

(1) No Compromise...

role in areas of judiciary, security, politics, economy and culture and said women had achievements in these areas in recent years. He demanded continued support of the international community for active role of women. Earlier, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani said the current symposium was part of the 2013, 2014 symposiums which were held in the US and Norway. He said earlier symposiums on women empowerment were helpful and their results were shared with the international community at the London Conference.

Rabbani also termed the third symposium as important and said the gathering would help generate scholarly views on women's empowerment in the country. (Pajhwok)

(2) Norway ...

"117,976 people fled their homes due to conflict." The U.N. says it has received 16 percent of funds needed for humanitarian assistance this year. (Wadsam)

(3) Lawmakers ...

Commission (IEC) and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC), if approved. "Lawmakers should express their views and suggestions about the decree and prepare it for approval," he said.

Mirbat Khan Mangal, a lawmaker from Khost province, said: "It is our request to the parliament to approve the decree as soon as possible and clear its fate from being unknown."

Outspoken lawmaker Ramazan Bashardost said a number of lower house members who had connections in the government did not want the decree to be approved.

He said these lawmakers were against the conduct of elections and against the approval of the decree, which he said was also in the interest of those lawmakers.

"Even if the decree is approved, it would pave the way for the parliamentary elections to be conducted in next two or three years," he said.

Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the decree had been shared with the house special commission for study and with other commissions for suggestions. He said the house panels would prepare the decree for a vote after studying it.

Article 79 of the Constitution says: "During parliament recess, the government shall, in case of an immediate need, issue legislative decrees except in matters related to budget and financial affairs. Legislative decrees, after endorsement by the president, shall need parliament's approval." (Pajhwok)

(4) Afghan, Croatian ...

"The capacity building and empowerment of our security forces are encouraging, these forces have suppressed the Taliban with full capacity, however the presence of international forces helps us to fight terrorism together and we hope that on the basis of this, the international community focus on the Warsaw and Brussels summits," Abdullah said.

Croatian troops have served in the structure of NATO in Afghanistan for more than a decade. (Tolonews)

(5) India Pledges...

replacement of two transformers have already commenced and civil works are expected to begin soon. These maintenance works are expected to cost approximately US\$150,000. During the subsequent nine years, an amount of US\$60,000 would be released each year to the school for annual routine maintenance. The remaining amount of US\$310,000 will be utilised for modernisation programme, teachers' training, upgradation of school labs and equipment. Many prominent Afghan personalities have graduated from the school including President Ashraf Ghani and former president Hamid Karzai. The renovated school building was inaugurated in 2005 jointly by Karzai and then prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh. India and its people stand committed to the development of education sector in Afghanistan and assist country in rebuilding and modernising its educational system and institutions, the statement added. (Agencies)

(6) Afghan Cyclists ...

journey will promote the importance of harmony in their homeland. "We the people of Afghanistan are tired from war," said 18-year-old Firoz Khan. (Tolonews)

(7) First 4-Day ...

HBL started batting and scored 172 runs with the loss of four wickets, but the set time of game ended and the match was declared as draw. (Tolonews)

(8) Balkh PC Member ...

on cancelling the membership of Frangis in their next meeting.

However, deputy provincial council head, Shujauddin Shuja, denied the claim and said Frangis had traveled to Germany for personal work and would return to office.

Frangis had also worked as reporter with Bayan Radio Station of ISAF in the northern region.

She also survived a militant attack before being elected to the provincial council.

An official of Bayan Radio Station also confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News that Frangis had sought refuge in Germany. (Pajhwok)

(9) Govt. Must ...

wrapped up its two-day conference in Brussels where it renewed the alliance's military, political and financial cooperation to Afghanistan beyond 2016 and once again pledged the delivery of \$4.1 billion USD in aid to the Afghan forces.

It is said that to continue the war against terrorists in Afghanistan, lasting support of the international community is needed.

"Still there are some enemies who are not defeated or who have not changed their ideas, they think that the foreigners not only have decreased their forces, but they will withdraw from Afghanistan and the balance of power will change in their favor," former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmai Khalilzad said.

