

**(1) IECC Drops...**

removed from the final list of parliamentary candidates.

- Mohibullah, Ahmad Shah Shams, Amanullah Hotaki from Uruzgan;
- Abdul Rahman Shaheedani from Bamian;
- Fawzia Kofi, Maryam Kofi, Mohammad Nabi Bayan and Abdul Samad Abdul Hameed from Badakhshan;
- Assadullah Sharifi from Balkh;
- Sayed Jafar Naderi, Assadullah Islamzoi and Hayatullah Wafa from Baghlan;
- Ghulam Haidar Jailani and Noor Ahmad Sikandar from Parwan;
- Allah Mir and Nawid Ibrahimkhail from Paktia;
- Bashir Qanet and Assadullah Ayub from Takhar;
- Liyaqatullah Babakarkhail and Jabar Jabarkhail from Khost;
- Masooma Khawari, Mohammad Asif Azimi and Raees Khairullah from Samangan;
- Sakhi Nawid from Faryab;
- Qais Hassan, Mawlawi Tarakhail, Sayed Daud Naderi, Sedaqat Zahid, Ziaulhaq Amarkhail, Ehsanullah Atif, Shir Ali Ahmadzai and Zardad Faryadi from Kabul;
- Shayista Baz Naseri from Kunduz;
- Akbar Stanekzai from Logar;
- And Jawed Zaman from Nangarhar. (Tolo news)

**(2) 'Aviation Authority...**

said his government's main target was turning Afghanistan into a regional roundabout. "And today we achieved the target through the air."

The president stressed over technology use and said technology was the need of the modern area and the most advanced technology was being used in the radar system. (Pajhwok)

**(3) Afghanistan Seek...**

including need for full cooperation as per APAPP.

"We also discussed other bilateral commitments which, in turn, help with our peace efforts and reduction of violence," Zakhilwal said. Despite hectic efforts, Pajhwok Afghan News could not reach the military's media wing ISPR for comments on the meeting, which comes amid escalating violence in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(4) Ghani Stresses...**

and indicated their middling in the custom affairs.

He also stressed over the security of custom department officials. He ordered the governors to create committees on revenue and call their meetings every week. The president stressed over the elevation of revenue as it was an important matter for Afghanistan and international partners. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Shortage of...**

Khan said that the government had promised to provide them land in industrial park but they still did not get it.

Mohammad Sediq, owner of a clothes factory, said that his factory produce dresses, shawls, warm clothes, tarpaulins and some other type of clothes and offer them to market inside Paktia and some other provinces of the country.

He also complained about lack of electricity and proper place for his factory and asked officials concerned to resolve their problems.

On the other hand, a shopkeeper from Ghanzi province, Lamar Gul, who was visiting the clothes factory in Gardiz, said that security and stability was essential for investment and trade.

"In the past, we were importing clothes from Peshawar but now from Gardiz city, the price is also low and the distance is short, security is very important for business

so traders do not feel insecure on transportation routes," he said.

Paktia Commerce and Industries Chamber head, Abdul Nasir Alamyar, said that many international and national investors contacted them about investment in Paktia province, but lack of electricity, industrial park and security were main problems.

"The president promised many things to us, he also promised to build an industrial park here and turn Paktia to an economic zone, but I don't think only words could bring change, unfortunately investors have no electricity and place for work," he said.

However, Paktia Commerce and Industries Department head, Naqib Sarhadi said that building the industrial park was halted due to lack of budget.

He said around \$5 million was invested in different factories in Paktia and the investment can increase to \$30 million if traders provided with needed facilities.

"We are just waiting for the distribution procedure of the industrial park to arrive, which relates to industrial parks policy, secondly, budget is also important for the construction of the park," he added. Mohammad Asif Niazi, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) head for Paktia, said that commerce and industries organs did not provide information about the amount of electricity the parks need.

He said, "We first need to know how much electricity the factories need, if the current electricity can fulfill their need then we can provide it to them otherwise we should install an additional transformer," Paktia industrial park was approved years ago and was inaugurated during the President Ashraf Ghani's recent trip to the province, but practical work on the construction process yet to begin. (Pajhwok)

**(6) APCCI Hails...**

Chabahar port in Iran due to flaws in the Pakistan Afghanistan Transit Trade and other issues, he noted.

