

### (1) Govt. Won't ...

Shah Saba, Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) head Ghulam Jailani Popal and some other officials. The president is scheduled to meet other officials and businessmen of the province. A day earlier, Hayat said president would give Shindand district the state of a province.

Compensation to martyred soldiers and financial support for wounded soldiers would be doubled, he pledged. The Afghan Air Force would get special attention to be improved, he said, adding the Zafar Military Corps would be equipped with all needed facility in next two weeks. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Students Among...

Tajuddin, head of the advising council at Khuram Bagh School, said the incident took place when the 9th and 10th class girls students were busy studying that they smelled gas. He did not rule out insurgents' hands in the incident, saying: "Insurgents do not want people of Afghanistan to be armed with knowledge and build their country." Tajuddin said investigations were ongoing and nobody has been detained in connection to the incident as of yet. (Pajhwok)

### (3) HPC to Make ...

government and they were ready to do so, the HPC would pave the ground for their travel to any country they wanted. The five --- Noorullah Noori, Abdul Haq Wasiq, Mohammad Nabi Omari, Khairullah Khairkhwah and Mohammad Fazil Akhund --- were released from the US detention facility in Cuba last year in return for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the only American war prisoner in Taliban's custody. The five former Guantanamo detainees have been under close monitoring in Qatar and subject to a travel ban since their release last year. The agreement with Qatar is set to expire June 1.

Qasimyar urged the United States to facilitate the five Taliban leaders to join the Afghan peace process and allow them to reunite with the movement. He said a number of Taliban militants, who had been released from Guantanamo, Bagram and other jails, had reengaged in the conflict. Abdul Salam Rakati, a senior official during the Taliban regime, who was present at the gathering, told Pajhwok Afghan News it was essential to lift restrictions on the five Taliban leaders in Qatar. He said the five Taliban men had the right to decide their future.

Members of Congress have repeatedly expressed concern about what will happen after the travel ban expires. They have asked the Obama administration to try to persuade Qatar to extend the monitoring. (Pajhwok)

### (4) National Interests...

people should trust their leaders would never compromise over national interest and security.

Afghan politicians, members of parliament and analysts criticised signing of the agreement with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and termed the MoU against the interest of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Afghan Forces...

Resolute Support commander was talking to Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah during a meeting with him at his office in Kabul, a statement from the CEO office said.

Gen. Campbell added that foreign troops continued their mission to train and advice Afghan security forces, who he believed had the required ability to subdue the insurgents.

Abdullah praised sacrifices rendered by the Afghan forces in line of duty, calling them the real guard of the country's soil.

The CEO said the Afghan forces had for years fought the opponents and killed a large number of terrorists who resorted to violence and created insecurity.

Calling as crucial latest security operations in various parts of the country, Abdullah said the operations should be further extended to target safe havens of militants in the entire country. He said the unity government was trying to strengthen Afghan forces from training and equipment perspective in order they could face all challenges. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Pledges Made ...

In the letter, the source added,

Ghani urged Pakistan to put Taliban leaders under house arrest, barring them from any activity. Pakistan must also conduct operations against Haqqani network, destroy Taliban safe havens on its soil and should not treat wounded Taliban fighters, were among other demands mentioned in the letter. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Revenue Up ...

months of the ongoing year as compared to the 1st five months of previous year. He said the ministry had taken steps by introducing advanced system of revenue collection and brought necessary reforms to the custom departments across the country.

Last month, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) established a computerized system for revenue collection.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed between Mia Gul Maqsood Sabit, secretary of custom and revenue departments, and Esa Khan Turab, deputy director of the Afghanistan Central Bank.

Najibullah Wardak, director of custom and revenue department, said the new system would connect revenue departments of the country with the Central Bank.

He said up till now revenue was collected manually which led to massive corruption and waste of time. The official said that Ministry of Finance had planned various new programs to bolster performance of the ministry.

The finance minister told the house that now the businessmen could deposit their tax money by sending their bank account numbers through SMS.

Hakimi said tax on business has not been increased, but businessmen who did not pay taxes has now been registered and asked to pay taxes. (Pajhwok)

### (8) US, Qatar in ...

Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl on May 31, 2014, and transferred from the US detention centre at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to the custody of Qatar.

A year-long travel ban on the five is due to expire, raising questions about what happens next.

"Presumably, they will go back to the battlefield but they will not change the dynamics, and they will not change the balance. They are five guys," retired general Stanley McChrystal, a former US commander in Afghanistan, said on CNN's "State of the Union." Brennan said he was personally engaged in the discussions with Afghan and Qatari officials about the five.

