

## Indonesian Presidential Hopefuls Vow Energy Self-Sufficiency Via Palm

JAKARTA - Indonesia's two presidential candidates pledged to achieve energy self-sufficiency by boosting the use of bioenergy, particularly fueled by palm oil, to cut costly oil imports by Southeast Asia's biggest economy.

Indonesia, the world's biggest palm oil producer, has been pushing for all diesel fuel used in the country to contain biodiesel to boost palm consumption, slash fuel imports, and narrow a yawning current account gap.

In a televised election debate, President Joko Widodo said if he won a second term the government planned to implement a B100 program, referring to fuel made entirely from palm oil, after last year



making it mandatory to use biodiesel containing 20 percent bio-content (B20).

"We hope 30 percent of total palm production will go to biofuel. The plan is clear, so we will not rely on imported oil," Widodo said, adding that Indonesia's crude palm

oil production had reached 46 million tonnes a year. Agreeing on the importance of bioenergy for self-sufficiency, his opponent Prabowo Subianto said if elected he would also "boost the use of palm oil, palm sugar, cassava and ethanol from sugar (cane)". (Reuters)

## Ukraine Pitches for More EU Aid for South-East as Elections Near

BRUSSELS - Ukraine's foreign minister asked the European Union on Monday for hundreds of millions of euros in loans and aid for infrastructure and businesses in its troubled east and south, regions he said Russia was trying to "suffocate".

EU foreign ministers were discussing increasing support for Ukraine, which holds a presidential election next month in tough conditions. Russia annexed its Crimea peninsula in 2014 and backs armed separatists in its eastern industrial Donbas region.

The EU is also moving to put more Russians under sanctions over Moscow's standoff with Kiev in the Azov Sea, to the southeast of Ukraine.

"We need targeted... support for the



Ukrainian south, to work with us on infrastructure... Further Russian attempts to destabilize Ukraine's south would be very detrimental for European security," Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin told reporters in Brussels.

"(There is) an attempt to suffocate the whole Ukrainian Donbas... We need infrastructure, it's about roads and railways. (Reuters)

### (1) Ghani Wants...

On the occasion, Khalilzad said peace was a shared goal of the US and Afghanistan. Diplomatic efforts would be stepped up to achieve lasting peace in Afghanistan, he added.

The US was serious about a central role for the Afghan government and people in the peace process to preserve achievements of the past decade and a half.

"Our goal is to bring lasting peace to Afghanistan, and the expansion and strengthening of the two countries' post-peace relations will be discussed with the Afghan government," Khalilzad said.

The US was not aiming withdrawal, but sustainable peace in Afghanistan to end the 40-year-old crisis in the country, the US envoy maintained.

Khalilzad said that there were no differences of opinion between the Afghan government and the US on the peace process. Efforts in this regard were in a preliminary stage, he continued. Progress remained limited, but encouraging, he said.

A ceasefire and dialogue between the Afghan government and Taliban were the most important issues, Khalilzad remarked, welcoming Ghani's initiative to hold a Loya Jirga on peace.

"I have announced holding of a consultative Peace Loya Jirga to let all people contribute to this constructive debate. In coming days, a women's advisory jirga will be set up and delegates from 34 provinces will attend it," Ghani said. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Taliban, Afghan...

The statement noted that the meeting was delayed because some members of the Taliban delegation were in the UN blacklist. (ATN)

### (3) Peace in Afghanistan...

those who support them and condone them."

"We wish to eliminate the scourge of terrorism from the face of this planet," he said, adding that the Iranian regime was "deflecting blame because it was facing pressure from the people".

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman arrived in Islamabad on two days tripe on Sunday and signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for Saudi investment worth \$20 billion in Pakistan in coming years. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Export via...

On the other hand, Afghanyar said Afghanistan exports to Pakistan and other countries

through Torkham port increased by 19.8 percent in 1397 solar year.

"In 1396 solar year, we had exported goods worth of 91.11 billion Afghanis through Torkham compared to 126 billion Afghanis in the outgoing 1397 solar year," he said.

He said dried and fresh fruits; vegetable, leather and some other products were part of the exportations. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Logar Women...

Departments and the family did not allow me to work in other government institutions."

Shaperai, the resident of Mohammad Agha District, said she studied business and management in Pakistan and was unable to get job in Logar.

She called on government official to get her a job as she was worried and was looking for occupation.

Abdul Wali Wakeel, Deputy Head of the Provincial Council, said families did not allow their female members to go and work in government institutions.

"There has been professional, qualified and experiences women but their families don't allow them to work. All these are due to old customs and there was nothing wrong with women working outside."

Education Department spokesman Mohammad Shapur Arab said in the past 16 years 4,200 female have completed 12th class and 603 completed teacher training.

He added 400 qualified female had been appointed as teachers in the province.

Women Affairs Director Shema Zargar said they worked hard to explore job opportunities for women in the province.

"We strive to explore jobs for qualified females in government and private sector but still some professional and qualified women stayed home as their families barred them from getting education," she said.

She added total 500 women work in different Logar government departments.

Zargar said they engaged tribal elder and ulema in villages and remote areas regarding awareness programmes.

Deputy Governor Shamshad Dilawar said women presence in government institutions was low and it was not addressed in the past.

