

**(1) Indian, Uzbek...**

Preferential Trade Agreement by the end of 2018, the report said. A joint statement between the two countries "reiterated support for efforts of the government and the people for a genuine Afghan-owned, Afghan-led and Afghan controlled peace and reconciliation process that will allow for a peaceful, secure, united, inclusive and prosperous nation. (Tolo news)

**(2) More Islamic State...**

An estimated 60 percent of the 8,584 terrorist attacks across the globe took place in Iraq (1,951), Afghanistan (1,171), India (860), Pakistan (574), and the Philippines (483), the Country Reports on Terrorism 2017 issued by the DOS last month revealed.

The Philippines is the only Christian-majority country among the top five nations for terrorist attacks last year.

Ambassador Nathan Sales, the top counterterrorism coordinator at DOS, declared in State's Country Reports on Terrorism 2017:

Despite our successes, the terrorist landscape grew more complex in 2017. ISIS, al-Qa'ida, and their affiliates have proven to be resilient, determined, and adaptable, and they have adjusted to heightened counterterrorism pressure in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, and elsewhere ... the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters from the battlefield has contributed to a growing cadre of experienced, sophisticated, and connected terrorist networks, which can plan and execute terrorist attacks.

Echoing other analysts, Greg Poling from CSIS told the Times that ISIS-affiliated foreign fighters had found other places to regroup and recover to continue their war against the West.

"As we execute victories on the ground in Iraq and Syria, [Islamic State] is going to disperse" to other areas across the world, including Southeast Asia, Poling declared, adding, "The Southern Philippines is still an ungoverned region."

In an interview with Reuters in February, Ebrahim Murad, the chief of the Philippines' Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), warned that ISIS-linked foreign fighters are traveling to the Philippines to join the terrorist group's Southeast Asia branch. Murad's Muslim organization is a separatist group that joined forces with the Filipino government against ISIS affiliates in the region after reaching a peace pact with Manila in exchange for autonomy granted by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) — charged with American military activity in and around the Philippines — and the Filipino military have also warned that ISIS is trying to regroup in the island nation following the group's defeat last year.

In 2017, militants from the pro-ISIS Filipino groups Abu Sayyaf and the Maute group attacked and held the southern Philippine city of Marawi in Mindanao for several months, resulting in the death of more than 1,100 people. The Philippine military ended its campaign in Marawi in October 2017 after killing the leaders of the nation's two ISIS affiliates — Isnilon Hapilon of Abu Sayyaf and Omar Maute of the Maute group.

Although the death of the two jihadi leaders dealt a blow to the ISIS wing in the Philippines, PA-

COM warned that the region remained a "fertile for radicals and extremists looking to affiliate with the ISIS brand." (Agencies)

**(3) Afghan Election Rally...**

Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman of the provincial governor, said at least 13 bodies were taken to hospitals, but others said the toll was likely to be higher.

"Elders were speaking at the meeting when there was suddenly a huge blast," said Sayed Humayoun, who was attending the meeting in Kama district, outside the provincial capital Jalalabad.

"I was knocked unconscious but when I opened my eyes there were bodies scattered all around the blast area," he said, adding that he could see dozens of dead and wounded bodies on the ground.

Around 250 people were attending the rally said Sohrab Qaderi, a member of the provincial council, adding that at least 30 were killed and dozens more wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Militant group Islamic State has claimed a series of attacks this year that have killed scores of people in Nangarhar, on the border with Pakistan.

The parliamentary election is seen as both a dry run for the more important presidential election next year, and a test of the government's ability to provide security. Officials acknowledge that sustained violence could delay the process if it proved unsafe for voters to go to polling stations. (Reuters)

**(4) President Ghani Sacks...**

NSA Hamdullah Mohib for his good decision to get his office rid of fifth column elements. More de-contamination needed though," Saleh tweeted. "This is a good move to counter the notion that government tolerates moles & spoilers if they are in the tent. Very good move."

