

### (1) EU Supports...

"We trust on a transparent and credible election and will not hesitate any efforts for a clean and fraud-free poll," he said. About peace efforts, he said, "Peace is a priority of the Afghan people and myself, I explained my position about this during election campaigns, peace is a priority for us in any processes and we welcome a permanent and dignified peace," (Pajhwok)

### (2) Afghan Government...

by Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah; the Executive Committee for Private Sector Development, an advisory body comprising government ministries, the private sector and international donors; and a private sector gathering the MoIC organised with the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI). By setting out a broad framework for improving Afghanistan's export competitiveness, the ANTP complements the narrower National Export Strategy (NES), endorsed in April, which focuses on removing bottlenecks to the development of specific export sectors with high growth and employment potential.

Afghan Minister of Industry and Commerce Ajmal Ahmady said: "The national trade policy is promoting a balanced relationship between trade integration and sustainable domestic economic development. It address key challenges and serves as a roadmap to overcome them."

EU Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon said: "The adoption of the National Trade Policy is yet another milestone in building an inclusive and forward looking set of key policies aimed at giving Afghan export products better chances of success on the international markets. The Policy will foster regional trade and allow Afghanistan to progress in achieving WTO its post-accession commitments. The EU is proud to have played a leading role in this process and will continue to strengthen its economic partnership with Afghanistan in support of an inclusive growth."

ITC Executive Director Arancha González said: "ITC is pleased to have supported the Government of Afghanistan in developing this national trade policy. This is an important roadmap which will serve as an essential tool in developing Afghanistan's trade activities and creating an environment where entrepreneurship can thrive."

Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat, the former Chief Executive Officer of ACCI said: "Trade Policy has been a longstanding necessity for the country. It will be a very useful and important document. Due to lack of such policies, we could not focus on the growth of production, and growth of exports. It will help us to see significant changes in Afghan trade." (PR)

### (3) IEC to Announce...

biometrically verified turnout of 85% of polling stations is at 1.7 million voters while previously the turnout was more than 2.7 million voters.

Despite Taliban's repeated threats, the presidential election was held on September 28 across the country.

The preliminary results was scheduled to be announced on October 19 and the final results is scheduled to be announced on November 7.

If none of the candidates win over 50 percent of votes in the first round, the two leading candidates will enter a runoff. (ATN)

### (4) Afghan Senate...

This comes as anti-corruption and integrity watch organizations have accused the government of national unity of corruption and administrative weakness.

The United States recently withheld \$160 million in aid to Afghanistan due to corruption in governmental institutions. (Khaama Press)

### (5) Civilian Casualties ...

suicide and non-suicide IED attacks by Anti-Government Elements, primarily the Taliban."

The report claimed there is an increase of civilian casualties "because of aerial and search operations undertaken by pro-government forces," but the major cause was insurgent groups: "The sharp increase in the recent quarter is due most of all to the civilian casualties caused by anti-government elements."

Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan has called on all warring sides to avoid further harm to the Afghan civilians during combat operations.

"Civilian casualties at record-high levels clearly shows the need for all parties concerned to pay much more attention to protecting the civilian population, including through a review of conduct during combat operations," said Yamamoto.

Yamamoto decried the tragic uselessness of such death in the face of "widespread recognition that there can be no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan."

In addition to detailing civilian casualties and their causes, UNAMA's latest report indicates that 41 per cent of all civilian casualties in Afghanistan were women and children. In the

first nine months of 2019, UNAMA documented 923 women casualties (261 killed and 662 injured) and 2,461 child casualties (631 killed and 1,830 injured).

UNAMA called on all parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations to protect civilians from harm and strictly adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law. (TOLO News)

### (6) Consulate Closure ...

told a Pakistani newspaper: "I have been trying to visit the consulate for the last many days to get back my passport."

The News quoted him as saying the soldiers did allow him to cross the check-post in the high-security area. He demanded the early opening of the consulate.

About 500 visa seekers and general visitors would come to the consulate on a daily basis before it was closed. But not a single person has been seen outside the visa-window since its closure.

Thousands of Afghan nationals and refugees are living in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and consulate is the nearest point for them to get visas from or have other issues addressed.

Additionally, hundreds of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa residents also approach the consulate for visas for Afghanistan. They are also facing problems. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Taliban Fighting...

the government.

Spanta also voiced his concern at the low voter turnout in the Sept. 28 presidential election. He said the masses wanted peace to be prioritised. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Rahmani Stresses ...

pushed forward to establish a buffer zone where up to 1 million refugees would be relocated.

