

(1) UN Calls on ...

UN also urged all stakeholders of the Afghan 2019 Presidential Election to 'have an accurate understanding of the tallying process before making comments' and asked IEC and ECC to ensure all stakeholders understand the tally process.

The statement stressed on the proper addressing of electoral complaints, saying, "Afghan law enforcement agencies should investigate expeditiously and, where appropriate, detain and prosecute those responsible." (ATN)

(2) Bayat Foundation ...

and sustainable infrastructure in needy regions, and the promotion of health, education, economic, and cultural programs. (ATN)

(3) Afghan Senator ...

removed tinted film on window of the senator's vehicle, adding they did not insult him or beat his guard.

Senate Speaker Fazl Hadi Muslimyar condemned police action in the case as insulting, but backed their checking of vehicles.

The claim comes two days after two MPs were engaged in a clash with police after their vehicles were stopped in PD 9 of the city.

The parliament held extraordinary meeting during night with MPs questioning the acting interior minister for the police action. (ITV News)

(4) 107 Afghan Districts ...

with \$24 million to Afghanistan to help natural disaster management in the country.

Meanwhile, a United Nations official said that the international body is committed to support Afghanistan in tackling natural disasters.

Parvati, deputy of World Food Programme in Afghanistan, said that they would continue to work in close coordination with the Afghan authorities to reduce risk of natural disasters in the country.

Based on data from State Ministry for Disaster Management, 400,000 Afghans have been displaced due to drought since last year.

20,000 families are facing shelter problems. 80,000 homes have been fully destroyed due to flooding. (ITV News)

(5) Growing Insecurity ...

He said, "At least 20 shops have so far been touched. We will close our shops if the situation remains the same."

A number of other shopkeepers held similar views and warned if the security situation was not improved, they would move elsewhere permanently.

Jan Agha, a resident of the old city on the outskirts of Baghlan-i-Markazi district, told Pajhwok that hundreds of families had been displaced to other areas during the past 20 days as a result of growing insecurity in the district.

He said, "Taliban militants have taken positions in our village and their clashes with security forces are possible anytime."

Ghulam Farood, another resident of the same area, said they were awaiting resumption of peace talks.

Zarghon, a security official at the 6th police district, told Pajhwok that dozens of families had left the city after a Taliban coordinated attack on the city.

He said efforts were underway to ensure security of the provincial capital and districts in near future. (Pajhwok)

(6) 12 Taliban Red ...

Elsewhere, the security forces arrested three individuals with 198 kilograms of drugs in Rodat and BatiKot districts and in Jalalabad, the provincial capital.

Police spokesman Mubzar Atal said the detainees were currently under interrogation. They will be referred to judicial organs for further action. (Pajhwok)

(7) Taliban Group ...

a civil society activist in Firozkoh, the provincial capital, termed the surrender of the six Taliban members including their commander as a huge achievement.

He urged all Taliban militants to join the peace process and choose the right way in their life. (Pajhwok)

(8) Nangarhar Journos ...

News that Nangarhar based journalists faced serious problems regarding access to the information law.

He said, "Only the spokesmen of the governor and police headquarters share information with media outlets."

He also accused the Access to the Information Commission (AIC) of confining its activities only to Facebook and doing nothing practical in this regard.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok that the provincial government was committed to providing information to media outlets if other departmental heads were not

willing to share information with journalists.

Meanwhile, Hamdullah Arbab, a AIC commissioner, told Pajhwok that access to information is every Afghan's right, saying journalists should demand information based on the AIC procedure.

He rejected allegations that their commission did not work for public awareness about the access to information law. He said the AIC had created a form if some institutions did not want to cooperate in this regard, they could share the form with them so the organs concerned were introduced to the attorney office. (Pajhwok)

(9) NATO MPs Summit ...

NATO marks its 70th anniversary, this session will be a key moment to celebrate the work of this vitally important institution, the bedrock of our security," NATO PA President Madeleine Moon said. (Pajhwok)

(10) 'Endless Wars ...

was the first known contact between the two sides since Trump called off talks last month. (TOLO News)

(11) Battling Security ...

who we ask for justice. The thieves are supplied with rockets and mortars and the law defends them," said Akhtar Mohammad.

"They (lawmakers) employ many security guards while they move around and this is not giving a good impression to the public," said Nek Mohammad, a resident from Kabul.

"It is creating problems for the public, it creates fear for the citizens," said Hamed, a resident in Kabul.