"It seems NSA Hamdullah Mohib is taking Afghanistan ONSC back to its initial tasks," Nabil tweeted. "Hope he will be able to reduce/remove the trust deficit which are created in four years." No further details have been given regarding the circumstance surrounding the removal of Gen. Jurat. (ATN)

**(5) Trump Awards...**

evacuate them, carrying and lowering the wounded down the steep mountainside, using his body to shield them from enemy fire and shrapnel. After he loaded the wounded in an evacuation helicopter, Shurer went back up the mountain to fight.

"Ron was not done yet. He charged back to the mountain — all the way up — and rejoined the fight," Trump said. "For more than six hours, Ron bravely faced down the enemy. Not a single American died in that brutal battle, thanks in great measure to Ron's heroic actions." First rejected by the military because of a medical condition, Shurer enlisted again a year after 9/11. He was accepted the second time around. He was promoted from sergeant to staff sergeant in late 2006 and served with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan from late November 2007 to late May 2008. He was honorably discharged a year later.

He began his career with the Secret Service as a special agent assigned to a field office in Phoenix, Arizona, in September 2009. He was selected for the Secret Service's counter assault team and assigned to the Special Operations Division

in June 2014.

Shurer lives in Burke, Virginia, with his wife, Miranda, and sons Cameron, 10, and Tyler, 7. (VoA)

**(6) World Access...**

on access to information," the vice-president added.

Pointing to access to information as the main part of the human rights of the individuals, Danesh said articles related to freedom of expression (articles 24, 34 and 50) were the constitution golden articles.

According to him, the government's stance on freedom of expression, are praiseworthy.

Some of other participants spoke in the meeting discussing access to information as the main rights of the country's citizens. (BNA)

**(7) Greece Police...**

fracas were also detained at Larissis Station as they had also been trying to flee, it appears.

The victim suffered serious head wounds, apparently inflicted with a sharp object, during the brawl on Saturday.

Over the summer, migrants at the camp had held protests over conditions at the overcrowded facility. (Tolo news)

**(8) Mail Promoting...**

thousands of people will get jobs and the production will increase.

"By development of the canal, work opportunities will be provided for thousands of people and revenues will increase," Nangarhar governor Hayatullah Hayat said.

Hayat said the central government should draft an outline for development of Nangarhar Canal Project to increase agricultural production. (Tolo news)

**(9) Militants Suffer...**

Thunder Corps said at least 3 militants were killed during the separate operations conducted in Andar, Moqor, and Geru districts of Ghazni and at least 3 others were wounded while an improvised explosive device was discovered and defused.

In a clash in Mohammad Agha district of Logar province, one militant was killed and two other sustained (KP)

**(10) President Ghani...**

Olympics Committee for their efforts which have resulted good results in achieving good position on regional and international level.

President Ghani also thanked Gen. Aghbar for his good leadership, specifically thanking Gen. Aghbar for his efforts during the Asian Games where the Afghan athletes had major achievements.

In his turn, Gen. Aghbar thanked President Ghani for his support to sports sector in Afghanistan and for awarding the High State Medal. (KP)

**(11) Drone Strike...**

residents have not suffered any casualty during the airstrike.

In the meantime, the 201st Silab Corps said a new military operation, Qahr Silab (2//9), has kicked off in Ghaziabad and Asmar districts of Kunar to suppress the militants and pave the way for the upcoming elections. The statement by 201st Silab Corps added that the operations are jointly being conducted by the Afghan army, Afghan police, border forces, and the Afghan intelligence forces. (KP)

### VPN and Proxy Servers Not to be banned in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - The Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan has disproved the information that the VPN and proxy servers will be banned by the new changes in the legislation, Podrobno.uz reported.

The Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications has prepared a draft law "On amendments to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan", the purpose of which is to protect telecommunications networks from illegal (unauthorized) access.

This bill regulates illegal connection, that is, the connection in circumvention of the rules. For example, if your neighbor connects to your Wi-Fi, cracking the password, and is going to use the traffic, he will bear administrative responsibility. In addition, it is proposed to introduce criminal penalties for intentional illegal connection to networks for the transmission of international traffic.

"The participants of the discussion are mistaken if they think that the draft law will prohibit the use of VPN, various proxy servers, messengers or social networks, since the introduced changes and amendments do not consider the issues of restricting access to information and/or information resources, as well as the use for this end of VPN networks, VPN channels, proxy servers for private purposes or for business," said the ministry.