They are "looking (at) what are the arrangements that can be put in place, what is going to be the disposition of these individuals, whether they will be sent back to Afghanistan or stay in Doha," he said.

"This is continuing, part of the ongoing process of discussing with our Qatari partners what is in the best interest of national security," he added.

The five include a former Taliban army chief of staff, a former deputy intelligence minister, and a former interior minister, as well as two other senior Taliban members. Congressman Ed Royce, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, added his voice to those who questioned the wisdom of ever having released the five Taliban.

"You may not find them in the role they had before, there's no doubt they're a threat," he told CNN television on Sunday. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Italian PM...

Afghanistan till late Dec. 2014 when the alliance combat mission ended here.

However, there is still a contingent of Italian forces within the framework of NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) which still serving in Afghanistan to help stabilize the militancy-hit country. (Xinhua)

### (10) Etisalat 8th ...

always considered promoting and sponsoring programs that will help strengthen Islamic culture amongst the people of Afghanistan, especially amongst the youth. Etisalat has assumed a strong and proactive role in safeguarding the communities in which it operates and the environment we all share; said Yasser Aboul Amayem, Chief Commercial Officer, Etisalat Afghanistan, "Our aim is to open up opportunities and to actively help people reach their goals. We always deliver what we say we will. We believe in working towards im-

proving the quality of life of members of our communities through caring, sharing and inspiring individuals. Using this opportunity, I would like to wish all the participants best of luck and a very joyful contest ahead."

According to program format, preliminary selection round starts in all zones concurrently and once the participants qualify for the next rounds, they come to Kabul to compete for the title of 'Best Qari'. The event is projected as the biggest such show ever in Afghanistan's recent history, and is believed to play a role in bringing Afghan youth closer to their rich heritage. The contestants are judged based on memorization, Tajweed rules and melodic recitation of the Holly Quran. At the end of the contest, top five Qaries receive certificates along with cash prizes.

This year, the commencement of 8th annual Quran contest coincides with Etialat's 8th anniversary in Afghanistan. Etisalat first launched Quran contest in 2008 which turned into one of the most watched TV program in the country. Etisalat annual Quran contest, hosts a huge number of youths from across Afghanistan every year.

Dignitaries from the Afghan Ministry of Hajj, Etisalat Management and Management of Ariana Television Network and participants were present in the opening ceremony of the program.

The contest has proved to be very useful in introducing top reciters to Afghan society, as the winners of previous seasons were able to represent Afghanistan in Dubai International Quran Competition in UAE.

Viewers can watch this season of Quran contest on Ariana Television, before Iftar during the holy month of Ramadan.

About Etisalat Afghanistan: - Etisalat Afghanistan is part of Etisalat Telecommunications Group, headquartered in UAE, one of the largest telecommunications groups in the world. Etisalat Afghanistan launched their services in 2007 and has rapidly become the fastest growing telecommunications service provider in the country with an active base of 4 million subscribers. The company aims to be at the forefront of its market based on quality, innovative services and competitive pricing, with unsurpassed coverage in every province in the country. Since 2007, the company has invested US\$ 300 million in Afghanistan and is the first telecom company to launch 3.75G services in Afghanistan. (PR)

### (11) President for...

rearing and education were of great importance for prosperity and development of the society. The president lamented a number of children lost lives in Afghanistan every year to malnutrition and treatable diseases, a situation that was not acceptable.

Another problem in the Afghan society, the president said, was subjecting children to hard labour and forced and under age marriages, something needed to be stopped.

He said though fortunately millions of children went to school in the country, yet a large number of them, particularly girls, were deprived of their right to education. "Still sometimes we hear on the news that the enemies of reality have torched schools. Similarly bombs placed on the routes, explosions and similar inhuman acts continue to claim the lives of our children. These actions are intolerable."

The president said not only terrorism, poverty and lack of medical facilities but family violence also threatened children's personalities. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Nearly 150 ...

casualties among the civilians. In one attack, five civilians were killed and 50 others wounded after a man exploded a car bomb in parking lot of Justice Ministry on May 19

On May 17, on British contractor of the EUPOL (European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan) and two school girls were killed and 18 civilians wounded after a Taliban suicide car bomb attacked a EU-POL vehicle near Kabul International Airport.

On May 13, seven foreigners were among 14 killed when a Taliban fighter launched a shooting attack inside a guest house in central Kabul. Six people sustained injuries by gunshots.

In addition to suicide bombings, about 10 roadside bomb attacks took place last month throughout

the country. (Xinhua)

### (13) No Coordination ...

various parts of the province, the lack of coordination among security forces, the gap between the people and the government, corruption in education and other departments and several others issues.

