

### (1) Khwaja Ghar

joblessness and improve economy.

He said the government was committed to carrying out balanced and uniform development across the country with emphasis on neglected areas. Abdullah said there was no legal or other problems in launching the distribution of computerised ID cards and the government would take practical steps soon in this connection. (Pajhwok)

### (2) MoD Committed

Ghani, who is commander-in-chief of the Afghan armed forces, should remind the country's security forces to respect the laws of war and put commanders on notice that suggesting otherwise would subject them to disciplinary measures, the HRW report maintained.

Kine asked countries that support Afghan National Army (ANA) to connect the provision of funds with respect to implementation of rules of war.

"Respect for human rights was a core principle of Afghan Army and therefore the chief of armed forces has issued special directives to include arms dispute resolution and international war rules in the training curriculum of armed forces," the statement concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Kabul Officials

Momand and provincial spy service chief Maj. Gen. Niaz Mohammad Khan.

Governor Shariq told reporters that the officials from Kabul and Paktika closely assessed the situation of the area and the scene of the clash.

He said currently the situation in the area had improved and people normally performed their daily works. He said the Afghan border and security forces were in high morale and assured that the Afghan government fully supported the country's forces and was ready for all kind of assistance.

Yaldash told Pajhwok Afghan News the delegation would present its report to the president about what it observed in the area.

Later, the delegation visited family members of the deceased border police officer, Najibullah, and expressed solidarity and condolences.

The governor said an area in the provincial capital, Sharana, would be named after Najibullah soon and his children and other family members would be provided with every essential facility and assistance in line with directives from the president.

A day earlier, residents of the Urgan district staged a protest rally chanting anti-Pakistan slogans and declared Najibullah as a national hero.

They said they stood by their forces and would protect the country's soil at any cost. They blocked the road between Angoor Ada and the Urgan district and closed the district's bazaar, asking the Kabul administration to react harshly to the Pakistani aggression.

The protestors also said they were ready to defend the country's borders if the government could not do that. (Pajhwok)

### (4) USAID's Location

health clinics in Afghanistan, coordinates for six of the clinics were located in Pakistan, six were in Tajikistan and one was in the Mediterranean Sea.

The coordinates for 30 of the clinics pulled up locations in a different province in Afghanistan than the one USAID reported, and nearly 200 more coordinates yielded locations that were not in close proximity to a building.

"To provide meaningful oversight of these facilities, both USAID and [the Afghan Ministry of Public Health] need to know where they are," Sopko said in the letter.

He has given the development agency until the end of the month to send updated location information to confirm the existence of the 641 clinics, which have received more than \$210 million in US government funding.

USAID acknowledged the faulty data from 2014, but downplayed the importance of geographic coordinates for

conducting oversight of the effectiveness of the clinics in Afghanistan.

"GPS coordinates are not the first line in monitoring a health facility. Local staff, third-party monitors, Afghan government officials, and the benefiting community do not use GPS to navigate, let alone to find a health facility, because they are familiar with the area or from the community benefiting from the project," said Larry Sampler, assistant administrator for Afghanistan and Pakistan affairs at USAID.

"It has been a common practice for Afghan ministries to use the location of a village center as the coordinates for a facility, particularly when there was limited access to GPS technology."

The USAID program that funds the health clinics in Afghanistan was started in 2008 and spans 13 provinces throughout the country. According to Sampler, the program helps provide over one million Afghans with health care every month. (Tolnews)

### (5) Dempsey Discusses

Strategy was published four years ago, global disorder has trended upward while some of our comparative advantages have begun to erode," Dempsey said.

Addressing recent claims by Daesh that it is responsible for attacks outside of Syria and Iraq, Dempsey said: "What we've said from the beginning is that ISIL [Daesh] is trans-regional," he said. "There are also groups in Afghanistan that have re-branded themselves under the ISIL [Daesh] ideology and that stretches over to Boko Haram in Nigeria, which has also expressed its affiliation with ISIL [Daesh]. So it is trans-regional."

The United States is trying to build a network to combat the group, Dempsey said. "We're trying to build a framework - a scaffolding - to address this problem trans-regionally in an enduring way so ... their defeat lasts, which means there are other lines of effort that have to move along with the military line," he said.

