

(1) UK Pledges ...

commitment to Afghanistan's long-term development. Our support is based on the Afghan government's credible reform plans for the coming four years, especially their strong commitments to tackling corruption and the culture of impunity. "These efforts will ensure Afghans citizens, men and women, see the results of progress and improvements in their day to day lives, including better public service delivery and stability." (Pajhwok)

(2) Growing Insecurity...

with support from foreign forces. Several other lawmakers held similar views. Wolesi Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, worried about the security situation, asked the government to ask for support from 'international supporters' under security agreements to reverse the tide of insecurity.

He also asked the government leaders to devise a new war strategy which could help meet the current needs because insurgents had regional intelligence support to achieve their nefarious designs.

He stressed the need for convening a huge gathering of politicians, tribal elders, former president Hamid Karzai, members of National Assembly and influential figures on the issue of increasing insecurity. "If the nation stands by the government, we can eradicate the enemy." Ibrahim asked all Afghans to be alongside their security forces and support them in ensuring security and durable peace. (Pajhwok)

(3) Germany's Reconstr...

alongside their Afghan partners. Referring to illegal Afghan migrants seeking asylum in Germany, Klinke said the two countries were jointly working on the matter.

He said the German and Afghan governments were making joint efforts to deport from Germany the Afghans who had chosen illegal ways to stay in the European country and did not need political asylum.

Governor Atta Mohammad Noor's message was read out at the gathering by Revenue Director and acting governor Mohammad Ishaq Sarwari. In his message, Noor said the relationship between Germany and Afghanistan was more than a century-old.

The governor acknowledged a number of big welfare projects had been completed in Balkh with German assistance. (Pajhwok)

(4) Germany Wants ...

who arrived in the EU last year. The accord also says asylum seekers should be sent back to the first country they arrived in if they subsequently reach another EU state before their case is examined. A huge proportion of the migrants ended up in Germany.

But this clause was suspended for Greece in 2011 after the country lost an EU legal complaint which condemned the mistreatment of migrants seeking international protection.

"Since then, the EU has provided substantial support, not only financially," to Greece to improve its asylum seeker procedures, the German minister said. - "Greece must expel more" -

In an interview on German television Sunday evening, De Maiziere also criticised Athens for failing to fully implement an EU agreement with Turkey to return migrants there.

The EU reached a deal with Turkey in March to stop the influx to the Greek islands in return for financial aid and eased visa conditions for its citizens. But the deal has looked shaky in the wake of a coup attempt in Turkey in July. "Greece must carry out more expulsions," he told the ARD television station.

De Maiziere had already in August highlighted the need to reinstate the Dublin rules, provoking an outcry from Athens.

Greece stressed it was already coping with over 60,000 refugees and migrants blocked on its

territory after countries further north on the so-called Balkan route closed their borders to the massive influx, notably fleeing the Syrian conflict.

De Maiziere said he was conscious of the "strong reactions" of Greeks, as well as the huge number of migrants being dealt with by Greece as an EU frontline state.

But "that doesn't annul the need" to reinstate the Dublin rules, he said, stressing that "criticism of the convention not being applied keeps increasing in Germany."

The German minister, who has just revised the number of asylum seekers who arrived in Germany last year to 890,000 -- down from a previous estimate of 1.1 million -- reiterated Berlin's commitment to taking its share of refugees who arrived in Greece and Italy in 2015 and the start of 2016. "Germany is ready to welcome up to 500 people per month" from the two countries, he said. (AFP)

(5) Hakimi Hopes...

during the upcoming conference and the amount might be processed through the state treasury. "We had promised the International Monetary Funds (IMF) collecting 132 billion afghanis in revenue. Fortunately, we are on the verge of realizing in the next two months," the minister said. He added Afghanistan's economic growth in 2014 was 0.9 percent, in 2015 1.2 percent and during the ongoing year 2 percent.

Asked about rifts between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah, he said political differences existed in every system in the world. He argued a clash of opinion it was something natural. In some European countries, Hakimi claimed, there was greater political instability than in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(6) CSJWG Welcomes...

in the committee's work. According to Ahmadi, the civil society joint group was a biggest platform for decision-making and other issues on behalf of civil society organizations in the country. (Pajhwok)

(7) 35 Injured as ...

and security men had been delivered to the hospital.

