

(1) Nuclear...

Trump, who has warned of "fire and fury" if North Korea does not back down.

Guterres said a solution to the North Korea must be political and stressed to leaders: "This is a time for statesmanship."

Beyond the nuclear threat, Guterres painted a grim picture of a troubled world facing grave challenges with many people "hurting and angry" because they "see insecurity rising, inequality growing, conflict spreading and climate changing." (AP)

(2) US Sending 3,000 More ...

deployment will raise the number of U.S. forces in the South Asian country to over 14,000, as the 16th anniversary of war there approaches. American forces moved into Afghanistan to overthrow an administration led by the Taliban and members of the al-Qaida terror network in late 2001, following the attacks ordered by Osama bin Laden against New York and Washington on September 11 of that year.

The decision to send in more troops caps President Donald Trump's change of heart on how to deal with the Afghanistan conflict, America's longest war. Before his election last year, candidate Trump had routinely called for a full U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. In August, however, Trump said he was responding to military commanders' requests for more troops, and establishing what he called a "conditions-based approach" to evaluating troop levels and military operations in Afghanistan. (VoA)

(3) Merkel Heading for ...

but Merkel's message - that the economy needs to be rendered fit for the future by investing in digital technologies - appears to resonate more at a time of strong growth.

In fresh positive news from the economy, the Mannheim-based ZEW research institute said the mood among German investors improved more than expected in September as worries about the stronger euro faded.

"The German federal elections do not seem to have been a source of uncertainty," ZEW President Professor Achim Wambach said in a statement.

The ZEW survey suggested markets expect Europe's biggest economy to continue its solid performance in the coming months, buoyed by record-high employment, rising real wages and ultra-low borrowing costs that are supporting a consumer-led upswing.

Tuesday's poll showed that in a fictional, direct vote between Merkel and Schulz, 48 percent would support her and 22 percent would back him, with 30 percent preferring neither. (Reuters)

(4) Britain Assures ...

said that the scheme was a replacement for the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) that was launched in 2003.

British embassy spokesman Jenny Jones said his country would donate six million pounds to the Citizen Charter programme for the economic development of Afghans and in humanitarian aid. He added Britain would continue supporting Afghanistan, where it had hundreds of military personnel training and advising security Afghan forces.

Deputy Governor Mohammad Asif Mubaligh thanked the British embassy for its cooperation and said Bamyan was on its way to development and progress. "We need more assistance from the international community and hope it would help Bamyan people in different areas," he said.

Saiman Boyden asked Bamyan students to register for master's degree scholarships offered by his country.

Bamyan University Chancellor Masuma Khawari appreciated Britain's friendly cultural relations with Afghan universalities and said students were interested in applying for educational scholarships. (Pajhwok)

(5) New Policy to Protect ...

minister, garrison commanders, Kabul police chief, Kabul security team and members of security commission of mosques.

Danish briefed the meeting about the government's new security policy for mosques and said cooperation of local people with security organs in protecting Islamic centers was part of the policy.

"The implementation of this policy will never reduce responsibility of security organs, particularly the Ministry of Interior (MoI), towards security of the public", he said.

He said the new policy was not limited to Muharram mourning days, but would be continued for two years in the whole of the country and salaries and equipment of personnel tasked for the job would be provided by the government.

About processions during Muharram, he said these events should take place

in an organized manner. Considering recent deadly attacks, Danish said people should not rely only on security personnel, but themselves should also take part in the important duty.

Acting interior minister Wais Barmak also said joint security measures under the supervision of the Army Chief of Staff and deputy interior minister would be taken for protection of mosques and Islamic centers.

"The training of hundreds of people for this task is almost complete and distribution of equipment and allocation of salaries is under process," he said.

Army Chief of Staff Mohammad Sharif Yaftali also said the security plan for observance of Muharram had been prepared and all relevant organs ordered to discharge their duties with care. (Pajhwok)

(6) Iran, Pakistan can ...

the US is not ready to leave the region and this is matter of concern for Iran and Pakistan.

Syeda Abida Hussain said the US wants to pursue its hegemonic approach in the region but Iran and Pakistan through their close cooperation can tackle the issue in more effective manner.

She noted that the US has completely failed in Afghanistan but is not ready to accept this fact and blames other regional countries for its failures inside Afghanistan.

