

### (1) Child Casualties...

explosive devices," "Ground fighting caused 118 child deaths, responsible for 42 percent of the total," the UN said. According to UN the explosive remnants of war caused 50 child deaths and aerial operations have been responsible for 44 child deaths as well as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) responsible for 38 child deaths.

UNAMA has urged the parties to the conflict to priorities the protection of children as the 2017 fighting season continues by taking all necessary precautions to reduce harm to civilians during fighting.

"The Taliban and insurgents' attacks in public areas cause casualties to civilians; therefore, we have instructed our security forces to prevent civilian casualties," said Acting Spokesman of the Interior Ministry, Najib Danish.

The Human Rights Commission in Afghanistan has also urged the parties to avoid civilian casualties.

"The civilian deaths concerned us and the international community, we urge the parties to the conflict to not target civilian-populated rural areas," said the Spokesman of AIHRC, Bilal Sediqi. (ATN)

### (2) Reconciliation ...

driver of instability and insecurity in the country. He stressed the need for reforms to eliminate corruption. Afghanistan plunged into crisis due to the conflict and the enemies of Islam were the sole beneficiaries of the current situation, the scholar remarked.

He dispelled the impression that reconciling amounted to surrender. He cited the historic Hudaibia peace pact signed between Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and infidels of Makkah.

Apparently, the treaty was not in the favour of the Prophet and his companions but it paved the ground of a long-term success for Muslims.

The scholars hit out at the growing un-Islamic culture and unethical practices, reasons behind Taliban brutal activities, calling them a reason behind Taliban's violence.

Yasmin Sarwari, presidential advisor on women affairs, shone a light on the peace process and women's role in society. (Pajhwok)

### (3) First VP's ...

paid his salary. "The government stopped transport services for us and instead pledged to pay some money. But we have not been paid for two months. They have also not paid car rental fees over the past five months or two months in overtime. It means overall they have not paid us for nine months," said Hashemi.

Dostum aides pointed out that five months into the new fiscal year, Ghani had also still not approved the structure of the first VP's office for this year, stating this affected about 200 staff members.

"When we ask them about the issue, they say that it is lying on the table of Mr. President. If a letter remains untouched on the table of the president for three or four months, then you realize what can happen to this country," said Mohammad Yasin Khamosh, a media advisor to Dostum.

According to Khamosh, reports from the National Security Council (NSC) are also not being sent to the office of the first vice president.

He said that the administrative office of the president is also not responding to letters dispatched to them from the office of the first vice president.

"We are not receiving anything from the national security council. I want to give a stupid example - previously newspapers were delivered here but recently we received a notification from the president's administrative affairs office stating that we will no longer be supplied with newspapers due to budget constraints," added Khamosh.

"The presidential palace has said that the recommendations are being processed and the (documents) are lying on the table of the president. But we do not understand why the president cannot deal with them, is it due to work load or is it a deliberate move?" asked Bashir Ahmad Tayyanj, the spokesman for the Dostum-led Junbish Milli party.

In reference to the allegations, the deputy spokesman for the presidential palace Dawa Khan Menapal said the salaries of employees from this office had not been paid due to certain administrative issues.

However, he refused to comment on the claims that Dostum had been sidelined. (Tolnews)

### (4) Tribal Elders ...

should develop agriculture and

fruit gardening in Zabul and exploit water of rivers in the province.

Wolesi Jirga member from Zabul Zahra Tokhi Zabuli said the people of Zabul supported to no terrorist group and would never allow a terrorist group to operate in the province. For his part, President Ghani said his government wanted to advance the peace process in consultation with tribal elders and influential figures.

The president also said the process of exporting fruits from Afghanistan to India would start soon.

The president assured the people of Zabul of special attention to Qalat, the provincial capital, and drastic reforms in the provincial departments.

He urged the elders of Zabul to share their proposals with the government regarding the peace process. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Anti-Poppy ...

earn from their illegal business, we are witness to deadly attacks carried out by these terrorists in our country and the region," she said.

She said poppy cultivation increased after support from the international community to Afghanistan faded away. However, she did not provide more details about the international community's support.

Reports suggest the international community has pumped billions of dollars in the counternarcotics effort in Afghanistan during the past 14 years.

An exact amount of the foreign aid is not known, but the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) says the US alone has donated around 8.5 billion US dollars to the war on Afghan drugs.

Azami asked donor countries to continue their support with Afghanistan in countering drugs.

Javid Ahmad Qaim, deputy counternarcotics minister, said the increase in poppy cultivation last year and likely this year forced them to organize a meeting for attracting foreign aid in eradicating the phenomenon.

He said resources for fighting narcotics were limited and foreign supporters in this regard were also fewer.

Most of the poppy was cultivated in Helmand, Badghis, Badakhshan and Nangarhar provinces, he said.

