

**(1) India Urged...**

satellite station in Kabul was also discussed.

The acting minister appreciated India's continued support and hailed it as a close strategic partner. The Indian ambassador reiterated India's resolve to implement more development projects in Afghanistan.

In May this year, President Ashraf Ghani welcomed the launch of a communications satellite by India for South Asian nations, calling it a major step in regional cooperation.

He attended the launch ceremony via a video link along with other leaders of the nations involved in the project, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Lawmaker ...**

in medicine from Kabul Medical University in 2010. From 2002 to 2008, she studied at the Kabul Medical University and at the same time worked with the Department of Women's Affairs in Nuristan.

Upon her graduation, she worked in various Nuristan hospitals for two years before campaigning for a seat in the parliament. (Pajhwok)

**(3) NATO Condemns...**

suggested that two embassy security personnel were killed in the attack.

Last week, Afghan security forces recovered two Pakistani diplomatic officials who were abducted in June.

Afghanistan has been suffering from significant political, social and security-related issues provoked by the activity of the Daesh. The Afghan National Defense and Security Forces have been acting together to combat terrorism in the country. (Sputnik)

**(4) Eight Herat Districts...**

that "recently, the Taliban increased their pressure on the residents of the districts."

"We hope to have a regular plan for the security of the people which is their right," a member of the Provincial Council, Sayed Azim Kaberzani said.

A number of civil society activists have also warned government that "if security forces do not target the safe havens of the insurgents in the districts, Herat city will also face security threats."

"The Ministry of Interior must take action against this and must increase the number of security forces in the districts," a civil society activist, Basir Ahmad Danisyar said.

But, Gelani Farhad, the provincial governor's spokesman has rejected claims of a "massive presence of insurgents in the districts" and said that "government has control in these areas."

"Unfortunately, the insurgents have activities in a few districts but the residents of Herat must not worry because the security forces are trying to destroy the insurgents," Farhad said.

The forces have launched a clearing operation in Shindand district of the province and the operation is still ongoing, according to officials. (Tolonews)

**(5) No Good ..**

Afghanistan. In simplest terms, no feasible solution to the conditions in Afghanistan ever existed beyond stationing several hundred thousand troops for an indefinite period to "pacify" the country. And history showed that this option never worked. Nor has persuading or coercing Pakistan to alter its policies toward Afghanistan and the Taliban succeeded.

Pashtunwala, that is the Pashtun creed that stresses honor, hospitality and revenge, and the diverse ethnic divisions along with the decentralization of power and authority away from Kabul were never conducive to any regime imposed by outside forces. With corruption a way of life and essential to basic societal functions, including the conduct of business, Western culture and politics were anathema to Afghans, regardless of ethnicity. But the British, Russians, Soviets and today America and NATO failed to understand or ignore how Afghanistan was a graveyard of empires.

The first of the current strategic blunders was George W. Bush's shift of aims from capturing or killing Osama bin Laden in 2001 to what was euphemistically called "nation building." The central idea was that by modernizing Afghanistan, Afghans would be better able to make the country safer, more secure and more stable. A constitution was written as the American Founding Fathers rather than Afghans would have preferred. The noble goal of educating women became vital to this mission.

Unfortunately, a very diverse Afghan society was not prepared to accept westernization. Selecting Hamid Karzai as the first president ensured a dysfunctional government would follow in which corruption flourished. And isolating Iran as part of any solution was foolhardy. President Barack Obama's "surge" of military forces in 2009 yielded only a temporary respite. But a whole of gov-

ernment beyond over-reliance on military action was desperately needed if there were any chance of ending the conflict successfully. Ashraf Ghani, a Western-educated economist, ascended to a presidency crippled by a political negotiation that made his Tajik rival and adversary Dr. Abdullah Abdulla a co-CEO, a situation that was untenable.

Former Vice President Joe Biden's much earlier recommendation of shifting to a counter-terrorist strategy and reducing the size of the Western commitment might have worked. But Obama made Afghanistan "the good war" and instead reinforced the Bush strategy with the surge of 30,000 forces. Today only two choices exist. And both are not good. Cutting and running, which is how the United States vacated Vietnam in 1975, is politically unacceptable. Hence, the United States can persist with the current commitment perhaps augmented with a few thousand more troops for, possibly, many more decades. There is precedence: American forces are still deployed in Germany and Japan seven decades after World War II with a profound exception. Both states are at peace.

