

(1) President Ghani...

generals from service, summing up the total of retired top-ranked military officers to over 220. Expressing concerns on the issue, some political analysts said that the renovation and retirement plan should be based on criteria and that prioritizing the ethnicity and political dependencies of the individuals in the process could be harmful.

The retirement plan of around 2,000 high-ranking officers was finalized on November last year. Under the plan 70 percent of the generals will be retired from service.

According to the police officers' inherent law, generals will retire at the age of 62, lieutenant generals at 60, major generals at 58, brigadier generals at 56 and colonels will retire at 54. (ATN)

(2) Access to Justice...

"The report's findings, including details indicating unchecked impunity in honour killings and the murder of women, signals that justice for Afghan women victims of violence remains severely inadequate."

In the criminal cases of violence against women outlined in the report, UNAMA found that the majority were mediated by traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, with Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) Law institutions referring the cases, participating in the proceedings or observing the proceedings.

Afghanistan's EVAW Law and penal code do not include any legal provision allowing for the mediation of criminal cases.

"Many of the women interviewed for this report said that they were pressured into withdrawing their official complaints and agreeing to mediation, as if no actual crime had occurred," said Danielle Bell, head of UNAMA Human Rights. "The mediation of incidents of brutal violence against women essentially transforms criminal acts into mere family disputes; such mediation directly contradicts the spirit and letter of the EVAW Law."

The report details Afghanistan's obligations under domestic and international law to ensure the effective prevention and protection of women from such crimes, and makes several recommendations, including that the Government of Afghanistan ensure the full implementation of the EVAW Law and the 2018 Penal Code provisions regarding the elimination of violence against women.

The report notes that the existing legal framework and court adjudication processes in Afghanistan provide options for women facing violence, and emphasizes that mediation cannot replace the judicial protections provided to women by the constitution and laws of Afghanistan. It states that mediation should not be used to resolve criminal offences of violence against women, including murder and honour killings, and the crimes set out in Articles 22-18 of the EVAW Law. "The government has taken concrete steps to establish measures for accountability, and our report recognizes this, but the reality is that brutal violence against women continues to take place," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, who is also head of UNAMA.

"It is our expectation that the insights presented in this new report will trigger the reforms needed to protect Afghan women

and to improve their access to justice." (Tolo news)

(3) Saudi Arabia to Host...

impact of Saudi Arabia on Islamic countries is high, undoubtedly, we can have cooperation of Saudi Arabia in this respect," added Tahiri. (Tolo news)

(4) Poppy Cultivation...

in counternarcotic efforts. "Whether the statistics of 40 percent or 60 percent are low or high it (drugs) is the income sources for war in Afghanistan. We continue our efforts to pay more focus on this matter," he said.

At the same event, the Minister of Counternarcotics Salamat Azimi stressed the need for a consensus to fight drugs in the region and in the world.

"A fragmented fight of governments cannot overcome this problem; all countries should come together to fight this problem," he said. (Tolo news)

(5) Efforts Underway...

years ago and this year we established a new pistachio garden. We established another garden many years ago and it produced pistachios this year," said Fahim.

In Afghanistan, pistachios grow in mountains in the west, north and north-east of the country and do not need irrigation.

Gardening experts said however if pistachio trees are planted on flat land and irrigated regularly, trees will yield far more nuts. As such, the agriculture ministry is now hoping to promote the sector.

"In this garden four types of pistachio trees have been tested. Three of them are domestic pistachio trees brought from Badghis, Herat and Samangan provinces and the results are very good," Asghar Ali Shirzad, a pistachio tree expert from BadamBagh said.

The agriculture, irrigation and livestock ministry's findings show that pistachio nuts are a valuable commodity on the global market. As part of its efforts to grow the sector, the ministry also intends to establish standardized processing and packing facilities for the nuts. (Tolo news)

(6) Islamabad Talk...

plementation could be helpful. Without going into details, the diplomat said both sides had agreed on expediting the formation of different working groups that would do the rest of job. (Pajhwok)

(7) Talks the Best...

The two sides discussed cooperation between the two countries in different fields and assured the implementation of commitments made under the 3-nation meetings.

The Chinese deputy foreign minister hailed the Kabul Process Conference and added peace talks were the only positive way which could ensure peace in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(8) Afghan, Pakistani...

The mechanism mainly focuses on three key areas - strategic and security issues, counter-terrorism and security and economic development and connectivity. Janjua also attended the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group meeting. The SCO is comprised of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

She reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continued efforts for promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, the Foreign Office tweeted.

She also underlined ongoing initiatives of Pakistan for engagement with Afghanistan in all areas, including peace and stability and promoting economic cooperation.

She highlighted the measures taken by Pakistan to enhance bilateral trade, transit, people-to-people exchanges and to deepen connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Afghan, Chinese and Pakistani diplomats also reviewed preparations for the second trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers which will be held in Kabul this year.

The first trilateral FMs meeting was held in Beijing in December, months after China brokered the three-party forum when Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi traveled to Kabul and Islamabad in June last year.

The trilateral mechanism mainly focuses on three key areas - strategic and security issues, counter-terrorism and economic development and connectivity. (Pajhwok)

(9) All Right Hand...

implement the right hand drive vehicles' collection plan and has ordered provincial offices to follow the decision, he said.

Currently 70,000 right hand drive vehicles are registered with the Traffic Department in the country and thousands of such vehicles may still be unregistered but used, he said.

He said all right hand drive vehicles would be collected and handed over to the customs department and would be scrapped.

Gen. Sayed Mahbob, Kabul traffic department head, said 250 right hand drive vehicles had so far been collected and the plan would be strictly implemented in the capital.

