

**(1) US Troops ...**

To John, Karen, Heather, Tate, Andrea and the entire Kelly family, today 300 million American hearts are joined together with yours. We grieve with you, we honour you, and we pledge to you, we will always remember Robert and what he did for all of us. Thank you John," he said.

Following the ceremony, Trump talked with various family members. (Tolonews)

**(2) Ghani Orders ...**

issued necessary instructions to security and defence forces' officials.

The meeting conferred on security measures put in place across the country for the fast-acting month to ensure calm and secure environment.

The president praised sacrifices of the security and defence forces in their meaningful and successful combat operations, the statement added.

The president once again issued needed directives for assisting families of fallen and injured security personnel. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Parliament ...**

Fatima Aziz, an MP and member of commission.

"Based on the procurement law, whenever someone wants to seal a contract, he needs to offer a bank guarantee and bank statement for it, but in this contract, there is no written commitment," said another member of the team, Masuma Khawari. However, Nazir Ahmad Ahmadzai, the second deputy speaker of the Wolesi Jirga, who also leads the commission, opposed termination of the deal and instead called for further investigation into the matter.

"In the first step, you (MPs) do not have the right to ask members of the (transportation and telecommunication) commission and the task team members to issue their ruling as soon as possible. I will assess your documents; may you made a mistake and I have the authority to assess it," said Ahmadzai.

"If someone believes that we committed any kind of violation or treason in our assessments, or exploited the issue ethnically, we are ready to go to the court and respond," said Qais Hassan, head of Wolesi Jirga's Transport and Telecommunication Commission.

This new development takes place two months after the Wolesi Jirga tasked the parliament's Transport and Telecommunication Commission to assess the land deal between government and the Alokozay Group of Companies.

Reports indicate that government has sold out at least 28.8 acres of land which is the asset of Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority to Alokozay Group of Companies with a low price.

But, the findings of parliamentary commission indicates that the deal was made in clear violation of the Afghan Constitution and land laws, and in the absence of a proper bidding process.

Based on the findings of the Wolesi Jirga commission, Alokozay Group of Companies has 'sieved' 41.2 acres of land instead of 28.8 acres contracted with government. (Tolonews)

**(4) Modi, Merkel ...**

LASHKARGAH - The police chief for southern Helmand province on Tuesday said around 110 Taliban militants have been killed last week in Nad Ali district.

Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kentoz told reporters here that security forces had launched clearing operations against Taliban militants since last few days. Several commanders were among the slain rebels, Kentoz added.

He said the Taliban attacked security forces in Nad Ali districts yesterday and the ensuing clashes left 28 attackers dead and 13 others.

He added one Afghan National Army soldier and one police were killed and two police and two soldiers were wounded. The 215th Maiwand military corps spokesperson told Pajhwok Afghan News that security forces yesterday abandoned their posts tactically for a short time in Loy Bagh locality of Nad Ali district.

For recapturing the posts, he said, air forces bombed the facilities, killing 12 militants and enabling the forces to recapture

the posts.

A security source in Helmand said the Taliban briefly captured some posts in Nad Ali before security forces pushed them back.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman, said the fighters captured six security forces posts and destroyed three tanks. He said 19 security forces personnel and three Taliban have been killed during the clashes. The Taliban have been in control of Helmand's six districts of the total 13. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Afghan to ...**

The Afghan businessman has been living in Yiwu city in central Zhejiang province for the past 15 years.

He has donated 50,000 RMB to a tree plantation drive in the region in China. Afghan said he was alone when came to China but now he had a lot of friends there. He called Yiwu his second home. (Pajhwok)

**(6) Iran to ...**

Tehran was willing to cooperate with Kabul and won't shun any help.

Expressing satisfaction with the growing relations between the two neighboring countries in different spheres, both sides emphasized the necessity of expanding cooperation between Kabul and Tehran. (IRNA)

**(7) Afghanistan ...**

The licensing will be carried out in an open and competitive process.

Another issue that was discussed was the interference of Salam and MTN signals by jammers in Kabul city. Recently, these two telecom companies have been experiencing interference in their signals from jammer in the city.

After deliberation and discussion Ahmady instructed that the fee structure for fiber optic licenses should be discussed with the Ministry of Finance and a couple of successful global case studies should also be explored. In regards to the signal interference for Salam and MTN the issue will be discussed in a joint meeting with the Ministry of Interior Affairs. (Wadsam)

**(8) Kabul ...**

Education at University of Massachusetts Amherst. Each expressed their gratitude to USAID and USWDP for their financial and technical assistance in developing the new degree program.

