

### (1) US Working with...

process that supports the Afghan government in providing security. Difficulties in monitoring and overseeing the antiterrorism assistance programme in Pakistan have been cited in the report, which says the State Department has no staff in Islamabad responsible for verifying satisfactory contractor performance or monitoring. Difficulty in obtaining visas from Pakistan is a contributing factor in the State Department's flawed oversight and monitoring of the antiterrorism assistance programme, adds the report. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Taliban Raids to ...

used civilians as human shield and attacked security forces from their homes, a claim the Taliban denied. On the other hand, 205th Military Corps' spokesman said about 31 rebels had been killed recently during an ongoing operation codenamed "Atal 37" in Charchino district and other areas. (Pajhwok)

### (3) 4-Nation Meeting ...

livelihoods, particularly those of small holders and their families. Outbreaks of diseases like foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) are a constant threat to both better nutrition and farmer incomes. Livestock movement in border areas Livestock-dependent populations in border areas include nomadic herders who move their stock along traditional routes between winter and summer pastures. The project aims to assist these groups in prevention and control of animal diseases. In Afghanistan alone, the most recent estimate of the nation-wide number of indigenous sheep, goats and cattle was in excess of 10 million. Control and preventive measures currently in place and emergency control measures required in case of disease outbreaks (sample collection, movement restrictions, emergency vaccinations, etc) are on the meeting agenda.

The officials are also discussing disease surveillance, outbreak investigations and, through case studies, are examining viable options for the control of animal movements along common borders. The meeting promotes communication, collaboration and coordination, exchange of technical expertise, awareness raising, training and capacity building as well as information-sharing.

The signing of a multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan will strengthen collaboration and coordination on control of trans-boundary animal disease. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Taliban Seize ...

of the force were killed, including Noor Mohammad. Four other pro-government fighters were seized by militants. The Balcharagh-Maimana highway has been closed for traffic. Abdullah, a resident of the area, said seven uprising members were killed as Taliban took control of the area. (Pajhwok)

### (5) A Total of 26,000 ...

of forces on the ground as he assumed leadership of the Pentagon earlier this year under President Donald Trump. DOD's previous official response to queries about the number of forces had been to provide the "force management level" - a cap set by the previous administration under former President Barack Obama. Using that figure, the Pentagon had only previously said there were 5,262 troops in Iraq. However the Defense Manpower Data Center, which tracks actual numbers and not policy-driven force management levels, was reporting that there were 6,812 US forces in Iraq in December 2016, the last report completed under former Barack Obama's administration.

The actual number of forces in Syria is also substantially higher than the previously acknowledged figure, according to the database. The Pentagon had previously provided the force management level number - 503 troops - when queried. The actual number is 1,720 plus three DOD civilians, according to the database.

Afghanistan also has many more US troops on the ground than previously acknowledged, according to the database. As of September 30 there were 15,298 US military forces and 1,202 DOD civilians, for a total reported US footprint in Afghanistan of 16,500. (Tolonews)

### (6) Loya Jirga Best ...

They must decide on what we must do to bring safety and a better life to the Afghan people. I believe that's the way forward." Karzai also blamed the foreign factors for the growing violence that persists in the country today, emphasizing that Pakistan is one of the main factors behind the instability as the country has provided sanctuaries, training grounds there, the financial resources provided to terrorism and the

ideological inputs to the terror groups. He also added that "The second most important factor or rather equally important factor was the whole conduct of US strategy in Afghanistan. The approach to Afghanistan and approach to fighting extremism was very heavy handed. Civilian casualties in Afghanistan, creation of prisons in Afghanistan, the violation of our sovereignty and violation of Afghan homes and culture and values. All that accumulated and put together brought us where we are today." (KP)

### (7) DABS Announces ...

at Sarobi and Mahipar dams of Kabul due to water shortage and high usage of electricity by Kabul residents as other reasons behind the hours-long load-shedding. The two dams produce 170 megawatt of electricity when is water enough but currently both produce only 70 megawatts, Momand said.

But he said fuel machines having the capacity to produce 140 megawatt of electricity would be activated in Kabul to reduce load-shedding after December 6. Wahidullah Tawhidi, DABS general spokesman, said that besides activation of fuel-powered generators, 50 megawatt of electricity had been purchased from Uzbekistan.

