

(1) Efforts to...

he remarked. After clinching a deal with the Hekmatyar-led HIA, Ghani said: "By the same token, we want to launch peace parleys with the Taliban, who don't promote the interests of outsiders or ruining Afghanistan at their behest, embrace the constitution and uphold Islamic values."

Power generation would see a huge increase with the construction of a second dam in the Sarobi district of Kabul and rehabilitation of Kajaki dam in Helmand, he hoped.

Ghani declared he would no longer tolerate efforts at hampering good governance and reforms. The elements trying to scuttle his government's agenda, involved in corruption or having links to mafia groups would be dealt with sternly, he warned.

He went on to urge political forces to support administrative reforms in the supreme national interest and not to let what he called a historic chance fizzle out.

"Taliban and Daesh members, who brazenly kill you, are not your sole enemy. Your real foes are the corrupt individuals and groups that are resisting reforms and defaming the country," the president said. (Pajhwok)

(2) More than ...

families are still on the move, this figure will almost certainly change."

The UN had earlier said up to 10,000 people had fled the city, which briefly fell last year to the Taliban in a similar assault.

Kunduz residents have faced crippling shortages of food and medicine after the Taliban launched an all-out assault last Monday, capturing parts of the city.

Afghan forces have struggled to flush them out of residential neighborhoods, with the government saying the clearance operation was being carefully conducted to prevent civilian casualties. At least three civilians have been killed and more than 290 wounded, according to the Kunduz general hospital, but local residents say the actual toll is much higher.

"Key parts of the city have been cleared, with 52 insurgents killed in the last 24 hours," the interior ministry said on Sunday.

The Taliban attack on Afghanistan's fifth-largest city a year after it was overrun by insurgents has raised serious concerns about the capacity of NATO-trained government forces to protect large urban centers.

U.S. forces are supporting Afghan troops in clearance operations inside Kunduz, with at least six airstrikes against Taliban positions since Thursday.

"Military reinforcements have reached Kunduz, and the enemy will be defeated and punished," President Ashraf Ghani said in a televised speech on Sunday.

After their assault on Kunduz, the Taliban have also attempted to overrun other provincial capitals, from Baghlan in the north to Farah in the west, but Afghan forces have managed to repel the attacks. (Tolonews)

(3) Beijing Supports ...

Security Council, sharing similar views on events both on regional and global levels. "China and Russia hold similar positions on the most important international and regional issues, including on Syria and Afghanistan. The sides, being permanent members of the UN Security Council, continue close cooperation on international and regional issues," Li Baodong said.

Being the only non-western member of the UN Security Council besides Russia, China has been taking Moscow's side on heated and highly debatable issues. On Saturday, China's ambassador to the UN, Liu Jieyi, expressed his regret that the Russia-sponsored resolution on Syria, which was vetoed by UN Security Council, did not pass the vote, while calling it "comprehensive, all-encompassing and balanced" document.

"China voted for the draft resolution and regrets that it was not adopted," the UN envoy said, as cited by TASS. The Russian draft was voted down by nine votes to four, with two other UNSC members abstained from the vote. A rival French-sponsored resolution, that proposed a no-fly zone to be imposed over Syria akin to that in Libya in 2011 that led to the

brutal assassination of Muammar Gaddafi, was vetoed by Russia.

China was the only Council's permanent that did not cast its ballot for or against the draft. Angola followed the suit, while another non-permanent member, Venezuela, sided with Russia and voted "no." (FNA)

(4) Govt. Launches...

attract \$200 million in this sector. Speaking during a ceremony for the inauguration of the project, Minister Naderi promised to take all necessary actions for preparing plans for the ascertained areas and establishment of infrastructures.

Minister Naderi further added each thread of the Afghan carpet represents the wealthy culture and rare arts of the Afghan nation which has presented the national identity of the country on global level besides remaining one of the main exports product of Afghanistan.

He admitted that the carpet weaving sector of the country suffered the most as the other sectors during the decades of war and lack of necessary support during the past years that led to the destruction and embezzlement of the product.

Naderi said the outsiders are gaining the most benefits out of the sell of the Afghan carpets besides they are given trademarks of the other countries as they are exported in global markets.

According to Naderi, the government's support towards the carpet weaving sector could not only improve the trade of Afghan carpets but will also help to develop other sectors including agriculture, livestock and trade. He emphasized that the growth of carpet weaving sector will also create job opportunities for thousands of Afghan people.

