

(1) U.S. Troops...

result in quick or easy fixes for the war-torn region.

"The entire (gross domestic product) of Afghanistan cannot support even their security forces," he said. "The likelihood of us having troops there, some level of troops ... but what matters is what are they doing. What are those troops doing?"

Trump has repeatedly promised to loosen restrictions on rules of engagement for troops not just in Afghanistan but also in other regions of the world. But military officials said the U.S. role in Afghanistan remains primarily a training and assistance mission, with Afghan troops taking the lead on efforts to root out insurgent fighters.

Defense Secretary James Mattis and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr. are scheduled to testify before House and Senate defense panels on Tuesday to discuss progress in Afghanistan, and what the president's recent changes mean for troops currently stationed there.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., said at a defense hearing last week that lawmakers still have not gotten sufficient information on the new Afghanistan strategy, leaving them with "far more questions than answers" about long-term plans for military missions there. (Monitoring Desk)

(2) Speaker Confirms ...

Bashardost said the scale of corruption in parliament was sky rocketing. "I want to categorically say that when something is infected with corruption, they wash it with water, but the dangerous issue is that what can we do when the water itself is infected," said Bashardost.

But, MP Abdul Qader Zazai Watandost, who serves as the head of parliament's administrative board, said that raising the issue of corruption during parliamentary sessions was not beneficial for the country.

"Based on parliament's internal agenda, this is against the national interests and I am compelled to cut your (Bashardost's) microphone on the basis of the internal rules and principles; you always talk against the national interests," said Watandost. MPs however disagreed and said preventing such discussions was against the law.

A recent TOLONews investigation found that parliament's speaker and parliament's head secretariat allegedly embezzled millions of Afs. But Ibrahim rejected allegations of corruption, and said he has never done anything that could tarnish the image of parliament.

But at the request of lawmakers, four parliamentary commissions were assigned to investigate the allegations. (Tolonews)

(3) International Conference ...

of donor organisations today in Kabul.

The meeting was also attended by National Security Advisor (NSA) Hanif Atmar, Finance Minister Ekilil Hakimi, National Directorate of Security (NDS) chief Masoom Stanikzai and other civil and military officials.

He said Atmar consulted with the participants on the current situation in the country and preparations for the conference of world leaders on Afghanistan.

Atmar shared information on the political and security situation of the country and advancement of Afghan forces, he said.

The NSA called the planned international meeting important for Afghanistan's political and economic stability. He hoped the result of the meeting would be fruitful for Afghans.

Shah said attendants of the meeting appreciated Afghan forces sacrifices and advancements and hoped holding the international conference on Afghanistan

Representatives of different countries and aid organisation heads consulted Atmar on preparations for the conference and its possible results, he said. (Pajhwok)

(4) DABS Reports ...

Residents along the power line route have welcomed the progress - especially those that live close to the Kabul-Kandahar highway, where pylons and substations are being erected.

Rahmatullah, who is lives in Maidan Shahar city of Maidan Wardak province, along with other villagers living in mud houses in the area, said that they know life will improve for them once the electricity project has been completed.

"We are very happy that electricity is coming to us and we are grateful to government that it is making an effort to improve our lives," said Rahmatullah.

Meanwhile, villagers argue that government should also think of other development projects that can benefit their villages. Villagers said they want modern amenities.

"We have another problem also, we don't have schools for our children, government must solve our problems," said Zarif Khan, one villager. (Tolonews)

(5) Denmark to ...

said in a statement.

The 55 Danish soldiers will be stationed in Kabul at the beginning of 2018. (Reuters)

(6) Gen. Bajwa

discussion. Both sides reviewed the prevailing security environment in the region and the state of bilateral relationship.

Long-term peace, cooperation against shared threats, counter-terrorism campaigns to restrict space for non-state actors, intelligence-sharing, trade, commerce and people-to-people contacts also figured at the meeting.

Gen. Bajwa offered Pakistan's stout support to Afghanistan for achieving shared interests in the war against terrorism, including training and capacity-building of Afghan security forces. Both sides agreed on a framework for working towards a peaceful environment conducive to the political process, essential for an enduring Afghan peace and regional stability.

