

(1) Afghans Believe ...

personal safety.

Attacks are up across the country. In May, more than 150 people were killed by a blast in Kabul's diplomatic zone - one of the deadliest since the Taliban's ouster in 2001. On the day the survey was released, more than 20 policemen were killed in fighting with Taliban insurgents in the southern province of Kandahar.

The survey which was conducted in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan in July, primarily in rural households, pointed to a mixed picture, with steady gains in education and health over the past decade and a half matched by continuing concern over corruption, unemployment and security.

Around a third of Afghans, or 33 percent, believe the country was heading in a positive direction, up slightly from 29.3 percent last year to buck a years-long declining trend.

"After a historic decline in 2016, confidence in public institutions has slightly improved; growing confidence in the Afghan National Security Forces stabilized in 2017," Abdullah Ahmadzai, Asia Foundation's country representative in Afghanistan said in a statement.

The increase in optimism applied across ethnic groups except Uzbeks, who make an important minority in Pashtun- and Tajik-dominated Afghanistan.

While there was a slight rise in positive sentiment, it was down significantly from a peak in 2013 before the withdrawal of most foreign forces. Back then nearly 60 percent of Afghans were positive about their future. The survey comes as the United States in August announced a boost in U.S. troops to Afghanistan, which could push optimism higher in the coming months. (Reuters)

(2) Rula Ghani Calls ...

Afghanistan is at the crossroads of cultural exchanges and trade routes.

The meeting also focused on a number of other issues such as problems Afghan and regional businesswomen face, women's skills development programs, and investment and proper marketing facilities for women's products.

"Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries is implementing a range of programs to facilitate the private sector on the basis of which investments in Afghanistan and in the region will be increased. We have outlined a number of frameworks for our programs to find investment opportunities in Afghanistan so that appropriate ground is paved for investors across the country," said ACCI chief Atiqullah Nusrat.

At the meeting, Turkmen officials said that trade and transit relations between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan have noticeably increased in recent months - by 22 percent. They said that the net worth of trade volume between the two countries is estimated to be \$600 million USD annually.

"Now Afghanistan and Turkmenistan are willing to expand their commercial relations and currently there is a proper opportunity to take advantage of. We are ready to sign seven agreements to boost trade and economic ties," said deputy prime minister of Turkmenistan.

RECCA VII will be held at a ministerial level with the participation of ministers and heads of regional and international organizations in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on November 14 and 15.

Building on the outcomes of the previous RECCA meetings, RECCA VII will provide an opportunity to:

- Take stock of the progress made since RECCA VI in Kabul through a comprehensive review of the priority projects including the actions recommended in the RECCA 2016 Review

- Discuss the challenges and bottlenecks as well as the financing and investment needs with respect to the priority projects in key areas of energy; transport networks; trade and transit facilitation; communications; and business to business and labor support,
- Build consensus around concrete steps that need to be taken in the context of ongoing projects,

- Present possible new projects or activities under the abovementioned priority areas,
- Further promote synergy between RECCA, the Heart of Asia- Istanbul Process and other regional cooperation platforms in the wider region.

RECCA has now turned into a leading regional cooperation framework aimed at promoting cross-border economic cooperation through a list of prioritized regional economic cooperation and investment projects that are capable of contributing to economic growth, job creation, income generation and confidence building in the wider Central, South and Southwest Asia and beyond. (Tolo News)

(3) EU Parliament ...

notice a deterioration of their status as a result of Brexit." The aim, he said, is that EU citizens "should notice no difference."

In the letter, Verhofstadt notes that citizens will still have to register individually instead of as a family, that it will be too costly

and that there are too many risks of deportation.

Verhofstadt wrote that any challenge to registration should put the burden of proof on British authorities, not EU citizens.

Any Brexit deal between the 27 EU nations and Britain will need the approval of the European Parliament, making their consent on all issues essential.

A parliamentary committee is warning of catastrophic consequences if Britain fails to put a new customs system in place before the U.K. leaves the European Union in 2019. (AP)

(4) Italy Boosts Efforts...

The Italian funding addresses two of the country's main health priorities: polio and nutrition. Polio is a highly infectious but entirely preventable disease which remains endemic in only three countries in the world - Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria. There has been immense progress in eradicating polio in Afghanistan and the country is closer to stopping transmission than ever before.

"Afghanistan has come a very long way in working towards being a polio free country," said Dr. Rik Peepkerom WHO Representative in Afghanistan. "This generous financial support will play a critical role in taking another step forward in eradicating polio from the country."

