

(1) Govt. to

complimentary and coordinated intelligence operations." After news broke of the move, a widespread public outcry ensued – with MPs, civil society activists, political parties and jihadi leaders all slamming the move. Even CEO Abdullah Abdullah called for amendments to be made to the MoU. His deputy Mohammad Khan said in the week that the CEO had been aware of the agreement in general but that additional clauses had been added without his knowledge. "According to my information his Excellency Abdullah was consulted only on the draft agreement, but he remained completely unaware of some articles which were included in the agreement later on," Khan said. On Saturday India also came out against the move and Indian National security Advisor Ajit Doval told a press conference that the recent move was based on faulty assumptions.

"What Pakistan wanted was to get an assurance and put pressure on Afghanistan, so that they will not allow their territory to be used for any security related work by India," Doval said.

"That is the crux of it. This is based on a faulty assumption that India probably uses Afghan soil or Afghan nationals for its security purposes." India's reservations about the agreement are shared by many Afghans, who continue to distrust the ISI, which has long provided covert support for the Taliban.

Meanwhile, members of the security commission in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Sunday summoned the NDS chief Rahmatullah Nabil to appear before them and answer questions. The meeting was held behind closed doors. (Tolonews)

(2) Indian Consortium

steelmakers decided to scrap the \$10.8 billion Hajigak iron ore mine project altogether. The Financial Express reported that an inter-ministerial group is learnt to have come to the conclusion at its latest meeting that it would be prudent not to pursue the project. In the meantime, Abdul Qadoos, Afghanistan deputy minister of Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, also refuted reports that Indian consortium scraped the Hajigak iron ore mine project in Afghanistan. He said the contract was ongoing and progressing well.

The ministry said Indian and Canadian Companies won the bidding process in 2010 for the Haji Gak project. It said the Indian Company neither informed in written nor verbally about scrapping the deal. The report of Financial Express is baseless untrue. (Pajhwok)

(3) NUG Leaders

meeting in Kabul, government committed to this request. "Both teams (the National Unity Government leaders) need to unify their views regarding elections and both teams must have a united view over reforms. Both teams must focus on the issues that need reform, otherwise no reforms will be brought about," says Naem Asghari, Director of Programs at the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan. Some of the other election observing institutions have said that if the reform process does not start soon, peoples' trust in the government will decrease. These institutions add that the failure by the NUG to bring about reforms is jeopardizing both technical and financial aid from the international community. (Tolonews)

(4) Senate Stresses

Jirga's legal period would end on June 22. He urged the departments concerned and government to take steps to reform the election system and pave way for conducting parliamentary polls early. Chairman Senate Abdul Hadi Muslimyar said the ballot should have been held long before. He blamed the government for using delay tactics in hold the elections. Muslimyar also urged the government to work out election process and put an end to people's concerns. According to 83rd article of the constitution, the new members of the Wolesi Jirga should start work on June 22. The article includes the election for the lower house should be held one month ahead before the period of prior lawmakers end. (Pajhwok)

(5) Daesh Recruiting

"We don't want it to continue to grow, so the more we find out about it ... they can tamp this down before it gets to a level that you can see in Syria and Iraq. And again I think the fundamental difference here - Af-

ghans have told me that this will not happen - there is a different ideology of war you see in Syria and Iraq. In fact Taliban and Daesh, there are reports of them fighting each other," he said.

At the meeting he also said that most of the Taliban insurgents have become disillusioned with Mullah Omar, the Taliban leader.

"There is many Taliban that have become disenfranchised with Mullah Omar, where they are going, they see this is as an opportunity to maybe gain more resources and so they've pledged allegiance to Daesh," he said.

His comments come after Taliban insurgents drastically increased the number of attacks across the country – particularly after launching their annual spring offensive in April. The big difference however is that it is the first fighting season that the Afghan security forces are going it alone after the pullback of US troops at the end of last year. (Tolonews)

(6) Pakistan in State

national army personnel are patriotic and brave and I take pride in them as a supreme commander," the president said while addressing a gathering at MoD.

He Afghan security forces had considerable strength and nobody could overlook their power.

He directed the acting defence minister and other officials to take into consideration a rise in the amount of wages of the families of the lost soldiers and to set up a foundation in coordination with international organisations for helping these families.

The president also appreciated the work done by the health team of the MoD for saving lives of many wounded soldiers.

He reiterated that anybody who would use violence against people would be responded equally. "We don't want war. This war has been imposed on us. We want lasting peace but would respond with full force."

He again stressed that Afghanistan needed to have a peaceful co-existence with Pakistan in order to end the undeclared hostilities. "We need two kinds of peace. One is with Pakistan because this country is in an undeclared state of war with us."