Anything the United States does against Daesh must be sustainable, the chairman said. "We've got challenges across not just from Afghanistan and Nigeria, but we've got a few others things we're working as well," he said. "So we're trying to balance all this out."

The United States poses a threat to the terror group, Dempsey said.

"Everything we believe in is completely opposite of what they believe in - every bit of freedom, every bit of diversity, every bit of civic freedoms and religious freedoms, is exactly opposite to what they espouse," he said.

"We will keep pressure on them, and they will eventually collapse under the weight of their own contradictions with a little help from coalition partners, partners and stakeholders in the region and military power," the chairman said.

The report, titled the National Military Strategy of the United States of America 2015, stated that in Afghanistan, the US and its NATO partners are teaming up with the National Unity Government to provide security by way of the Resolute Support mission. It stated that the US is working toward establishing a long-term counterterrorism partnership in Afghanistan.

Similarly, in Iraq a broad coalition of over 60 nations is providing security assistance, training, airlift, and strike support in its struggle against Daesh.

"Defeating VEOs [violent extremist organizations] also requires an appreciation of the nexus between such groups and transnational criminal organizations. A fuller understanding of that relationship will allow us to disrupt illicit funds, weapons, and fighters that are flowing into conflict-ridden regions. Such knowledge also will allow us to work with law enforcement officials to more effectively protect our homeland from terrorists."

The Department of Defense reported that the strategy recognizes that the application of military power versus tradi-

tional state threats is far different than military power against non-state actors. It also states that the most likely scenario is prolonged campaigns rather than short, intense battles.

The strategy also states that as a "hedge against unpredictability with reduced resources we may have to adjust our global posture."

According to the strategy document, the U.S. military also must be ready to counter "revisionist states" such as Russia that are challenging international norms as well as violent extremist organizations such as Daesh.

"We are working with allies to deter, deny and - when necessary - defeat potential state adversaries," the document says. But at the same time, the U.S. military is building and leading an extensive network to take on Daesh. (Tolnews)

### (6) Special Unit

"If there is fear of a major challenge emerging, then there is definitely a need to establish a special group to suppress it, and so the formation of the special unit is to counter Daesh," MoI spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) has emphasized that the special unit is not just an operational unit, but will also undertake intelligence gathering and analysis activities as well.

Independent military analyst Atiqullah Amarkhail believes the special unit would be better off operating under the auspices of the NDS. "If the special unit is consisting of police and army officers, then it will not be constructive, but if such issues are dealt with by the intelligence bodies, it would be more advantageous," he said Thursday.

Regardless of who is primarily behind the wheel of the unity, however, the announcement of its formation comes at a time when security analysts have warned of Daesh's intentions to intensify their presence in Afghanistan. Commentators have said the group, which is based in Iraq and Syria, has begun exploiting divisions within the Taliban's ranks in order to recruit and establish bases of support in Afghanistan.

"Daesh militants operate in Badakhshan, Kunduz, Faryab, Logar and also in the eastern regions," military analyst Jawed Kohistani told Tolnews.

Lawmakers in Parliament have been some of the most vocal proponents of the government and the international community taking greater steps to curtail Daesh's growth in Afghanistan. The militant group has become infamous in small communities around the country - just as it has worldwide - for its brutal tactics in warfare and its macabre approach toward managing territories it captures.

"Daesh is a major threat to international peace and regional security, therefore, there is a need on an international level to fight them," MP Syed Ekram said.

According to sources at the NDS, a special intelligence unit has already been actively monitoring the activities of Daesh militants in Afghanistan. Reportedly the killing of Mullah Abdul Rauf, a top Daesh commander formerly of the Taliban in Helmand, was among the unit's first achievements.

Over the past three days, the special unit is said to have already arrested six members of Daesh in Achin district of Nangarhar province and eliminated another 14 foreign militants in Gomal district of Paktika province. (Tolnews)

### (7) Clinton's Advisors

challenges in the future and America must also incur the costs." This comes as Hillary Clinton has visited Afghanistan former President, Hamid Karzai On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. (Monitoring Desk)

### (8) Fighting Continues

government for the situation, claiming that between 30 and 40 percent of security force members deployed to the area are not on duty.

The council members said how-

ever, that reinforcement troops have been sent in to push back the insurgents.