Around 10 million children under five receive vaccinations multiple times every year, in all areas of the country. The Italian funding covers training and supporting vaccinators and social mobilizers, who are instrumental in generating demand for vaccination, and in the delivery of vaccines. The funding will also be used for monitoring the coverage and the quality of vaccination activities.

In Afghanistan 41 per cent of children are stunted and a further 1.2 million malnourished. Stunting and malnutrition have immediate and long-term impact on a child's physical and mental wellbeing. If the brain is underdeveloped by the age of two, it is irreversible and cannot be repaired. Malnourished children are also much more susceptible to diseases, such as polio and other infectious sickness.

"Improving the nutritional status of children in Afghanistan is a priority," said Adele Khodr, UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan. "When children don't get the nutrients they need at a young age they are not able to reach their full potential and Afghanistan misses out on one of its most valuable resources - its children."

The new funding will play a critical role in preventing further cases of malnutrition and actively identifying cases for treatment. This includes strengthening community-based nutrition programming, with a focus on maternal nutrition, and infant and young child feeding practices, as part of an integrated management of acute malnutrition. (PR)

(5) IEC Commissioners ...

nominate a replacement for Ahmadzai.

"Based on article 16 of the election law, eight issues have been mentioned that can result in dismissal of the commission members and chairman. In three of them, the commission members have no authority (to dismiss the chairman) and in the other five they have the authority. It means if the chairman is part of a party while he is on duty, or has a terminal illness, if he is absent for a long time, has violated the law, has not observed national interests or has behaved inappropriately, then it is possible to fire him," Lawyer Mohammad Sadiq Baqiri said.

The document indicates that the decision regarding Ahmadzai was taken in his presence, but Ahmadzai and another commissioner Rafiullah Bidar have not signed the document. There are seven commissioners in total, including Ahmadzai.

"If he is dismissed, the president should introduce someone else from the selection list. If there is no one qualified on the list, then a selection committee should be established," executive director of Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan Yusuf Rasheed said.

IEC members refused to comment about their decision.

Institutions overseeing the election process say due to poor management in the IEC the upcoming elections might not be held in the next two years, but election commission secretary Imam Mohammad Warimach said they will provide a voters list within the next two weeks and will hold the elections using new ballot cards.

"The commission decided that new cards should be issued based on the identity cards and the election should be held," said Warimach.

The decision by the commissioners regarding Ahmadzai comes in the wake of recent reports that indicated Ahmadzai had resigned as a result of government and donor countries pressure. (ToloneWS)

(6) Trump Urges U.S. ...

the 39.6 percent top rate unchanged. The Senate proposal calls for keeping the existing seven tax brackets and cutting the top tax rate to 38.5 percent.

By analyzing the House version of tax cut bill, Tax Policy Center, an independent think tank, found that the current plan disproportionately favored the rich. "The largest cuts, in dollars and as a percentage of after-tax income, would accrue to higher-income households," it said in a report published last week.

Besides, Republicans have to find ways to fund the tax cuts. The House tax bill would add 1.7 trillion U.S. dollars to the national debt over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office, while the Republicans only allowed themselves up to 1.5 trillion U.S. dollars of deficit increases over a decade. (Xinhua)

(7) Pakistan, Iran Want ...

scholar Dr. Saadullah Zarei said that Pakistan and Iran along with China, Russia and Turkey want peace and development in Afghanistan and want to play their positive role for its development.

Talking about Iranian prospective regarding Pakistan Dr. Saadullah Zarei although Iran has good relations with India but it has also supported Pakistan against India on international level. "Being Muslim country Iran has strong relations with Pakistan over India," he added.

Answering a question, Dr. Saadullah Zarei said that Iran doesn't want Pakistan to limit its relations with Saudi Arabia whereas Iran wants more strong relations between them, as regional cooperation is very important for the security.

Defining the security Dr. Saadullah Zarei said that meaning of security is changed now. In the past, meaning of security was to protect yourself against your enemy but now security is more like cooperation. A county has more cooperation with other countries is more secured.

Khalid Mahmood in his address said that we can't forget the support from Iran at the time of need in 1965 and 1971. "Pakistan and Iran always have positive relations and both the countries are supporting each other on all the levels," he added.

He said Pakistan-Iran relations were not even effected when Pakistan was supporting Taliban whereas Iran was against them. "External factors have effected Pakistan-Iran relations, US, India and Israel alliance is always against Pakistan and Iran," he said.

