

### (1) Work on Casa...

DC-AC Converter Station at Nowshera CASA-1000 project will start from Kyrgyzstan and will run to Afghanistan through Tajikistan and onward to Pakistan's Peshawar city. The length of the project in Afghanistan is estimated to eventually run for 562km.

With the implementation of the project, 1,300 megawatts of electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will be transferred to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Afghanistan will receive 300 megawatts of power and the remaining one thousand megawatts will be transited to Pakistan via Afghanistan territory.

The CASA-1000 project is an important step in building a functioning, efficient electricity system across Central Asia and South Asia. By facilitating clean power export revenues for the Central Asian countries and by alleviating electricity shortages in the South Asian countries, this project will enhance growth prospects across both regions. This project demonstrates landmark cooperation among the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The modern and efficient CASA-1000 electricity transmission system will help transform the region and signify an important step toward realizing the planned Central Asia-South Asia Regional Electricity Market (CASAREM). The CASAREM initiative will help not only these four countries but also improve the electrical systems and develop inter-regional cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia. Afghanistan will receive \$40 million in transit duty from the project annually. The project will also enhance the economic connectivity between the contributing nations and will boost Afghanistan's transit reputation in the region and entire Asia. (Tolo news)

### (2) Death Toll...

According to the governor's spokesman, Daud Ahmadi, the explosives detonated before they could be defused.

Ahmadi said at least 16 people were killed and almost 40 others were wounded in the explosion.

Public Health Directorate of Kandahar meanwhile said six were dead and 36 wounded.

Health officials said the wounded have been taken to a state hospital in the city. President Ashraf Ghani has praised the bravery of the intelligence and security forces for attempting to foil the bombing.

Ghani condemned the incident and expressed his condolences with families of those who lost their lives in the incident. (Tolo news)

### (3) Insecurity...

stations in areas under high security threats.

Shinwari also expressed concern about the lack of a mechanism for participation of Afghan refugees, detainees, military officials and workers of political parties in the elections.

He said that the Independent Election Commission (IEC) should develop a mechanism so all people could participate in the Oct 20 polls.

The IEC should also create an information bank for voters in order to prevent repeated registration of voters and ensure transparency, he added.

Shah Mahmud Mal, another member of the organization, criticized rejection of minimizing electoral districts plan by the President and said: "In unstable provinces, seven or eight representatives are elected from only two districts while the remaining five or six districts are deprived of electing their representatives due to security problems,"

He criticized the government for its failure to bring about reforms in the election system and said that holding the upcoming Wolesi Jirga and district councils elections would be impossible if the situation did not improve this year.

Gul Nasa Nikzad, another ETWA member, said that the number of women participants in elections would be very limited in some areas due to security problems and patriar-

chy.

However, IEC chief Abdul Baday Sayyad had earlier said the security issue was shared with the relevant organs and the officials concerned had assured security in insecure areas so all people could participate in elections.

About areas under high security threats, he said, that polling stations would be opened in close location of insecure areas so people of such areas were able to cast their votes. (Pajhwok)

### (4) US Watchdog...

significant action to eliminate terrorist safe havens on its soil, despite the suspension of up to \$2 billion in planned security aid.

US media outlets quoted Pentagon spokesman Col. Robert Manning as saying: "Chaos and progress can coexist and that is exactly what we feel is happening in Afghanistan." (Pajhwok)

### (5) Several Dozen...

fighting.

Rejecting reports of Taliban takeover of two districts, Arif Noor, a spokesman for the Ghazni provincial governor, said the security forces were still fighting the Taliban even though the police was forced to retreat from its headquarters in both districts.

Meanwhile, an explosion in another province, Kandahar, has left at least six people dead and many others wounded. Daud Ahmadi, a spokesman for the Kandahar provincial governor, said a vehicle loaded with ammunition was found parked in a deserted area of Kandahar's district 14 around noon today. The Afghan intelligence agency (NDS) was trying to figure out how to dispose of it safely when the explosion took place.

Doctors at the local Mirwais hospital told VOA on the condition of anonymity that eight security personnel and 21 civilians, including four children, are among the wounded. Most of the victims worked at a car workshop nearby. So far no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The fighting in Ghazni, a province with a strong Taliban presence, followed days of fighting in Farah province in Western Afghanistan. The top United States military commander in Afghanistan, General John Nicholson, visited Farah on Saturday and tried to reassure the population that Farah "will never fall" to the Taliban. Ministers of interior and defense, and the head of Afghanistan's intelligence agency accompanied Nicholson on this trip.

Afghan security forces have suffered heavy losses since the Taliban launched their "al-Khandaq" spring offensive last month. In a briefing to the parliament earlier this month, the Afghan defense and interior ministers and the intelligence chief said hundreds had been killed or wounded in Taliban attacks.