The politician was of the view that Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project would be the main topic during the meeting between President Hassan Rouhani and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. She added that this project is very important for Pakistan and should be completed as early as possible.

"Peace in Afghanistan is another subject which would be discussed in the meeting," said the former diplomat.

The analyst added that trade and economic ties between Iran and Pakistan should also come under discussion so that the trade between the two countries could be further enhanced. (IRNA)

(7) Ghani Speaks...

Bush. The president awarded the prize to the former first lady and praised her visit to a girls' hostel in Kabul during her recent trip to Afghanistan.

Laura Bush thanked Ghani for the prize and promised she would always stand by Afghan women and children and would not hesitate in supporting them.

The Global Hope Coalition was created to fight against extremism and violence and help children worldwide, particularly in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(8) Pakistan Rejects ...

was taken to Kabul for the attack. The Pakistani Prime Minister further added that he does not all the details but confirmed that the vehicle was parked in an embassy compound before it was detonated on 31st May.

No group including the Taliban insurgents has so far claimed responsibility behind the attack but the Afghan officials are saying that the Haqqani terrorist network based in Pakistan plotted and carried out the attack although the leader of the network in a voice message said today that the group has no role in the incident.

Over one hundred and fifty people lost their lives in the attack and hundreds more were wounded in the explosion which is considered as one of the deadliest attacks since the Taliban regime was toppled in 2001. (KP)

(9) MoD Backs ...

respected the constitution. Article 153 of the constitution says: "Judges, attorneys, officers of the armed forces, police and national security personnel shall not become members of political parties during their term of office."

The armed forces are defending the country's territory and national sovereignty under the leadership of the president, who is also their commander-in-chief, according to Waziri.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel, not accepting political influence, followed their "God, country and duty", the MoD spokesman added.

He said ANA soldiers would be cleansed of tribal, linguistic, regional and religious discrimination/ Je warned those who were found involved in such practices would be fired. (Pajhwok)

(10) AAF Receives ...

arrived today in Kandahar. They will help further develop a capable and sustainable AAF," the NATO-led Resolute Support mission said.

The robust Soviet-era Mi-17 is the workhorse of the AAF, accounting for around half of all sorties in recent months and is very popular with Afghan pilots.

As well as moving troops and casualties and flying in supplies to areas difficult to reach by road, the helicopters can also be fitted with weapons for close air support to units on the ground.

However their age makes them increasingly difficult to maintain and replace

and they are to be phased out over the coming years and replaced with refurbished Black Hawks, one of the mainstays of the U.S. Army's helicopter force. According to a report in July by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan, a U.S. Congressional watchdog, 19 of the AAF's 46-strong Mi-17 fleet were unusable because they were undergoing overhaul or repair.

In addition to operational considerations, the Pentagon has also long faced political pressure from Congress to switch spending to U.S.-built aircraft.

Strengthening the Afghan Air Force is a central part of President Ashraf Ghani's four year plan to improve Afghan security forces which have struggled to contain the Taliban insurgency since the NATO-led coalition backing the government ended its main combat operations in 2014. (Reuters)

(11) Commando Training ...

The commandos are selected from trained army, who excel in their duties, and are then given specialized training. Most of the commando training takes place under the supervision of foreign training advisors.

"We train them professionally in the latest commando tactics to become ready to fight the enemy in any condition," one commando trainer, Mohammad Nasir Ahmadi, said.

He said one of the key areas in their training was to teach them to focus and to perfect their shooting skills.

Ahmadi said that knowing how to breach compounds under threat was also key in their training - tactics they use mostly during night operations.

"We learn the most professional lessons and do heavy drills," one soldier, Abdul Kabir, said.

"Our teachers are the best. We have become familiar with all types of weapons and know how to use them. Our lessons continue until we are ready to step out on the battlefields," another soldier, Farhad, said.

Being dropped off in areas under threat are also part of their training, another trainer, Tariq Aziz, said.

"We train them how to use helicopters in operations; how to ensure their own security to reach to the target and carry out the operation."

Commandos fall under the Afghan National Army and are an elite special forces unit attached to corps around the country. They carry out a large percentage of the army's offensive operations and have notched up substantial successes since being established in 2007. (Tolonews)

(12) Media ...