Graduates also thanked USAID and USWDP for their support. "We are grateful for the establishment of this associate degree as it has given us the tools to enter the job market and be ready for it," said Sara Qaderi, one of those who received the associate degree in IT. (Pajhwok)

**(9) Petition ...**

institution acceptable to all is formed for the assessment of these issues, Hizb-e-Islami is prepared to give answers to the nation," said Hizb-e-Islami spokesman Nadir Afghan.

Afghan Gul, 48, is a resident of Kabul who lost her 12-year-old son during the civil war.

"We were living in a Hindu family's house, a rocket hit the house, my son and several of our neighbors were killed," she said.

"It is not the question of forgiveness, they (warring factions) killed thousands and it is not only about myself," she added.

Afghan Gul is one of those who signed the petition sent to UNAMA, requesting the investigation of crimes allegedly committed by Hizb-e-Islami during the war.

"Unfortunately justice has been sacrificed in Hekmatyar's impunity deal," said Taimoor Shah Bashar, a member of Green Trend.

August 1992 is believed to have been the bloodiest of months during the civil war and in a report issued by the UN in November that year stated that in August, two thousand rockets hit Kabul. Eighteen thousand civilians were killed and thousands more were wounded. However a report by the Human Rights Watch (HRW) says that the missiles were fired by Hizb-e-Islami. (Tolonews)

**(10) Chicago ...**

Rumi, he was a 13th century poet and philosopher who was

born in present day Afghanistan, and a Sufi mystic," says founder Kimberly Jung. "One of his most famous sayings is, 'Where there is ruin, there is hope for treasure.'"

Veterans inspired by relationships Kimberly Jung, Keith Alaniz and Emily Miller are three of the founders of Rumi Spice, U.S. military veterans who served in Afghanistan who returned with more than just combat experience.

"I was never able to resolve just going to Afghanistan, spending time, and then leaving and never thinking about the place again, especially when you form relationships with people who live there," says Alaniz.

Those relationships inspired the business strategy for Rumi Spice - increasing demand in the U.S. for saffron produced by Afghan farmers they met in Herat province. Saffron has very limited demand in Afghanistan, leaving the market for it outside the country.

"Afghanistan has essentially been cut off from the international market for 30 years," says Alaniz. "They are producing a great product but they aren't able to get a fair value for their goods because they are not able to export it anywhere."

Another challenge Afghanistan's enduring instability isn't the only challenge to getting Afghan saffron to market.

"Near to 20 years we've been growing saffron, there are still no certificates for our saffron product," says Abdullah Faiz, chancellor of Heart University, which is working with Purdue University in Indiana to address a "department of food technology," with Afghan saffron farmers in mind.

"The department of food technology will teach and give training for the farmers to produce the saffron with hygiene quality," says Faiz, adding that it could help increase demand for Afghan saffron in new markets. (VoA)

**(11) 110 Taliban ...**

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**(12) Iranian ...**

"I know all types of weapons but saw such arms for the first time. Iranian stamps are visible on them," the official added. Reporters had been shown the weapons, according to Tander. Darya Khan, a local police commander, endorsed the claim and said militants had established huge bases in Barmal and Sarobi districts but they were being resisted strongly.

Amanullah Kharotai, an inhabitant of Shkeen, said foreign militants had also been seen along with Taliban in Shkeen, Barmal and Gomal districts. "The foreign militants walking with Taliban will definitely possess foreign-made weapons."

Iranian weapons have been seized in different parts of the country from Taliban insurgents. It is not the first time that such seizure has been made in Paktika. Recently, Iran was accused of supporting Taliban. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Khogyani ...**

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the suicide bomber targeted the district chief's car in at around 10:30am. After the incident, Zalmany said he had escaped unhurt but three

of his bodyguards were slightly wounded. Windowpanes in nearby buildings were shattered, he added.

As usual, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the district chief was critically wounded and four of his bodyguards were killed. (Pajhwok)

**(14) Torkham ...**

enforcement but some individuals, when compelled to comply with rules, started maligning them.

Cargo truck drivers claim they are forced to pay 10,000 Pakistani rupees to 10,000 Pakistani rupees in bribe per vehicle.

