

**(1) Congress, ...**

"And so with the questions that he's asked us, we want to give him good, thorough answers and good, thorough analysis to go with that, a very clear-eyed view, a very realistic view of what the future is likely to look like."

Tillerson said that all key members of the Trump administration, including Vice President Mike Pence, have been involved in this review process.

"We want to take the time to do the analysis, a fully integrated analysis from the intel community to the military planners to the diplomatic channels as to how does this all play out and where does this go," said the top US diplomat while explaining why it was taking so long to finalise the new strategy.

The White House national security team, which is working on this project, was scheduled to announce the new strategy in June but the deadline was later shifted to July and now to September.

Last week, Senator John McCain, who heads the power Senate Armed Services Committee, announced that the committee would announce its own Afghan policy if the administration fails to send the new strategy to the Senate by September. The committee takes up the administration's defence budget in September and McCain wants the members to have the new policy before them when they discuss the budget. Tillerson said the process had been delayed also because "we're taking our time to try to come to a solution that is realistic, takes a clear view of what we're dealing with on the ground, and being very honest with ourselves about expectations of the future."

The secretary acknowledged that dealing with Afghanistan was not easy because "this is a very, very a tough area, 16 years, 17 years we've been at it now." (Pajhwok)

**(2) MoFA Creates ..**

Afghan government has purchased four passport printing machines for this purpose. Two more machines will be purchased soon.

According to the MoFA, each machine has the capacity to print 120 passports a hour. Data of the holder of passport could be entered into the system.

"We have a commitment to the international community and international aviation organizations to digitalize Afghani passports, inshaAllah (God willing) within the next two years, with the cooperation of all our friends. With the cooperation of the deputy minister of foreign affairs for finance Mr. Andisha the project will be implemented," said Rabbani.

"The project was officially inaugurated today. Afghan citizens in Iran and Pakistan who are willing to take digital passports, will have their data will be entered abroad. Passports will then be printed in Afghanistan and be sent to them," said Nasir Ahmad Andisha, deputy minister of foreign affairs for finance and administrative affairs.

Meanwhile, officials of population registration directorate have said that in the future Afghan citizens do not need to come to Afghanistan for the certification of their identities. The system will help certify their identities in the host country.

"The process of certification of identities our Afghan citizens will be completed in Iran. In some exceptional cases, which need more authentication, data will be processed here in Afghanistan. Then their passports will be delivered to them in Iran," said Humayoun Muhtat, head of population registration directorate.

"The process of certification of identity of Afghans will be launched on 16 August. They will be provided Afghan Citizen Cards," Dr Alima, deputy minister of refugees and repatriation, said. (Tolnews)

**(3) From Poppy ...**

Afghanistan's entire agricultural output. Farmers are paid about \$163 for a kilo of the black sap -- the raw opium that oozes out of poppy seed pods when they are slit with a knife.

Once it is refined into heroin, the Taliban sells it in regional markets for between \$2,300 and \$3,500 a kilo. By the time it reaches Europe it wholesales for \$45,000, according to a Western expert who is advising Afghan anti-narcotics forces and asked not to be named.

He said an increase in seizures of chemicals required to turn opium into morphine, the first step before it becomes heroin, such as acid anhydride, points to an escalation in Taliban drug activity.

In early July, he said, 15 tonnes were confiscated in the west of Afghanistan near the border with Iran, the start of a popular drug route to Europe through Turkey.

- 'Helmand is all about drugs' -

Seizures of morphine have also increased. Fifty-seven tonnes were discovered in the first half of 2017 compared to 43 tonnes for the whole of 2016, added the expert, who said that only about 10 percent of what is produced is actually discovered. (AFP)

**(4) Cargo Route ...**

Fruit Sellers' Union have said that more than 1000 tons of fruits were expected to be exported to India. To date only 100 tons have been exported while another 12 tons have rotted at the airport.

The business community has said that president Ghani's advisor, Ariana Airlines and ACCI were responsible for the failure.

"We lost approximately six or seven million Afs and they should compensate us," said local businessman Atta Mohammad Mohammadi.

"Evidence shows that Ariana has got the contract and Ariana Airline is responsible," said Nejat Haidari, head of the Fresh Fruit Sellers' Union.

In terms of the agreement between Ariana Airlines and ACCI, if the exporters failed to prepare the fruit packs on time, they have to pay the money to the airlines. Also, if Ariana Airlines fails to transfer the fruit to the targeted destination in India, then Ariana has to compensate the business community and exporters. (Tolnews)

**(5) More US Troops ...**

broader strategy by the Trump administration and was based on a request from the Marine commander in the region.

