

### (1) Govt. Takes ...

assured he is ready to cooperate with the government of Afghanistan to implement national strategy on fighting corruption. He added SIGAR considered to review the strategy and share its suggestions on its implementation with the government.

Welcoming SIGAR's step to review the national strategy on fighting corruption, VP Danesh stressed on acceleration of the process, adding this could also be a cooperation with the government and people of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Iran, Afghanistan ...

created in political, security, training, cultural, economic, water, environment and immigration fields.

Iran and Afghanistan have set up the quintet joint commissions to draw up a long-term cooperation document, which was finalized in Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's daylong visit to Kabul on May 7. (IRNA)

### (3) Moscow to Host ...

India and Pakistan are members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Afghanistan has observer status.

This comes ahead of another key meeting – the quadrilateral meeting with China, Russia, Pakistan and the US – which is scheduled to take place on October 16 in Oman. In addition the Kabul Process meeting will also take place in about three months.

A number of politicians meanwhile said Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries can play a significant role in Afghanistan's stability and Afghanistan's peace talks.

Politicians also said following the new US strategy on Afghanistan and South Asia, efforts have increased regarding Afghanistan's peace process and peace negotiations.

"This is a process and it's good that it starts. We hope that the main peace talks get started, but I don't think there will be any progress, unless the Taliban shows an interest in negotiations," Anwar ul-Haq Ahadi, head of the New National Front of Afghanistan said. A number of political affairs analysts however said if Iran and Pakistan do not cooperate with Afghanistan, reaching peace and security is impossible.

"Government has failed to get the most out of such meetings so far. In the Shanghai meeting also if our far and near neighbors, especially the regional powers such as Russia and China, were not involved in Afghanistan's peace issues, we would not witness peace here," political affairs analyst Sayed Ishaq Gailani said.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a political, economic and security organization that was formed in China's Shanghai city in 2001. (Tolonews)

### (4) UAE Company ...

commissions, reviewed Prologix's application and found it did not meet the criteria required.

Election commissioners said the contract for electronic equipment for the upcoming elections will now be put out to public tender.

"The company was not found to be capable to handle this contract and the proposal was rejected. The election commission has decided to send the issue back to the National Procurement Authority," IEC spokesman Abdulbadi Sayad said.

Last month the election commission sent out letters of request to a number of handpicked companies asking for quotes for the equipment. The contract is worth a total of \$16 million USD.

However, Prologix was the only company to meet the deadline.

The commission however, failed to put it out for public tender – a move that was met with sharp criticism. The reason the commission gave for this was that they were pushed for time.

After Tuesday's announcement, election watchdogs have called on government to carry out all election processes transparently. "We appreciate the commission and the committee's move and after this the commission should be more accurate in selecting companies," Abdul Wakil Babakar Khil, a member of Election Watch Afghanistan.

Election commission officials said they have sent the UAE Company documents to the National Procurement Authority.

"This move by the commission shows that government interferes in most affairs of the commission and such issues should not be referred to the National Procurement Authority," the head of Afghanistan Civil Society Elections Network Jandad Spinghar said. "Election commission handles issues within a specific range of costs, if the costs were more than that level, then based on the law the issue is turned over to the National Procurement Authority," Sayad said. (Tolonews)

### (5) Cost of Internet ...

in price nor in the quality of services provided.

Kabul residents said this time the promise made by the ministry is similar to the commitment it made in the past – which was not delivered on.

"The private telecommunication companies are thinking about filling their pockets not about the quality of their services or decreasing the prices. But government has control over the state-owned company," said Waheedullah, a resident of Kabul.

"They (the telecommunication companies) should try to decrease the price at some level and deliver their commitments which they make every day," said Rahmat, a resident of Kabul.

According to MCTI, at least 3.5 million people are using internet services in the country. The ministry says the number will considerably increase in the upcoming years. (Tolonews)

### (6) Withdrawal from ...

are working with Afghan security forces. Providing training and support to them. Helping them to make progress on the battlefield, and reduce their casualties," He said.

NATO secretary general say, the situation in Afghanistan was challenging. We all understand the cost of staying in Afghanistan, the human cost and the financial cost. But the cost of walking away would be much higher. If NATO leaves too soon, we risk Afghanistan returning to a state of chaos.

A safe haven for international terrorism. He said.

The last time that happened then it led to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States. In which almost 3000 people were killed.

"We cannot allow that to happen again. That is why we remain committed to Afghanistan. We are also stepping up elsewhere."

The Alliance was now a full member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS.

"Our AWACS surveillance planes are helping the Coalition to better understand the situation in the air. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Past 6 Months...

Police confiscated 111580 afghanis and 70350 American dollars from detained drug smugglers and collected 535 drug addicts and shifted to rehabilitation centres,

Another 17 individuals were detained for possessing 350 heavy weapons bullets, 50 hang grenades, 70kg of explosives and 19 landmines of different types.