However, they told the parliamentarians that Afghan forces had inflicted much heavier casualties on the insurgents and foiled 70 percent of their plans.

Last year, Afghan forces suffered unprecedented casualties, reported to be about 10,000 men. (VoA)

### (6) Illegal Armed...

to what it had been six months earlier. Armed robberies, murder, clashes and kidnappings have increased in Mazar-i-Sharif, he said, linking the uptick in insecurity to the presence of unauthorized gunmen.

Safut said people were expecting improvement in the situation in Mazar-i-Sharif with the changes in the provincial civil and military leadership, but the things moved in reverse.

Ghulam Rasoul, a resident of the second police district, said "Mazar-i-Sharif has become a city without leadership." "Few days back, I was walking in the city when suddenly armed men stopped their vehicle near me and got out and took 8,000 afghanis after search," he said.

He added armed men walked and traveled in Mazar-i-Sharif during broad daylight and nobody could stop them. Rasoul said the government has been unable to stop illegal armed activities and disarm such people. Provincial Council head Mohammad

Afzal Hadid acknowledged people were in tension regarding the existing of illegal gunmen in Balkh.

He said unauthorized gunmen had increased in the city and they threatened people's lives. He said the current security situation in Mazar-i-Sharif was unacceptable to its dwellers.

Hadid blamed recent security incidents in the city on illegal armed men and said these individuals had links with political parties. He, however, assured of improving the situation.

He said a meeting attended by representatives of political parties and government officials was held last week at the governor's house about improving security situation in Mazar-i-Sharif.

The meeting decided that no one would be allowed in future to create security problems in the city.

But Mazar-i-Sharif residents say that criminal incidents involving illegal armed groups happened even after that meeting.

Mohammad Din, a resident of Kartai-Bukhdi area, said robbers entered a shop four days back and killed a 20-years-old shopkeeper in the city.

Security officials confirm increasing crimes in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Balkh deputy police chief, Col. Abdur Razaq Qaderi confirmed recent security incidents in Mazar-i-Sharif but said they were serious about public protection.

He said Afghan security forces were busy in operations against militants in a number of Balkh districts, a situation misused by some persons for committing crimes in Mazar-i-Sharif.

He assured security would be fully restored in the city in near future. The garrison created for the city's security would be given further authority and it would help improve the situation, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Turkey...

Airport.

Speaking at the event, Rasaw said Afghanistan wants to increase trade cooperation with Turkey and that his country will provide convenience to Turkish businesspeople.

Pointing that the trade volume between the two countries will increase following the opening of air corridor between Istanbul and Kabul, Rasaw said: "A total of 15 tons of goods including dried fruit and carpets will be sent with today's first flight with Turkish Airlines."

For his part, Turkish ambassador stressed the close relations between Turkey and Afghanistan date back a long way and the ties gained strength during the term of Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and Amanullah Khan in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has already launched aerial trade corridor with India and Kazakhstan. (AA)

### (8) Iran Supporting...

He vowed "unprecedented financial pressure in the form of the strongest sanctions in history" unless Iran renounced all its nuclear activities, its ballistic-missile program, and its support of regional proxies.

"The [Iranian] regime has been fighting all over the Middle East for years," he said, adding that "after our sanctions come in force, it will be battling to keep its economy alive. Iran will be forced to make a choice: Either fight to keep its economy off life support at home or squander precious wealth on fights abroad. It will not have the resources to do both."

And if there were ever any doubts, Pompeo's unambiguous remarks were complemented by the US Defense Department, where a spokesman said the US will take "all necessary steps to confront and address Iran's malign influence in the region." He also said that two weeks ago, Trump withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal for a simple reason: "It failed to guarantee the safety of the American people from the risk created by the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"No more. No more wealth creation for Iranian kleptocrats. No more acceptance of missiles landing in Riyadh and in the Golan Heights. No more cost-free expansions of Iranian

power. No more," he said.

Pompeo was clear Monday that European companies would not be granted special waivers to work in Iran.

"We understand that our reimposition of sanctions and coming campaign on the Iranian regime will pose economic difficulties for a number of our friends—indeed, it imposes economic challenges to America as well," he said. "These are markets our businesses would love to sell into as well. And we want to hear their concerns, but, you know, we will hold those doing prohibited business in Iran to account," he said.

In the meantime, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani dismissed threats made Pompeo, saying the rest of the world no longer accepts Washington making decisions on their behalf.

"The world today does not accept that the United States decides for the world. Countries have their independence," Rouhani said in a statement carried by multiple Iranian news agencies.

But, Afghanistan's ministry of defense previously said that there is no evidence so far to prove that Iran was supporting the Taliban.

