(1) Taliban Suffered ...

Yamgan, Khastak and Juram districts of Badakhshan province but were defeated by Afghan forces, he said.

"Threats from militants this year were increased because they had big dangerous plans as compared to last year, but now we see that all their plans and aims have failed," Aman claimed.

He added that Nawa district of Ghazni province, Baghran and Disho districts of Helmand province and Khak Afghan district of Zabul province were currently under Taliban's control. More areas were still under militants' sways but key areas were purged of rebels, he added.

"We have clear plans to fight insurgents. We also have a special plan for protection of people during the month of Ramadan, but we will continue fighting rebels if they continue their activities," he said.

Afghanistan's Ulama Council has asked both Taliban and government to ceasefire during the holy month of Ramadan.

Deputy MoD spokesman Brig. Gen. Dawlat Mohammad Waziri said that militants should shun violence and join peace process. "Whenever militants come to a ceasefire, we also resort to truce welcome them," he said. (Pajhwok)

(2) WJ Again Asks...

government leaders should be summoned to parliament to explain the inordinate delay," he remarked.

Bashardost said he had prepared a document to summon leaders of unity government to parliament. He said the lawmakers who have not made any secret deals with the government would sign the document.

Article 69 of the constitution states: "The president shall be responsible to the nation as well as house of the people in accordance with the provisions of this article. Accusations of crimes against humanity, national treason as well as crime against the president shall be demanded by one third of all members of the house of people. If this demand is approved by two thirds of house of people, the house shall convene the Loya Jirga within one month."

Other members of parliament, however, were of the opinion that until holding of next elections their work would be legal. Obaidullah Ramin, Baghlan lawmaker, asked member of the house to give government a oneweek deadline about elections date.

Shukria Barekzai, another MP, said the house should not give permission to government leaders or Supreme Court to take decision about MPs or to translate laws as they desired.

She added the president also did not start his work on a date that was specified by the constitu-

Other members of the lower house also insisted that their work would be legal beyond June 22. Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi, the house speaker, said: "The current members of the house have completed nine legislative terms. One more term is remaining."

Ibrahimi once again urged the government to specify date for holding parliamentary elections. (Pajhwok)

(3) MoI Fully Prepared

currently printed on papers. The data entry and storage system would become fully computerized with the launch of the project for the distribution of the

electronic ID cards. According to the officials, the electronic ID cards would also be used to issue driving license and for voting during the elec-

The distribution of electronic identity cards project was estimated to cost at least \$120 mil-

lion nearly three years ago. The Ministry of Interior officials said earlier in February 2013 that 2,400 people were hired for

the project. The officials also added that the number would be increased to 3,000 employees once the the distribution of electronic ID

cards starts across the country.

(4) MPs Express...

Another Lawmaker Obaidullah Barakzai said: "Since 44 days, three districts including Khas Uruzgan, Tagab, Gizab and Chora were surrounded by heavily-armed Taliban."

He said threats posed by rebels had been discussed with the security officials several times but no action could be taken to ward-off threats.

Barakzai accused government for having no proper strategy to counter Daesh. He warned six months earlier that Islamic State (IS) was establishing its network in the country.

He said insurgents could capture more districts and provinces if the situation remained the

Abdul Wadud Paiman, a lawmaker from Kunduz province, said law and order had been deteriorated and people would stage uprising if government did not take immediate step to improve situation.

He said no improvement had been made to improve security, economy and tackle rampant unemployment.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi also expressed concerns over worsening law and order situation in the country and asked security officials to improve security across the country. (Pajhwok)

(5) 'Talk Peace...

ganisations to broadcast benefits and virtues of the holy month of Ramadan and avoid every kind of vulgar scenes during the fasting month.

The ulema council said peace was the Almighty God's divine order and was preached by the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) and remained the fundamental requirement and a matter of survival of the Afghanistan Muslims.

The ulema council called on all religious leaders, tribal elders, mujahideen and civil society groups to join hands with the Afghan forces who were defenders of Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

President Ghani thanked the Afghanistan Ulema Council members. As the heirs of the Prophet, the scholars had always defended the national and Islamic values and had rescued the masses from heading to darkness and guided them on the right path. The president urged the scholars to explain the importance of peace in Islam through their sermons and continued efforts and invite people to the peace process.

