

(1) NATO Wants ...

country, he said. From 2014 to 2017, Canada committed \$227 million in international development programs in Afghanistan, and \$330 million from 2015 to 2018 in support for the Afghan National Security Forces, which include the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police.

Sajjan says Canada can't look at any country in isolation.

"This is what coalitions are for, multilateralism is for. I'm in constant discussions with my counterparts on all the various threats, whether it's at NATO or the counter-DAESH meetings," he said, using another name for the Islamic State.

"We will always look at the various requests, but the thing is when we have the discussions, it's not about just one nation ... stepping up and saying, 'I'll do this.' It's about working together." Peacekeeping mission 'on the table' Last August, Sajjan announced Canada would devote 600 troops and \$450 million over three years to a peacekeeping mission. He later toured several African countries and said he would announce the mission by the end of the year, but six months into 2017 there is still no word on where it will be.

A mission somewhere in the world "is on the table. We're committed to peace support operations," Sajjan said, citing a change in leadership at the UN and the new president of the U.S. as reasons for the delay.

"I've had discussions with [the UN], things looked very good... It's not about just sending troops. How can we now look at the current environment and bring our unique skillset to the table?"

While Sajjan ruled out Afghanistan as a peacekeeping destination, Richard Fadden, a former top civil servant at the Department of National Defence and former national security adviser to the prime minister, says having shed blood and spent a great deal of money on the country, it would make sense to return.

"Afghanistan has deteriorated quite a bit over the last few years," he said.

"I think if we were going anywhere to make a contribution, broadly speaking, to peace in the world, Afghanistan would be a good place to go. There are not that many other places where we could make a difference that would not result in ... our being involved in a massive quagmire."

Retired Gen. Tom Lawson, a former chief of the defence staff, says he prefers Afghanistan to some of the African countries Canada could end up, like Mali or the Democratic Republic of Congo. Both would carry significant risks for Canadian Armed Forces personnel.

"If it keeps us out of other places, [like] in Africa, I'd be delighted as a former chief of defence," Lawson told Solomon.

"So Afghanistan is a place that Canadians have invested both money and blood. We continue to invest money there. If a return was in Canadian defence future, it would be to a familiar zone."

Over the 12-year mission, 158 Canadian troops were killed, as well as a diplomat, a journalist and two civilian contractors, according to a tally by The Canadian Press. (Monitoring Desk)

(2) NPR Says ...

one source said — because they had been tipped off by someone at the governor's palace that morning. The American journalist along with his Afghan colleague were traveling in a military convoy in Marjah district of Helmand province when they came under attack by the Taliban. Both journalists were killed in the incident.

Two other NPR journalists traveling with Gilkey and Tamanna, in a separate vehicle, Tom Bowman and producer Monika Evstatieva, were unharmed.

According to the NPR investigation, the Taliban was aware of the presence of the American journalists in the Afghan military convoy.

The NPR report states since their deaths, NPR has been investigating what happened, and today we are sharing new information about what we learned. It's a very different story from what we originally understood.

The two men were not the random victims of bad timing in a dangerous place, as initial reports indicated. Rather, the journalists' convoy was specifically targeted by attackers who had been tipped off to the presence of Americans in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

In their report they state that the commander of the 215 Maiwand Military Corps was responsible for maintaining the security of the journalists, but he failed to do his job properly.

"Someone tipped off the Taliban that we are heading to the Marjah district. So they knew exactly what time we are coming, the road we were taking

and the ambush was set up just after we passed a number of Afghan soldiers. So again it was not a random attack, someone sold us out," NPR reporter, Tom Bowman said.

According to the findings of the journalists, Gilkey died from severe burn wounds but Tamanna was shot dead by the Taliban.

"The other thing that we were able to find out is that the initial reports of an RPG attack are not entirely accurate, because we were able to confirm that Zabihullah Tamman, our friend, stepped outside of the vehicle and was shot, rather than killed by an RPG attack," NPR producer, Monika Evstatieva said.

Ministry of Defense (MoD) meanwhile rejected the findings and said there was no truth in this.

"I reject this because we also had casualties and the journalists also were killed. Our Humvee and Ranger was hit by a rocket," MoD deputy spokesman, Mohammad Radmanesh said. (Tolnews)

(3) Above 200 ...

