

(1) Afghanistan, India...

announced by President Donald Trump in August
As a desperate move to end reliance on Pakistan for trade, Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in June launched aerial trade corridor between Kabul and New Delhi.
"Those who create challenge for us should know that we turn challenge into opportunity," Ghani said back then.
Ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan are marred by mistrust and allegations of cross-border terrorism, however, the two neighbors have expressed willingness to improve relations.
According to the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), goods worth \$20 million have been exported to India since June via the air corridor.
Bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan has dropped by a quarter from over \$2 billion to little over \$1 billion this year due to strained ties resulting in frequent border closures and exchange of fire at the disputed Durand Line border. (AA)

(2) U.S.-Afghanistan ...

and assistance of the United States.
"We praise the continuation of U.S. cooperation and assistance including the convergence of border and public security forces," said Dawlat Waziri, the spokesman of MoD.
However, analysts say the security and economic situations were not in interest of Afghanistan's stability in the past three years.
"If ending war and providing security are in interest of the United States, these meetings will have results; otherwise, they will be useless as before," said Habiba Danish, a member of parliament.
Under the U.S.-Afghanistan agreement, the government has adopted benchmarks tied to global standards promulgated by the World Bank and other leading governance institutions.
The working groups also outlined plans to monitor Afghanistan's progress on the Compact's benchmarks, including the time frame for each working group's next meeting. (ATN)

(3) China, Afghanistan ...

support Afghanistan in defending its sovereign independence and territorial integrity.
He said China also supports Afghanistan in peace talks and reconstruction.
Bahrami said Afghanistan will firmly stick to the one-China principle and is willing to further cooperate with China in various fields. (Xinhua)

(4) MPs Warn of ...

chief executive and resolve their disputes through diplomacy and negotiations.
"All people have been armed, all people have taken up guns including men and women and are prepared to do what the honorable governor of Balkh tells them," said MP Breshna Rafi.
"You all must be aware that we will create a major coalition inside and outside parliament and no one will dare to stand before it," said MP Zahir Qadeer.
"Removal of Ustad Atta from Balkh province has several aspects, the honorable governor was tackled with political and ethnic discrimination and they want to weaken a particular ethnicity," said MP Abdul Hai Akhundzada.
"We call on both Jamiat and the government not to prolong this issue more than this," said MP Farishta Amiri.
"The government must bring an end to the issue according to the demands of Jamiat," said MP Qazi Abdul Rahim.
In addition, the administrative board of parliament pledged to mediate between the two sides, but stated that government is obliged to take all possible steps that could lead to ease tensions in the face of ongoing issues facing the nation.
"If needed, we will send a delegation comprising people from all ethnicities to address the issue and resolve it," said Nazir Ahmadzai, second deputy of parliament.
The lawmakers warned that tensions between the two sides will have serious implications for the country. (Tolonews)

(5) President Ghani ...

Hamidi presented a report on the "painful tragedy" in the Mizawlang village of the Sayyad district of Sar-i-Pul province. (Pajhwok)

(6) Religious Scholars...

religious scholars in Kabul in an effort to pave solid grounds for peace with the insurgent group.
Addressing the conference, chairman of the High Peace Council, Mohammad Karim Khalili, called on religious scholars to contribute to peace and security in Afghanistan.
Participants at the conference exchanged views on mechanisms of peace talks with the Taliban including efforts to promote inter-Afghan dialogue.
The HPC invited more than 700 religious scholars from across the country.
"Peace is the only solution to the ongoing uncertainties in the country. We have taken steps to launch formal talks with the

Taliban," Khalili said.
The conference wrapped up Wednesday in Kabul and the participants shared their suggestions with government.
They also called on Taliban to denounce violence.

"We need to support and strengthen the peace process and raise the voice of our people for peace everywhere," said Khalili.

This comes at a time that government is currently preparing to convene the Kabul Process peace meeting in Kabul with the participation of delegations from at least 20 countries and international organizations. The government is set to announce its strategy of peace with the Taliban at the summit.

"I want to make peace with Pakistan not the Taliban, if the Taliban call themselves Afghans and respect the honorable Ulema, so they should come and sit with us at the inter-Afghan dialogue so that we can reach a peace deal with Pakistan like state to state," added Ghani. (Tolonews)

(7) Noor Accuses ...

Jamiat-e-Islami, must decide on his fate.
"He had no answers to our questions and has nothing to say. If he opens his mouth, I have a lot to say," Noor said in reference to Abdullah who was at a gathering in Mazar-e-Sharif city, capital of Balkh on Tuesday.

