had been killed.

"For the first time, the Americans showed they are committed to Afghanistan's stability and longstanding security including support to Afghanistan's political process and the government and these are part of the U.S mission, the killing of Mullah Mansour is one of the new initiatives of the U.S," political analyst Haroon Mir said. In line with the BSA, the U.S has committed to defend Afghanistan's territorial integrity and national sovereignty against external threats and to foil foreign interference in the nation's internal affairs.

"These bases can protect the U.S's long term interests in the region and it is in our interests as well. If we do not have major and credible support, we will be eliminated in regional games," political analyst Nasrallah Stanekzai said.

It is believed the killing of the Taliban's former leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour inside Pakistani territory signaled a shift in U.S's counter-terrorism policy.

It appears that the U.S is fighting back to repress militants inside Afghanistan and beyond, something predicted in the BSA, said analysts.

This comes after the U.S Congress's committee on military affairs passed a new law on the basis of which the U.S forces are granted special powers to target the Taliban, Daesh and Haqqani network in Afghanistan. The new law has defined some additional authorities to U.S forces and says that the American troops must be provided with more resources and that 9,800 U.S troops will stay in Afghanistan until April 2017. (Tolonews)

(3) Add Pakistan...

should be added to the list of terrorists."

Gulalai Akbari, another member, also asked the administrative board of the upper house to order the government to cooperate with strategic allies of Afghanistan and add Pakistan to the UN's blacklist.

A number of other senators stressed on peace and stability in Afghanistan and agreed with other colleagues in adding Pakistan to blacklist.

Farhad Sakhi, the first deputy chairman who chaired the session, also supported Sayyaf's views. He called peace the only and just demand of all Afghans. He asked the international community to be honest in cooperating with Afghanistan on the issue of restoring stability. (Pajhwok)

(4) Asif Decries ...

Pakistan was keeping all options open on the American incision over F-16 fighter jets. Asif alleged that international powers, including the U.S. were providing ammunition to India for use against Pakistan. (ANI)

(5) Afghan-Chinese ...

competition and wants to serve the communication and exchanges between the two peoples in the future by further enhancing her Chinese proficiency.

Zhao Jingwu, Chinese director of the Confucius Institute, saw a bright future of Chinese education in war-plagued Afghanistan. He believes that there will be more and more Afghan Chinese learners in the future as the Belt and Road Initiative has entered into the implementation stage. (Xinhua)

(6) NPC Approves ...

labour and social affairs, were also approved, the statement said adding 180 million afs were also saved in the contract of the ministry of defence, the

statement added. (Pajhwok)

(7) Children among ...

Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in its latest report.

UNAMA further added that consistent with 2015 trends, ground engagements caused the highest number of total civilian casualties, followed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), complex and suicide attacks, as well as targeted killings.

According to UNAMA, actions by Anti-Government Elements caused at least 60 per cent of casualties while Pro-Government Forces caused at least 19 per cent. (KP)

(8) Kunduzi ...

Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi thanked Pajhwok and the president for decorating the reporter from Nangarhar. "Pajhwok is a credible news agency with significant coverage of events and happenings.

"We congratulate the news organisation on winning the top governmental award," he said, promising support to journalists. He vowed to cooperate with media on access to information.

A provincial council member, Israrullah Murad, said: "This award goes to all reporters in the eastern region. We are proud of Fahim winning it and congratulate Pajhwok."

At the end of the meeting, Fahim said: "I thank my office Pajhwok Afghan News for selecting me for the award, and then the Presidential Palace for honouring me with the prize." He said Pajhwok would always try to cover all local events with neutrality. (Pajhwok)

(9) 6 Daesh ...

have not yet commented on the drone strike. Such raids in the province, intensified recently, have yielded positive results. (Pajhwok)

(10) Flood-Affected...

director, with help of foreign and domestic organisations, they have been able to arrange assistance including floor, oil, rice, sugar, beans, tea and drinking water for the affected families.

In addition, the families were provided with blankets, necessary appliances, clothes for children, tents and medicine. Deputy Governor Dr. Gul Mohammad Baidarsaid they secured 200 tents for the victims.

