

(1) NATO Reaffirms...

for international terrorists," Stoltenberg believed.

He said he welcomed the efforts by the Afghan government to engage with Pakistan and other countries in the region to enable a peace process and reconciliation and he hoped that all regional countries would participate in peace efforts.

Earlier, in his preliminary remarks at the Warsaw summit Stoltenberg said that the summit was a landmark opportunity in which important decision on how to strengthen the defence and deterrence of the member-states.

"We meet at a time which is decisive for our shared security. And NATO will once again send a very clear message that we are here to protect and defend all Allies in a new and more challenging security environment," he said.(Pajhwok)

(2) RSF Urges ...

basic freedoms cannot be assured without independent media and guarantees for journalists' safety. All negotiations and international aid must be conditioned on a policy favouring freedom of information and an undertaking to combat the impunity enjoyed by those responsible for abuses against journalists," he said. "At a time when the international community is wondering what strategy to adopt in Afghanistan, we urge NATO member countries to prioritize respect for media freedom," the statement quoted RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire as saying.

He thanked international community for aid and the efforts of Afghan journalists, the media have been able to develop in Afghanistan and freedom of information enjoyed a degree of protection. Afghanistan now has eight news agencies, 48 TV channels, 160 radio stations and 190 publications (including dailies, weeklies, monthlies and those appearing at irregular intervals).

Nonetheless, the media have to confront the same problems that threaten the rest of Afghan society. The security, political, economic and (of late) constitutional crises have had serious consequences for the work of the media and journalists, whose role is crucial in defending peace and basic freedoms, he believed.

At least 35 journalists have been killed in connection with their work in Afghanistan since 2001. They include 16 foreign journalists (four Germans, two Americans, two French, two Italians, two Swedes, one Australian, one Canadian, one Norwegian and one Briton).

Most of these journalists were killed by the Taliban and most of these deaths had gone unpunished. RSF has registered more than ten cases of violence against media and journalists in Afghanistan since the start of 2016.

The single deadliest attack on the media since the fall of the Taliban government in 2001 - the suicide bombing of a Kabura production company bus in Kabul on 20 January 2016 that killed seven Moby Group media workers - was typical of the Taliban policy of undermining peace and democracy.

The attack was clearly premeditated because Tolo TV and 1TV - Afghanistan's two leading privately-owned TV channels - were named as "military targets" in a Taliban communiqué on 12 October 2015.

By leading the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, NATO made a long-term commitment to the country's stability. The goals of the successor mission, called "Resolute Support," include securing the rule of law and combating extremism.

However, civil society, human rights defenders and above all journalists have been undermined for the past three years by contradictory positions on negotiating with the Taliban. The Taliban openly flout international law and humanitarian law by committing war crimes attested to by the UN and by attacking media outlets as military targets. Yet NATO countries accepted the presence of a Taliban diplomatic office in Doha, the capital of Qatar, and in practice protect it. Most of its members are accused of crimes while they were officials in the 1996-2001 Taliban government.

RSF found it unacceptable that NATO's democratic members and the Afghan government do not condition all negotiations with the Taliban on an explicit prior commitment to respect the basic international treaties of humanitarian law, starting with the Geneva Conventions.

RSF was also concerned that Afghan President Ashraf Ghani set no prior condition such as respect for international law and the Afghan constitution when he reiterated an appeal to

the Taliban to negotiate yesterday.

Afghanistan's recent history showed that it is impossible to build peace without justice. The violence against journalists is encouraged by the systematic impunity for those responsible for the violence. RSF pointed out that murders of journalists are not only crimes against freedom of expression but must also be treated as war crimes and, as such, must be punished severely. (Pajhwok)

(3) Polish Troops ...

Afghanistan till the end of his administration in January 2017 as against 5,500 decided earlier.

"Instead of going down to 5500 troops by the end of this year, the United States will maintain approximately 8400 troops in Afghanistan into next year through the end of my administration," Obama said at a White House announcement on the eve of his Europe departure to attend the NATO Summit.