Noor said he believes that several political figures like Ahmad Zia Massoud, the president's former special representative for reforms and good governance; Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, First Vice President; Bismillah Khan Mohammad, former defence minister and Ismail Khan, former jihadi leader and Minister of Water and Energy have been sidelined by the government and now there are plots against him, adding that Abdullah "betrayed" him.

"(President) Ghani is not the only one who is involved in plots against me and it is Abdullah who was mostly involved and betrayed (me)," Noor said.

"We will show the power to them... we will break the head and the teeth of the bully," he said.

Noor's comments come two days after Abdullah broke his silence over the saga and said: "I always said that it must not happen but it was decided 15 days before the announcement."

"Accepting of Noor's resignation was President Ghani's move. I always said that it must not happen but it was decided 15 days before the announcement. I hope this issue is solved without any problems," Abdullah said.

"The resignation was not my decision," he said adding that this issue must be resolved peacefully so as to not affect the system.

He also said that: "Unfortunately we have missed opportunities in the past three years but it does not mean we have not made an effort."

He believes that the NUG agreement has not been fully implemented but the formation of such a government was needed.
"We are thinking about people's interests, flexibility does not mean that this is a weakness," he pointed said.

Noor was however adamant that despite government's attempt to oust him as provincial governor, he was still Balkh's leader.

He said that he had not been appointed by "official letters (decree)" and could therefore not be fired by "letters".

Noor said he has told the Presidential Palace on many occasions that they cannot forcibly remove him as Balkh governor.

He said at the time of the NUG's establishment he had discussed the division of seats in cabinet and had played an active role in the negotiations. He said there were ministerial positions that should have been filled by Jamiat members.

Abdullah is a Jamiat-e-Islami party member, Noor said adding that the party had the right to change its candidate.

But Noor was adamant that he would stay on as Balkh governor until such time as Jamiat decided otherwise. He says his reason for staying on as governor is to make sure development in Balkh continues and that Daesh is prevented from taking a foothold in the province.

Noor thanked all those who had come out in support of him in the past weeks and said the First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum said his forces were ready to support Noor if needed. He also said he received the same support from second deputy CEO Mohaqeq and police of Kandahar, Gen. Abdul Raziq.
He said the Presidential Palace and the CEO's office must not use the international community and foreign forces to put pressure on him. (Tolonews)

(8) Extradited ...

and prison officials about the hunger strike, but the governor's spokesman, Jilani Farhad, confirmed some prisoners had gone on hunger strike.
He said a delegation had been tasked with investing the matter.
A few days back, family members of the prisoners extradited from Iran staged a protest demonstration in front of the governor's house. The protesting families

said the extradited inmates had spent long years in Iranian jails and they should be released to reunite with their families and start a normal life. (Pajhwok)

(9) Govt Set to Rollout ...

it is expected that the process will be launched by next week, we don't see any problem in this respect, the legal issues around the process have been resolved in parliament," said Jawed Faisal.

Meanwhile, officials at Afghanistan Civil Registration Authority (ACCRA) and e-NIC department have said that all necessary arrangements for rolling out the process have been taken and that they will soon decide on the center where the president will receive his e-NIC next week.

"There is a possibility that the honorable president visits one of our centers to receive his ID card like an ordinary citizen. There is the possibility that the ceremony is held at the presidential palace," said Roena Shahabi, head of the office of the ACCRA chief.

This new development takes place a week after a joint committee of Afghanistan's parliament unanimously endorsed a number of amendments that had been put in place in the census law based on which the e-NIC will include nationality and ethnicity.

"The current law on the census had been approved three years ago and it has been endorsed by the president, it is the best strategy to rolling out electronic identity cards," said one MP Fakoor Behishti.

The plan for e-NIC initially came under discussion during President Ashraf Ghani's predecessor Hamid Karzai time. But the process hit constant deadlocks due to the controversy over the inclusion of nationality and ethnicity in the process. (Tolonews)

(10) Former US

created by Harry for wounded former soldiers.

Despite admitting concern over the future of the US, Obama, who did not mention his successor Donald Trump by name, said he felt a sense of "serenity" on leaving the White House.

"There was a sense that we had run a good race," he added.

On his new routine, Obama told the prince: "I wake up later, it's wonderful to be able to control your day."

The prince opened the discussion by saying: "This is the first interview you've said 'yes' to doing since you handed over the reins", to which Obama replied: "that's true". (Tolonews)

(11) Soviet Invasion ...

in various parts of the country, triggering a war that lasted ten-long years and resulted in the Soviet Union's biggest defeat and subsequent disintegration.

