

(1) Russia ...

to meet with the Russian officials and seek the country's support to Afghan forces besides expanding bilateral ties between the two countries.

"We need combat helicopters and other weapons to rebuff terrorist groups acting in the Afghan territory more efficiently," Atmar told the local news agency, TASS.

Atmar further added "Now we have obsolete modifications of Russian combat helicopters. We would like to replace them by more modern Mi-35 rotorcraft and to organize training of pilots and technical personnel to service these helicopters. This is issue is of top priority importance for us at the moment."

He said a symbiosis of terrorist groups, including the Taliban movement, militants enjoying support from Pakistan's and Central Asian radical Islamic organizations, al Qaeda and Islamic State, are acting in the territory of Afghanistan.

"In this sense, we have a common enemy with Russia and other countries of the region," he said. "However we have no common strategy of countering this enemy. We think that it is necessary to involve countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to the elaboration of such strategy, and Russia has a special role in these efforts." (KP)

(2) Russia Willing ...

country from terrorism, Kabulov said.

US President Barack Obama announced early last month a course-reversal to maintain an 8,400-strong troop presence in Afghanistan, arguing that the security situation "remains precarious" from the Taliban threat.

"What they are adding is a pittance. A hundred thousand Americans in Afghanistan could not accomplish the task, an extra thousand will clearly be unable to handle it. It is clear to any person who is not versed in Afghan affairs," Kabulov told RIA Novosti.

At its peak in 2012, the US-led NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) combat mission maintained a force of up to 130,000 troops. (Sputnik)

(3) AAF Actively ...

AAF through personal stories, recruiting billboards, TV and radio ads, and other mediums similar to those that young men and women in the United States might learn about U.S. military opportunities.

Applicants are first prequalified at recruiting stations throughout the country, according to Munir. Interested age-eligible applicants must be healthy and have proof that they successfully completed a minimum of a 12th grade education.

"They can't have severely bad eyes or be deaf," said Munir. "There are some medical conditions that are acceptable, but disabilities or major surgeries are typically disqualifying."

There are also procedures in place to make sure those wishing to serve aren't trying to be commissioned AAF officers for the wrong reasons. For security reasons, the process is not openly discussed, but rest-assured, there is a process to keep hidden insurgents out.

Once applicants make the medical and education pre-screening, their paperwork is sent to Munir's team in Kabul for processing. Munir said they have stacks of applications to sort through. At a recent AAF recruiting event, an estimated 2,000 people showed up. Unfortunately, the AAF officer program has limited openings based on available positions.

Following the application approval at Kabul, candidates are called to take a general Ministry of Defense test and an English test. The MoD test could be compared to the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, or ASV-AB, that U.S. citizens interested in enlisting would take.

The scores on the MoD and English tests further reduce the pool of qualified candidates. The remaining applicants then get a physical which again reduces their numbers. Those who make the grade through the process could get a position at Pohan-ton-e-Hawayee.

PeH is a year-long commissioning program that teaches candidates about being soldiers, according to Ni-azay.

"At PeH, they get room and board and student salary," said Ni-azay through an interpreter. "They are issued uniforms and have everything taken care of while they are training. It is where they transition from being a civilian to understanding how to be soldiers."

Those who successfully complete PeH are commissioned as reserve officers while they wait to fill a billet. According to Hakim, the newly-minted lieutenants will find out what job

they have been selected to perform before going to technical training. Some of the training is in Afghanistan, but many jobs require training outside of the country. (KP)

(4) 91% of ...

residents say they do not have clean drinking water;

2. 13.37% say streets and roads are not cleared of trash and garbage;

3. 12.10% say there are no parks;

4. 10.40% complain there plazas or business centres for women;

5. 9.99% say streets, roundabouts and roads do not have signboards;

6. 9.02% lament the absence of a proper drainage system;

7. 8.46% resent there are no parking lots in bazaars;

8. 6.44% complain of the absence of public toilets in the cities;

9. 3.14% say there are no mourning halls for women in cities; and

10. 1.69% say lands have not been allotted for graveyards.