According to them at least 50 percent of check points in Chak district in Wardak province have also fallen into the Taliban's hands.

But the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoI) officials strongly rejected fall of the district into the Taliban hands.

"I can assure you that the Taliban do not have that much power to seize control of districts in Wardak," deputy MoI spokesman Najibullah Danish told Tolnews. "We have enough forces in Wardak to defend it."

This latest development comes after Wardak's deputy governor on Thursday said that insurgents had seized control of six police checkpoints in Jalrez district in Wardak province.

He said the armed confrontation between security forces and the insurgents started Wednesday night at around 11:00 pm and that by late Thursday afternoon fighting continued.

According to him, five Afghan Local Police (ALP) officers had been killed by Thursday night and a number of vehicles seized. The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Jalrez. (Tolnews)

### (9) Helmand Conflict

low war rules to respect civilians' lives.

Niamatullah 12, a local resident of the locality, said: "He lost his both legs in a mine blast two months ago in Sangin district." He demanded the government to build durable peace and security and give right to affected people who had sacrificed their lives. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Kabul Police

always monitor the beggars in Kabul city and recently we arrested 37 suspicious beggars and investigations are underway," Rahimi added.

However, he did not reveal give further details but said that crime has decreased in Kabul recently, compared to previous months. (Tolnews)

### (11) Khwaja Gha

performance of security forces and said Taliban still had still sway in several other areas. Security forces put all efforts to recapture wrest back control of areas under militants.

However, Taliban have not yet commented on the incident. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Osmani Saves

to Medina and to Jeddah. "About a \$250 USD decrease has been achieved per ticket and this year the Ariana tickets are cheaper," Osmani said. Faiz Mohammad Osmani Minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs said that last year the round trip cost was \$2,700 USD per person but now this year the cost has been reduced to \$2,450 USD," Osmani said.

In conclusion, Osmani called on pilgrims to exercise patience during Hajj and assured them that his ministry's staff would be available for them at any time. (Tolnews)

### (13) Pakistan

Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai expressed concerns over cross border shelling and shared Afghan government reservations over the incident.

Karzai said the attack by Pakistani forces on the Afghan border was beyond all international and diplomatic norms.

He asked the Pakistani government to prevent such attacks in future. Repeating such actions could deeply damage relationship of the two neighbouring countries, Karzai warned.

The residents of Barmal district say that Pakistani forces have been stationed in the area many years ago and they were trying to build new facilities on the Afghan land. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Work on 95km

completed nearly 50 kilometres till Bargah area of Balkh. He said today they inaugurated the construction of the pipeline from Dehdad to the Bargah area to complete it.

He said Balkh imported electricity from neighbouring Uzbekistan, but the supply did not meet the needs of factories.

In order to develop local industries, he said, it was essential to produce power from natural

gas.

He said completion of the pipeline project would help overcome electricity deficit currently being faced by the fertiliser plant.

The gas from Shiberghan would be mostly used for producing electricity for supply to industries, Akhtari said. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Islamabad

emphasized that in view of close and brotherly relations existing between the two countries, which have significantly enhanced recently, such incidents, should not have taken place.

"The Ambassador assured that he would convey our concerns to higher authorities in Kabul," the statement added.

As a result of the strenuous efforts made by the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul and the Ministry, the detained official was handed over to the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul late last evening. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Businesses

Port, the province major trade centre.

Meanwhile, businessmen demanded the government to ensure their safety and security to their business.

But, Police Spokesman Syed Sarwar Hussaini said security forces were struggling around the clock to ensure law and order and protect every citizen, including the businessmen.

Haider Qul, a businessman, said insecurity, abduction, and looting on gun point were major threats they were facing in Kunduz.

"Every businessman stopped more investment in Kunduz and waiting to observe future security situation," he remarked.

Zamir Khan, running a cement business at the Sher Khan Port, said the export and import of goods had reduced in recent months due to growing insecurity.

Khan, who used to export 15 bags of goods to Central Asian countries, is now sending only two bags. He cited insecurity as the main reason for the decline. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Gap Between

According to Khademzai no development had taken place in Uruzgan in vital areas of health, education, reconstruction and security.