In conclusion, Minister Naderi thanked President Ghani for his support in paving the way for the implementation of the one of the main ambitions of the Afghan people, specifically those working in the carpet weaving sector. (KP)

(5) WJ Calls ...

Mujahid, a lawmaker from Kabul, demanded prompt implementation of the deal and asked the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) to remove Hikmatyar's name from blacklist.

He said the deal would help the government with the deteriorated security situation in the country and the unity government without further delay should implement the articles of the deal. Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said: "We want the peace deal with HIA to be implemented without delay. They (HIA) have strong influence over insurgent groups and HIA can play a significant role in stabilising the country."

Ibrahimi asked the UNSC to remove Hikmatyar's name from the blacklist of the council. (Pajhwok)

(6) Kunduz War ...

the current crisis.

"Some elements which have played a role in the siege of Kunduz, I will share (their names) with the people of Kunduz; if anyone stops standing by the Kunduz people, they are making big mistakes," said Murad.

Omarkhail said late last week however that "forces were called out of the city, but inside the city they relied only on those roads which had been opened by them."

But as thousands of families have been forced to flee the city amid ongoing clashes, criticism is mounting.

"I want to convey my message to the president whom we consider as our grandfather - the president promised the people of Kunduz that the province will not collapse again (after October last year). He said the person who I appointed as governor will improve your security. So now he should dismiss this person (governor) who failed to bring us security," said a member of Kunduz's provincial council, Asadullah Sadat.

"Taliban fighters have been deployed in all areas even inside houses, the governor's officials claim that they have captured this and that, they (government officials) are only deceiving the people," said a resident, Sultan.

"They left Kunduz and went towards Dasht-e-Archi and some other remote districts, there was

no need to clear those areas in the wake of situations in Kunduz," said another resident of Kunduz, Sorosh.

"Government is not abiding by its responsibility and does not care about the people," said Kunduz resident, Najmuddin.

Sources have meanwhile said that the complexity of the war in Kunduz has made it difficult to predict when the Afghan security forces will be able to recapture areas occupied by the hardline militant group. (Tolonews)

(7) Dostum to ...

air forces have also carried out air operations in different parts of Kunduz.

"The U.S apache choppers are also involved in the operation and are targeting the Taliban in different parts of Kunduz," a source told TOLONews. The situation has however slowly improved, especially near the main circle of Kunduz city and the Zer-e-Dawra market has reopened.

Provincial Police Chief, Gen. Mohammad Qasim Jangal Bagh told TOLONews that more than 200 Taliban insurgents were killed or injured in the past week.

But at least 20 security force members were also killed or injured in the ongoing clashes, he added.

However, there are unconfirmed reports that dozens of security force members have been killed or injured in the past week.

Government hospitals meanwhile confirmed that they have admitted almost 200 civilian casualties in this time.

This comes after Assadullah Omarkhil, the governor of Kunduz, said in an interview with TOLONews on Sunday that General Murad Ali Murad, deputy army chief of staff, was to blame for the current Kunduz crisis.

Omarkhil says that pulling the forces out of the city and conducting operations in the districts late last year, before removing insurgents completely from the city, was a big mistake.

"I asked that first we should clear the entire city. But General Murad (who is also the Kunduz war commander) did not accept my suggestion and moved according to his own plan. I was worried about this (crisis) and then it happened," Omarkhil said.

Omarkhil said Murad, with his advisors, only cleared a few roads, and should respond to the people of Kunduz.

TOLONews made many calls to Murad for comment but failed to reach him.

However, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) rejected this claim.

"Everywhere that General Murad has conducted operations, he has achieved good results. I don't know why Omarkhil has said such things and I don't want to analyse it," said Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the MoD.

Last Monday, the Taliban launched coordinated attacks against Kunduz, capturing a number of areas in the city. Since then, security forces have battled to push back the insurgents.

Meanwhile, thousands of people have fled the city and those still there are faced with serious food and water shortages. (Tolonews)

(8) Af-Pak Trade...

Afghan Transporters Association chief Haji Qasim Arab also said the Ashraf Ghani administration showed no flexibility in either scrapping the tax or reducing it. Talks on the issue ended on an inconclusive note on Saturday when the Afghan authorities ruled out any concession.

But a delegation of Afghan transporters and traders visited Kabul to hold talks with the officials concerned to rationalize the new tax, he added. Sunday's negotiations produced a breakthrough, with transporters ending their protest. (Pajhwok)

(9) NDS Chief ...

takeover, but problem exists in the leadership," said Senator Hashim Alokzoi.