Second, the United States and its allies can adopt a variant of the Biden strategy, namely a small presence designed to contain the terrorist threat and resurgence of al-Qaida or the growth of the Islamic State. This is not a short-term either. But it would be conducted with far fewer forces and with minimum emphasis on nation building. Training of Afghan security and police forces would continue possibly conducted by civilian contractors to lessen the military profile. (UPI)

**(6) Afghan Air ...**

Maj. Dale Ellis, 440th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron maintenance operations officer said "The AAF has been making great strides in their capability with the A-29."

"Several of the flight and squadron level leaders approached advisors and stated that they felt they were ready for full responsibility on the flight line," Maj. Ellis added.

Master Sgt. Jonathan Vickery, 440th AEAS maintenance advisor lead said "I do believe that they [AAF A-29 maintenance personnel] are progressing at a faster rate than we initially believed."

He said "Our original plan was to increase responsibilities one day every six months."

This comes as the Afghan government and the country's international allies including US and NATO have stepped up efforts to bolster the capabilities of the Afghan force and Air Force.

The commander of the United States Central Command General Joseph L. Votel requested the US Congress to approve the budget for the Afghan forces Blackhawk program.

In his statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier in March this year, Gen. Votel informed regarding the significant capability gaps in Afghan Air Force, saying "Going forward, transitioning from Russian to U.S. airframes will ensure Afghan forces have a more sustainable fleet that is interoperable with U.S. forces and will enhance the Afghans' ability to operate independently of coalition forces. The U.S. government is considering a critical AAF initiative to replace the unsustainable Russian-manufactured aircraft fleet and make up for combat losses in Afghan transport helicopters by providing U.S. UH-60s."

He said "The DoD-request of \$814.5M for FY17 for the first year of our plan to recapitalize the Afghan fleet provides funding to procure 53 UH-60s, with refurbishment and modification of the first 18; 30 additional armed MD-530F helicopters; 6 additional A-29 attack aircraft; and five AC-208s. The requested FY2017 Afghan Security Forces Fund (ASFF) budget, including the 23 additional funds for the first year of this proposed aviation initiative, went to Congress on 10 Nov 2016." (KP)

**(7) Pakistan ...**

To a question about Kashmir, he said that Pakistan had highlighted the issue of Kashmir at all important forum. The members participated in foreign ministers conference

held recently in Abid Jan, had condemned the Indian atrocities in the occupied Kashmir, FO Spokesman said.

To another question he said that Prime Minister of Pakistan had apprised the United Nation General Assembly about the plight of Kashmiri people. He said that Pakistan will continue its diplomatic, political and moral support for Kashmir cause. (APP)

**(8) Ghani Denounces ...**

coordinated attack on the Iraqi Embassy began at about 11am and came to an end after all the assailants were shot dead during a four-hour standoff with security forces, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) had earlier said.

The MoI said a group of four 'suicide terrorists' stormed the Iraqi Embassy in

Ansari Square in the 4th police district of the heavily-fortified capital in the morning.

Two Afghan guards of the Iraqi diplomatic mission were also killed during the attack claimed by the so-called Islamic State or Daesh group. (Pajhwok)

**(9) IS Targets ...**

but the militant group often exaggerates its claims on the number of casualties inflicted. The IS attack likely meant to distract attention from the militants' massive losses in Iraq and Syria in recent weeks.

Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said only one policeman was wounded and that there were no fatalities among the security forces or civilians. Danish told The Associated Press over the phone that all the embassy staffers were safe but that the building had suffered extensive damage with windows broken and several rooms badly burned.

In Baghdad, the Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad Jamal condemned the assault as a "terrorist attack". The attack began with a big explosion that rocked central Kabul shortly before noon, followed by gunfire that lasted for several hours, and two or three more subsequent large explosions. Police quickly cordoned off the area, barring reporters from coming too close to the scene.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said a suicide bomber first started the attack, blowing himself up at the embassy gate, after which three attackers stormed inside.

Earlier, Afghan officials who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to the media, had said a car bomb started the assault. Later on, it became clear the suicide bomber was on foot and not driving a car.

The ministry statement said Afghan security forces quickly deployed to the scene, rescuing all the embassy diplomats and employees and taking them to safety.

While the attack was still underway, the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan claimed responsibility in a statement carried by the IS-linked Aamaq news agency.

A police officer in the area, who identified himself only as Abdullah, said the gunfire was initially intense but later became more sporadic. The area was surrounded by armored vehicles and a large contingent of police and Afghan soldiers.

