

(1) E-ID Cards

which is celebrated on May 17 – Abdullah also urged the Ministry of Telecommunications to take urgent action against unregistered SIM cards for mobile phones which he said insurgents were using in their efforts to destabilize the country. He said government needs to collect these cards and eradicate the practice of people having unregistered cards.

This year, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day marked the 150th anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention – and the formation of the first International Telecommunication Union. The day is celebrated around the world each year to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the internet and other communication technologies (ICT) can bring to people.

Telecommunications is however often a challenge in Afghanistan. Just last week, Kabul's Internet crashed leaving most residents and businesses without service for up to four hours.

This was the second time in as many weeks that the city had experienced an outage. The previous outage came after a point along the fiber optic cable – which provides Internet service to Kabul – was blown up in an IED blast in Nangarhar.

Fingers have often been pointed at the Taliban in the past for such incidents and for also demanding money from Internet Service Providers and telecommunications companies in order to safeguard their installations – particularly in more remote areas. (Tolonews)

(2) Afghan Taliban

Iranian security officials on regional issues, particularly the developments in the Islamic world.

The source further added that the delegation also held talks on matters relating to the Afghan refugees. This was the third visit by the Taliban delegation to Iran already dispatched political delegations to Iran two times, for meeting Iranian security officials and for attending an international conference on Islamic Awakening movement.

The visit by Taliban delegation to Tehran comes as the group's representatives held preliminary talks with the Afghan officials in Qatar earlier this month.

The group welcomed peace efforts following two days of preliminary negotiations on reconciliation process and said Taliban is prepared to have a comprehensive cooperation with all the neighboring and other countries on all aspects. In the meantime, the Taliban-led insurgency have been rampant since the group launched its summer offensive and staged numerous attacks across the country including the capital Kabul. (KP)

(3) Transit Arrangements

Lungescu, NATO spokesperson, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "NATO concluded transit arrangements with a number of countries to support the efforts of the International security Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (ISAF). The NATO/Russia transit arrangements covered the movement of ISAF military equipment and were specific to ISAF and UNSCR 1386. These transit arrangements were commercial in nature. They expired on 31 December 2014."

Russian media reports that according to the official document, signed by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and published on Monday, all previous decisions on NATO cargo transit to Afghanistan have now been revoked. This includes an act allowing delivery of military hardware and equipment via rail, motor vehicles, or through Russian airspace.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has been ordered to inform all the countries involved. The NATO spokesperson said that ISAF redeployment is complete. Sufficient support arrangements have been set up with respect to the new NATO-led Resolute Support mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, which was launched on 1 January 2015.

She said that in light of that NATO has not sought to extend transit arrangements with Russia on ISAF or to negotiate new arrangements for Resolute Support.

Transit of military cargo to Afghanistan through Russia was permitted after a 2001 UN Security Council resolution. The document established an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, and called on all countries to support the NATO-led security mission. In 2008 Russia signed a

decree allowing ISAF cargo to pass through its territory. (Pajhwok)

(4) Eight Provinces

on the condition of anonymity, a source in the unity government told Pajhwok Afghan News that Salim Khan Kunduzi had been appointed as the governor of eastern Nangarhar province.

He said Nasratullah Arsalan had been appointed as Paktika governor, Wahidullah Kalimzai as the governor of eastern Kunar province.

Mohammad Halim Fidaee has been appointed as the governor of central Logar province, Dr. Tahir Zaheer the governor of central Bamyan province, Anwarul Haq Ishaqzai the governor of southern Zabul province, Shamim Katawazai as the governor of southeastern Khost province and Khanam Muradi as the governor of central Daikundi province.

Before his appointment as the governor of Nangarhar, Salim Khan Kunduzi was the acting Agriculture and Livestock Minister. He is a resident of northern Kunduz province.

The new governor for Kunar, Wahidullah Kalimzai, is a resident of central Maidan Wardak province. He is a businessman and owns many business firms. His brother Obaidullah Kalimzai is a member of the Wolesi Jirga and another brother Hasibullah Kalimzai is a member of the Meshrano Jirga.

A former governor of Maidan Wardak, Mohammad Halim Fidaee is a resident of southeastern Paktika province.

The new governor for Paktika, Nasratullah Arsalan is a resident of Nangarhar's Sara Rud district. He is the son of Haji Din Mohammad, a former Nangarhar provincial council chief and member.

Dr. Tahir Zaheer, the governor for Bamyan province, is a resident of Samangan province. He was a member of the Wolesi Jirga but was disqualified in light of a Supreme Court verdict.

The governor for Zabul, Noorul Haq Ishaqzai, is a resident of Badghis province.

Shamim Katawazai, a resident of Paktika province, is the brother of Nadir Khan Katawazai, a member of the Wolesi Jirga.