China's Gansu province on Tuesday. The event is attended by over 300 media outlets from 127 countries and international organizations, making it the largest and most influential gathering of media outlets ever hosted by China's mainstream media.

The People's Daily will take six specific actions to promote media cooperation, Yang pledged, elaborating that the efforts will include releasing a blue paper on Belt and Road media cooperation, launching an international research center, starting a Belt and Road media cooperation center and a Belt and Road joint interview mechanism.

Establishing a cooperation union for Belt and Road regional cooperation, setting up a culture research institute, and publishing the English version of the book series Ode to Silk Road were part of the program.

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed to jointly build the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, opening up more opportunities for co-construction and co-sharing, as well as mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation, Yang said.

The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in May has promoted collaborations featuring a wider scope, a greater variety of fields, and a higher standard among participating countries, Yang added.

The Belt and Road Initiative has created a new concept for global governance, broadened room for international cooperation, and set a model in which different civilizations could learn from each other.

"The building of the Initiative is set to be prosperous," Yang noted.

Conforming to this trend, the People's Daily hosted the first Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road in 2014 in a sincere bid to formulate an information expressway, tear down emotional barriers. (Pajhwok)

(13) UNDP-Built Facilities...

policewomen cost \$21,700 and included dressing rooms, washrooms and bathrooms.

Gen. Hikmat Shahi, human rights and gender director at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said the facilities would encourage policewomen and pave the way for more females to join the force. He urged the UNDP to provide more fa-

cilities for women police in other parts of Nangarhar.

Currently 52 female police officers are serving in Nangarhar, according to security officials who regard the policewomen as "very useful" in operations. (Pajhwok)

(14) 'Personal Interests' B...

closed in Khoshmand, Barmal, Gayan and Zirok districts, he added, blaming the situation on negligence of the provincial education officials.

Dad Mohammad, a resident of Omni district, said education officials always promised to reopen closed schools in their areas, but they did nothing so far.

"Teachers of Mohammad Wali School in our area take salaries without doing anything, students of the school also obtain their certificates without attending lessons," he said, dismissing official claim of insecurity behind closure of schools.

"Schools are not closed for security reasons, but they are closed to serve personal interests of some figures", he alleged, but named no one.

Lutfullah, a resident of Barmal district, also said schools in their district were only available on paper.

"Schools are available, teachers also receive their salaries, but students do not attend classes because most of them study in Pakistani schools across the border," he said.

The residents said the closure of schools had deprived thousands of students of education and the problem needed to be addressed on a priority basis.

Paktika education officials confirmed the problem and blamed it on insecurity. Provincial deputy education director, Abdul Rahim Ishaqzai, said 31 schools were closed in Barmal district alone. But he said many local tribal elders had promised to help reopen closed schools during the ongoing solar year.

According to the Ministry of Education, around 700 schools, most of them in Helmand, are closed countrywide due to security problems and other reasons. (Pajhwok)

(15) Faryab: 3 Security...

were also injured.

Former provincial council deputy head, Mohibullah Mirzad also said one of two major areas of Kohistan district had fallen to the rebels and other areas might also fall if the government did not launch a clearing operation.

Lolash area, the center of Kohistan district, was also captured by the militants about a month ago. (Pajhwok)

(16) Faryab IDPs ...

One of the displaced men, Mohammad, said that hundreds of Taliban militants stormed Moqani area and captured it. Afghan forces --unable to resist --called for airstrikes that forced many people to flee homes, he added.

"We came to Maimana three days ago, we and four other families are staying in a house of our relatives, we have no shelter, warm clothes or food items and no government official has so far inquired about our situation," Mohammad said. Gul Bibi, one of the war affected women, said the conflict forced them to leave their home, belongings and travel impassable mountains and reside in Maimana city. She was concerned about her relatives stuck in the conflict.

Sayed Abdullah Khatami, an influential figure from Moqani area, said 300 of the total 600 families living in Moqani area had been displaced to Maimana by the conflict and inside Pashtunkot district. He said the uprooted families faced acute shortage of food and warm clothes.

He said the local government had failed to ensure people's security and accused security forces of hitting people's homes in airstrikes and artillery fire after the Taliban took control of the area.