Mohammad Azim Musavi, administrative chief for Teshkan district, said 385 families who lost their houses to the floods were in need of assistance but no help had been extended to them as yet.

Sheikh Hamidullah, head of the local development council in Shuhada district, said 220 families had not been provided with assistance. The households had lost their houses and livestock to the floods. (Pajhwok)

(11) Clash Kills...

investigation. Meanwhile, director of a civilian hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif city, Noor Mohammad Faiz, in talks with Xinhua confirmed that two police bodies and two injured police personnel were taken to the hospital this morning.

A senior police officer, Sayed-Sarwar Hussaini, confirmed the incident, but declined to provide details, saying investigation is underway to determine the situation. (Xinhua)

(12) 14 Policemen...

commander Mohammad Nasim were wounded during the attacks.

A local resident, Sulaiman confirmed the militants had stormed security posts in Shalwal area. "It was 11pm when the Taliban launched attacks on security posts. They planted bombs on local roads before conducting assaults," he said. Both sides suffered heavy casualties, he said. But Sulaiman did not have exact figures. Security officials have not yet commented on the incidents.

However, Taliban spokesman Qari Yousof Ahmadi claimed they had captured eight security posts in Nahr-i-Saraj and Greshk districts. He said 61 policemen were killed and many others wounded. (Pajhwok)

(13) 700 Migrants ...

second boat sank quickly, and reportedly took hundreds of people down in the waters, according to Di Benedetto.

The people who spoke with the humanitarian officers, both survivors of the second boat and witnesses from the first one, were mainly of Eritrean origin, the spokesperson told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

(14) Trump Criticizes ...

pointed out, with the end of Obama's last term in office approaching in January 2017, he hopes to cement his legacy as an advocate of nuclear disarmament by claiming the title of the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima.

On the Japanese side, Tokyo wants to take Obama to Hiroshima, not because it wants an apology or calls for a nuclear-free world. Instead, Japan is more interested in highlighting the tragedy of Hiroshima while ignoring the sufferings of countries that it brutalized before and during WWII.

Japan is trying to downplay its role as an aggressor and attempting to portray itself as a victim, observers believe. (Xinhua)

(15) Hollande...

because the town has been able... to unite for peace and Franco-German friendship."

Both leaders are expected to make a call in speeches later for Europe to pull together to confront its current challenges.

Under persistent rain, Hollande and Merkel began the commemoration by laying a wreath at the German military cemetery at Consenvoye, just north of Verdun.

Sharing an umbrella, they walked between rows of black crosses embossed in white with the names of the dead that stretch down the hill of the cemetery where 11,000 German soldiers are buried.

By visiting the German cemetery, Hollande and Merkel were following in the footsteps of their predecessors Francois Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl. (AFP)

(16) 6,000 People ...

sive to control areas in northern al-Raqqa under heavy U.S. air cover.

The Observatory, which relies on a network of activists on ground, said the SDF advance has slowed down, as the IS militants were prepared well for the battle.

The aim of the SDF offensive was to control a triangle between Aleppo and al-Raqqa to cut the IS routes between both provinces.

Mare' is also of great significance as it borders Turkey and constitutes an important supply line to the rebel fighters in northern Aleppo. (Xinhua)

(17) UN Peacekeeping ...

far in 2016, the number of allegations recorded against peacekeeping and special political missions is 44, and 39 of them involve uniformed personnel.

Ladsous said the troop contributing countries bear the major responsibility to investigate the allegations and to bring those responsible to justice since the UN has no power to punish them.

"What we would like to see is that a tribunal is organized in the country where the allegations took place," he added, saying on-site court martial proceedings shall happen more systematically.

Ladsous also said he has suggested taking DNA samples from every peacekeeper that joins a peacekeeping mission, so it will be easier to match those samples once there are accusations of rape.

"If the soldiers and policemen are really aware of it, I think that will deter them a lot from abusing the trust of the people in such a lamentable way," he said. (Xinhua)

(18) Peace in East ...

also becoming a new flashpoint for confrontation between Russia and the West amid a US-led military build-up near Russian borders.

On Sunday, Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said a US missile system to be located in Poland does not pose

a threat to Russia's security.