A provincial council member, Amruddin Wali, said heavy clashes were ongoing following heavy explosions and gunfire in different neighbourhoods. The city might fall again to Taliban if reinforcements did not arrive in time, he warned.

A source in the MoD also confirmed insurgents had sneaked into homes in some residential areas, including Bandari Kabul, Angor Bagh, Tapa-i-Khaki in the jurisdiction of 3rd police district, Bagh Shirkat and Zarkhareed, and used local residents as human shields, scaring residents. He said the Afghan defence and security forces backed by air forces had suppressed the insurgents and Kunduz city was completely under control of security forces.

The source said security forces' aggressive operation against militants was ongoing, and a manhunt launched to closely follow insurgents and kill them.

One resident, who did not want to be named, said both Taliban and security forces used civilian homes. Heavy fighting was ongoing and helicopters were hovering over the city, he claimed.

Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid claimed the provincial capital was attacked from four directions in the morning. He said Afghan forces had suffered heavy casualties. Nawabad area and several security posts around the city had already been overrun by the fighters, who entered the Kunduz city, he added.

The Taliban briefly held Kunduz City about a year ago and renewed their attack, forcing local residents to attempt fleeing. Shops were closed in the city. (Pajhwok)

(8) Air Force ...

from four different directions overnight.

Earlier reports indicated that officials were confident insurgents would not be able to enter Kunduz city but residents claim the

Taliban has managed to get in to some parts of the city.

In addition, residents claim the highway to Ali Abad district from the city is closed.

Kunduz residents also claim that currently clashes are ongoing in Bandar-e-Khan Abad, Se Sarak and Zakhil area in the western parts of the city.

But police officials said that the Taliban were defeated in Bandar-e-Imam Sahib, Bandar-e-Khan Abad and Angorbagh but that clashes are currently ongoing in Se Sarak area of the city.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the Taliban was pushed back from the city but that clashes are still ongoing in some parts of the city.

One policeman was killed and four others were injured so far, read the statement.

"If there is the need, more troops will be deployed to Kunduz," it stated.

But reports suggest that Taliban have closed the Takhar and Baghlan highways into Kunduz, along with other major routes.

Responding to the news that Taliban fighters have launched a coordinated attack on the city of Kunduz in Afghanistan, Champa Patel, Amnesty International's South Asia Director, said: "Citizens in Kunduz have woken up this morning to find themselves once again caught up in a storm of appalling violence. It is extremely worrying that Taliban fighters are exposing residents to attacks and sweeping them into a raging war, which has already cost them so much. Needless endangering civilians by launching attacks from their midst is prohibited under international law, and demonstrates the Taliban's utter disregard for civilian life and right to life."

Patel added: "All parties to the conflict must take all feasible precautions to protect civilians, including media and humanitarian workers, and ensure they are protected amid this renewed violence in Kunduz. Civilians must never be used as human shields." The Taliban meanwhile claimed on social media that it had overrun a number of police check posts in New Zabhel area of Kunduz.

On September 28 last year the Taliban carried out a coordinated attack on Kunduz - and took control of the city for three days. This was the first time the group had seized a city since its ousting in 2001.

For three days, heavy clashes ensued between security forces and insurgents before troops managed to take back the city. (Tolonews)

HRW in a statement. "The Brussels Conference is a crucial opportunity for donors to commit to a more robust role in insisting the Afghan government make good on its promises to improve human rights," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

(9) HRW Urges...

"While donors are preoccupied with deterring refugee flight, they should focus instead on security force and Taliban abuses and children's lack of access to education, and address the reasons people are so desperate to leave," he said.

Although millions of Afghan children have had greater access to education as a result of donor support over the past 15 years, these gains are now at serious risk, HRW said. Funding, particularly for community-based education, is stagnating, with girls being hit hardest, while corruption - particularly the sale of teaching positions - has undermined the quality of teachers.

Donors should press the Afghan government to address corruption, and provide support for expanding community-based education programs, the statement read. HRW went on to say that donors should also urge the Afghan government to curtail abuses by its security forces, including the military's use of schools. As security throughout Afghanistan has deteriorated, security forces have increasingly put children in harm's way by occupying schools, often using

them as military bases. This turns school buildings into possible targets for attack, and is contrary to the Safe Schools Declaration, which Afghanistan endorsed in May last year.