"Until now we have not had any solid evidence regarding the issue, but investigations are ongoing in this respect," said MoD spokesman Mohammad Radmanish.

Last week the Defense Minister Lieutenant General Tariq Shah Bahrami said the war in Farah, which borders Iran, is "a war over water" and that some countries in the region are trying to destabilize Afghanistan.

"The war in Farah is definitely a war over water management," Bahrami said. "We were placed in a situation when work on Salma Dam was completed and work was started on Bakhsh Abad Dam (in the west zone)."

But in an interview with TOLONews, Iran's ambassador to Afghanistan Mohammad Reza Bahrami rejected the allegations.

"If we were really against the establishment of Salma Dam, then we would not allow Iranian cement to be exported to Afghanistan and would never allow Iranian companies to work here, I want to add that this topic honestly suits TAPI also," said Bahrami. (Tolo news)

### (9) 'Andar Dwellers...

customs office in Tasang area and they taxed dozens of cars every day.

"Taliban have taken money from me several times in this area," he said, without giving details. The driver urged the government to stop the militants from such acts.

Pajhwok obtained a copy of the Taliban's tax paper titled "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's Borders Department."

On this paper, a Mazda truck driver is taxed 2,500 Pakistani rupees 13 days ago and the signature area is written with the word "Nijat" only.

A telephone number is also written at the bottom of the paper with a note that read "people can contact the number if face any problem."

Pakitka governor's spokesman, Mohammad Rahman Ayaz, said there was no problem in Pakitka territory but the problem was in Ghazni province.

"We have several times contacted Ghazni officials over resolving the problem and they are also trying to solve it," he said.

Ghazni governor's spokesman, Mohammad Arif Noori, confirmed problems on the Pakitka-Ghazni highway and confirmed the Taliban had opened their customs officer there. "We are facing a shortage of soldiers, so there is no immediate plan to ensure security on the highway and destroy the Taliban's customs," he said.

On the other hand, a Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said that the Taliban had closed the highway in order to prevent civilian casualties during fights.

"Our customs office has long been in this area, it does not relate to the closure of the highway," he said. Pakitka is connected with capital Ka-

bul through Ghazni and Paktia highways but both the routes are insecure and as a result local residents are in great trouble. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Nangarharis Blame...

Independent Election Commission (IEC) authorities also complained about police negligence in duty, slowing the voter registration process.

On the other hand, the police headquarters denied the allegations and said security forces were more active compared to the past in performing their duties.

Few days back, blasts at voter registration centers in Nangarhar caused casualties and discouraged people to register to vote.

Local residents say the government should at least make secure the registration centers.

Civil society activist Dr. Shukurullah Mashkor said: "I saw some voter registration centers where police paid little attention to security of the centers." "I visited a voter registration center in a school at Amarkhel locality of Surkhurd district where a policeman was busy playing games on his mobile phone and school students were checking people instead of him."

Another activist Niamatullah Hamdar expressed similar views and said until security forces did not pay strong attention to their duty, the voter registration centers would remain under security threats.

He urged police high ups to keep an eye on their personnel at voter registration centers in order to punish those found guilty.

Deputy provincial council chairman, Zabihullah Zamari, said police negligence had turned the voter registration process lukewarm.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News that voter registration centers were established in schools and mosques to prevent fraud, but the process faced security issue.

Provincial IEC head Zabihullah Wagari said due to police negligence at voter registration centers, public interest had decreased in registering their names.

He said each security incident had a huge impact on people registering as voters.

According to his information, so far 13,40,000 individuals including 35 to 40 percent of women, have been enrolled at voter registration centers.

Provincial police spokesman Lt. Gen. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said after the two incidents in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, the strength of security forces was doubled at voter registration centers and the oversight process on police duty increased.

He assured people if a policeman was found guilty of negligence he would be punished according to the law. (Pajhwok)

### (11) Hakimi, Gen...

It said Hakimi and Fontes discussed government's part in financing and equipping security and defense forces of the country.

Anti-corruption strategy, reforms and management of security agencies especially ministries of defiance and interior and transparency in salary payment of security forces were discussed during the meeting, the statement said. Moreover the minister and commander CSTC-A talked about parliamentary and district council elections, the peace process, reform in revenue sources, regional connectivity and some other relevant subjects. (Pajhwok)

### (12) 8 Policemen...

Herat province, two policemen were killed and seven others wounded during a clash in Kashk-i-Kohna district. Lal Mohammad Omarzai, the district's administrative chief, said the Taliban stormed a security check-post in the Darzak locality of the district.

He said two policemen were killed and seven others wounded in the ensuing clash. The injured security personnel are said to be in stable condition.

Abdul Ahad Walizada, the governor's spokesman, confirmed the incident and said details would be shared with the media once an investigation into the attack was completed. (Pajhwok)