

(1) ADB Approves ...

only route that permits year-round North-South passage of goods and people across the Hindu Kush mountain range, which has peaks over 7,700 meters, making the Salang tunnel the second highest tunnel in the world.

As one of the key sections of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Corridors 5 and 6, the Salang Corridor is also central to providing mobility for Afghanistan's neighboring countries. Given the lack of alternative routes, the vast majority of goods shipped to Kabul from the north pass through the Salang Corridor. It is estimated that over 5,500 vehicles transit the corridor per day – far exceeding its capacity. According to the United States Agency for International Development, economic losses from the constrained traffic flow are estimated at \$60 million per year. The ADB said the studies would review the three most viable alignment options for the corridor to increase capacity and mitigate the risk of project failure.

Various combinations of new tunnels and connecting roads will be studied to identify the best way to significantly improve the capacity of the corridor and the transport network of Afghanistan.

Once built, the improved Salang Corridor will cut travel time and cost of passenger and cargo transportation between the southern and northern regions of Afghanistan and ensure the security and reliability of the route.

To date, ADB has allocated more than \$2.2 billion for roads, railways, and airport projects in Afghanistan. The bank has assisted the country in rehabilitating CAREC Corridors 5 and 6 through completion of the North-South Corridor Project, ongoing construction of the Kabul Seraj-Nijrab and Kabul-Jalalabad roads, and planned construction of the North-South Corridor between Dar-i-Suf and Yakawlang. The ADB said the improved Salang Corridor would complement these investments and boost connectivity between Central Asia and South Asia, through Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(2) Afghan, EU ...

force. Elaborating on challenges hampering the professionalization of the police, the Afghan minister said that the involvement of police in politics has highly affected the strength of the force.

"The main issue which can undermine the strength of the police and security institutions is their exploitation of politics. The security forces particularly the police should safeguard their neutrality and stay away from politics. They (security forces) should keep a distance from gender discrimination, ethnic issues and political ideologies," said Taj Mohammad Jahid, the minister of interior.

In addition, the EU envoy to Afghanistan has reaffirmed the EU's continued support to Afghanistan, urging government, especially the ministry of interior, to combat corruption and take steps to bolster the situation of police - to teach them to respect human rights and to increase the overall management capabilities of the police.

"We are still in a situation, far too many in the police force owe their loyalty not to the ministry, not to their superiors but to people who belong to power structures outside of the ministry and outside of the state," said Mellbin.

"We have not done our work properly, but you (police) should be away from political issues and ignore what the politicians are saying, you should conduct your duty with impartiality and we (government) will support you," said Abdullah. The EU envoy said that the job of EU advisors to Afghanistan will be extended for the next five years when the EU police mission in the country expires at the end of the year. (ToloneWS)

(3) Chaman Border...

border crossing stayed closed and problems remained unresolved. Meanwhile, the provincial council chief said he had also raised his voice in support of the traders. Syed Jan Khakrezwal added he had contacted the Pakistani consulate, which had set hard-to-meet terms for reopening the route. The closure had been detrimental to traders from both sides, he argued, asking Kabul and Islamabad to reach an agreement on sorting out the issue. Samim Khpalwak, the governor's spokesman, said they had held several meetings with Pakistani author-

ities. But the talks have been inconclusive, according to him.

Now the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has launched efforts to address the tiff. Khpalwak put the daily loss resulting from the border closure at 12 million afghanis. (Pajhwok)

(4) CAREC...

implement the outcomes of the mid-term review of ADB's Strategy 2020 reaffirmed the priority accorded to regional cooperation and integration, according to the principal economist with ADB's Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division.

Pradeep Srivastava says ADB is now developing an Operational Plan for Regional Cooperation and Integration, which will provide improved guidance to ADB's regional cooperation initiatives, including the CAREC program.

Economic Corridor Development: In 2014, CAREC endorsed a long-standing theme "Linking Connectivity with Economic Transformation in CAREC" to be carried for years 2014-2020.

While ADB continues to support improvement of physical connectivity, it will step up efforts to transform the physical connectivity gains into economic gains through promoting economic corridors development (ECD). ECD is concerned with the spatial organization of economic activities.

It brings together existing and new infrastructure, policies, and institutions to attract private investment that will create jobs and encourage growth. The Almaty-Bishkek Corridor Initiative (ABCI) focuses on one such corridor, exploring the feasibility of developing and economic corridor between Almaty, Kazakhstan, and Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, as well as the scope and content of such a corridor.

The official informed Pajhwok Afghan News there has been good progress in ABCI since the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Governments of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic in November 2014.

Technical and economic analysis has been completed in priority areas of education, health, agriculture and agribusiness, tourism, and disaster risk management for corridor development, the use of information and communications technology across these sectors, and how all these could contribute to corridor development.

ADB will present at the 15th CAREC Ministerial Conference an ABCI Investment Framework comprising public and private investment projects and non-lending projects for development of the economic corridor linking two important cities in Central Asia.