He noted the security situation in some districts had worsened, resulting in closing down of several health centres. In order to resolve these problems the provincial council had conducted regular meetings with local officials, he added. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Construction

the road would resolve many problems of three Kapisa districts. "The roads have been neglected for the last 14 years and the people have been facing problems due to poor roads," he noted.

Officials of Public work department assured construction of the roads would be completed by the end of this year.

Shair Nazar, a resident of first Kohistan district, said the residents could not shift their patients to hospital on time. People had to cover a long distance on foot and faced many problems to reach hospital, he added. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Absence of

the peace process.

Zaeef said that every Afghan wanted peace but there was no balance between the two stakeholders, ruler and subject which should be balanced for peace and stability of the country.

Zaeef also seconded Shahid's views and added that neither side had any clear and strategic plan regarding peace process. Both parties had foreign support who did not permit them for peace and stability in the country, he added.

"It is impossible for both government and Taliban to reach to reconciliation without any sincere diplomat," the former Taliban diplomat noted. (Pajhwok)

### (20) 'Khost-Gardez

have formed a committee for monitoring construction work of the road and the committee is tasked to help resolve issues in the construction process," the secretary said.

Khost-Gardez Highway would

not facilitate only commuters but also play important role in the development of economy of the areas. The highway would also connect Gardez with Ghulam Khan, in neighboring Pakistan.

Nasir Alam Yar, director commerce department, said the highway was 360 km shorter to Karachi port than Torkham-Spin Boldak road. "The drivers can easily reach to Gardez and Kabul after completion of the project which are secure areas," he remarked.

The public works officials said road construction had been funded by the USAID. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Construction

airport.

Abdul Basir Babak, Hazar Samoch district chief, said construction of the road would benefit 50,000 families directly while residents of six districts would indirectly benefit after completion of the direly needed project.

The district chief said: "The construction of the road will connect Samoch, Rastaq, Chah-e-Ab, Dasht-e-Qala, Bung Qala and Khwaja Ghar districts to Taloqan City, provincial capital. It will also curtail the distance and make transportation of goods easy."

Work on the road was started last year and the bridges, culverts, retaining walls and watercourses had already been completed, Babak said, adding that the remaining work would be completed in next four months and the road would open for traffic. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Taliban Kidnap

Separately, Kochi tribe had demolished at least six houses of Hazara community in Aimerdad district, Khogyani said, adding that Kochi tribe torched the houses last night with the support of Taliban.

Kochi-Hazara fighting occurred for the first time during the year. The fight between the two tribes took four lives in recent past. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani nominated Sibghatullah Mujadadi as head of commission to resolve dispute between the two tribes. (Pajhwok)

### (23) US Army Sergeant

vendors, through Dennis, a Rolex watch in addition to \$100,000 in bribe payments, which he received in approximately six installments.

Pena admitted that he sent some of the cash to his family in Kentucky, which he dispersed throughout numerous greeting cards to avoid drawing attention to the thickness of any particular envelope.

Pena also used the bribe money to pay his family's personal expenses both in Afghanistan and in the US, and to purchase a Harley Davidson motorcycle. In May 2014, Dennis pleaded guilty in the Western District of Tennessee to conspiracy to launder bribe payments. In January 2015, Dennis was sentenced to serve 41 months in prison and was ordered to forfeit \$115,000. (Pajhwok)

### (24) Prices of Essential

A filling station worker in Wazirabad locality, Abdul Hadi, said one litre of diesel costs 41afs and the same quantity of petrol 42afs, the same rate as of last week.

Mohammad Sharif, a liquefied gas seller in Kolola Pushta neighborhood, said the rate of one kg of gas was 30afs, the same rate as of last week.

Mohammad Fawad, a jeweler in Timor Shahi area of Kabul, said one gram of Arabian gold sold for 2,000afs and the same quantity of the Iranian variety for 1,600afs. Moneychanger Ahmad Shah said buying rate of one US dollar was 60.50afs, while 1,000 Pakistani rupees accounted for 583afs. Last week's exchange value of the dollar stood at 60.70afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees at 584afs. (Pajhwok)

### (25) Humanitarian

Somalia transitional government to support resilience building programs like food security, health and education," he said. International organizations will also work on the resettlement of Somali refugees voluntarily returning to their motherland, he added. (Xinhua)