

(1) Improved...

It welcomed the commitment by the two countries to ending the blame game, urging both sides to restrain their spokespersons from giving 'knee-jerk' reactions. The third episode of PAJC was held in Kabul on Sunday. The statement was released by the Centre for Research and Security Studies, which hosts the Pakistan part of the initiative.

Recently, the two governments had agreed on a new framework for bilateral relations called the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS). (Pajhwok)

(2) New Nangarhar...

said he was serious about implementing his plan in Nangarhar, particularly in Jalalabad and he would 'force' people into doing all their businesses in the afghani.

He said his plan would help alleviate economic woes of poor people. "We will first push traders, businessmen and moneychangers to use Afghan currency in their deals, then we will encourage the general public to do so and work on a public awareness program," he said.

He said the new campaign was different from previous such efforts because this time violators would be tried according to the law and no references would be accepted.

Meanwhile, Nangarhar residents, civil society activists, provincial council members and analysts are somehow hopeful about the governor's new plan but say they cannot trust until they see something practically done.

Dr. Najibullah Sahibzada, a civil society activist and analyst, told Pajhwok that it was responsibility of the provincial government to prevent Pakistani rupees from being used in transactions in Nangarhar.

"We request local leaders to prioritize promotion of the afghani in their programs after security, we hope officials concerned will take effective steps," he added.

A provincial council member, Israrullah Murad, hailed the governor's move but said serious action was needed for bringing tangible changes.

He said similar promises made in the past could not be implemented. "We don't want promises, we want action." (Pajhwok)

(3) EU Wants UN...

of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishments.

"We will keep mobilising all our means to protect all those that have been and continue to be exposed to this abhorrent human rights violation and standing by all those who very courageously engage against this crime through awareness..."

The fight against torture and other forms of ill-treatment is enshrined in the European Union Treaties and Charter of Fundamental Rights. It is a key priority area in the EU Action plan on Human Rights and Democracy.

Mogherini said the EU had a global approach to eradicate torture including prohibition, prevention, combating impunity and redress for the victims through a combination of political and human rights dialogues, awareness-raising activities and financial assistance.

She went on to underline the role of international and regional

mechanisms, as well as human rights bodies, in eradicating torture. The EU financially supports their work in several countries around the globe.

Eradication of torture could be achieved only through a global effort by joining forces, defining common strategies and implementing joint actions, the Italian politician believed.

"Continuous engagement with our partners, at regional and multilateral level, along with civil society, is crucial to making progress," the EU official added. The launch of the "Global Alliance for Torture-Free Trade" in September 2017, for example, reiterates the EU's commitment to the absolute prohibition of torture, capital punishment and other degrading treatment.

In a year which marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the European Union recalled that all human beings were born free and equal in dignity and rights. (Pajhwok)

(4) Johnson Meets...

discussed the ceasefire, the peace process, the fight against terrorism, regional cooperation, and Afghanistan's capacity and role in Asian economic development, especially in South and Central Asia.

The British foreign secretary said his country supported the Afghan government's ceasefire with the Taliban. He added his country would remain with the people of Afghanistan.

The secretary noted that the Britain continued to cooperate in civilian and military sectors with Afghanistan and continued to support the Afghan-led peace process.

Ghani appreciated Britain's support for the ceasefire, the peace process and combating regional and global terrorism.

Earlier, Johnson met his Afghan counterpart Hikmat Khalil Karzai and discussed with him security, counter-extremism, education and Afghanistan-Pakistan solidarity.

The foreign secretary held talks with senior ministers in Kabul and met some of the 650 UK military personnel.

A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) received by Pajhwok Afghan News Karzai thanked the UK government and forces for their role in maintaining peace and stability besides cooperation in different areas in Afghanistan.

The two sides discussed ceasefire in Afghanistan, the peace process and solidarity between Afghanistan and Pakistan, joint fight against extremism in the region and the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections.

Supporting girls' education, including Afghanistan in the Action Plan for Prevention of Hard Physical Work and in Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process were other issues came up for discussion in the meeting, the statement concluded. (Pajhwok)

(5) Faryab Tops...

villages in KhwajaSabzposh district of Faryab has likely displaced families. However, specific reports from the ground are not yet available.

"More than 3,000 people have been displaced within Nangarhar due to insecurity and intimidation by armed groups. Humanitarian partners are preparing needs assessments." (Pajhwok)

(6) Work on...

The agreement on building the power line was signed during the visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Uzbekistan in December 2017. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2020. (Pajhwok)

(7) Helmand Peace...

behind the initiative. Sixty percent of our journey lied in areas either under the control or influence of the Taliban and we met them (Taliban) during the march. If this movement was fabricated by the US, why you (Taliban) did not realize it before?" asked Khyber.

This comes two days after members of the Helmand peace convoy marched through the streets of Kabul as they made their way to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA) compound in PD10 in Shar-e-Naw for a sit-in protest.

Khyber said that if the UN shows a serious commitment towards Afghanistan, peace and security will be restored in the near future in the country.

But the Taliban said in a statement it sees the Helmand peace march as a conspiracy which has been fabricated by the United States and implemented by the High Peace Council (HPC).

Majority of those rallying in the movement for peace are natives of Helmand in the southern Afghanistan and they have left all their work and daily business in search for peace and to persuade the warring factions to endorse peace talks.

Abdul Aziz, 70, is one of the activists who lost two members of his family during the war in Ghazni province. He joined the peace marchers of Helmand to raise his voice for peace.

"We will continue our movement until we reach to a conclusion, because we are tired of war," he said.