"There was also a consensus on regular and focused dialogue at multiple levels to evolve bilateral process for minimising misunderstanding, managing crisis situations and enhancing cooperation in order to bring peace and stability in the region." (Pajhwok)

(7) China, US, India ...

countries and assign each country to one of three tiers: Established (countries 1-12), Emerging (countries 13-24), and Evolving (countries 25-36). Digital marketplace platforms can use the Index to better inform their expansion decisions. (Agencies)

(8) Kabul and ...

did not yield an outcome for Afghanistan; I hope that this time the Afghan government pursues more conducive policies which are in favor of Afghanistan," said MP Fawzia Kofi.

"I think Pakistan is trying to deceive Afghanistan and it is trying to show that Pakistan is alongside Afghanistan in the fight against terrorism," said MP Fatima Aziz.

Meanwhile the ministry of defense spokesman Dawlat Waziri said: "Regarding this issue, teams have been formed on how to create the environment of trust between the two countries, but the important thing is that friendship with Pakistan is not only in our own interests, but also in the interests of Pakistan."

Following Bajwa's visit, Ghani said that the trip will open a new chapter of relationships between the two countries, adding that good opportunities of cooperation are being provided and that the two countries should try to resolve their issues.

Sources within government have said that the breakthrough for the resumption of talks between the two sides was made during a meeting between Ghani and former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif which took place on the sidelines of the Shanghai summit.

Although details of that meeting were not released to the media, it was believed that terrorism was the focus of discussion between the two officials. (Tolonews)

(9) Directs Flights ...

traveling to India.

He said people from Northern Province had to travel to Kabul first from where they caught the flights for New Delhi.

Manish, India's consul general in Mazar-i-Sharif, said direct flights from different cities of Afghanistan to India was sign of improved relation between Afghanistan and India.

He said more flights and connectivity was vital for greater economic and trade relation between the two countries. (Pajhwok)

(10) Afghan School Girl ...

from a short list of 120 drawings by schoolchildren in 22 different countries, the statement said.

Recently, in Badghis province, WFP presented Mariam, aged 12, and her school with a prize in recognition of the excellent work they do in spite of their challenging situation.

All the students competing in the event attending schools that participate in WFP's worldwide school meals programmes, which were designed to both fortify the health of school children as well as keep them in the classroom even during difficult times.

Students received meals or snacks in school, and/or take-home rations.

Around the world, WFP provides food to more than 16 million children in school meals programmes in 60 countries. Education plays a significant role in breaking the cycle of hunger, and WFP strives to reach the poorest and most vulnerable children. Mariam loves drawing and wants to travel the world. Through her drawing, she wishes to show her country's problems. She dreams of becoming a heart surgeon when she grows up. "The vegetable oil I receive from WFP, is enough for my family, we don't need to buy cooking oil from market," vows the seventh grade student at Abgarmak girl's high school in Qala-I-Naw, Badghis province. "I want to continue my study and go to Turkey for my higher education."

"These children are the future of Afghanistan. To ensure a healthy future for the country we must invest in their education today," said Mick Lorentzen, WFP Representative and Country Director for Afghanistan.

The theme of this year's competition, which involved both a drawing and an accompanying explanatory text, was "Zero Hunger: The future begins with food."

Five drawings from Afghanistan were originally submitted to the competition judges at WFP Headquarters in Rome, Italy. They were selected from more than 40 entries.

"All of us at WFP congratulate these young artists for creating such unique and inspiring works," said Mr. Lorentzen.

The designs from the competition will be displayed in WFP Headquarters and will also be incorporated into wall calendars and greeting cards for global distribution to raise awareness of the World Food Programme's work. (Pajhwok)

(11) ANSF Advancing...

operation will not only concentrate on Seyagerd's Fandoqistan valley, but will also cover other areas in the district.

"Airstrikes were carried out today and yesterday (Monday and Sunday). Enough forces have been deployed in the area including national army, local police and special forces," said Danish.

