

**(1) Anti-Graft...**

more inclusive and multi-dimensional.

Chief Justice Syed Yusuf Haleem and Attorney General Farid Hameed also expressed their views regarding the new strategy and termed it effective in countering corruption.

According to the Attorney General, the strategy was based on facts and would be helpful in fighting against corruption.

Acting Interior Minister Wais Barak, Justice Minister Abdul Basir Anwar and other Cabinet members were present at the meeting.

The president thanked the participants for their views and said final touch to the strategy would be given within two weeks and tasked Danish to finalise the strategy.

The meeting stressed over greater cooperation among different government institutions and practical implementation of the strategy. (Pajhwok)

**(2) BRICS Leaders...**

"We express concern on the security situation in the region and violence caused by the Taliban, the Islamic State, Al Qaeda and its affiliates, including the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan and Hizbut Tahrir," it added.

The statement said nations should unite to fight the groups in accordance with the principles of international law, but emphasised the importance of not interfering in the sovereign affairs of individual states.

The ninth BRICS summit chaired by Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the need for immediate cessation of violence in Afghanistan and reaffirmed their support to the people of Afghanistan.

They supported an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and national reconciliation and ongoing international efforts, including the Moscow Format of consultations on Afghanistan and "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process", as well as multimodal connectivity projects to promote peace and stability.

"We support the efforts of the Afghan National Defense and security Forces in fighting terrorist organizations," they said.

However, the summit was upstaged by North Korea's latest nuclear test. The BRICS include Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The summit includes Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia, Michel Temer of Brazil and South Africa's Jacob Zuma. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Myanmar Unrest: ...**

Aid officials said relief camps were reaching full capacity as thousands of Rohingya refugees continued to pour into Bangladesh on Sunday fleeing violence in western Myanmar.

Some 73,000 people have crossed the border since violence erupted on August 25 in Myanmar's Rakhine state, said UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokeswoman Vivian Tan.

The MoFA said such 'hideous acts were against the international human rights and should be prevented. The MoFA asked the UN to investigate the killings of Myanmar's Muslims in a 'special manner.'

Meanwhile, Taliban's Mullah Rasool faction also denounced the oppression of Muslims in the overwhelmingly Buddhist Myanmar also known as Burma.

The Taliban statement said: "We are ready for any kind of support to the oppressed Muslims in Myanmar. Our thousands of youth are waiting to help the Myanmar Muslims."

It asked all Muslim countries, especially Bangladesh, to allow the Afghan insurgents to go to Myanmar.

The statement criticized human rights defenders for remaining silence on the issue.

The violence and the exodus began after Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar police and paramilitary posts in what they said was an effort to protect their ethnic minority from persecution. In response, the military unleashed what it called "clearance operations" to root out the insurgents.

Myanmar has a long history of communal mistrust, which was allowed to simmer, and was at times exploited, under military rule, with the government not doing enough to head the violence off. (Pajhwok)

**(4) N. Korea, Afghanistan ...**

and it will set the pace as one of numerous national security issues Congress will tackle in the fall.

There have been major foreign policy developments around the globe since Congress was last in Washington,

which is reflected in the double-barreled briefings scheduled Wednesday on North Korea and Afghanistan.

The full House and Senate will receive separate classified, members-only briefings from Defense Secretary James Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. Joe Dunford and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats.

The briefings will be the first chance for skeptical lawmakers to question President Donald Trump's plan for Afghanistan, which he laid out in a speech last month.

Trump's call for more US troops with greater authority to attack the Taliban and other militant groups was praised by Republicans for committing US forces to winning the war in Afghanistan, but Democrats criticized the President for lacking a strategy and not providing details like the number of US additional troops that would deploy.

North Korea's latest nuclear test on Sunday will refocus attention in Washington on the threat Pyongyang's nuclear program could pose to US allies -- not to mention the US itself.

