

(1) False Accusers...

Later, a spokesman to the president termed allegations of Habib Ahmadzai as baseless, saying anyone having such claims should provide evidence and share it with the public. Haroon Chakhansori, a spokesman to President Ashraf Ghani, had expressed these views while talking to media persons on May 26, 2019.

Chakhansori called Ahmadzai's allegations as lies and personal obsessions and said the issue would be seriously investigated and its results shared with the Afghan public.

"The allegations of Ahmadzai are for seeking his own seat. After failing in Wolesi Jirga election, he again came to Presidential Palace and asked to be employed again as advisor, but he was rejected," he had said.

"The national unity government is serious about women's rights, allegations of Ahmadzai are insult to women, no one is permitted to insult the dignity of the Afghan women, we want politicians not to confuse the public in pursuit of their personal and political interests," he said.

He said anyone who had such claims should provide evidence and follow them with the Attorney General Office.

The BCC also made a report on the issue. Some women told the BCC that they were asked for sex in return for job despite fulfilling all legal process.

Second Vice-President Sarwar Danish today (Sunday), addressing a conference "National conference of Coordination on violence against women" once again directed the Attorney General Office (AGO) to investigate allegations against government institutions regarding sexual demand.

Danish said if these allegations were not proven, those who made the allegations would face harsh punishment.

Dilbar Nazari, Minister of Women Affairs, told the gathering that violence against women had increased. She said awareness programs had been conducted in this regard in districts and cities of the country.

Mohammad Farid, AGO head, termed today's gathering as important and crucial and said participants of the conference had come from across the country and it would help reduce violence against women. (Pajhwok)

(2) Direct Flights ...

The direct flights have facilitated easier travel for the Chinese businessmen investing in Afghanistan, come-and-go of both countries' diplomats as well as Afghan students' visit to China, Wahidullah Wardak, the marketing manager of Ariana Afghan Airlines told Xinhua.

The flight takes four hours from Kabul to Urumqi and vice versa - much shorter than the previous longer trips of more than 10 hours with one or two transits in Dubai or New Delhi, he said.

"Travelers would have to fly first to Dubai or New Delhi, and then to China, a long trip taking 10 to 12 hours before the establishment of the direct Kabul-Urumqi flights," said the official.

Afghan businessmen and students, traveling to other cities of China, are also provided with next transit eases by the company, when arriving at the Urumqi airport.

Despite some challenges, Abdul Wahid Omar, Kabul-Urumqi Sector Business Manager of the Ariana Afghan Airlines, believed the flights could be expanded to more than once a week. "We have now one flight from Kabul to Urumqi, but it would expand to two or more in the near future, when challenges are overcome," he noted.

The direct Kabul-Urumqi flight, which has opened an air corridor, also helped Afghan business people to export local products to and import goods from China, far easier than before.

"Our money is in our pocket, because Ariana is a government enterprise and in addition, we are very happy to leave for China in a more convenient way and continue our business," said Sayed Sulaiman who is running a small enterprise in Kabul and regularly visiting China, asking for increase in the number of flights to at least twice a week. Welcoming the resumption of the air transport after three years' interruption, Afghans believed it would further beef up the two countries' relations.

Hamidullah Arefi, chief editor of The Kabul Times daily, opined that the air corridor would strengthen political and social relations between the two countries, besides keeping bilateral connectivity and trade stable. "This is good, but it's not enough to take only Afghan businessmen to China's Urumqi. If ground corridors were also built, railways created and the flights number increased, travelling between Afghanistan and China on a larger scale will be possible," he said. With a total of 139 direct flights over the past three years, up to 5,800 passengers have left Kabul for Urumqi and returned home from July 2016 to July 2017, Omar confirmed. Some 6,300 passengers from July 2017 to July 2018 and 6,400 passengers from July 2018 until now, have used the air route between the Afghan capital and Urumqi. (Xinhua)

(3) Radio Station ...

warnings and telephoned in, to tell the radio

station to stop employing women.

"The Taliban also came to my house and issued a threat," Azimi said.

He said the threats had forced him to suspend broadcasts.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied that a Taliban commander had issued the threats.

"We are trying to find details," said Mujahid. The Taliban say many people falsely identify themselves as Taliban, often in the course of private disputes.

Several districts of Ghazni are under Taliban control.

The militants hold sway over about half of Afghanistan and they have been intensifying their attacks despite efforts toward a peace agreement to end the 18-year war.

The Taliban ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001.

Under their hardline interpretation of Islamic law, women were banned from working or going to school.

But the Taliban have recently been projecting themselves as a more moderate force.