Ihsas said police rescued an 11-year-old boy from his kidnappers in Sarobi district and arrested three suspects in connection with the case. The boy was reunited with his family.

He said three suspects in the murder case of Abdul Qadir had been arrested in Kabul and a three-member robbery gang and a five-member group of highway robbers had been busted in Paghman district.

During this month, Ihsas said, 17 people were caught red-handed playing gambling in Kabul and 286500 afghanis and 14900 dollars and one pistol were recovered from the detainees. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Female Entrepreneur ...

she is determined to promote domestic products through her business.

She urged the government to support businesses like her and help promote domestic products.

While Dastagerzada is not able to draw a salary for herself from her business, her six employees receive their salaries on time. (Wadsam)

### (9) Efforts Underway...

specifically name any individual or group attempting to spread ethnic violence in the country.

Hekmatyar gave a similar speech during a meeting with tribal elders of Kohi Sahi district on Sunday.

He said certain circles who are trying to maintain the war in Afghanistan and are working for the interests of the outsiders.

He did not provide further information in this regard but said such circles have robbed and looted the government and work based on the instructions of the outsiders.

The leader of Hezb-e-Islami also warned that war and violence will continue in the country if necessary steps are not taken to bring the situation under the control, specifically pointing towards the issues of migration and grabbing and the formation of a national government. (KP)

### (10) Islamabad Attempting ...

the Afghan government to withdraw from the peace efforts and opted a strict military option against the group.

In the meantime, Islamabad is informing regarding the efforts to resume the Afghan talks at a time when pressures by Washington is on the rise, mainly due to the sanctuaries of the Taliban and Haqqani terrorist network. (KP)

### (11) Taliban Collects ...

come from drug trafficking and Islamic taxation (Ushur and Zakat), but now the power bill is an addition to their incomes. (ATN)

### (12) Australian Jones ...

pleased to announce that I will be Afghanistan interim head coach for their tour to Hong Kong," the 56-year-old Jones said on his Twitter site.

The side will play against Hong Kong from Oct. 20 in the ICC Intercontinental Cup, which is a first-class tournament played between the Associate members.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board said the arrangement with Jones could be extended.

"Both sides will consider a long-term coaching agreement after the tour of Hong Kong," the board said in a statement. (Reuters)

### (13) Khost-Based ...

British-era Durand Line. One of the refugees, Gul Nawaz Khan, told Pajhwok Afghan News besides a shortage of

other things, they were faced with lack of fuel and warm clothing ahead of winter.

He feared they would be flooded by problems in the coming winter if the Afghan government and international aid organisations did not help them. He added tents donated to them in the past were unusable.

"With the arrival of spring, people of the Zadrani tribe go to other areas and we live in their homes. But in the winter, they come back and we have to live in tents," he explained.

In 2014, around 200,000 families fled North Waziristan and arrived in Khost and Paktika provinces after the Pakistan Army launched a major offensive against militants in the tribal areas.

The Afghan government and international aid organisations have provided the refugees with large amounts of aid.

Another refugee, Qadim Wazir, said aid from foreign organisations had come down to zero and their children were in urgent need of healthcare, education and other facilities.

Khost Refugees and Repatriation Director Mohammad Hasham Halim told Pajhwok they had reviewed the refugees' problems and would use all their resources to resolve them.

"UNHCR's local office organises a weekly meeting at the Gulan Camp to hear problems of refugees. But I don't know how they complain about lack of aid.

"We have chalked out a plan in coordination with UNHCR for winter aid, which would be distributed to the refugees soon," the director continued.

The refugees urged the International Organisation for Migration and UNHCR to continue assisting them. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Afghanistan Among ...

deforestation, excessive use of burning materials such as coal, crude oil on large scale and illegal excavation were main reasons behind the deteriorated environment.

The second vice president said Afghanistan's production of carbon dioxide was nothing compared to the world, but even then Afghanistan was one of the countries badly affected by the climate change.

He said according to the NEPA findings, water resources, forest, meadows, agriculture and health sector had been badly affected by the climate change phenomenon.

He urged the authorities concerned such as the ministries of agriculture, public works, rural rehabilitation and development, mines and petroleum and others to make joint efforts and get together in tackling the environmental issue. (Pajhwok)

### (15) ABP Have No...

The views of police official came at a time when five border policemen had already been killed by rebels when they went out from their posts to bring drinking water from a stream in the Marawari district of Kunar province.

Police chief Jumma Gul Hemat told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident happened in the Ghash Pesh area.

According to the spokesman the border policemen needed water for bath and ablution too there for the water supplied by to them is not enough.