Meanwhile, at the two-day conference, the Afghan delegation committed to accelerate efforts to fight corruption, improve rule of law and provide better facilities to the people of Afghanistan.

"The commitments made by the NATO foreign ministers was a step forward for Afghanistan, however there is a need for the Afghan government to address the commitments it has made and implement them in letter in spirit," political analyst Barna Salehi said.

The Afghan officials in the past have constantly asked the international community to keep the flow of global cooperation for the country so that it can tackle challenges on the ground effectively.

"The Afghan government can preserve the cooperation and support of donor countries and that it implements the commitments it has made, because continued aid is a serious need," MP Ghulam Farooq Majroh said.

"We have committed to the international community particularly NATO to fighting corruption, improve good governance and consider electoral reforms. We are trying to attract the cooperation from international community by delivering on these promises," deputy presidential spokesman Dawa Khan Menapal said.

This comes at a time that the alliance is now preparing for the NATO heads of state summit in Warsaw in July in which they will discuss the military presence of NATO in Afghanistan beyond 2016 and NATO's continued financial cooperation to Afghanistan till 2020.

"Today we will review our preparations for Warsaw Summit meeting on Afghanistan and how we continue to support Afghanistan politically, militarily and financially. We will discuss our sustained Resolute Support mission beyond 2016. We will discuss our continued financial support for Afghan security forces," NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said on Friday.

But, before the Warsaw Summit, the Afghan government has taken measures towards implementing its promises to the world community before attending the key summit in July. (Tolonews)

(10) Afghans Handed ...

Islamabad should take some practical steps required to deepen relations and improve trust between the two countries.

He said after his meeting with Gen. Raheel, first the Torkham border crossing was reopened with his orders, after remaining closed for three days in a row.

Zakhilwal said Pakistan had promised the military installations in the Angoor Ada area would be handed over to the Afghan government within a week.

He said the handover would see the Pakistani forces returning to their previous centres. "I am happy that the Pakistan Army fulfilling their promise is the verge of handing over all the military installations to a visiting Afghan Defence Ministry delegation right now."

Zakhilwal said the Afghan national flag would be raised at the installations this afternoon.

The Barmal district chief in southeastern Paktika province, Hayatullah Safi, confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News the arrival of a MoD delegation in the district.

He said a Pakistani military delegation that visited the district handed over the military installations to the Afghan delegation.

Earlier, residents of the Barmal district and other border areas had claimed the Pakistani forces had entered about

20km inside Afghanistan and had built military installation including a gate. (Pajhwok)

(11) Greenhouse ...

greenhouses had also increased this year compared to last year.

Each farmer using greenhouses would collect 30 tons of harvest from each acre of land last year, but the outcome increased to 33 tons this year, Matin explained. Around 4,500 people are directly engaged greenhouse farming, he said.

He said farmers, the private sector and the government had invested from \$22 million to \$25 million in greenhouse farming in Farah.

Based on an estimation, farmers in Farah would earn \$15 million from greenhouse crops this year, Matin said.

Meanwhile, agriculture promotion manager, Shah Mohammad, said 90 percent of farmers grew cucumbers and 10 percent tomatoes in greenhouses in Farah. A few others grew pepper and back eggplant, he said.

"Earning more money with less investment has encouraged greenhouse farming in Farah," he said.

Mohammad added greenhouse farming was now a tradition in the capital of Farah province and a number of districts. Ninety percent of greenhouse crops were exported to other provinces from Farah, he said.

Sheikh Ahmad, 53, a farmer in Baghi-Pul area of Farah City, said he sent 800,000 afghanis to establish a greenhouse on his one acre of land.

While collecting tomato crops from his greenhouse with the help of his two sons, Ahmad said: "We collect tomatoes after every second day. We collect more than 1,600 kilograms of tomatoes and cucumbers each day and send them to market."

He sold a kilogram of tomato for 28 to 30 afghanis and the same amount of cucumbers for six to eight afghanis. Ahmad was happy with his income and said he would possibly earn 2.5 million afghanis from his crops.

