

### (1) U.S. Resumes...

previous decade. Afghan officials said Saturday's bombing killed more than 63 people and nearly 200 were wounded. More than 32,000 civilians have been killed in the past 10 years.

The Pentagon's special inspector general for Afghanistan said Tuesday that the conflict remains a stalemate, with the Taliban unable to expand their territorial holdings and Afghan government forces unable to reclaim lost land.

"The available measures of security indicated little change in the violence during the quarter," the Pentagon report said, referring to the April-June period. Some 14,000 U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan, and their withdrawal is a central part of the U.S.-Taliban talks. Some analysts have warned, however, that Trump's eagerness to bring at least some troops home ahead of next year's election could weaken the U.S. stance in the negotiations as the Taliban might see little need to make significant concessions.

The United States, for its part, seeks Taliban guarantees that Afghanistan, which hosted al-Qaida and its leader Osama bin Laden before the 9/11 attacks, will not be used as a launch pad for global terror assaults.

Both Khalilzad and the Taliban this month signaled they appeared close to an agreement, and Trump was briefed on the talks with his national security team on Friday.

Intra-Afghan talks on the country's political future are expected to follow an agreement, though the Taliban have refused to negotiate with the Afghan government, dismissing it as a U.S. puppet. The Taliban controls roughly half of Afghanistan and is at its strongest since its 2001 defeat by a U.S.-led invasion. Khalilzad has expressed interest in a deal by Sept. 1, less than a month before Afghanistan's presidential election. The uncertainty around the talks has led many Afghans, including some candidates, to question whether the vote will occur.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, stung at being left out of the talks, has insisted the election is needed to give the government a strong mandate to deal with the Taliban.

Meanwhile Tuesday, hundreds of people gathered in mosques in Kabul for memorials for the scores of people killed in the weekend bombing. Even in mourning, fears of a follow-up attack were high as armed community self-defense forces stood guard.

Some mourners criticized the Afghan government.

"They should apologize to the people for not bringing security" to the country, said Zia Mohammad, a relative of a victim. He called on Ghani to resign. The Associated Press has learned of additional deaths in the attack that were not included in the toll announced by Afghan officials, but officials on Tuesday would not comment.

"One of the wounded victims just died whom we hoped would survive and we are getting ready for his funeral," relative Hassan Mohammadi said. "Now we just hope that the rest of the wounded victims will get well soon."

Afghanistan's minority Shiite Hazara community, targeted in the bombing, feels especially vulnerable. The IS affiliate that emerged in Afghanistan in 2014 has launched several large-scale attacks on minority Shiites, whom it views as apostates deserving death. (AFP)

### (2) Afghan Delegates ...

Ghani and Prime Minister Imran Khan have agreed that a relationship of equality and cooperation can be developed through systematic mechanisms. They agreed on cooperation on promoting political, trade, energy, peace and prosperity. The delegates will review issues related to over two million Afghan refugees still living in Pakistan, visa issues and problems of businessmen. (Pajhwok)

### (3) UNICEF Urged ...

Urging the UNICEF to open its branch in the province, Saeed said few positive polio cases recently surfaced in Takhar due to lack of awareness programs and Taliban's ban on vaccination.

Meanwhile, UNICEF provincial coordination director Mustafa bin Masood told Pajhwok that he was visiting the province to find a suitable place for their new office and to assess affairs they had done in the province. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Abdullah Raises...

According to reports, the security forces transferred Mr. Ferozi to his residence after receiving instructions from President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

President Ghani reportedly issued the instruction for the transfer of Mr. Ferozi after receiving recommendations from a delegation which was appointed to review Mr. Ferozi's case, particularly focusing on his deteriorating health condition and the steps he has taken so far to fulfill the financial commitments he had made pertaining the Kabul Bank collapse case. (KP)

### (5) NDS busts 25 ...

two security officers.

All the detainees had confessed their crimes, said the governor, who informed a three-member militant squad wanted to infiltrate police ranks, target them and capture police check-posts.

Another four-member group was involved in robberies and kidnapping and was operating on the Kabul-Kandahar highway.

Hayat thanked the NDS personnel for taking serious measures for maintaining people's security.