With activation of power generators and imported electricity, Kabul residents would have 16 hours access to the service a day, he said.

However, some people complain that DABS does not do justice when it comes to distribution of electricity.

Abdul Saboor, a resident of Kampani area of Kabul, said they availed electricity for less than 12 hours a day while some other areas like Niazbig and Karta-i-Mamorin were supplied electricity for 24 hours.

"This injustice prevailed in previous winters as well, we hope the officials concerned would pay attention to this issue," he said. However, Tawhidi said they observed balance in distribution of electricity to consumers and it was distributed under different schedules. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Above 1,700 ...

they represent women's increased awareness and access to justice," he said. Rasouli said nearly 2,500 prosecution offices were active across the country, with 17 percent of prosecutors being women. Prosecution offices were previously active only in eight provinces last year, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Over 200 ...

schools, therefore the Taliban are monitoring the schools in areas under their control," said Ahmadi.

Ahmadi said he is satisfied with the monitoring of these schools by the Taliban. "We are happy with the monitoring by the Taliban, because at least they monitor the schools, for instance, the information which we have from the people in Kashak Kohna district, the Taliban monitor the schools and they control tensions at schools; we are very happy with this work of the Taliban," added Ahmadi.

But, his comments sparked a major backlash by civil society activists and members of the Herat provincial council.

"The issue that the education department says they are happy about the monitoring by the Taliban, that he (Ahmadi) talks about it in such detail is not acceptable; because the monitoring process needs to be conducted on the basis of principles and regulations (by the education department), because if armed opponents undertake the job of the government, this is totally unlawful," said Sayed Azim Kibrzani, a member of Herat's provincial council.

"Monitoring of the Taliban at schools indicates that government and local officials in Herat are very weak and the Taliban is strong, therefore government needs to tackle the issue very seriously," said civil society activist Jawad Ameen.

Statistics from Herat department of education shows that of the total number of schools - 969 - 750 of them are controlled by the education department, but another 219 schools are controlled by the Taliban. (Tolonews)

### (10) Afghanistan ...

suffering from decades of wars and violence, the will of the Afghans remained strong to work for the development of their country and keep their unity intact, the envoy said.

"Peace with the Taliban is very complicated," he said, adding peace with those willing to reconcile was possible, something he believed most of the groups did not want. He said from constitutional monarchy to republic, communist, anarchy, extremist regimes and now democracy, the Afghans identity was never threatened.

He said the Afghans were still suffering from many problems and the government was trying to resolve them. "Despite the challenges, Afghans still work for their future." (Pajhwok)

### (11) IDP Families ...

with each family pocketing \$200 in cash, four blankets and winter cloths. The internally displaced persons (IDPs) belong to Laghman, Baghlan, Nuristan, Takhar, Badakhshan, Kunduz and Balkh provinces. Mohammad Akbar, a displaced from Dawlat Shah district of eastern Laghman province, was happy over the aid and urged more assistance. (Pajhwok)

### (12) Senior AFF ...

program - they are from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. The coaches will get advanced technical and practical training. (Tolonews)

### (13) Export Strategy, ...

participatory, involving government and private business representatives. On Nov, 25, more than 70 industry leaders, small business owners and public sector representatives agreed on key objectives intended to increase exports - part of a five-year plan to be included in the nascent National Trade Policy.

In a statement from ITC, Minister of Commerce and Industries Humyoon Rasa said: "The strategies have been developed with the objective of increasing Afghanistan's exports and domestic production by promoting a balanced relationship between trade integration and sustainable domestic economic development.

Atiq Nusrat, chief executive officer of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), said the Export Strategy and Trade Policy had been a longstanding necessity for the country.

The National Export Strategy sets out clear goals, includes a detailed five-year plan of action, and features a management system that will allow for improved logical teamwork and decision-making.

It seeks to expand trade and boost the socio-economic development, increase the capacity of businesses, attract investment and improve the circumstances of women and youth.

The National Trade Policy is intended to address challenges holistically with its main objective being the better integration of Afghan businesses in regional value chains and in the global economy.

The recommendations put forward by industry officials and small business owners on steps needed to make such progress will be included in the final version of the policy, which has to be approved by the High Economic Council.

Eric Buchot, an ITC officer, said the National Export Strategy, thanks to support from the European Union, already accommodated budgeting for the implementation of critical pilot activities that have been developed through the design process.

