

(1) War on ...

summit) must deal with the issue responsibly, because the reluctance or support of some countries to fight terrorism has led to the expansion of the trend," said presidential spokesman Shahhussain Murtazawi.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in parliament have mixed feelings about possible outcomes of the summit. "All countries involved in the issue such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, U.S and the UK are taking advantage of the problem and they can not reach to their goals without fighting the war," said MP Ramazan Bashardost.

"Such meetings would prove helpful in restoring peace in Islamic countries if there is a will for it," said MP Sayed Ali Kazimi.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan is expected to host an international meeting on peace in June where delegates will look at ways to help the war-torn country reach long term peace and security.

"The objective should be the creation of a regional consensus towards peace under the leadership of Afghans," said deputy spokesman to the CEO Jawed Faisal.

Similar summits have been held in the past to boost international cooperation in the war against terrorism, however none of these summits helped root out terrorism.

Political and military commentators argue that fighting terrorism requires all countries around the world to take action against the menace from a single and united platform. (ToloneWS)

(2) Insecurity ...

conference on 'Justice, Good Governance and Sustainable Development' in Kabul on Sunday. This event was attended by high-level delegates from ministries.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) has said that kidnapping of businessmen, their family members, extortion, rising taxes, and problems with laws are among fundamental challenges faced by investors.

The gathering was also attended by officials from the Attorney General's Office (AGO), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Economy (MoEc), Ministry of Interior (MoI) and representatives from the business sector.

"War, violence and insecurity are hampering economic development, unnecessary paper work and bureaucracy are also wasting time and are posing economic harm; thirdly administrative corruption is also one of the obstructions for economic development and investment," said Danish.

"Justice is a queen which moves society towards peace and paves the way for good governance and sustainable development; this helps investors and businessmen feel secure," said justice minister Sayed Yusuf Halim.

"The government can maintain security for investors and their families if it takes solid action against corruption, rights violations, land grabbing, waywardness and law breaking," said Attorney General Farid Hamidi at the event.

"Security is one of the major problems, because criminals are backed by powerful elements, when they go to the court, they contact them to release them, they even kill judges," said Khan Jan Alokzai, deputy head of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI). Speaking at the event, CEO Abdullah Abdullah pledged that government is committed to addressing problems facing the business sector in the country.

"We will take solid action in this respect, there will be no compromise on it, although it happened in the past and you know that, if today there is a problem, you help us, you help the judicial institution and the attorney general and the police so that such issues are not repeated," said Abdullah.

The two-day conference which brought together officials from the Attorney General's Office (AGO), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Economy (MoEc), Ministry of Interior (MoI) and representatives from the business sector will suggest their recommendations through resolving their problems. (ToloneWS)

(3) Govt. to ...

education-- for not spending most of their development budget. However, the ministers continued on their job under a presidential decree.

On Saturday, Wolesi Jirga members once again called the continued work by acting officials as concerning, asking the government

to introduce new ministers to the lower house at the earliest possible. Gulalai Noor Safi, a public representative, told Saturday's session sending an incomplete list of ministers-designates showed the government's lack of seriousness.

She said the continued work by acting ministers was against the Constitution and the culture should be ended as soon as possible.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said security was a serious topic and the people were concerned about the continuation of war.

He said one of the reasons behind the insecurities was running ministries by acting ministers. He said acting ministers and directors had paved the way for the increase in insecurity.

Reacting to the lawmaker's concerns, acting Presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazawi told a press conference that the government was planning to address the issue at the earliest possible.

He said a list of newly-introduced ministers-designate would be sent to the Wolesi Jirga for approval in less than two weeks. (Pajhwok)

(4) Ghani..

the ties between the two countries, as two close neighbors, develop on the basis of mutual respect and good-neighborliness more than ever.

Hassan Rouhani was elected as the president of Iran for the second term on May 19 winning about 23 million votes (57%). The turnout was more than 40 million (70%). (IRNA)

(5) Senate..

heads to appear before the upper house's next session.

Last week, 20 senators staged a walkout in protest against not summoning IARCSC and CIDC-DA heads and against a written test for employment as computerized ID cards distributors.

Two weeks back as many as 6,500 people took the written test for 500 posts, but some individuals complained the way the test was taken. The Meshrano Jirga had summoned acting education minister Asadullah Muhaqiq Jahani and acting finance minister Shafiq Ahmad Qarizada to today's session, but the session could not be held due to a lack of quorum.

Only 10 lawmakers attended Sunday's session but they took walked out in protest over the absence of colleagues and members of the administrative panel.

Mohammad Nader Baloch, a lawmaker from Nimroz province, told reporters: "People are facing numerous challenges today but the government is engaged in internal rifts that have a negative impact on the Meshrano Jirga as well." "Fueling ethnic and linguistic differences had never been in the interest of Afghanistan and such attempts are the handiwork of hostile agencies," he added.