"They are passing through the road with their armed men, so we feel fear and think and ask ourselves who are they and where are they coming from," said Mellinia, a resident of Kabul.

"We are against the illegal actions. Whether he is a policeman, a minister, or anyone else, he does not have the right to take up arms against the police," said one lawmaker in the Afghan parliament, Ziauddin Akzai.

Collecting illegal weapons and banning illegal armed groups has always been a priority for security agencies, but as influential circles support these groups their will continue to exist. (TOLO News)

(12) AGO Orders ...

investigate the incident.

On campaign trail, both President Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah visited Jalalabad and shared their sympathy and grief with the families of the victims.

AGO spokesman Jamshid Rasouli told Pajhwok Afghan News on Saturday that their delegation visited Jalalabad twice as per directives of the president.

He said the AGO team condoled with the families and was briefed how the incident unfolded. The AGO delegation also met with civil and military officials in Nangarhar and has sent its report to the AGO main office in Kabul.

The AGO spokesman said their team had completed its initial investigation into the incident and a copy of the findings had been set to the Presidential Palace and another to the AGO office.

"As this case needs further investigation, the AG has appointed a second high level delegation in which intelligence and security officials are included to further investigate the incident."

He said the result of the investigation would be shared with the people once completed. (Pajhwok)

(13) Japan Sends ...

"I extend my condolences for all those who lost their lives and offer my sympathy to all those impacted by Typhoon No.19 (Hagibis)," Abe said.

"With respect to blackouts, water outage and suspension of transportation services, we intend to exert all-out efforts for the earliest recovery ... we ask the public to remain vigilant of landslides and other hazards," he said.

Some 27,000 members of Japan's self-defense forces as well as firefighters, police and coast guard members were sent to rescue stranded people in central Japan's Nagano prefecture and elsewhere, the government said.

NHK said the full extent of the widespread damage was only beginning to emerge because many areas remained under water.

Some 425,000 homes were without power, the government said, reviving fears of a repeat of the weeks-long power outages suffered after another typhoon hit east of Tokyo last month. (Reuters)

(14) Brexit Hangs ...

members on progress in those talks by conference call at around 1145 GMT. If Britain leaves the EU without a deal, many expect serious short-term disruption

with possible food, fuel and medicine shortages, and long term damage to Britain's reputation as a safe and stable home for foreign investment.

The government says it is doing everything it can to get a deal, and that it has contingency plans to mitigate the impact of a no-deal exit.

Ireland has proved the toughest issue in the Brexit talks: specifically how to prevent the British province of Northern Ireland becoming a backdoor into the EU's markets without having border controls.

Ireland fears controls on the 500-km (300-mile) border with Northern Ireland would undermine the 1998 Good Friday Agreement which ended three decades of sectarian and political conflict that killed more than 3,600 people. (Reuters)

(15) Kremlin Relishes ...

Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. forces from the area, cold shouldering the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, the key U.S. ally in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Washington's abrupt decision to ditch the Kurds contrasted sharply with Moscow's unwavering support for its ally Assad, which helped his government reclaim the bulk of the country's territory in a devastating civil war.

Along with military power, Russian President Vladimir Putin has relied on diplomacy to achieve his goals in Syria, reaching out to regional powers — from Iran to Saudi Arabia, Israel and Turkey. NATO member Turkey has become a particularly important partner for Russia.

Even though the two countries have backed opposite sides in the Syrian conflict, they have pooled efforts to negotiate a de-escalation zone in the Syrian province of Idlib and co-sponsor talks on forming a committee that would draft a new Syrian constitution.

The Russia-Turkey rapprochement came as Ankara's relations with Washington grew increasingly chilly and were further strained over Turkey's recent purchase of Russian air defense missiles.

Turkey's offensive in Syria, which has drawn harsh criticism from the U.S. and European Union, may now push Moscow and Ankara even closer.

"Russia wants to benefit from that operation, and one of the gains could be the strengthening of ties with Turkey," said Kirill Semenov of the Russian International Affairs Council. "The harsh response from Washington, the EU reaction, the threat of sanctions against Turkey all play into Moscow's hands by making Moscow and Ankara even closer."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called Putin just before unleashing air strikes and an artillery barrage on Kurdish-controlled areas in Syria. Ankara charges that the Kurdish fighters in Syria are allied with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has led an insurgency against Turkey for 35 years.