Ahead of an Afghan election last month, President Donald Trump abruptly canceled a secret Camp David meeting where members of the Taliban and the Afghan government and the administration would work out the final details of a peace agreement ending the American military involvement in Afghanistan.

Rahmani cited the success of the 70,000 Afghan security forces who ensured the safety of voters in the Sept. 28 presidential election as another example of the difference this year from previous national votes, when the United States and coalition forces played a major role in keeping the peace on voting day.

The strong Afghan security presence and the relatively few incidents of violence at the polls "were an important milestone in counterterrorism strategy" going forward. In addition to the security forces, she said 200,000 Afghans worked the polls; more than 10,000 of them were women. "This is a test of how far our country has evolved." She viewed the election, where preliminary results have been delayed at least until next week for a number of technical reasons, as "cement[ing] our commitment to democracy," and that needs to be recognized in Washington.

She added, "Afghans risked their lives to go to the polls"

Rahmani said Afghans are "choosing democracy over the other possibilities" presented by the Taliban or Islamic State.

Although peace talks among the leading parties appear to be at a standstill, and the turnout of 3 million Afghans for the presidential election has been called low, she stressed, "the United States needs a strong partner in Afghanistan." No matter who is elected president - incumbent Ashraf Ghani or the country's chief executive, Abdullah Abdullah - "they share your goals" of wanting a stable nation, she added.

"The military cannot provide a full solution" to achieving that goal and ensuring the progress made towards a democracy shared by all is achieved. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Speakers at Herat...

continuous war in the country is the intelligence and proxy war.

Spanta mentioned Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the US, and suggested that international intrigues are behind the ongoing conflict: "We are the victims of a proxy war."

He urged that the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan must be discussed with the government of Afghanistan, "not with any other side."

Regarding peace talks, Spanta said the current peace talk deal is between the US and Pakistan "to decide the fate of Afghanistan." He claimed that at the moment Afghans at the moment "don't know what is happening or what kind of deal is taking place between the US and Pakistan."

"In any peace deal, a guarantee should be provided that Pakistan must not meddle in Afghanistan's affairs," mentioned.

Another speaker, Agha Jan Motasim, a finance minister during the Taliban regime, said: "The Taliban should stop the attacks that hurt the people. And the government should also commit to stop the nights raids and airstrikes."

"We must have a government system that

is acceptable to all Afghans, called any name. Right now peace is very vital for us," he said.

"Poppy cultivation and drug production in the country has also affected the war. Action must be taken regarding this issue as well," he added.

The Herat Security Dialogue is hosted annually by the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies. (TOLO News)

### (10) Taliban Close 29...

Taliban spokesman said that the group shut these centers down after determining that they were not in line with the Taliban's doctrine.

Local officials in Logar have said that efforts are underway to reopen these Madrasahs.

"We assure you that efforts are underway to open these centers in the coming days; we are in contact with the tribal elders," said Abdul Wakil Kaliwal, head of Logar's Education Department.

The closure of the religious schools has deprived over 2600 students from learning, among them 900 girls. (TOLO News)

### (11) All Smoke-Emitting...

protect the air from degrading its quality. He asked elders to promote the culture of preventing air pollution in their families and communities. (Pajhwok)

### (12) 2 Observers ...

Of the total agents and observers, 84,272 belonged to presidential candidates, 29,266 to political parties, 21,597 to national watchdogs, 1,153 to 40 media outlets, 78 to eight international watchdogs and 87 to seven international institutions, who monitored the voting process on the polling day.

From these electoral monitors, one person was killed, one injured, 14 released after arrest by Taliban and police and tens have been beaten and threatened.

Aziz Rafiee, Head of Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo) said to Pajhwok that ACSFo had an observer who was martyred by Taliban after being tortured and he was in Taliban captivity for three days.

He said Ali Naqi the certain observer had been monitoring the election at a polling center in NaswanBaharak area of Shancharak district of northern Sar-i-Pul province.

On October 3rd he was snatched from car by local Taliban in Langar locality and taken by Taliban to unknown place. He was martyred after severe torture in Bazar Bashir area on Monday October 7.

Without going into details, he said some of their agents were beaten on polling day and tens of others were threatened and some were forced to quit their jobs.

Ahmad ZubairHabib, spokesperson for the Transparent Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA), said: "Our three observers were kidnapped by local Taliban from Taloqan's outskirts when they wanted to visit a polling station early on the polling day but they were freed with efforts of local police."