At least one eyewitness, a store owner who goes by the name of Hafizullah - many Afghans use only one name - said he saw the bodies of two policemen on the ground before armored personnel carriers and police arrived to cordon off the area.

More than an hour into the attack, witnesses reported hearing another powerful explosion and said they saw black smoke billowing skyward. It wasn't immediately clear what had caused the later explosion.

"The explosion was so strong. I was so afraid," said Maryam, a woman crying near the site of the attack said. She said she works at the nearby office of Afghanistan's National Airline Ariana.

The Iraq Embassy is located in a part of the city known as Shahr-e-Now, which lies outside the so-called "green zone" where most foreign embassies and diplomatic missions are located and which is heavily fortified with a phalanx of guards and giant cement blast walls.

By comparison, the Iraqi Embassy is located on a small street in a neighborhood dominated by markets and businesses. After Iraqi forces, backed by a U.S.-led coalition, recaptured the city of Mosul from the Islamic State group earlier in July, the Iraq Embassy had called reporters to its offices in Kabul to express concerns that the local IS affiliate might stage large-scale attacks elsewhere to draw away attention from the militant group's losses in Iraq. (AP)

**(10) UNAMA...**

to the loved ones of those Afghans killed in the attack and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured.

UNAMA is mandated to support the Afghan Government and the people of Afghanistan as a political mission that provides 'good offices' among other key services. 'Good offices' are diplomatic steps the UN takes publicly and in private, drawing on its independence, impartiality and integrity, to prevent international disputes from arising, escalating or spreading. UNAMA assists the process of peace and reconciliation; monitors and promotes human rights, including the protection of civilians in armed conflict; promotes good governance; and encourages regional cooperation. The Mission also promotes coherent development support by the international community. (PR)

**(11) Civil Service...**

for those vacancies.

"This is an important step for these women who have been part of our US-

AID Promote Women in Government program to understand how this process works and to explore the possibilities of working for their government," said USAID Mission Director Herbie Smith. "These women show enormous courage and ambition to not only complete the internship program, but to prepare themselves for gainful employment to help their families and have a bright future."

USAID Promote: Women in Government conducts a one-year internship program for women to prepare them for careers in the civil service. More than 1,700 female college and high school graduates have participated in the training in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar and Nangarhar. From these, 118 have completed the rigorous 12-month training and 36 have found permanent full-time government employment. (PR)

**(12) Paktika Governor ...**

taking charge one year ago.

"During his tenure, the gap between the people and the government has shrunk and also job opportunities were provided to many youth in education and other fields."

At the gathering, residents submitted their demands, questions and suggestions to the governor, who promised to address them. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Five Children ..**

this, find out who did this and who killed innocent children," Big said.

The relatives said that the victims were first axed to death and then their bodies were burned.

"If there had just been a fire here then there wouldn't be so much blood," said Benazir, one relative.

"... me by myself brought the bodies out of the house," Zarifa another relative said.

Kabul police have said that two suspects were arrested in connection with the crime but did not provide further details. (Tolonews)

**(14) Large Swathes ..**

The number of security personnel was limited in the district, which needed more forces for improvement in the security environment, the inhabitant believed.

Abdullah, a resident of Abdur Rahim area, said Taliban and security forces were continually fighting in their neighbourhood. "Firefights continue for hours. As the militants have captured the Mirzar security post, people are worried."

He revealed the number of Taliban had recently surged in Andar district.

Ahmad Khalid, a resident of Gilan district, agreed insecurity was on the rise in their area. "The district police chief and a number of policemen were killed in a clash on Saturday," he pointed out.

Haji Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a tribal elder from Ghazni City, the provincial capital, said the security situation was worse in districts where there were not enough security personnel.

He said lack of coordination among security forces was another reason for increasing insecurity. Besides many areas in districts, the Taliban also control Mangur, Asfanda, Qala-I-Qazi, Matak Sangan and Qalati areas on the outskirts of Ghazni City.

Residents asked the government to pay urgent attention to the security of the province if it did not want to lose more areas to the insurgents. Acting provincial police chief, Col. Mustafa Mayar, told Pajhwok in addition to Taliban, some other rebel groups were also involved in destabilising Ghazni. However, he hastened to add security forces were operating continually to thwart militant attacks.

Security problems were not confined to Ghazni, but the whole country was faced with the challenge, he remarked, stressing the need for public cooperation with security forces.