"We won't back down even for a bit. Every person of this country should be assured that peace would occur in framework of the country's constitution and the holy religion of Islam," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) Stanikzai

Masoum Stanikzai receives the confidence of the House of Representatives, the cabinet of the National Unity Government will complete after about seven months since it was formed in September last year.

The nomination of Stanikzai for the Ministry of Defense was announced by the President in a gathering of International Contact Group at Presidential Palace last week.

Stanikzai has served as the Secretary for the High Peace Council, National Security Advisor to ex-President Hamid Karzai and as the minister of communications. (KP)

(8) HPC, Taliban

represented the Taliban delegation. But Taliban's Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied the visit of its political delegation to China. It was the first time that China hosted a meeting between the HPC and Taliban. Earlier, China had offered to support the reconciliation process in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(9) Afghanistan to

Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister Gadkari told PII in an interview

According to Gadkari a draft agreement will be signed within a month in this regard.

He said "I have given the orders to bring out tenders for purchasing cranes for the port. An agreement will be signed within a month."

The port will be developed through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) which will invest USD 85.21 million to convert the berths into a container terminal and a multi-purpose cargo terminal, according to India's NDTV. Access to Afghanistan's Garland Highway can be made from Chahbahar port using the existing Iranian road network and the Zaranj-Delaram road, constructed by India in 2009.

This would establish a direct road access to four of the major cities of Afghanistan – Herat, Kandahar, Kabul, and Mazar-e-Sharif.

The port will be also used to ship crude oil and urea, saving India transportation costs. It will also cut transport costs and freight time for India to Central Asia and the Gulf by

about a third. (KP)

(10) Pakistan to

Chaudhry and Afghanistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai, the Foreign Ministry said.

As the co-chair, Pakistan will take initiatives to take the process forward from the Beijing conference in October 2014, the ministry said in a statement.

"It will play a lead role in various activities of the Process, including three Senior Officials Meetings to discuss topics pertaining to the theme of this year's Ministerial Conference i.e. Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process: Enhanced Cooperation for Countering Security Threats and Promoting Economic Connectivity," it said. (Xinhua)

(11) Ghor MPs

for the residents.

"The lawmakers have different political and tribal affiliations and have differences since the Jihad times. Each one of them only try to compete and beat the other," he told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Arif claimed now also their only effort is to appoint their own relatives on government posts and those people who have no affiliations would not get appointed anywhere.

Interference by provincial council members and lawmakers in local government's affairs created problems for those individual who had no connections, he noted.

The issues, he added, had also created problems for school students. The district had 72 schools with more than 32,000 students, including 15,000 girls. Another problem of concern is that 27 of the schools do not have buildings.

"Interference by people's representatives, lack of buildings, books and stationary are among problems that the education sector in the province faces," Arif added.

He claimed staff of the education, health and police departments were relatives of lawmakers and provincial council members and they only work to serve interest of their people's representatives.

Fazel Haq Nejat, deputy director education department in Ghor, said representatives were meddling in schools' affairs in the districts that had created a huge challenge for education sector.

He added those who had come through merit and exams could not continue with their works. "All education officials in the district are acting officials today. All those acting officials are relatives of the lawmakers or PC members."

Nejat said two months back the education department in the district was closed due to these meddling, but after the new district chief started work the department was reopened. Mohammad Musa Kalim, Lal-o-Sarjantal district chief, also complained about interference by representatives in his affairs, saying the rivalry among them had caused many construction projects to be left incomplete.

At least construction of 13 schools, he claimed, had not been completed thanks to the rivalries among representatives. "These representatives have taken people hostage."

As many as 13 foreign NGOs had been implementing public welfare projects but the development projects did not change the lives of the people in the district.

Still majority of the local residents were poor and deprived of transportation, communication and other facilities to be connected with the district headquarters and other areas.

Fatima, a civil society activist, said there was more need for the developmental projects to be executed in Lal-o-Sarjantal, adding that the district was peaceful and people had close contact with one another.

She lamented majority of schools were still without buildings, the roads were in dilapidated conditions and the resident had been facing immense health and other sort of problems.

She said, poverty, heavy snowfall, flash floods and other natural disasters posed huge losses and authorities did not take notice of these grave challenges.

University teacher Musa Lali said due to wrong policies majority of the educated youth remained jobless and inefficient people were working on senior positions instead.

He praised the execution of some projects that brought development to the district, but said the impact of ineligible individuals was still a problem.

He alleged some lawmakers for not allowing qualified individuals to perform their duties. He said a police chief and a district chief who brought the letters of appointment from the Ministry of Interior could

not perform their duties.

According to Musa, the incumbent police chief is acting and the qualified district chief had been transferred to another district. (Pajhwok)

(12) Education, Municip...

transparency in its expenses, and distribution of agro-based and textile lands, he recalled.

Lack of attention to discharging waste from the city, Mohsini added, was another major problem.