President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Poland and Romania could find themselves in the sights of Russian rockets because they are hosting elements of a US missile system that Moscow considers a threat to its security. (PressTV)

(19) Syrian Migrant...

NGO offering pro bono legal aid to refugees.

Refugee rights campaigners claim that the EU-Turkey migration deal has been thrown further into doubt after this decision, potentially creating a precedent for thousands of other similar cases.

The committee states in a document seen by Xinhua that "the temporary protection which could be offered by Turkey to the applicant, as a Syrian citizen, does not offer him rights equivalent to those required by the Geneva convention."

It is the first such decision after the implementation of the March 18 EU-Turkey deal, which repeals the first-grade committee verdict for the Syrian refugee, who is detained in Moria camp of Lesbos.

In a recent interview, Skountianellis told Xinhua his client was a French Literature student at the Aleppo University. His fiancée is also a refugee in Sweden.

On April 6, 2015, he left his homeplace and went up to the border with Turkey. A trafficker showed him a secret passage, he told the committee. He worked in Turkey to raise money to continue his trip to Europe and paid 700 dollars to a smuggler he met in a coffee shop in Izmir to reach Greece.

He was taken to a Turkish beach near Dikili and departed by boat to Lesbos on March 20, 2016. Since then he has been living in Moria Camp. (Xinhua)

(20) Kurdish Forces ...

in east of Mosul sparking heavy clashes with IS militants at the outskirts of the villages of Muftia, Zahra Khaton, Wordic and Tal Aswad, a Kurdish security source told Xinhua.

The Peshmerga members and their armored vehicles managed to enter the villages of Muftia and Zahra Khaton, after driving out the extremist militants, while clashes continued around the other villages, the source said without giving further details about casualties.

Late in March, Iraqi forces and Peshmerga have launched first phase of major offensive and recaptured several IS-held villages in south of Mosul, as part of their preparations to flush out IS militants from Mosul, the capital of Nineveh province.

According to Iraqi officials, the operations to free Mosul, some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, and other IS-held parts of Nineveh province will be carried out by the Iraqi army, Peshmerga, and U.S.-led coalition, with participation of paramilitary units from local volunteers, including Sunni Arab tribesmen.

In Iraq's western province of Anbar, Iraqi forces and allied paramilitary Sunni tribal units repelled a pre-dawn attack of dozens of IS militants on the town of Heet, some 160 km west of Baghdad, a provincial security source told Xinhua.

The attackers first seized some districts inside the town, while fierce clashes erupted with a police force and tribal fighters, the source said. (Xinhua)

(21) Intense...

pro-Houthi forces supported by armored vehicles arrived in Bayhan and Usylan districts to counter the government forces there.

The fighting is still going on between the two warring sides in the Bayhan district that is located in the borders linking Yemen's province of Shabwa and northern Marib province, according to the local sources.

Yemeni experts said that the pro-Houthi forces took advantage of the ongoing ceasefire and the absence of the Saudi-led warplanes to reposition and advance on ground militarily.

Sunday's fighting occurred despite the cease-fire that came into force on April 10 and was supposed to pave the way for the Kuwait peace talks, but both

warring sides have complained of violations by each other, along with continuing heavy shelling and airstrikes. (Xinhua)

Uganda Stops Military Cooperation with North Korea

ENTEbbe - Uganda on Sunday announced that it is breaking its military cooperation with North Korea over its continued nuclear proliferation.

Sam Kutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs told reporters during the visit of South Korean President Park Geun-hye that Uganda will not cooperate with North Korea over its failure to respect the UN sanctions.

"We are disengaging from our cooperation with North Korea as a result of the UN sanctions. Our policy is that we don't support nuclear proliferation," Kutesa said in Entebbe, 40km south of the capital Kampala.

He said Uganda supports nuclear energy production for peaceful purposes like medicine and energy.

The South Korean President is in Uganda as part of her African tour that will take her to neighboring Kenya.

She has already been to Ethiopia where the African Union is headquartered. (Xinhua)

Russian Glonass Navigation Satellite Enters Orbit

MOSCOW - Russian navigation satellite Glonass-M entered orbit more than three hours after blastoff on Sunday, the federal space agency Roscosmos said.

