

(1) HIA Names..

days ago we received the primary list from Hizb-e-Islami which includes 80 men and they have worked in the defense minister 22 to 23 years ago," said Ahmad Farzan, head of strategic relations committee of the peace deal oversight commission.

Ministry of Defense (MoD) meanwhile said the officers' recruitment depends on government's strategy.

"There are principles for recruiting soldiers, officers and higher-ranking officials. They are also Afghans and can be included in security forces, but it should be in accordance with the policies," Dawlat Waziri, MoD spokesman said.

Fawzia Kofi, a member of parliament commenting on the issue said: "Government should disarm them and they should lay down their weapons to ensure us that we truly have reached social peace. If they want to take part in maintaining peace, then they should be arranged in security departments."

According to the constitution, active political parties in the country should not be involved in military activities. Hizb-e-Islami also agreed in terms of the peace deal that its military structure will be dissolved.

However, the exact number of Hizb-e-Islami fighters is still unclear. (Tolonews)

(2) Afghan and ...

Lieutenant Gen. Abdul Raziq, who chaired the Afghan delegation at the meeting, warned that they are monitoring Pakistani forces movements and that Afghan security forces will respond to any intervention against Afghan territory.

"Our security forces have been busy fighting terrorists in recent years, but I warn you that your forces should not use the situation for their own benefit. We will stand against any personal or group intervention," he said. Raziq also accused Pakistani forces of entering Afghan territory and said such moves are against international laws.

"Both countries are Muslim and we are neighbors, so I urge you that we should not do anything against the laws. Your moves are obvious interventions in our affairs and after this any actions against the laws should not be repeated," said Raziq. Pakistan forces meanwhile accused Afghan soldiers of crossing over the border and occupying Pakistani soldiers' strongholds.

"Afghan security forces have crossed an international border and came towards our side of the divided village and they occupied the positions over there. So we took it seriously because it is threatening the sovereignty of the neighboring country and a Muslim country," said General Nadim, a Pakistani military official. Nadim said tensions between Afghan and Pakistani border forces are bad for both countries. Meanwhile, Afghan border soldiers also warned that they will stand against any move by Pakistan's military.

"I will defend my country until the last drop of blood remains in my body. I will not allow any group or country to intervene in my country," Gul Ahmad, a border soldier said.

According to Kandahar police, the clash between Afghan and Pakistani forces started on Friday when Pakistani forces entered Afghan territory.

Four Afghan soldiers along with two civilians and nine Pakistani soldiers were killed in the clash and nearly 80 others were wounded from both sides. (Tolonews)

(3) MoRRD ...

generation projects worth \$2 million would be implemented Shran and Orgun district. Upon completion of the projects, nearby villages would be electrified.

Mukhlis, gailing from Sarobi district, said the rural rehabilitation and development department was the only institution that provided services and jobs to the people. He, however, urged the MoRRD to disintegrate 10 years old councils and create new ones at the local level to make sure speedy and effective uplift work.

Rahmat Gul, a resident of Wazikha district, urged the ministry to expand its development programmes to areas where no uplift projects had been executed. He lamented Wazi Khwa, Warma, Tarwi, Khoshmand, Nakah, Zerok, Omana and Gomal districts

had been deprived of development and no project had been implemented there.

Eng. Momin, however, said they had held talks with elders of all districts and hoped development projects would be carried out in all part of the province, (Pajhwok)

(4) Minister ..

A number of anti-corruption monitoring organizations said it was a misuse of authority on the part of the minister in appointing more than 10 drivers.

"It is a misuse of authorities given by government, it is a kind of corruption and it overspends government's budget," said Husain Fakhri, head of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption.

"These issues exist not only in the rural rehabilitation and development ministry but also exists in other ministries as well if it is assessed," said Khan Zaman Amarkhail, head of Afghanistan Anti-Corruption Network (AACN). Meanwhile, the Wolesi Jirga's (Lower House of Parliament) administrative board urged the minister to respond in this respect.

"It is a crime if the documents are accurate. The Constitution has allowed us to summon and ask ministers," the Wolesi Jirga secretary Abdul Qadir Zazai said.

However, Akbar Rustami, spokesman for Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), said the staffers have been appointed in directorates operating under the minister's office.

"They do not only belong to the minister's office; they belong to directorates under the minister's office which generally includes advisers and other officials in the [minister's] office," Rustami told TOLONews.

President Ashraf Ghani recently suspended the deputy head of financial and administrative office of the ministry and ordered an assessment into MRRD's appointments.

Sources say that the deputy head of the financial and administrative office of the ministry however had continued to go to his office following the president's order. (Tolonews)

(5) Taliban ...

