

(1) Reconstruction...

Aziz Ibrahim, a media adviser for the ministry of Urban Development and Housing. Once complete, the building will be used as a museum and a venue for national ceremonies, Ghani said. (Reuters)

(2) Gov't Mounts...

the past couple of days. The Defense Ministry, also in a statement released here reported killing 41 insurgents including five fighters loyal to the Islamic State group in the country's 16 out of 34 provinces on Saturday and Sunday.

According to Defense Ministry, scores of armed militants have been killed and countless others injured across the country since last week.

Moreover, a total of 17 Taliban fighters have been killed and 40 others injured since the launch of government forces operations in SozmaQala district of the northern Saripul province over the past three days, a senior army officer in the province, General Abdul Rauf told Xinhua on Monday.

Spokesman for Interior Ministry, SediqSediqi confirmed last week that the government forces have increased pressure against anti-government militants as the Taliban leader Mullah Mansoor's death has been confirmed which could have negative impact on the morale of the militants.

Although Taliban new leader Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhundzada has yet to make statement on war or peace, his fighters in tit-for-tat strikes, have speeded up offensives against government interests, and according to the outfit's website scores of security personnel have been killed over the past week across Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

(3) 30 Villages ...

there," he said.

However, a Taliban spokesman, ZabihullahMujahid, said security personnel had been unable to make any progress. He said a dozen policemen and only one Taliban member have been killed during clashes between the two sides.

Separately, three members of the Haqqani network were arrested by intelligence operatives in Sara Ghondai area of Khwakhai district of central Logar province, a statement from the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said. It identified the detainees as Ahmadzai, Mohammad Omar and Salam Jan, saying two Kalashnikovs with eight magazines, two walkie-talkies and some explosives had also been recovered from the rebels. (Pajhwok)

(4) Women's ...

weakened. Men are also against the presence of women in offices," she said.

Kunduz acting Women's Affairs Director, NaheedAsifi, is the only woman possessing a high government office in the province.

She also confirmed women's role was colorless in Kunduz and said most of appointments in government departments were based on nepotism rather than merit.

"Except the women's affairs department, there is no other office to be led by a female director, most of the women work on lower posts with a lower presence," she said, adding despite the fact the judiciary organs were in need of female employees, but no women could be seen there.

"A woman who faces a legal issue cannot explain her case to men in the judiciary problem, but she can easily explain her case to female employees or judges," she said.

Governor AsadullahOmarkhil said insecurity and unsafe environment for women were main problems for female employees.

However, he said most employees in education and health sectors were women. He said the security situation was getting better by each passing day and

he was committed to encouraging women to work in government offices.

Omarkhil said women were always given first priority in competitive posts, a process he added his administration was supporting. (Pajhwok)

(5) Indian PM...

have already received training in India on how to run affairs of the water reservoir. Twenty-seven more officials would be provided special training on dam management.

Salma Dam is located in the Chesh-t-i-Sharif locality of Kohistani district, 160km east of Herat City, the provincial capital. The dam has been constructed by an Indian company with the help 700 workers, including 250 Indians.

From Herat, he would head for Qatar on June 5 for talks with Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, NDTV said. He will stop in Switzerland on his way to Washington. The Switzerland visit is being worked out for June 6. (Pajhwok)

(6) Air Forc...

the duty of the Afghan government to ask for serious implementation of the agreement from United States and NATO as it is not enough for the current situation," said Jawed Kohistani, a military analyst.

On the other hand, a number of experts believe that the Afghan government has not made the best of the security agreement with the U.S government, especially in mobilizing the armed forces.

"There was continued cooperation in 14 years between Afghanistan, United States of America and NATO, but what needed to be done was a precise and effective plan on how to use the aid systematically, which government did not do," said Hamid Saboory, a political analyst. (ToloneWS)

(7) Over 2,000 ...

" said former deputy interior minister Mirza Mohammad Yarmand.

It is said that many of the people that have been arrested on charges of big crimes have escaped to remote areas which are not under government's control and a number of such individuals have gone to Iran or Pakistan, reports say. (ToloneWS)

(8) Mansour's ...

able to resolve the Afghan issue after the killing of Mansour."