At the London Conference on Afghanistan in 2014, Afghanistan's donors "noted the importance of protecting and strengthening free media." However, violence against journalists has increased, much of it perpetrated by government officials.

While President Ashraf Ghani has pledged his support for the media, powerful officials and strongmen responsible for threats and violence against journalists have not been held accountable, said HRW.

"Donors say they want the Afghan government to commit to curbing refugee flight, so why are they silent on the human rights abuses that fuel refugee flows?" Adams said.

"Protecting schools, providing security, and holding security forces accountable are all crucial to improving human rights in Afghanistan," he added. (Tolonews)

(10) Nawa District...

provincial governor's media office, reinforcement troops have arrived in the area.

They said that during clashes, Taliban commander Mawlawi Shir Mohammad, known as Fahim, along with 45 other Talibs were killed in Nawa clashes.

Officials said that Nawa district has been under siege by the Taliban for a month and government forces only had control of the police compound in the town.

Meanwhile Helmand residents criticized government for not having sent in reinforcement troops to Nawa earlier.

This comes after Afghan security forces retook Nawa district on August 11 after it fell to the Taliban earlier that month. (Tolonews)

(11) Atmar Strongly ...

to insult Karzai who was invited during an event organized on Friday to mark the death anniversary of Rabbani.

Expressing his strong condemnations towards the move to insult the former Afghan President, Atmar warned that such moves against the former or current president or other national figures would have negative consequences.

The remarks by Atmar came as the prominent security official General Abdul Razaq earlier reacted towards the move against Karzai with angry remarks.

Gen. Raziq took some further steps not only to react towards the insulting steps against Karzai but to denounce the so called allocation of privileges of jihad to some specific groups.

Expressing his strong opposition for the event and offering privilege to certain Mujahideen leaders, Gen. Raziq warned that the people of Kandahar will not remain silent, insisting that supremacy of jihad is not limited to a particular ethnic group.

He went on to say that 'no one is allowed to labe a thief to her' emphasizing that the real Mujahideen like Mullah Omar and the group's slain military commander Mullah Dadullah have no properties or businesses left behind them. (KP)

(12) Minister Confirms

the country," said Stephen Moore, project manager at UNDP Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL) urged government to increase the number of female recruits among police force members.

"How can females who make over 50 percent of the population in any country trust the police service if they can join the police service and serve as a female police officer," said Philip Haynes, head MoI reform component. The MoI noted that religious scholars, tribal elders and members of civil society institutions will be included in the structure of the councils. (Tolonews)

(13) Attacks on ...

over 200 shells on the hospital, killing 14 MSF aid workers, 24 patients and four of their care-

takers. One year on, hospitals continue to be "dragged onto the battlefield," MSF Director General Christopher Stokes warned. The medical charity estimates that 77 attacks have been launched at the facilities it runs in Syria and Yemen since last October.

"A war without limits leads to a battlefield without doctors. We will not sit silently by and let this happen," Stokes wrote in an article on the MSF website, commemorating the Kunduz hospital bombing. As it happened According to MSF data, an AC-130 gunship attacked the Kunduz Trauma Center after ground troops fighting Taliban insurgency in Kunduz claimed that all civilians had left the city. No effort was made to confirm this, Stokes wrote. The entire city was therefore deemed hostile, allowing US forces in Kunduz to invoke self-defense rules and mount a "shoot first, ask questions later" military operation against the Taliban. (Sputnik)

(14) 6 Civilians...

spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said militants were not involved in the incident. He added local Taliban were unaware who conducted the attack. (Pajhwok)

(15) Militant Kills ...

said.

The Independent Human rights Commission head for Faryab, Sayed Hafizullah Fitrat, condemned the incident and called it an inhuman and un-Islamic act. If Taliban really wanted to implement Sharia then they must punish the murderer, he said.

There has been no word from the Taliban about the incident. (Pajhwok)

(16) 13 Insurgents...

wounded in a counterattack by security personnel in the Sherkel area of Tagab district in Kapisa late on Sunday.

"Taliban are weakened and try to attack security posts in different areas of Kapisa, but the attacks result in their own casualties," he said.

Sherzad, a resident of the area, said a civilian was also injured in the Taliban attack on security posts. But the fighters have not yet commented on the incident so far.