Creating alternative source of income for poppy growers, taking serious steps against drug smugglers and treating drug addicts were essential for eradication of illegal drug business, he said. (Pajhwok)

### (6) US Congressional ...

The delegation discussed issues of women's integration, equality, professional development, leadership, and sexual assault. Representative Susan Davis (D-CA) said, "We thank all the brave women and men in uniform here in Afghanistan who are putting their lives at risk to keep us safe. It was an honor to meet with them." The CODEL also took the time to meet with Embassy staff constituents, including many of the diplomatic spouses employed by Mission Afghanistan.

In addition to Representatives Roby and Davis the delegation included Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Susan Brooks (R-IN), and Val Demings (D-FL). (PR)

### (7) Afghan Woman ...

and going after it."

Waiz took off from Daytona Beach, Florida on Saturday and has mapped out a route that will take her aboard her Beechcraft Bonanza A36 aircraft approximately 25,800 kilometers (16,000 miles) to more than 18 countries, including Spain, Egypt, India, Singapore and Australia, before ending the trip back in Florida in August.

During her 30 stopovers, the engineering graduate and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which is backing her trip, will host events to try to get school-children interested in science -- notably aeronautics.

According to ICAO figures, less than five percent of commercial pilots are women.

"If you really break it down into science, technology, engineering and math and explore what those career fields offer, it's very exciting," Waiz said.

"We hope to present to the young kids at these events what those careers are... and hopefully get them to pursue these careers that are in need of more talent."

On the website of her non-profit Dreams Soar, she commented: "Every time I open the door of an aircraft, I ask myself, 'How did a girl with my background become so lucky? The truth is, anyone can be me.'" (AFP)

### (8) Qala-e-Zal ...

the news. Taliban fighters launched an attack on Qala-e-Zal on May 5 and took full control of the town the following day.

The town in Kunduz Province has been fallen to the Taliban twice over the past two years. The Taliban elements are said to be still present around the Kunduz city, the capital of the northern province.

Before the attack, some members of the Afghan parliament had warned that Qala-e-Zal would fall again unless new forces were deployed in the region. (IRNA)

### (9) Indonesia ...

Afghan government. She said Jakarta wanted to help the Afghan women find access to education and health besides other facilities and training.

She said the Indonesian assistance would be dispatched through the Afghan Women's Affairs Ministry and the Afghan women would get scholarships to study in Indonesia. She said Indonesia was a huge country of more than 250 million people where half of the population was comprised of women.

She promised to discuss with her country officials how to help the Afghan women through the Afghan government and different stakeholders.

She stressed women's role in the peace process and asked the Afghan government to pay special attention to women and children safety. Yemibse asked Afghan women not to surrender to challenges and stand firm in difficulties. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Corruption ...

supporting the Attorney General, we want him to investigate major corruption so as to implement the law and put his words into practice," civil society activist, Laila Jafari said.

Corruption cases involving the ministry of urban development, the Kabul Bank case, the Ghafar Dawi case and fuel contract embezzlement cases within the defense ministry are seen as major cases that have not been probed nor have the suspects been prosecuted. (Tolnews)

### (11) CKUA Railway...

spheres of transport, trade, investment, energy and technology in our region, which has the richest natural, industrial and human resources," he said.

The head of state during the roundtable discussion also stressed the need to develop a complex program of cooperation actions in creation of transport and logistic routes linking Central Asia with the Southern, South-Western Asia and the European countries via China and Russia.

Mirziyoyev expressed confidence that the initiative of President Xi Jinping on holding the international forum will allow to form the "active platform of exchanging views and practical cooperation in the framework of One Belt, One Road.

"I am sure that implementation of this large-scale project that today covers more than 60% of the population of the planet will contribute to creation of the single belt of peace and prosperity, cooperation and friendship between our countries and peoples," the President added. (AKIPRESS)

### (12) NSC Strategic ...

proud of working in a national office, and would always support the national security forces," he added. Ghorzang said his deputy, Qader Shah, had been elevated appointed as head and spokesman for the NSC strategic communications section.

The newly-appointed head for the position, Qader Shah, told Pajhwok he would do all he could to do justice to his job. Shah promised cooperating with media outlets in terms of sharing information with them. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Tadamichi...

with appropriate vetting and merit-based appointments.

In a speech at a welcoming ceremony organized at the Arg (Presidential Palace) on May 4, Hekmatyar accused "some media" outlets of promoting hatred, division and violence in the country.

"We wholeheartedly respect the freedom of speech, but 'don't lie,' said the chief of Hezb-e-Islami party known for his strong religious beliefs and fierce fighting against the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

He also commented on the way women dressed, particularly the changes observed in the country in this regard over the past decade. "This is not Paris, this is Kabul," he said. Rights groups in Afghanistan are

demanding the prosecution of Hekmatyar for his alleged "war crimes" during the 1990s civil war in the country.