Stressing the need for unity among Pakhtuns, he said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would focus on developing remote areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. (Pajhwok)

(9) Taliban '...

Nad Ali and Greshk districts.

"If additional security forces and air support do not reach Helmand within the next 48 hours, the province will fall into the hands of Taliban."

He said the Taliban had launched their attacks in nearly a dozen different areas, causing heavy casualties to security forces and seriously threatening to overrun the province. "Right now clashes on all the four sides of the city are underway. During the past 24 hours, 68 police and army personnel have reportedly suffered casualties and the Taliban have captured a number of areas," Atal said.

He said a weak provincial government leadership and the lack of coordination among security organs had contributed to the much deteriorated security situation of the province.

Atal's deputy Abdul Majeed-Akhundzada also told Pajhwok Afghan News the security situation in Helmand had unprecedentedly worsened over the past 24 hours.

He said some 80 security personnel were either killed or wounded during the past 24 hours in clashes with armed militants.

Officials at the Emergency-run hospital in Lashkargah confirmed receiving 40 injured security personnel yesterday.

They said the number of injured security men being brought to the hospital was on the increase and they lacked space to accept more.

But Ministry of Defence spokesman Gen. DawlatWaziri said the Taliban in no way could capture Helmand province.

He said ground and air operations against militants were underway in Lashkargah, Nad Ali, Greshk, Sangin, Marja and other districts. He acknowledged militant activity had lately increased in the province. The Taliban have so far said nothing about the latest uptick in violence in the opium-rich province.

Helmand is among the most insecure provinces of Afghanistan and the Taliban are currently in control of four districts --- Nawzad, Musa Qala, Baghran and Lashu --- and some parts of Lashkargah. (Pajhwok)

(10) More than...

military coalition to deploy hundreds of additional troops to shore up crumbling Afghan security forces.

As many as 24 police were killed on Monday, and another 33 killed on Sunday, with nearly 40 injured, regional police commander EsmatullahDawlatzai told Reuters.

At least 22 police and army checkpoints fell to Taliban forces in the recent fighting, said another police official who confirmed the casualty estimates, but sought anonymity.

Afghan army officials did not respond to requests for comment.

The areas hit by the latest fighting are Greshk, Nad Ali, and Nahr-e Saraj, which neighbour the provincial capital of Lashkargah to the north and west.

Residents in the capital city said they could hear heavy artillery and machine gun fire throughout Sunday night, with a charity hospital saying it had treated at least 40 injured, among them 30 civilians and 10 security forces.

(11) Presidential ...

Ghani's deputy spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi.

A number of MPs said the president's colleagues give him wrong advice when hiring individuals for his office.

"President Ghani always says that he will fight corruption, act against kidnappers, but it is interesting that two of his guards are arrested on charges of kidnapping. He should not pay attention to advice of anyone who tells him to hire this or that person," said MP Juma Din Giyanwal.

According to security officials, the move was taken after three presidential guards were accused of kidnaping by a close relative of the victim. (ToloneWS)

(12) Haqqani ...

and government staff and roadside bombings.

The detained militants have been identified as Ahmadzai son of Afghan, Mohammad Onar son of Afghan and Salam Jan son of Syed Padshah who are originally residents of Logar province.

NDS also added that the intelligence operatives discovered a weapons cache and confiscated 2 Ak-47 rifles with their 12 magazines, 3 mortar rounds, 1 missile and 4 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) during a separate operation.

According to NDS, the weapons and explosives cache belonged to Taliban group commander Mullah Khel.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the reports so far. (KP)

(13) Hopes and ...

is at least 40 years out of date, the U.S. Geological Survey said in a 2011 report.

"We've tried our best and got the factory running using its old machinery," said Abdul Wakil, one of a group of former workers who have returned to help get the plant working again. "As long as we have electricity, it will work."

