

(1) Leidos Confirms ...

and will provide mentoring for the AAF and SMW to operate and maintain aircraft. Leidos has applied its logistics and operations expertise in Afghanistan to support the AAF and SMW, while also providing aviation services to the customer," the statement added.

"This award reflects our commitment to the customer's mission," said Leidos Defense & Intelligence President Tim Reardon. "We look forward to continuing to provide superior flight operations, maintenance, logistics, and mentoring expertise."

Leidos is a FORTUNE 500® science and technology solutions and services leader working to solve the world's toughest challenges in the defense, intelligence, homeland security, civil, and health markets.

This comes as the Afghan government with the support of its international allies and NATO has stepped up efforts to boost the capabilities of Afghan national defense and security forces, particularly the Afghan Air Force.

The Embraer Defense & Security on Wednesday announced that the company in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Corporation will build six new light attack aircraft of A-29 Super Tucano type for the Afghan Air Force.

"Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) and its partner Embraer Defense & Security have received orders from the U.S. Air Force's (USAF) A-29 Afghanistan Program for six more A-29 Super Tucano aircraft," the company said in a statement.

The statement further added that the A-29 is used to conduct advanced flight training, aerial reconnaissance, and other A-29 Afghanistan Program operations. Production of these six new aircraft is to start immediately in Jacksonville, Florida and brings to 26 the total number of aircraft provided to the Program. (KP)

(2) Washington Must ...

and dignity," the diplomat said.

"Pakistan needs to, I think, take a clear-eyed view of the situation that they are confronted with in terms of the number of terrorist organizations that find safe haven inside of Pakistan," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Monday. Islamabad frowns on comments like these as lecturing, a charge Tillerson was compelled to respond to on Friday.

"There's nothing achieved by lecturing, but we should be very clear about expectations and what we're asking," the US diplomat added Friday during a news conference in Geneva, Switzerland. "We're asking you to do this; we're not demanding anything," Tillerson continued.

"You're a sovereign country. You'll decide what you want to do, but understand this is what we think is necessary. And if you don't want to do that, don't feel you can do it, we'll adjust our tactics and our strategies to achieve the same objective a different way," he underlined.

John Kiriakou, a former CIA officer who led counterterrorism operations in Pakistan in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks, explained the situation on Friday's Loud & Clear broadcast. (FNA)

(3) USAID Provides ...

continued support of the Government of the United States, we will be able to improve people's food security, boost the local economy, and support people's livelihoods."

The contribution will allow WFP to provide assistance to more than 1.67 million Afghans, particularly women and children with cash-based transfer and locally procured food. "This contribution will reduce hunger and malnutrition among vulnerable and low-income households affected by conflict and natural disasters. In addition to meeting immediate food needs, this contribution allows WFP to work with communities to sow the seeds for community recovery with interventions that empower vulnerable Afghan families rebuild livelihoods and prepare for future shocks," said Herbert Smith, USAID Mission Director.

In 2017, WFP plans to assist up to 2.9 million food insecure people in Afghanistan by providing food or cash to those affected by conflict and natural disasters, as well as additional nutrition support, disaster risk reduction activities and school meal take-home rations for girls and boys in food insecure areas. In addition, WFP is providing food and cash assistance to more than 550,000 internally displaced people, refugees and returnees. (Wadsam)

(4) US Urges Pakistan ...

secretary stressed the importance of Pakistan moving quickly to demonstrate good faith and efforts to use its influence to create the conditions that will get the Taliban to the negotiating table," Wells, the acting assistant secretary of state for South Asia, said.

According to the New York Times, Wells said Pakistan's long-standing relationships with militant organizations was a threat to its own stability and that the Taliban leadership and the Haqqani network still retained the ability to plan and

recuperate and reside with their families in Pakistan.

She said Washington wanted Pakistan to show the same commitment it had made to defeat militant groups domestically to those threatening Afghanistan or India.

"It's up to them whether or not they want to work with us," Wells said. "And if they don't ... then we'll adjust accordingly."

Earlier in the week, Tillerson called on Pakistan to act against insurgents using the country as safe havens. (Tolonews)

(5) ADB Pledges ...

Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Besides investments through projects, CAREC has contributed to trade facilitation, and capacity building and knowledge generation and sharing across CAREC countries. The CAREC Institute which is spearheading knowledge efforts is now operating as an intergovernmental organization.

