

## NASA: Length of One Saturn Day Litter Longer Than 10 Hours

LOS ANGELES - Researchers have used new data from NASA's Cassini spacecraft to find out the length of a day on Saturn, which is 10 hours, 33 minutes and 38 seconds. The answer was hidden in Saturn's rings, said a release from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory on Friday. Time on Saturn has eluded planetary scientists for decades, because the gas giant has no solid surface with landmarks to track as it rotates, and it has an unusual magnetic field that hides the planet's rotation rate.

During Cassini's orbits of Saturn, instruments examined the icy, rocky rings in unprecedented detail. Christopher Mankovich, a graduate student in astronomy and astrophysics at University of California, Santa Cruz, used the data to study wave patterns within the rings. According to Mankovich's research published Thursday by *Astrophysical Journal*, he developed models of Saturn's internal structure that would match the rings' waves. It allowed him to track the movements

of the interior of the planet and its rotation, offering evidence for more scientists to discover the length of one Saturn day. His work determined that the rings respond to vibrations within the planet itself, acting similarly to the seismometers used to measure movement caused by earthquakes. The interior of Saturn vibrates at frequencies that cause variations in its gravitational field. The rings detect those movements in the field, according to the research. (Xinhua)

## Zabul Residents Call on Taliban to Join Peace

KABUL - A number of Zabul residents at a gathering on Friday called on Taliban to join peace. They asked government and Taliban to agree on a ceasefire in order to pave the way for ending the war and bloodshed. The residents said Afghanistan has experienced 14 years of war and violence and that it is the time for the Taliban to talk to the Afghan government and end the war. "First we want a ceasefire and then peace because Afghan people

cannot tolerate the war anymore," said Abdullah, a Zabul resident. "All know that peace talks are underway and this will be a 'shame' for us that foreigners want peace for us and we are staying reluctant," said another resident. The participants of the gathering said there is a need for a ceasefire as a first stage. "We want both sides, government and Taliban, to end the war," said Ehsanullah, a Zabul resident. (Tolo News)

### (1) AIHRC Lodges...

complaints against the presidential tickets which will be referred alike parliamentary elections by the commission to the relevant election bodies.

It comes as the election commission on Monday announced the initial results of the parliamentary elections for Kabul, declaring 33 candidates as winners of the poll including 24 men and nine women.

The IECC said it has received more than 1,000 complaints within the 48 hours after the announcement of the results. "These complaints would be addressed and we will see whether it could affect the results of the poll or not," said Ali Reza Rohani, spokesman of the IECC. (ATN)

### (2) Gulbuddin Hekmatyar...

He was put in prison after two years of his activity with the movement and was in custody since 1974. He went to Pakistan after the coup against former president, Mohammad Daud. After the coup, he started guerrilla war by the help of Pakistan against the government of People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

He separated from Hizb-I-Jamiat Islami Afghanistan in 1980 and created his own political party Hizb-I-Islami Afghanistan. His party was split into two branches - Hizb-I-Islami Hekmatyar and Hizb-I-Islami Khalis-- after two years of the HIA establishment.

However, he ended his military opposition with the current government by reaching a peace agreement with the Afghan officials. Based on the agreement, Hekmatyar was guarded from any judicial approaches, taken his name out of the UN blacklist and HIA inmates were released. After his registration as presidential candidate with the IEC, he told reporters that he did not believe in power sharing between political parties and ethnic groups and parties should be chosen based on merit.

He called the incumbent government failed and said, "The current government is the reason of prolonging ongoing war, this system is imposed on Afghans from outside,"

Hekmatyar said that he did not support a federal and premiership based system but the country needed a strong central government run by a president chosen by the public.

The HIA had previously provided an alternative plan for the constitution which is richer compared to the previous fundamental law, he added.

Earlier, Dr. Zalmai Rassoul, Abdul Latif Pedram, Mohammad Hakim Thorsan, Seyyed Noorollah Jalili, Inayatullah Hafez, Faramarz Tamanna, Shahab Hakimi and Mohammad Hanif Atmar have nominated for presidential elections.