Talks with a private operator to develop a separate, larger plant at Jabal Saraj have run for months, but for now, the government has decided the old plant still serves a purpose, a spokesman for the country's mines and petroleum ministry said.

"This old factory is useful and has a profitable production capacity," Mohyaddin Noori added. "It provides job opportunities."

Afghanistan's only other major cement manufacturer, the Ghori cement plant, has daily capacity of more than 1,000 tonnes, but domestic industry is dwarfed by the millions of tonnes of imports from neighbours, including Pakistan and Iran.

That fierce competition makes it tough to find domestically produced cement in Kabul's main wholesale markets, even despite the fact that domestic cement's bulk and relatively low cost should penalise foreign cement, trucked in hundreds of miles.

"We have only Pakistani cement," said trader Ershad Shinwari. "Afghan-made cement is not coming to us."

Demand for building materials has fallen sharply since international forces left in 2014 but the market has not collapsed and director Mohammadi hopes for domestic growth.

"There is huge demand for cement in Afghanistan," he said. "We've got the factory working, so it will give investors a chance."

For the moment, however, Jabal Saraj relies on government subsidy to survive. The economics may be tough, but it is people nearby who are mainly looking for work.

"We ask the other countries to help this factory and provide new machinery to replace the old machines," said plant worker Wazir Mohammad.

"It will be very useful for our people as long as there is poverty in Afghanistan and everyone suffers insecurity."

(14) Women ...

in custody of the security personnel and an investigation is underway in this regard.

The loyalists of the terror group continue to maintain presence and attempt to expand foothold in this province despite they have been hardly suppressed in Afghan and US forces raids. The detention of the two women further strengthens claims by Afghan officials regarding the role of Pakistan security agencies in supporting the militant groups in Afghanistan.

The Afghan officials have long been criticising Pakistan for supporting the Afghan militants by providing sanctuaries to them inside their soil from where they plan and coordinate attacks in Afghanistan. (KP)

(15) NATO Urged ...

would maintain dialogue with Russia "but there can be no return to 'business as usual' ... until Russia once again demonstrates respect for international law."

As Vershbow spoke his superior, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, traveled to Warsaw to lay groundwork for two days of talks on the July summit.

Vershbow said NATO members would seek to strengthen the alliance's defense capabilities and logistical support for other allies bordering Russia. He urged members to follow through on previous commitments to increase defense spending to at least 2 percent of national economic output. (AP)

(16) Residents...

string of towns and cities in a bid to eliminate militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from urban centres in the southeast.

The authorities insist it was the only way to ensure security but activists claim civilians lost their lives due to needless force.

Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Monday that a total of 6,320 buildings

had been badly damaged or destroyed following clashes in five areas, including Yuksekova, and that rebuilding would cost one billion lira (\$340 million/303 million euros).

State media said that a rebuilding process would now begin in Yuksekova, backed by interest-free loans.(AFP)

(17) Singapore ...

will reach a milestone in 2019 when we celebrate 50 years of diplomatic ties. As fellow founding members of ASEAN, we cooperate closely to promote regional peace and prosperity. Singapore looks forward to the Philippines' chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017, which is also the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN. I am confident that we will be able to foster closer ASEAN integration amid a complex and fast-changing global landscape," Lee wrote. (Xinhua)

(18) NATO to...

including multinational, battalion-sized units provided by European and North American allies," he added.

Vershbow stressed NATO would also intensify efforts to "project stability" beyond borders by working with partners to build their ability to defend themselves.

Congratulating Albania on the seventh anniversary of its membership of NATO, Vershbow said that "NATO's door is opening once again with the impending membership of Montenegro."

Earlier this month, NATO foreign ministers signed the accession protocol for Montenegro. Once the parliaments of all 28 allies have ratified the protocol, Montenegro will become the latest member of the Alliance.

The NATO summit in Warsaw will take place on July 8-9, where heads of state and government will chart the course for the Alliance's adaptation to the new security environment. (Xinhua)

(19) Turkey, Libya...

sponsored peace deal signed by Libya's political rivals. Serraj's government is currently based in the heavily secured naval base Abu-Setta in Tripoli.