He expressed doubt about Taliban intention for peace and said on the one hand they (Taliban) had launched peace talks and on the other they were inflicting casualties on innocent citizens. (Pajhwok)

### (6) US Seeks to Reduce ...

This comes after a deadly attack claimed by Daesh targeted a wedding ceremony in Kabul, killing over 60 civilians. Pointing to recent attacks by the group in Afghanistan, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah at a campaign rally in Kabul on Tuesday said that the Taliban is refusing to hold negotiations with the Afghan government and that the group is creating a hurdle on the way of peace.

"The reason is that Daesh makes a foothold in Afghanistan is to prolong the war and also the Taliban have insisted on the continuation of the war. It means they do not have the will for peace," said Abdullah.

"Any understanding which will be made should lead to a peace which is acceptable to the people of Afghanistan and that needs a ceasefire and end of the war," presidential spokesman Sediq Sediqi said. (Tolo news)

### (7) Drug Smuggling...

Afghanistan -- a lengthy process that harms goods," Bina continued.

Indian police reserved the right to check commodities, but they should not tear packages apart; they could search cartons using advanced technology, Bina argued.

Abdul Nafe Sarwari, commercial attaché at the Afghan Consulate in Mumbai, acknowledged problems had surfaced for Afghan traders after the smuggling case. He said the issue was resolved somehow as a result of efforts by the Afghan embassy in New Delhi. Subsequently, the Afghans are exporting their items to India in a smooth manner.

According to Indian media reports, around 260 jute bags containing 130 kg of soaked and dried Afghan heroin were seized from a container in the Customs Bonded area in Maharashtra.

The drug was transported in a basil seed consignment. It originated from Islam Qala in Afghanistan's Herat and took the sea route to Mumbai via Bandar Abbas, he contended.

The bust comes a few days after the special cell recovered 200 kg of heroin from four Afghan nationals in New Delhi.

Afghan national Ahmad Shah was in charge of importing jute bags to India from Afghanistan. The bags were to be delivered to reconstitution factories in Delhi and Punjab.

Shah had been arrested in connection with smuggling but the smuggler's nationality was yet to be ascertained, Sarwari said. It was hard to say Afghan traders were involved in smuggling, he insisted.

The official said: "We are working closely with relevant Indian organs on preventing such cases and more details will be shared with the media soon."

Khan Jan Alkozai, deputy head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), verified the problems being faced by Afghan business-people after the arrest of an Afghan national in connection with smuggling.

He told Pajhwok that two months back Indian police had recovered drugs from a warehouse where Indian, Iranian and Afghan goods were kept. According to Alkozai, police had detained 25 individuals, including three Afghan nationals. The incident has led to restrictions and problems for the Afghans.

He said it remained unclear whether the drugs had been smuggled from Afghanistan or it had been placed inside the cartons elsewhere.

Alkozai recalled a container that crossed the Wagha border from Pakistan had

been sized with one and a half kilogram of gold in India.

He claimed the drugs seized in New Delhi had been smuggled through the Chabahar Port in Iran to Dubai and then to India.

Samir Rasa, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce, confirmed the checking of Afghan traders' commodities had increased recently.

But he claimed trade with India continued in a normal manner through the air-corridor and no smuggling case had been recorded so far.

Sibghatullah Ahmadi, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the Indian government had set some regulations in the wake of the smuggling issue. The foreign ministry in Kabul and the Afghan embassy in India would look into the problem in case of violations of Afghans' rights, he promised. (Pajhwok)

### (8) All Ministry of ...

as lack of enough capacity.

Mutfa said the ministry was currently able to design and implement information systems in the accountability and transparency areas as well as promoting electronic governance.

Data center

The MoMP spokesman said the ministry had designed and created its data center with a high capacity in 2018.

Five provinces including Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh and Parwan have so far been connected to this data center and there was a plan to connect five more provinces this year, he said.

Mutfa said the data center was designed with Cisco Enterprise Architecture and could store the ministry's fifty-year documents and accelerate electronic governance and development of the mining and industry sector.

He said the center was created for institutionalization of digital connection, brining reforms and accountability, management of information systems and promotion of electronic governance in the ministry.

"This center stores and manages geological, cadastre and other relevant information", he said.

Information management

Abdul Qadir Mutfa said that the system of processing non-tax revenue and evaluation of non-tax revenue from mining contracts was designed and implemented last year.