Fandoqistan is a wide valley with dozens of villages. The valley shares borders with Kabul's Paghman, Stalif and Shakar Dara districts - which has raised concern as this could pose a serious threat to the security of Kabul city.

"Ghorband's valleys are the most vulnerable places in terms of security in Parwan province. Now Taliban, from parts of Baghlan province and Pul-e-Khumri city, have entered Ghorband valleys," MP Zakia Sangin said.

On Sunday a number of villagers in the valley told TOLONews that security forces had not been actively fighting the Taliban. They also said some people from Parwan province were cooperating with the Taliban.

"It is better that government investigates the issue that such things (cooperation with Taliban) is true. If it is true, then again government will remain silent and that is why the country is facing a crisis," MP Abdul Satar Khawasi said.

On Thursday the Taliban launched coordinated attacks on parts of Fandoqistan valley and took control of some areas.

Sources from the area said a number of security forces stationed in the valley left their check posts during the attack - instead of fighting the insurgents. (Tolonews)

(12) Afghanistan Women...

than 850 businesswomen were registered with the AWCCI and its aim was to promote women's trade and resolve their problems.

"Nowadays many women are busy in different areas of businesses and industries and the government should support them," she said.

Talking to the public, she said, "I kindly request you to use women's products; purchase our products which are worthy of buying."

President Ashraf in a video message played in the ceremony, called inauguration of the AWCCI a new season for development of commerce in Afghanistan.

He said that businesswomen had active role in commerce and industry of the country and the government was ready to support them.

Present of women in the country's High Economy Council (HEC) would help resolve problem of tradeswomen, he said.

First lady, Rula Ghani during the inauguration ceremony of AWCCI said that it was a strong step towards development of women's business.

Women would be more encouraged to engage in business and industrial ac-

tivities and problems they were facing in this area would be better managed and addressed with the opening of this board, she said.

Women affairs minister, Dilbar Nazari, termed inauguration of the trade board important for women's leadership in their economic self-sufficiency.

She said ensuring women's participation in economic spheres was a priority of the government, particularly for the Ministry of Women Affairs, which would pay close attention for development of women's commerce.

Nazari said women constituted 29 percent of the country's workforce with 66 percent of them busy in agriculture and the rest in other fields. (Pajhwok)

(13) MoD Probes ...

helicopter reportedly missed its target and instead bombed the ANSF, killing nine soldiers and wounding ten others.

The airstrike was carried out by an MD 130 helicopter on Sunday afternoon around 4pm local time.

According to the MoD, eight of the victims were National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel and the ninth was an Afghan Local Police (ALP) officer.

Ten NDS and ALP officers were wounded in the raid.

According to local reports, one of the NDS's key officers, Tor Jan, was among those killed in the airstrike.

A task team under the leadership of deputy chief of army staff has been tasked to investigate the incident.

MPs have said the incident was a crime. They called on security officials to improve communication between security forces in order to avoid similar incidents in future.

"This would have serious implications, because the security forces are also killed during battles with the Taliban and also as a result of false information," said deputy head of Helmand provincial council Abdul Majid Akhundzada.

"This incident is not only a mistake but a crime, we demand an end to this," said MP Abdul Rauf Enami.

Back in July, at least 16 Afghan National Police (ANP) force members were mistakenly killed in a US forces airstrike in the same district - Greshk district in Helmand province. (Tolonews)

(14) 9 Members ...

215th Maiwand Military Corps, said the airstrike was conducted by AAF on the basis of flawed intelligence from the National Directorate of Security.

Gul Agha Muslim, a member of the Gareshk district's local council, put the death toll at 10. He told a foreign media outlet the victims were from Afghan National Police and intelligence service, NDS.

The bombs were dropped on members of a special militia unit called Sangoryan, who wear local clothes to blend into areas where the Taliban are active. Zwak said the bombing was part of an operation to purge parts of the district of Taliban and enforce the government's writ. "We are investigating which air force conducted the raid."

More than a dozen policemen had been killed in a flawed airstrike by US troops in Greshk district in July. (Pajhwok)

(15) Enraged Khost ...