In a recent statement they said Islam gave women rights in areas including business and ownership, inheritance, education, work, choosing a husband, security and well-being. But they denounced "so-called women's rights activists" who encouraged women to defy Afghan customs.

The Taliban have staged numerous deadly attacks against the media and Afghanistan is one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists.

The Taliban say they only target media that is biased against them. (Reuters)

(4) War-Displaced...

Pajhwok regional reporter interviewed some of the displaced families who said they were desperate for assistance.

The families number round 1,800.

Rohullah, 65, one of the displaced persons, said they left behind everything at home in Patakak area of Kajran district and were only able to save their lives. Now he is living with his family in a tent.

He said the government had turned a blind eye to them and urged the authorities to conduct clearing operations against militants in their areas as soon as possible.

Gul Naz, a displaced widow, asked the government to provide them food in their tents and security in their district.

Lotfullah, another war-displaced man, said they were displaced from Nawmesh district due the conflict in their area. He said clashes were ongoing in their district for the past two weeks.

Asadullah Sarwari, the natural disaster department head, told Pajhwok that they had dispatched a team to the area to assess the displaced families' number.

He said so far three NGOs had announced urgent assistance with the displaced families.

Meanwhile, Sakina Ahsani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok a delegation was being for assessment of the displaced families' situation.

Governor Syed Ala Rahmati told Pajhwok at least 23 security forces had been killed and as many others wounded during the two week-old conflict.

He said dozens of Taliban militants had also been killed and wounded in clashes with security forces. (Pajhwok)

(5) Afghanistan ...

Herat to travel to Somalia," said Hamidullah Khadim, head of Herat Chamber of Industries and Mines.

Khadim said that four medical device companies are operating in Herat and that six other firms will be established in the near future. (Tolo news)

(6) Constitution Your ...

student of the great philosopher Aristoteles. "Because he was eager to learn from other religions and philosophies to form his wisdom. So from the pre-Islamic period till today, Afghanistan has always been contributing to the richness of world culture."

The ambassador said 4000 French soldiers left Afghanistan in 2013 to be instantly re-deployed in Sahel in Africa, starting a very demanding counter-terrorism mission.

Since that date, 4000 French soldiers have been fighting against Daesh and Al Qaida in an operation covering five different countries, on a distance of more than four thousand kilometers.

"I emphasize this to remind us that this war against terrorism is a global war. We proudly take our part in it. But before we lost soldiers, we first lost members of NGOs."

About the September president election, the French envoy said: "Again, this election is your war bounty. Don't let anyone deprive you from that precious right so many people around the world would love to enjoy." David Martinon said On July 26 the election campaign will start and if the Afghans loved their country, they had to make these two months count.

"Make it a moment of real politics, a moment of vivid debates, of free expression, of respect. Make it a moment of passion. Put the 18 candidates under your own personal scrutiny. Ask questions, tough ones. Start debates about what Afghanistan should do. About peace notably! (Pajhwok)

(7) Etisalat Welcomes...

Matthew Willsher, and talked over team Afghanistan's performance in the world cup and cricket in general.

Mr. Willsher said "I think playing in the world cup was a great opportunity for team Afghanistan as they need more exposure to international cricket."

Mr. Willsher praised Afghanistan's performance in the world cup and said "Etisalat will remain committed to its promise of supporting sports and the sportsmen in Afghanistan".

Hamid thanked Etisalat for its support and said "I would like to offer my personal appreciation for all the support that Etisalat has provided for the development of sports in Afghanistan". He mentioned that "Etisalat's support has helped many sports teams to dream, grow, and achieve the impossible".

Nabi also expressed his gratitude and mentioned that "Etisalat's role in introducing Afghanistan's cricket to the world cannot be denied" and that "the company has been helping Afghanistan, in different areas, to become responsible and more independent". Hamid and Nabi have been the brand ambassadors of Etisalat Afghanistan for the past few years. Their selection as the representatives of Etisalat's brand in Afghanistan reflects company's love for the sports.

Etisalat, since its inception in Afghanistan, has supported sports teams at different levels. The company was the official sponsor of the Afghanistan national cricket team and has been associated with other sports like Skiing, cycling, volleyball, football, and Buzkashi. (PR)

(8) Over 590 Civilians ...

The figures, he said, cover the past three and a half months.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defense, Rohullah Ahmadzai, said the government forces are implementing measures to protect civilians during their operations.

"Narrow mistakes are committed in some cases in which civilians are hurt but we are working on full prevention of harm [to civilians]," Ahmadzai said.

On July 12, the Human Rights Watch said in a report that Afghan special forces raided a medical clinic in Wardak province on the night of July 8-9, 2019, and killed four civilians. However, later, the Ministry of Defense said the operation was conducted against militants.

Wardak residents called on government to protect civilians during their operations.