Trump also stirred up concerns about conflict with North Korea in August when he warned of "fire and fury" against Pyongyang if it does not stop threatening the US. After the North's latest missile test that flew over Japan, US B-1B bombers and F-35B fighter jets joined with South Korean F-15 fighter jets in a joint flyover of the Korean Peninsula as a show of force.

Trump has continued to tout potential military action over diplomacy, tweeting on Wednesday that "talking is not the answer" for North Korea. His Cabinet, meanwhile, is emphasizing diplomacy. "We're never out of diplomatic options," Mattis said when asked about Trump's tweet.

But the following day, Mattis rejected the notion he was at odds with the commander in chief.

"There was nothing contradictory there," Mattis told reporters. "The President made very clear we are not talking to North Korea. ... there was no contradiction at all."

Some lawmakers have expressed concern that Trump could launch a preemptive military strike against North Korea, but there's not a lot Congress could do to tie the President's hands short of explicitly barring military action, which is not likely to be considered.

Congress could, however, take steps toward drafting a war authorization for ISIS this fall. Mattis and Tillerson briefed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the issue before the August recess, and the panel's chairman Bob Corker has expressed openness to debating a draft authorization in committee that's authored by Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia and Republican Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona.

But the first item on the Senate's agenda will be the defense authorization bill, which could be the vehicle for a number of contentious debates over military policy.

Democrats are preparing to try to reverse Trump's proposed ban on with an amendment to the defense bill, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York has been sounding out moderate Republicans to find a provision that they could support.

The bill will attract scores of amendments, and party leaders will negotiate what issues will get votes on the Senate floor.

The bill would authorize a major boost in military spending, even more than Trump proposed in his budget, but securing the defense increase is no sure thing.

Congress is likely to pass a continuing resolution to prevent the government from shutting down on Oct. 1, which will keep funding at the same levels as the current year.

After that, there's still no clear path forward on a budget agreement to lift defense spending, and this fall the military is facing the most budget uncertainty that it's seen in years.

In a Washington Post op-ed published Friday, McCain urged Congress to return to regular order and find a bipartisan agreement on the defense budget, among other items.

"We all know spending levels for defense and other urgent priorities have been woefully inadequate for years. But we haven't found the will to work together to adjust them," McCain wrote. "A compromise that raises spending caps for both sides' priorities is better than the abject failure that has been our achievement to date." (CNN)

**(5) Five-Nations ...**

Afghanistan have been completed

and that construction work will start soon.

The railway authority officials said 50 percent of the total railway line will cross through Afghanistan.

"A big part, almost 50 percent of the route goes through Afghanistan. In fact, Afghanistan is the closest route to connect China and other countries to Iran's ports," the head of Afghanistan's Railway Authority, Abdul Bari Sediqi said.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) said once the railway line has been built, transit costs between the affected countries will decrease significantly.

"Two things are important in goods transit: first one is time and the second one is cost. Less money and time will be spent if transportation is done by rail," ACCI spokesman, Seyam Pesarlay said.

The five-nation railway project, that includes Iran, China, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan, will eventually be 2,200km long in total. In Afghanistan the railway will run from Kunduz to Herat province. (Tolnews)

**(6) 'Helmand Peace....**

for that," said the governor, who blamed the conflict for deprivation of children of education and many areas of healthcare services in the country. He called on militants to shun insurgency and join the peace process. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Saudi Announces ...**

Governor of Makkah region explained that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia never felt boast of the huge funds it pumps in this regard, and deals with this matter as one of its fixed principles.

At the conclusion of the conference, Prince Khalid Al Faisal revealed an integrated plan for the development of the holy sites, to be announced in a timely manner that will accommodate more and more pilgrims, including the services provided. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Militants Suffer ..**

discovered and defused at least 18 improvised explosive devices planted by the militants, the Shaheen Corps officials added.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not commented regarding the report so far.