He said so far 9,900 payments concerning last 10 years' contracts have so far added to the system which was automatically managing.

"Besides that, the system is also able to accept payments of different currencies if the government approves such a plan."

Mining Cadastre Administration System (MCAS)

Abdul Qadir Mutfa said that Mining Cadastre Administration System (MCAS) was designed and implemented last year for process, management and reporting of mining licenses and management of contracts related issues.

He said so far 1,020 contracts relating to the past 10 years and current time had been stored in the system.

Small scale system for online mining requests

Mutfa said for the first time a small scale system for online requests of mining was created in March this year with the aim to ensure transparency in the sector and promote e-governance.

He said the online system included detailed information about mines for applicants and companies could register their requests electronically for mining in a specific area.

Mutfa said 42 mining areas located in Kabul, Parwan, Bamyan, Maidan Wardak, Logar, Kapisa and Panjshir provinces were announced online and so far 60 requests had been registered on the regard. Tasks, documents tracking system

According to MoMP spokesman, the tasks and documents tracking system is managing documents and regulations and track tasks.

Task tracking system of major mining units

Mutfa said this system was created this year for the assessment of projects. He said in this system, the director assigns duties to officials of other sections for implementation and these tasks are assessed.

Geological reporting system

Abdul Qadir Mutfa said that the database for management of natural resources collection was created this year with the aim to improve the information systems of geological surveys.

He said the system stored all mines reports in the capital and provinces in details as well as located the location of a mine in Google Map.

Workers performance assessment system

Mutfa said this system was created for human resources department of the ministry to maintain high transparency in the employees' assessment area.

"This system stores all information required for the assessment of workers", he said. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Tour of Bangladesh ...

Bangladesh on September 15, third against Zimbabwe on September 20 and fourth against Bangladesh on September 21. The final will be is slated for September 24.

The squad for the only Test includes Rashid, Ihsanullah Janat, Javid Ahmadi, Ibrahim Zadran, Rahmat Shah, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Asghar Afghan, Ikram Alikhil, Mohammad Nabi, Qais Ahmad, Sayed Ahmad Shirzad, Yamin Ahmadzai, Zahir Khan Pakteen, Afsar Zazai and Shapoor Zadran.

The team for the T20I Triangular Series is: Rashid (C), Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, Hazratullah Zazai, Najeeb Tarakai, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Shafiqullah Shafaq, Najib Zadran, Shahidullah Kamal, Karim Janat, Gulbadin Naib, Fareed Ahmad Malik, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Fazal Nazai, Dawlat Zadran and Naveen ul Haq.

Apart from Mohammad Shahzad, who is serving a suspension, middle-order batsman Nasir Jamal, left-arm spinner Sharafuddin Ashraf, pacer Wafadar Mo-mand and left-arm pinner Waqar Salamkheil have been left out of the squad that beat Ireland in the one-off Test in March.

"We have selected a 17-member squad for the T20I matches as per the advice of the captain as we have two important tournaments - T20I Asia Cup and ICC T20 World Cup 2020 - ahead of us," Moles said. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Nangarhar...

smugglers during the period in the province.

He said during the month around 57 Taliban militants, including eight Daesh rebels, also joined the peace process. (Pajhwok)

### (11) U.S. Drone Shot...

Gulf Arab allies that Tehran is providing military and financial support to the Houthis and blames Riyadh for the deepening crisis there.

Overnight, Houthis military spokesman Yahya Saria said that the drone had been shot down.

"The rocket which hit it was developed locally and will be revealed soon at a press conference," Saria said on Twitter. "Our skies are no longer open to violations as they once were and the coming days will see great surprises," he added.

The drone shoot-down comes as tensions between Iran and the United States have risen since President Donald Trump's administration last year quit an international deal to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and began to ratchet up sanctions. Iranian officials denounced the new penalties as "economic warfare."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Wednesday Tehran may act "unpredictably" in response to the United States' "unpredictable" policies under Trump. (Reuters)

### (12) Google, Apple...

National Security Committee said in a statement this month.

The former Soviet Central Asian nation routinely blocks websites and applications used by its critics, including Facebook and Youtube, for short periods of time. The blocks have often coincided with public protests, the most recent wave of which took place around the time of the June 9 election which completed the transfer of power from strongman Nursultan Nazarbayev to his loyal ally Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. (Reuters)

### (13) Pope Gives...

her? Did I pray so the Lord heals her and protects her? Did I pray for her parents and her family?"