Khalid Mahmood appreciated the Iran support on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Earlier in his welcome remarks, CISS Executive Director Ali Sarwar Naqvi said that Iran was the first country to recognise the Pakistan's statehood in 1947. Although the present time is very different and the domestic political systems have changed considerably, with Iran having undergone a revolution and Pakistan through many transitions, the relations between the two states have survived the test of time. (Agencies)

(8) Afghanistan from ...

Chinese products through Uzbekistan.

In the other hand the ministry of commerce and industries has said that the Lajaward (Lapis Lazuli Route) agreement is expected to be signed in the near future.

The ministry further stated that the agreement will help Afghanistan develop trade and commercial relations with the countries along the route.

Host Mosavi discusses the topics with the following guests:

On Afghanistan-Uzbekistan Nargis Mosavi discusses this issue with economic analyst Qais Mohammadi.

On local investors, Mosavi talks with Amin Musa, a restaurant owner.

And finally, Mosavi discusses the Lajaward agreement with economic analyst Samim Sarem. (ToloneWS)

(9) Lazuli Transit...

in business sector in the region and beyond with the implementation of this agreement," he said.

Focused on two points - transit structure and transportation infrastructure - the agreement would help address infrastructural gaps in the region and also coordinate custom operations besides facilitating customs clearance, issuance of business visas to traders and other services.

The agreement Sarosh said more countries also could request membership of the transit route.

The Lapis Lazuli Transited Route crossing Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia reaches the Black Sea and then to Turkey and finally connects Afghanistan to the international waters. (Pajhwok)

(10) Taliban Attack ...

in the western province of Farah, on Tuesday, killing eight soldiers and wounding three, according to the provincial government.

The government's control or influence over the country has fallen to just under 60 percent, down six percentage points from last year, according to the United States' Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. (Reuters)

(11) Regional...

of the event said.

It is expected that the prospects of projects implemented within the RECCA in its main areas - energy, transportation networks, trade and transit facilitation, communications, will be studied during the event.

The RECCA, initiated in 2005 in Kabul, aims to consolidate the efforts of the countries of the region in stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan and promoting regional economic integration of South and Central Asia.

Issues such as partnerships in the field of regional interchange, the benefits of water use, the fight against drugs, transport, trade facilitation and the business climate are discussed during the conference. (Trend)

(12) Protesters Accuse ...

heard their complaints and assured them to resolve their issue till coming Sunday.

Governor spokesman Attaullah Khogyani told Pajhwok Afghan News PC head and the administrative office head met the protesters and heard their complaints.

He said their complaints would be conveyed to the governor and then decision in this regard would be taken. (Pajhwok)

(14) US Congress Military

that Pakistan continues to conduct military operations that are contributing to significantly disrupting the safe havens, fundraising and recruiting efforts, and freedom of movement of the Haqqani network in Pakistan.

The defense secretary will also have to certify that Pakistan is making an attempt to actively coordinate with Afghanistan to restrict the movement of militants, such as the Haqqani network, along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border; and Pakistan has shown progress in arresting and prosecuting senior leaders and mid-level operatives of the Haqqani network.

This comes as the Afghan and US officials have long been insisting that the leadership councils of the Taliban and the notorious Haqqani terrorist network are based in the key cities of Pakistan where they plan and coordinate attacks in Afghanistan. (KP)

(13) Kabul, NATO

border in Bajaur Agency in which Captain Junaid Hafeez and Sepoy Raham were martyred and four soldiers injured.

There has been an increasing trend of cross-border terrorist attacks on Pakistani posts from their safe havens on Afghan soil. Almost 308 terrorist attacks have taken place this year. This is the highest number of attacks since 2012 when 324 attacks were reported. On an average there have been 248 attacks every year since 2012. About 29 soldiers have been martyred in the attacks over the past six years.

"This is the price Pakistan is paying for security vacuum on Afghan side of the border," the military spokesman said.

Pakistan has 975 posts along the 2,600km border with Afghanistan, which is mostly porous. Afghanistan, meanwhile, has around 218 posts on its side and there are huge gaps in between the largest being 650km long on the southern side.

Captain, soldier martyred in cross-border attack on Bajaur post

The terrorists exploit these gaps to launch attacks. Moreover, Afghan security forces and intelligence agencies are allegedly complicit with the Pakistani terrorist groups having sanctuaries in that region and turn a blind eye to their activities.

Maj Gen Ghafoor reminded the Afghan and Nato (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) authorities that Pakistan had done its part with regards to clearing of border areas and it was now their turn to reciprocate. He also recalled the steps being undertaken by the Pakistan military to prevent unauthorised cross-border movements.