Nazar Mohamad Faqiri, another lawmaker, said: "The administrative penal should not allow the session to be adjourned. This house is the only hope of the people." Senate Chairman Muslimyar said: "Unfortunately today's session could not be held. I talked to the protesting lawmakers today and tomorrow we will organize a special session. The government has pledged sending the authorities concerned to be questioned by lawmakers."

He sought apology from the people and said the government should have taken the written test in two main languages. Jahani said the lawmakers might have some important works as they did not attend the session. He said issues related to textbooks' distribution, plots distribution to teachers and lack of teachers needed to be discussed. (Pajhwok)

(6) MUDH...

added that educated and talented cadres have been employed into the ministry which has resulted into the recovery of the ministry's image which was severely damaged in the past. He also added that Afghanistan for the first time managed to gain the membership of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, calling it a major step in the housing sector of the country.

According to Naderi, important meetings were held regarding the urban and housing development in Kenya conference with the deputy secretary general of the United Nations and UN-Habitat chief. Separate meetings regarding the urban and housing development were also held with the head of Indian's urban and housing development as well as the ministers of

urban and housing developments of Iraq and Poland, Naderi added. (KP)

(7) 3.5 Million...

education service would be evaluated for quality and areas which were deprived of education would be facilitated with the service this year. Currently 50,000 of 200,000 school teachers are nonprofessional, he added.

Shinwari confirmed low quality of education did not respond to the market demand in Afghanistan, saying lack of professional female teachers was another factor of poor education quality.

He said some 3.5 million children, including 2.5 million of them girls, were deprived of education due to insecurity in the country.

Shinwari suggested the government should launch effective programs in cooperation with international organizations for enrolling the deprived children to schools. Mohammad Rahim Jami, a founder of MSQEA, said the aim of the organization was to pave the ground for quality, fair, safe, free and permanent education to Afghan children until 2030.

He said the education sector had not been on the government's priorities list in past years, keeping the sector away in short supply of from resources and financial and technical support.

Jami asked militant groups and Afghan and foreign forces not to use educational centers as military bases against each other. (Pajhwok)

(8) Aid for ..

Laura Thompson, during a meeting with the minister of refugees and repatriation on Sunday informed about the increase in the aid for undocumented returnees. Laura Thompson visited the Torkham border crossing on Sunday, 19 May as part of her three-day mission to Afghanistan.

IOM has been providing post-arrival humanitarian assistance to undocumented returnees from Pakistan at the Torkham border crossing since 2012.

To better respond to the continuing and growing influx of returnees, IOM recently completed a significant expansion of one its four Transit Centers located on Afghanistan's borders with Pakistan and Iran, where the returnees receive assistance.

The aid includes household supplies, food, temporary accommodation, medical care and onward transportation assistance to their final destination in Afghanistan. The expansion work at the Torkham Transit Center has doubled the accommodation capacity, with the ability to host 30 families or 210 individuals at any one time.

The statement quoted Thompson as saying the assistances level to undocumented Afghan refugees had been increased as compared to the past as earlier 10-15 percent of refugees were assisted but now the figure had went up to 90 percent. The statement said the refugees and repatriations minister, Sayed Hussain Alami Balkhi, demanded more support for the returning families.

Balkhi said after the closure of Islam Qala border crossing in Herat about 3,000 to 4,000 Afghan returnees crossed into Nimroz province from Iran on a daily basis with 40 to 50 percent of the families needed humanitarian aid. He asked the IOM and European countries to increase their assistance for Afghan families.

Laura promised to discuss the issues of refugees returning via Nimroz with donor organizations and would make efforts at attracting aid for them. (Pajhwok)

(9) Political ...

reasons behind a resurgent Taliban, analysts believe. Military affairs expert, Shah Nawaz Tanai, told Pajhwok Afghan News that foreign intelligence agencies' interference in Afghanistan was one of the major reasons behind intensified militant attacks.

He said controlling conflicts in Afghanistan would remain a difficult job unless foreign interference was prevented.

"We are seeing the conflict is expanding with each passing day, it is because of foreign interferences and our divisions," he said. Tanai said poor leadership of security forces was another factor behind the deteriorated insecurity in the country. Political expert Dr. Faizullah Zaland said militants usually increased their attacks in spring and summer seasons.

"It is called fighting season, which has become a tradition since the

past 16 years."

He said militants had captured strategic areas in remote parts during the past 16 years and developed huge recruitment centers there.

"Corruption in military organs, low capacity, employments on ethnic, linguistic and regional lines and employment of corrupt commanders have given power to militants to carry out organized attacks even in the capitals of provinces," he said.