The president said everyone who was Afghan and who recognised Afghanistan should appear for talks to strengthen

Ghani said he was hopeful jobs would be created for the Afghans with implementation of economic development projects in major cities. (Pajhwok)

(6) Dozens of...

visit the patients and get their blood sample to identify reason behind the incident. (Pajhwok)

(7) Dozens of Herat ...

Jami told journalists. The deputy governor said a gas shop near the school could possibly be the

The education director said they were concerned about security of educational institutions and demanded immediate action to address such concerns.

Shukria, one of the students, a 9th grader, said they suddenly started falling unconscious and felt suffocation due to a gas smell.

Three similar incidents occurred last week in central province Bamyan province, with scores of girl students ending up in hospital after suddenly falling ill.

Such incidents have taken place in the past as well, but the government has been unable to prevent them from happening.

In May 2012, more than 120 girls and three teachers were admitted to a hospital in Takhar province after a suspected poison attack. (Pajhwok)

(8) Lawmakers Stress...

cultivation and established peace in Kama and Goshti districts. He demanded basics projects should be commenced in the districts.

A number of religious leaders announced support to governor and demanded special attention to develop education, health and agricultural sectors. They also demanded drive against

corruption.

The governor praised efforts of local people for ensuring security and stability in the area and said: "I am appointed to serve people and use all my efforts to resolve issues of the people."

The governor showed his determination to define clear policies for solving the issues and problems of the people with support and guidance of local elders.

Faridoon Momand, a lawmaker, said: "Administrative corruption has reached to its peak and the menace needs to be tackled urgently." (Pajhwok)

(9) Daikundi Female ...

opment projects.

Sadiqi Neilizada said Daikundi needed roads, hospitals, airports and former governor Shafiq had made several achievements in the area.

But Governor Masuma Muradi said she would discharge her duties with zeal and enthusiasm to further develop the province. (Pajhwok)

(10) New Governors ...

Mohammad Iqbal told participants of the ceremony he expected the new governor to focus on introducing good governance. "We are ready to cooperate with him in this regard."

Also on Saturday, Parwan Governor Eng. Asim was introduced to provincial government officials at a gathering in Charikar. Second Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Mohaqiq, Yama, exgovernor Basir Salangi, Justice Minister Abdul Basir Anwar and others were present.

Mohaqiq praised Asim as an experienced and professional individual, who had been appointed by the president on merit. He hoped the governor would demonstrate complete integrity in discharging his obligations.

Eng. Asim thanked the president for reposing trust in him. He pledged sincere efforts at maintaining security in the important province in consultation with the people, promoting reconciliation and ensuring Parwan's reconstruction.

In his remarks, Basir Salangi enumerated the achievements of his government. The outgoing governor said his administration had implemented reconstruction projects worth \$480 million over the past six years. (Pajhwok)

(11) Nimroz School...

laboratories for scientific experi-

Sardar Mohammad, head of the local council, said earlier 20 percent students preferred not to attend schools due to absence of class rooms and building.

Zarghona, a student of 6th class, said: "We had to study in a boys' schools and it was very difficult for us to continue our study."

According to Hikmat, as many as 85,000 students were being imparted education in 140 schools in Nimroz, with 40 percent of schools were without buildings. (Pajhwok)

(12) Minister of Interior

Ulomi said that already 200 women have completed a training program in Turkey and have returned to work at the ministry. In addition another 400 are expected to leave soon and they too will return to work at the

On corruption, he said that he is committed to rooting out this scourge and that currently the ministry is investigating over 50 cases of graft and already seven police officers have been dismissed.

He said that apart from his 100-Day plan, he has a five-year strategy and that in line with this he will bring in experts to work in the ministry.

But, in the past 100 days, the police force has launched successful operations in the country that has resulted in the arrest of at least 132 insurgents, he noted. Ulomi says he is also focusing on securing the highways but voiced concern at the mounting casualty toll among police offic-

According to him, he has recently carried out seven trips to provinces to meet with police and hear their concerns.

A major problem facing Ulomi however is that regarding drugs. He said his ministry is concerned about this especially as drugs remains a revenue source for insurgents. He said he was also tasked with the job

of curbing opium cultivation. On this note he stated that tons of opium, along with a number of smugglers have recently been arrested. He said police have also made inroads into arresting dealers who distribute drugs on the streets.

