

(1) Ghani, ...

recent meeting with the Pakistani prime minister, Ghani said, they agreed to utilise the Quadrilateral Cooperation Group (QCG) platform for peace and stability. In recent years, he added, Afghanistan had strengthened economic links with Central Asian republics and Iran. New opportunities of trade and commerce were being explored, he continued. The UN secretary general reiterated the world body's commitment to standing by Afghanistan in future and supporting government strategies for peace and reforms in the system. (Pajhwok)

(2) Situation...

work we expect to complete over the coming weeks, review it with the president, make a final policy decision," he told lawmakers in response to a question.

He admitted the current situation in Afghanistan was not well. He acknowledged the need for taking steps to prevent further deterioration as the administration got its new policies in place.

"What we're following now are the policies of the prior administration, and we need to take some steps to stem the effects of those while we get our policies in place," Tillerson added.

Congressman Dana Rohrabacher warned if the US did not succeed in Afghanistan, it would be all because of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

"Afghanistan looks like it's not going in the right direction. And there are some creative ways to handle this. We continue to have troops involved there, but some people are calling for more troops.

"I hope that we look for other methods rather than sending American troops into Afghanistan," he remarked, calling Pakistan a source of terrorism in that part of the world. (Pajhwok)

(3) Special Air ...

amid concerns by the local officials who are saying that the loyalists of the terror group are attempting to expand their foothold in some strategic and key parts of the province, including Pacher Agam as they eye to seize control of Tora Bora.

The officials have long been warning that the capture of Tora Bora will further help the terror group to expand its operations in this province and other parts of the country. (KP)

(4) Greater Regional ...

taken into account some of the most fundamental factors that would impact on its success or failure," Mattis told Senators. "We change the way we fight, we change the regional construct and we change our approach to how we deal with this government," said the Defense Secretary.

On Thursday Mattis said the Trump Administration's primary national interest and the international interest in Afghanistan is ensuring it does not become an ungoverned space from which attacks can again be launched against the United States, other nations or the Afghan people. "In this regard our forces are conducting partnered counterterrorism operations and we are supporting the NATO-led mission so in the future the Afghan people can defend themselves," he said. (Pajhwok)

(5) Probe against ...

Wahidi was among eight other ministers the parliament impeached on November 15, 2016 due to their failure to spend 70 percent of development budget. Wahidi's failure was to establish a system for collection 10 percent tax from telecom networks subscribers.

Sayed Ahmad Shah Sadaat, acting telecom minister told Pajhwok Afghan News that Wahidi had earlier said that he had prepared the system for collection of the 10% tax; but the system in fact didn't exist.

According to him, the system should have been established in a way that could deposit a specific amount of tax to the national kitty from telecom companies' earnings. Sadaat said due to the absence of the system it hadn't been yet specified that what amount of tax was being deposited to government's account. "In fact this system should have been set up about 13 years back; but currently technical preparations have been finished and we hope it will be soon ready."

Sadaat, confirming the suspended minister's office was locked and sealed, said investigation into his case was the authority of the attorney general's office; however, he didn't know how much progress had been made in the investigation. Wahidi on February 5 in a statement received by Pajhwok denied the al-

legations against him, saying he had a lot of proofs and documents to prove his innocence.

He had then said 'he had no responsibility' in collection of telecom taxes such as the 10 percent tax from telephonic calls and he was ready to seriously cooperate with the investigation process.

But despite the passage of five months of his suspension, it remains uncertain how much progress is made by the attorney general's office's delegation in this regard.

Jamshed Rasooli, AGO spokesman, said the investigation into the issue was underway and upon its completion, the results would be shared with the people. (Pajhwok)

(6) Committed to...

Fortunately, the media had been discharging its responsibility but the government expected more from it, he said. Problems in access to information persisted but the government was committed to sharing information with the media on time, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) UN General ...

The resolution was passed by consensus.

The spokesman said the new office would be "a major reform of the UN Counter-Terrorism architecture" and later told reporters it would "bring coherence to all the different entities, in coordination, to counter terrorism."

"The secretary-general expects the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre within the new Office of Counter-Terrorism to play a central role in the provision of enhanced capacity building assistance to member states," said the spokesman, who declined to speculate on when Guterres would name someone to head the office. (Xinhua)

(8) U.S. Military ...

with North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies about their potential contributions. About 8,400 U.S. troops are now deployed in Afghanistan.

Mattis said in testimony before the U.S. Senate on June 14 that he is just weeks away from presenting to U.S. President Donald Trump a new strategy that will inform his decision on troop numbers. Trump authorized Mattis to set future Afghan troop levels on Tuesday.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. (Reuters)

(9) China to Play

UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his recent visit to Kabul has also urged China to play mediatory role between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Meanwhile Afghanistan President's Office in a recent statement had said that China is willing to play a mediatory role between Afghanistan and Pakistan. (IRNA)

(10) Daesh Presence ...

countries are endeavoring to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan. Two weeks back Daesh claimed responsibility of a powerful bomb blast that hit the diplomatic area of Kabul, killing at least 90 people and injuring hundreds more.