"When we see a person who is suffering, we must pray. This situation should help us always ask this question," he said.

Last year, Francis allowed a boy with autism to romp around the stage undisturbed. (Reuters)

### (14) Sudan Forms...

largely delegates executive powers to the cabinet of ministers.

According to the agreement, the opposition coalition is allowed to choose five members of the council and the military another five, with the two sides jointly choosing a civilian as an eleventh member.

The agreement also provides for a 300-member legislative assembly to serve during the transitional period and a cabinet of technocrats.

The main challenge for the new government will be an economic crisis stemming from a shortage of foreign currency, resulting in a cash crunch and long lines for fuel and bread. (Reuters)

### (15) Without Evidence...

Amazon rainforest, one of the world's most important bulwarks against climate change. Brazil is home to more than half of the Amazon.

Bolsonaro, a longtime skeptic of environmental concerns, wants to develop the Amazon, and has told other countries worried about rising deforestation since he took office to mind their own business.

Bolsonaro on Wednesday said the administration is working to control wildfires in the Amazon rainforest, which have hit a record number this year.

Speaking later, Bolsonaro criticized the Paris climate accord, saying that if it were so good, the United States would have stayed in it. But he said that for the time being, Brazil would stay in the pact. French President Emmanuel Macron warned in June he would not sign the EU-Mercosur trade treaty if Bolsonaro pulled Brazil out of the Paris accord.

Brazil's space research center, INPE, has detected 72,843 fires so far this year. When asked about the spread of uncontrolled fires, Bolsonaro has brushed off criticism, saying it is the time of the year of the "queimada" or burn, when farmers use fire to clear land.

"I used to be called Captain Chainsaw. Now I am Nero, setting the Amazon aflame. But it is the season of the queimada," he told reporters.

Earlier this month, Norway and Germany suspended funding for projects to curb deforestation in Brazil after becoming alarmed by rising deforestation under Bolsonaro. (Reuters)

### (16) Trump Accused ...

and former speaker of parliament, Pia Kjaersgaard, blasted the US leader for showing a "complete lack of respect" and for being "rude to the Danish people and the Queen who had invited him."

The same sentiment was voiced by former foreign minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, who told Jyllands-Posten that by abruptly cancelling his visit Trump has insulted the monarch.

"Trump lives on another planet. Self-centered and disrespectful," Pernille Skipper, a lawmaker from the Red-Green Alliance, tweeted.

As for Queen Margrethe herself, she did not publicly speak on the matter. The spokesperson for the royal family, Lene Balleby, however, told AP that the news of Trump cancelling his trip came as "a surprise." Trump argued that buying Greenland would be "strategically" beneficial for the US. He claimed that the island is a large financial burden for Copenhagen and keeping it hurts Denmark "very badly." (RT)

### (17) Australia Joins ...

trying to muster support for its "maritime policing" initiative. Previously, only the UK and Israel had volunteered to battle the much-hyped Iranian threat, following a series of mysterious attacks on oil tankers that were pinned on Tehran and reciprocal vessel seizures by Iran and the UK.

The Islamic Republic, meanwhile, believes the US is simply trying to enforce its unilateral oil sanctions through military pressure after failing to do it via political extortion. (RT)

### (18) 'Uncharted Waters...

to happen sooner rather than later, former British MP George Galloway told RT. "The coalition of the right-wing populists and the vaguely left wing populists will break apart and if you think about it, that's not much of a surprise even in the best of times," he said, adding that it was "never going to be a marriage that would last forever and they got divorced today."

And considering Italy's turbulent political history, some might even say the voters got good mileage from this unlikely alliance.

"Italy has a long history of short governments," Federiga Bindi, professor of political science at Tor Vergata University, said. "At some point we will say that a government that lasted a year and a half lasted long."

Snap election to prop up Salvini? Recent polls indicate that if a general election was held now, the League party would take about 38 percent of the vote, which goes some way toward explaining why Salvini is in favor of a snap election. If he succeeds, he will be able to form a more traditional right-wing government in an alliance with like-minded political forces like Forza Italia of Silvio Berlusconi and Brothers of Italy. (RT)