Kunduz city, on Saturday to avoid further civilian and military casualties after more than 24 hours of heavy fighting.

In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the insurgents had taken police headquarters, the governor's compound and all security checkpoints. He said several police and soldiers had been killed and wounded.

Over the past 18 months, Taliban insurgents have twice succeeded in seizing the town centre of Kunduz for brief periods and the latest fighting underscores warnings that Afghan forces face another gruelling year of fighting.

A shopkeeper, whose name is also Zabihullah, said the situation was now reminiscent of the position in October last year when Taliban forces entered the city before being driven back after days of fighting and air strikes.

"I am extremely worried. There are security forces everywhere," he said. "Everyone in my family is worried and if the situation gets worse, we'll have to leave."

According to U.S. estimates, government fighters control only around 60 percent of the country, with the rest either controlled or contested by the insurgents, who are seeking to reimpose Islamic law after their 2001 ouster.

Although the Taliban made a formal announcement of their spring offensive only last week, there has already been heavy fighting from the northern province of Badakhshan to the Taliban heartlands of Helmand and Kandahar in the south.

There have also been several operations against Islamic State militants in the eastern province of Nangarhar, which have also involved U.S. special forces and air strikes.

More than 1,000 members of Afghan security forces have been killed since the start of the year, according to Afghan officials and figures cited by U.S. Congressional watchdog SIGAR, along with over 700 civilians.

Some 75,000 people have also been forced to flee their homes in the first four months of the year, according to United Nations figures.

Earlier this year, the top NATO commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Nicholson, said he needed a few thousand more international

troops to boost the Resolute Support training and advisory mission and break a "stalemate" with the Taliban.

The U.S. military is due to make its formal recommendations to President Donald Trump within the next week, a senior official told a Senate committee last week. (Tolonews)

(6) Ghani Hails...

Presidential Palace said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who came to office promising stronger relations with neighbours such as Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan, called the satellite a gift to South Asia.

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives signed up to make use of the satellite. Pakistan said it was working on its own satellite and did not join.

The South Asia Satellite will offer participating countries YV services and communications technology for bank ATMs and e-governance, and may even serve as a backup for cellular networks.

In his remarks, Ghani noted South Asia was one of the least integrated regions in the world. "South Asia today has taken a giant step towards regional integration," he said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Gov't's Hajj...

government officials including parliament members are paid from the money of poor people of Afghanistan. MoHIA and these officials should payback the amount and not commit sins in front of Kaaba," he said.

The MoHIA also said the cost of Hajj privileges offered to senior officials was paid by the government.

Some lawmakers said the Saudi government should increase the hajj quota for the Afghan people and give priority to fist timer pilgrims.

MoHIA deputy minister, Day-ee-ul-Haq Abid, in response to lawmakers' questions, said senior government officials had been availing the hajj quota from the past and provincial councils were also given the opportunity this year.

He said the lottery process for hajj applicants had been transparent as representatives of different organizations oversaw it.

Abid said the number of Afghans to be airlifted to Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage had been increased to 30,000 for this year's ritual against the previous 24,000. (Pajhwok)

(8) Zarif to ...

relations and the ways to promote the current level of bilateral ties as well as the latest international and regional developments are among the issues to be discussed during Zarif's visit to Kabul, Qasemi noted.

Zarif recently took a trip to Pakistan.

His day-long visit to Pakistan took place on May 3 during which Zarif met top Pakistani officials on the recent terrorist attack near Iran-Pakistan border which resulted in martyrdom of some Iranian border guards. (IRNA)

(9) Qatar...

Ambassador Faizullah Kakar.

Direct flights between the two countries, amendments to the air service agreement and Qatar's cooperation on enhancing civil aviation security in Afghanistan were the main subjects discussed at the meeting.

Both sides agreed to start direct flights between the two countries from October this year. Based on the agreement, a total of 14 flights will be operated every week between Afghanistan and Qatar.

ACAA officials said Qatar had promised support for Afghanistan in the civil aviation field. Afghanistan will present a list of civil aviation requirements to the Qatari side. The provision of facilities and their nature will be discussed in the next round of negotiations. (Pajhwok)

(10) Azizi Bank ...

6- Detection and rejection of fake and soiled currency notes.

7- Confirmation of Account holder name on CDM screen before cash deposit.

8- Easy to use touch screen with instruction in both Dari and English.

9- Deposit receipt is provided by machine after cash deposit. (PR)

(11) MoFA Summons...

Kabul's concerns to the Pakistani

government immediately so as to ensure such tragic losses of life and territorial violations did not happen again.