Tagab is one of the unstable districts of Kapisa where Afghan forces and the Taliban usually clash. (Pajhwok)

(17) 2 Civilians...

Meanwhile, a statement from the 808th Spinaz Military Zone said that two rebels were killed and two Taliban commanders wounded in the clash.

However, Zara Shar inhabitant Raz Mohammad said Afghan forces attacked the Taliban who had entered the mosque. "A tank of Afghan forces came and opened fire on the mosque and shattered all its glasses."

The resident said three children, a prayer leader and two worshippers were injured in the incident, which Takhar police chief said was being investigated.

According to another report, two civilians were killed in a bomb blast in the Charkh district of central Logar province. The governor's spokesman said the two civilians were transporting vegetables to the bazaar in a Mazda truck.

Both were killed when the vehicle struck a roadside bomb planted by Taliban militants, Salim Saleh added. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(18) British PM May, shaking her head as she added: "Come on, the referendum result was clear."

"Parliament put the decision to leave or remain inside the EU in the hands of the people. It is not up to the government to question, quibble or backslide on what we've been instructed to do, but to get on with the job," said the prime minister. (Xinhua)

(19) ASEAN ...

while moving towards ASEAN Vision 2025.

The three-day AIPA general assembly adopted nearly 30 resolutions on issues of common interest which are of utmost significance to the ASEAN com-

munity. The assembly discussed on topics such as ensuring cyber security in ASEAN, decent work for ASEAN women, preparedness and response to Zika virus infection, creating job opportunities and decent working condition in economic development, strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises and implementation of the Plan of Action of the ASEAN Declaration on strengthening social protecting. (Xinhua)

(20) Clinton Continues...

among white voters, 37 percent to 41 percent, but that's a tangible improvement from the week before, when he was leading her by 11 points with those voters. Meanwhile, Trump's struggles with minorities continue. He was the first choice for just 27 percent of Hispanics, while half backed Clinton. The disparity is even greater among black voters, 76 percent of whom backed Clinton, compared with 8 percent who chose Trump. (Morning Consult)

(21) India Ratifies...

spokesperson Vikas Swarup wrote on twitter. "On Gandhiji's birth anniversary we deposit the instrument of ratification of Paris agreement on climate change."

"India now joins the 61 other Parties that have deposited their instruments of ratification, which, including India, together account for close to 52 per cent of total global greenhouse emissions," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement. (Xinhua)

(22) Iraq Rejects...

ignored Baghdad's repeated calls for withdrawing Turkish troops deployed on Iraqi territories, he added.

The Iraqi statement came after Erdogan's comments on Saturday during a parliamentary session, in which Turkish legislators voted for an extension of the mandate of Turkish forces in Syria and Iraq for one more year. The mandate, given to the Turkish armed forces in 2014, was last extended for one year in September 2015. Erdogan said Mosul could be freed from IS militants but warned that Ankara had to be involved in any operation and be included in the decision-making process.

"Turkey cannot be left off the table. The others don't have such a border (with Iraq)," he said. "They may want us to stay as spectators but that decision is also going to be made here." (Xinhua)

(23) Hungarian Voters...

Ferenc Gyurcsany, chair of the DK party called on Orban to resign, while Gyula Molnar, chair of the MSZP party said that the invalid vote was merely an expensive public opinion poll.

He called the referendum illegitimate and demanded that parliament investigate the huge amount of money that went into the advertising campaign.

Viktor Szigetvari, chief of the Egyutt Party said the outcome was proof that the people weren't ready to accept a hate campaign, no matter how intensive. (Xinhua)

(24) New Zealand

Zealand is in the relatively unusual position of having a growing economy, sound government books, growing job numbers and rising real wages at the same time as low inflationary pressures, but we cannot afford to take this state of affairs for granted."

The annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank would bring together finance ministers, central banks, businesspeople, representatives of civil society and academics. (Xinhua)

(25) IS Claims...

the very few cities that haven't witnessed much violence during the country's long-running civil war, save for some spots in its countryside. (Xinhua)

(26) Uzbekistan Acting...

Karakalpakstan and Khorezm will not be possible - it is necessary to speed us this project, which is important for the region," he said. (Monitoring Desk)