

**(1) UN Pledges...**

including the work to complete the central database of registered voters and the final list of candidates, both of which are necessary for holding credible elections," said Yamamoto, who is also head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Under Resolution 2405 (2018), the Security Council requested UNAMA to support Afghan authorities in the organization of elections, and to strengthen the integrity, sustainability and inclusiveness of the electoral process.

UNAMA remains committed to working with Afghan institutions as they implement reforms to enhance transparency and build trust in Afghanistan's democratic processes, including by promoting the participation of women as voters and as candidates.

"We look forward to the thorough verification of registered voters and the willingness on the part of everybody involved to address any irregularities if and when they occur," said Yamamoto. "The IEC and the ECC have demonstrated that they can respond to constructive criticism but they need the support of all stakeholders."

Stressing progress by the IEC in reaching out to political actors, Yamamoto called for political actors to play a responsible role to make elections inclusive and credible. "All Afghans have a stake in successful elections, and it is therefore crucial for all Afghans to exercise their civic duty and participate in Afghanistan's democratic processes," he said.

The third Project Board meeting follows the first and second meetings on 4 October 2017 and 30 December 2017, respectively, where UNAMA, along with the IEC and the ECC, signed project documents providing the legal and financial framework allowing the UN and donors to continue to support and strengthen Afghanistan's electoral institutions and operations. (Pajhwok)

**(2) Illegal Trade...**

the government for the last few years to create an industries bank for providing loans to industrialists, but the government did nothing so far.

Safi added 28 industrial parks planned during former president Hamid Karzai's government could not be completed so far. "The industrial parks should be completed and handed over to industrialists", he said.

Musafir Qoqandi, spokesman for the Ministry of Industries and Commerce, acknowledged there were problems but said: "The commerce and industries sector was developed in the last two and a half years, something unseen in the previous 14 years." He said 100 megawatts of electricity was provided to Pul-i-Charkhi industrial park alone and four other industrial parks were completed and distributed to investors.

He said many exhibitions were organized inside and outside the country for promoting domestic products and the government had always stressed on using domestic products. Efforts for resolving industrialists' problems are underway but it may take some time, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

**(3) As Kabul Meets...**

This contribution to the national budget demonstrates the significant progress in reforms, including our new transparent budget, ongoing work in reducing corruption, strong growth in revenue generation, and improved service delivery through the NPPs." He said through budget support

programs, such as the State Building Contract, the government of Afghanistan was able to respond more effectively to the country's priorities and ensure equitable development. "I thank the European Union and its member states for its support and commitment to the people of Afghanistan."

Pierre Mayaudon, EU Head of Delegation, said: "This direct budget support disbursement is once again a very tangible demonstration of the EU and its citizens' strong commitment to Afghanistan and its people." (Pajhwok)

**(4) Pakistan General...**

Election Commission of Pakistan in the conduct of peaceful and transparent elections.

In addition to that, some 450,000 cops were also part of the security contingents performing election duty.

Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, President Mamon Hussain, Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar, Caretaker Prime Minister Justice (Retd) Nasir-ul-Mulk also cast their votes in respective constituencies.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had requested Election Commission of Pakistan for extending polling time for at least an hour as long lines of voters waiting in the queues.

Election was held on 270 seats out of 272 National Assembly seats, while election on two National Assembly constituencies has been postponed. As for the four Provincial Assemblies, election took place on 570 seats against the total 577 seats.

Over 12,500 candidates were in the run for National and Provincial Assemblies. Overall the election process remained smooth with few incidents of violence in some constituencies.

The Election Commission of Pakistan on Wednesday also took strict notice of politicians delivering speeches after casting votes in the countrywide general polls.

According to the electoral rolls, 105.96 million voters were eligible to cast the vote. In all, 85,307 polling stations were set up across the country.

There were three main political parties in Pakistan's political arena namely Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), however according to reports and analysis Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) is in better position to form the next government. Some small parties and independent candidates would also play an important role in forming the next government of Pakistan. (IRNA)

**(5) Joint Action...**

But no venue has yet been specified. Asked whether such meetings were of any use, one MP Sadiqi Nili Zada said: "Countries like Saudi Arabia and UAE can put financial and political pressure on Pakistan which can be effective."

