WASHINGTON - Senator John McCain on Monday said that he would provide his own strategy for Afghanistan next month, railing the Trump administration’s failure to announce its policy in more than six months.

“More than six months after President Trump’s inauguration, there still is no strategy for success in Afghanistan. Eight years of a ‘don’t lose’ strategy have cost us lives and treasure in Afghanistan. Our troops deserve better,” he said.

McCain, who heads the Senate Armed Services Committee, said “When the Senate takes up the National Defense Authorization Act in September, I will offer an amendment....”

‘Promote Project’ Girl Internees Discuss Govt Jobs

KABUL - Hundreds of female internees with USAID ‘promote project’ held a gathering also participated by government officials in Kabul on Monday to identify and assess job opportunities for themselves. Some 300 internees and trainee girls and women on the project joined government officials and representatives from 26 ministries and a number of independent departments’ officials at the gathering, Spozhmai Wardak, deputy permanent planning and policy at the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA), told Pajhwok Afghan News that the gathering discussed job opportunities for the internees of the project at non-military government organizations. She said the “...”

US Spending in Afghanistan Lacks Monitoring: SIGAR

The US has failed to offer any justification for hundreds of billions of dollars spent on propping up the Afghan government, as the Taliban control large swaths of the country, where the value of opium has dramatically increased.

WASHINGTON - A federal watchdog of the American administration, which has spent over $744bn in the past 15 years supporting Afghan armed forces and building infrastructure, said on Tuesday the value of opium had doubled in a year.

In a its latest quarterly report, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) alleged the results of the massive spending were less than satisfactory due to widespread corruption and lack of US monitoring on the ground.

It said the balance between the government and the insurgent forces fighting against it remained at standstill since 2016. Sixty percent of the Afghan districts were controlled by the government and 40 percent by Taliban or other rebel outfits.

“As March 1 through May 31, 2017, the UN recorded 6,252 security incidents, a 21 percent increase from last quarter,” SIGAR noted. At least 2,531 Afghan security personnel were killed and 4,238 wounded in action...”

KABUL - A total of 2,531 Afghan security forces were killed and 4,238 wounded in the first four months of the year, according to figures released in a report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan, a U.S. Congressional watchdog.

The figures, from Jan. 1-May 8, were provided to U.S. military authorities by the Afghan government and were consistent with figures from the same period last year, the report said.

In an earlier report released in February, SIGAR said at least 6,785 Afghan soldiers and police had been killed in the first 10 months of 2016. The figures, showing around 20 soldiers and police being killed every day, underline the “...”

NEW DELHI - India has said that the US should continue to be engaged in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan. “Another area of growing convergence is the high priority being attached by both sides to countering terrorism,” external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj said on Monday while inaugurating the first edition of the India-US Forum in New Delhi.

“Both our countries have been direct victims of this scourge,” she said.

“In India, we have been facing cross-border terrorism for many years now. This is now recognised as a larger regional - even global - challenge.”

File image of Union external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj. PTI File image. “...”

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India Backs US to Continue Fighting Terrorism in Afghanistan, Reiterates Commitment to Rebuild War-Torn Nation

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Afghan Forces Lose 2,531 Killed from Jan to May 8

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