During the invasion, Afghanistan was turned into rubble. More than one million people got killed, thousands maimed, and another five million migrated to neighboring Iran and Pakistan.

On the Russian side more than 14450 soldiers were killed and 49980 others wounded and 330 went missing during more than a decade of war.

Recalling the horrific memories, a number of Wolesi Jirga members today discussed the historic day.

Sakhi Meshwani, a lawmaker from eastern Kunar province, called the 6th of Jodi a "black day" in Afghanistan history. Pointing to Russia's recent statements about supporting the Afghan peace process, he said: "How can Russia bring peace?"

Abdul Sattar Khawasi, a lawmaker from Parwan province, also said the day gave birth to wars miseries that continued to haunt Afghanistan till date. "America, Iran, Pakistan, 15 Asian countries and the whole world reached prosperity as a result of the Jihad of the Afghan people, therefore the international community is indebted to the Afghans."

A lawmaker from western Herat province, Khalilullah Shahidzada, the black day unleashed miseries which continued in Afghanistan as of today.

"Russia is now interfering in Afghanistan affairs under the pretext of bringing peace, but Afghan people would not let Russia interfere," he said.

Nasrullah Sadeqzada, a lawmaker from Daikundi province, said: "We won against the Soviet Union, but we failed to control our souls, our jihadi leaders today make buildings, modern apartments and houses, but they have forgotten the families of the martyrs."

He asked former jihadi leaders to think about Afghanistan instead of their personal interests.

Second deputy speaker Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai said the Russian invasion of Afghanistan resulted in mass destruction of the country. "But Afghans defeated it." About Russia's support for the Afghan peace process, he said Russia was still interfering in the country and asked the government to prevent Russia from doing so. (Pajhwok)

(12) IEC Warns of ...

13. The letter said IEC be instructed in writing about the secretariat future.
The IEC statement added another person

was introduced as secretary of the commission on November 14 to the Presidential Palace but a formal response was yet to be received.

It added the IEC work might move slowly in the absence of the secretary whose main task was to implement poll-related decisions.

The IEC has announced July 28, 2018 as the date for the long-delayed Wolesi Jirga and district council elections, which should have been held three years ago. (Pajhwok)

(13) Water & Energy ...

Other lawmakers also held similar views and they urged colleagues not to victimize national interests.

Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzia, second deputy speaker, who chaired today's session, called impeachment the right and authority of lawmakers and said the decision would be taken based on the minister's briefing.

Under Article 90th of the Constitution, the Wolesi Jirga with 20 percent vote could impeach a minister. (Pajhwok)

(4) Many Bonded ...

bonded child laborers said, his father borrowed 50,000 Afghans from a salt trader two years ago because his father was ill. He did not name the trader, but added: "He gave the amount to my father on the condition that I as a son has to transfer salt to him from the reservoir until the loan is returned."

"My father is a mason, he cannot earn enough money to repay the debt," he said, adding his father rarely found work.

"The father does not find work daily. I don't know when the loan will be returned, I have to work with the salt trader till then," said Mehrabuddin. When asked about education, Mehrabuddin said he had never been to school.

Few more children working in the salt mine were also victim of human trafficking into forced labor, but they refused to be interviewed.

Mehrabuddin's father Fazal Haq, 40 (not real name), said he had tried hard in the past two years to repay the loan of salt trader but he was unable.

"I get work opportunity every second day or third day. After some days of work when I save some money to return the loan suddenly something happens in the form of illness or something else. I could not save money to free Mehrabuddin," he said.

He added: "I can't give you the name and address of the trader. He is a rich and powerful man, he may create a problem for me."

Like Mehrabuddin, tens of other children have been working in the mine to pay off debts their elders have obtained.

The father of Mehrabuddin urged the government to help him return the loan. Children working in mines develop many health problems: Health experts Elham, head of Taqcha Khana Clinic of Namak Aab district, told Pajhwok that most of the district's children were working in the salt mine.

"Salt extraction is not performed in a standard way or by machines and that is the reason many children got hurt", he said.

"These children also do not receive the enough food, they suffer from many health problems including asthma due to lack of oxygen in mine's caves and inhalation of salt's dust," he said.

He added such children also developed mental health problems because they suffered from labor pressure.

TIP High Commission: These activities are clearly Human Trafficking. Mohammad Hassan Salimi, a member of TIP High Commission told Pajhwok Afghan News, such activities are clearly considered as human trafficking and a crime. he added, this commission has raised the public awareness regarding these activities and the rest is the responsibility of the security forces to take action against it.