"Is this logical to fire cannons from Maimana and hit a target 22 kilometers away. Only civilian houses are hit in the name of targeting Taliban".

An official of the 209th Shaheen Military Corps in Faryab, who wished to go unnamed, confirmed firing cannons into Moqani area but he said there was no information about civilian casualties. He said two Taliban fighters were killed and three others wounded in a latest cannon firing.

Mohammad Rahim, provincial refugee and repatriation director, confirmed a number of families had arrived in Maimana due to violence in their home areas and the families were being surveyed to know their exact number before aiding them.

"We have enough resources and materials that will be distributed to the displaced families soon after the survey is completed," he said. (Pajhwok)

(17) Commanders Among 15 ...

But a resident of Grani area, who wished to go unnamed, claimed the operation in their villages had also caused civilian casualties as well.

He said his sister-in-law was wounded and part of her house damaged as a result of an air strike. The injured was in

stable condition, he added.

A number of other civilians were also injured, their livestock killed and houses destroyed, he said. Taliban also suffered casualties in the operation. (Pajhwok)

(18) ALP Men on Run ...

spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, said the ALP personnel allegedly involved in the killing were relatives of the deceased, but they had no enmity.

He said the two accused ALP personnel had managed to escape but police had launched a search for them.

He added a government team raided the house of the ALP personnel and their family members were questioned. (Pajhwok)

(19) Qadir Hands over ...

the past have taken place due to errors and misunderstandings as the security guards mistake the civilians for terrorists and open fire on them, specifically when the civilians conduct aerial firings or refrain from the warnings issued to them. (KP)

(20) 2 Members of ...

groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

Reports regarding the killing of Lashkar-e-Islam members in Nangarhar come as Afghan forces as well as the US troops are busy conducting operations and airstrikes against the terrorist groups and their sanctuaries in this province. (KP)

(21) 2 Afghan Asylum ...

near a shelter house for the asylum seekers.

Another Afghan aged around 17-year-old has also been arrested on charges of attempting to rape the girl.

The men had managed to flee the area after committing the crime but arrested hours later during the operation.

According to the officials, the incident took place last Friday.

This comes as the minister of interior for Germany's Bavaria state Joachim Herrmann on Wednesday informed regarding the expulsion of at least Afghan asylum seekers to Kabul.

According to Herrmann, the men were convicted of various crimes including rape incidents with at least two of them being involved in the assault. (KP)

Iran Lures Afghan Traders into Investing in Chabahar Port

KANDAHAR CITY - Iranian officials have said Afghan traders can get a 25 percent discount on investment at Chabahar port besides availing land and other facilities.

Afghan traders could export their fruits to other countries from the seaport in southeastern Iran, according to officials of southern Kandahar province who recently visited the neighboring country. Kandahar governor Zalmai Weesa along with a delegation of traders and officials travelled to Iran and held meetings with the governors of Sistan Balochistan province Ali Awsat Hashami and Mashad Governor Ali Raza Rashidyan and other high ranking officials there.

Fazl Bari Baryalai, the provincial government spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News on Tuesday that the visit was aimed at expanding trade volume between Kandahar and Sistan Balochistan provinces.

He said the Kandahar delegation held talks with Iranian officials about investment at the Chabahar port and evaluated problems facing Afghan traders at the port.

In Iran, Weesa asked Iranian authorities to extend Afghan businessmen's stay documents (Iqama) from one year to three years and should be allowed to travel to other parts of Iran.

Baryalai quoted the governor as asking Iranian businessmen to invest in Kandahar province. The Sistan Balochistan governor promised to revoke the 300 euros guarantee free from passengers coming to Iran from Kandahar and speed up the visa process for them.

He said Iran offered 25 percent discount on investment in Chabahar port to Afghan businessmen besides giving them land and other facilities.

He asked Afghan businessmen to invest in infrastructure projects at the port.

An agreement was also inked between the governor of Sistan Balochistan and his Kandahar counterpart on expanding trade ties. Under the agreement, joint committees were formed to talk economic, transit and social relationships between the two sides.

The agreement allows Afghan businessmen to export their dried and fresh fruits thought Iran to other countries.

In addition, Afghans could travel to the neighboring country for treatment without spending huge amount of money. Awsati said the Kandahar business community could play an important role by investing at Chabahar port. (Pajhwok)