The findings shows 94.40% residents say municipalities do not have complaint centres, with 91% note the absence of a mechanism for residents, civil societies and media to oversee activities of municipalities.

According to the survey, 91% of respondents claim mayors and municipalities are involved in corruption, with 53% suggesting reforms in the electoral system to ensure mayor are elected, not selected.

Top 10 mayors at the national level are:

1: Ghulam Haidar Hamidi, former mayor of Kandahar City;

2: Kiramatullah Khpalwak, former mayor of Khost City;

3: Eng. Faridoon Ahmadi, former mayor of Ghazni City;

4: Dr. Ghulam Sakhi Noorzad, former mayor of Kabul;

5: Eng. Mahmood Amiri, current mayor of Maidan Shahr;

6: Najibullah Omarkhel, current mayor of Kunduz City;

7: Khwaja Roohullah Seddiqi, current mayor of Charikar;

8: Mohammed Younas Muqem, former mayor of Mazar-i-Sharif;

9: Syed Ahmad Safi, former mayor of Gardez; and

10: Abubakar Farestan, current mayor of Qala-i-Naw. (Pajhwok)

(5) Scores of Security ...

council said on condition of anonymity the security forces failed protect the district centre. Following the clash, rebels took control of Mirza Square, Khushal and Zarghoon villages, he added.

Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kintoz, the Helmand police chief, acknowledged a number of soldiers had been surrounded in Nad Ali.

"Police and ANA personnel remain besieged in the district, I don't have any information about the situation and casualties, but an investigation has been launched," he remarked.

Two policemen were killed and eight others wounded, Kintoz said, adding reinforcements had reached the district from Kandahar City, Greshk and Lashkargah. The air force conducted raids in the district, killing more than 60 Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(6) Kabul Muni...

management of ground and irrigation water, cleaning and reconstruction of the Kabul River and reviewing designs of buildings were among the contracts.

Under the contracts, Khatib and Alami Company is also responsible to monitor construction projects and assess contracts of buildings' construction in Kabul city, he added.

With implementation of the projects, traffic snarls in the city would decrease and people would find access to high-speed transportation system. He said air contamination by vehicles would be prevented and rainwater would be used for irrigation of recreation and green areas.

The projects' implementation would also generate jobs for around 100,000 people, the mayor said, but did not provide the cost of the projects. (Pajhwok)

(7) Taliban Siege...

said some security forces had suffered casualties during Sunday's fighting and the Afghan Air Force had been unable to collect them.

The governor's spokesman, Raza Ghafoori, without giving information about the clash, said the Taliban's siege had been broken with the help of the air force.

He alleged two Pakistani security personnel were taking part in the fighting against the security forces who were trying to capture them alive.

The Taliban have said nothing about the Qushtepa battle, but their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid yesterday said three policemen were killed and two others were wounded during a clash in the district. (Pajhwok)

(8) Farah's Pusht ...

"If the situation continues, Farah province will also collapse like that of Kunduz."

According to Bakhtawar, if the insurgents are not pushed back, they would threaten the provincial capital because Pusht Rod district is just 15 kilometres from it. He asked security officials to send more reinforcements to the district.

Farah governor Mohammad Asif Nang confirmed the conflict in Pusht Rod and said: "A huge threat still looms in the district and over the past one week at least 46 insurgents and seven security personnel have been killed and 12 security personnel and a large number of rebels have been wounded. (Pajhwok)

(9) Kabul Money...

Kabul-Jalalabad highway recently when he wanted to shift the amount to Nangarhar province.

He claimed the amount had been snatched by three bodyguards of the Sarobi district police chief and the three men were currently in police custody in Kabul.

He warned that businessmen, moneychangers and investors would leave the country if the government did not address their security woes.