"There is one armored tank against each Taliban fighter in Kunduz, we flee the scene despite having all the necessary equipment," said Senator Abdullah Qarloq. (Tolonews)

(10) Critics Urge...

violence," said MP Saleh Mohammad Saljoqi.

But, government is defiant about these claims and says it is steadfast in its efforts to fix the chal-

enges. "Leaders have convened emergency meetings to discuss security in the insecure regions, they also assigned tasks to the responsible officials and security officials have also visited volatile regions," said Jawed Faisal, deputy spokesman to CEO. This comes a week after the Taliban launched another onslaught on Kunduz city, a province in northern Afghanistan, bringing about another setback to the Afghan security forces.

The Kunduz turbulence has caused thousands of people to flee their homes and dozens have been killed and wounded. (Tolonews)

(11) Samangan ...

owner in Chahar Sawq village of Feroz Nakhchir district, said he had collected 5,600 kilograms grapes last year from his 2.5 acres garden and the amount increased to 7,000 this year.

He said a kilogram of grapes was sold for 45 Afghanis last year but the price declined to 40 Afghanis this year.

Haji Mohammad Sharif, a grapes trader, said that the price of Samangan grapes declined because some merchants imported the fruit to Afghanistan and then exported to Pakistan, posing the fruit belonged to Feroz Nakhchir district.

He said the businessmen falsely used the Hussaini and Taifi titles for grapes they export to foreign countries. The two types of grapes yielded in Afghanistan have international fame. (Pajhwok)

(12) Taliban Retreat...

launched in Farah".

However, clashes are ongoing he said.

He said the Taliban suffered heavy casualties on Sunday night and "most of their casualties are because of air strikes."

However, reports suggest that businesses and shops are still closed and residents are concerned about the situation.

The Taliban launched a coordinated attack on the outskirts of Farah city last week, which has since resulted in the displacement of hundreds of local residents. (Tolonews)

(13) Security Forces ...

Samim Khapalwak, the governor's spokesman.

He said the fire fight erupted after the militants attacked security forces check-post last night. One civilian was killed and two others wounded during the clash, he added. In eastern Laghman, four Taliban, including the group's shadow district Chief Qahir Akhuzad and his brother Shir Zaman, were killed and as many wounded during militants attack on Afghan forces check-post in Bad Pakh district, said Sarhadi Zwak, the governor's spokesman. An Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier was killed and three others wounded in the clash.

Taliban have not yet commented about the incidents. (Pajhwok)

(14) Taliban Key ...

of posts and driven the Taliban from the area. But Taliban Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid rejected security forces claim and said the posts were still under the group control. (Pajhwok)

(15) Unknown Gunmen...

took his car along with all his belongings including laptop and mobile phone.

"I was on my way when three gunmen stopped me. They hit me with gun. They told my brother that they will kill me if he informed police," Sarir said. He sustained injuries on his head and was evacuated to hospital for treatment. His health condition was said to be stable.

Police has launched an investigation into the attack. However, it was not the first time Sarir came under attack. He was repeatedly threatened by different groups. Sarir said that he was once faced with a kidnapping attempt about five months ago in the fourth police district of Kabul.

However, the kidnappers managed to flee immediately after a police ranger pick-up suddenly arrived to the area, he said.

Haroon Chakhansori, a spokesman to the president, condemned the attack and said the government, particularly President Ashraf Ghani and security organs' leaders were committed

to protect freedom of expression and defend the journalists' rights.

He said a procedure to ensure journalists' security was approved by National Security Council last week. The organs concerned decisively investigate such incidents and needed steps for the protection of journalists would take in the near future, he said. (Pajhwok)

(16) Taliban ...

the area and killed two people. He did not know who the dead people were.

Taliban have not commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

(17) U.S. Key...

the University of Denver, said she knew no college professors who would vote for Trump and his sexist remarks would permanently damage his chances because women represent more than half of America's electorate. Reaction from Utah's conservative Mormon Church over the weekend also condemned Trump, with many of its leaders urging him to withdraw as the GOP candidate.

Although many prominent western republican women pulled away from their party leader in the past 48 hours, at the Dark Horse, conservative loyalty filled the air. (Xinhua)

(18) China Calls...

all parties would agree to a cease-fire and an end to violence soon, re-launch the Geneva Talks and press ahead with a Syrian-led process to accommodate all interests.

Geng stressed the unity of international community, expressing the hope that all parties concerned would work together, build consensus and push for political solution to Syrian crisis, so as to maintain peace and stability in Syria and in the region. (Xinhua)

(19) After May's...