Jahid continued.

He also expressed concern over lack of coordination among senior officials of the MoI and said: "Coordination among assistants and directors is very important, the government leadership has chosen you as basic cadres of the ministry."

President Ashraf Ghani on May 8 called the MoI the heart of corruption while talking about graft in the security sector.

"Implementation of reforms in the MoI is one of current challenges for us, we know solving this challenge is not easy, but we have the will for it, corruption should be removed from police and police should be a force for stability, not a driver of unrest and people's anger," Ghani had said. He said there were also honest and clean police fighting on the frontline.

A number of other MoI officials, who participated in the meeting, called imaginary police, lack of advanced weapons, and low capacity of some commanders as main challenges of the ministry.

Resolute Support Chief of Staff Lieutenant Gen. Jurgen Weigt, who also attended the meeting, called police reforms as important. He said the MoI should be a great organ for law enforcement as expected by the people and international organizations.

"MoI should ensure order in this country and National Police Forces should offer strategic services to their country and people, it is also a demand of international forces," he said. He added the Afghans considered national police as a nonpolitical force so it should prove its efficiency and win people's trust. (Pajhwok)

(4) Some Circles ...

coordination among our security forces. The security forces have switched aggressive mode from defensive. But still the security isn't ensured hundred percent."

Mangal acknowledged the presence of irresponsible armed men in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital, had concerned people. He said carrying guns by irresponsible individuals was banned in the city and the issue would be resolved in a long process.

He also admitted the existence of some circles on whom law implementation could create trouble for the system. "Unfortunately besides other parts of the country, in Nangarhar too there are some groups on whom enforcing the law by hundred percent can create problems."

However, Mangal assured he would prefer various ways to implement the law on such elements and finally in long term the law would be enforced on them.

The governor also spoke about his achievements in combating corruption during his short period in office.

The campaign against corruption had been launched but it was sluggish due to the lack of cooperation from security and detective organs, said the governor.

Mangal confirmed receiving complaints about the Torkham Township, the Population Registration Department, Education Department, issues in visa issuance at the Pakistani Consulate and other organizations. However, he said evidence was required to take action.

The governor mentioned the relocation of the Torkham Mayor, warning the graft-tainted in-charge of the Torkham commissary, relocating and changing the Population Registration Department's employees in districts, and controlling the issuance of visas at Pakistani consulate as some of his achievements.

He said if the provincial security and detective organs helped him and provided proof and documents, he wouldn't hesitate from arresting corrupt individuals in every organization. The governor also referred to efforts

made at preventing land grabbing in the province, citing a recent example of reclaiming more than 1,000 acres of land belonging to the Nangarhar Canal Department from its illegal usurpers.

He also informed about demolishing of homes arbitrarily built during the past 30 years in the premises of state-run Spin Ghar Hotel.

Mangal said construction of new apartments in the area would expand the hotel besides playing a big role in its beauty.

The governor asked civil society activists and tribal elders to share solutions with him about problems besides highlighting them. (Pajhwok)

(5) Ghani and ...

actions, and to monitor and verify the actions taken against such terrorist groups.

According to the statement, the two leaders agreed to intensify their joint and urgent efforts to fight terrorism in all of its forms that threaten the security and stability of the two countries, the region and beyond.

The two leaders agreed to use Quadrilateral Coordination Group mechanism and where necessary bilateral meetings to agree on specific and concrete actions, and monitor and verify the actions taken against such terrorist groups.

The statement said they also agreed to assign working teams to put together their plans to coordinate and intensify urgent measures to eliminate such terrorist networks in their respective territories. The first meeting will be hosted in Kabul followed up by Islamabad.

The leaders agreed to use the QCG to promote peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. It includes China and the United States, as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The statement said Afghanistan is willing to have peace. He further added: "The Afghan government has not only shown its will but also displayed its capacity to make peace as it did with the Hizb-e-Islami. This is the first peace of such kind in 40 years."