Safar Mohammad Safar, Pul-i-Khumri mayor, however, said: "I have shared all the problems and challenges with provincial council members and I hope they could help us resolve them."

Safar said lack of cooperation from police and presence of powerful figures in the province had added to their problems.

Zabihullah Andarabi, 1st district police chief in Pul-i-Khumri, rejected Safar's claims, saying police have always cooperated with the municipality in implementing its programmes.

Provincial council head said the departments of education and disaster preparedness also had many shortcomings after their evaluation. (Pajhwok)

(13) Uruzgan PC

to get their problems addressed after the administrative board's election that was put on hold for seven months.

Independent Election Commission (IEC) representative in Uruzgan, Jan Mohammad Baryal, said all the PC members had been invited to the ballot, but still three members did not turn up.

The PC members elected Abdullah Haqbin as head, Mohammad Karim Karimi his deputy and Abdul Karim Khadimzai as secretary.

The newly-elected PC chief told Pajhwok Afghan News the election could not be conducted for the last seven months due to differences among the members.

He said they would try to serve the people of Uruzgan in the remaining time in line with the relevant law and principles.

PC member Hayatullah Afzali, who did not partake in the ballot, called the election as illegal and symbolic.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News the election was conducted by the governor who wanted his men to succeed. Another absent PC member Amir Mohammad Barakzai claimed he had not been informed about the ballot. However, he said he was happy that the election took place in a proper manner ending the deadlock. (Pajhwok)

(14) Voter Awareness

Malakzai said before Jalalabad similar workshops involving youth were organized in Behsud and Kama districts and would be conducted in all districts in the eastern zone.

Nangarhar's acting governor Mohammad Hanif Gardiwal in his address to the gathering urged the youth to play their part in strengthening democracy and creating awareness about the elections.

Recalling some problems that plagued previous elections, he said the youth should inform the people about the importance of elections and should help prevent electoral fraud in future elections.

One of the workshop participants, Ghotai, told Pajhwok Afghan News that she attended the workshop in order to learn more about the importance of elections and share her knowledge with women of her area.

She said women did not know how and to whom they should cast votes in the previous elections, calling for the voter awareness programme to be extended to remote areas where people knew little about the importance of elections. (Pajhwok)

(15) Strong Political

roles — chief executive and opposition. But Abdullah's deputy spokesman Javed Faisal said the two leaders had so far not discussed the creation of opposition, but talks in this regard would start soon.

However, no opposition could emerge since the formation of the unity government eight months ago. The government has been criticised so far in individual capacity in the absence of an opposition.

President Ghani, during his landmark visit to the United States in March, said the Taliban were "a political opposition" and peace with them was essential for ending the conflict in Afghanistan.

Former president Hamid Karzai, ex-jihadi leader Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayyaf, Ismail Khan, former National Security advisor Dr. Rangin Dardar Spanta, former spy master Amrullah Saleh and other politicians have been playing the role of an

opposition and they have criticised the government for its pro-Pakistan leanings. (Pajhwok)

(16) 17 Militants

Elsewhere in Kandahar province, three militants were killed during a clash with police in Seyah Sang area of Khakrez district. The clash broke out after a group of insurgents attacked a police post in the area.

Khpalwak said the police escaped unhurt in the clash and one Kalashnikov with five magazines were recovered from the dead.

Security forces have also launched an operation in Tehsildar area of Shah Wali Kot district, killing three militants and seizing some weapons. Dozens of landmines were recovered during police patrols in various districts and were defused, according to Khpalwak.

The Taliban have not commented on these incidents.

In eastern Laghman province, gunmen attacked the house of a local police commander in the provincial capital, Mehtarlam, on Friday night, injuring his wife and a son, the governor's spokesman said.

Sarhadi Zwak told Pajhwok Afghan News the local police commander survived the attack and three assailants were killed in retaliatory fire. (Pajhwok)

(17) Unemployment

"My appeal to all security organs is that they should fulfill their responsibility towards preventing drug smuggling and sale."

But speaking at the same press conference, provincial council secretary Jannir Zazai openly said that drug smuggling, sale and use had reached the climax in Khost.

He said poverty and unemployment pushed the youth into drug addiction and if the government created jobs for the youth, the number of drug addicts could fall.

"Though on low scale, drug smuggling continues uninterrupted here and its use is increasing each day in villages and districts. Among the drugs, hashish and alcoholic drinks are common."

Khost police chief Brig. Gen. Faiz Mohammad Ghairat acknowledged drug smuggling, sale and use, but said serious efforts were underway to deal with the menace.

He said police were trying to arrest drug smugglers, confiscate drugs and prevent their use.

He urged the people to inform police about the presence of drug smugglers in their areas so that action could be taken against them.