While Russia has noted the need to respect Syria's territorial integrity, it also has emphasized Turkey's right to ensure its security — a benevolent stance contrasting with the harsh Western criticism of the Turkish offensive.

Russia has long urged the U.S.-allied Kurdish fighters in Syria to come back to Damascus' fold, an offer they may need to take more seriously now.

"We heard that both Syrian officials and representatives of Kurdish organizations expressed interest in Russia using its good relations with all parties to the process in arranging such talks," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters on Thursday. "We will see what we can do."

Lavrov also pointed at another Moscow goal — brokering a dialogue between Turkey and Assad's government, something Ankara has strongly rejected in the past.

"It would be good for Russia to bring Ankara and Damascus to the table and have Ankara acknowledge the legitimacy of the regime in Damascus, if not Assad himself," Semenov said.

In another power game, Russia hopes to see major gains in its long-running effort to retain leverage over its neighbor Ukraine, a former Soviet republic looking to align itself with the West. In 2014, Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and threw its support behind a separatist insurgency in eastern Ukraine following the ouster of Ukraine's Moscow-friendly leader, moves that triggered bruising Western sanctions.

Zelenskiy, who was elected by a landslide in April, has vowed to end the fighting, which has killed more than 13,000. Early this month, Ukraine, Russia and the rebels signed a tentative agreement to hold local elections in the east, a deal Zelenskiy insists conforms to a 2015 peace accord that was brokered by France and Germany.

The agreement, however, has been criticized by some in Ukraine as "capitulation"

to Moscow. On Monday, far-right and nationalist groups are staging a major rally in Kyiv to protest Zelenskiy's peace plan.

The Ukrainian president's standing has been weakened by the political furor in the United States, where Democrats in Congress are conducting an impeachment inquiry triggered by his telephone conversation with Trump. In the July 25 call, Trump pushed him to open a corruption investigation into Democratic rival Joe Biden and his son. In the days before the call, Trump ordered a freeze on hundreds of millions of dollars in badly needed U.S. military aid.

Zelenskiy has denied being pressured by Trump, but this past week he encouraged U.S. and Ukrainian prosecutors to discuss investigating a gas company linked to Biden's son, although no one has produced evidence of criminal wrongdoing by either Biden.

The White House's publication of a rough transcript of the call was embarrassing for the 41-year-old Ukrainian president because it showed him eager to please Trump and dismissive of European partners whose support he needs to end the conflict in the east. While Zelenskiy sought to play it down, it could help Russia by eroding support for Ukraine in Germany and France.

"France and Germany have grown tired of Ukraine and are too busy with their own problems, and their only goal is to close the issue of the war in the east by any means," said Vadim Karasev, head of the Institute of Global Strategies, an independent Kyiv-based think tank. "If Russia offers a compromise, Berlin and Paris will heave a sigh of relief. By publicly kicking (German Chancellor Angela) Merkel and (French President Emmanuel) Macron, Zelenskiy untied their hands and there is no more talk about their 'friendly support.'"

In June, France helped Russia's delegation restore its credentials at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, five years after it was stripped of voting rights following the annexation of Crimea. Macron has also spoken about the prospect of Russia's eventual return to the Group of Seven, from which it was purged after annexing Crimea.

"Russia is the main beneficiary of that situation," Karasev said. "Putin no longer has to prove that Ukraine is dangerous and toxic — Ukrainian and U.S. politicians have done the job for him. The Kremlin now just needs to wait until the Ukrainian apple falls into its lap, as the U.S., Germany and France all have got their share of toxic Ukrainian gifts and got poisoned."

Yuras Karmanau in Kyiv, Ukraine, and Konstantin Manenkov in Moscow contributed to this report. (AP News)

(16) Trump Says ...

to the Values Voter Summit, an annual gathering of social conservative activists.

He portrayed the Middle East as a hopeless cause, despite years of American military involvement and financial investment.

"It's less safe now. It's less secure, less stable and they fight," he said. "That's what they do. They fight."

Trump announced that he had directed \$50 million in emergency aid for Syria to support Christians and other religious minorities there.

Before the speech, Trump was joined on stage by Andrew Brunson, an American pastor who was released by Turkey in October 2018 after nearly two years of confinement. The case had roiled relations with Turkey and prompted an outcry from U.S. evangelical groups.

Brunson led Saturday's audience in a prayer for the president. (AP News)

(17) Hundreds of ...