On the other hand, Taliban militants also said large areas of the province were under their control. The group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said 69.29 percent of Ghazni province was under their control and the militants were addressing people's legal cases as well.

He claimed Mangar, Shaliz, Arzo, Kulaghach, Ziwach, Qarabaghi, Noghi, Asfandi, Deh Khuda-i-Dad, Qala-i-Jawz, Qala-i-Qazi, Zargar, Jabarwal and Niazi areas of Ghazni City are under their control.

The militants are also in full control of Nawa, Khogyani, Rashidan, Waghaz and Zanakhan districts of the province, he said.

Only centers of Andar, Deh Yak, Qarabagh, Ab Band, Gilan, Maqor, Khwaja Omari and Jaghato districts are under government control. The rest of areas of the districts were being held by Taliban, he said.

Mujahid said the government was in full control of Nahur, Ajristan and Malistan districts, with the fighters only conducting occasional guerilla attacks there. Earlier this solar year, Governor Abdul

Karim Matin had said 14 of 18 districts of the province were under security threat. Local officials say 142 militant groups are active in Ghazni. (Pajhwok)

**(15) fghanistan ...**

we should not be reviving any cricketing ties with them.

The statement by Afghanistan cricket board for cancelling the potential upcoming series was issued shortly after a deadly bombing hit Kabul city that left over 150 people dead and hundreds more wounded.

The statement further added that "In light of the findings of security services and calls by the Afghan nation, the ACB hereby cancel all kinds of cricket matches and initial mutual relationship agreement with the Pakistan Cricket Board."

"No agreement of friendly matches and mutual relationship agreement is possible with a country where terrorists are housed and provided safe havens," ACB added. (KP)

**(16) Nuristan Jail ...**

Samiul Haq said.

"Human rights officials come and ask about the situation of the prisoners, but they would never ask about our situation. We have told the governor and we daily remind the police chief about the jail building, but there has been no response."

Nuristan police chief Brig. Gen. Ghulam Muhiuddin Sarwari blamed the issue's continuation on former officials. "Officials who previously worked here had neglected the issue of building for the central jail, they even did not try."

Sarwari said he had been in contact with the Ministry of Interior officials and the construction department and they had promised improving the jail's situation. Nuristan provincial council head Sadullah Paindazoy said the people of Nuristan and their representatives had time and again shared the issue with the provincial and central governments during the past 15 years.

He said the provincial government might be more responsible for failing to construct a building for the central jail, but the central government had always subjected Nuristan to a step-motherly treatment. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Taliban Inching**

in the district, but the response was negative.

"They told us that they are equipping soldiers but have no plan to conduct any operations immediately," he said.

Takra stressed the need for a wide-ranging operation as all civil services had been suspended in the district.

Governor's spokesman, Omar Zwak, confirmed security problems in Nawa district, but said a plan to improve the security situation in Nawa had been prepared and would be implemented soon.

"The operation this time will cover the whole of Nawa district and will continue until the district is completely cleared of militants," he said.

Local officials did not comment about casualties in the conflict in Nawa.

On the other hand, Nawa Social Council head, Abdul Baqi Khan, also said heavy clashes were underway around the center of the district.

He said three security personnel were killed and scores others wounded during a clash in the area on Sunday night.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed the conflict and said the militants blew up two tanks in Jarnamo area of Nawa. He claimed all security forces onboard the tanks were killed.

Nawa, one of the most unstable districts of Helmand, was captured by Taliban militants about nine months ago. However, the district was recaptured by Afghan forces on July 16 following a two-day operation. (Pajhwok)

**(18) Pakistan ...**

Hussain's relatives.

They asked the US to take notice of human rights violations, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, ban on MQM activities and media black-out of Hussain.

In his brief address, Hussain condemned the role of Pakistan Army and ISI in Karachi, particularly against the Mohajir community. He urged the US government to play its role in stopping the genocide of Mohajirs and Balochs.

The military and civilian aid to Pakistan be made conditional on the human rights record of the country, he said, adding Mohajirs were looking towards the Trump administration to help them in their struggle for an autonomous province.

If the demand of a separate Mohajir province is not met, the Mohajirs would decide their future line of action, Hussain said, calling the country the epicentre of global terrorism.

Nusrat denounced state oppression of liberal political forces of Pakistan, alleging MQM offices had been razed to the ground, dozens killed extra-judicially state, hundreds going missing, thousands put behind bars. (Pajhwok)