"The government should consider a change in its plans. Civilians must be protected," a Maidan Wardak Sayed Amir said.

An MP from Maidan Wardak, Abdul Rahman, said civilian casualties in pro-government forces operations is "a tragedy" and "horrific".

"The main reason is unconfirmed and unauthentic intelligence reports," said Mir Haidar Fazli, an MP.

UN Report on Civilian Casualties

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in a quarterly report on April 24 that it has documented high levels of harm to civilians but adds that there has been a 23 percent decrease in overall civilian casualties as compared to the same period last year and is the lowest for a first quarter since 2013.

The report says the UN documented 1,773 civilian casualties (581 deaths and 1,192 injured), including 582 child casualties (150 deaths and 432 injured) between January 1 and March 31.

In the first quarter of 2018, UNAMA documented 2,305 civilian casualties (799 deaths and 1,506 injured), including 609 child casualties (176 deaths and 433 injured), the report says. The overall reduction of civilian casualties was driven by a decrease in civilian casualties by suicide improvised explosive device (IED) attacks, the report says.

UNAMA notes the particularly harsh winter conditions during the first three months of the year, which may have contributed to this trend, the report says.

It is unclear whether the decrease in civilian casualties was influenced by any measures taken by parties to the conflict to better protect civilians, or by the ongoing talks between parties to the conflict, the report mentions. (Tolo news)

(9) 2014 Election ...

would be conducted in 224 districts of the country which would enhance women's awareness regarding participation in elections.

Perri Mayidin, ambassador of the European Union, termed the meeting as vital at a time when the presidential elections were approaching.

"We witnessed a great progress and development in election and the peace process and we witnessed a huge participation of women in recent Qatar meeting, which enhanced expectations that the people of Afghanistan will witness credible elections and peace in the country," he said.

The envoy added women's participation in last year's election was unsatisfactory and hoped in future polls more women would be able to participate.

Women participation in election was meant empowerment of democracy, people em-

powerment and respect to human rights. (Pajhwok)

(10) Helmand Set ...

cold storage facilities and find markets for the fresh fruit.

However, Aloko assured efforts were being made to find suitable markets for Helmand grapes and thereby enable farmers to pocket enough income. (Pajhwok)

(11) Residents Want...

have been destroyed during the Civil War," said Ghulam Rasul, a Kandahar resident.

"This bazar is a historical place and dates back to 250 year but overall, it is in its ancient shape," said Hafizullah, a Kandahar resident. The provincial director of Information and Culture, Abdul Shakoor Sepand, said efforts are underway to begin work on restoration of the marketplace.

"We are trying to restore this ancient site to remain as a proof of our history. Moreover, there are other historical sites in Kandahar, including Ahmad Shah Baba's home and tomb," Sepand said. (Tolo news)

(12) Taliban Suffer ...

During the operation, Afghan forces have arrested seven Taliban militants, the statement said.

Meanwhile, several villages of Balkh were also cleared of the insurgents during the raids, the statement said.

The Afghan forces have also destroyed a number of Taliban's strongholds and hide-outs in the incident, the statement added.

The Taliban militant group yet to make a comment about the incident. (ATN)

(13) China Says...

national security.

"China's government and Chinese companies will not cooperate or have commercial contacts with these U.S. companies," he told a daily news briefing.

"I can't reveal the details at the moment. But believe this - Chinese people always stress standing by their word."

On Sunday, the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily posted an article on its WeChat account identifying U.S. companies that could be vulnerable to sanctions.

They included Honeywell International Inc (HON.N), which makes the engines for the Abrams tanks, and private jets maker Gulfstream Aerospace, which is owned by General Dynamics. China is an important market for both Honeywell and Gulfstream. The companies did not respond to requests for comment.

Ties between China and the United States are already strained over a trade war, which has seen them levy tariffs on each other's imports.

This is not the first time China has said it would sanction U.S. companies selling weapons to Taiwan. China has announced such steps at least twice before - in 2010 and 2015 - but it is unclear if the sanctions were ever imposed.

U.S. defense contractors have been barred from dealings with Beijing since China's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators on and around Tiananmen Square in 1989.

While its relations with Taiwan are technically unofficial, the United States is required by law to assist Taiwan in its defense and is its main supplier of arms, though France has also previously sold warships and fighter jets to Taiwan.

China has been angered as well by the United States allowing Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen to visit last week, on her way to diplomatic allies in the Caribbean. She is due to transit the United States again at the end of her trip next week. (Reuters)

(14) Russia Launches ...

greatly since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. Budget cuts have forced the Russian space program to shift toward more commercial efforts.