The Hezb-e-Islami chief, however, has rejected the allegations, and offered his services to act as mediator for peace between the Taliban and the Kabul government. (Monitoring Desk)

### (14) Mohib, Grieco ...

The envoy thanked Grieco for his efforts at expanding trade relations between the two countries and reiterated the importance of continued efforts for a bilateral trade strategy to eliminate barriers and meet shared goals. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Taliban ...

forces with the help of local forces beaten back the Taliban attack after half an hour clash."

Sadaat said security forces and civilians suffered no harm in the attack and there was no credible report of Taliban casualties.

He said a large number of the Taliban were besieged in the Sar Howza area of Pashtunkot district from the past two weeks while over 50 Taliban were killed and wounded in the Balcharagh district.

The Taliban attack on Maimana happened follow growing pressure on the group in Sarhawza, but their attempt was failed. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Nearly 200 ...

Jawzjan last year, all these structures were funded by nongovernmental organizations," he said.

He said deep wells for drinking water were recently dug at 19 schools while another 20 schools were extended the same facility through other sources.

He added 3,210 chairs were provided to schools this year, when 10 more schools were expected to get buildings.

However, Yashin's information drew reaction from participants of the meeting. Mohammad Fateh, a schoolteacher, said: "Salaries and privileges of teachers are not given on time."

Mahtab, another attendee, said students in a number of districts and parts of the provincial capital were still learning in ruined rooms, rented compounds and open areas.

"School students in Khwaja Dokoh district are in bad condition, the little boys and girls sit on dust, it is regrettable that our students still suffer from such problems despite the huge foreign aid during the past decade," he said.

The education director confirmed problems, but said the education department alone could not resolve all these problems and traders and donors should cooperate in the area. Jawzjan Governor Maulvi Lotfullah Azizi, after hearing the report, said the accountability of government organs could improve their affairs. He said the government organs should present their annual performance report to the people.

The meeting organized by the provincial council was participated by hundreds of people from Shiberghan, the provincial capital. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Ghazni Students ...

books and thus our lessons are incomplete." According to him, they hadn't received books of science subjects.

Meanwhile, 12th grade student of Sayed Haji High School in Deh Yak district, Noor Rahman, said they were also given half of the books.

"In our school, ten years old books are taught to students. The old books are different from the new books."

A civil society activist, Mohammad Kazim, also confirmed students in many schools lacked half of the books. "Such issues always exist in schools where students graduate as illiterate." He stressed immediate solution to students' problem and provision of complete books to schools.

Meanwhile, a member of the Ghazni provincial council, Hamidullah Sarwari, said two months had passed in the new education year, but students were yet to receive textbooks.

According to him, newly printed books by the Ministry of Education (MoE) are also unavailable in markets so students could buy them.

The Ghazni education department confirmed the issue. Provincial education chief, Mohammad Abid, said some schools had been provided with half of the textbooks.

"I have demanded about two million books from the MoE, however, they sent only one million." He said the MoE was yet to deliver on its promise of sending the rest of the books.

Ghazni officials say Andar, Maqur, Qara Bagh, Gilan, Rashidan, Khog-

yani, Waghaz, Zankhan and some other areas haven't received full textbooks so far. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Balkh: Amu...

He said the river had not only inundated the Ariq Bator village but many others.

In nearby Shortapa district, residents tell similar stories. They say Aq Masjid, Orzaq, Argha Yaq, Joy Jadid and other villages have been affected by the overflowing Amu River.

Haji Sifatullah, one of the residents, said the erosion of the river's banks had eaten away hundreds of homes and nearly 2500 acres of arable land in the district.

He said their repeated requests to the government about resolving the issue had fallen on deaf ears. He said residents of the mentioned villages had migrated elsewhere.

Local officials say it is beyond their ability to consolidate the Amu River's banks. The governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, spurned reports that Uzbek boats had violated the Afghanistan border.

He said the friendly country had never tried to violate the Afghanistan border and if such an incident occurred, it would be responded with firmly.

Farhad confirmed the havoc the Amu River had played with farmland and residential buildings on this side of the border, but said it was beyond the provincial government's ability to construct the river's banks because it needed a huge budget.

He said the Balkh government had discharged its responsibility by sharing the issue with the central government. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Gen. Dunfor ...

National Security Advisor H.R McMaster said at a press conference at the White House that Trump has not yet made a decision regarding the deployment of additional troops to Afghanistan.

McMaster said that Trump will have the opportunity to hear from allies during his upcoming foreign trip, which will include stops at the NATO summit on May 25 and the gathering of G7 nations.

On the issue of additional troops, McMaster said: "The president has not made a decision yet on a course of action. What we have done which is what we have done in many cases on the North Korea problems for example, is we have consulted broadly across our government and with allies.