No information is available about Khanam Muradi, the governor for central Daikundi province. (Pajhwok)

(5) Defence Ministe

News the decision had been taken after consultations between the president and the chief executive officer.

He said a formal announcement in this regard would be made soon and Stanakzai would be introduced to the parliament for a trust vote.

A former Telecommunications Minister, Stanakzai was born in 1958 in the Mohammad Agha district of central Logar province, where he completed his primary education. Later he graduated from the Kabul Telecommunication Institute before joining Kabul Military Academy. He served as the telecommunications minister from 2002 to 2004. He was former president Hamid Karzai's security advisor and the High Peace Council secretary.

Stanakzai was twice injured in two suicide attacks. He was present at the house of former HPC chief Burhanuddin Rabbani when a suicide bomber posing as peace emissary detonated his bomb concealed his turban. (Pajhwok)

(6) Meshrano Jirga

Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), agreeing on joint cooperation against terrorism.

Based on the agreement, both the countries would also jointly fighting terrorists' groups and would interrogate terror suspects.

Ajmal Obaid Abidi, presidential spokesman told reporters: "The agreement was not something new between Pakistan and Afghanistan. In the past also, both the agencies had such agreements. Now the major focus of the agreement is on fighting terrorism."

Members of upper house of parliament criticized the deal. Musa Khan Achakzai, a lawmaker from Kandahar, said: "Throughout the troubled history, We shouldn't go under the influence of ISI."

He called the agreement against the interest of Afghan people, saying security forces especially the NDS should not be under the influence of any other organization.

Nesar Haris, another lawmaker, said: "People of the country are not happy with this agreement. For experience, people should be sent to Europe and the US but unfortunately our security forces are being trained by Pakistan."

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The NDS has announced that the initiative was taken for the purpose of sharing information on a tactical level on mutual threats. (Pajhwok)

(7) Taliban Besiege

families are packing their belongings and leaving their homes and closing their shops to leave the area. Taliban through loudspeakers warn people to vacate the area."

Another tribal elder Haji Dost said he was aware about rebels' assault to capture the district and he had shared the information with the government some two months ago. "If the district fell to rebels they will treat badly people who are working with the government," he said.

District chief Mohammad Sharif Khan confirmed the threat but provided no further details.

Last Sunday, Sharif Khan in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News said that armed rebels were getting stronger in the district as government had no time to security the strategic district.

Taliban have not commented on the development so far. (Pajhwok)

(8) President Briefed

long border with Pakistan and logistic supplies for them."

The deputy governor said the president was urged to create local police in Waza Khwa, Terwa and Wor Mami districts.

To a question about the appointment of the provincial governor and the police chief, the deputy governor said the issue did not specifically come under discussion at the video conference with the president.

However, he said the president said the police chief would be appointed, but said nothing about the new governor.

The provincial officials urged the president to establish municipality departments in six districts, make permanent district mayors, create special police for customs offices and open a Kabul bank branch in the Urgun district.

The absence of the provincial governor and the police chief has not only resulted in increased insecurity but also delayed people's routine works in Paktika. (Pajhwok)

(9) MoFA Rejects

visit to Afghanistan. The passports would help Afghan Taliban leader to go abroad and join their political office and take part in peace dialogue.

The two leaders also decided to ask United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to eliminate the names of Taliban leaders from black list.

But MoFA Spokesman Shakib Murgahni rejected the report and said that political passport could be issued to government officials who go on a formal trip to foreign countries.

Speaking to reporters Mustaghni said media has misinterpreted the issue. And "I assured you that no passport would be issued to any Taliban leader." (Pajhwok)

(10) Tens of

hospital. The rest, he said, were admitted in the local hospital.

Nawab said nobody had been detained in connection with the incident yet and they have started investigations to divulge facts. (Pajhwok)

(11) Balkh Governance

stopped working for two months due to a Wolesi Jirga decision that prevented the council from monitoring local governance.

But Khairandish said the council had significant achievements during its five months in office.

He said the council had also created a platform to monitor education in all schools of the province. A recent evaluation about the education department revealed that the education process had faced with many problems, he added.

Khairandish regretted government offices politically affected as most of the time was wasted on replacing officers with new ones. Education department is also among the organs that has politically affected, he said, adding that a person with very poor education experience served for 20 years as principal of a school.

"Some individuals with undergraduate educational qualification have served for 10, 15 and 20 years as principals of schools, so how people would support such a weak administration," Khairandish questioned.

Children in most areas of Balkh province could attend schools while practical education process is also faced with challenges, he added. (Pajhwok)

(12) Four-Day

introduce and develop domestic products is by holding such expos so that we can introduce our own products to the local market," Khadim said.