But he said the Taliban do not have more time as the patience of the Afghan people and the international community has been exhausted by their heinous acts of terror. The two leaders further agreed they would take all necessary measures against those groups who refuse to join the peace process. (Tolnews)

(6) MP's Firm ...

be collected, she added. Kohistani said only four of the 10 companies had promised to pay the taxes in installments to the municipality until the end of current solar year while six other companies that belonged to powerful individuals were still not ready to pay their unpaid taxes.

However, she did not name the defaulters. Ghulam Rassoul Qarraq, head of Hindukosh Advertisement Company, said: "Economic downturn has caused us to remain in debt of 8.6 million afghanis to the municipality, but we were able to pay 4.4 million of it and would pay the rest during the current year."

"Five of our billboards were destroyed in the past few months, but the municipality says we have to pay their taxes no matter the billboards are useable or not, this case damages advertisement companies," he said.

He said the amount of taxes in billboards service in rural areas and urban areas was not fair, urging the municipality to review the related law. But Rahila Khoistani, about the concerns of advertisement companies, said the law on urban taxes had problems and it needed amendments.

About other unpaid taxes, Khoistani said an advertisement company, Mashal owned by lawmaker Almas Zahid, was not ready to pay more than 42 million afghanis in tax from 1391 to 1395. "The real amount of unpaid taxes of this company is 39 million afghanis, but the amount increased due to addition of annual fines, we want the attorney's general office to help us in the recovery of our taxes," she said. She said Almas Zahid had sold the Mashal Advertisement Company to another person who said the unpaid taxes did not belong to him but to the previous owner of the company.

Kohistani said the person who guaranteed the company was also absent. Despite several efforts, Pajhwok was unable to establish a contact with Almas Zahid for clarification on the issue. According to Kohistani, there are 1,130 billboards in Kabul city, with belonging to the municipality.

Each square meter of a billboard in the first grade areas is charged 5,000 afghanis and in second, third and fourth grade areas 4,000 afghanis and 3,000 afghanis, she said. However, she said 391 billboards were currently out of control of the municipality and paid no taxes. "Of the billboards that do not pay taxes, 45 belong to the Ministry of

Defense, 18 to Marshal Qasim Fahim Foundation, 10 to Ahmad Shah Masoud Foundation, 58 billboards to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Environment Protection Authority, Afghanistan Red Crescent Society and Firefighting Department," she said.

She said the Kabul municipality had several times asked the above mentioned organs through letters to pay their taxes, but none of them responded positive so far.

However, Gen. Dawlat Waziri, spokesman to the Ministry of Defense (MoD), said that 45 billboards of the ministry were installed in areas belonged to the ministry.

He said the MoD was not responsible to pay annual taxes of its billboards to the municipality. A letter was also sent to the presidential palace to exempt the MoD from any types of taxes about billboards, but the letter was yet to be responded, he said.

Rahila Kohistani said the municipality had started removing 260 billboards that did not pay taxes and belonged to powerful individuals. She said 60 of such billboards had been removed during the past one month. (Pajhwok)

(7) Protesters Call ...

We vote because we want the problems to be resolved," Nadim Zadran, a tribal elder from Paktia said.

In reaction to the deadly truck bombing and firing on demonstrators 10 days ago, which claimed over 150 lives and five lives respectively, seven tents have been set up around the city by protesters. But some tents now stand empty.

At Shaheed square tent, there are 40 people taking part in a sit-in protest.

"The president should for once listen to the people's voices. We want reforms and security ... are our demands a lot?," asked Angiza, a protester.

"I want to live and to study. I want suicide bombings to be stopped," said Abobakar, another protester.

At Khurasan square's tent there are 17 people and in Puli Artal square around 30 protesters.

"During the day there are less people, but during the night more people come here," said Zaki, a protester.

But in the tents at Taimani square, in Qowai Markaz and Kart-e-Parwan there are no one in the tents, except some guards watching over the tents.

"During the day people go to work and less people remain here, but from evening onward more people come in," said Tamim, a protester.

In the last few days, a number of people in provinces and also in the United States and Europe also launched demonstrations asking for reforms in security departments. (Tolnews)

(8) Operation ...

The governor said operations in other parts of the province would be launched as well against militants.

However, a member of the provincial council, Attaullah Afghan, said similar operations in the past had yielded no positive results.

"In such operations, only civilians are killed and people are displaced from their homes. There is no other benefit of these operations."