Mohammad Fawad, owner of Hamid Salehzada gold sale, expressed similar views, saying insecurity had discouraged businesses and traders. He asked the government to shift the appellant court from their market because it posed a threat to them in form of a possible militant attack.

Ministry of Interior (MoI) spokesman Sedique Sediqui said the government was sparing no efforts to maintain security and arrest criminals.

He said police and other security agencies would whatever they could to accomplish private sector's demands within available resources.

About the one million dollars robbery from a moneychanger in Sarobi, he said the case was being investigated by police and some arrests had been made in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(10) 70pc of Afg...

consumed in the country, with 25 percent (350mgw) produced from water resources and the remaining provided by foreign countries.

Azimi said if water resources of the country were properly managed and controlled, Afghanistan could produce 31,000 mw of power.

Latif Nazari, a university professor and regional affairs analyst, in his speech to the gathering expressed concern over the lack of proper management and control of national water resources.

For a better usage of the country's water, a strategy should be devised and implemented and the ground for investments should be paved in this regard, he said.

"The country's great water resources haven't been used, the way it should be, to produce energy, instead the Afghan government pays huge sums to purchase power from other countries. If the government takes a step by constructing new hydropower dams, it would not only fulfill domestic need, power can be exported to other countries."

Afghanistan could even sell its water flow to neighboring countries, which needed it, and use the money on management and control of water resources and on agricultural development and poverty reduction, he suggested.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Afghanistan has about 9,600,000 hectares of arable, of which 5,500,000 hectares is irrigated. (Pajhwok)

(11) Montenegro ...

show 39 per cent of the population oppose joining NATO, and opposition parties last year urged the government to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, saying that participation in NATO missions "was and will be an unnecessary and potentially risky activity."

Over the past two years, Montenegrin troops serving overseas have protested over their salaries, demanding a 30-per-cent increase. Unions say average monthly wages of 440 euros are well below NATO standards. Montenegro first deployed troops in NATO operations in Afghanistan back in 2010.

In 2012, the tiny Adriatic country, together with 22 other countries, joined a coalition launched by Denmark which aimed to gather NATO partners that are willing to financially support embattled Afghan forces battling Taliban rebels.

In 2014, Montenegro offered 1.2 million US dollars in assistance to the government of Afghanistan for the period 2015-2017.

In addition to this financial assistance, the Montenegrin government decided to continue its military presence in Afghanistan after completion of the

13-year-long NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, in December 2014.

The Afghan government recognised Montenegro as an "operational partner" in new non-combat NATO-led mission called "Resolute Support", which started in January 2015. (Agencies)

(12) Over 6,000 ...

the education director, said over 6,000 women had been distributed certificates upon course completion. They learnt reading, writing and counting, he said.

He said another 3,600 men and women were currently being engaged in 144 ed literacy courses in 10 different areas and they would also graduate soon.

Najibah, a teacher, said women, who attended the nine-month course, were now able to read, write and count. She said they were capable to teach their children and bring them up in an educated environment.

Sahar, one of the students, said: "I knew nothing in the past, but after the nine month training, I learned how to write, read and count. In addition, I learned some religious issues and can recite the holy Quran as well." (Pajhwok)

(13) Kohistan ...

supporting local forces. He said more than 300 of his men were fighting against the Taliban.

Meanwhile, police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Nabi Elham confirmed the siege of Kohistan, saying they had informed higher-ups about the situation but there was no response yet. (Pajhwok)

(14) Taliban Attack ...

attack ended after two attackers were gunned down by police.

The incident happened after a truck bomb was detonated close to the North Gate Hotel to open the way for two attackers, hiding nearby, to enter the compound. But security officials opened fire on them before they could get in, said Rahimi.

"When the suicide truck bomber detonated his explosives the two other attackers were faced with a police response and hid in an area close to the hotel," he said.

A reliable source has confirmed that no staff members or guests at the hotel were injured during the attack. (Tolnews)

(15) 5 Dead in...

security officials said. Small explosions and gunshots were heard until morning, one security official told Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity. One of attackers was four and one detonated and explosive-laden truck at the gate of the guest house.