May's setting a timetable appeased those at home who feared she was bridling at the decision to leave the EU which voters chose in a referendum in June. But it raised fears among others that she had cornered herself into a total break with the bloc. (Reuters)

(20) Russia Ready...

sector and accelerate a rebalancing of the market," Putin said. "Russia is prepared to join joint measures limiting production and calls on other exporting countries to do the same," he added. (AFP)

(21) UN Chief...

of proportionality, distinction and precaution -- to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure against attack," it added.

More than 530 people were injured Saturday in the attack on the funeral hall, reports said. Some witnesses said senior Houthi officials and their ally, former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, were in the hall. (Xinhua)

(22) Italian PM ...

reads: "Do you approve a constitutional law that concerns abolishing the bicameral system (of parliament), reducing the number of MPs, containing the operating costs of public institutions, abolishing the National Council on Economy and Labor (CNEL), and amending Title V of the Constitution, Part II?" (Xinhua)

(23) Russian Defense...

alleged Russian responsibility for the situation in Syria and in particular, in Aleppo, should think about what Britain has done in that poor country," the ministry's spokesman Maj.-Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement. The spokesman listed a host of progress as a result of Russia's actions in Syria, including over 1,000 liberated settlements, huge areas freed from the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group, and thousands of tons of humanitarian aid delivered to the needy.

He asked Britain to provide comparable figures of its contribution to the peaceful settlement in Syria. (Xinhua)

(24) S. Korea to ...

However, the advances in the DPRK's nuclear and missile capabilities caused super hard-line calls from a fraction of conservative figures, with some even demanding a nuclear armament of South Korea. An unnamed official at South

Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) told the press briefing that the DPRK has prepared for another nuclear test that can be conducted at any time if its leadership decides on it. (Xinhua)

(25) WHO Falls ...

Regional Action Plan for Dengue Prevention and Control, a new draft action plan that will "provide fresh guidance on actions to slow down the expansion of dengue." (Xinhua)

(26) 102 Police...

911 call, where a woman said her son was causing a domestic disturbance.

When the police officers arrived, "Felix refused to open the front door and threatened to shoot the officers," according to CNN, within 10 minutes, "Felix opened fire through the closed front door."

Comments from an article on Los Angeles Times about the Palm Spring shooting pointed to the National Rifle Association, which advocates gun rights and also "supports the right of even criminals to own, possess and use weapons anytime."

Only three days ago, a Los Angeles County sheriff's sergeant was shot and killed in Lancaster while responding to a residential burglary call. The suspect is an African American. (Xinhua)

(27) Pakistan Pledges ...

political engagement and undertaken substantive measures to further deepen and broaden the economic relationship. (Xinhua)

Libyan Forces Push into Last Islamic State Area in Sirte

TRIPOLI - Libyan pro-government forces are advancing into the last area controlled by Islamic State in the coastal city of Sirte, surrounding the militants after a five-month campaign backed by U.S. air strikes, military officials say.

At least eight pro-government fighters were killed over the weekend as their forces pushed into the 600 block, an area in central Sirte, with snipers and boobytraps posing the main obstacles to their advance, the officials said. A Reuters reporter on the ground said forces advanced across two streets on Sunday, but were facing resistance and discovering explosive devices in many buildings.

Islamic State took over Sirte a year ago, exploiting the chaos and violence that have dogged Libya since the overthrow of leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 in order to carve out a new base, far from its main territory in Iraq and Syria. Losing the city would be a major blow to the group, but officials believe some of its fighters and commanders escaped before Sirte was surrounded, and may continue to wage guerrilla-style attacks even after it falls. The advance is being led by the Bonyan Marsous forces, mainly fighters from the city of Misrata, who are supporting a United Nations-backed unity government in Tripoli that is trying to bring together rival factions. (Reuters)

Global Warming Imperils Tajikistan's Landscape

DUSHANBE - Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan - The caves perched above Savnab village in Tajikistan served as a hideout during frequent raids by nomadic bandits on the ancient agricultural community living there two centuries ago.

There is no threat of a bandit attack today, but villages in Tajikistan's Pamir Mountains are now facing a new kind of threat: global warming.

Tajikistan is one of the countries least responsible for climate change but one of the worst affected, according to a new report by Oxfam.

It is ranked 129th in the world for greenhouse gas emissions per capita.

Today, age-old practices in Tajikistan are changing as shifting weather patterns make it harder for the villagers to plan tasks such as when to sow their seeds.

They say warmer temperatures have also increased outbreaks of fungal diseases in their crops. But melting glaciers concern people of the village the most. (Al Jazeera)