Mirwais, one of the truckers, says: "Those who pay 50,000 Pakistani rupees are allowed to cross the border. But those who refuse to pay will have their vehicles parked for days."

He told Pajhwok Afghan News that his truck was kept parked for 13 days in the township as he refused paying bribes.

Ahmad Shah, who truck was packed with flooring slates, had a similar complaint. "I have been here for the 15th day. If I pay police officers, they would allow me to go immediately."

"But if I don't, they would do not allow me to go across the border," Shah grumbled. The truckers warned of closing their business if the government did not resolve their problem.

Nangarhar Customs Director Ilhamuddin Mazhar confirmed the high-handedness of some irresponsible men in Torkham, but said the problem had been resolved to some extent.

He said a delegation from the governor's house, led by him, had taken decisive steps to address the drivers' complaints. But he made clear no evidence of bribes was offered by truckers.

"We have heard of complaints about extortions, but when we visited Torkham no one offered any proof. There may be problems, but the overall situation is under control," he said.

Idris Momand, spokesman for first border police brigade, said no one was allowed to extort money from drivers.

"The main issue is law enforcement. When truck drivers are asked to wait for their turns, they raise complaints, if anyone has evidence of corruption they can share it with us."

"We do not defend corrupt individuals and will bring them to justice in case solid evidence is produced against them," he promised. (Pajhwok)

**Child Kidnappings - Another Form of Human Trafficking**

KABUL - Child kidnapping incidents have recently spiked in the country. After their abduction, some children are sexually assaulted -- an act called human trafficking.

In addition to insecurity and poverty, human trafficking is another major issue being faced by most of Afghans. Children are kidnapped for different reasons, such as ransom, sexual abuse and family feuds.

One of the victims of human trafficking is Omaid (not a real name), 17, hailing from northern Kunduz province. Abducted in western Herat province, Omaid said his family had shifted to Herat in 2011 due to some problems.

The boy told Pajhwok Afghan News in an exclusive interview that he wanted to become a car mechanic. With this in mind, he joined an auto workshop in Herat City, the provincial capital.

"I was heading home from the workshop one evening when a vehicle stopped next to me and two men bundled me into the car. I fell unconscious and didn't know what happened later on. "After some hours, when I regained consciousness, I found myself inside a strange house," he recalled. Omaid said he was kept in the house for two months and kidnappers asked his family for \$50,000 in ransom.

"We moved from Kunduz to Herat due to economic problems. How my family would have arranged the huge amount the kidnappers demanded," he asked, alleging he was sexually assaulted by his captors. How Omaid was taken to Pakistan? Omaid said when the kidnappers

came to know that his parents could not pay the ransom, they decided to shift him to another place. "They put me in a car and we travelled for four hours."

"Finally, got out of the car and walked some distance before embarking on another vehicle. I was kept blindfolded throughout the trip." He was in a new place and when opened eyes, it was morning. Omaid said the kidnappers transferred him to another people and they went back.

After some time, Omaid said, he realised he had been brought to Pakistan, where he was sold to a well-off man.

For four years, he worked in the house of the rich man. During the period, he was sexually abused. Without going into details, but said he managed to flee the house and come to Torkham port after four years with the help of some other Afghans.

From Torkham, he came to Kabul and contacted his family. Omaid rejoined his family, currently living in Kunduz province. He is not the only person having suffered this ordeal. Tens of Afghans have been victims of human trafficking. Some are still in captivity. (Pajhwok)

**Civilian, Police Officer Killed in Farah**

FARAH CITY - A shopkeeper and a police officer have been killed in separate incidents in western Farah province, an official said Tuesday.

Provincial police spokesman, Iqbal Baher, told Pajhwok Afghan News that a shopkeeper, Mir Ahmad was killed by unidentified gunmen in his house in the fourth police district of Farah city around 1am last night.

He said Ahmad owned a grocery shop in Shah Bazar area of the provincial capital.

The motive behind the incident is unclear, he said, adding that Ahmad had no personal enmity with anyone. Police are investigating the incident.

On the other hand, Baher said that a police officer was killed during a clash with militants in the center of Pashton Kot district of Farah.

He identified the slain police officer as Farid Ahmad and said the clash took place on Monday afternoon. (Pajhwok)

**Police Say Afghan Warlord's Close Aide Shot Dead in Pakistan**

PESHAWAR - A police officer says a close aide and relative of Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been shot and killed in northwest Pakistan.