Although the government has not been approved by the parliament nor received offices, it has formed the Presidential Guards service, which is mainly aimed at fighting against the Islamic State.

The visit of the Turkish official comes after a number of visits by western officials to Tripoli to offer support for the unity government.(Xinhua)

(20) US-Backed ...

area is important because it links Raqqa city with areas controlled by the group near Aleppo. Syrian government forces backed by Russian air strikes were last year advancing in the direction of Tabqa, after capturing Kweiras air base in Aleppo province, but stopped some 60 km northwest of the town.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the monitoring group, said Tabqa would be a difficult military target because Islamic State has large stocks of weapons there.

The attacking SDF forces must also cross the Euphrates river to reach Tabqa town, further complicating any assault, Observatory Director Rami Abdulrahman said.(Reuters)

(21) Hungary...

barrier has increased," said Gyorgy Bakondi, chief advisor of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

The daily number of illegal entries had risen from 70 to 90 people, to between 100 and 150 since Idomeni was evacuated, Bakondi told national Kossuth radio.

As a result, the government will install "permanent barriers" in places where the barbed wire is considered "no longer sufficient" to keep the migrants out, he said.

An AFP photographer on the Serbian side of the border spotted between 200 and 250 people waiting to enter Hungary on Monday.

Around 300,000 migrants and refugees passed through Hungary last year before the right-wing government sealed off the southern borders with Serbia and Croatia in the autumn.

The measures -- together with tight border patrols and tough new laws punishing illegal entry and vandalism of the fences -- slowed the flow to a trickle as Europe grapples with its worst migration crisis since World War II.(AFP)

(22) S. Korean ...

(ODA) program for health care support, food production and cultural related exchanges in Africa.

In addition, a business-to-business forum is expected to take place in Nairobi to connect Kenyan investors with their South Korean counterparts.

South Korea is also supporting an agriculture research centre in Kiambu which is helping farmers with various farming techniques.(Xinhua)

(23) Palestinian-US...

for Economic and Business Affairs Charles Rivkin.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO REVIVE STALLED PEACE

The peace talks between the Palestinians and Israel reached a deadlock in April 2014 due to disagreements over issues such as the Jewish settlements and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Local politicians and analysts think that the economy may help revive the stalled peace.

During the dialogue, the Palestinians demanded a real and direct U.S. help to boost the Palestinian economy to create job opportunities and lift all restrictions imposed on the Palestinian export and import at Israeli-controlled crossings points and terminals.(Xinhua)

(24) S. Korea's ...

projectiles flying from the DPRK.

According to South Korea's military cited by Yonhap news agency, the DPRK forces have already deployed an unidentified number of Musudan intermediate-range ballistic missiles, mounted on mobile launchers, in the DPRK's east coastal region of Wonsan.

The DPRK test-launched a total of three Musudan missiles, two on April 28 and one on April 15 each, but all of the test-firings were believed to have failed as the missiles exploded in mid-air or crashed in waters several seconds after lift-off.(Xinhua)

(25) Expo in Egypt...

Mohammed said that the conference will focus on bringing a new push for efforts to bring all global commitment into action.

The hosting of UN conference meeting follows the decision by the UNCTAD Trade and Development board on Nov. 17, 2015 to accept Kenya's offer to host the meeting.

The conference will be held under the theme of "From decision to actions; Moving towards inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development."

The event will include the World Leaders Summit, the fifth World Investment Forum, Seventh Global Commodity Forum as well as the Civil Society Forum. In 1976 Kenya hosted the fourth UNCTAD meeting which was aimed at addressing the economic marginalization of developing countries.

"Unfortunately this problem still exists today," she said. "As we return 40 years later for the 14 UNCTAD, Nairobi continues to shine as a beacon of hope for the UN's crucial role in promoting fairness and justice in the global economic system," Mohamed said.(Xinhua)

(26) Turkmenistan ...

trafficking working group, composed of representatives of several government agencies and public organizations, was created in Turkmenistan in early 2014.(Agencies)