The White House has continued to review what it will do in the conflict that is nearing its 16th anniversary.

President Trump has given Defense Secretary Jim Mattis the authority to deploy more troops. However, Mattis said that this authority does not include a delegation of strategy-making.

The president's top aides Steve Bannon and Jared Kushner both favor a plan to use private military contractors to mentor the Afghan military, according to The American Conservative.

On Monday, the US Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson said National Security Council has already had three sessions "exploring a full range of options for Afghanistan."

"And when I say a full range of options, I mean the entire landscape. And I think it's reflective of the deliberations that we want to undertake," Tillerson said. (Tolnews)

**(6) Corruption Impedes ...**

the enemy into security agencies. We have arrested a big number of individuals and we have prevented this," he said.

Meanwhile, other security heads said they are committed to fighting the endemic corruption.

"The relevant courts have issued orders with respect to 56 dossiers and 65 dossiers are under investigation," said Tariq Shah Bahrami, the acting defense minister, referring to his efforts to fight corruption in the ministry.

"The Ministry of Interior is not exempt from corruption and we are tackling this challenge," said Janan Barezai, the first deputy minister of interior.

The Attorney General Farid Hamidi said the conference was an important event and a good step forward to fighting corruption in security agencies.

"This conference will make all security and defense forces responsive to the law, the system and justice," he added. (Tolnews)

**(7) Mirza Olang...**

him and shouted, she was also shot dead. They even murdered our five-year-old child," said Abdul Qader, a resident of Mirza Olang.

Official figures from local offices show that at least 300 families have been displaced in Mirza Olang in the past four days.

"A total of 293 families were surveyed by 11am local time today (Tuesday). They were given cash and food," said Mohammad Zahir Wahdat, the governor of Sar-e-Pul. He said they will continue to assist the displaced families.

Responding to the concerns of the displaced families about the fate of their relatives, the governor said: "Through our contacts with tribal elders, they (armed men) have promised to release the people (hostages)." Reports indicate that 47 girls have been taken hostage by insurgents. However, Sar-e-Pul governor has not confirmed or denied the reports. Sar-e-Pul residents said at least 150 families remain trapped in Mirza Olang village following the attack by Taliban and Daesh militants.

On Tuesday, President Ashraf Ghani condemned the Mirza Olang incident and called it a crime against Afghan civilians. He stressed the need to take revenge against those who shot the residents of the village. (Tolnews)

**(8) Blackwater ...**

of government contractors on the ground. "They'd be military employees of the Afghan government," Prince explained. "Imagine them as a skeletal structure that provides leadership, intelligence, medical, communications and logistics support to all those Afghan battalions so it works reliably." Prince has penned op-eds for USA Today and the Wall Street Journal on the plan, in which he compared the proposal for restructuring of the war to a "bankrupt-

cy reorganization."

Prince said some in the White House, including one of President Donald Trump's top advisers, Steve Bannon, and members of the National Security Council, are open to the strategy -- along with others in Congress.

Bannon reached out to Prince after the WSJ op-ed published, expressing interest in alternative strategies for Afghanistan, Prince said.

However, White House national security adviser H.R. McMaster is opposed to the idea, Prince said.

"I would say Gen. McMaster does not like this idea because he is a three-star conventional Army general, and he is wedded to that idea that the US Army is going to solve this," he said.

But Prince was adamant that the contractor forces would not be mercenaries, or fighters trying to profit off the war.

"They are not mercenaries. They would be attached as long-term trainer-advisers," Prince said.

Prince also has a personal tie to the Trump administration; his sister is Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. (CNN)

**(9) Chamber of ...**

industry to less develop, he said.

He said the president during the inauguration of the chamber had promised to provide land and electricity, create infrastructures in industrial parks, reduce taxes and support domestic products.

Shirbaz Kaminzadah, ACIM administrative board head, said the entire focus of the ACCI had been on traders over the past one and half a decade while less attention was paid to the industries.

"The ACCI has taken an irresponsible stance regarding industries, it shows the chamber's incompetence and lack of cooperation with the industry sector that faced many factories with stagnation," he said.

Kaminzadah said from \$110 billion aid to Afghanistan over the past 16 years, only \$20 million had been allocated to the industry sector that too misused.