After the Ghash Pesh incident social media users irked and accused Border Police Commander in the East Ayub Hussainkhel for negligence and demanded his removal. Some sources had claimed that Hussainkhel had been suspended.

But Safi said Hussainkhel duty was not suspended and he participated in security meeting today. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Report Claims ...

production (GDP).

"The Afghan government has committed to the international community to bring necessary reforms in this regard. The mining ministry has prepared a strategy to attract direct investments in the mining sector and to use the mines effectively to put a positive impact on Afghanistan's economic situation," mining ministry spokesman Abdul Qadeer Mutfi said.

The World Bank report also pointed to the agriculture sector and said there was enormous potential in this sector. The WB said that if promoted properly domestic produce could eventually replace imported produce.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) said the agriculture sector has already started playing a key role in the country's economic growth and has launched numerous programs to boost the sector.

"Our figures show that nearly 80 percent of Afghan people are directly or indirectly involved in agriculture and livestock and this has a significant role in increasing domestic revenue," MAIL spokesman Lotfullah Rashid said.

The World Bank also stated that the Afghan government needs to improve tax collection systems and do more to attract foreign investment. (Tolonews)

### (17) Zakhelwal, HEC ...

issues of Afghan students at Fatima Jinnah University had been resolved.

The Pakistani side also assured the diplomat of resolving the remaining issues within a month.

Nisar Ahmad Salar, representing Afghan students, said their documents had not been registered as part of the formal procedure by HEC. He alleged the officials concerned created problems for them. (Pajhwok)

### (18) ICRC Office...

times, including the rehabilitation centre in Mazar-i-Sharif."

In a statement, Monica Zanarelli said the incidents had affected not only the ICRC in the war-devastated country, but the organisation as a whole.

But Police Chief Abdul Hameed Hameedi told reporters that ICRC closed its office after stressed size of employees in Kunduz and rejected the security threat issue behind the organisation's closure.

"ICRC office has not been closed due to security issue but the organization downsized its employees from 100 to 50 and Kunduz is part of this process," said Hameedi.

He said he contacted officials of the ICRC in Kunduz who faced no security threats and the representatives of the office thanked from Afghan forces for providing them with protection services.

ICRC said, after discussion it had concluded there was no other choice but to drastically cut its presence and activities in Afghanistan, in particular in the north.

As a result, ICRC offices in Maimana and Kunduz will be closed, while its sub-delegation in Mazar-i-Sharif will be seriously downsized.

The rehabilitation centre in Mazar-i-Sharif will remain open, while the ICRC assesses the ability of partners – whether other organisations or the Afghan authorities – to take over the centre.

In the rest of the country, ICRC activities are also being reviewed. The humanitarian organisation said it was working on a severance and social plan for the staff affected by the closures.

"This is a difficult moment for the ICRC and its staff," said Zanarelli, who added: "After 30 years of continuous operations in the country, we are reducing our presence.

Earlier, an employee of the ICRC was abducted by militants on Aliabad-Kunduz highway. The employee was rescued and released by security forces. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Ghazni ...

residents urged both the warring sides to take care of civilians during the conflict.

A number of other residents of Ghazni complained about what they called bad behavior of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) forces.

Saeedullah, a resident of Giro district, said ALP forces had harassed people in many areas after clashes with insurgents.

"After the clashes end, ALP forces come to the area and torture people over accusation of links with Taliban, they do so to extract something from locals," he said.

"People stay at homes for at least two days after a clash due to such behavior of the local police," he added.

Provincial police spokesman, Fahim Amarkhel, said the Afghan forces had always protected civilians during clashes.

"But the Taliban use civilian houses as their bastions, they fire at Afghan forces from civilian homes and Afghan forces retaliate in defense," he said.

A spokesman for the 203rd Thunder Military Corps, Mohammad Hanif Rezayee, was of the same view.

"Our operations are advancing with care in order to avoid civilian losses, but Taliban are unprofessional and they use heavy weapons which cause casualties to local people," he said.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, said their fighters also tried to avoid civilian casualties during fights. "We never fire on security forces from civilian homes," he said.

He said more than half of Taliban attacks were carried out on roads and through ambushes that caused no casualties to civilians. Residents of other provinces have similar complaints and they regularly urge all sides to be careful about civilian lives. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Taliban Blamed ...

Yaqoob Khan Manzoor, deputy of Civil Society Coordination (CSC) office, said the Taliban had killed more than a dozen people on the Paktika-Ghazni highway.

He said serious action should be taken by security forces to ensure security on the highway.

There was no word from Taliban about the murder. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Nangarhar ...

trying to reconcile the families over the past few months and their efforts finally came to fruition.

Haji Wali Khogyani, a tribal elder from Sherzad and member of the jirga, told Pajhwok Afghan News the reconciliation was based on pure human, Islamic and Afghani values. A member of the Nangarhar provincial council, Ajmal Omar, acknowledged tribal feuds were rampant in Khogyani and Sherzad districts due to widespread illiteracy.