The NATO summit has kicked off in Warsaw, the capital of Poland on Friday, in which the member states would discuss several issues concerned to the alliance, including its commitment to provide support to Afghan security forces until 2020.

The summit had special importance for Afghanistan as the member state of the alliance would renew its commitment to sustain Afghan security forces and institutions financially until 2020. NATO-Afghanistan Enduring Partnership provided a framework for wider political dialogue and practical cooperation.(Pajhwok)

(4) 8,400 US...

new U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Army Gen. John Nicholson; his national security team; Congress and allies.

Pegging the number at 8,400 troops will allow the United States "to continue to provide tailored support to help Afghan forces continue to improve," Obama said.

The decision means the United States will maintain a presence in both Kandahar and Jalalabad. The president's announcement comes shortly before he departs for the NATO Summit in Warsaw, Poland, July 8-9, where leaders will discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

There has been undeniable progress in Afghanistan, the president said, but the country - one of the poorest in the world - needs more time to develop governmental, military and economic capabilities.

The first U.S. troops went into Afghanistan in October 2001, he said, and attacked al-Qaida. The terror group planned the 9/11 attacks against the United States behind a shield erected by the then-ruling Taliban. The aim was to stop Afghanistan from ever being able to be a safe haven for terrorists.

"We pushed al-Qaida out of its camps, helped the Afghan people topple the Taliban and helped them establish a democratic government," Obama said. "We dealt crippling blows to the al-Qaida leadership, we delivered justice to Osama bin Laden and we trained Afghan forces to take responsibility for their own security."(KP)

(5) Pakistan Urges ...

long shadows of terrorism, turmoil and continuing conflicts."

"Within the last week alone, we have seen major terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Terrorism could only be defeated with unity and cooperation of the international community," he added.(Agencies)

(6) Ghani Warns ...

the ability to do so, they should seek help from us," said Daudzai.

In his reaction, acting Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor, said the current government is illegitimate.

"[In this administration], some are busy filling their pockets, others are appointing their relatives, and yet others are trying to find better income sources or finding higher positions in the administration," he said as he criticized the central government. Despite the criticism, President Ghani called on people to be united and said that different in views are common in democracy.

"No one can use the Afghan nation. Anyone that wants to create disunity among us will be isolated."

Reports say that Ghani has visited former Jihadi leader and member the Council of Protection and Stability in Afghanistan leadership, Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayyaf, but it is not known yet that what their agenda in the meeting was.(Tolonews)

(7) Pakistan won't ...

officials insist that the Taliban group and the Haqqani network enjoy from the immunity and safe havens provided to the groups inside the Pakistani soil to carry out attacks in

Afghanistan.

The US Senator John McCain asked that it is impossible to build peace without justice. The violence against journalists is encouraged by the systematic impunity for those responsible for the violence. RSF pointed out that murders of journalists are not only crimes against freedom of expression but must also be treated as war crimes and, as such, must be punished severely. (Pajhwok)

In his meeting with the Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, Senator McCain said he asked the Pakistani officials to take steps in fight against terrorism, insisting that a good environment has been created to eliminate the menace of terrorism. Senator McCain further added that the United States will continue to support Afghanistan until terrorism has fully uprooted from the country and the region.

The Haqqani terrorist network is accused of staging numerous cross-border attacks from their base in North Waziristan, including the 19-hour siege at the US Embassy in Kabul in September 2011.

Haqqani network was formed in the late 1970s by Jalaluddin Haqqani. The group is allied with al-Qaida and the Afghan Taliban and cooperates with other terrorist organizations in the region.

The network is considered the most lethal insurgent group targeting the NATO-led coalition security forces and Afghan personnel in Afghanistan.

The US Department of State designated the HQN as a Foreign Terrorist Organization on September 7, 2012. (KP)

(8) Troops Celebrate....

Nangarhar governor.

The comments come at a time while Kot district is one of the most insecure districts in Nangarhar province. In the most recent Daesh attack in the district, they killed many residents and burned down their houses.(Tolonews)

(9) UNESCO Set ...

neighboring provinces. To realize the tourism potential of the province, they insist, security has to be beefed up.