All the attackers were killed by 8:00am, Kabul police head, Lt. Col Abdul Rahman Rahimi, told reporters at the site. He added one of the attackers targeted the hotel's gate with an explosive-laden truck and two others exchanged gunfire with security guards.

Two other assailants were surrounded by security personnel and both of them were killed by morning, Rahimi added. There were no casualties among foreigners but one policeman was killed and three others were wounded.

However, Ministry of Interior spokesman Sidiq Sidiqi said four attackers stormed the hotel and all of them were killed.

Obaidullah, a resident of the area, told Pajhwok Afghan News one attacker detonated his explosives-packed truck at the entrance to the guest-house and paved the way for two others to enter the compound.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the assault. The group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said more than 400 foreigners were present in the hotel at the time of the attack. He said foreigners had suffered heavy casualties. (Pajhwok)

(16) Literacy, Tailoring...

didn't give permission to me that I go to school but now this institution has launched an effective work and I can be educated and can also learn to work." She asked other families if their women were illiterate and unemployed, should send them and include them in the literacy courses of the institution.

Another trainee, who wanted to be unnamed said that she has been undergoing training for two and a half months and was happy and hopeful with the work she were doing. The trainee said, during the period she was able to be enough educated to read billboards and was hopeful after her graduation and end of course would be an educated and also a self-sufficient woman through tailoring. (Pajhwok)

(17) 500-Member...

underway in Achin, Nazyan and Haska Mena districts. The governor said the operations would have a positive impact on the law and order situation. He said schools, clinics and seminaries in Kot district would be rehabilitated and the affected families would be provided assistance. Kunduzi said the provincial government had provided a list of development projects needed in the district to the central government.

He said hundreds of displaced families were returning back and the government would provide necessary assistance to them.

Gul Mohammad, a resident of Lagharjo locality, said people's homes got damaged during the operation because Daesh used them as their bases.

He said many displaced people had returned to their homes. He said residents wanted a Afghan National Army (ANA) battalion or border police to be approved for the district. (Pajhwok)

(18) Afghan Judo...

including gold, silver and bronze in the South Asian games.

According to him, he has been a Judo fan since childhood and has always dreamed of taking part in the Olympic Games. He said, this year his dream finally came true.

Bakhshi has however, traveled extensively through Judo and participated in competitions in Brazil, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Iran, Bangladesh, Nepal, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi - all for his country.

Bakhshi, who arrived in Rio last week with his fellow Olympians is training hard already in Brazil ahead of the Games which officially opens on Friday (Brazil time).

He will come up against stiff competition in his 90+kg weight division.

Bakhshi's event is scheduled to be held on August 10. (Tolnews)

(19) Afghan Nationals...

arrests of the Afghans in other parts of the country, several families have already started relocating to their homeland.

The Afghans have been directed to wind up their commercial activities and leave Parachinar within a week. Refugee camps across tribal areas were closed in 2003.

But Afghan nationals have been living in different areas of Kurram and other tribal agencies despite the closure of refugee camps. They are running shops in the region. (Pajhwok)

(20) Tunnel Formwork...

and this is the reason that people was interested with such systems. The system was used first in countries like America, Canada, Turkey, Malaysia, which enjoys four important advantages of saving of cost, saving of time, high quality and safety.

One of the reason for using Tunnel Formwork Systems in Afghanistan is that this system is fast, economic and safe and it makes the system to be preferred and to become a regular Formwork System Technology in construction sector in Afghanistan.

Moulds are one of the construction materials that are used to help the fresh concrete have a form of construction element which, it is hoped the concrete get its prize.

One of the moulds that are used in engineering construction is wooden moulds which all of materials are made of wood.