Abdelaziz Bouteflika was forced to resign in early April amid wide-scale protests since Feb. 22. Last week, the government said the draft amendment on hydrocarbon law came in response to "domestic and international developments in the field of hydrocarbons, mostly as the original law issued in 2005 and amended in 2012 proved to be limited in terms of developing production process and attracting foreign investments." (Xinhua)

(18) Poland, China ...

unprecedented achievements over the past 70 years.

By practicing the socialism with Chinese characteristics, China, especially in the past four decades, turned itself from a poor country into the world's second largest economy in terms of gross domestic product, he said.

Wiktor also mentioned the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by China in 2013, which is to promote cooperation, connectivity and common development along and beyond the ancient Silk Road trade routes.

Poland signed a memorandum of understanding with China about the BRI in

2015.

The expert said he believes the BRI is "a great opportunity for Central and Eastern European countries, including Poland."

The initiative represents not only economic cooperation, but also peace, people and cultural exchanges and many other merits, he added.

"For those reasons, the Polish public opinion supports this initiative and is in favour of the active involvement of Poland in it," said Wiktor. (Xinhua)

(19) Iran Says ...

that his country would be willing to discuss regional issues with Saudi Arabia, but that Riyadh had to stop "killing people".

Saudi Arabia is locked in several proxy wars in the region with Iran and has blamed Tehran for attacks on Saudi oil plants on Sept. 14, a charge Iran denies. The kingdom has said it prefers a political solution to a military one.

In a statement on Saturday, Pakistan's foreign ministry described Khan's visit to Tehran as "part of his initiative to promote peace and security in the region."

Khan is scheduled to have meetings with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani, it said. (Trend)

(20) US Urges Pakistan ...

of Hafiz Saeed on terrorism financing charges.

Saeed, arrested on the same charges, has been on judicial remand since July, a move previously welcomed by US President Donald Trump who wants Pakistan to do more to crack down on militancy. The recent arrests come ahead of a meeting next week of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global watchdog, which will review progress made by Pakistan in controlling terror financing and money laundering.

Pakistan, included on a so-called grey list compiled by the FATF, has been under increasing pressure to stop the financing of militant groups.

The recently released final Mutual Evaluation Report of the Asia Pacific Group (APG) says Pakistan faces high risks of money laundering and terror financing and it needs to improve the understanding of these risks that are also emanating from various terrorist groups operating in the country.

The APG on Money Laundering released its report 10 days before the Financial Action Task Force's plenary meeting, which is going to give its decision on Pakistan's status on its grey list.

After the APG report, chances are high that Pakistan would be retained on the grey list during the FATF plenary meetings from October 13 to 18 in Paris. (Pakistan Today)

(21) AIIB Names ...

prosperous villages project in Uzbekistan

"This is a multi-sectoral rural infrastructure project. The project will have the following two components; demand-driven investments in basic infrastructure and services and project management, monitoring and evaluation, and institutional support," the representative stated.

Total estimated project investment is \$183.6 million (joint co-financing with the World Bank) where AIIB loan will be \$82 million, World Bank's International Development Loan will be \$100 million and Government of Uzbekistan's part will be \$1.6 million. The project is expected to be completed in June, 2024

AIIB's third proposed project in Uzbekistan is Bukhara Region Water Supply and Sewerage. It has three components: investment in water supply infrastructure; investment in sewerage infrastructure; capacity building and implementation support.

The official stressed that the Phase I project cost \$422 million; the AIIB loan is \$357 million (85 percent) and \$65 million (15 percent) will be covered by Uzbekistan. "Phase II project cost is \$236 million. AIIB will loan \$200 million (85 percent), while Uzbekistan will cover the remaining \$36 million (15 percent)." AIIB's representative added. The estimated date of loan closing is Apr. 2024. The last proposed project is Railway Electrification Project (Bukhara-Urgench-Khiva)

According to the bank's representative, it aims to improve connectivity of the railway network connecting the cities of Bukhara, Urgench and Khiva in western Uzbekistan, reduce travel time and increase the freight handling capabilities of the rail connections amongst these cities.

"The project will be implemented by Uzbekistan Railways JSC under the Ministry of Finance. The project is expected to be completed in Dec. 2022," the official said.

The representative stressed that the total cost of the project is \$339.1 million. AIIB's loan amount to \$168.2 million, while \$170.9 million will be covered by Uzbekistan Railways.

Finally the AIIB's official added that all of the above are yet to be approved. (Trend)