He said a recent move in Kabul proved highly successful and a number of arrests were made in an anti-drug operation.

Previously poor relations were experienced between the different security forces, but, said Ulomi, today his ministry shares better ties with the military and with the NDS.

In terms of improving security at key installations, Ulomi said he hoped to be able to provide better security measures at various government projects as well as to mines.

He also said that preventing the infiltration of insurgents into the security forces was also a priority.

The responsibility of air force operations has meanwhile been handed over to the ministry of defense, he said.

Olomi states another area of priority is to secure the borders of Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(13) Netflix Picks...

the film a "satirical comedy." SEAL qualification training (SQT) students take aim during a 36-round shooting test ranging from 100, 200 and 300 yards at

Camp Pendleton. Brad Pitt has already been chosen to play Stanley McChrystal, the disgraced military general who was fired by President Obama after being featured in a Rolling Stone Magazine article penned by the late Hastings. (Hastings was killed in a car accident in 2013.)

In "The Operators," Hastings recounted his experiences embedded with military leadership set in the backdrop of America's doomed war in Afghanistan. During on-the-record interviews, McChrystal spoke disparagingly about President Obama as commander-in-chief while enjoying drunken R & R with other military leaders in Parisian restaurants.

Hastings's article, "The Runaway General, in which Hastings first reported on the general's criticisms in Rolling Stone, prompted Obama to call McChrystal back to Washington where he fired him on the spot. "The conduct represented in the recently published article does not meet the standard that should be met by - set by a commanding general," Obama said when he announced McChrystal's departure. "It undermines the civilian control of the military that is at the core of our democratic system."

Frank Rich calls the book "an impressive feat of journalism by a Washington outsider who seemed to know more about what was going on in Washington than most insiders did." (Agencies)

(14) Farkhunda's ...

Quran. The vicious attack shocked the world after images and video footage spread across the Internet. This past week, an Appeals Court in Kabul upheld a previous ruling by the Primary Court and ordered 37 defendants out of the 49 charged be released.

"We want justice, the court should inform us about every decision, and we are waiting to see whether justice is implemented for Farkhunda's murder or not," Farkhunda's father Mohammad Nadir said on Friday. One of the chief grievances of

Farkhunda's family is that they have been left largely out of the dark when it comes to the judicial process. "They do not value us, as Farkhunda's parents, the court at least should inform us about its decision," Farkhunda's mother said.

Meanwhile, civil society activists have rallied behind Farkhunda's parents, echoing their frustrations with the way the case has been handled by the courts. "The Supreme Court does not have the authority to make a decision in secret, and any decision that could damage justice should be avoided," activist Humaira Qaderi said.

The Kabul Primary Court, which handed down the original decision to release the 37 defendants, has maintained the ruling was made based on Article 262 of the Criminal Law. | tants' control. (Tolonews)

(15) Nine Abducted ...

under the Taliban's control," he added.

However, police sources rejected the claims by the ALP members and said they had been released due to joint efforts by the provincial authorities.

"We had not ignored their plight," a spokesman for Baghlan Police Chief Jawed Besharat said. "We had continued efforts to get them released as soon as possible."

Baghlan is among the most unsafe provinces in Afghanistan and has long experienced constant attacks by the Taliban.

Scattered fighting is ongoing and has been so for about two months - since the launch of the Taliban's summer offensive which started in April.

Earlier this week TOLOnews reporter Sharif Amiry reported from the front lines of the battle in Baghlan and said that it was local civilians who had suffering the greatest loss due to the conflict.

The Zekr Khail area of central Baghlan is said to be the stronghold of the Taliban in the prov-

Abdullah, a resident in the Zekr Khail area, was warned by Taliban militants 15 days ago that his home would be re-appropriated for the group's purposes.

He says 20 rockets have landed around his house and all of his belongings have been destroyed. "All I had in my life was destroyed by war," Abdullah said. "We have suffered many losses and so far, no one has come to help us," he added.

It is currently the harvest season in Baghlan, a time when farmers around the province make a large amount of their revenue for the year. However, with violence and instability as rife as it is at the moment, it is unlikely the harvest will be as successful as it normally is.

Throughout villages in the Zekr Khail area of the province, battle wounds are common. "It was night, I prayed and wanted to go from one room to another, but mortars came and a piece hit my side and my leg," one wounded resident named Delawar recounted.