The incident resulted in one civilian death and several injuries. To ensure the protection of citizens, MoFA said protecting residents of Lquman and Nazar areas, located on the Afghan side of the Durand Line, was the duty of Afghan forces.

The Pakistani charge d'affaires expressed his regrets over the incidents and promised sharing the Afghan government's concerns with authorities in Islamabad today (Saturday). (Pajhwok)

(12) Pakistan...

ready to protect its territorial boundaries as well, adding that Pakistan would respond instantly and effectively in a befitting way to the enemy on borders violations.

Asif said Pakistan was successfully eliminating terrorism from the country besides continuously playing front line role for establishing durable global peace.

The minister said the CPEC project would open new vistas of socio-economic and human development in the Pakistan. (Monitoring Desk)

(13) Turkmenistan...

minister of finance, chairman of the intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation Ekil Ahmad Hakimi and chief executive Abdullah Abdullah.

President Berdimuhamedov stressed that Turkmenistan will continue to develop a constructive dialogue with Afghanistan, assist in restoration of the economic and social infrastructure of the fraternal country.

Among the major joint infrastructure projects are the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline and the commissioning of the Atamyrat-Akina railway. (trend)

(14) Khost ...

said many problems in plots distribution to teachers had been resolved and the process would be launched soon.

He said the authorities concerned needed more time before authorizing the provincial governments to distribute plots to teachers. (Pajhwok)

(15) One Civilian...

hearts and souls. We have sacrificed and we will continue our sacrifices," Jahan said.

Local officials in Nangarhar said the shelling by Pakistan has inflicted heavy damage to businessmen in the area, especially as vehicles have been destroyed.

Sarfiraz, a driver and witness to the shelling reportedly by Pakistan, said he witnessed the firing of rockets by Pakistan which continued for many hours.

"The rocket firing started at seven in the evening and the first rocket landed on a hillside. Then another rocket landed on a vehicle and killed its driver," Sarfiraz said.

"We are tired of this. Government is not doing anything in this respect. The rocket shelling by Pakistan continues. We have to stand against Pakistan and respond to this," said Juma Gul, a resident of Muhammad Dara district in Nangarhar where the rockets landed.

Cross Durand Line incursions by Pakistan started in 2011. Afghans living in areas along the de facto border have suffered the most from these rocket attacks.

Afghan government has on many occasions asked Pakistan to end the shelling however it has failed to do so. (Tolonews)

(16) Wolesi Jirga ...

Spin Boldak border town of Kandahar province erupted after Afghan forces prevented Pakistani military men from entering Afghanistan's soil.

Samim Khpwalwak, the Kandahar's governor spokesman, said Pakistani military personnel on the pretext of conducting census in Nazar and Luqman villages of Spin Boldak had entered the Afghan soil.

He said the clash erupted after the Afghan forces prevented the Pakistanis from entering Afghanistan.

The Pakistani army has said one civilian was killed and 18 security men injured in firing by Afghan border forces. The injured included four Pakistani border guards. Brig Raziq had also confirmed the killing of one Afghan civilian and injuries to another 14, including

three Afghan soldiers. (Pajhwok)

(17) Kabul

"Thirty-five youths including two girls participated in this competition, sharing their innovations with each other. The youths can resolve problems and run their own businesses, drawing on their innovations," she said.

She added the one with first position in the competition would participate in Technology Competitions in America after attending a 12 weeks training course.

Zainab Jaafari, a computer science student at a private university in Kabul who participated in the event, said the contest was organised for the first time in Afghanistan.

It gave youths the opportunity to share ideas and find solutions to society's problems. Happy about participation in the competition, she said: "We hope such events will be held in the future too."

Najib Jamshidi, another participant of the competition, called the event very beneficial and said it enabled youth to share their technological skills and gain exposure.

AngelHack invited coders, designers and entrepreneurs to the Global Hackathon Series to compete on their own, or collaborate as a member of a team to come up with an idea and turn it into a functioning prototype. (Pajhwok)

(18) Diesel, Flour ...

in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 220afis and the same amount of African black tea 240afis, the same rates as of last week's.

Ahmad Massoud, who owns a grocery store in Qala-i-Fatullah neighborhood, sold a 50kg bag of Kazakhstani flour for 2,000afis and the same quantity of Pakistani sugar for 2,940afis. He sold a kilogram of Indonesian green tea for 350afis and the same quantity of African black tea for 400afis -- higher than wholesale prices.

Basir Ahmad, a jeweller in Lycee Mariam area, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold decreased from 2,300afis to 2,200afis and the same quantity of the Russia variety from 1,950afis to 1,900afis.