A resident, Ahmad Shah, said besides young people, children could also be seen using drugs, urging police to arrest drug smugglers and bring them to justice. (Pajhwok)

(18) Italy Coast Guard

in Libya gives traffickers a free hand to pack people into boats.

But the journey is highly dangerous: on Saturday five Tunisians died after their boat capsized while attempting the crossing, and last month around 800 people drowned in the worst such disaster in recent history.

The United Nations refugee agency said approximately 35,500 migrants arrived in Italy by sea between the start of the year and the first week in May.

Arrivals in Greece, Spain and Malta bring the total number of migrants known to have crossed the Mediterranean in that period to 62,500.

The number of dead or missing so far this year is about 1,800 versus 3,500 during all of last year, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. (Reuters)

(19) Civilians Among

incident in Daimirdad district of Maidan Wardak province on Sunday morning.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, said the incident took place when a roadside bomb hit a civilian car in Sultan Khail area of the district at around 7:30 am.

Two civilians were killed and six others, including a woman and two children injured, in the blast, he said.

In Ghazni province, one Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander and three militants were killed in a fire-fight in Qarabagh district when insurgents mounted attack on a police check post, Shafiq Nang, the governor's spokesman said.

Militants did not comment on the incidents so far. (Pajhwok)

(20) Baghlan-I-Markazi

Sherzad said only one public order police had been killed and a local police injured.

Zabihullah Mujahid, Taliban spokesman, said they had pushed back two offensives by Afghan security forces killing three soldiers.

Gen. Sherzad, however, said two civilians were killed after a mortar was

fired by insurgents.

Last week, residents had said at least 10 civilians had been killed and 28 more wounded during the Taliban and security forces clashes. Hundreds of residents they claimed had been displaced.

Asadullah Shahbaz, provincial council member, said Taliban did not have the ability to face security forces. He added the district was safe now. "If the government does not want Taliban to return then there should be coordination among security forces in Baghlan, Samangan and Kunduz provinces that is bordered with Baghlan-i-Markazi district." (Pajhwok)

(21) Voting Starts

Commission plans to issue two statements regarding the turnout of voters. The official results are estimated to be released Monday evening or Tuesday morning.

The 63-year-old Komorowski has been performing the president's duties since 2010. He was chosen in elections following the tragic catastrophe of former President Lech Kaczynski's plane crash in Smolensk, Russia.

Duda is the official candidate of the main opposition party, whose leader is Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the twin-brother of the deceased president. (Xinhua)

(22) Iraqi Forces

Popular Mobilization, recaptured the area of Anqoura, in the south of town Khaldiyah, some 80 km west of Baghdad, after they drove out the IS militants who seized the area about nine months ago, the source said.

The capture of Anqoura will secure the perimeter of Khaldiyah and nearby airbase of Habbaniyah from possible IS attacked on the security forces who are building up troops to carry out a major offensive against the IS militants.

The battle in Anqoura came a day after the troops and Popular Mobilization units retook control of the small town of Huseibah al-Sharqiyah, moving from their bases in Habbaniyah airbase and Khaldiyah. (Xinhua)

(23) 261 Syrian

on May 22, the Nusra militants stormed the National Hospital, completing their control over the entire city of Jisr al-Shughour in the countryside of Idlib province, much of which fell to the Nusra and like-minded groups over the past two months. (Xinhua)

(24) IS Kills 400

Sukhneh and Amiriyyeh and the al-Hail and Arak oilfields. Mamoun Abdulkarim, general director of Syrian antiquities and museums, told Xinhua that government forces managed to transport all movable ancient items from Palmyra to safe areas.

Abdulkarim expressed grave concern over the fate of the old temples and monuments that cannot be moved. (Xinhua)

(25) US 'Deeply

concerned this new power will further restrict the work of civil society in Russia and is a further example of the Russian government's growing crackdown on independent voices and intentional steps to isolate the Russian people from the world," State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said.

"We continue to be concerned about increasing restrictions on independent media, civil society, members of minority groups and the political opposition," she added in a statement that is likely to be dismissed with disdain by the Kremlin. (AFP)

(26) Putin Signs

dissent that intensified after Putin began his third term in 2012. His return to the presidency had been accompanied by mass street protests that Putin accused the United States of fomenting. Russian suspicions of Western intentions have been further heightened because of tensions over Russia's role in the conflict in Ukraine.

The new Russian law allows prosecutors to declare an organization undesirable if it presents a threat to Russia's constitutional order, its defenses or its security. (AP)

(27) U.S. Embassy

ATA Office and facilitated by the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office. He thanked the participants for their willingness to learn how to better inform the public about their efforts to combat terrorism and extremism. The ATA programs adhere to the "train-the-trainer" methodology, which amplifies the number of officers able to gain skills from the trainings sponsored by the U.S. Embassy. (AP)