He hoped the new government would take steps for addressing the problems and grievances of exporters and importers and frame policies in consultation with businessmen. (Pajhwok)

**(7) Omanis Interested...**

are many opportunities in the field of saffron cultivation which is an important plant in the world. I think investment will be profitable in this sector and this plant has a good market in Oman," said Mohammad al-Reyami, an Omani investor. Afghan private sector members said government needs to ensure a smooth ground for Omanis' investment in Afghanistan.

"Besides other investment opportunities in the country, there is a huge interest from foreign businessmen, especially the Arabs. We need to attract this investment into an appropriate context and provide the groundwork for Arab investors in the country," said Muhibullah, head of B2B, a business consultancy company.

Economic affairs analysts said the Afghan government should ensure a proper ground for Arabs' investment in the country. (Tolo news)

**(8) India Pledges New...**

management of the strategic relationship between India and Afghanistan.

During the meeting of the JWG-DC, both sides had an exhaustive review of the large number of ongoing development projects spread over varied areas of cooperation such as capacity building, infrastructure, education, healthcare, good-governance, human resource development, etc. The two sides also expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of sev-

eral development projects such as the Afghan Parliament building, Afghan-India Friendship Dam, the first phase of Chabahar port and others.

The Afghan side highly appreciated India's timely assistance of 170,000 tonnes of wheat and 2,000 tonnes of pulses during this year when large parts of the country are suffering from drought. Both sides also expressed satisfaction that these large-scale deliveries were made from India to Afghanistan via Chabahar, highlighting the viability of Chabahar as a route for trade and commerce. Both sides underscored the importance of access through Chabahar port for strengthening trade and economic relations.

Encouraged by high level of cooperation in the field of development assistance and deep mutual trust between the two sides, it was decided to take up several small, medium and large scale projects for implementation in the near future. These projects most prominently include the Shahtoot dam, low cost housing for the returning refugees in Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan, polyclinic in Mazar e Sharif, construction of road connecting Band-e-Amir in Bamyān Province to the Bamyān-Yakawlang Highway and many others.

Both sides underscored the importance of safety and security of Indian personnel involved in development projects in Afghanistan.

The Afghan side assured their cooperation in ensuring the security of the Indian personnel.

The Indian side also accepted the request for consideration of new projects, shared by the Afghan side. It was agreed that these projects will be examined and considered for implementation, based on the priorities of the people and the Government of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

**(9) US Cuts Military...**

next academic year, the report said. The US National Defense University in Washington DC has had reserved seats for Pakistani officers over the past decade, according to the report.

The outgoing Pakistani officers, however, were told that the university has been asked to fill the positions for the next year with officers from other nations, Dawn said in the report.

The university is one of several US military institutions that train officers from Pakistan.

This comes after the United States Congress made a significant cut to the security-oriented financial aid to Pakistan earlier this month.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2019 ramped up the military spending and avoided policy changes that would have antagonized US President Donald Trump.

In the latest NDAA, the security aid to Islamabad — that had once started from almost \$750 million per year to \$1 billion — was marked down to a mere \$150 million. However, it also relaxed certain conditions that were attached with the financial assistance, including action against the Haqqani Network and the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), AFP said in a report on August 3.

This crucial reduction translates into the fact that the Pentagon might not have any tools to pressurize Pakistan into taking action against the banned militant outfits. The US had earlier used these funds to ask Islamabad to do more with regard to the counter-terrorism operations, especially against the Haqqani Network.

Lately, the Trump administration, which has become quite active in trying to make the Afghan peace talks work, has been pushing Pakistan to help bring the Taliban to the

negotiating table in order to reach a deal with Kabul's government.

"This is an unfortunate and ultimately counterproductive decision. There are certainly ways to send a strong message to Pakistan, but this isn't the way to do it," Michael Kugelman, an expert of Pakistan affairs at a Washington think tank, the Wilson Center, said as quoted by Dawn in a report today.

"This move could squander what little goodwill and trust remains in the military-to-military relationship, and it reduces the likelihood that Pakistan will act in the ways that Washington would like it to act," he said in the report. (Tolo news)

**(10) Ghor Orphanage...**

and social affairs department, said supporting the less fortunate children in getting education.

Poverty, insecurity, economic and social problems forced some children to stop going to school and work hard to eke out a living, he added.