He said some TEFA officials were threatened by supporters of some election teams. Habib added that the total number of TEFA observers reached 5,200 nationwide.

Yusof Rashid, head of the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA), said one of their observers was injured in a blast in Azra district of Logar province and was currently under medical treatment.

He said five FEFA agents were held hostage during the Taliban group's attack in ChahAb district of Takharprovince on the polling day. They established contact with the main officer after four days.

"Security forces provided them support and transferred them to Rustaq district from where they reached Taloqan, the province capital," he added.

Rashid said one of their observers was held captive by Taliban in one of the provinces and freed him after one week.

He said on Election Day, three of FEFA's agents were beaten in Kabul, two in Paktia, one each in Farah, Kunduz, Shiberghan, Badakhshan and Kapisa provinces.

According to Rashid, FEFA dispatched 6,000 observers nation-wide on Election Day.

Qudsia Rahim, head of the Afghan Women Network (AWN), said they dispatched 28 election observers to eight provinces - Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Balkh, Paktia, Kunduz, and Bamyan and they faced no problems or difficulties.

Hussain Ahmad head of the Afghan Landmines Survivors Organisation (ALSO) said they dispatched 90 observers in Kabul, Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar, Parwan, Bamyan and Kandahar provinces. Ninety five percent of their observers were disabled persons.

Abdul HaqSaqib, communication officer of the Wadan Afghanistan, said they tasked 350 observers in Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan, Paktia, Khost and Kandahar provinces during presidential elections.

AjmalHoadman, Head of legal and Monitoring Affairs of Ashraf Ghani's State Builder team, said they tasked 29,586 election observers

while 20,273 members of allied political parties' also served as observers for them. He said: "One observer of the State Builder team was killed by the Taliban in Ghazni province and 19 others injured in different incidents country-wide."

Hoadman added five of their observers had been arrested by the Taliban in MaidanWardak, Badakhshan and Kunduz province and they were freed in coordination with tribal elders.

Seven more observers of State Builder team were arrested by security forces for a short time from Kabul, Helmand and Faryab provinces.

FaridonKhawazon, spokesman for the Stability and Partnership team led by Abdullah Abdullah, said their team tasked 311,398 agents to observer polling in presidential election.

He said: "One of our election observers was beaten by security forces in the Syed Karam district, four observers detained in Asadabad, the capital of Kunar province and one observer was detained by district chief in Spinboldak district of Kandahar province."

He added one of their observers was beaten by Wolesi Jirga member Iqbal Safi in MahmoodRaqi, the capital of Kapisa province.

Abdul SattarKhawasi, election campaign head of the Peace and Islamic Justice team led by GulbuddinHikmatyar, said they dispatched 14,000 observers on polling day and faced no problem.

KhairuddinAini, member of the Hizb-e-PaiwandMelli's leadership council, said they have had 5,000 observers on polling day of the presidential election country-wide.

He said two of their observers were threatened by militants in the KhawajaGhar district of Takhar and Syagard district of Parwan province.

ZabihullahSadaat, acting spokesperson of the IEC, said the commission had received no reports regarding torture, kidnapping, injury or threats to election observers.

Mohammad RazaFayaz, spokesperson to the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC), said they dispatched one representative to every polling station and their agents faced no problems.

He said if agents of other monitoring groups had been beaten or threaten, they could register their complaints with the IEC. He did not provide more details. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Trump Hails...

many of whom are branded as terrorists by Ankara. The deal includes a conditional halt to American economic sanctions and no apparent long-term consequences for Turkey for its actions.

Full Coverage: Syria

Turkish troops and Turkish-backed Syrian fighters launched their offensive against Kurdish forces in northern Syria a week ago, two days after Trump suddenly announced he was withdrawing the U.S. military from the area.

Trump was widely criticized for turning on the Kurds, who had taken heavy casualties as partners with the U.S. in fighting IS extremists since 2016.

While U.S. officials have insisted that Trump did not authorize Turkey's invasion and only that he was not persuasive enough in making the case against it to Erdogan, the cease-fire codifies nearly all of Turkey's stated goals in the conflict.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the United States had accepted the idea of a "safe zone" long pushed by Turkey, and he insisted Turkish armed forces will control the zone. He also made clear that Turkey will not stop at a previously limited zone; he said Turkish control of the Syrian side of the border must extend all the way to the Iraqi border.

(AP News)

### (14) China's Economic...

China's benchmark Shanghai Composite Index lost 1.3% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.5%. Markets in Australia and South Korea also retreated.