Shaikat Khan says Haji Mohammad Farid's bullet-riddled body was found Tuesday outside a mosque on the outskirts of the city of Peshawar. He says Farid, who long served as a Hekmatyar's personal secretary, is also the warlord's in-law; his daughter is married to the Hekmatyar's son.

No one has claimed responsibility, but Hekmatyar has serious rivalries with multiple Afghan militant factions. He recently signed a peace deal with Kabul, but previously he had been battling American and Afghan government forces since U.S. troops invaded Afghanistan in 2001. (AP)

**2 Policemen Among 7 Killed in Faryab Clash**

MAIMANA - Two public order policemen and five Taliban insurgents have been killed during a clash in Sherin Tagab district of northwestern Faryab province, officials said on Tuesday.

Police spokesman, Abdul Karim Yourish, told Pajhwok Afghan News the policemen were killed in a Taliban attack when they were returning from home to duty faced between Khawaja Sabzposh and Sherin Tagab districts late on Monday.

"The Taliban had captured the two policemen in civilian clothes and they wanted to transfer them to somewhere else, but the policemen in a sudden move took a weapon from one of the militants and killed five rebels and wounded two others", Yourish said.

The policemen were killed by other Taliban fighters who were hid in a nearby garden, he said, adding the bodies of the slain po-

licemen were taken away by the rebels.

Abdullah Masomi, administrative chief for Khwaja Sabzposh district, said three of the militants killed belonged to Mullah Salam group of Taliban and two others belonged to Mullah Hanif group. A local Taliban commander, who wished to go unnamed, said two government officers and four Taliban fighters were killed in the incident. He said the incident took place due to recklessness of the Taliban who left the policemen's hands open. (Pajhwok)

**ANA-Police Clash Leaves 3 Dead, 9 Wounded**

TIRINKOT - Two policemen and an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier have been killed and nine others wounded in clash in central Uruzgan province, an official said on Tuesday.

Provincial Council Chairman Amir Mohammad Barakzai told Pajhwok Afghan News that the incident took place in Chora district centre late on Monday.

He said the dispute erupted over speeding pick-up. Barakzai added both sides suffered casualties when the verbal dispute turned violent.

Provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Ghulam Farooq Sangari, confirmed two policemen and an ANA soldier were killed and five policemen and four troops wounded.

He said a delegation from the police headquarters and an ANA brigade had arrived in the district to investigate the incident. Pajhwok tried to contact the ANA brigade but failed. (Pajhwok)

**Surgeon Insists Scots Must be Offered Independence as Brexit Opt-Out**

PERTH, Scotland - The Scottish National Party will push for a new referendum on independence as an alternative to Brexit, party leader Nicola Sturgeon said on Tuesday, as the SNP digs its heels in on an issue that may cost her party support in Britain's June 8 election.

"There is just too much at stake for Brexit simply to be imposed on Scotland, no matter how damaging it turns out to be," Sturgeon, who is also first minister of the devolved Scottish government, told a launch of the SNP's policy offer to voters.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has rejected the SNP's demand for a new choice on secession, saying that with Britain about to leave the European Union this is not the time for another vote, without saying when that time might be.

Sturgeon wants a new choice to be offered when it is clear what Brexit means.

The SNP would ensure that Scotland's voice was heard, Sturgeon said, and the party would push for Scotland to stay in the single market even as Britain leaves it. But SNP proposals along those lines, presented in December, were rejected by May's government.

The SNP's policy document said there was no "rational argument" for leaving the single market. (Reuters)

**Second Macron Minister Denies Sleaze Charge by Government**

PARIS - Emmanuel Macron's pledge of squeaky-clean leadership hit another snag on Tuesday when a second minister in the government of the new French president had to deny accusations by political foes of financial misconduct days before parliamentary elections.

In the latest twist ahead of the vote in mid-June, Macron's opponents were relishing his government's discomfort amid scandals similar to those which hurt his rivals in his campaign for the presidency and helped him beat far-right leader Marine Le Pen on May 7.

Macron's junior minister for European affairs, Marielle de Sarnez, issued a statement saying she had done nothing wrong in hiring a helper in her work as a member of the European Parliament, among 19 in all that prosecutors said were being investigated.

She also said she planned to sue the person behind the allegations - a member of Le Pen's National Front - on the grounds that the accusations were slanderous. (Reuters)