

**(1) Foreign ..**

countries was one of the key reasons behind the ongoing war in Afghanistan.

"The Afghan government believes that the war will not end in the country until the regional and ultra-regional countries end their support of terrorism," said MoFA spokesman Ahmad Shekib Mustaghni.

Three months ago, during a meeting with the Qatari foreign minister in Germany, President Ashraf Ghani called for the Taliban's political office in Qatar to be closed if the group continued its attacks in the country. But government has done nothing to follow this up.

"Unfortunately the Taliban continues its political activities in their office in Qatar and they establish their contacts from the same office with regional and ultra-regional countries and there is no obstruction to prevent them," said Mohammad Natiqi, former Afghan envoy to Libya.

"Until now, Afghanistan has not outlined an effective policy alongside its major ally the U.S; some countries will continue their support of the Taliban," said MP Ali Alizada.

"During his visit to the Middle East, U.S Defense Secretary James Mattis, warned Qatari officials about their country's continued support to the Muslim Brotherhood and other radical Islamic movements that are linked to extremist organizations such as al-Qaeda and ISIS (Daesh)," the Al Arabiya reports read. (Tolonews)

**(2) 100,000 ...**

of reasons for the decline.

Some of the fighting is continuing in the same areas as last year, meaning many have already fled.

Secondly, poverty has risen and some people no longer have the means to move large families to other places.

Insecurity has also spread in cities previously viewed as safe havens.

Taliban and Islamic State (IS) militants have carried out numerous attacks in Kabul, for example, and hundreds of civilians have been killed or injured since January.

The previously peaceful north now accounts for 42 percent of all displacement. The south, which is considered the heartland of the insurgency and saw some of the fiercest fighting in recent months, accounts for 31 per cent. (RFERL)

**(3) Australian...**

troops would build on the coalition's air superiority in the region, predicted a former head of the Australian Army University of Canberra's National Security Institute chief Peter Leahy.

He said: "I suspect this is not special forces, it's more likely to be specialist advisers for air [support], and for enabling forces, and perhaps a few people supporting the Afghan higher command."

"Frankly, the job's not finished. Afghanistan is on the edge and they need support and I think the approach at the moment is the Afghan National Army should be fighting for Afghanistan."

The ex-general said the deployment of extra troops could see Australia's longest war, which began in 2001, become a 20-year commitment.

"We probably left too early. President Obama, he pulled out too early, he got the numbers down too low because this is about hold and build.

"This is about nation building and we need to set the conditions so that Afghanistan can feel as though it has a legitimate government."

The ADF's commitment to Afghanistan is due to expire in 2018 but the defence minister said it was under constant review. Since 2001, 42 Australian troops have died in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(4) 37 MoI Staffs...**

also added that efforts are still underway to trace and arrest the corrupt personnel of the ministry, insisting that any official or personnel of the ministry found guilty of having role in corruption and other cases will be dismissed and referred to judiciary. (KP)

**(5) MoD Fires ...**

base are under investigation, if they are found guilty, they will be prosecuted," added Waziri.

'Govt accused of secrecy' Following the attack, the Afghan government pledged to launch a broad investigation into the incident, but local officials have cast doubt over government's dealing with the issue and instead accused it of keeping details secret.

On Tuesday, the head of Balkh provincial council said that government is trying to keep the results of the investigation quiet, and said government needs to identify and make known the names of those who masterminded the attack.

"We demand a full inquiry into the incident in order to identify the covert hands involved in the attack and to ensure the masterminds are prosecuted," said the head of Balkh provincial council Afzal Hadid.

Meanwhile, a number of military experts have said that keeping details of such attacks will have a negative effect on the country's stability.

"The security institutions are not taking the issue of infiltrating the ranks of the enemy seriously and they also do not provide enough information about these (attacks), this is an act of oppression against the soldiers and their families," said military analyst Jawed Kohistani.

Concerns have been raised that as with the Shaheen Corps attack, government appoints task forces to investigate such incidents but often results are not made public.

Some lawmakers in parliament have meanwhile said that government's move to announce the establishment of fact finding teams was their way of misleading the public and concealing the truth. (Tolonews)

**(6) 70pc of ...**

of the government in the current situation is to create awareness among people about the water condition and the Ministry of Information and Culture with support of media and imams should create awareness in this regard," Humayon said.