However, Ahmad, another farmer complained about non-availability of market and support of government for their production.

He said greenhouses were increasing by each passing day in Farah, but a proper market for the crops was not available and the agriculture department did not help them in this regard. Ahmad Shah, a resident of Rigi area of Farah city, complained about a lack of cold storage for their crops and said: "The market is better this year after imports of cucumber and tomato were banned from Iran and Pakistan, but the amount of crops is very high that requires a proper market to be sold."

"We have no cold storage in Farah so we cannot keep our crops fresh for a long time, therefore Iran and Pakistan in winter export their crops to Afghanistan and sell them on double prices," he said.

Shah said crops collected from greenhouses had better quality and the government should pave the ground for their exports to foreign countries. Meanwhile, agriculture director, Abdul Manan Matin said they had increased tax on tomato and cucumber imports from Iran and Pakistan and traders no longer imported the two items to Farah.

He said his department was trying to pave the ground for exports of greenhouse crops to Turkmenistan. (Pajhwok)

(12) Limitations on ...

Following the escalation of insecurity in Afghanistan, a large number of Afghan youths are traveling to Iran legally or illegally for job opportunities. Last year, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) expressed gratitude to Iran for its supportive efforts regarding the Afghan refugees in the country despite little financial assistance provided by the international community.

Daisy Dell, the director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, said that Iran and Pakistan have supported the Afghan asylum seekers in spite of the fact that the international community has made little financial contribution to their efforts. (IRNA)

(13) Taliban Judge ...

further added that 20 fighters of the group were also killed and 3 others were wounded during the same operation.

Another senior Taliban leader Mawlawi Mahajir was killed together with his 2 fighters during a separate operation conducted in Greshk district of Helmand, the statement said.

The Afghan security forces also seized a PK machine, 1 Ak-47 rifle, and 2 communication devices belonging to the militants.

According to the 215th Maiwand Corps, the Afghan National Security Forces and the local residents did not suffer any casualties during the operations.

The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. Helmand is among the volatile prov-

inces in southern Afghanistan where anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating and frequently carry out insurgency activities. (KP)

(14) Kerala ...

their complaint.

Shah Mahmood, another resident of the area, said the then government brutally killed his family members and his villagers in 1979.

"All these civilians were gathered at a single place and security forces started firing at them, they were then buried through a bulldozer while some were still alive. A 120-years-old man and two mentally sick persons were also among the victims," he said.

Mahmood said 2,500 families were living in the village at the time and some families lost up to 10 members each. Another resident of the area, Hamidullah said: "My father, a brother-in-law, two uncles and two of our guests were also killed in the incident."

He said they wanted the perpetrators, some of them living abroad, to be punished. He asked the international community to sentence the criminals. BiBi Zainab, a woman from the area, also told Pajhwok she lost her five family members to the mass killing.

"A number of our women relatives came to our home that morning and were loudly crying that all their men were killed by government forces and then thrown into river," she recalled.

A tribal elder from Kerala village, Shah Mahmood, said they had complained to the human rights commission office in eastern Nangarhar province about the mass killing of civilians.

Rights officials came to the village and discussed with people the incident, but the discussions did not yield any results, he said.

Kerala Tribal Council has decided to share a complaint letter with the government and call for the perpetrators living inside the country to be tried, he said.

The Dutch Embassy in Kabul on Oct 27 last year said its police had arrested 64-year-old Dutch national of Afghan origin Sadeq Alamyar, suspected of his involvement in the Kerala massacre.

Alamyar, who commanded the elite 444 unit, is believed to have ordered and in person shot villagers in and around the Kerala village on April 20, 1979.

The Dutch Public Prosecutor's Office has asked persons who were present in or around Kerala, Dam Kalai or Asadabad on or around 20 April 1979 and who are witnesses of events relating to the investigation should contact the Netherlands National Police. (Pajhwok)

(15) Taliban Suicide ...

the "invaders," a references the Islamist insurgency uses for U.S. and allied forces.