"Not the use of VPN technology, various proxy servers, messengers, social networks in general, but the cases of hacking, unauthorized access and illegal use of telecommunications networks are looked into," the ministry stated. (Trend)

### CAF Chief Makes Surprise Visit to Cameroon

YAOUNDÉ - Confederation of African Football chief Ahmad Ahmad made a surprise visit on Tuesday to Cameroon, the troubled host of the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations, official sources said.

The Madagascan will visit President Paul Biya, whose government is working to convince CAF it will be ready to host the continental festival of football despite doubts over the readiness and capacity of its stadiums.

Ahmad's visit is expected to delay a planned election campaign visit by Biya to the town of Buea, which has been on the frontline of separatist violence by English-speaking fighters.

Officials had earlier suggested that he could travel to the southwestern town as soon as Tuesday, but a presidency source said the trip was "unconfirmed".

There are daily clashes between separatists and the army in the anglophone northwest and southwest regions, and security has been a major campaign issue ahead of Sunday's presidential polls.

Members of the nascent insurgency have threatened to disrupt the elections.

Towns in the anglophone regions were subject to a curfew ahead of the first anniversary of the separatists' symbolic declaration of independence on Monday.

On Sunday eight candidates will face off against Biya, 85, who is seeking a seventh term in power. (AFP)

### Amid Currency's Freefall, Yemen Receives Cash Injection

SANAA, Yemen — Yemen's weak Central Bank is getting a \$200 million cash infusion from Saudi Arabia to shore up its reserves after the currency went into freefall, sparking further concerns for the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The state-run Saudi Press Agency said the "donation" will help "achieve stability of the Yemeni economy and boost the local currency" in the war-torn country.

The Yemeni rial traded between 700 to 800 rials to the dollar on Monday and Tuesday, sending food and fuel prices soaring. Before the civil war erupted in 2015, the rial was around 215 to \$1.

Yemen's conflict pits a Saudi-led coalition backing the country's internationally recognized government against the Shiite rebels, known as Houthis. The government controls the south, where its Central Bank is located, while the Houthis control northern Yemen.

The fighting has killed over 10,000 people and pushed Yemen's population of 29 million to the brink of famine.

With 8.4 million not knowing where their next meal is coming from, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs warned last month that a further slide by the rial could make an additional 3.5 million Yemenis insecure about food, and that over 2 million are "likely to be at a heightened risk of famine."

Even in cities and town where food can be found in marketplaces, many do not have the cash to pay for it.

In the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, grocery stores and supermarkets were closed on Tuesday morning and long lines of cars were seen outside gas stations. Many exchange offices shut down.

As the dollar value varied from one place to another, Yemenis took to social media to post rates from their locations and decry the government's lack of action. (AP)

### Boris Johnson Turns up Heat on May at Conservative meeting

BIRMINGHAM, England — Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson revved up Britain's Conservative Party Tuesday and ramped up pressure on Prime Minister Theresa May, condemning her proposed divorce deal with the European Union as a "cheat" that would keep the country manacled to the bloc.

A day before May was due to rally Tory troops with a keynote speech at the governing party's annual conference, the popular, but divisive Johnson stole the prime minister's thunder with an address laying out his own vision of Brexit and domestic politics.

It was a leadership speech in all but name from a politician who quit the government in July over May's Brexit plan, but remains a huge Conservative star — and, his fans hope, a future prime minister.

In front of 1,500 conference delegates in Birmingham, central England, Johnson lambasted May's so-called "Chequers plan," which would see Britain stick close to EU rules in return for remaining in the bloc's single market for goods.

Johnson said that approach would leave the U.K. "in the tractor beam of Brussels," unable to set its own tariffs and regulations or to strike new trade deals around the world.

"This is not pragmatic, it is not a compromise," Johnson said. "It is dangerous and unstable — politically and economically."

He said that if the Chequers plan were adopted, "the U.K. will effectively be paraded in manacles down the Rue de la Loi" — a Brussels street lined with EU offices.

"This is not democracy. It is not what we voted for," Johnson said. "It's not taking back control. It's forfeiting control."

"Chequers is a cheat," he added, drawing huge applause from party members with a call to "chuck Chequers." (AP)