In a joint statement titled the "Dushanbe Declaration," CAREC Ministers highlighted that regional cooperation has become even more critical to meet their development goals. Ministers stressed the need to engage with the private sector, civil society, development partners, and other stakeholders in regional projects; and strengthen linkages with other regional cooperation programs including the Belt and Road Initiative.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, ADB is celebrating 50 years of development partnership in the region. It is owned by 67 members—48 from the region. In 2016, ADB assistance totaled \$31.7 billion, including \$14 billion in co-financing.

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are the members of CAREC. (Pajhwok)

(6) Afghanistan ...

entered into the very optimal stage in which we have almost solved most of the challenges ahead of the program. The operation of the flights we recently conducted were in a very smooth and standard manner. So far, we were able to export 198 tons of goods through this program to India," the statement added. (Tolonews)

(7) Tehran Center ...

ceremony of the exhibition, which is curated by Iranian sculptor Maryam Kuestani.

The exhibit has been organized to help the artists of the two countries of Iran and Afghanistan get to know more about the visual arts of the two countries.

The Niavaran Artistic Creations Foundation and the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran are the co-organizers of the exhibit.

Photo: A poster for the 1st Nimrouz Global Visual Art Exhibition of Afghanistan (Agencies)

(8) Ghani Congratulates ...

"The national football athletes, with their brilliance in national and international competitions, have been able to make great achievements and introduce the new face of Afghanistan to the world, all thanks to the prestigious support and management of the president," Kargar said.

Kargar said that after 40 years, for the first time, the country's national football championship was held at night in Afghanistan, and from now on athletes will not need to rent stadiums from other countries as practice grounds.

During the meeting both team's captains praised Ghani for his support and encouragement and spoke about challenges facing football in the country.

"You are a positive example of the new generation and future generations of the country, and the final tournament yesterday is the will of a nation that will never surrender to threats," said Ghani. Ghani said that the country's sporting sector needs a national program, and in the next six months, a five-year plan should be decided on.

Ghani expressed his satisfaction with Shaheen Asmayee representing Afghanistan in the Asian Games, saying the government is prepared to take the necessary measures and install facilities for Asian athletes, like that of the Asian Games of Turkmenistan.

The president emphasized that athletes from the national team who participate in the national and international competitions on behalf of Afghanistan should wear special kit. He assured athletes that 100 scholarships will be awarded to national football players in the next three years.

The president also noted that the Afghan Football Federation's elections should be held without the involvement of individuals and groups in a transparent manner according to the FIFA rules. He said that there should be grounds for sports activities in schools and universities.

According to the statement at the end of the meeting Ghani added that sports complexes will be created in all districts

of the country, and each district will have technical people to expand sports. Shaheen Asmayee Football Club won the Afghan Premier League's (APL) championship for the fourth time after winning the finals against De Maiwand Atalan on Friday night.

The match ended 4-3 in favor of Shaheen Asmayee.

This is the second year in a row that the two teams battled it out against each other in the finals.

Shaheen Asmayee, De Maiwand Atalan, Toofan Harirod, Simorgh Alborz, Mawjhai Amu, De Spinghar Bazan, De Abasin Sape, and Oqaban Hindukosh were the eight APL teams in this year's league that represented all 34 provinces in Afghanistan.

This year the finals were held at night. Under the stadium floodlights, thousands of excited fans packed the Afghan Football Federation (AFF) stadium to cheer on their favorite teams chanting "One Nation, One Voice".

According to a survey after last year's finals, more than 18.6 million TV viewers in the country as well as Afghans around the world watched the 2016 APL championships between Shaheen Asmayee and De Maiwand Atalan via the APL's YouTube channel and TOLO TV live stream as well as on Lemar and TOLO TV. (Tolonews)

(9) APL Brings ...

grow and develop. I felt happy when I came here and saw the youths being happy and excited," Zuhail, a Kabul resident said.

Among the girls and women attending was an 80 year old woman who said although she was slightly deaf she wanted to experience the moment and share in the fun.

"Shaheen will win, Shaheen has scored two goals I will be happy if it nets two other goals," the 80 year old woman Bibi Gul said.

At the end, Shaheen Asmayee beat De Maiwand Atalan, but the joy among the people remains.

"I feel this happiness in my skin and bones. In today's match two teams played, but it had one winner and that was Afghanistan," Farhad Darya, a singer said.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani also watched the match on television.

"Yesterday's match was not an ordinary match. It was a model of the nation's will that the people will never kneel to threats," said Ghani.

Afghanistan's Premier League (APL) was established six years ago. At the time people did not think that it would become such a big event. Today however APL has created hope among the people that changes will happen, such changes that will be followed by peace and prosperity. (Tolonews)

(10) MPs Stress ...

considered a foreign agent."