The security situation in northern Kunduz province remains tense since last few years as the militant groups including Taliban and other insurgents attempt to expand their foothold in the key northern provinces. (KP)

**(9) Politicians Claim ...**

politicians said the peace council was established to take control of peace negotiations but instead some elements within the National Security Council (NSC) are dealing with the process.

"All the work was done through Afghanistan's intelligence and now also the National Directorate of Security and National Security Council are active and there is no sign of the peace council," Sayed Ishaq Gailani, leader of the National Solidarity Movement of Afghanistan said.

A number of political figures have said the High Peace Council should be dissolved, because it does not have any authority and is just symbolic.

"Government is not alone in the peace process, the foreigners also should decide whether they are happy with the peace process and is the peace process on their agenda. Once it gets included in our foreign friends agendas, then they will activate the related institutions (peace council)," Sediqullah Patman, a political affairs analyst said.

The HPC was established five years ago in order to bring insurgent groups to the peace talks tables and to conduct negotiations in this respect. Since its establishment millions of dollars has been spent on the council.

The HPC and government claim to have had one success in this time and that was in getting Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hizb-e-Islami to sign a peace accord. Hekmatyar however recently said the HPC did not play any role in his return to Kabul. Kandahar's police chief, General Abdul Raziq, meanwhile said last week the HPC played no role in getting over 20 Taliban commanders in Kandahar province to lay down their weapons.

The commanders recently joined the peace process and resettled in Kandahar, said Raziq.

"In this case, the peace council has no role. But the tribal elders are in-

involved in the process which is ongoing," said Raziq.

TOLnews was not able to get comment from the High Peace Council in this regard.

The new HPC chief, Mohammad Karim Khalili, after taking office earlier this year, promised to bring fundamental reforms to the council, but two months later nothing has been done.

"Doubtless that part of the peace council success depends on the reforms and that changes should be made within the council from strategies and policies to its structure," Khalili had said.

Members of the public have voiced concern over this lack of action and have called on government to stop funding the HPC. (Tolnews)

**(10) No Problem...**

are divided into two groups, the first includes those who have reliable identity documents and valid passports and the second those whose identity documents are not complete or valid any more, said the official.

He further noted that the first group can register in Iran's schools and the latter should receive the necessary documents for that end.

As Hosseini announced, about 400,000 students from Afghan families and foreign nationals are studying in 25,490 schools in Iran. (IRNA)

**(11) Joint Anti...**

"Enemy forces are present in an area between Helmand and Kandahar, but we want to move on this direction, security forces are also coming from Helmand," said Afghan police officer Shamsullah.

"We will fight with the Taliban," said another officer Noor Mohammad. (Tolnews)

**(12) Above 60pc of ...**

on time," he said.

There is not even a single healthcare facility in two districts of the province namely Registan and Shorabak. Residents of these districts say they not only lack healthcare facilities but many other facilities including development projects.

Najibullah, a resident of Khorabak district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that there was not even a single clinic in the district.

"People have to take their patients to Pakistan where they face many problems during the journey," he said.

Haji Mohammad, a resident of Registan district, said the government had ignored the district over the past 15 years.

Khorabak and Registan are located 230 kilometers and 350 kilometers respectively south of Kandahar city near the Durand Line. Roads leading to the two districts are un-asphalted and insecure --- the main reason behind the lack of primary livelihood services.

Kandahar residents say their population recently reached 2.5 million individuals and a 350-bed hospital, around 50 state-run healthcare centers and 20 private healthcare centers are not enough to cope with the situation.

Ghulam Sakhi Nooriwal, a resident of Kandahar city, said the Mirwais Zonal Hospital in Kandahar City built in 1978 was providing health services to 6.7 million people of five provinces in the zone.

He called the hospital one of the country's 'busiest' despite lacking staff and having a small building.

"There is only one healthcare clinic each in some populated districts and people find it hard to reach such facilities due to complicated geographical locations," he added.