Meanwhile some reports say that Daesh have claimed responsibility of a blast on a Shia mosque in Kabul late Thursday, which killed at least eight people.

Pakistan army and the government have not officially admitted Daesh presence in the country but there are a good number of reports that many militants with links to Daesh have been killed or arrested in different operations across Pakistan. (IRNA)

(11) 'US to Send ...

The deployment will be the largest of American manpower under Donald Trump's young presidency.

The official says the decision by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis could be announced as early as next week.

It follows Trump's move to give Mattis the authority to set troop levels and seeks to address assertions by the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan that he doesn't have enough forces to help Afghanistan's army against a resurgent Taliban insurgency. The official wasn't authorized to discuss details of the decision publicly and demanded anonymity. The Pentagon, however, has said it has not yet reached a decision on future troop levels in Afghanistan, amid speculation that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis may have finalised plans for an increase in forces to help break a stalemate with the Taliban.

"No decisions have been made," said Defense Department spokesman Jeff Davis, when asked about an Associated Press report that Mattis had decided on sending nearly 4,000 additional troops.

Still, that figure would be in line with previous comments by U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. Reuters has reported that U.S. deliberations were focussed on sending between 3,000 and 5,000 troops to Afghanistan, where American forces have been fighting for nearly 16 years. (Pajhwok)

(12) Security Forces

to defeat and eradicate Daesh from the area, the Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said on Friday.

Daesh captured the strategic Tora Bora region on Tuesday. The area was used as a hideout by Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda, who was killed in a U.S. operation in 2011. "Our security forces are in Pachir Aw Agam district and Daesh will be eliminated in the near future. The military operation against Daesh will continue without any delay," Waziri said. Meanwhile, Nangarhar Police Chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi said Tora Bora will never turn into a safe haven for Daesh fighters.

"They (Daesh fighters) have come to Pachir Aw Agam (district), but they will be defeated. Daesh and their supporters should be aware that there is no place for them (in the district)," Rahimi said.

Reports indicate that at least 600 families have left their houses in Dara-e-Sulaimankhail village close to Tora Bora area in Pachir Aw Agam district.

"Daesh came and captured the (Tora Bora) area and we left our villages," a resident of Sulaimankhail said.

"Our goods have remained in our houses and all the people have fled," another resident of Sulaimankhail said.

A number of military analysts said the presence of Daesh in Tora Bora would pose a serious threat to Nangarhar and its neighboring provinces.

"The reason behind the changing of Daesh into a big threat is that we (government) concentrate on others instead of those who are killing the people and who loots their properties," said Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former deputy minister of interior.

On Thursday, Abdul Saboor Sabet, the head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) in Nangarhar, claimed that Pakistani militia fully supported Daesh in their offensive against the Tora Bora region this week in eastern Nangarhar province.

In a trip to Nangarhar's Chaparhar district on Thursday, Sabet said that Pakistani militia are still backing Daesh militants in the region.

"Daesh militants sustained heavy losses, whenever they suffer a toll, they get reinforcements from the other side of the border who are the Pakistani militias. The (Afghan) public uprising forces are bravely defending all districts against the enemies," said Sabet.

Earlier this week Waziri stated that up to 700 Daesh operatives had been killed in Nangarhar as a result of a military operation by security forces over the past three months. (Tolnews)

(13) Kandahar ...

who also met the real organizers of the attack in Chaman.

"I don't want to disclose their nationality and want Pakistan to hand over these people who are involved in the Kandahar attack."

He said the investigation of the attack was carried out jointly with the probe team of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He said two types of explosives TNT and RDX had been used in the attack. He said the investigation was still underway and complete report would be shared with the media.

Thirteen people, including Afghan and UAE diplomats, were killed and 18 others wounded when a blast took place in the guest house of Kandahar governor house. Kandahar governor was injured in the blast while the UAE ambassador succumbed to his wounded after weeks in the hospital. (Pajhwok)

(14) Attack on

All windows of the library of the mosque are broken and the corridor to the second floor is damaged," he said. "In the second floor, usually women gather and pray during the Lailatul-Qadar nights. All the mosques in the west of Kabul are crowded during the last days of this month (Ramadan)," he added.

According to sources, at least six people were killed and 10 others were wounded in the attack.

However, an eyewitness, Baqer, told TOLONews on Friday that seven people including Kabul businessman Ramazan Husainzada were killed and 18 others were wound-

ed in the attack which according to him was carried out by two suicide bombers.

The Presidential Palace called the attack heinous and said the insurgents continue to target mosques and political gatherings in order to fuel ethnic and political rifts among the people.