Rajesh Aggarwal, ITC's chief of trade facilitation and policy for business, said the National Trade Policy provided a road map through which the country's Ministry of Commerce and Industries could lead broad-based government and private sector progress. (Pajhwok)

### (14) Families of Fallen...

year and as a result of the negotiations prince Ali agreed with an investment of \$100 million.

He said an agreement was also signed between the ministry of urban development and housing and the Al-Gharafa Foundation led by prince Ali.

According to Minister Naderi, the township includes construction of 12 blocks with each consisting of 14 stories. Minister Naderi also added that the township will also include a mosque, school, kindergarten, and a compound for the trading activities. (KP)

### (15) Power Project:...

two million afghanis for the power project, but local influential people claim the allocation was 2.8 million afghanis.

Meanwhile, some sources claimed only 800,000 afghanis had been spent on the project and the rest embezzled. While the project in-charge claimed 1.1 million had been spent on the project.

DABS said a specific amount had been allocated for the digging and installing pylons, but the project in charge denied it and said no amount was allocated for the purpose. DABS head in Parwan said there had been no issue in the project but accused local elders of uselessly spending of amount 300,000 afghanis in the project.

Residents of the locality say work on the project was launched two years back in Dasht-i-Hofyan and nearby village of Joy-i-Jamel, but after installation of pylons, the project was stopped. Recently work on the project was re-launched in the area, where around 600 families are living.

Public complaints about embezzlement Haji Abdul Qodus, an elder of a village in Dasht-i-Hofyan, told Pajhwok Afghan News the residents have been longing for electricity over the past eight years.

He said residents appointed Abdul Raqib to head the electricity distribution project

in the area. Rabib was the head of Mullahkhel Laghmani Council.

He said DABS officials told Raqib that no money had been allocated for the digging process and the residents should do it voluntarily.

The project has been delayed over the past two years. The residents complained to the provincial DABS office and informed them that the digging process had been carried out voluntarily, but still the project could not be completed.

Other residents of the area shared similar views and demanded wages for the digging of pylons.

Mohammad Meer, an expert in well digging, said laborers worked against 500 afs to 1000 afs daily wages.

He said digging a soft area cost per laborer 500 afghanis but in area where rocks and stones existed cost 1,200 afghanis per metre.

Looking at the average price of digging, the total amount of 200 dug areas accounts for 350,000 afghanis.

An influential figure in Hofian area, who wished to go unnamed, claimed that Abdul Raqib, head of Mullahkhel Laghmani village council, was involved in embezzlement of the project money.

However, Raqib rejected his claim and said he was unaware how much money the DABS had allocated for the project. He said he had the list of materials including cement, sand, rocks and pylons for which he paid 1.1 million afghanis and as well as the rent of cranes for installation of power pylons.

He did not pay money to people who dug the soil for installation of power pylons because DABS did not allocate any money for them.

About embezzlement of the money, he said: "I have my own calculations, everything is clear."

A copy of the document available with Raqib is obtained by Pajhwok Afghan News. According to the document, Raqib was given 1,070,000 afghanis in total. The document is signed by Abdul Raqib and deputy commerce and deputy finance and administrative heads of DABS in Parwan.

However, Mohammad Ismail Qudosi, DABS' deputy finance and administrative head said that Abdul Raqib was not given that money.

Accusing local headmen for wasting money

Eng. Abdul Matin Murad, DABS head for Parwan, said there were no problems in the project. But in his talks he accused local tribal elders of unnecessary use of the project money.

He did not say how the money was used, but added DABS' Parwan branch had received some equipment such as pylons, transformers, cable and other items from the Ministry of Water and Energy about two years ago.

These equipment needed a proper plan for utilization, but the equipment were distributed without a plan and a company was contracted against two million afghanis to purchase sand, rocks, cement and other items under pressure from local elders and commanders, he added.

However, Murad did not share documents of the contract with the company and did not reveal the name of the company. He said he could not share documents with media according to DABS policy.

"Local elders interfere in everything, they create problems for contractor and did not allow the company to continue its work and even took money from the company and said they themselves would implement the project."

The elders spent the money on unnecessary things such as food and no further money was released to the elders who then started complaining, he explained.

He said Abdul Raqib spent 300,000 Afghani on food in the project while there was no allocation from DABS for food.