A commission has been tasked to investigate the accusations, but no practical steps have so far taken in this regard. (Pajhwok)

(11) Pakistan May ...

told a press conference on Saturday here that the Pakistani government had not only increased import duty on Afghan goods but on imports from many countries.

He said Pakistan after sustaining deficit in financial budget increased taxes on 400 types of imported goods, including goods from Afghanistan.

Nasrullah said he had asked his government to exclude Afghanistan from the decision made. He said the Pakistani government had considered his suggestion and hoped his request would be accepted.

Nasrullah said some media outlets reported that Afghanistan-Pakistan trade relations had deteriorated but this was not true.

"According to our central bank, Pakistan is still the biggest market for Afghan exports and recently Afghan exports to Pakistan have increased by 27 percent."

Nasrullah continued Afghanistan's major exports to Pakistan were fresh and dried fruits worth about \$200 million.

He said a special facility for Afghan fresh fruits had been established at the Torkham border crossing in order the Afghan exports reached Pakistani markets on time.

The Pakistani Ambassador, in response to a question about the US strategy, said discussions had taken place in this regard. "We want to cooperate and support Kabul and the US in the fight against terrorism but other countries should also discharge their duty in this regard."

About the fencing along the Durand Line, the envoy said the move was aimed at preventing terrorists and smugglers. He said the official crossing points were open to people and traders, adding though the Afghan government didn't accept the Durand Line as international 'border' but they accepted it and Pakistan was fencing its own territory. (Pajhwok)

(12) Govt. to Build ...

countries every year and to irrigate hundreds of hectares of land, Azimi said. He added that Teerpul Dam will be built

in Kohsan and Ghorian districts in the north west of Herat - 20 kilometers from Afghanistan's border with Iran. Meanwhile, Kabgan Dam will be built in Pashtun Zarghon district in the north of Herat.

"These projects are specifically included in our procurement plan. The procurement processes of the two projects are in progress. We will sign contracts with eligible companies which will complete the conditions," Azimi said.

Meanwhile, Herat residents and members of the provincial council welcomed the move and said it will bring a major change in the country's economy.

"Many of districts are far and do not benefit from the Salma Dam (in the east of Herat). It will be great if the Teerpul and Kabgan dams are constructed in order to address the needs of the people," head of Herat provincial council, Kamran Alizae, said.

"We can foresee a brighter future for Herat's agriculture and development if the dams are built," said Jalil Ahmad Mohammadi, a resident of Herat.

"This will make us self-reliant and will prevent the country's waters from going to waste," said Ahmad Fahim, a resident of the province.

The construction of Teerpul and Kabgan dams have been under consideration by different governments for the past three decades.

Teerpul will be the third dam after Poozalich Dam in Ghor province and Salma Dam in Herat. (Tolonews)

(13) Clashes between ...

from Friday evening, with the Taliban this time attacked Daesh fighters in the Zavi Tangi area.

He said heavy and light weapons were being used by both sides. There was no fresh detail about casualties in ongoing firefight but few days back at least 50 people, including civilians, were killed in the gun battle between Daesh and the Taliban.

Sherin Aqa Faqiri, spokesman for the 201st Selab Military Corps, confirmed the fresh clash between the Taliban and Daesh but he had no information about casualties.

Earlier, a delegation of defence ministry traveled to Khogyani district and talked about the eradication of militants in the area.

Hundreds of families had been forced to displace due to fresh clashes in Khogyani. According to the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, 2100 displaced families had been registered. (Pajhwok)

(14) Essential Items' ...

flour 1,160 Afghani, 24-kg of Pakistani rice 1,850af, and 16 liters of Khurshid ghee 1,080af, the same rates of last week's.

Noor Ahmad Khairkwa, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280af and the same amount of African black tea 300af - no changes in rates compare to last week.

Ahmad Wali Panjsheri, who owns a grocery shop in Dahn-i-Bagh area, sold a 49-kg sack of Pakistani sugar for 1,900af, a 16-litre tin of Khurshid ghee for 1,150af, a 50-kg bag of Kazakhstani flour for 1,220af and a 24-kg sack of Pakistani rice for 2,100af.

He sold a kilogram of Indonesian green tea for 300af and the same quantity of African black tea for 350af, higher than wholesale rates.

The prices of fuel also remain steady. Abdul Hadi, a worker at Wazirabad Fuel Station in Kabul said one liter diesel cost 45af and the same quantity of petrol 46af.

The price of liquefied gas remains stable as one kilogram of the commodity cost 60af according to Sharif Ahmad, a gas seller in Kolola Pushta area of Kabul.

Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweler in Timr Shahi area of Kabul, said one gram of Arabian gold cost 2,300af and the same quantity of Russian variety 1,850af.

According to Sara-I-Shahzada moneychangers, one US dollar accounted for 68.25af and 1,000 Pakistani rupees 636af this week against last week's rates of 68.30af and 638af respectively. (Pajhwok)

(15) Dutch Artist's ...

dangerous journey.

"I was in Serbia last winter. For example where around two thousand Afghan refugees ... sleeping for months in a warehouse in freezing temperatures of minus five. And they were bringing woods and they were burning it and there was lots of smokes and everybody got sick," said Beet.

Meanwhile, Artlords founder Omid Sharifi said people who will decide to leave the country and illegally migrate to foreign nations will realize the difficulties of such journeys by seeing these pictures. "All the photos were published in London and transferred to Kabul to show the experiences of illegal migrations of Afghans," said Sharifi.

The photos show the youths drowning, being assaulted and detained by border police of the western countries.

"These photos have their effects. Because everyone should know that illegal migrations have numerous challenges," Ahmadullah, a driver said.

"If government do not have plans, then people have to go to other countries," Hekmatullah, a resident of Kabul said. Statistics show that at least 300,000 Afghans have left the country during the past three years due to insecurity and unemployment. Dozens of them have lost their lives on the way to European countries. (Tolonews)

(16) US Want ...

Pakistani officials, including Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and reiterated President Trump's message regarding the increased efforts needed by Pakistan to eradicate the militants and terrorists from its country.

"The Secretary reiterated President Trump's message that Pakistan must increase its efforts to eradicate militants and terrorists operating within the country," the Department of State said in a statement.

The statement further added "To address those concerns, the Secretary outlined the United States' new South Asia Strategy and the vital role that Pakistan can play in working with the United States and others to facilitate a peace process in Afghanistan that can bring stability and security to the region." (KP)

(17) Jawzjan Pharmacist ...

said, Hassan was removed from duty at the Afghan-Turk Children Hospital two days ago and therefore he was under stress.

"The hospital dismisses people who are not from Turkmen tribe. Hassan after losing job was unstable and committed suicide." (Pajhwok)

(18) A Look at Kabul in ...

Jawad Tawakoli 23, left Herat province four months ago and came to Kabul with his family to start a career at a private company. Jawad said due to his career, he must put up with many challenges in Kabul, even in his work environment.

"In contrast to other cities, there are more people and traffic in Kabul," said Tawakoli.

But how long will it take for a person like Jawad, who has come from a place with no air pollution and traffic problems, to get used to life in a city like Kabul?

Tawakoli said for having a less polluted and more organized city, peoples' cooperation with government is a precondition.

"In Herat people have worked a lot with the government and government was able to implement more infrastructure projects there," Tawakoli.

However, despite all the challenges and lack of cooperation between people and government for improving the city situation, there are youths who have dedicated their efforts to resolving the challenges in Kabul.

A Kabul resident, Aryan Paktyar, has prepared a 10 articles street development plan that according to him not only will be useful in overcoming corruption, but also will increase government revenue.

"By implementing this plan, the traffic system will change to a circle shape. Using city busses have been considered in this plan and also traffic fines are computerized," said Paktyar.

Another Afghan youth, Agha Malook Sahar, who graduated from computer science faculty has developed a software program to digitalize traffic management in big cities of the country.

"Not only can traffic use this application, but people also can cooperate via this application with the traffic police. Whenever there are any traffic or terrorist incidents, people can inform the traffic police through the app," said Sahar.

The United Nations General Assembly has designated the 31st of October as World Cities Day to overcome problems that have resulted from urbanization. (Tolonews)

(19) Two Students ...

official told TOLONews that the attackers were students from the Hazrat Ali religious Madrasa in Guzara district of Herat province.

Amin said that four other students from the Madrasa were also arrested in connection with the incident and weapons were seized. (Tolonews)

(20) 35 Health ...

The problem can be resolved with the help of tribal elders," said Habib Afghan, an MP.

"Unfortunately the insurgents in insecure areas prevent such services. There is no easy option to address the problem, but government should resolve it through cooperation with the people," said Gulalai Noor Safi, an MP.

Officials from the Ministry of Public Health said they continue their discussions with security departments and tribal elders to reopen the closed schools. According to the ministry, 40 percent of people have poor access to healthcare services across the country. (Tolonews)

(21) Kunar's Deputy ...

process, many of the group's members have been killed in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The slain HIA members included Gulbadin Hekmatyar's secretary who was also Hekmatyar son's father-in-law. He was killed by unknown men in Peshawar. (Pajhwok)