They criticised prolonged occupation of government positions by some officials, nepotism in appointments, activities of mafia groups, problems of women and the lack of facilities and jobs for females.

Abdulzai said Wolesi Jirga member from Nangarhar Dr. Asmatullah Shinwari called as crucial efforts at improving the security situation in the province.

The governor, Salim Khan Kunduzi, said he was happy that experienced elders and energetic young public representatives existed in Nangarhar and their support would enable him to resolve many problems.

He said from population, economy and commerce perspectives, Nangarhar was a strategic province and every department, including the governor's house, should discharge their duty in an effective way.

Kunduzi said: "I don't have a personal or specific agenda. I hope to resolve people's problems and work as their servant and I believe all problems will be resolved with your support."

He said all the activities would be carried forward in consultations with the masses and their representatives. He assured the visiting PC members that solutions to problems would be found not only inside the governor's house, but outside it. (Pajhwok)

### (14) No Security ...

time to time, he says. Seen in an army uniform for the first time in 13 years, Noor is currently visiting insecure districts to address the issue of security with locals.

Balkh NDS Director and the Provincial Commander of Police are accompanying him on his visit.

"Tell me exactly what we can do against the enemy and where," said Noor. "We came to Kaldar and they said there is nothing. They say the enemy comes secretly sometimes and creates insecurity and then runs away. We went to Sholgara at midnight and we saw that there is nothing. We went to Zare and Kushenda and there was nothing" added Noor.

Noor believes that terrorists do not have the ability to fight the ANSF face-to-face and soon all their bases in Balkh will be destroyed, especially the ones near the Alburz Mountains.

"We know that they are in one place, in the Alburz mountains, we will see how long they will last. We will let the battle field decide how much the enemy can resist. I will be in that battle myself, and will be without companions, just like the past," says Noor.

Noor has been visiting insecure districts in the province since Saturday in order to get a personal overview of the situation and engage with locals. He said he is committed to resolving the issues in the spirit of good governance. (ToloneWS)

### (15) Human Rights ...

Kabul-Kandahar highway at the start of the year.

"Some children were taken under the control of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and were in guesthouses," President Ghani explained. "These individuals did not have any guardians, and these talks provided a path for their future."

HRW denies having any prior knowledge of the deal brokered between the government and the militants. A senior adviser to HRW told TOLonews that such a deal, if not in the best interest of the kids, would be against international law.

"No matter where the children were from or whose they are, as they were children and are vulnerable, they should have been protected here as it is an Islamic country," MP Shahla Fareed said on Monday. "Children should not have been included in the political issues and should not have been exchanged for hostages."

Parliament's Youth Commission Chairman, Nageebullah Fayeq, expressed concerns about the kids being turned into terrorists. "When the parents of these children were killed by doing suicide bombings and now their compan-

ions are asking for their children, these children will end up in the same camps and will be trained as terrorists," he said. (ToloneWS)

### (16) Women's Affairs ...

the issue of solutions for problems Afghan women currently face, Nazari stated that it was important to focus on the extended participation of women in various social sectors such as educational institutions, the health sector and within the ranks of Afghan security forces. In addition Nazari reiterated the need to establish a special court to deal with cases of violence against women and to establish a fund to support victims of violence. (ToloneWS)

### (17) In Mazar, ...

dot the landscape, with little sign of construction work.

Sami Jan, 28, a blacksmith who has lived in the city for the past eight years, said his business had fallen by half since a new government took over in Kabul last year.

For now, though, Mazar-i-Sharif residents don't let worries about an uncertain future stop them from enjoying life.

At 9.30 p.m., squeals of laughter rise above an amusement park as the swing ride starts spinning and children navigate bumper cars.

Families lay blankets and relax on the grass, feeling secure within the high walls of the park watched over by guards with AK-47s.

"We have this facility at night. Why not enjoy it," said Naqibullah, who was there with his wife and five children. (Reuters)

### (18) Helmand PC...

in the province, which would leave positive impact on other sectors. A provincial council member Bashir Ahmad Shakir said the council could not serve people the way the masses expected them.

His colleague Baryali Nazar said the provincial council was striving to tackle people's problems through all available channels.

He added that the problem was not only in Helmand, but the councils in all provinces were faced with the same problems.

Helmand province has 15 members, including three of them female. (Pajhwok)

### (19) £288mn Needed ...

implications is an important part of planning how to care for injured veterans in the long-term, in order to make their lives more comfortable.