This was the second meeting between the national security advisors from the four countries. The last meeting was in March in Washington.

At the time, the Afghan national security council said Atmar attended a four-day quadrilateral meeting with officials from these countries and discussed the fight against terrorism, the Afghan peace process and the country's economic development.

National security advisers had decided to identify the issue of terrorist financing and to take common action to eliminate them, the NSC said at the time.

At this meeting, consultations and shared responsibilities were discussed about a specific mechanism needed among the four countries.

This came after US Department of State's Senior Bureau Official for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Ambassador attended meetings in Qatar and met with Al Attiyah, along with other high-ranking officials to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

According to the US State Department's spokesperson, Heather Nauert: "I can tell you that our senior bureau official for SCA, Alice Wells, is returning today (Tuesday) from Doha, Qatar, and that's where she's been meeting with the - she met with the deputy prime minister. She also met with other government officials to talk about their contributions to the situation in Afghanistan."

"Qatar has been an important and valuable partner in that. They have helped with training and equipping, they have helped with supplies, things of that nature that are obviously needed by coalition partners to help facilitate what is going on right there," she added.

Referring to the recent successful ceasefire over Eid al-Fitr, Nauert said: "I know some folks in the media and around the world have pooh-poohed that ceasefire that lasted a few days, but our view on this, if you can get a ceasefire that lasts a few days, perhaps you could get another one that lasts a little bit longer, and that gives the people of Afghanistan hope." (Tolo news)

**(6) District Council...**

municipality councils.

The district council elections will be conducted simultaneously with Wolesi Jirga polls on October 20. (Pajhwok)

**(7) 53pc of Afghan...**

the media should also play their role in this regard.

On the other hand, Bannet Ndy-anabangi, UNFPA representative in Afghanistan, said violence against women damaged women's safety, dignity and moral and it paved the ground for further violence against the gender. (Pajhwok)

**(8) Swedish Student Stops...**

a flight attendant intervened, Ersson replied: "It's not my fault that he's getting deported. I'm trying to stop this."

"I'm trying to change my country's rules. I don't like them. It's not right to send people to hell," she continued.

Another passenger in the video translated her comments into Turkish and a football team also stood in the aisle, according to Ersson.

As Ersson and the deportee were removed from the plane, other passengers erupted in an applause.

Christer Fuxborg, a spokesman for the Swedish West Region police, confirmed to CNN that it was a forced deportation, adding that it's unclear when the man will be deported.

After refugees from Syria, Afghan nationals represent the highest number of asylum applicants in Europe, according to the European Asylum Support Office.

Unlike Syria, however, Afghanistan is deemed safe enough for the repatriation of asylum seekers, despite regular bombings in Kabul and violent clashes between Taliban and Afghan government forces.

Afghan asylum seekers in Europe must prove through extensive documentation that they are persecuted at home in order to be accepted as refugees in Europe. (CNN)

**(9) Turkmenistan Backs...**

organizational conditions to consolidate the efforts of the international community in support of the implementation of these transnational projects," the message says. (Trend)

**(10) Pakistan for Enhancing...**

the existing security situation,

agreed to take additional security measures and to closely coordinate their military ground operations in the border region to more effectively fight terrorist groups that pose security threats to the two countries.

The two sides were also of the opinion that terrorism is common enemy that has to be defeated through better coordination of ground operations and joint efforts to weaken the extremist narratives in the region.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to work through mechanisms of APAPPS to meet all challenges and crises that might threaten to destabilise bilateral relations and to jointly explore possibilities to undertake connectivity and energy projects initiatives like CPEC, TAPI, CASA 1000, Kabul-Peshawar Motorway and Chaman-Kandahar-Herat railway lines.

The APAPPS was conceived during President Ashraf Ghani meeting with Pakistan's Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on October 1, 2017. After several rounds of negotiations, both sides finalised the APAPPS in Islamabad on May 14, 2018.

It was also conveyed that Pakistan had suffered considerably as a neighbour due to decades-old conflict in Afghanistan.