According to the IEC, the candidate registration process would continue until Jan 20 and there is no plan to extend this process.

A presidential candidate should be a Muslim, Afghan citizen, having completed the age of 40 and should present 100,000 supporters and pay a million afghanis to the commission based on the electoral law. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Wali Masoud...

Masoud, in the past served as Afghanistan's ambassador to the United Kingdom and headed the Masoud Foundation.

Masoud told reporters after his registration that the national consensus team was comprised of Ulema, intellectuals, civil society organization, youths and national figures and entered with the slogan of change into the presidential race.

He added his team was comprised of six faces with three of them officially registered as presidential and deputies for the July 20 polls the three others would be later picked for the Prime Minister post and deputies.

He added the presidential system caused injustice, corruption and backwardness adding there was need for drastic change in the system.

Masoud said the main problem in past 17 year was that the president was the decision maker who he claimed brought the country at the brink of collapse.

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### (4) Afghan Taliban...

agreed agenda and there is no clarity on when they may resume.

"We have made it clear again and again that we would never hold any meeting with the Afghan government as we know that they are not capable of addressing our demands," said one senior Taliban leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The United States says any settlement in Afghanistan must be between the internationally recognized Afghan government and the Taliban, who have so far refused to talk to an administration they describe as an illegitimate puppet regime.

The Taliban leader said peace talks with the U.S. delegation could resume if they were assured that only three issues would be discussed - a U.S. withdrawal

from Afghanistan, an exchange of prisoners and lifting a ban on the movement of Taliban leaders.

Khalilzad arrived in Islamabad on Thursday and met Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan as well as the Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and other officials.

"The two sides reviewed developments post Abu Dhabi, in order to take the Afghan peace process forward," a foreign office statement said. An Afghan Taliban delegation had a round of talks last month with U.S. officials in Abu Dhabi.

The statement didn't give any further details on the talks, but several local TV channels reported that Pakistan agreed to host the next round of talks between the Afghan Taliban and the United States in Islamabad.

Khalilzad, an Afghan-born veteran U.S. diplomat who served as George W. Bush's ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq and the United Nations, was named by the Trump administration four months ago as a special envoy to negotiate peace.

Washington has long been pushing Islamabad to lean on Taliban leaders, who it says are based in Pakistan, to bring them to the negotiating table. It often accuses the south Asian nation of covertly sheltering Taliban leaders, an accusation Islamabad vehemently denies.

The United States, which had more than 100,000 troops in Afghanistan at its peak during the first term of former President Barack Obama, withdrew most of them in 2014 but still keeps around 14,000 there. (Reuters)

### (5) Trump Slammed...

service-members, amid a complex threat environment," Smith said.

"If Congress is not knowledgeable and able to gather information about these conditions, it cannot respond with appropriate resources and authorities to issues that affect our security and the well-being of our service-members..."

Trump and Pelosi have sparred during the partial shutdown resulting from a dispute over border wall funding. While Trump has pushed for more than \$5 billion for the project, Democrats have rejected his proposal.

Pelosi's office says she was forced to nix her Afghanistan trip after Trump barred her from using a military aircraft and she was told by the State Department diplomatic security that it was too dangerous to fly there commercially. Pelosi spokesman Drew Hamill said while the speaker and the congressional delegation were prepared to use commercial travel, the risks associated with the trip only grew after details of those plans to a war zone leaked. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Some MPs...

would likely announce until the

end of winter recess, the beginning of 17th legislative term.

In today's session of the Wolesi Jirga, a number of lawmakers presented working report of the house while some of lawmakers criticized the performance of the current legislative term.

Dr. Ramazan Bashardost, a lawmaker from Kabul, talking about the performance of the current Wolesi Jirga legislative term, said, "We oppressed the rights of people in this legislative term which was unprecedented in the whole age of the parliament, we betrayed the nation and defended corrupts and smugglers,"

He said that the performance of lawmakers during the 16th legislative term of the lower house was poor.