In addition, the local business community has welcomed the move to run the expo, which they say will help generate local support for their products. Security officials in the city have also pledged their commitment to fighting insurgents in a bid to keep residents and business people safe. (Tolonews)

(13) 600 ANA Soldiers

Momand, director of military corps at the training center, said the soldiers would be further trained so that they could face all challenges. Young people were now more willing to join ANA ranks to play their role in nation building and security of the country. The training was started from a single battalion which had trained thousands of soldiers in 21 training sessions and they all served security forces in southern provinces.

Nazar Mohammad, a graduate from the training, called the training as useful since he learnt new techniques and capable enough to perform his duty in a professional way. (Pajhwok)

(14) 4,695 Illegal

high-profile target for the attackers, mostly coming from the adjacent tribal areas.

A number of search operations were carried out in Sattar and surrounding areas, Hayatabad and the suburban Peshawar during the last couple of days after reports emerged about serious threats of terror attacks.

security in the provincial capital has been put on high alert and over 80 suspects, including Afghan nationals were rounded up in actions during the last three days.

"As many as 138 search and strike operations were carried out in Peshawar, including 51 in the rural division, 45 in cantonment division and 42 in city division. (Agencies)

(15) Governor Rejects

security situation and the Taliban is 70 kilometers away from the city."

The security forces have recently intensified operations across the country as spring and summer known as the fighting season is drawing near.

Badakhshan is among the relatively volatile provinces in Northeastern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating in a number of its districts and frequently carry out insurgency operations. (FNA)

(16) Most Channels'

Currently, 35 different television networks and 62 radio stations have been function and airing different programs. Most of them played Turkish and Indian dramas and movies. (Pajhwok)

(17) 11 Policemen

Another critic was the mother of Sharaf Baghlani – one of the accused sentenced to death earlier this month. She called for her own execution and asked why wasn't the driver of the car and the person who set Farkhunda alight also given the death sentence. "This was a joint action. If they are executing some of the court should execute them all or release them all," she said. Meanwhile, Mujadidi was initially expected to hand down his verdict last week but postponed the hearing claiming more time was needed to investigate the case.

The judge sentenced four suspects to death earlier this month but granted them leave to appeal. In addition he sentenced a further eight defendants to 16 years in prison after finding them guilty of violence against a woman. He dropped charges against 18.

The four sentenced to death are Zai-nuddin, Mohammad Yaqub, Mohammad Sharaf and Abdul Bashir. The eight guilty of violence against women are Gheyasuddin, Sifurrahman, Habibullah, Akramuddin, Ghulam Mohammad, Abdul Fatah, Mohammad Imran and Mohmand. A total of 49 suspects appeared – of which 19 are the police officers. The officers have been charged with dereliction of duty after failing to stop the public lynching.

Farkhunda's murder made headlines around the world in March and prompted outrage and condemnation from leaders across Afghanistan and the international community. Many have said the incident was an embarrassment for those in Afghanistan who have tried to champion social progress made in the country since the fall of

the Taliban regime.

Questions have been raised about both the continued prevalence of violence against women around the country, as well as the justice system's tendency to punish street-level offenders while steering clear of influential officials.

Before this, the Kabul Police have been heavily criticized for failing to take any action to stop the brutal mob attack on Farkhunda that occurred almost two months ago.

After being falsely accused of burning the Quran, Farkhunda was savagely beaten to death, set on fire and then thrown in the Kabul River, all in broad daylight and in a central part of the capital.

In addition, police officials were accused of trying to cover up the truth of the attack, after it was exposed that police claims that Farkhunda suffered from psychological issues were falsified.

Details of the police officers who heard their fate today are as follows:

Those found guilty and sentenced to one year in prison are:

Hasibullah Yar Mohammad, PD 2nd Police Chief

Saleh Mohammad Khan, PD 2nd Company Commander

Syed Temor Shah, PD 2nd Plane Officer

Ghulam Nabi, PD 2nd crime investigation officer

Nadir Mohammad, Commander of a check post in the area,

Abdul Sami, PD 2nd Bloc commander in the area,

Mohammad Moqim, PD 2nd regional control member

Abdul Saboor, Commander of Check post

Jawad (his posting is unclear)

Zabiullah, Afghan-Turk School Police Check post commander

Shah Mohammad

Those freed are:

Syed Ismail, Habiburrahman, Noor Aqa, Ahmad Zahir, Mohammad Halim, Abdul Wakil, Aqbal, Khawja Kazim. (Tolonews)

(18) Logar Serves

forces had failed to prevent drug smuggling through the province. He said if the situation persisted, a large number of youth would become drug addicts and the Taliban would become financially strong.

He claimed they had evidence that showed drug smuggling was ongoing via Logar, which served as a safe passage for the smugglers.