Above 90pc of Namak Aab children work in salt mine: Education officials Basir Ahmad Ibrahim, an educational supervisor in Namak Aab district, said most of the children in the district were working in the salt's mine instead of attending school.

"There are five schools, including Tashblaq, Kham Khairan, Sarkan, Taqcha Khana and Akabi Shahid around this mine, but only 100 students attend each of them, he said.

"Each of these schools is built for 1,500 students, but more than 90 percent local children work in the salt's mine instead of going to school," he said.

He asked parents to send their children to school and not destroy their future.

Bismillah Waziri, children's section head at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) in the north-eastern zone, said they had talked with families of children working in the salt's mine.

"We met with families of these children and asked them to send their children to school and prevent them from working in the mine," he said.

Waziri said the families had promised they would not send their children to the

salt's mine after two months.

Sayed Kazim Sadiq, Takhar labor and social affairs director, said hundreds of children were working in salt's mines in Namak Aab and Kulfgan districts and in coalmine of Chaal district.

"Children work more but earn less money in these mines, the main reason behind it is poverty," he said.

Sadiq said they had developed a joint plan with local officials for preventing children from working in mines in the next Georgian year.

According to Pajhwok Afghan News reports, currently nearly two million children are engaged in hard labor across the country. (Pajhwok)

(15) DIAG Submitted ...

connection with them.

Gen. Jawhar, DIAG commander in the east, said they were handed over around 700 weapons in the past 12 months by different security institutions in the east.

He added the DIAG program handed over these weapons to the Ministry of Defense (MoD).

Police Chief Lt. Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi told reporters that 591 alleged criminals had been arrested in connection with human trafficking, robberies, murders, street crimes and other incidents.

He said all documents of the detained individuals had been transferred to judicial organs for investigation.

Provincial Council member Mohammad Ajmal Umar hailed achievements of police and hoped these achievements would help reduce crimes. (Pajhwok)

(16) Taliban Suicide ...

before they could enter the ANA base, prompting them to detonate the explosives.

A Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, claimed its suicide bombers assaulted the base, killing a large number of Afghan soldiers. The insurgent group often issues inflated casualty tolls for such attacks.

Wednesday's attack is the third suicide bombing in Helmand in recent days, killing dozens of people. The largest Afghan province is known for being one of the world's largest poppy producing regions. Taliban insurgents control or influence a majority of the 14 districts in Helmand, which borders Pakistan. (VoA)

(17) Winter Operation...

TOLonews reporter Tamim Hamid, who has visited the area, said.

Abdul Mohammad, an electric engineer, said his team has been threatened in parts of Sayed Abad district in Maidan Wardak since they started working in the province a few months ago.

"It is clear for all that there are some people who don't want to implement such projects. Even there are people inside the government who support those elements," Mohammad said.

Other issues, officials said, were also impeding the power line transmission project in the province.

"There are many houses which have been built in the way of the transmission line. I cannot name the owners," said Jawed Karimzai, electricity officer in the province.

"They are powerful figures including local commanders, tribal elders and those who don't see the benefit in it are trying to impede such attempts," Fahim Amin, a civil society activist.

The transmission of 220 kilowatts of imported power project is part of a \$150 million USD plan which covers few southern provinces. (Tolonews)

(18) Night Raids...

of civilian casualties and for this reason the security operations in Uruzgan were going at a slow pace. Rahmatullah Qemati, Commander of the 4th infantry brigade, said several areas and villages were cleared of Taliban militants in the past few days. But residents termed the ongoing military offensive as unsuccessful and added the security forces had failed to retake most of the areas from insurgents.

Mohammad Rahim, a resident of Chapa Khak area, said security forces had been unable to recapture some areas in three kilometers from the provincial capital from Taliban during the past two years. (Pajhwok)

(19) Man Who...

informed about the first nikah, was acquitted in the case for a lack of evidence. A fifth person in the case was also acquitted and announced the sentences were not final and could be challenged.

Last solar year, Ministry of Interior investigation chief Abdul Ghafar Syedzada travelled to Khewa district and met with Wilayat Khan, his father, his second wife and the imam, who performed the nikah as part of investigation into the case.

At the time, Wilayat Khan had said: "It was midnight when I realized she is not virgin, so I called to her grandfather who willingly said Marhaba instead of Marwa will be given to him in Nikah and it was done the next morning." After three days of his second marriage, the imam told Wilayat that their Nikah was not legitimate and he had to wait for three months and 50 days to enter the wedlock with the second wife and he did so. (Pajhwok)