Dawood Tanai, had no intention of arresting criminals but rather had joined hands with offenders.

An organizer of the demonstration, Haji Fateh, told Pajhwok Afghan News that if the police authorities and other security personnel couldn't curb armed robberies and kidnappings, they should hand in their resignations.

"The police chief and crime-branch head have share in all offenses that occur, such as robberies, kidnappings, drug sales."

Another protestor, Jalat Khan, who was earlier kidnapped, said his abductors were identified but security officials took no step to apprehend them.

Another protestor, Dari Khan, accused security officials of incompetency and dereliction of duty, saying they had secret hands in crimes with irresponsible armed men. "The crimes graph has surged after the Ramadan month as more than 200 vehicles have been stolen; but no one was arrested and none of the vehicles were recovered. Actually security personnel have done nothing in this regard."

The demonstrators warned of continuing rallies if the police chief and crime branch head weren't referred to judicial organizations and kidnappers not arrested.

A few weeks earlier, the district residents had conducted similar protest rally.

Police chief, Faizullah Ghairat, denied all accusations leveled against him by people, saying the protestors were provoked by some circles, who served personal interests. All criminals had been faced with legal action and no one had been set free, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(16) Efforts on to ...

highway stretched from Parwan's Jalal Saraj to Baghlan's Dushi was in dilapidated condition and needed urgent reconstruction.

He said over 400 personnel and more than 100 different type of machinery had been allocated to Salang highway to help traffic during winter.

Sayas said, "Like previous years, food for 10,000 people has been transferred to the 13 safe homes on Salang highway."

Gen. Rajab told the lawmakers that all preparation had been made on his part and no problem would emerge this winter. (Pajhwok)

(17) 2 Dead in Faryab ...

were evacuated to the provincial hospital. However, he was unaware of their condition.

On Sunday evening, two Taliban were killed as a result of a landmine explosion in the Kairabad village of Farah City, said Noorul Haq Khaliqi, an ANA official.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said one of fighter was killed and another wounded in the blast. (Pajhwok)

(18) Dozens of ...

insurgents had retreated to others areas, he claimed. He did not give information about the security forces' casualties.

District chief Aminullah Khaliqi said the situation had improved in the wake of air-and-ground operations.

On the other hand, the Taliban claimed overrunning more areas and killing 26 security personnel. (Pajhwok)

Key ISIS member Qari Zahid killed in US drone strike in East of Afghanistan

KABUL - A key member of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group has been killed in an airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

The provincial police commandment in a statement said the airstrike was carried out by the US forces with unmanned aerial vehicles on Sunday.

The statement further added that two ISIS members were killed in the airstrike carried out in Achin district.

According to the provincial government, a key member of the terror group identified as Qari Zahid was among those killed.

This comes as operations are underway for the elimination of the ISIS and insurgent of the other groups in Nangarhar province.

At least four people including two Pakistanis have been arrested on charges of supplying weapons and ammunition to the anti-government armed militant groups in this province on Saturday.

The provincial government in a statement said Sunday that the men were arrested during an operation from Momand Dara district and as the suspects were attempting to smuggle eight rounds of rocket launcher missiles placed in a vehicle. (KP)

Public Uprising Commander Killed in Taliban Attack

SHEBERGHAN - A public uprising commander in Jawzjan, Salam, was killed by the Taliban during an attack on Kham Aab district, local officials said Monday.

According to officials Salam was killed along with four other public uprising members.

Faqi Mohammad, Jawzjan police chief, said one of the public uprising members was allegedly linked to the Taliban and arranged an attack on the district whilst Salam and other forces were asleep.

The Taliban has confirmed the attack on the district. (Tolonews)

Two Policemen Killed in Zabul Roadside Mine Blast

QALAT - At least two policemen were killed in a roadside mine blast in southern Zabul province on Monday morning, local officials confirmed.

In addition, another policeman was wounded. The blast took place in Kharan area of the provincial capital, Qalat, when the vehicle the policemen were driving in hit an IED, a police security official, Gelani Khan Farahi, said. However, he did not provide further details. No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the blast yet. (Tolonews)