Ahmad Rashad Popal, general customs head, said they would decide on scraping right hand vehicles after their collection and handover to the customs department.

The customs department would sign a contract with a credible company for parting the vehicles and then handing them over to their owners, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(10) Senators Reiterat...

security situation and the bilateral agreement with the United States were the issues as the security officials were summoned for," said Mohammad AlamEzadyar, first deputy speaker of the Senate House. "According to the constitution, their absence is under objection and criticism of the Senate House."

The senators warned of deteriorating security in Afghanistan if the international community does not implement the commitments made for stability of the country. (ATN)

(11) Nine Civilians...

police commander and relatives of the Senate chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar and eight others were wounded," Khoghyan said, adding that "a woman and a girl are among the wounded."

A delegation has been assigned by the central government to "seriously" investigate the incident.

No further details were given. Taliban claims that all the victims are relatives of Senate Chairman Fazl Hadi Muslimyar. (Tolo news)

(12) ACB Announces...

Rashid Khan, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Mujib Zadran, Shapor Zadran and Aftab Alam are in the

(T20I) team," said the chairman of the ACB selection committee Nawroz Manga.

About test line up he said: "Nabi Essakhail, Rashid Khan, Zahir Khan, Hamza Hotak, Sayed Sherzad, Mohammad Yamin Ahmadza, Wafadar and Mujib Zadran," will play.

"We have selected a team which we believe will perform well for Afghanistan, we have also provided the opportunity to the young cricketers to take advantage of their energy so that Afghanistan can do well," said Hajji Wali Amin, a member of the selection committee.

Meanwhile Bangladesh received a major blow ahead of the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan as their pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman was ruled out of the series with a toe injury, according to a Cricbuzz report.

The report said that a Bangladesh Cricket Board official confirmed Mustafizur's unavailability and revealed that the management was yet to decide on a replacement.

The Bangladesh team will travel to India on Tuesday to play the series, scheduled at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on June 3, 5 and 7.

According to BCB physician Debashish Chowdhury, Mustafizur suffered the injury during the recent Indian Premier League (IPL) and would require two to three weeks to return to full fitness. (Tolo news)

(13) No Reliable...

regarding water management and our right of water," reasoned Abdul Sattar Noorzai the provincial director for tribal affairs.

"Some [country] is providing financial assistance, weapons and ammunition to the Taliban. Let's think and calculate their weapons, ammunition, and vehicles," said Fazel Ahmad Shirzad the provincial police chief. "This is very clear." (ATN)

Uzbekistan to Approve Measures on Joining WTO Soon

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan is going to approve new measures for joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) soon, Uzbek media reported referring to Economy Minister of Uzbekistan Botir Khojayev.

Reportedly, experts prepared additional proposals related to the measures taken to resume Uzbekistan's participation in the WTO-joining process.

Khojayev noted that these proposals will be approved in the near future.

Uzbekistan applied for membership in the WTO in 1994. To date, there have been three meetings of a working group consisting of members of the organization. The last meeting took place in 2005. Since then, the process of Uzbekistan's accession has been passive, official authorities have not interacted with the WTO members.

During the official visit to South Korea in 2017, Shavkat Mirziyoyev announced resuming the work to join the organization. Later, the US and South Korea expressed readiness to help the republic in this regard.

Uzbekistan and South Korea have already signed a road map on this issue. The Korean side will help Uzbekistan by assessing consequences of joining the organization, examining the national legislation in accordance with the requirements of the WTO agreements. The US will

also provide the necessary technical assistance in this process, including preparing the necessary documents for submission to the WTO, holding seminars and conferences.

Uzbekistan is currently participating in the work of the organization as an observer state. In mid-May, 2018, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan Adham Ikramov noted that Uzbekistan is planning to join the WTO in 5-4 years. (Trend)

Pml-N Believes in Serving Masses, Development of Country : Pm

HAVELIAN - Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday said the PML-N has successfully completed hundreds of development projects across the country, in an unprecedented feat in history, as it sincerely believed in serving the masses.

Inaugurating the 120 km long, Havelian-Thakot Motorway, an important section of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Prime Minister said the party in pursuance of the vision of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has delivered on all its promises as it believed in the progress and prosperity of the country.

He said the PML-N throughout its five year tenure remained committed and worked with dedication to bring about a real change by focusing on the under developed and remote areas of the country.

He said the PML-N does not believe in politics of sit-ins and use of foul language and has brought decency to politics. He said the people of Pakistan were a witness to the development undertaken by the Pakistan Muslim League and on July 25, would decide about their future, whether they want more progress, or they want to merely live on empty statements and hollow 100 day plans.

The Prime Minister said the project would connect the area with motorway network, opening a new era of public prosperity. He said the government has completed the project at a cost of Rs.142 billion and said it was not an ordinary feat to undertake such a huge project. He said owing to some technical difficulties the work on completion of the section up to Manshera has been delayed till November, however hoped that it would be completed by the next deadline.

He said the PML-N earlier completed 550 kms of motorways during its previous tenure and now it was undertaking work on 1700 kms of six lane international standard roads that would link Gwadar to Khunjerab and Peshawar to Karachi. He said this would drastically cut down on the travel time and bring speed and efficiency and open doors of prosperity to the underdeveloped areas of the country.

He said apart from roads, the government in past five years completed projects on electricity, natural gas, universities and infrastructure and if voted to power, it would carry on its charter for taking Pakistan into the list of developed countries of the world. He regretted that the previous governments failed in their obligations to serve the people and pushed the country back. Prime Minister Abbasi unveiled the plaque for the inauguration of the project. (Monitoring Desk)