The explosion happened while people around the country were preparing to observe the Lailatul-Qadr (night of power) which is held on 19th, 21st and 23rd day of Ramadan and mosques on this occasion are very crowded.

Daesh has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Few hours after the attack, Taliban rejected any involvement in the incident. (Tolnews)

(15) Mohaqiq Slams...

kilometers in length. The enemy enters our country from the other side of the border," he said.

Ramazan Husainzada was born in Behsood district in Maidan Wardak province 66 years ago.

Husainzada was married and left behind seven children.

"He (Husainzada) was a good man, a compassionate man, not only to Hazaras, but to all," said Mohammad Sarwar, Husainzada's friend.

"He (Husainzada) was always thinking about helping the people.

He was helping drivers, retailers and everyone," said Haji Ahmad Ramanzada, Husainzada's son.

Meanwhile, senior deputy interior minister for security, Murad Ali Murad, said the Afghan security forces are determined to defeat terrorists.

"Our security forces make lots of sacrifices and fight with terrorists. I want to say that Afghans should never lose their trust in the defense and security forces," he stated.

This is third time that terrorists target prayers ceremonies in mosques in the past month.

Earlier this month, they targeted the Great Mosque of Herat and a mosque Paktia province, killing and wounding dozens of civilians. (Tolnews)

(16) President, ...

which causing casualties at the Al Zahra mosque.

The president strongly condemned the attack during telephonic conversation with some families of the victims, the statement said.

It added that terrorist as part of the anti-religion criminal activities had attacked worshippers inside the Al Zahra Mosque and left a number of innocent people killed and wounded.

The president telephoned second Vice President Sarwar Mohammad Danish, second Vice Chief Executive Mohammad Mohaqiq, and High Peace Council Chairman Karim Khalili and denounced the overnight terrorist attack.

The president order Gen. Murad Ali Murad and Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai, National Directorate of Security (NDS) chairman to take all necessary security arrangements for the burial of those killed during the attack.

CEO Abdullah also denounced attack on Alzahra Mosque and termed the attack against humanity and Islam.

Former President Hamid Karzai was another leader who condemned the overnight attack and said his great friend and a tribal elder Haji Ramazan was also killed in the attack.

Gulbadin Hekmatyar, head of the Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA), Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor and Hizb-i-Jumbesh Islami were the other leaders and political party who denounced the attack in strong words. (Pajhwok)

(17) Daesh will ...

according to sources claimed. On the other hand, local officials in the nearby Khogyani district also said the Daesh gunmen had entered Wazir Tangi area, prompting hundreds of families to flee homes.

A security official in Nangarhar told Pajhwok Afghan News the Daesh fighters reached Tora Bora last night after clashes with local residents and Taliban insurgents. (Pajhwok)

(18) Turkey ...

friendly and brotherly people and Government of Afghanistan in the face of this terror attack that aims to disturb peace and public order in the country".

Two suspected suicide bombers attacked the mosque in Kabul, an official said late on Thursday. (Trend)

(19) Atmar, Kubiš ...

and government of Afghanistan over the loss of precious lives.

Kubiš assured the NSA of UN full support and cooperation in fight against terrorism, Afghan led peace process and discussed future elec-

tion in the country.

He stressed over regional consensus for peace and appreciated the vision of Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

Atmar welcomed Mr Kubiš to Kabul and called the effective role of UN as vital in today's regional and international context.

NSA emphasized on the regional cooperation and coordination for combating and overcoming terrorism and termed the role of UN key in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(20) First-Ever

and extend to Sara-i-Shamali Square.

"This is good news for Kabul residents and we would witness the first metro bus running in early 1397. We plan to work on similar projects in other parts of Kabul later this year.

"We will have 111 kilometres of metro bus lines in the capital three years," he said.

The construction of the 111 kilometers metro bus road would cost \$15 million to be paid by the municipality. A contract for the construction of a 285 kilometres road in Kabul was also signed today.

"Another project for asphaltting a 90 kilometers road is also in the procurement plan. In total, 375 kilometres of roads would be constructed this year under the two projects," the mayor said.

Habibzai said the road projects would be implemented in 15th, 16th, 22nd, 12th, 11th, 13th, 17th, 9th, 8th, 4th, 5th, 10th and 7th police districts.

He did not provide information about the total cost of the 16 projects, but said the municipality's plans for the current year included graveling roads, brick-lining streets, building a surface water system, parks and providing other services that would cost \$113 million.

He called building recreational parks in Kabul as a top priority for the municipality, saying six of such parks would be built in the capital this year.

Vice-President Sarwar Danish, who also participated in the meeting, hailed the acting mayor as an honest and professional person. He hoped Habibzai would become a permanent mayor in near future. He asked for the appointment of mayors based on elections.