"The governor has held meetings with tribal elders regarding women rights and let them to work in the government institutions," he said.

Women have been facing restric-

tions on them to work outside at time when last year there was 30 percent surge in the incidents of violence against women. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Some Wolesi...

but asked political parties registered with the Ministry of Justice and civil society institutes to introduce new eligible members for the commissions within seven days, starting from February 16, according to the article 13 of the new electoral law.

The dismissal of the election commissioners comes following chaotic Wolesi Jirga polls on October 20 and 21 across 32 provinces.

The IEC announced initial Wolesi Jirga election results after a three-month delay and final results from only 18 provinces have so far been announced.

Yousuf Rashid, head of the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

### (7) US Special Envoy...

On Monday, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah also met Khalilzad at his residence. The CEO hailed the envoy's efforts for reconciliation a longstanding desire of the Afghans.

President Ghani hosted Khalilzad for dinner last night. The diplomat thanked Ghani for bringing together important voices of peace. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Afghanistan...

The \$1.3 billion received in loans from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Italy and Bulgaria, according to Finance Ministry's spokesman Shamroz Khan Masjidi.

He said Afghanistan has received the loans with easy terms and the amount is payable in 25 years.

"These loans are provided to us with only one percent interest and in some cases less than one percent interest and without interest and the amount is payable in 25 years," said Masjidi.

Countries normally provide easy-terms loans for implementation of infrastructural projects which is aimed to promote economic development. But critics suggest that in Afghanistan, there is a clear prospect about investing such loans.

"First government in the view of current economic situation has not reached to self-reliance and it will be unable to repay the amount. Secondly, part of the money has been invested in projects such as the transfer of power from Tajikistan to Afghanistan while we should have built dams with this money," said economic

affairs analyst Haseeb Moahid Afghanistan was on the top of countries in the region with high amount of loans during the former Soviet Union. But major part of the loans were then forgiven by the Paris Club. The Paris Club is an informal grouping of 19 nations, plus the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, who meet once a month in Paris to discuss whether to offer financial aid to developing countries, and whether to forgive existing loans.

The Ministry of Finance said that Afghanistan still owes \$20 million from Iran and Russia from the Soviet era, however, talks are underway with these countries so that they forgive the money. (Tolo news)

### (9) Govt Urged...

experience, and moral standing, and who meet the legal requirements.

"We call on the Government and all stakeholders involved to commit to transparency in all stages of the selection process, including by publishing the selection criteria, procedures, the full list of nominees, and by regularly updating the public."

The appointments should be made quickly, so as not to delay the necessary preparations for the presidential election. We also urge the Government and all relevant stakeholders to give the Secretariats of the IEC and ECC the necessary support to continue urgent preparatory work.

The Election Support Group (ESG) comprises the key donors - the European Union, the Governments of Australia, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic plus), Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, the United States of America - as well as NATO and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). It is chaired by UNAMA and convenes on a weekly basis. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Swedish Student...

liberal and leftwing politicians saw Ersson's prosecution as evidence of an official clampdown on civil disobedience.

"Sweden has been going towards tighter and tighter rules on asylum, the perspectives have been narrowed," Abir Al-Sahlan, a former MP for the liberal Centre party who campaigned in 2011 against the deportation of a 91-year-old Ukrainian woman, said. "It is amazing for me as a liberal that it is taking shape under a Social Democratic government ... Decency has retreated; this is a dramatic change in the Swedish debate."

Ersson originally boarded the

plane to prevent the deportation of 26-year-old Ismail Khawari. However, Khawari was not on the plane, and was deported separately. Seeing the other asylum seeker, Ersson decided to continue her protest nonetheless.

She told Swedish media: "My starting point is that he [the deportee onboard the plane] is human and deserves to live. In Sweden we do not have the death penalty, but deportation to a country at war can mean death. If someone has committed a crime, they may be jailed and serve their sentence in Sweden." (Guardian)

### (11) Bamyan: Lack of...

dispatched to the hospitals in time, more deaths could occur. At least two children and three men had lost their lives, he admitted. Around 40 to 80 patients visit the hospital on a daily basis but they have to return without treatment, the source revealed. Public Health Department official Dr. Mohammad Sadiq Sadiq said he was unaware of the deaths. He added district hospital officials had been ordered to resolve the issue at the earliest possible. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Inmates in Gardiz...

worker receives 120 Afghanis and a skillful person 200 Afghanis a day, we are happy to be buys it passes our time and improves our economy," he said.

A number of other inmates are getting literacy education and memorizing holy Quran but they face shortage of stationary and books.

On the other hand, Gardiz jail director, Brig. Gen. Afandi Gul Rubati, told Pajhwok that dozens of inmates in the jail were currently getting vocational and literacy education.

He said that there was high capacity for different professions among inmates in the jail but there was no good markets for prisoner's industrial and vocational products.

He said that the vocational training and products made by inmates would be accelerated if at least the government made a contract about products made inside the jail.

"Prisoners work in several different sections, but there is no market for products they make, if there is good market for these products it would make professional inmates more effective for people and our administration," he said.

About three months back, eight inmates memorized the whole holy Quran in Gardiz Central Jail. Around 400 people including four women are imprisoned in Gardiz jail. (Pajhwok)