Another member of the council, Mohammad Hussain Alizada, previous operations had been unsuccessful in Helmand. A resident of Marja district, Mohammad Arif, said insecurity had lately increased in the district. "Due to landmines and clashes, people cover a short distance in several hours."

Helmand is the most insecure province where the Taliban have been in control of six districts and some areas near the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

(9) Ghani under...

Meanwhile, a new political party which was launched on Sunday, called Hizb-e-Junbesh-e-Navin Afghanistan, also rallied for systematic reforms to be put in place in security institutions. Led by Mohammad Alam Saeed, Hizb-e-Junbesh-e-Navin Afghanistan party was formed by a number of former Junbish-e Milli party members - the party led by First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Dostum's main rival Ahmad Eshchi is also a member of the newly established party. Party members called on government to create a national consensus on the issues currently facing the nation.

(10) Politicians, ...

them that Afghans are obliged to utilize any means to defend themselves. Before the fight reaches to the doors of Lahore, we call on Pakistan to immediately close the safe haven of terrorists and bring armed oppositions to a peace dialogue. Pakistan shall understand that they have not been able in nation building in the past 70 years, they have some weak points which can cause in the disintegration of Pakistan. We recommend to work together for peace, stability, and prosperity of the region instead of spreading hatred and enmity. For the sake of friendship and brotherhood, let's increase our economic cooperation.

we call upon the United States of America to end the exemplification of ignorance and unawareness. The US should jump closing safe haven of terrorist in Pakistan. If still the terrorist attacks by Pakistan are ignored, the doubts of Afghans will turn into belief and Afghans will realize that the ongoing fight in Afghanistan is the game of the US. If the game persists as it is, it looks that Afghan will no more assume the US as a true ally and will plan continuous protest against them.

We ask the government of US to stop their support to Pakistan and recognize Pakistan as a terrorist country. Broader Economic sanctions should be imposed. We promise to the government and people of the United States that based on the mutual respect we remain committed to the materials of the security agreement. However, if the USA violate the contents of the agreement in terms of peace and security, then the agreement is abrogated.

We urge the government of Afghanistan to end the policy of uncertainty and moaning with Pakistan. Afghanistan should develop an active diplomacy on the regional and international level to bring Pakistan under pressure and should start lobbying for it. Afghanistan must submit all the evidence to the international community which discloses the terrorist aims of Pakistan. Furthermore, the diplomatic relationship should be strengthened with those countries particularly with Russia and China that have concerns about the presence of NATO in Afghanistan.

For the time being the National Department of Security is not competent and has failed to ensure the security of the people. Therefore, we ask the government to reevaluate the current structure, combination and the capacity of the heads of different department of NDS. In order to make the institution national and professional, immediate and effective programs should be considered.

We call on the armed opposition who considered themselves Afghans that there is no logic left for keeping the fight continued and now it is time for a serious talk on the peace process. Let's put a full stop to external intervention through the national reconciliation process and work together to build the country. There is no justification for killing Afghans anymore. We declare that the tradition of impunity for those who kill innocent Afghans is dismissed and we commit that we will try to bring those who has killed Afghans to justice.

We know that war has reached to every corner of the country and this is the common problem and the most important concern of all Afghans.

We call on political parties, civil society organizations, tribal councils, and religious scholars to prioritize peace efforts and organize a national consensus on the issue of peace, establish national and international lobby groups, disclose terrorist activities and targets of Pakistan; challenge the ineffective policies of NATO and to provide them with recommendations for making them effective. (Pajhwok)

(11) Opposing ...

delegation said Ghani did not only reject their demands but that the president also behaved inappropriately with the delegation.

"His (President's) behavior last night was improper. Such behavior is uncommon and is not acceptable in dialogue and in a political setting," Nasiri said. A number of delegation members also said the president said the protesters' demands are not within his authority and that the Attorney General's Office (AGO) need to make the decisions.

But another MP Gul Pacha Majidi said: "At last night's meeting, the president really appreciated the delegation and the Wolesi Jirga for feeling responsible and considering the national interests at such a time." (Tolnews)

(12) In Sharan...

dollars had been invested in the education since Taliban's ouster from power.