Nooriwal said there were no diagnoses centers for some specific diseases in Kandahar and people there were obliged to travel to Kabul, Pakistan or India for treatment of such diseases. "Unfortunately the private sector also did not invest in this area", he regretted.

He said though private healthcare centers had proven helpful, their quality of services remained poor. He said the private sector could open diagnosis and treatment centers for specific diseases such as heart, kidney, cancer and others.

Acting public health director Dr. Mohammad Azim Zamaryal acknowledged government-offered health services in Kandahar were inadequate.

"In addition to Kandahar city, patients from 94 areas in districts where there is not even a single clinic come here to treatment," he said.

He asked the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and aid organizations to extend health services to areas where these facilities were limited or did not exist.

He said the current healthcare facil-

ities were on provincial level, but patients from neighboring provinces also arrived in Kandahar for treatment.

"Unfortunately we don't have a maternity hospital on the zonal level. Many clashes and traffic incidents happen, but we have no emergency hospital, we also don't have diagnosis and treatment centers for some specific illnesses," he said.

However, he said efforts were underway to extend healthcare services to areas where they were not available. He said construction work on a 350-bed hospital that was started three years ago had been 95 percent completed.

Once completed, the new hospital would reduce the load of patients on Mirwais Hospital by 50 percent. "This hospital is being built in Aino Mina area of Kandahar city on 86 acres of land and will cost 524 million afghanis," Zamaryal added.

He said the hospital would operate on zonal level covering Helmand, Uruzgan, Zabul and some other nearby provinces.

Ambulance service would be also launched in near future in Kandahar to deal with emergency situations, he said.

According to the Kandahar public health department, 496 doctors, nurses, midwives and other health professionals are working in the province.

The number of female health professionals is very limited to deal with all female patients in Kandahar where 33 percent of the population have access to health services. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Afghanistan to ...**

was US\$ 627,000 in 2016 and total imports from Afghanistan to Sri Lanka for the same period were US\$ 48,000.

Sri Lanka's main export products to Afghanistan in 2016 were books, printed matter, rubber tyres and tubes, desiccated coconut, tea, parts of refrigerating or freezing equipment.

The main import products from Afghanistan were telephone sets, toys and electrical transformers, processed food, precious stones, office machines, electric motors and generators. (Agencies)

**(14) 19 Militants ...**

militants also destroyed during the offensive, the source concluded. Taliban have not yet commented over the fresh offensive. (Pajhwok)

**(15) Clash over Land ...**

with military tank, ranger vehicles and tens of policemen for the defence of his nephew.

"The residents of the area showed resistance with Baigzad's nephew which resulted in the clash," said Maab.

Baigzad, however, rejected the claim of local residents. He said: "We visited our relatives to offer them Eid felicitation but on return local people opened firing on us." No clash happened over the land dispute, he added. Last year, a clash took place in Wasaj on land dispute between local commander and common people. (Pajhwok)

**(16) ALP Commander,**

uprising forces commanders in Chahartoot area of Pashtunkot district left one civilian dead and three others injured.

A police official, wishing anonymity, said the clash erupted between the two uprising commanders, Ghulam Haidar and Salmaanqol, on Sunday night and stretched into Monday morning, leaving one civilian dead and three others wounded.

He said when the district's deputy police chief and the National Directorate of Security (NDS) deputy head reached Chahartoot area to discuss the conflict with the warring sides, both the commanders hiked to mountains and refused to talk with security officials. (Pajhwok)

**(17) Afghan Migrant**

The young woman has been seriously injured - but her life is not in danger - and she is currently being cared for in the General Hospital in Valjevo, the daily Vecernje Novosti reported. The newspaper said that the incident was preceded by "an altercation - the motives of which are currently unknown."

Before throwing the woman out of the window, the man also allegedly hit her several times.

The suspect is being held by the Serbian police and will face criminal charges, the newspaper has reported. The Bogovadja Center - owned by the Belgrade Red Cross Resort facilities - has been as an asylum accommodation center for several years now. (Tolnews)