He warned Kabul residents would be forced into shifting elsewhere if the situation continued because Afghanistan lacked facilities to clean polluted water.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Naem Tokhi, hydrology head at the Ministry of Water and Energy, said the increasing population, lack of sewage system, recycling system, urban canalization and a proper system of collecting and trucking out solid waste and a lack of standard septic tanks were reasons behind the polluted water.

He asked people to be careful in using and protection of underground water.

People's concern about contamination of underground water Sher Ahmad, a resident of Hotkhel area of Kabul, said: "The underground water in our area started getting polluted after an American camp discharged its wastes here."

He said the water in their area was not drinkable. "When we boil it, an oily layer emerges on the water surface. The government has been unconcerned so far."

Ahmad said he installed a water filter in his home but it did work. Local residents suffered from stomach pain, diarrhea, ameba and other water borne diseases, Ahmad added.

Shafiullah, a resident of Bagh-i-Daud area of Kabul, said: "We had the best water in the past, but the water was affected after people installed private septic wells in the area."

"The government-supplied water turned polluted in recent months, Sometimes, garbage parts could be found in it, when we prepare tea from it, mysterious materials settle at the bottom of the glass," Seema, a 35-year-old mother from Panjshir Family area of Kabul, said.

Zubaida Seddiqi, a pediatrician in Indira Gandhi Children Hospital, said studies showed the underground water in Kabul had been contaminated with chemicals and harmful bacteria.

She said water pollution caused many diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, ameba, anemia and weight loss. Such diseases could paralyze or even kill a human. She said researches done in the past showed that except Macro

Rayan area, the underground water in all other regions of Kabul was polluted with microbes and chemicals.

The number of patients using the polluted water has increased in Kabul, she said.

Around 400 people, affected by using unhygienic food and water, daily visited the Indira Gandhi Children Hospital, she said, adding the number of such patients might be in thousands in Kabul.

Officials of the Ministry of Water and Energy confirmed the issue and said efforts were underway to resolve it.

Mohammad Naem Tokhi said water recycling systems would be installed on the Logar and Panjshir rivers for resolving the water pollution problem.

He said an artificial system that purifies water by machine would be also activated with USAID support this year. (Pajhwok)

**(7) EU Announces...**

Afghan refugees and the internally displaced in Pakistan.

The assistance will focus on areas such as protection, food, emergency shelter, health, water, hygiene, and sanitation. The EU said it would also contribute around 2 million euros for disaster risk reduction in Central Asia.

The EU Commission has funded humanitarian assistance programs in the region since 1996. (RFE/RL)

**(8) Residents ...**

Residents who fled to the highway said that Taliban snipers have taken up positions inside people's homes.

"The operation is going on in Dand Taloka and other areas, there has not been any kind of operation in Mullah Sardar village," said a resident of the village, Abdul Jalil.

"All people have been displaced, we left each and everything in the village," said another villager Rahmat.

"There are many families who have been split and they do not have information about the fate of their loved ones," said a member of Kunduz provincial council Safiullah Amiri.

The Taliban has over run Kunduz city twice in the past two years.

According to Kunduz agriculture department, war in the province over the recent years has destroyed ten percent of their crops.

This year already five percent of fields have been destroyed in the area due to war. (Tolonews)

**(9) NSC Reacts ...**

could go across the border and finally their main goal is Russia."

Emphasizing that the Russians and other neighbouring countries to the north of Afghanistan may not understand the extent of the situation, with numbers of fighters in the region growing at an exponential rate, he said "As I have seen in the last three to four years, we're in a very bad state in Afghanistan."

Massoud also added that there are about 2,000 foreign fighters in Badakhshan only, insisting that more militants started to come inside Afghanistan as the US forces were starting to leave the country.

"They've come together and they're increasing in size every day. Last year, there were 300. Now there are 2,000 foreigners in Badakhshan, which is a danger for everyone," he said. (KP)

**(10) Govt. Approves...**

for internal auditors of Ministry of Finance, Solar and Information Technology contract for Ghazni university, procurement of 100 CE boards for Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology, procurement of agricultural equipment for 17 provinces, construction of water reservoirs with capacity of 500 cubic meters belonging to the water supply and canalization company, contract for the maintenance of the Public Credits Record system.