But no high school had been built for girls in Paktika, she lamented. She accused the education department of being irresponsible in promoting girls' education. Students and residents want the government to construct at least one high school for girls in Sharan. Noor Afghan Kharotai, human resources director at the education department, said 29 girl schools, including four high schools, existed in Sarobi, Khairkot, Orgun and Yousafkhele districts. Around 331,000 girls are enrolled there. Asked why there was no high school for girls in Sharan, he replied the area was largely rural and people never demanded the facility. He said the issue had been shared with the ministry concerned and the school construction would be included in next year's budget. "By next year, we will have a modern and well-equipped high school for girls in

Sharan." But resident Mujahid complained that around 2,000 girls in the province were out of school. Officials just wanted to get projects and embezzle money, he alleged. There are a total of 387 schools in Paktika, half of them without buildings — a problem that exists in almost all provinces. (Pajhwok)

(13) Problems ...

along with her family. But there was no work in Bamyan, she explained, fearing she could lose her children under the circumstances.

Maryam, another caveperson, grumbled about passing through painful times. "The cave we live in is also home to snakes, scorpions and other poisonous insects," she said.

Their problems have increased with the arrival of Ramazan when most of them have to eat vegetables and bread. Around 3,000 caves exist in the mountain around the fabled Buddha statues, where some 250 families live. Abdul Rahman Ahmadi, the governor's spokesman, said they had no budget to fund a Ramazan relief package. However, he added, efforts were underway to convince charities to help the cave-dwellers. (Pajhwok)

(14) Senate Rules ..

in Kabul since June 2 after a May 31 truck bombing in Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood of Kabul killed 150 and injured another 350 people.

On the day one of their protest, violent clashes erupted between some protesters and police who were guarding the Presidential Palace. The clashes left seven protesters dead, including Salem Ezidyar, and 35 others, mostly police, injured.

On June 3, three suicide bombers blew themselves up among participants of funeral for the slain Salem Ezidya, killing seven people and wounding 119 others. The protesters over the past 10 days have erected eight sit-in tents in different areas of Kabul city. (Pajhwok)

(15) Project to ...

He said establishing carpet processing centres, capacity building of carpet weavers and distribution of required materials were part of the project. He said 5000 participants would directly and 15000 indirectly benefit from the project. (Pajhwok)

(16) Taliban's ...

in Afghanistan are usually providing air support to the Afghan forces who are targeting the Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other insurgent groups.

The Afghan border police forces also suffered casualties in an airstrike which was apparently carried out mistakenly by the foreign in Nad-e-Ali district.

According to the local officials, at least two policemen lost their lives in the airstrikes and six others were wounded. (KP)

(17) Islamic Relief ...

provincial Natural Disasters Management Authority distributed food items to some 200 poor families.

Each family received five kilograms of wheat, 10 liters of ghee and one sack of rice, said Abdul Hadi, the department head. (Pajhwok)

(18) A Dozen...

slain insurgents.

"The Taliban wanted to capture the Azra district by attacking the security posts. More security are expected to reach Azra district."

Meanwhile, Logar provincial council member Abdul Wali Wakeel also confirmed the clash, saying the Taliban had launched the attack on security posts from Saleemkhel and Kaswalkhel areas.

He said besides the insurgents, two Afghan Local Police (ANP) members were also killed in the clash and five others wounded. He asked the government to take needed measures for ensuring security in Azra.

The road connecting Azra with Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, has been closed for the past 14 years. Residents of the district are obliged to travel to Kabul and Pul-i-Alam through Nangarhar province. (Pajhwok)

(19) Sugar, Fuel...

sack dipped from 2,250afs to 2,200afs, but other items' rates remained unchanged. The 50-kg Kazakhstani flour rate remained unchanged at 1,250 afghanis, a 24-kg bag of Pakistani rice was priced at 1,800afs, and a 16-kg tin of Khurshid ghee cost 1,120afs, the prices as of last week's. (Pajhwok)

(20) First Afghan ...

Inspired by western magazine such as Vogue, Gellara offers models with uncovered here and features articles on fashion, mobile dating application and birth control tips.

The conservative men find the contents of the society as "hardcore feminism" and believe the magazine might have a bad influence on the Afghan women. (Wadsam)