Political commentators have said the initiative has been nourishing public awareness in various province about the need for giving an end to the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. The Taliban however fear that such movement finally pose threats to their objectives.

The peace convoy is now expected to sit-in protest for three days in front of the US embassy in Kabul on Wednesday where they will stress the need for solid measures to be taken by the countries and parties involved in peace in Afghanistan.

Activists will then conduct similar protest in front of Iran, Pakistan and Russian embassies. Initially they launched a sit-in protest in Lashkargah city after a suicide bombing outside a stadium. About a month later, a group of eight protestors left Helmand on foot for Kabul, all the while spreading messages of peace.

The activists walked through towns and villages, crossed provinces and met with residents along the way. And as they progressed, so their numbers grew.

About 700km later, the group of eight had grown to an estimated 100.

Finally arriving in Kabul last week, they handed over demands for a ceasefire and peace to both the Afghan government and the Taliban.

The group gave the Taliban three days in which to answer and said if they failed to do so, they would embark on sit in protests outside diplomatic offices and

missions in the capital.

The Taliban's deadline was Friday and after receiving no response from the insurgent group, the peace activists announced on Saturday they would embark on their sit in protest from Sunday - their first stop being the UNAMA compound.

The activists, whose ages range from 17 to 65, come from all walks of life and include students, athletes and farmers among others. (Tolo news)

(8) UK to Send...

getting access to sports education through UK funding.

The Foreign Secretary also met General Nicholson, the Commander of Resolute Support, NATO's training and assistance mission in Afghanistan, and had a chance to talk to some of the Welsh Guards helping to mentor the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces, the statement said.

"At this important moment when Afghan-led efforts towards peace and a political settlement have gained considerable impetus, I was proud and inspired to be in Kabul to see how the UK is working in support of the Afghan Government to achieve this goal," Mr. Johnson said.

Britain has up to 600 troops in Afghanistan at present, mainly based in Kabul, training officers and not engaged in combat. There is also a small contingent of special forces. (Tolo news)

Queen Elizabeth Gives Royal Assent to Brexit Bill

LONDON - The first major piece of legislation to pave the way for Britain's exit from the European Union (EU) became law Tuesday after it was given the Royal Assent by Queen Elizabeth. The Queen's signature in the European Union Withdrawal Bill means it is now official British legislation.

The bill gives Prime Minister Theresa May's government the power to transfer thousands of pieces of EU legislation into British law after Brexit.

The so-called Brexit bill endured a roller-coaster ride as it went through the legislative and parliamentary processes in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Members in the unelected upper chamber voted in favor of a number of amendments, threatening the success of May's Brexit bill, described as the most important new law since the end of World War II.

The Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow announced to MPs at the start of Tuesday's session, that the Brexit bill had been signed by the Queen. His announcement was greeted with a loud cheer from Members of Parliament, while a similar announcement was made in the House of Lords.

The Brexit journey is far from over with more pieces of legislation related to Britain's withdrawal waiting to enter the parliamentary process. (Xinhua)

Harley-Davidson to Move Some Production out of U.S. Due to Retaliatory Tariffs

WASHINGTON - U.S. motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson announced on Monday that it would shift some production of its motorcycles overseas to avoid retaliatory tariffs imposed by the European Union (EU) in response to the U.S. tariffs on

steel and aluminum imports.

«EU tariffs on Harley-Davidson motorcycles exported from the U.S. have increased from 6 percent to 31 percent,» Harley-Davidson said in its filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

The U.S. motorcycle maker estimated that these tariffs will result in an incremental cost of approximately 2,200 U.S. dollars per average motorcycle exported from the United States to the EU. The tremendous cost increase, if passed onto the dealers and retail customers, would «have an immediate and lasting detrimental impact» on Harley-Davidson's business in the region, reducing customer access to its products and negatively impacting the sustainability of its dealers' businesses, the company said.

Therefore, in the near term, Harley-Davidson will bear the significant impact resulting from these tariffs and not raise prices on consumers.

In the long term, the company will be implementing a plan to shift the production of its motorcycles for EU destinations from the United States to its international facilities to avoid the tariff burden.

«Harley-Davidson expects ramping-up production in international plants will require incremental investment and could take at least nine to 18 months to be fully complete,» said the company.

The announcement came after the EU's retaliatory tariffs against U.S. products in response to the U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports came into effect on Friday.

«Surprised that Harley-Davidson, of all companies, would be the first to wave the White Flag. I fought hard for them and ultimately they will not pay tariffs selling into the E.U.,» U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted on Monday, urging the company to «be patient.»

Harley-Davidson is the latest example that U.S. companies relying on overseas markets would be hurt by the Trump administration's protectionist trade policy, analysts said.

In 2017, nearly 40,000 riders bought new Harley-Davidson motorcycles in Europe, and the revenue generated from the EU countries is second only to the United States, according to the company. (Xinhua)

S.Korea, DPRK Begin Talks to Connect, Modernize Inter-Korean Railways

SEOUL - South Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) began talks Tuesday to discuss ways to connect and modernize inter-Korean railways. Delegations from the two sides kicked off the talks at about 10:00 a.m. local time (0100 GMT) as scheduled at Peace House, a South Korean building in the border village of Panmunjom, according to a pool report.

It was aimed to discuss the connection of railways along the eastern and western corridors across the two Koreas and the modernization of the DPRK's railways.

The three-member South Korean delegation was led by Kim Jeong-ryeol, second vice minister for the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

Vice Railroad Minister Kim Yun Hyok led the three-member delegation from Pyongyang. (Xinhua)