The spokesman claimed the attack inflicted "several casualties and damage to vehicles," though the Taliban often exaggerates details of such attacks. Saturday's bombing came a day after NATO foreign ministers and alliance partners agreed to extend beyond 2016 the Resolute Support mission, which is mandated to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces and institutions.

The Taliban has said its violent campaign will continue until the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan and implementation of an Islamic system in the country.

Officers killed Separately, officials in the restive southern Uruzgan province said six Afghan police personnel were killed when their colleagues turned their guns on them at a security outpost early Saturday.

The police chief for the Chargino district the site of the violence, told reporters that three officers involved in the shooting have escaped taking weapons and vehicles with them.

On Friday, an Afghan security guard at a U.N. compound in Kabul shot dead a Nepalese guard and wounded another. U.N. officials say the incident is under investigation.

The Taliban often claims responsibility for such "insider" attacks, saying its loyalists have "infiltrated enemy ranks."

Earlier in the week in the southern Zabul province, eight policemen were shot dead by a colleague. The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility, saying the shooter was its member and managed to escape and return to insurgent ranks. (VoA)

(16) Taliban's IED ...

Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in its latest report.

UNAMA further added that consistent with 2015 trends, ground engagements caused the highest number of total civilian casualties, followed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), complex and suicide attacks, as well as targeted killings.

At least 11 civilians including women and children belonging to a same family were killed in the latest IED attack in northern Baghlan province of

Afghanistan. (KP)

(17) Pro-Gov't ...

The Taliban has intensified attacks since they launched a yearly offensive in April. About 600 civilians were killed and more than 1,340 others wounded in conflict-related violence and Taliban-led attacks in the first quarter of the year, according to UN mission in the country. (Xinhua)

(18) Sar-I-Pul ...

ammunition fell into hands of insurgents during the attack.

The Taliban confirmed the clash in Sozma Qala, with the group's spokesman, Qari Yousof Ahmadi, claiming the rebels seized two tanks, two mortars, a machinegun and other ammunition. (Pajhwok)

(19) France to ...

and arms dealing. NR data includes information that passengers give airlines, travel agents and tour operators when they make flight reservations and check in for flights. Itineraries, ticket types, contact details, baggage information and payment information will all be included.

The measure covers all EU member states except Denmark. (AFP)

(20) Russia, ...

partner for Russia and ASEAN members.

At Thursday's Russia-ASEAN Business Forum, AIB President Jin Lique said the bank wants to promote investment in infrastructure and mass transport lines in the vast Eurasian land, while Putin considered the AIB a complement to the current international financial structure, and called for its more positive engagement in the global financial institution. (Xinhua)

(21) UN Envoy ...

minister's compound, including his own office, while dozens of others entered many surrounding government offices.

The breach of the restricted district left at least 120 people wounded, including many security members, by the live bullets and tear gas used by the security forces to disperse the protesters.

"Restoring calm is key for Iraq to be able to move forward in finding a political solution based on inclusive consultations to resume the work of the united parliament to confirm a reformed government that is able and willing to proceed with the reforms that will address the priorities and challenges the country and the people face, first of all fighting Daesh (IS group) in unity," Kubis, who is also chief of Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), said. (Xinhua)

(22) House Prices....

currently priced out of the market. Others argue any benefit would be offset by a rise in mortgage rates and economic instability.

Many international banks and ratings agencies have warned that leaving the EU would destabilize the economy, and Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said earlier this month that a British exit, or Brexit, could tip the country into recession. (AP)

(23) G7 Finance...

agreed to adopt an action plan to block funding to terrorists group through information sharing and stricter rules on some financing transaction.

The finance ministers and central bankers cited that terrorism, the refugee crisis and a potential exit of Britain from the European Union as risks facing the global economy and complicating the economic environment. (Xinhua)

(24) Turkish Red...

refugee families and also make him happy for being able to help the needy. The Hasan family, who fled their hometown in Telafer, Mosul, following a major bomb attack by Islamic State (IS) militants, came to Ankara more than a year ago.