A Russian Mars probe, called Mars 96, failed to leave Earth's orbit in 1996. A later attempt to send a probe to Mars, called Fobos-Grunt, suffered a similar fate in 2011.

Work on Spektr-RG telescope began in the 1980s but was scrapped in the 1990s. Spektr-RG was revived in 2005 and redesigned to be smaller, simpler and cheaper.

In its modern form, the project is a close collaboration between Russian and German scientists, who both installed telescope equipment aboard the Russian spacecraft. (Fox News)

(15) Japanese Women...

December 2012, Japan's global ranking of women in parliament has fallen to 164th from 122nd among 193 countries. His Liberal Democratic Party has a smaller percentage of female lawmakers than its main opposition party.

A July 21 upper-house election will be the first national poll since passage of a gender parity law that set non-binding targets for parties to field equal numbers of male and female candidates. A record 28% of candidates are women.

But only 15% of LDP candidates are women, compared with 45% for its main opposition, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP).

Sakura Uchikoshi, a Tokyo-based lawyer

making her first foray into politics in the rural district of Niigata, is among the opposition candidates.

Niigata has a tradition of strong female politicians, including outspoken former foreign minister Makiko Tanaka. And it currently has three female opposition MPs. (Reuters)

(16) 'Hundreds of ...

taken, Lowcock added.

The number of Ebola cases in the country is closing in on 2,500, with a death toll at over 1,600.

The crisis has garnered international attention after the deadly haemorrhagic fever spread to neighboring Uganda in June. A vaccine to prevent the spread of the rare but devastating virus is still under development, and is being used in the DRC and Uganda to try to stem its transmission. (RT)

(17) Qatar Opens...

the region and Tehran shooting down an American drone.

The 600,000-plus square-metre site aims to "facilitate the securing of all territorial waters of the State and border posts", the interior ministry wrote on Twitter.

It includes a "sophisticated seaport", training and medical facilities, civil defence offices and operating rooms, the ministry added. Asked whether the base could enhance US-Qatari coordination on Iran, Malloy said the move was "all about maritime security, that's what our focus is". The US said Thursday it was discussing military escorts for vessels in the Gulf a day after armed Iranian boats allegedly threatened a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz. And on Friday Britain said it was sending a second warship to the Gulf and raising the alert level in the oil-rich region after Iranian gunboats threatened a UK supertanker. (AFP)

(18) Indonesia...

and imports figures in June were 20.54 percent and 20.7 percent, respectively, lower than in the previous month, he added.

Significant import reduction was seen in the food sector that dropped 33.57 percent from last month, contributed by lowering imports on wine, frozen meat from India and Australia, as well as garlic, apples and milk powder.

Imports on raw materials for cell phone and fertilizer industries also decreased 17.78 percent, he added.

"More reductions were also seen in imports of capital goods, among others in equipment, machinery and electrical tools, which lowered 25.53 percent," he added.

The decrease in exports last month was caused by lower exports on non-oil and gas, and oil and gas products that dropped by 19.39 percent and 34.36 percent respectively, he said.

Suhariyanto said that despite trade surplus in February, March, May and June, Indonesia booked a total deficit of 1.93 billion dollars in the first half of this year.

The first half deficit was larger than 1.2 billion dollars recorded last year. (Xinhua)

(19) FINA President ...

committed to the development of international sporting events. He has made an enormous contribution to world peace and the prosperity of humanity through sporting movements across the world," said university president Park Sang-cheol.

Elected FINA president in 2009, Maglione is an honorary member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). (Xinhua)

(20) AIIB's Membership ...

but I have full confidence in realizing the goals," he added.

Moreover, the international bank holds the development principle of "quality first" instead of blindly pursuing unbridled growth, Jin noted.

The bank must take three factors into consideration when assessing investment projects: financial sustainability, ecological sustainability and whether the investment can improve living standard, he explained.

"We offer loans to our members in order to help them develop their economies, but not trap them into a debt crisis," Jin said.

The multilateral focuses on sustainable development, and the unwavering support of major AIIB shareholder China for the Paris Agreement on climate change is great encouragement for the institution, he said.

From its practice, people can tell that China is a responsible country, which strives "not just for its own benefits, but also for the world's development," Jin said.

Jin made the remarks after the fourth annual meeting of the AIIB's Board of Governors was concluded in Luxembourg on Saturday. During the meeting, the AIIB expanded its membership to 100 with the approval of the African newcomers of Benin, Djibouti and Rwanda.

The China-initiated multilateral financial institution began operation in January 2016 with 57 founding members, with an agenda focused on supporting sustainable development through infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond.

So far, the AIIB has approved 46 projects worth 8.5 billion U.S. dollars for 18 members and includes building highways and power plants. (Xinhua)