"Ongoing evaluation of these injured soldiers will be needed to assess the level and specialization of care required as they age.

"It is likely that these veterans will be subjected to chronic health problems experienced by the general population as well as specific issues as a result of their injuries." Besides the physical wounds, the costs of dealing with mental injuries also seem set to rise.

In March, experts warned the "floodgates" of post-traumatic stress may be about to open, as a top armed forces charity claimed mental health issues among military personnel had risen 26 percent over the last year.

The charity Combat Stress, which supports veterans with mental health issues, said: "This increase is mainly accounted for by a marked rise in those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan seeking help."

Some 2,264 personnel have requested treatment with three-quarters said to be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) - an average of six veterans per day over the last 12 months.

Many are also affected by depression and alcohol and drugs abuse - symptoms often associated with the condition. (RT)

### (20) Daesh Fighters...

Bahir two influential Daesh commanders Abdul Razaq and Sayed Ahmad were also among the wounded.

Mir Hamza, a resident of Anar Dara, said Daesh fighters left the area after high-ranking Taliban delegation from Shindand district of Herat province met them. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Insurgents' Group...

The government urged the officials of peace process to expedite their efforts to woo more insurgents to join peace.

"My message is that violence should be ended. I don't want more mothers and sisters lose their near and dear ones," he added. Malik Nazir, director High Peace Council (HPC), said the new militants group that joined the peace process was hailing from Shinwari

districts and was earlier involved in attacks on government installations in the area.

"The members of the group have surrendered their weapons and pledged not to take part in anti-state activities," he added. Aimal Jan, the head of the militants' group, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they had hands in attacks in parts of Momandara district.

"We had carried out activities on Torkham road. We used to target Afghan and foreign security forces' vehicles on the highway and plant roadside bombs. We have now realized that we had committed great deservise to our nation and country," he recalled.

"We were being supported by Pakistan and they were inciting us to fight," he recalled. A total of 568 insurgents have joined peace process in Nangarhar province, the HPC added. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Nangarhar Police...

"There is no exact information about the casualties of the attackers and civilians yet. The clashes ended about 3:30 am and the police started investigations about the attack," he said.

The Ministry of Interior spokesman Sediq Sediqqi has said that five "terrorist killed" another was arrested and nine policemen were injured in the attack.

Meanwhile, officials of Nanarhar hospital have said that five children injured in the clash were being treated in hospital.

No group including the Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack. (ToloneWS)

### (23) 3 People...

the border into Pakistan. Lwargi is a lawless tribal area along the border with Afghanistan where illegal activities like making fake notes, weapons and other activities are being done.

Two of the arrested criminals are from Logar province and the other is from Maidan Wardak province. (KP)

### (24) Wardak Road...

also included in the project, he said, adding the 17 kilometers road passes through Dasht-i-Top area. The Ministry of Public Works would fund the project worth 132 million Afghanis.

Sayed Younus Najafizada, director public works, recalled the road was scheduled to be constructed four years ago but work on the project delayed because of security threats.

The project was started as a result of continues efforts of parliamentarians from the area, residents of Chack district and provincial officials, he said. A provincial council member Abdul Waheed Akbarzoi said the population of Chak district was more than 100,000 where 70 percent of crops were damaged due to lack of transportation route. He said the completion of the road would help multiply economy of the people of the locality.

Wahidullah Wardak, a resident of Chak district said the government was promising every year to start work on the road for the last four years. Meanwhile, local officials said construction work on a 41 kilometers road connecting Chak and Daimerdad districts was also started. (Pajhwok)

### (25) NATO...

June 19 and include Abrams tanks and B-52 bombers, General Leika said. (AFP)

### (26) Russian FM...

cret service chiefs are also thought to be on the list. Lavrov said those on the list "actively supported a state coup" in Ukraine, referring to a popular uprising in Kiev in 2014 which ousted Moscow-backed leader Viktor Yanukovich. (AFP)

### (27) Russia Wants...

of the ambiguity that was used for gross abuse of the Libya resolution adopted in 2011." Russia, which has the power of veto as a permanent member of the Security Council, accuses the West of abusing a 2011 resolution authorizing NATO intervention in Libya to help forcibly topple longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi. (Reuters)

### (28) Erdogan Vows...

reported on May 21 that witnesses and prosecutors have alleged that MIT helped deliver arms to parts of Syria under Islamist rebel control during late 2013 and early 2014, quoting a prosecutor and court testimony from gendarmier officers. Cumhuriyet said the video was from Jan. 19, 2014 but did not say how it had obtained the footage. (Reuters)