In this regard, the primacy of an Afghan-owned, Afghan-led solution leading to lasting peace in the country through a political process was highlighted. (IRNA)

**(11) 6 Afghan Brothers...**

on them after an exchange of hot words.

Six of his sons -- Rehmatullah, Inayatullah, Sharafat, Qadir, Javed and Niamatullah -- were killed, he added.

One source, meanwhile, told Pajhwok Afghan News tensions emerged between the two sides after the Afghan family rejected a marriage proposal from a relative of Bashir.

The source said: "The Pakistani family looked prepared for punishing the Afghans, who apparently didn't expect such a cruel reaction to their refusal." (Pajhwok)

**(12) 36 'Taliban...**

Noorul Madaris seminary last night.

He said the joint forces killed three civilians and arrested five others in a local bazaar and then left the area. The Ghazni police chief informed about a separate clash between Afghan forces and Taliban gunmen in Nodi area of Qarabagh district last night.

He said six Taliban militants were killed in the incident.

There has been no word from the Taliban about the Qarabagh clash. (Pajhwok)

## USAID Providing Support to Agricultural Sector of Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - US Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing assistance to Uzbek producers of fruits and vegetables in expanding their business in the domestic and international markets, Podrobno.uz reports.

The assistance is provided in establishing links between Uzbek companies and American suppliers of new materials and equipment, as well as the entry of these companies into new international markets so that they can increase exports of their products. Gold Dried Fruit Export LLC (GDF) is one of such companies.

GDF was founded in 2012 for the processing of fresh and production of dried and frozen fruits

and vegetables, as well as their packaging and delivery to local and export markets.

GDF has purchased with the assistance of USAID a seedling stock from an American producer from California in order to improve the quality of walnuts. The company has also acquired agricultural machinery from the US in order to improve the efficiency of on-farm operations.

"Companies like the one we are visiting today are important because they create jobs throughout Uzbekistan and improve the quality of fruits and vegetables sold," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Henry Ensher said during his visit. "USAID has supported for many years the development of the agricultural sector in Uzbekistan. USAID has worked together with the government of Uzbekistan to help manufacturers meet the requirements of international markets." In order to expand the markets of GDF, USAID put the company in touch with potential buyers in export markets and provided advice on improving the quality of products. GDF signed letters of intent to export products with six Latvian and Lithuanian companies, worth over \$17 million, as a result of a trade mission and a study tour on transport and logistics in the Baltic states, organized by USAID on April 9-14. (Trend)

## Made In China: Trump Re-Election Flags may Get Burned by His Tariffs

FUYANG, China - The red, white and blue banners for U.S. President Donald Trump's second-term campaign are ready to ship, emblazoned with the words "Keep America Great!"

But they are made in eastern China and soon could be hit by punitive tariffs of Trump's own making as he ratchets up a rancorous trade dispute with Beijing.

At the Jiahao Flag Co Ltd in Anhui province, women operate sewing machines to hem the edges of "Trump 2020" flags the size of beach towels, while others fold and bundle them for delivery.

The factory has turned out about 90,000 banners since March, said manager Yao Yuanyuan, an unusually large number for what is normally the low season, and Yao believed the China-U.S. trade war was the reason.

"It's closely related," she said. "They are preparing in advance, they are taking advantage of the fact that the tariffs haven't gone up yet, with lower prices now."

The Trump administration has imposed tariffs on \$34 billion worth of goods from China. After Beijing retaliated in kind, Washington announced levies on an additional \$200 billion worth of products and threatened more, targeting potentially all of China's exports to America - including flags.

The campaign banners highlight a paradox in China-U.S. relations under Trump.

At about \$1 apiece, even suppliers to the Trump campaign, who, Yao says, are located both in China and abroad, can't resist the low price. Yao's factory has been making Trump banners since the time his tag line as a candidate was "Make America Great Again". "Sales have been great ever since 2015," she said.

But Trump's effort to wrest better trading conditions from China threatens that price advantage, and his hardline stance could eventually repel suppliers like Yao. (Reuters)