Ali Akhlaqi, a lawmaker from Ghazni province, said, "We failed to respond to the needs of people in this legislative term, 70 to 80 percent of our members were absent but no one raised their voice on this issue, this weakness refers to the administrative board,"

He said that most of lawmakers came to the lower house for their own and their assets protection, not for the interest of the public.

Amanullah Paiman, a lawmaker from Badakhshan, said, "History would judge about this legislative term, a number of lawmakers did everything what they could do for supporting murderers and criminals, they even insulted this house, the soles of some would not be in ease,"

Allahgul Mujahid, Eng. Kamal Safi, Abdullah Mohammadi and Fawzia Kufi, other lawmakers also criticized the current legislative term of the lower house.

Abdul Raouf Ibarhimi, the Wolesi Jirga speaker, said that today's session of the house was most probably the last session of the current legislative term of the house.

He acknowledged some problems in the 16th legislative term of the house, but said it was completed successfully.

Ibarhimi criticized the government and said the government did not refer basic organizations of the state to the house for approval as some of institutes were still ran by acting officials.

Mirdad Khan Najrabi, secretary of Wolesi Jirga, who presented the working report of the 16th legislative term to the house, said the lower house held 894 sessions and approved 193 legislative documents during the term. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Turkey to Become...

their needed saffron from Afghanistan," said Durrani.

"Exporting saffron to Turkey will help Afghan farmers and national economy. It will enable us to improve the product in terms of quality and quantity," Herat Acting Governor Mahyudin Noori said.

Afghan saffron is considered among the best in the world and has scooped international awards on numerous occasions.

(Tolo news)

### (8) Militants, Civilians...

Haji Obaidullah, the Maiwand district's administrative chief, told Pajhwok discussion was underway with the area's elders about the happened issue.

However, an official of the district told Pajhwok that four civilians were killed in the intelligence raid and residents of the area brought the dead bodies of the victims as protest to the district facility. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Pakistan Loses...

years, said Sarhadi, who has also served as senior vice-president of the Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

At a meeting with railway officials, he said Pakistan could earn a lot of revenue if it paid serious consideration to the goods in transit to Afghanistan, imports and exports. (Pajhwok)

### (10) 1 Killed, 3 Injured...

of anonymity, claimed the militants had taken away 11 individual and killed two others on the way.

But Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, Taliban's spokesman, denied the group had attacked the wedding party. (Pajhwok)

### (11) 43 Rebels Killed...

personnel in the news checkpoints.

Khoshal, the resident of locality, said insurgents from Tagab and Alasai also arrived in Najrab for militants' activities who had miserably failed.

He said most of the areas had been cleared and under security forces control. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Woman Among...

The rebels also targeted some pro-government uprising commanders after the raid. A local Taliban commander confirmed the killing of three men and a woman but denied the group's involvement. (Pajhwok)

### (13) ACB Picks 50...

The player picked for the training camp are Mohammad Shahzad Mohammadi, Hazratullah Zazai, Noor Ali Zadran, Najibullah Taraki, Usman Ghani, Javed Ahmadi, Ihsanullah Janat, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Rahmat Shah, Samiullah Shinwari, Nasir Jamal, Asghar Afghan, Darwish Rasouli, Shahid Kamal, Najibullah Zadran, Shafiqullah Shafaq, Rahmanullah Gurbuz, Ikramullah Alikhel, Afsar Zazai and Munir Ahmad in batsmen category.

In Bowlers category are Farid Malak, Aftab Alam, Dawlat Zadran, Saeed Sherzad, Shapur Zadran, Fazal Haq, Wafadar Momand, Yamin Ahmadzai, Zia-ur-Rahman Sharifi, Gulbuddin Naib, Rashid Arman, Mohammad Nabi, Karim Jannat, Azmatullah, Mirwis Ashraf, Mujib-ur-Rahman, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Zia-ur-Rahman Akbar, Waqar Salamkhel, Hamza Hotak, Zahir Khan, Abdul Baqi and Qais Ahmad. (Pajhwok)