Danish expressed concern at the lack of school buildings, clinics, parks and standard roads in some parts of Kabul. He asked the municipality to resolve the problems in coordination with other relevant organs. (Pajhwok)

(21) Daesh May ...

taken for defeating Daesh, Taliban, and other insurgent groups in eastern parts of the country, Ali added.

"As representatives from eastern provinces, I, Haji Zahir Qadeer, Mirwais Yasini and our other colleagues are willing to support government and crush Daesh, Taliban and other insurgent groups," He said.

If Daesh not beaten on time, the militant group may sneak into Logar through Khogyani, Hisarak, Shirzad of Nangarhar and Azra district of Logar and then pose a great threat to Kabul, he said.

He said the IS militants recently appointed their shadow governors and started their activities in Kunar and Nuristan provinces. (Pajhwok)

(22) Honey Production

due to the plantation of trees and flowers, increase in number of farms and honey process firms.

He said the honey production will further rise and will be exported to other provinces and outside the country if they receive modern equipment and other support from the government.

Rodwal further added that increase in honey production will also pave the way for the migration of the workers from other areas of the country provided that the necessary support is provided to the association and honey production workers, including support in the field of the greenery by plantation of trees, flowers, farms, and other facilities. According to the provincial government officials, currently there are around 400 honey production farms active in this province, producing honey and exporting to the other parts of the country. (KP)

(23) Afghanistan--...

was all praise for Rashid Khan's outstanding performance. Sarwan noted the hosts were the current T20 champions, with Afghanistan yet to become a full member of ICC.

Despite their limitations and inadequacies, the Afghans played positive cricket and defeated the rivals in the first ODI, Sarwan said. (Pajhwok)

(24) Police Officer ...

According to police officials, Nawabi lost his life in the shooting.

The Ministry of Interior in a statement condemned the attack on Al-Zahra Mosque, saying that the ministry commends "the courage, bravery and sacrifice" of police officers, especially Nawabi, whose sacrifice prevented further casualties in the attack.

According to sources, at least six people were killed and 10 others were wounded in the attack.

However, an eyewitness, Baqer, told TOLONews on Friday that seven people including Kabul businessman Ramazan Husainzada were killed and 18 others were wounded in the attack which according to him was carried out by two suicide bombers.

The Ministry of Interior said on Friday that five people including the police officer were killed and 10 others were wounded in the attack.

The Presidential Palace called the attack heinous and said the insurgents continue to target mosques and political gatherings in order to fuel ethnic and political rifts among the people. (Tolnews)

(25) ISIS Claims ...

in Al-Zahra mosque in Barchi area of Kabul city.

He said the suicide bombers were identified by the security personnel before they manage to enter the mosque and one of them detonated his explosives near the gate of the mosque while the other one detonated his explosives in the kitchen of the mosque after several minutes of armed resistance with the security forces.

A local tribal elder and trader identified as Haji Ramazan was also among those killed in the attack. (KP)

(26) Paktika ALP ...

the commander had been killed and seven others wounded so far. Shaqoor had rendered a lot of sacrifices for strengthening security, but the government did not support him, he said.

According to Malik, if the ALP commander resigned, Janikhel and Khairkot districts would fall to Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(27) EU Discusses

Oulu with the EU High Representative Federica Mogherini about the development of the joint defence and security policies of the EU. Mogherini thanked Finland for being active in the EU defence cooperation and its development. (Xinhua)

(28) Russia's Economy ...

industry and heavy engineering among others, Putin said.

As a result, Russia has managed to overcome its recession and achieved a year-on-year growth of 1.4 percent in April and a 0.7-percent growth in the first quarter of this year, he said. Western countries have imposed several sets of economic sanctions on Russia since 2014 over Crimea. (Xinhua)

(29) Putin Highlights...

and poultry.

Other sectors positively affected by the sanctions include radio electronics, aircraft building, the space industry, the pharmaceutical industry and heavy engineering, among others. (Xinhua)

(30) Airstrike may...

location of the Russian air force operation, it said.

Reports about the death of the IS chief have been circulating in some media for several days, but there has been no official confirmation of it. (Xinhua)

(31) AIIB Chief...

in large part to its growing economy, demographic changes, technological innovations, and more importantly, enhancements in corporate and state governance," said Jin.

Despite these impressive achievements, Jin said, Asia now faced new and complex challenges such as a massive infrastructure gap, the impact of climate change, rapid urbanization and environment degradation. (Xinhua)

(32) Macron Meets

be led by the EU executive body. Rutte stressed: "Brexit also means that we have to protect our citizens from the economic impact that might happen."

The newly elected Macron campaigned on a strong pro-European stance. (AP)

(33) UN Says ...

severely limited access for the agencies.

The U.N. has been unable to reach any of the 600,000 civilians in Syria it counts as besieged in over 40 days, a top humanitarian official said Thursday. (AP)