In other part of his speech, Murad said: "There is no problem in this project, some people waste our time by making such claims. I visited the project implementation last week, and the work was ongoing."

He did not provide information about why the project was delayed and could not be implemented so far. But Abdul Raqib rejected unnecessary expenditures and said DABS had signed no contract with a company. Local people requested DABS to let them purchase materials for installation of power pylons in order to accelerate the work process and the power utility accepted it, he said. He rejected Murad's claims that the project money was wasted in food.

About spending of 300,000 afghanis, he said: "They (DABS officials) embezzled more than 300,000 afghanis, the money was not embezzled by people or headmen but DABS, about 1.6 million afghanis are missing," Abdul Hafiz Ausuli, head of appellate court of Parwan, said the case was under process with the attorney office and they could not provide information on the issue until the attorney investigation was completed. (Pajhwok)

### (16) In Quest of Title, ...

29 at 9.30am local time. The competition that began in 2015 is into its seventh and final round.

The Afghanistan-UAE encounter will be live-streamed on the ICC website. There will be highlights packages available of all remaining Intercontinental Cup matches via the ICC social channels.

"It has been our goal to win the ICC Intercontinental Cup and we are very much looking forward to the final match," said Afghan skipper Ashgar Stanikzai, who is focused on winning the competition.

"We have had a number of training and preparations camps over the past year, the latest of which was in India. This has been helpful in our preparations and we are confident ahead of the match against UAE.

"We have come a long way from the beginning of this competition in 2015, where we are now playing test cricket and have obtained Full member status, we want to end with winning the I-Cup." (Pajhwok)

### (17) Protestors Seek...

to raise objection against Tahir. Different tribal groups had been in conflict with the each other, he alleged.

The protestors, numbering around 50, voiced their concern over the police officer's wrongdoing and asked the government to sack him immediately.

In case the authorities ignored their demand, they warned of wider protests, including the closure of the Kabul-Baghlan highway and establishment of protest tents in front of UNAMA officer in Kabul. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Taliban Militants ...

group or government institutions and yet the reason behind his execution by the Taliban insurgents remains unclear.

The Taliban insurgents group has not commented regarding the report so far.

This comes as the local officials earlier had said that the Taliban insurgents have executed one of their other local leaders amid ongoing violence in this province.

According to the local officials, the Taliban group was executed by the insurgents in Ghani Khel district but the main motive has not been ascertained so far.

The provincial government media office in a statement confirmed that a key Taliban group member identified as Khadem who was also famous as Dadullah was killed by the insurgents.

The statement further added that Khadem was apparently killed due to the persistent differences among the Taliban ranks and ongoing infighting with the ISIS terrorist groups militants. (KP)

### (19) MAZ in Critical ...

establish such a facility since his mother died when he was just nine year old due to a lack of female doctors. She had refused to go to the male doctor and lost her life to an ordinary skin illness.

Dr. Amiri said that the attachment to cultural, traditional and religious values persuaded many families to stop their daughters from going to co-education schools, institutions of higher education, and universities. Another purpose for the creation of this institute was to support women who got married at a young age and were unable to continue their education after they gave birth.

A higher education centre for women, a medical institute, a high school and a kindergarten for girls are functional in MAZ.

He said that the facility was founded to provide educational opportunities for Afghan women and girls in line with national and Islamic values. Highly qualified women staffers are appointed to impart education to the students here. He also recalled that no organisation or government institution had helped him in the establishment of MAZ; though some even thought that the facility belonged to First Lady Rulla Ghani. Despite facing complex economic problems, Amiri said that he wanted to expand the network to Nangarhar, Khost, Kandahar, Balkh and Herat provinces.

He criticised the government's policies and said that one of fundamental problems was high taxes. Despite suffering from a loss of approximately 20 million Afghani last year, his organization had to pay approximately a hundred thousand Afghani in taxes. He said that an institution which suffered losses amounting to 20 million Afghani required government's support and compensation.

The particular institution should be asked to pay taxes only after it becomes self-sufficient. He also added the MAZ had on several occasions requested the Ministry of Interior for cooperation on security related matters, but no support was provided by the ministry.

He warned that the facility might collapse if such situations persist, and might get converted into an entertainment place or even become a restaurant. He demanded that the government should reconsider its economic policies to help encourage the investors, and asked the president to extend flexibility for encouraging investments. (Pajhwok)