The weak data raise the likelihood of interest rate cuts and other stimulus to shore up growth and avert politically dangerous job losses. Chinese leaders have boosted government spending but avoided large-scale stimulus that might add to debt that already is so high that rating agencies cut Beijing's credit rating.

"More aggressive stimulus can be expected," said Bill Adams of PNC Financial Services Group in a report.

The slowdown in China, the world's biggest trader, has global repercussions. It is depressing demand for industrial components from Asian countries. Prices of soybeans, iron ore and other commodities have fallen, hitting Brazil, Australia and other suppliers. An epidemic in China's vast pig herds is disrupting pork supplies, pushing politically sensitive food prices sharply higher.

The International Monetary Fund cited the U.S.-Chinese tariff war in this week's decision to cut its 2019 global economic growth forecast to 3% from 3.2%.

Developed economies will be "considerably weaker" this year due to trade ten-

sions and "increased uncertainty on confidence and investment," the IMF said in a report.

Trump agreed last week to delay a tariff hike on Chinese goods and said Beijing promised to buy up to \$50 billion of American farm goods.

(AP News)

### (15) Johnson Returns...

on as a government, and I think as a country, and lift the clouds of Brexit," he told the BBC.

Raab said the government has not given up hope of winning the support of its Northern Ireland ally, the Democratic Unionist Party, which has rejected the new deal.

But the chances of that appeared slim. The DUP's Brexit spokesman, Sammy Wilson, said Johnson's Brexit package - which carves out special status for Northern Ireland to keep an open border with EU member Ireland - is bad for his region and its bonds with the rest of the U.K.

"I can give you absolute assurance we will not be voting for this deal when it comes before the Commons tomorrow," he told the BBC.

(AP News)

### (16) Former Nazi...

was a «small wheel in the machinery of murder» committed during his time as a guard from August 1944 to April 1945 given he actively stopped inmates from escaping the camp, which was one of the last to be liberated.

Dejo also allegedly told investigators he could hear the screams of Jews dying in the gas chambers below his watchtower and witnessed the daily carting off of their dead bodies to the camp's crematorium. His attorney, Stefan Waterkamp, questioned why his client was being prosecuted now, saying that before a recent change in German legal reasoning, «nobody was interested in the simple guards.»

«Where does responsibility end?» he asked the court in his opening statement. «That is the question this trial must answer.»

In recent years, prosecutors have successfully convicted former death camp guards using the argument that by helping to operate camps like Auschwitz and Sobibor, they were accessories to the murders there. The 2015 conviction of former Auschwitz guard Oskar Groening on such reasoning was upheld by a German federal court, solidifying the precedent.

(Fox News)

### (17) 'El Chapo's' Son...

small boy said to his father in a video posted on Twitter.

"No, stay there on the floor," the man replied, his voice trembling.

The government said the security forces were quickly outmatched by cartel gunmen and withdrew - without Guzman - to prevent bloodshed.

"With the goal of safeguarding the well-being and tranquility of Culiacan society, officials in the security cabinet decided to suspend the actions," Mexican security secretary Alfonso Durazo told reporters.

Jose Luis Gonzalez Meza, a lawyer for "El Chapo's" family, told the AP that the family said "Ovidio is alive and free," but that he had no more details about what had happened.

Ovidio Guzman was not one of the jailed Mexican kingpin's best-known sons - Ivan Archivaldo Guzman and Jesus Alfredo Guzman are known as "Los Chapitos," or "the little Chapos" and are believed to currently run their father's Sinaloa Cartel together with Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada.

However, Ovidio Guzman was indicted in 2018 by a grand jury in Washington, along with a fourth brother, for alleged trafficking of cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana.

Cristobal Castañeda, head of security in Sinaloa, told Milenio television that there were people wounded but did not provide a casualty figure.

He said gunman blocked streets with burning vehicles, a common tactic to make it difficult for security forces to maneuver. Simultaneously, some 20 to 30 prisoners escaped though some were quickly recovered, Castañeda added.

Falko Ernst, a senior analyst for the International Crisis Group in Mexico, told Reuters Guzman's release creates a "dangerous precedent" and shows the military is not in control.

Sinaloa is home to the cartel by the same name, which was led by «El Chapo» Guzmán. The drug kingpin was sentenced to life in prison in the United States in July.

After Guzmán's third arrest in 2016, an internal battle for succession began playing out. The battle was resolved with the arrest of Damaso López Nunez and his son Dámaso López Serrano, who led a rival faction. (Fox News)