Abdul Hamid Jalya, in charge of protecting historical sites, recalled UNESCO had registered in 2003 eight sites in Bamyan - the Buddhist statues, Ghulghula City, Kakrak Valley, Qul Akram Qul Ghami, caves, Kafir Fortand Duhak City.

He said the high walls Buddha statues were built on had been repaired by UNESCO and work on the small ones was underway. "The Germans rehabilitated the feet of the statue two years back, but the Japanese criticised the work and said the rehabilitation should be conducted properly. The rehabilitation work has since been halted," he added.

A UNESCO delegation visited the province two years back and sought public opinion on the rehabilitation of the statues. Haji Hussain, an influential local figure, demanded the protection of all monuments in the province - its cultural identity.

The two statues in Bamyan are deemed to be 1,600 years old, but they were ruthlessly dynamited during the Taliban regime in 2001 when the movement denounced the statues as un-Islamic.

The Sulsa statue was 55 meters high and the Shamama33 meters, situated on the old Silk Road in the northern part of Bamyan City, the provincial capital.(Pajhwok)

(10) Nimroz Custom ...

trader, grumbled about the absence of high tonnage scales and warehouses, saying the Silk Bridge, connecting Nimroz with Iran, also lacked the capacity to absorb traffic.

"We want Iran to keep its promise to construct another bridge to support more traffic," he said.

Turabisaidhis department had suggested the purchase of 50 acres of land to expand the custom warehouses and other facilities. The creation of cold storage has also been suggested.(Pajhwok)

(11) Ignored for ...

eyed people, not to the needy." Previously, the authorities would make excuses for their failure to deliver aid to Gilan inhabitants, he charged. Insecurity came in as a handy excuse, but now the situation is satisfactory.

There is full coordination among Afghan security personnel in the district, whose residents also cooperate with them in maintaining peace and stability, the district chief continued. There is not even a single lady doctor in the entire district, where patients often die on their way to the main provincial hospital, according to the official, who said the issue had been shared with Ghazni officials.

A tribal elder from the area, Haji Allah Noor, complained Gilan had no hospital, schools or work opportunities for the people to earn livelihoods.

He accused officials of not giving them the assistance provided by the central government. He alleged the officials would distribute the aid among themselves.

As the security issue had been mitigated, any kind of development or reconstruction project could be executed in Gilan, believed the district police chief, Col. Lothfullah Kamran. "At the moment, we have no major security concerns. If the government wants, it can enforce developments schemes in the town," he said. Ghazni Governor Mohammad Aman Hamid said he had already shared the issues of Ghazni City and districts with the central government, which had pledged resolving the problems.

Gilan is one of the remote districts of Ghazni, where only two teachers have been imparting education to hundreds of students.(Pajhwok)

(12) Caritas Switzerland...

international center for training and retraining of rescuers of Afghanistan and neighboring countries at the CES Training Center, exchange of experience, and construction of food warehouses for Afghans in Tajik border areas in case of emergency situations in Afghanistan.

Nazarzoda reportedly appreciated Caritas's support for mitigation of effects of natural disasters in Tajikistan and briefed Mr. Goepfert on measures taken by the government of Tajikistan to mitigate effects of natural disasters that hit the country in 2015 and 2016.

Head of Caritas Switzerland Tajikistan noted that they will continue providing support to Tajikistan to reduce disaster risks and strengthen the CES potential. Nozimov said. Founded in 1901 with its headquarters in Lucerne, Caritas Switzerland is a Swiss NGO. Caritas assists people in need in more than 50 countries abroad as well as in Switzerland.

Caritas does its own fundraising, mostly through donations from people or private institutions and is supported by the Swiss government. Caritas is involved in implementing a number of development and disaster preparedness/prevention projects in all over the world. Caritas Switzerland in Tajikistan is active since 1994.

In partnership with Caritas Luxembourg and Caritas Germany, Caritas Switzerland opened a regional office in Dushanbe.