Contract for the purchase of 95 Pickup vehicles for district chiefs and heads of the provincial independent directorate of local governance, procurement of electric equipment for Badpakh district of Laghman, procurement of 3 card printers for the Ministry of Finance, procurement of meat for the Ministry of Borders and Tribal

Affairs, advertisement contract for public awareness belonging to the Ministry of Counter-narcotics, and gas procurement for the related directorates of NDS were among the other contracts approved during the meeting. (KP)

**(11) Above 1,000 ...**

Mohammad Ayoub Amiri, acting education department director of Bamyan, said: "The war, violence, and poverty over the past few decades have rendered many people illiterate; but people have recently showed keen interest in at least learning how to read and write."

Salima, 40, told Pajhwok: "I recently registered for the literacy course in order to be able to read and write." She started her studies from class one and hoped she would be able to learn reading and writing until the end of the year. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Kamela Seddiqi...**

country and would exercise utmost to remove the challenges facing Afghanistan's trade. (Wadsam)

**(13) Afghanistan...**

Tajikistan's minister of transport Khudayar Khudayayr Begzada.

The two officials made the remarks on Monday at the conclusion of a two-day meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Trade, Social and Technical Cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

The Tajik minister also said that trade volume between Afghanistan and Tajikistan has noticeably increased over the past three months. (Tolonews)

**(14) Appointed 3 ...**

governor's house as acting district chief.

During the three years, Solamal was once sent to Janikhel district as acting head instead of Lazha Mangal.

To substantiate his assertion, the official showed his appointment letter signed by the President and orders from the Attorney General's Office, and IARCSC to reporters.

Solamal added Zurmat was an important district of Paktia but the town had been without the administrative head for the last six months.

He refused to be appointed as Zurmat district chief due to personal issues.

Paktia's acting governor Abdul Wali Sahi denied to speak on the issue.

Paktia has been without governor over the past 20 days and its affairs are being run by the deputy governor, Sahi. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Shaheedani...**

terminal and when I reached the VIP section, I gave my ticket to a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to take my boarding pass. After few minutes, the MoFA representative came and said the counter is closed and you don't have the permission to board the plane."

The MP said: "I personally went to the representative of KamAir named Masoud. He said I will solve the problem. After a few minutes, I contacted him again and again, but he did not respond. Then I contacted the minister of transport and aviation. The minister called the airport and said that the plane is not on the runway and I should wait."

He said people in Bamyan who were awaiting his arrival had prevented the plane from landing on their own and he had not directed them to do so.

He criticized the local government of Bamyan, saying the officers arrested in connection with the incident were guilty. The local judicial organs were investigating the matter and there was no need to call the airport officers to Kabul, Shaheedani added.

Meanwhile, Farid Peykar, Kam Air official, told Pajhwok Afghan News Shaheedani reached the airport when the plane was on the runway.

He said they had enough evidence to prove that Shaheedani had contacted people and head of 1st district police, Shaheedani own son and ordered them to block the runway by throwing stones on it. The airline had officially submitted evidence related to the, Peykar said.

Wolesi jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy tasked the house commission concerned to examine

the issue seriously and report back to the house. (Pajhwok)

**(16) US Chopper ...**

"The helicopter is still on the land and two other aircrafts are hovering over it. We don't know why the chopper landed here."

On the other hand, Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed the chopper had been shot down by fighters. He claimed all on-board were killed in the incident.

There has been so far no word from US forces in this regard.

Babos is located eight kilometers north of Pul-i-Alam and is currently controlled by insurgents. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Iranian, ....**

who were arrested are in front of your cameras and the nation can judge for themselves," said Rahimi.

Rahimi said that the Pakistani and Iranian detainees confessed that Daesh militants are being funded by Iran and Pakistan.

Kamal, a 20-year-old from Iran, who was recently arrested by security forces in Nangarhar, said he joined Daesh in the province two weeks ago.

"Through a telegram I joined Daesh, first I went to Nimroz province and then I went to Kabul and I spent two nights in a hotel in Kabul and then from Kabul I went to Chaparhar district of Nangarhar province," Kamal said.

Fakhruddin, a Pakistani, was also arrested by the Afghan forces in Nangarhar - but he said he regrets having joined Daesh.

"A man named Abdul Rahman sent me and now I regret what I have done," said Fakhruddin.

Referring to the arrest of the Iranian national, the Iranian embassy in Kabul has said that they heard the about the arrest but are waiting for the Afghan government to wrap up its investigations regarding the issue - only then will they comment, they said.

The embassy also said that Iran was strongly opposed to extremism and terrorism in any form. (Tolonews)

**(18) Woman ...**

on the ice issue.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a man and two of his sons were killed from Mullah Raqib's family and a woman from the rival household.