"The ACIM was created in order to support investors and attract more investments, we do not allow anyone to speak on behalf of industries anymore," he said.

In response to a question regarding poor quality of domestic products, he said, "Unfortunately the poor quality products are imported from abroad under domestic trademarks, investors never produce poor quality things because it damages their company's reputation."

He added illegal mineral extraction was one of the major challenges in the country but industrialists were ready to invest in the area.

The ACIM would also share its plans with the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum for attracting investments and prevention of illegal extraction of mines, he said.

ACIM officials said branches of the chamber would be opened in Nangarhar, Herat, Kandahar and Balkh provinces in the near future. (Pajhwok)

**(10) Procurement Law ...**

with a private company.

On Tuesday, the MoWE convened a meeting under the theme Procurement and Investment Facilitation of Private Sector in Kabul where the delegates tried to identify the challenges currently facing the investment sector in the country.

"Our procurement policies and procedures still do not meet the needs of complicated and mega water and energy projects of the ministry of water and energy despite the implementation of reforms. Major corruption is taking place in procurement sector," said Osmani. Officials of Chamber of Commerce and Mines have said that they were prepared for a joint investment agreement with the ministry of water and energy to provide electricity to the industrial parks in the country. "We are ready for a joint investment with the government and ministry of water and energy in the four industrial parks which in four provinces," said Rahimullah Samandar, head of chamber of commerce and mines

Ministry of water and energy also signed a \$96 million contract for the first phase of Qargha Lake canals in Kabul. (Tolnews)

**(11) Economic ...**

more inclusive and comprehensive by expanding them both northwards and southwards to connect South Asia with Central Asia. Speeding up the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and involvement of women in economic development, including through women entrepreneurship, and simplifying customs procedures were also agreed. India offered to develop a web portal with the help of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for exchanging information on regional markets, trade and investment opportunities and to facilitate networking for businesses in participating countries. Developing transit and transport through Chabahar Port involving India, Afghan-

istan and Iran, CASA-1000 and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan railway project, among others, also figured at the meeting.

All sides agreed on the value of connectivity and economic integration projects to bring overall growth, stability, and prosperity in Afghanistan, according to the statement. (Pajhwok)

**(12) President Vows ..**

On August 5, militants killed dozens of people, mostly civilians, after capturing Mirzawlang area of Sayyad district, an official had said on Sunday.

The area had been under control of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) and public uprising members (pro-government forces) until August 4, when Taliban attacked and severely battled for capturing the area.

Local officials said some parts of the Mirzawlang area were under Taliban control and others under Daesh militant group.

Masoum Stanikzai, head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), said many suspects had been arrested who wanted to join security institutions. He said more attention was being paid to cleansing security organs from the enemy.

"Corrupt individuals exist in the country, who do not allow the anti-corruption drive to go ahead smoothly. They are the enemy of Afghanistan who use the name of Islam to justify their bloodshed of innocent people," he remarked. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Ghani, Abbasi ...**

Also on Monday, Pakistan spurned the Khyber-Iv military offensive near the Durand Line was aimed at pushing militants into Afghanistan.

The Foreign Office rejected the statement as contrary to the spirit and understanding reached during recent engagements at the leadership level of the two countries. "Such media headlines are misleading and part of a malicious campaign."

A statement from the ministry said: "Khyber-IV is part of the ongoing counterterrorism operation. Our security forces have achieved success in fighting back terrorists."

"The political leadership of the two countries had agreed that the two sides would coordinate and cooperate in their action to eradicate the menace of terrorism, which is a common challenge."

Afghan authorities had been informed about the Khyber-IV operation and terrorists fleeing the military action were to be dealt with by Afghan security forces. "So far we have received no support from Afghanistan in Operation Khyber-IV." (Pajhwok)

**(14) Ghazni Farmers ...**

to Kalewal, the agriculture equipment provided by the government were 70 percent economical, compared to the market price. Hameedullah, a resident of Rozai locality in Ghazni City, said due to the lack of market, most of the agriculture products were lost.

It is pertinent to mention that animal diseases clinics have been opened in Ghazni City and Khawaja Umri district recently. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Kabul Huddle ...**

past 15 years, women continued to face violence and challenges in various spheres. Naderi said: "The purpose of the meeting is to improve coordination between different UN organizations working for women and civil society inside the country."

She asked the UN Women Organisation to improve coordination between women related institutions in Afghanistan and share their plans and strategies about improvement in women lives in Afghanistan.