The satellite entered the designed orbit at 3:16 p.m. Moscow time (1216 GMT), while contact was made in the normal function mode with ground control, Roscosmos said in a statement.

Glonass-M was sent into space by a Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket, as the liftoff took place at the Plesetsk cosmodrome in Russia's northern Arkhangelsk region at 11:44 a.m. Moscow time (0844 GMT).

The launch was carried out under the control of an operational crew of the Russian Aerospace Force, and the satellite separated from the third stage of the rocket nine minutes after takeoff, according to Roscosmos.

Glonass is a global navigation system operated by the Russian Aerospace Force for both military and civilian use.

It is a Russian equivalent to the U.S. Global Positioning System and China's Beidou system, providing real-time positioning and speed data for land, sea and airborne receivers worldwide. (Xinhua)

Five Soldiers Killed in New Clashes in Eastern Ukraine

KIEV - At least five government soldiers were killed and four others were wounded in eastern Ukraine in the past 24 hours amid rising confrontation with independence-seeking insurgents, officials said Sunday.

Insurgents have intensified their shelling of government positions in the past day, carrying out 30 attacks with small arms, grenade launchers and mortars, said Olexandr Motuzanyk, a spokesman for the Ukrainian military.

Government troops have "more than once" fired in response, he said, adding that the situation was particularly tense near the Butovka coal mine, located near the insurgent stronghold of Donetsk, and in the government-controlled town of Avdeevka.

There were no confirmed rebel or civilian casualties in the conflict over the past day.

The violence in eastern Ukraine has intensified since last week following the end of the so-called "Easter truce" that started on May 1, when the country celebrated Orthodox Easter.

On Tuesday, seven government

soldiers were killed and nine others were injured in fresh conflicts, which marked the worst daily losses of the Ukrainian army over the past year.

More than 9,300 people have been killed and almost 22,000 others have been wounded in fighting in eastern Ukraine that started in April 2014. (Xinhua)

United Nations slams killing of five blue helmets in central Mali

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations on Sunday condemned the killing of five UN peacekeepers in the central Mali as a "heinous act of terrorism," which took place on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, observed annually on May 29.

Five UN peacekeepers were killed in an ambush in central Mali earlier Sunday, with another blue helmet seriously injured, according to preliminary information reported by the UN mission in the West African country.

The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) also deplored the "heinous act of terrorism." The fact that it occurred on the day set aside for the global community to honor UN peacekeepers makes the attack all the more shocking.

According to a press statement from the UN Mission, ambush occurred at about 11:00 a.m. local time near the town of Sevare in the central Mali.

The mission expressed its condolences to the families of victims, as well as to the government and people of Mali, and wished a speedy recovery to the injured peacekeeper.

"I condemn in the strongest terms this despicable crime in addition to other terrorist acts that targeted our peacekeepers, which constitute crimes against humanity under international law," said Mahamat Saleh Annadif, the special representative of the UN secretary-general and head of MINUSMA.

"This heinous act of terrorism is even more shocking (as) it was perpetrated there during International Day of Peacekeepers," Annadif, referring to the annual May 29 commemoration.

The International Day of UN Peacekeepers was declared by the UN General Assembly in 2003 to pay tribute to the professionalism, dedication and courage of all the men and women serving in UN peacekeeping operations, and honor the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

Meanwhile, Annadif urged that every effort be made to identify those responsible for these heinous crimes against friendly forces of Mali and the Malian Armed Forces, five of whom were also killed on May 27.

He also stressed that the MINUSMA is more committed than ever to pursuing its mission in support of Mali and its people.

MINUSMA was established by the UN Security Council on April 25, 2013. Under the relevant Security Council resolution, the UN mission is mandated to support the political process in the West African country and carry out a number of security-related stabilization tasks, with a focus on major population centers and lines of communication and protecting civilians.

Since a military coup struck Mali in March 2012, its northern region has served as a stronghold of the rebels.

Mali is now in the process of restoring democracy with the help of the United Nations and African regional bodies, including the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Despite initial security improvements in 2013, the situation in northern Mali has deteriorated since the beginning of 2014. An increase in incidents involving improvised explosive devices, mostly targeting Malian and international security forces, has impeded the return to normalcy and resumption of economic and development activities. (Xinhua)