This system has a lot of lose of material beside that it is dangerous for environment too. This kind of mould systems are all supported by wooden elements and the system needs a lot of wooden material, more workmanship and time and that is why the cost of this system is very much higher. (Agencies)

(21) Taliban Execute...

said Azada had been handed over to her brothers without informing her department. From the safe home, she was shifted to Kohistanat district and was shot dead over fleeing home in light of a decision from an unauthorised jury in the area. Taliban have not yet spoken about the incident. (Pajhwok)

(22) Takhar Man ...

consequences of the incident. Takhar woman's affairs department also condemned the incident and called for an investigation.

Meanwhile, women's right activists in Takhar said that distasteful customs, forced marriages and lack of awareness about women's rights are the main reasons for the increase of violence against women in the province. The incident comes after a husband tortured and mutilated his wife's genitals just days ago in the province. (Tolnews)

(23) Pakistani Currency...

launched efforts at reducing reliance on the foreign currency and the in-

itiative has been started from Spin Boldak border town, one of the three main border crossings between the two countries.

The town is located 110 kilometres east of Kandahar City, the provincial capital, and thousands of people daily cross the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan and the bulk of Afghanistan's imports and exports take place through this border crossing.

The use of the afghani has lately become rare in Spin Boldak where all deals happen in the Pakistani currency.

In this regard, central bank official in the south, Mohammad Naem Akbari, said they had informed all residents of the Spin Boldak district, traders and shopkeepers to stop further use of the Pakistani currency. (Pajhwok)

(24) Domestic Violence ...

hand, Afghan Minister of Public Health Ferozuddin Feroz said many other domestic violence victims will be transferred to Turkey for treatment.

"Soon other violence victims will be sent to Turkey where treatment is not possible here and one other violence victim case has been sent to Turkey," Feroz said.

"The IDLG is following all women violated and will try to send all those who need treatment outside to Turkey," the Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) spokesperson Munira Yusufzada said.

Gul's husband joined armed opposition groups seven months ago after cutting off his wife's nose in Ghor-mach district of Faryab province. He has still not been arrested. (Tolnews)

(25) 4 Civilian...

in front of his home on Sunday night in Maimana, the provincial capital. One man, Niamatullah's neighbour, has been detained in connection with the murder.

But a police source quoted the detainee as saying: "I called Niamatullah out of home and we were talking-whengunmenopened fire at him from a vehicle. They fled after spraying the NDS agent with eight bullets." (Pajhwok)

(26) Clinton's Poll...

Pennsylvania. Before that, Clinton was already criticized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for being "extremely careless" in handling U.S. intelligence secrets.

The FBI was referring to Clinton's use of a personal email account and a private server located in her home - instead of a secure government email - to conduct business as former Secretary of State. (Xinhua)

(27) Syria Rebels...

Defense Ministry said three crew members and two officers were on board.

Later, the Kremlin said that all five aboard the military helicopter were killed. (Xinhua)

(28) Al-Shabaab ...

hospitalized, according to medical officers.

Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack. It came barely days after a similar Al-Shabaab attack last week rocked the gates of the UN and African Union mission bases in Mogadishu, killing 13 and injuring 17 others. (Xinhua)

(29) Turkish Police...

in an interview with ATV and A Haber channels, Erdogan said the moves aim to bring the Turkish military under civilian control after the failed coup attempt last month. (Xinhua)

(30) S. African ...

out and cast their vote," said Mantashe.

The ANC has organised transportation at various pick-up points where voting stations are located far from where people reside.

The ANC, Mantashe said, is going into the elections after waging a very successful and positive successful election campaign. (Xinhua)

(31) Israeli PM ...

challenges ahead are immense in a changing world, in which "diplomatic opportunities" arise.

The Israeli prime minister is serving as the foreign minister since the March 2015 elections. (Xinhua)

(32) Turkey Summons...

be carried out in response to the ban. "This is a double-standard by German judicial authority," he said, describing the move as a "ban on the freedom of expression."

Turkey demands that Germany extradite supporters of Fethullah Gulen, a U.S.-based cleric Ankara accused of masterminding the failed coup. (Xinhua)