He said the perpetrators had fled the area but police had launched a hunt for them.

Separately, three Afghan refugees who were brothers were electrocuted in Pakistan. Their bodies were brought to Batikot district for burial. (Pajhwok)

**(19) Cyprus Still ...**

least five of the six issues, the leaders see eye to eye. We still have this issue of security and guarantees," he said, explaining that Anastasiades and Akinci have agreed on most issues required for a deal. (AP)

**(20) N. Korea Fires...**

(South Korean) government to change its policy on the North," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff spokesman Roh Jae-cheon said.

It was the third ballistic missile test launch since South Korea's liberal President Moon Jae-in took office on May 10 pledging to engage with the reclusive neighbor in dialogue. (Reuters)

**(21) N. Korea 'Disre**

declared at the G7 summit last week that the "big problem" of North Korea "will be solved" and has previously warned that no option is off the table. (AFP)

**(22) Modi Leaves**

minister will go to Spain, where he is slated to meet President Mariano Rajoy on Wednesday and discuss bilateral and other issues of mutual interest, including economy and counter-terrorism.

The Indian prime minister's next destination will be Russia. Modi will go to St Petersburg on Thursday, where he will hold the 18th India-Russia Annual Summit along with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

During the last leg of his tour, Modi will go to French capital Paris on the same day, where he is scheduled to hold talks with that country's new President Emmanuel Macron on various issues of mutual interest with a

view to bolstering India-France strategic ties. (Xinhua)

**(23) Trump's First ...**

Protection Agency and other agencies in order to boost defense spending for fiscal year 2018, which starts from Oct. 1, 2017, according to the budget. (Xinhua)

**(24) Leaders of ...**

Spain. The delegations boarded a boat that took them down the Douro River into Portugal.

The summit was to continue in Vila Real, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Lisbon.

Last year, Spain's exports to Portugal were valued at more than 18 billion euros (\$20 billion.) Spain also is Portugal's biggest export market. (AP)

**EU Ministers Agree Car Approval Rules after Dieselgate**

BRUSSELS - EU ministers agreed on Monday on draft new rules for approving cars for sale in order to prevent a repeat of the Volkswagen emissions scandal and giving the European Commission the power to fine cheating manufacturers directly.

The rules, which still have to be discussed with the European Parliament before becoming law, are a response to the 2015 dieselgate scandal when German carmaker Volkswagen was found to have used software to cheat U.S. diesel emission tests.

Under the present system, national bodies such as Germany's KBA authority, have the power to clear new vehicles for the whole European Union and can also revoke those licences.

The new rules will allow other national authorities to review such decisions and also give the European Commission the power to carry out spot checks and fine manufacturers up to 30,000 euros per vehicle if they are found to be cheating.

In the run-up to Monday's ministerial meeting in Brussels, European diplomats had said Germany was reluctant to hand more market surveillance powers to Brussels despite the fallout from the VW scandal.

German junior economy minister Matthias Machnig told fellow ministers at the meeting his country was in favor of strengthening oversight, but added he wanted assurances on how to avoid a conflict between different agencies. (Reuters)

**In Syria, More Airstrikes Hit IS De Facto Capital of Raqqa**

BEIRUT - More airstrikes and artillery shelling on Monday hit the northern Syrian city of Raqqa, the de facto capital of the Islamic State group, as U.S.-backed fighters pushed closer to the extremists' stronghold, activists said.

The developments come ahead of what is expected to be a major battle for Raqqa in the coming weeks.

Airstrikes have intensified over the past days as U.S.-backed fighters have pushed on toward the city, getting closer to it from all sides. The Kurdish-led Syria Democratic Forces captured dozens of towns and villages under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition since November, when the group began an operation entitled Euphrates Wrath, aiming to eventually surround and capture Raqqa. (AP)

**Finnish President Reluctant to be Party Candidate for Reelection**

HELSINKI - Finnish President Sauli Niinisto said Monday that if he decides to run for reelection, he would prefer to run through an election association and not as a party candidate. He said on that he had talked with conservative National Coalition Party chairman Petteri Orpo, and Orpo had said nothing against the idea. In 2012, Niinisto was elected as a candidate of the National Coalition Party. Local commentators said the option Niinisto chose was a surprise. The Finnish constitution determines that at least 20,000 signatures are needed for someone without party nomination to run for the president. (Xinhua)