"Basically, it wasn't an issue between the two families; it was instead related to two villages and the long-awaited reconciliation would be useful for both villages," he hoped.

Members of both families, meanwhile, expressed pleasure over their enmity changing into friendship.

Subahanullah, a member of the killers' family, admitted to the crime of their elders. He said they had suffered a lot living with their relatives during the period.

Sherzad district chief Mohammad Hussan Kamalzai commended the tribal elders for their mediation efforts. He believed litigation alone could not resolve people's problems.

However, he said, selfless tribal leaders – wishing the rival families well – could resolve conflicts and problems.

The jirga asked the killers' family to give 3 million afghanis in compensation to the victims' relatives. A violation of the decision would mean a fine of six million afghanis, two oxen and 280 kilograms of rice. (Pajhwok)

### (22) Takhar Residents ...

"Each family is forced to pay between the fighters between 20,000 to 100,000 afghanis, depending on their status. If anyone refuses to pay, the Taliban punish them," he alleged. Sharifullah, who belongs to the Khwaja Bahaudin district of the province, also grumbled about being bullied by the Taliban to pay them cash.

"They have asked me to pay 50,000 afghanis, but I didn't have that much money. Subsequently, I felt obliged to escape to another area," the inhabitant charged.

A number of other people, whose economic condition is not good enough, have also fled their homes along with families due to the illicit demands, according to Sharifullah.

A resident of Yangi Qala district, who wished to go unnamed, also said the guerrillas had started a fund-collecting drive in his area.

In the past, he recalled, the Taliban extorted money from people in the name of Zakat and Ushr. Now the rebels were forcing them to pay, he said.

Police spokesman Maj. Abdul Khalil Asir confirmed the insurgents were collecting money from Darqad, Khwaja Bahaudin and Yangi Qala inhabitants.

"Worshippers in each mosque are asked to pay 1,000,000 afghanis and people have to do so to escape possible punishment," he said, adding security officials were trying to curb the practice.

But a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said local people voluntarily extended their cash assistance. The fighters did not demand specific amounts, he insisted.

Some reports in the not-so-distant past had suggested the Taliban were forcing people in different areas of the country to pay them money. (Pajhwok)

### (23) Heavy Clashes ...

Two local police soldiers were wounded in the clash, Jamshidi said.

Meanwhile, a source told TOLONews that a police check post fell to the Taliban in the district but Jamshidi rejected this claim.

In a statement released by the ANA in the north, four Taliban insurgents were also killed in an Afghan airstrike in Bilchiragh district of Faryab province.

Two other Taliban insurgents surrendered to the security forces in Qaisar district of Faryab province. According to the statement, these insurgents also handed over their weapons.

The Taliban has not yet commented. (Tolonews)

### (24) Taliban Militants ...

added that the deputy shadow district chief of the group for Mizan Hayatullah Mujahid, Taliban's shadow military chief for Mizan Sediq Agha, and three of their commanders were among those killed.

At least three vehicles, eight motorcycles, and some weapons together with the ammunition and explosives were also destroyed.

According to MoD, the militants suffered the casualties in the past 24 hours during the counter-terrorism operations conducted in various provinces.

The ministry further added that a total of seventy militants were killed during the operations and fifty two others were wounded. The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far. (KP)

### (25) Pak-Afghan

It is all over the world – why not in Afghanistan and Pakistan?" said Col. Muhammad Usman, commander of Pakistan's Frontier Corps paramilitary force in Chaman.

"These tribals have to understand that this is Pakistan and that place is Afghanistan."

Yet scepticism about the fence abounds. Pakistan's previous attempts to build one failed about a decade ago and many doubt whether its possible to secure such a lengthy border.

### THE TRUMP EFFECT

The appeal of erecting physical border barriers waned after the Berlin Wall was torn down in 1989. But in recent years, several populist leaders have advocated building walls to curtail movement of foreigners, most notably U.S. President Donald Trump, who wants a wall along the entire border with Mexico.

Hungary's right-wing Prime Minister Viktor Orban recently fenced the border with Serbia to prevent Syrian refugees and other Muslim migrants from entering the eastern European country that acts as a gateway to the European Union.

Pakistan, in anticipation of the fence, plans to build more than 100 new border posts and Islamabad is recruiting in excess of 30,000 soldiers to man them, according to a senior military source.

"Trump is doing as per requirements of America; we are doing as per requirements of Pakistan," added Usman.

Tense relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan boiled over in two divided villages in May during Pakistan's census survey.

More than 10 people were killed when Afghan border troops, objecting to the census, clashed with the Frontier Corps in Killi Jahangir and Killi Luqman villages near Chaman. (Reuters)