In Tajikistan Caritas Switzerland has its focus on projects related to secure livelihoods (community development, community based water supply and local governance), disaster preparedness and prevention (water related disasters), social justice and emergency situations and works according to the rights based approach and puts actors and their initiatives first. (Asia-plus)

(13)Concerns over...

activist. Herat province police said that from the past two months security forces have pushed back terrorists groups from most parts of the province and at the moment security forces are suppressing the terrorists.

"I can confidently say that the Taliban have no strength for a face to face war with the security forces, dozens of insurgents have been killed over the past two months, Taliban were defeated whenever they attempted to make new attempts," said Abdul Raouf Ahamdi Herat police spokesman. Meanwhile army commander in the West said that soon a special operation will be conducted to eliminate the terrorists in Herat province.

"We will launch a special operation after Eid with the cooperation of all security institutions, people, civil society institutions and religious scholars, we are not neglecting the repression of the enemy of people of Afghanistan," said Gen. Mohiuddin Ghori army commander in the West. At the moment Taliban has a wide presence in the Shindand district of Herat province and it is said that security forces do not have full sovereignty in the Bazar of the district. (Tolonews)

(14)Khost Market....

Afghanistan has never recognised as an international border.

"Our markets were less dependent on Pakistani goods, now we import floor from Kazakhstan with good quality via Hairatan port in Balkh province," he said.

Khost province has three border crossings at Ghulam Khan, Babrak-Tanai and Zazai Maidan. Zazai Maidan has been closed since the start of Ramadan and Ghulam for the past two years due to Pakistani military operations in North Waziristan.

Rahmani said they wanted to enhance imports through Central Asia

and Iran because they were unnecessarily bothered at the Karachi port in Pakistan.

"If Pakistan continued to block the crossing point, it will not only damage imports from the neighbouring country, but will also result in the collapse of its factories," he warned. Khan Qasim, a resident of the provincial capital, viewed a hike in prices of commodities as a routine affair in Ramadan and Eid. The increase had nothing to do with the closure of border crossings, he believed.

Faridullah, a shopkeeper in the city, asked the government not to worry about the border closure by Pakistan as it would have no negative effect on business in the landlocked country.

Muzamil Shinwari, deputy minister of commerce and industries, said Afghanistan currently imported 30 percent of its requirements through Pakistan and 70 percent through Iran and Central Asian states.

With the development of the Chabahar Port in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province, Afghanistan's on Pakistani ports would further decline, the deputy minister hoped.(Pajhwok)

(15)Parents of...

Taliban's anti-peace and democracy policies.

Mehri Azizi was one of the seven staffers killed in the attack. However, her family are still struggling to deal with her death.

Reporters Without Borders has said that the attack on TOLO TV staff clarifies that the insurgent Taliban do not believe in democracy and peace, therefore the world community should not talk with the group unless it respects human rights.

"We are spending a miserable time since our daughter was martyred and we have not celebrated Eid, it is very difficult for a family," said Gul Mohammad, Mehri's father.

"I still feel that Mehri is alive, I feel that she has travelled to a far away place and then I take my mobile to make a call to ask her to return," said Mehri's sister in law Tammana.

Mehri's family blasted the Afghan National Unity Government for not doing enough to serve justice on those who kill civilians

"When they (government) announce that they have captured suicide bombers here and there, then why does the government not execute them publicly," Mehri's father Gul Mohammad added.

According to Reporters Without Borders, the enemies of democracy and freedom of speech have intensified attacks on media and journalists in Afghanistan, urging the UN, Afghan government, European Union (EU) and NATO alliance to firmly support media and journalists in Afghanistan.

Back in January, the Taliban attacked a minibus carrying staff of TOLO TV killing seven of the staffers and wounding more than 20. The attack on TOLO staff sparked international condemnation.(Tolonews)

(16)US, EU...

needed a strong, prosperous, and unified Europe. He added it was in the United States' interest that Europe remain united and democratic. He added that his country had advocated for Britain to remain in an integrated Europe since the very beginning.