Zaland said two police districts of Lashkargah, the capital of southern Helmand province, were under Taliban's control for the past two years and the government had been unable to recapture them.

"Continued control of some important areas has boosted the morale of militants who think they can capture larger areas", he said.

About controlling conflicts, he said the two government leaders should decide who should lead the country.

"The government should adopt a clear policy about peace negotiations with militants, so there is a way for peace", he added.

A Wolesi Jirga member, Gulalai Akbari, told Pajhwok incapable government officials and absence of cooperation among government organs had encouraged the militants to expand their sway.

"If the Afghan forces decide to defeat the militants, they can do it because they have the ability of it, but why the government is retreating and allowing the enemy to advance is not understandable," she said.

She said if the militants further advanced, it would fail the government and foreign countries fighting against terrorism.

Sher Mohammad Akhonzada, a lawmaker from Helmand province, called inefficiency and differences among Afghan officials the main reason of militants' advance.

"Our government is divided, 50 percent belongs to one person and 30 to another, one is happy another is sad, this is not a government at all, they are a group of people doing nothing," he said.

Akhonzada said the militants had control over 50 percent of the country's territory and they wanted to expand their attacks to central regions and press the government.

He asked the government to come up with a strategy that could check the ongoing violence in the country.

Gen. Dawlat Waziri, Ministry of Defense (MoD) spokesman, said 23 operations regional military corps were ongoing in 17 provinces of the country.

"We are carrying out 33 military operations by commando forces in the whole Afghanistan, besides that, we also have air support. We conduct air strikes and night raids in areas under Taliban threat," he said.

About increasing attacks from militants, he said: "The militants wanted to expand their control in 2015, 2016 and 2017, but failed." "This year also they increased their attacks under the so called Operation Mansouri to show to the world that they are still alive, they are trying to achieve the goals of the previous years," he added.

Waziri said the Taliban launched attacks on a number of provinces to display their power, but they were defeated by security forces.

A MoD statement claimed 121 militants including two Daesh fighters were killed and 41 others wounded during operations in various parts of the country in the past 24 hours. Afghan security forces launched air and cannon operations in Nangarhar, Laghman, Kapisa, Paktia, Paktika, Khost, Ghazni, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Ghor, Farah, Kunduz, Faryab, Sar-i-Pul, Baghlan, Badakhshan and Helmand provinces since yesterday. (Pajhwok)

(10) Pakistan...

reaching a coordination is aimed at making more efforts to address the issues of returning refugees."

In her a brief visit to Torkham Township, she oversaw the assistance provision and called for needed steps. The online database system for registration at the zero point area has allowed the returning families to receive aid. "This database enables aid organizations to find where the returnees are." The IOM's deputy director general went on to say that Pakistan had promised to support the IOM in addressing issues of Afghan refugees. "Our office in Pakistan has been in contact with the Pakistani government and has submitted suggestions for resolving Afghan refugees' problems. Pakistan as a member country of IOM

has promised to resolve refugees' issues besides officially recognizing them there."

She assured his organization had devised a plan for Afghan refugees and would continue the mission with Afghan and Pakistani governments until all the refugees returned to their home country. (Pajhwok)

(11) NSC Yet ...

But the ministry of interior insists that it is trying to move the police force more in the direction of its fundamental duty which is implementing rule of law rather than participating in combat missions.

The MoI believes that the plan will help to improve the situation in the country and implement the law in society.

But, some senators argue that with the consideration of the situation in the country, there is a need for the Afghan National Police (ANP) to keep its combat forces.

"It is very regrettable as we continue to face war in every district and province across the country," said senator Lailuma Ahmadi. (ToloneWS)

(12) Ghani Expects ..

underway in this regard and it is likely that the talks will conclude on 15th May.

He said a result is expected on 15th May as there is a summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization afterwards in Italy and President Donald Trump will attend the meeting.

In the meantime, a presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazawi told reporters in Kabul today that President Ghani will leave for Saudi Arabia to attend the conference hosted by the country.

He said the Islamic countries will hold talks on terrorism and extremism at the Riyadh summit.

Murtazawi further added that the Afghan government expects that the Riyadh summit will lead to the establishment of a resolute determination to eliminate the menace of terrorism. (KP)

(13) SIGTAS ...

available challenges.

The head of the systems department in the Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance Noorul-Habib said SIGTAS has been activated with an aim to provide better and easy facilities for the taxpayers.

Habib further added that the system will help the government to control the taxes in a transparent and standard way and implementation taxes law in a uniformed manner and keep the documents of the taxpayers safe.

He said the system will also help to keep secure the information of the taxpayers, produce tax statements automatically, and calculate taxes.