"Pakistan has done its part; cleared all areas, fencing, new posts, enhanced presence along border and establishing crossing points," the ISPR chief said.

Pakistan is erecting a 12-foot-high fence along its largely porous 2,611km-long border with Afghanistan.

Additionally, new forts and outposts on mountain peaks are being established and 73 new wings of the Frontier Corps are being raised to man the border. The project is planned to be completed in two years.

Officials contend that the border management plan, once in place, would prevent unauthorised cross-border movements through 76 notified and unofficial routes.

The crossing points are planned to be limited to 16. Strict border control measures have, meanwhile, been implemented at two of the crossings - Torkham and Chaman - whereas another one on Ghulam Khan is to become functional by December. Three more crossings are currently planned to have similar arrangements.

The Afghans have been opposing the border management.

Captain, soldier martyred
A group of militants from across the border (Kunar province, Afghanistan) attacked a checkpoint in Mamond tehsil of Bajaur Agency with heavy weapons on Monday, killing Captain Junaid Hafeez and Sepoy Raham and injuring four soldiers.

According to officials, security forces responded to the attack and killed at least 10 militants.

The Inter-Services Public Relations confirmed the attack and said that a group of militants from the Afghan side attacked Pakistani posts in the border region. In a statement, the ISPR claimed that the forces effectively responded to the attack and killed eight to 10 fleeing militants and wounded several others. (Monitoring Desk)

(14) Malnutrition ...

had been previously operating in a ruined room without any medical equipment, but the new centre had many facilities for patients and doctors. (Pajhwok)

(15) Security Personnel, ...

But Police spokesman Iqbal Bahir said five more security forces were killed in militants' attacks in the Kal Kalae area of Bala Boluk district on Monday night.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said 11 security forces were killed and their check post was captured by the Taliban in the overnight attack.

Naseer Ahmad, the resident of Rokan village in Farah City, said two children and their mother was killed when a mortar shell struck their home as a result of Monday night clash.

The residents of Rokan village while carrying the coffins of mother and two children rallied against the killing of civilians.

Governor spokesman Nasir Mehri said the three civilian were killed as a result of shell fired by security forces. He said the protesters held talks with governor and discuss how to prevent the killing of civilians in the conflict. (Pajhwok)

(16) Four Suicide ...

before reaching the target and killed them," Durani said.

The Humvee bomb was detonated in a controlled environment, officials said.

No more details were provided. (ToloneWS)

(17) Pakistani Soldiers ...

Captain Junaid Hafeez and Sepoy Raham and injuring four soldiers.

The Pakistani military officials are saying that the security forces responded to the attack and killed at least 10 militants.

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility behind the attack.

In a statement released to media, the group claimed that the attack was carried out as the Pakistani troops were busy erecting fences along the line. (Khaama)

(18) Resign if Unable ...

they could not eradicate corruption.

But the provincial government claims it has been committed to eliminating corruption and asks officials to expose those creating hurdles in the anti-corruption campaign.

Few days back, Balkh police chief Brig. Gen. Syed Kamal Sadaat, while addressing a gathering on anti-corruption campaign, disclosed his inability to stop corruption and complained against interference of higher powerful individuals in eradication of corruption.

"Powerful individuals come and release criminals. We can just see and do nothing," Sadaat told the gathering which was jointly organised by the Anti-Corruption Department and religious scholars.

"People become subject to disgrace and insult and they could not raise their voice against the tyranny and persecution" he had said.

Sadaat did not name anyone and said: "This is not my ancestral post, but some may consider their posts ancestral. Some individuals have been here from the past 15 years and nobody could tell them anything."

The police chief broke into tears and asked the ulema to rescue the masses from the incumbent situation and never rely on slogans.

Rashid Halimi, the Anti-Corruption Department head, also acknowledged they were unable to stop corruption

He blamed the existing hurdles in the way of the anti-corruption drive on the central government and said some Balkh authorities had been refusing to register their assets. Halimi said despite repeated calls from their side, 26 Balkh officials had not yet registered their assets. He said 50 incidents of corruption were registered in Balkh in the past three months. "When we inform the centre, we receive the replay late. The seriousness of the central authorities is necessary for eradication of corruption and countering powerful individuals," he added.

Halimi said they started registration of government officials' assets one and half a years ago in the northern zone. So far 400 assets registration forms have been distributed but the officials did not cooperate.

He said those refusing to fill the forms were officials who considered themselves above the law.

The High Office of Anti-Corruption head said officials feared questions about their properties if they registered their assets. "It is the responsibility of a government official to register his/her assets." (Pajhwok)