Obama said the security of the United States and Europe was one and the same, announcing the United States would support Ukraine and keep the sanctions against Russia in place until the Minsk agreement conditions were met. He added the United States would continue its fight against the Islamic State and help the European Union (EU) ensure energy security by providing supplies. (Xinhua)

(17)S. Korea,....

which have opposed to the THAAD deployment on the Korean peninsula as the U.S. missile defense system far exceeds South Korea's actual defense needs and would directly threaten the strategic security of the two countries.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement Friday that the Chinese side is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposes to the deployment of THAAD in South Korea.

The Seoul defense ministry allegedly notified its neighboring countries, including China and Russia, of its final decision to deploy the U.S. missile defense system on Thursday afternoon.

The joint statement said that if the THAAD is deployed on the Korean peninsula, it will not target any other third country but will be operated only in response to the DPRK's nuclear and missile threats. (Xinhua)

(18)Russia Warns...

including through deployment of missile and ground units," he added. Earlier in the day, South Korea and the United States announced their final decision to deploy the THAAD in the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) stationed on the Korean peninsula to tackle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and missile threats. (Xinhua)

(19)UN Agencies ...

food agencies estimate that without the necessary action, the number of people affected by the combined impacts of the El Nino/La Nina could top 100 million.

FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva warned that the impact of El Nino on agricultural livelihoods has been enormous and with La Nina on the doorsteps the situation could worsen.

"El Nino has caused primarily a food and agricultural crisis," Graziano da Silva said.

FAO will therefore mobilize additional new funding to "enable it to focus on anticipatory early action in particular, for agriculture, food and nutrition, to mitigate the impacts of anticipated events and to strengthen emergency response capabilities through targeted preparedness investments," he stressed.

The UN food agencies believe more than 60 million people worldwide, about 40 million in East and Southern Africa alone, are projected to be food insecure due to the impact of the El Nino climate event. (Xinhua)

(20)US Attorney...

the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee for 2016 U.S. election for being "extremely careless" in handling classified information.

Speaking at a press conference here on Tuesday, Comey said federal investigators found that 110 emails in 52 email chains had contained classified information at the time they were sent or received and that eight of those 52 chains "contained information that was top secret" when they were sent.

Apart from the approximately 30,000 work-related emails Clinton turned over to the State Department in 2014, investigators later discovered several thousand work-related e-mails that were not among the group of 30,000 e-mails, Comey told a press conference.

"With respect to the thousands of e-mails we found that were not among those produced to the State Department, agencies have concluded that three of those were classified at the time they were sent or received; one at the secret level and two at the confidential level," he said.

However, Comey said there was no clear evidence that Clinton and her aides intended to violate the law. (Xinhua)

(21)US House...

to the Iranian regime, which still is the world's largest state sponsor of terror, is to give them a product that can be used for a military purpose," Roskam said.

The Boeing aircraft could be reconfigured to carry 100 ballistic missiles or 15,000 rocket-propelled grenades, according to Roskam. (dawn)

(22)Study Shows...

reason of the products in the study failing to meet the AAD standard was a lack of water and/or sweat resistance.

The study also shows that consumers preferred sunscreen products predominately for their cosmetic elegance followed by product performance.

Thus, the researchers suggested dermatologists should balance the importance of cosmetic elegance, cost and adequate sun protection in making their recommendations to consumers.

Currently, between 2 million and 3 million non-melanoma skin cancers and 132,000 melanoma skin cancers occur globally each year, according to statistics from the World Health Organization. (Xinhua)

(23)35 Killed,...

gates, the source said, adding that two mortar rounds landed at the scene at the time of the blasts.

The third suicide bomber threw two hand grenades at a crowd of Shiite pilgrims before he blew up himself among them, the source added.

"A total of 35 people were killed and some 70 others wounded, some of them were in critical condition," the source said, citing a medical source from the nearby hospital in Balad.

Earlier in the day, a security source told Xinhua that at least 20 people were killed and some 70 others wounded when two suicide bombers detonated themselves at the shrine, while other gunmen took many Shiite pilgrims hostages. (Xinhua)