As his son was able to get some odd job, the family managed to pay the 450 Turkish lira (160 U.S. dollar) monthly rent. (Xinhua)

(25) DPRK Proposes ...

atmosphere and prevent war, it said. "We think that it is necessary for the military authorities to discuss in an honest and candid manner the outstanding issues related to any possible military conflict and agree on and implement institutional and legal measures essential for taking practical steps for building confidence between the militaries," the KCNA quoted the notice as saying.

While delivering the work report of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) at the party's seventh Congress on May 6-9, the DPRK's top leader Kim Jong Un proposed that the two sides on the Korean Peninsula hold talks at all levels to remove misunderstanding and distrust.

But Seoul has turned down the offer, saying the proposal lacked sincerity.

The DPRK's proposal "is merely its

propaganda drive with no sincerity as it speaks of inter-Korean dialogue while continuing to develop a nuclear arsenal," the Unification Ministry of South Korea said.

Meanwhile, Seoul has urged Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons program, saying that it sees the Korean Peninsula denuclearization as the premise of peace talks between the two sides. (Xinhua)

(26) Singapore ...

Minister Matteo Renzi; President of the Senate Pietro Grasso; and the Commissioner of Rome Francesco Tronca. In Venice, Tan will officiate the opening of the Singapore Pavilion at the 15th Architecture Biennale.

Tan will also receive a ceremonial welcome in the Vatican City and have a Pontifical Audience with Pope Francis. He is also meeting Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who visited Singapore in August last year.

Tan will be accompanied by ministers including Minister for Trade & Industry (Industry) S Iswaran; Senior Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Transport Mrs Josephine Teo. A business delegation led by International Enterprise Singapore will also visit Italy in conjunction with his state visit.

During Tan's absence, Mr J Y Pillay, Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers, will exercise the functions of the office of the President from 21 to 30. (Xinhua)

(27) Brazil Deficit ...

But the figure is more likely to be around 164 billion reais, Meirelles said. "The target is set with realistic parameters," the minister said of the new projection. Brazil, just a few years ago the fast-growing poster child of developing economies, is mired in acute recession and now headed for its third straight year of deficit spending. Meirelles said the deficit estimate does not take into account economic reform measures that are under consideration, such as renegotiating the terms of debt owned by Brazilian states. Rousseff was suspended from office last week and replaced by her vice president Michel Temer as acting president. She faces an impeachment trial on charges of tweaking government accounts to make them look better as she sought re-election in 2014. (AFP)

(28) Australian Firm...

kin were of victims named in an application by Sydney law firm LHD Lawyers, representing people from Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. Reuters could not immediately reach LHD Lawyers for comment.

The application was filed on May 9 and names the Russian Federation and Putin as respondents and seeks \$10 million in compensation per passenger, the report said.

The Dutch Safety Board, which was not empowered to address questions of responsibility, did not point the finger at any group or party for launching the missile. (Reuters)

(29) Pak-China ...

have supported and understood each other on issues related to each other's core interests, said Li. China always views and develops China-Pakistan relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, and is willing to work together with Pakistan to speed up the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and promote continued development of the all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation between the two countries, he said. Sharif said in his message that Pakistan and China are iron brothers, and their strong relations are based on mutual respect and similarity of perceptions on bilateral, regional and international issues.

"I am glad that our two countries are celebrating 65th Anniversary with great zeal and fervor," Sharif said. "Our continued work on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a manifestation of our commitment to break new grounds of fruitful cooperation while consolidating the existing bonds of friendship," he said. (Xinhua)

(30) S. Korean PM...

success of the Surgil project was possible only because of such close cooperation between the two countries," Hwang said at the ceremony.

Under the US\$3.9 billion project signed in 2006, the two countries will also build a 110-kilometer pipeline to deliver natural gas from a jointly developed mine in Surgil to the chemical plant in Ustyurt.

The gas mine in Surgil began commercial output late last year, marking the completion of the first phase in the three-phase joint development project. The third phase of the Surgil project involves production of chemical products at the Ustyurt plant, which will be sold in Uzbekistan and its neighboring states, as well as China.

The Seoul government earlier said the joint project will annually generate up to US\$1 billion in sales and \$200 million in profit. (Agencies)