Around 10,000 orphaned students live in Ghor. Of them, 200 are admitted to kindergarten. (Pajhwok)

**(11) 'Civilians among...**

other areas of the city as around 2:30pm.

Civilians were also killed or wounded during the battle besides the losses of warring sides without providing exact figures.

"Irresponsible response and negligence of the security sector, lack of an effective leadership and administration and lack of coordination among security institutions were the reasons of Afghan forces and civilians' casualties," he said.

He said Ghazni representatives had told the government five months ago that the Taliban had planned targeting Ghazni province, but the government paid no attention.

Amanullah Kamrani, deputy provincial council head of Ghazni, said that the Taliban launched attacks on the capital of the province on Thursday night and the fight was still ongoing just 800 meters away from the governor's house in Khawaja Ali area.

He also said that a number of civilians were among the dead as pictures captured from Moi Mubarak area showed bodies of civilians killed in the battle still laid on the ground.

Ghazni has strategic importance and if fallen, the militants can influence several nearby provinces as well, he said.

Kamrani said Jaghato, Khwaja Omari, Waghaz, Rashidan, Khojyehani and Nawa districts of the province were under the Taliban control and their offices were shifted to Ghazni city.

Launching a clearing operation, senior military officials' trip to the province, equipment of Afghan forces, punishment of those military officials who neglected and assisting the families of victims were the demands of Ghazni representatives.

On the other hand, Taliban claimed capturing the Ghazni central jail and releasing all the inmates.

They said their attacks around the governor's house and some other areas of Ghazni city were still ongoing.

A provincial council member, Ismatullah Jamradwal, said that claims about the control of Ghazni jail to Taliban were not confirmed by credible sources so far. (Pajhwok)

**(12) U.S. Investigation...**

"U.S. Forces-Afghanistan takes all allegations of civilian casualties seriously. Should any further credible information become available, an investigative body will reconvene to re-review this allegation," the statement said.

Afghan government officials said last month that as many as 14 civilians had been killed but said that the causes of their deaths was unclear.

A statement from the U.S. military last month confirmed that U.S. forces had conducted strikes in support of Afghan-led ground operations but said that its on-the-ground assessment gave no indications that they had caused civilian casualties.

According to U.N. figures, civilian casualties from air strikes rose by 52 percent in the first half of the year following a sharp jump in the number of aerial operations launched under a U.S. strategy aimed at forcing the Taliban to accept peace negotiations. (Reuters)

**Leaders of Germany, Spain Pledge United Front on Migration**

BARCELONA, Spain — The leaders of Germany and Spain on Saturday promoted a shared approach to immigration into the European Union amid growing populist opposition in other EU nations to taking in more asylum-seekers.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, meeting at a country estate in the southern region of Andalusia, advocated a "fair distribution" of migrants for EU nations. They said they will share their common vision at an EU summit next month in Austria.

"No country can be exempt from this challenge," Merkel said at a press conference after the meeting. "The racist tendencies we are seeing, regrettably, in all member countries is something we have to fight against."

Spain has become the primary destination for migrants attempting to reach Europe by sea in recent months. While largely welcoming, Sanchez's Socialist government is trying to stem the flow of migrants across the Mediterranean by holding talks with Morocco, one of the main departure points now used by traffickers to cross the sea.

As part of that effort, Sanchez asked Merkel for greater financial cooperation from the EU to assist Morocco and Tunisia with migrant control programs. (AP)

**Romania Braces for Fresh Protest after Clashes Injure 450 People**

Bucharest - Romania's capital Bucharest was bracing for another big demonstration on Saturday, only a day after more than 450 people were hurt and around 30 arrested in a huge anti-corruption protest.

Hundreds of people -- some carrying Romanian flags -- started gathering around a central square in Bucharest for a second day of protest, with the crowd expected to grow as the evening progresses. Police had used water cannon and tear gas to disperse the protesters as tens of thousands rallied on Friday to call on the leftwing government to resign.

Many demonstrators needed treatment after inhaling pepper spray and tear gas, while others suffered blows, hospital sources said.

Around 30 police were also injured, 11 of whom were taken to hospital.

Police rejected criticism from the centre-right opposition that its officers had used excessive force, saying its response to violence by dozens of protesters had been "gradual and proportionate".

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, whose country currently holds the EU rotating presidency, criticised the clashes, which also saw a cameraman for Austria's public broadcaster hurt. (AFP)