"The president wants to hear from our allies as well. This is a president who listens to its allies and partners who have an opportunity to do this at the NATO summit, who have an opportunity to do so at the G7 and so what we'll have at the end of this next few weeks here is an opportunity for a much more effective strategy for the problems set in Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region more broadly." (Tolnews)

### (20) Govt. Has ...

thorities say I cannot work as a policeman," he explained.

"I'm not that old, but look frail because of suffering," he said, adding he and his family would be obliged to beg if the government did not reinstate him. Apparently shell-shocked, the ex-cop spoke reservedly.

Deputy police chief Col. Dadullah Khan Hotak confirmed Sirajuddin had been sacked due to old age. The former policeman would be offered a job in the Afghan Local Police (ALP) ranks in the near future, he promised. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Faulty Machines

have since been damaged due to lack of maintenance and repairs over the decades. The remaining system has also been affected.

Syed Inayatullah Hashmi, technical deputy head, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Enterprise had more than 1,800 employees at the start of its activities. It would swing into action thrice a day and produced bread, cookies, processing 120 tonnes of flour on a daily bases.

He added the facility would sift 170 tonnes of wheat and mill another 140 tonnes into flour a day. The bread and cookies were consumed by government employees and armed force.

Hashmi explained the Enterprise had been heavily damaged by decades of war. Most of its machines have been destroyed. Efforts to reactivate this venture have largely failed, thanks to little support from government and donors.

Out-of-order machines are the main problem of the silo, according to Hashmi, who said the equipment was more than 50 years old and no more capable of producing quality

bread and cookies.

"We constantly contact the ministries and departments concerned. We can still supply bread to every ministry, but no organisation seems to be interested in consuming our products," he complained.

Hashmi said the current situation of the silo enterprise was discussed in a meeting at the Presidential Palace. CEO Dr. Abdullah acknowledged the silo's machinery was more than 50 years old and no soldier or governmental employee would use its products.

Even though no efforts have been made by the government to replace the old machines, negotiations are ongoing with the World Bank. A sum of \$30 million has been sought to rehabilitate the silos in Kabul, Kandahar and Herat.

The enterprise also possesses four flour containers, built with financial aid of \$ 8.5 million from Australia. As many as 22,500 tonnes of food items and flour can be stored in these containers.

A 248 square meters area of the enterprise was recently rented out to a private organisation for 60,500 afghanis a month. The revenue is spent on fixing the machinery.

Asked about lack of support, he responded: "In fact, the government doesn't want this enterprise to be brought back to health. If the government meets 20% of its financial requirements, the silo can resume operations."

In the past, the Central Silo Enterprise had been a great revenue source for the government. Sixty percent of its income went to the state exchequer, the official recalled.

Currently, only 230 people are employed by the Enterprise, including 30 women. In the given situation, paying staff salaries and electricity bills is an extra burden on the government.

Meanwhile, Silo centers in Kandahar, Herat, Balkh and Pul-i-Khumri are also used as food warehouses, as all of them have stopped operations. (Pajhwok)

(22) 12 Rebels ... killed in Monday night's clashes. He did not go into details.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, on his social account said 25 security forces were killed in the clashes in Aloyazo area. He said one fighter was also killed and three others wounded. (Pajhwok)

### (23) Researchers Say...

among the fastest-spreading extortion campaigns on record. In China, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said she had no information to share, when asked about the origin of the attack and whether North Korea might be connected. (Reuters)

### (24) Germany Mulls...

where to deploy the Tornado units is expected within two weeks. Turkey has not provided a reason for their official refusal. But a response to asylum granted by German government to Turkish soldiers is a suspected reason. The soldiers feared persecution after the failed military coup against Turkish president Recep Erdogan last year. (Xinhua)

### (25) Xi Suggests ...

high-level exchanges, as well as close contact between governments, legislative bodies, political parties and regional authorities.

The Chinese president highlighted two-way investment, construction of industrial parks, e-commerce and innovation as areas for further cooperation. China welcomes Italy's participation in the construction of the Belt and Road, and supports cooperation between the two countries in port management, shipping as well as ship building, he said.

Beijing is willing to maintain communication with Rome on major international issues, and hopes Italy can play a positive role within the European Union in order to safeguard the development of China-EU ties, he said. For his part, Gentiloni said the just-concluded Belt and Road Forum had sent a positive signal to the world economy and international trade. (Xinhua)

### (26) Trump, in ...

struggled to move past the backlash over Trump's abrupt firing of FBI Director James Comey, who was investigating the president's ties to Russia. The turmoil overshadowed Republican legislative priorities such as healthcare and tax reform and laid bare sharp divisions between the White House and U.S. intelligence agencies, which concluded late last year that Russia had tried to influence the 2016 presidential election in Trump's favor. (Reuters)