According to moneychangers' union in Sara-i-Shahzada, one US dollar was accounted for 67.66afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees for 634afis against last week's 67.50afis and 631afis respectively. (Pajhwok)

(19) Pakistan's ...

especially to consolidate the gains made in our enduring fight against terrorism."

His meeting came just a day before four Afghan border force members were killed and 14 others were wounded in a Spin Boldak clash on Friday.

According to Kandahar police spokesman Zia Durani the clash started at around 4am on Friday morning when Pakistani border forces entered Afghan territory.

He said the two sides agreed on a ceasefire after hours of clashes. Two armored vehicles belonging to Pakistani forces were destroyed in the fire fight, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Kandahar Police Chief Lieutenant Gen. Abdul Raziq said four border police force members were killed and 14 others were wounded in the clash along the Durand Line.

He said 23 civilians were also wounded in the fighting.

However, Pakistani officials have claimed that the Afghan forces attacked Pakistan's border troops without any reason.

The Pakistani officials said that seven Pakistani border force members were killed and 27 others were wounded in the battle.

Spin Boldak is a border town in the southern Kandahar province. (Tolonews)

(20) Ghazni ...

"You do business in the city, and take ushr to Taliban in districts. You should be on one side."

He termed such people as partners of rebels and said they shared all crimes and bad deeds the Taliban were committing.

Ghazni police chief Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel also said individuals who helped insurgents should either shun the practice or close their businesses in the city.

The police chief said if such individuals continued to financially support the Taliban their shops and businesses would be sealed. Money-exchangers' head in Ghazni, Sayed Ahmad Ahmadzai, said businessmen and shopkeepers instead of giving

money to Taliban should assist ordinary people.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News there were families in Ghazni city who had nothing to eat and were in severe need of aid.

There has been so far no word from insurgents in this regard. However, the militant group had earlier denied asking people for ushr as they willfully brought the aid to the Taliban. (Pajhwok)

(21) Road Construction ...

one and half year.

According to Khogyani, nearly six thousand families will benefit from the road once it is completed and will provide work opportunities for one hundred people.

The provincial rural rehabilitation and development chief Se-fatullah Sharafmal said around 67 new culverts will also be built along the road while 21 old culverts will be rehabilitated.

He said a 3722 meter protective wall will also be built along the road.

In the meantime, provincial governor Gulab Mangal said the construction work of 4 kilometers road will also start in Land Baloch and Mirza Khel areas of Kama. (KP)

(22) Azad Appointed...

in 2006 and wrote hundreds of articles for national and international media outlets about politics, culture, religion and literature.

Shah Hussain Murtazavi is currently serving as acting spokesman for the Presidential Palace and Azad will serve as second deputy presidential spokesman. (Pajhwok)

(23) India Successfully...

country's scientists for the successful launch. "We are a united family of South Asian countries, united in our pursuit of peace, progress & prosperity of our region & the entire humankind," he tweeted soon after the launch.

Later joining the five heads of state of SAARC nations -- Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Maldives President Abdulla Yameen, Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena -- Modi hailed the launch. (Xinhua)

(24) ASEAN+3 ...

the first quarter and foreign trade up 21.8 percent year-on-year.

He said that China will continue with proactive fiscal policy, further cut taxes and administrative fees for enterprises, optimize the fiscal expenditure structure to promote reform of the supply side while attaching more importance to controlling local governments' debt risks. (Xinhua)

(25) French Voters ...

Sterea poll for France Televisions and Radio France also estimates a clear victory for Macron with 61.5 percent of voting intentions, against Le Pen with 38.5 percent.

The almost unanimous estimations have put pressure on Le Pen and her far-right party National Front (FN).

Although the polls are consistent with those conducted right after the first round, the margin between the two has indeed further widened after a final television debate, which many analysts have dubbed as "aggressive" and "inappropriate." (Xinhua)

(26) White House...

City, just outside Washington. The White House Chief Usher, which is not a political position, is to run the White House executive mansion, overseeing its staff and all major events at the residence and working closely with the first family. (Xinhua)

(27) French Candidate...

was not immediately clear who was responsible for posting the data or if any of it was genuine. In a statement, Macron's political movement En Marche! (Onwards!) confirmed that it had been hacked.

"The En Marche! Movement has been the victim of a massive and co-ordinated hack this evening which has given rise to the diffusion on social media of various internal information," the statement said. (Reuters)

(28) UN Chief...

, undermining institutions and capacities to achieve peace and development," said the spokesperson, adding that "we cannot meet the prevention challenge with the status quo." (Xinhua)