He said drugs were smuggled into Logar from eastern provinces over the past three years and sent abroad from here.

A resident of the Kharwar district, wishing not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News drugs were in abundance in the district despite zero cultivation of poppy crop.

"The government is confined to the district centre only and the rest is being controlled by the Taliban. Many people of our area are involved in drug smuggling and the Taliban take money from each vehicle smuggling the drugs," the resident said. (Pajhwok)

(19) Kabul Blast

Saracha car. I saw five people who were dead and dozens more wounded."

Lutfullah, a witness and an employee of justice ministry, told Pajhwok Afghan News the explosion took place in a car at a time that the employees of the ministry were preparing to leave for homes.

He added many persons had been wounded but due to shocks he could not understand how many people were killed.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

The explosion comes a week after two continuous suicide blasts in Darul Aman locality targeted Attorney General Office (AGO)'s staff, leaving many dead and wounded. (Pajhwok)

(20) Taliban Surround

the Taliban responded with calling them as infidels.

On Tuesday around 11am, Noorzai, said about 500 Taliban fighters attacked the Daesh group in the Mazar Qala area, sparking a gun-battle that lasted one hour.

The Taliban forced the Daesh fighters to retreat and disappear in the mountainous Jar area, which has been besieged by the Taliban, according to Noorzai, who had no information about casualties.

However, he said the intercepted communications revealed a Daesh commander had been killed. Telephone facility does not exist in the Khak-i-Safed district and that's why Pajhwok could not interview any resident about the development. (Pajhwok)

(21) Most Eastern Zone

"Mortality ratio was 1,600 per 100,000 in Afghanistan which has been reduced to 327 after training of midwives," Kamawal recalled.

Dr Wahidi Zahiri, director of midwives in Nangarhar, said: "We do not have midwives due to worst law and order in Nuristan, Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces. Only 10 percent of graduated midwives cannot go to their duty stations."

Sherin Gul, director of Laghman midwives association, seconded Zahiri's statement could truly depicted Laghman province situation too. (Pajhwok)

(22) Policemen

Baik added last night gun battle inflicted heavy casualties on militants and four dead bodies were still lying in the area.

Maj. Gen. Taj Mujahid Jahid, 207 Zafar Military Corps, also confirmed that the clashes were ongoing in Moor Chaq area.

Reinforcement of Afghan National Army (ANA) and air force had already reached in support of security forces on the ground.

Taliban said they had taken control of one of the check posts and inflicted casualties on police. One policeman was killed and heavy cache of arms and ammunition were also seized from the check post, the insurgents group claimed. (Pajhwok)

(23) 30 Rebels

militants on Monday. The government forces had air support.

Two notorious Taliban commanders Qari Shafiulla and Mullah Akhtar Mohammad were among those killed rebels. Mostly, the militants suffered casualties by airstrikes.

No civilian or security forces' casualties were reported in the clashes, he said, adding that 15 villages had been cleared of anti-state elements.

The anti-militants operations were being carried out in Saltaq, Haidarabad, Jangal Aregh and Qorba Chakosh districts. (Pajhwok)

(24) Taliban-Daesh

clashing few days ago and were still fighting.

He said both the sides had suffered casualties, but he had no figures. "People cannot go to their fields and remain indoors."

According to security officials, the Taliban and the self-styled Islamic State groups first clashed in the Kot district six weeks ago and then their clashes spread to other districts.

It is said the clashes are intensifying with each passing day and fresh fighters are joining the two sides. Many fighters are believed to be held hostage. (Pajhwok)

(25) 1,850 Killed

over half of the 738,000 it had aimed to help.

"WFP is appealing for a series of predictable breaks in the conflict to deliver desperately needed aid," she said.

UN refugee agency spokesman Adrian Edwards meanwhile said the humanitarian pause had allowed all six of the planned UN-HCR aid-loaded flights to land safely in Sanaa.

The pause, he told reporters had also allowed the agency to carry out around 40 assessments on the ground across Yemen, which had "exposed enormous difficulties for thousands of civilians displaced by conflict." (AFP)

(26) NATO Meets

last February.

Stoltenberg said he also pushed the case for "more transparency and predictability" in future Russian military activities. He said NATO is concerned about the large number of military exercises conducted by the Russians on short notice. He said it was important to make sure that incidents did not occur which could "spiral out of control." (AP)

(27) Kerry to

government since the end of military rule in 1999.

Apart from taking charge of the presidency, Buhari's All Progressives Congress also won majorities in both the Senate and lower house of parliament. (AFP)

(28) Georgia's

troops to NATO-led operations, including campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Margvelashvili said Georgia still feels the military threat from Russia after losing 20 percent of its territory to Russian-supported separatists after the 2008 war. Russia has border guards and troops stationed in the breakaway territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. (AP)