The SIGTAS system was launched for the first time in the Ministry of Finance nearly six years ago and the system is fully operational in six provinces of the country. (KP)

(14) Hekmatyar ..

Afghan government.

The Afghan officials are optimistic that the signing and implementation of peace agreement with Hezb-e-Islami may help to encourage other insurgent and militant groups to join reconciliation process and end the war through negotiations.

Abdul Hadi Argandiwal, a moderate Hizb leader, told The Washington post that he is optimistic that Hekmatyar's welcome into public life will eventually persuade the Taliban insurgents to come to the negotiating table, but he also said the unrepentant warrior needs to transform himself first.

However, Noor said "We should give him a little time. If he wakes up and accepts democratic principles, everyone will welcome it, but if he sticks to this provocative behavior, it will not be good for Afghanistan's future." (KP)

(15) Fuel Imports...

Camp Supply (NCS) and National Fuel Corporation (NFC) Ltd are the Danish and Afghan companies importing fuel to the country, using the customs exemption forms, sources familiar with the business reveal. NCS supplies fuel to Kandahar airbase, the military in Kabul, German Camp in Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat Airport and many other bases across the country.

It has replaced the Supreme Company, which previously supplied logistics to international forces. Dogged by allegations of corruption, the Supreme Company fled Afghanistan, leaving behind a legacy of corruption.

The NCS Company, refusing to

pay 330 million afghanis to the Ministry of Finance, seems to be another Supreme in the making. NCS imported more than it should have. Despite its refusal to clear the dues, the Attorney General Office has neither imposed a travel ban nor issued arrest warrant for NCS executives.

NFC, which is an Afghan firm, supplies fuel to the Bagram airbase. According to a letter, dated Sawr 6, 1396 from the Ministry of Finance, a delegation led by the first vice-president and the deputy attorney general was appointed to determine the exact amount of fuel imported by the two firms.

Following a thorough investigation, the delegation shared its findings with the president, who ordered the Finance Ministry to take appropriate action on the issue of extra fuel imports and non-payment of taxes. (Pajhwok)

(16) German and ...

confirmed that a Finnish citizen had been kidnapped, adding that they were investigating the incident in coordination with their counterparts in Kabul.

"At the moment, the identity of the kidnappers is not known. Finland urges immediate release of the kidnapped person," the Finnish foreign ministry said in a statement.

Operation Mercy's director Scott Breslin told Swedish news agency TT that he was holding a crisis meeting over the incident.

"We know that she's missing, we will send out a press release later," Breslin said in a brief statement.

Operation Mercy works with local Afghan communities in areas such as reducing infant mortality and women's empowerment.

The kidnapping of foreigners has been on the rise, but the threat of abductions is even greater for Afghans.

Kabul is plagued by criminal gangs who stage abductions for ransom, often targeting foreigners and wealthy locals, and sometimes handing them over to insurgent groups. (AFP)

(17) 'Paktika

dozen drug smuggling related cases with the help of intelligence officers over the past one month and the perpetrators had been prosecuted.

"People can report about individuals involved in drug business to the attorney offices, it will help rescue the society from the dangerous phenomenon," Waziri added. (Pajhwok)

(18) Kickbacks ...

The reporter said most of the applicants wanted to take their patients to Pakistan for treatment. Others said they lived in Pakistan as refugees and some said they wanted to attend funeral ceremonies and wedding parties in Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

(19) Riyadh...

has been the victim of terrorism, and people are giving sacrifices every day in this country."

"Ghani should ask Islamic countries not to leave Afghanistan alone in its fight against international terrorism because the insecurity will one day spill over into their countries if not prevented here."

Meanwhile, Shir Mohammad Akhonzada, a member of Wolesi Jirga, said the Riyadh huddle was a good opportunity for Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(20) Taliban ..

at least 15 others were wounded in the fighting. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack on their website. The raid, the latest in a series of brazen Taliban assaults, underscores the insurgents' growing strength more than 15 years since they were ousted from power by the US invasion of 2001. (AFP)

(21) 15,000 Hectares...

Ghayasi said the locust had laid eggs on 25,000 hectares of farmland in Taikhonak, Sharikyar, Rubatak and Akhta Khana areas of Aibak and Laili Sai, Ach Qodoq, Kahodara, Qalin Qodoq, Omli, Alsha, Dasht-i-Larzghan, Qara Taba areas of Hazrat Sultan, as well as parts of Dara-i-Sauf Payeen district last year. (Pajhwok)

(22) ANA Artillery ...

to take control of the strategic Kunduz city for at least two times.

The Taliban insurgents often carry out insurgency activities including roadside bombings, target killings, coordinated attacks, and other types of insurgency activities in Ghazni province which links Kabul through Maidan Wardak province to the southern provinces of the country. (KP)