Safi said the international community had provided huge assistance for women development in Afghanistan, but the aid could not be distributed under a proper mechanism. UN Women Head Rebecca said their target ending violence against women in Afghanistan and working for improvement in their lives.

She said the UN was committed to cooperating with the government of Afghanistan, civil society organizations and other groups in addressing challenges the gender faced.

She termed suggestions presented by the Afghan women as vital, saying the input could help resolve issues of Afghan women in a coordinated manner. (Pajhwok)

**(16) Afghanistan ...**

Afghanistan to benefit from South Asia Satellite. Two of the 12 transponders will be provided to Afghanistan, while the satellite will be used in areas of telecommunications, television services, agriculture, mines and other sectors. A special satellite station is also under construction in Kabul, added the report. (Agencies)

**(17) Kunduz Media..**

Radio Kehan, three for Shabnam Radio, seven for Radio Cheragh, six for Radio

Roshni, two for Radio Badlon and one for Kunduz National Radio.

Three local television channels are also on the air in Kunduz. The National Television has no woman employee, with Khawar and Roshni having two women workers each.

Not a single woman in Kunduz works as a reporter. Mostly of females work either as newscasters or host social women-related programmes.

Shahbaz Saberi, head of the Journalist Safety Committee (JSC) for Kunduz, called a 70 percent decline in women workforce in Kunduz as alarming.

He recalled: "Two years back, the number of women workers in media was over 80. But after the fall of Kunduz to Taliban and continued insecurity since then has forced women to quit their jobs and migrate to other countries or provinces."

He demanded government officials ensure improved security in Kunduz so that women journalists could concentrate on their work.

Worries of owners. (Pajhwok)

**(18) Above 100 Afghans...**

officers had disappeared from military camp in Georgia State and Gorge Marshal Training Camp.

Ahmad Shah Katawazai, Defence Attache at the Afghan Embassy in the US acknowledged some Afghan officers did not return back to Afghanistan and stayed in the US.

"Unfortunately, it is true. We are taking this issue very seriously. We are in constant communication with different US departments and Afghans under training to mitigate the risk of staying in the US or leaving to Canada and encourage them to return back to their home country."

"In addition, we recently agreed with some US departments, particularly the air force, to arrange their visits to different bases to meet students and US authorities." (Pajhwok)

**(19) Afghan Special ..**

In another operation conducted in Garamser district of Helmand late on Monday, the Afghan security forces discovered one of the largest hideouts of the Taliban insurgents in Safar Bazar, the official said.

They also added that two international type military trucks, one Ranger vehicle, 300 kilograms of opium were discovered from the hideout.

The Taliban insurgents group has not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

**(20) Four Arrested**

ammunition from the detained suspect, the officials said, adding that two others were arrested in connection to the armed robbery.

According to CID officials, the two suspects were attempting to loot houses in the vicinity of 4th and 7th police districts of the city.

The fourth suspect was arrested on charges of burglary from the vicinity of 3rd police district of the city. (KP)

**(21) 2 Arrested in ..**

neighbourhood of the 10th police district.

He added the detainees had confessed to their crime but their identities were not exposed. Officials had previously said the children had died in a snowstorm. (Pajhwok)

**(22) Two Suicide .**

have not commented regarding the report so far.

In the meantime, the officials of the 201st Silab Corps said at least four Taliban insurgents were killed during a separate clash with the security forces in the same district.

The officials are saying that the militants belonged to Mawlawi Mahmood and Mawlawi Murtaza local groups of the Taliban insurgents. Kapisa has been among the relatively calm provinces in northeastern parts of the country but the security situation in some remote parts of the province has started to deteriorate during the recent years. (KP)

**(23) Taliban Ban Work**

had been unable to address the problem. Meanwhile, Logar governor's spokesman, Saleem Saleh, acknowledged the Taliban had stopped work on development projects. He said government officials with mediation of tribal elders had started efforts to resolve the problem. (Pajhwok)

**(24) Senior Police ..**

Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group claimed responsibility for a deadly bombing on a Shi'ite mosque in western Herat province of Afghanistan.

The terror group issued a statement late on Wednesday claiming that the attack on Jawadia mosque was carried out by two of their suicide bombers identified as Umair Asim and Tayyeb Al-Khurasani. (KP)

**(25) Taliban Shadow...**

details nor details of casualties the security forces suffered in the clashes.

The Taliban have not yet commented over the attack. (Tolnews)