Although the Afghan forces have been able to push the insurgents back somewhat, local residents still feel the pain of conflict and have demanded the central government clear the province completely. (Tolonews)

(16) 1,400 Kunduz ...

promised them land plots years back but it only remained on the papers.

He said majority of the teachers did not have their own houses and lived in rented houses with a lot of challenges.

According to officials, at least 2,000 land plots would also be distributed to teachers in Kunduz City in the near future and the process would be extended to other districts.

It is pertinent to mention that hundreds of teachers in Kabul and other provinces have gone on strike, asking for residential plots and salary increment. They accuse the president for not honoring his promises. (Pajhwok)

(17) Complicated ...

council member, said no major work has been done in recon-

struction sector. He added there was no major project for them to monitor. Sapai said majority of the residents were satisfied with the work of the council.

Abdul Saboor, a resident of Kohdaman, expressed satisfaction with the provincial council

The council's major achievement was that they have ended animosities among some tribes, he added. (Pajhwok)

(18) Foreign Fighters'...

council head, said: "People are tired of government's inability to control spiraling insecurity. They have failed in ensuring security, justice and eradication of corruption."

He claimed 90% of Qaisar district, including four bazaars and localities like Sar Asiab, Arzlek, Kohe and Chehlgazai were under Taliban control.

But security officials said Taliban did not enjoy any base in the district, adding that only some far-flung areas were under mili-

According to army officials, two weeks back, nine rebels, including one commander and two Uzbek fighters were killed in the district in clashes with security forces. (Pajhwok)

(19) 22 Militants...

men and injuring two others. The rebels suffered heavy casualties in retaliatory fire, the police chief said.

But a security official, who declined to be named, said six ALP men were killed and four others were wounded in the clash.

The clash was the third between armed militants and ALP personnel in the area. Both the sides had suffered casualties in the previous fights.

There was no word from the Taliban about the incident. (Pajhwok)

$(20) \overline{HRW...}$

The journalists urged the unity government and security forces to arrest the perpetrators behind the incident and bring them to

The council also called on all parties to the conflict to avoid targeting journalists during their operations.

Meanwhile, the Kabul Press Cub also condemned the attack on the Pajhwok office and said it was an attack on the freedom of expression.

In a statement, the Kabul Press Club said Pajhwok Afghan News agency was among the outlets which provided timely information to the people about events taking place across the country. The press club urged the government to prevent attacks on

cordance with the law. The governor of central Maidan Wardak province, Hayatullah Hayat, also condemned the at-

journalists and media offices

and punish those involved in ac-

In a statement, the new governor said Pajhwok Afghan News carried out its activities within the ambit of the media law and he strongly condemned the attack on Pajhwok office. (Pajhwok)

(21) US House...

America people," Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi said in a speech that drew handshakes and hugs from unionbacked Democrats who have labored for months to reject Obama's request for "fast track"

authority in trade talks. Obama drew applause when he walked into the meeting with Democrats, but sharp words after he left and few if any conver-

sions for his efforts. The president's hastily arranged visit to Congress marked a lastminute bid to stave off a stinging defeat at the hands of his own party.

His visit relegated much of the debate on the House floor to the status of a sideshow. (AP)

(22) Putin Meets...

tive talks," Putin's spokesman said that the leaders could discuss the TurkStream pipeline to supply Russian gas to Turkey, whose construction is set to begin at the end of this month. The leaders were also set to dis-

cuss the situation in Syria, Dmitrv Peskov said. "They will need to compare notes and exchange opinions on the complex situation in region-

al affairs -- that's the situation in Syria, for sure." Putin was accompanied by energy minister Alexander Novak, foreign minister Sergei Lavrov, nuclear energy agency chief Sergei Kiriyenko and the chief of Gazprom state energy giant

site said. (AFP) (23) UN Chief...

officials and civil society representatives.

Alexei Miller, the Kremlin web-

At a Saturday briefing with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, Ban asked for concrete steps to improve the country's rights record, including allowing independent observers to visit prisons. (AFP)

(24) Australia...

bott has declined to comment, citing operational security.

"Under Australian's push-back policy we have been consistently saying they are on a slippery slope," Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman Armanatha Nasir told Reuters on the sidelines of a conference. (Reuters)