ADB's support for CAREC and CAREC Institute: ADB will continue to support as follows: As lead financier: by providing financial and technical assistance in CAREC's transport, trade facilitation, energy sectors, multi-sector initiatives, and the CAREC Institute and, as appropriate, expanding into new areas; As catalyst and honest broker: by mobilizing resources from official and private sources, including helping forge public-private partnerships for CAREC projects; and As CAREC Secretariat: by providing technical and administrative support to the overall CAREC institutional framework including its Ministerial Conference, Senior Officials' meetings and sector committees. (Pajhwok)

(5) Insecurity ...

across Afghanistan. Up to nine million Afghan children under the age of five are expected to receive polio drops during the campaign.

But continued threats and insurgency appeared to have undermined previous vaccination processes in some volatile regions of the country, an issue which has increased the number of polio cases among Afghan children in certain regions. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only nations in the world where polio has not been eliminated. (ToloneWS)

(6) Experts Skeptical...

spend \$2 million USD, are being provided with \$100 million USD," said economic analyst Sayed Masood.

It is also said that many countries have given the green light over investment in Afghanistan, a move that can help the country increase its income in the short term. However there have been concerns raised by analysts that Afghanistan's budget allocation for the provinces is often cut or increased on the basis of relations. A number of governors have also

raised concerns over unbalanced budgets and say the issue has undermined the implementation of mega projects in the country.

"There are certain areas in Badakhshan which play a key role in enhancing the national income if investments come, for instance, on the water resources, this could increase our capacity for generating electricity," said Badakhshan's provincial governor Faisal Begzada.

But, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has said that government plans its budget programs by prioritizing the needs and necessities of the people and in line with the financial capabilities of the country.

"The budget is prepared on the basis of the needs of the people and available resources, we also focus on other issues and consider balances while preparing the budget track," said Ajmal Hamid Abdul Rahimzai, MoF spokesman.

Presently only 30 percent of the national budget is covered by domestic revenue collection. (ToloneWS)

(7) Sale of Poor-...

he added. The use of such beverages and eatables led to a variety of ailments, he said, adding the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) was responsible for collecting the products from the market.

Qurban Ali, who owns a food shop in the Afghan Store market, told Pajhwok Afghan News low-quality and expired drinks and food items sold rapidly due to their low rates. Ali complained the growing sales of such items had affected the business of shopkeepers, who paid rents and taxes. But handcraft owners do not make these payments.

Qudus, hawking beverages on a handcart, said he sold a bottle of low-quality juice for 20af while the original quality accounted for 100af in the market.

"I am ashamed of this business, but I am jobless and have no money to start a better business. What else should I do? If I arrange the money required, I will open a shop right now," he remarked.

Qudus previously sold high-quality drinks. When handcart owners started selling expired drinks, people no longer buys his beverages. "I am obliged to sell the same drinks," he argued.

He asked the government to provide job opportunities for youth to stop them selling poor-quality products.

A number of beverage sellers did not allow this scribe to take pictures of the drinks. Others abused him or tried to conceal the items.

A handcart owner, selling Every Day milk, raised slogans to attract customers. He said they were not allowed to sell the product until they bribed police. However, he did not name anyone involved in taking bribes from him.

Another seller of the product also said police extorted money from them in return for permission to sell low-quality products.

However, 101st Asmayee Police Zone spokesman Basir Mujahid rejected the claim. He said no bribery complaints had been lodged with him. No policeman had the right to do so, he continued.

Health problems Dr. Mohammad Hashim Ohaj, a health specialist at the Ohaj Private Hospital in Kabul, said expired beverages and food items kept in the sun were harmful and caused many diseases.

"Poor-quality food and beverages cause cancer and other dangerous ailments such as stomach, heart and elementary canal complications," he explained.

He said many youths suffered heart attacks and young women breast cancers as a result of consuming injurious foods.

Some food and beverages are also advertised on TV channels. The advertiser claims the product is certified by the Ministry of Public Health to dupe people, Ohaj added. In fact, he continued, the products were not certified by the ministry. He advised buyers to check the expiry date of the products, an issue some people do not care about.

Dr. Mohammad Idris Tokhi, head of environmental health at the Kabul municipality, confirmed the sale of poor-quality beverages in the capital. He said 48 tonnes of such products had been torched this year.

He revealed another 28 tonnes of such products had been collected and were ready for destruction. Tokhi said the number of expired products had decreased in the market and they regularly collected such items in all parts of Kabul.

He added the municipality had only four personnel for raiding markets and seizing spurious products.

Four people could not check 300,000 shops in Kabul, he believed. (Pajhwok)

(8) In Volatile...

security threats, but efforts are underway to reopen the facilities in Kajaki.

A total of 65 health centres, including three central hospitals run by the Ministry of Public Health and a number of health organisations, are located in Helmand, according to Tobagar, who said the Bost Hospital was providing standard health services.

Emergency Hospital, another large hospital, is treating civilians and military personnel who are wounded in the conflict. He said 216 injured people including women and children received treatment at the hospital only in the past 15 days.

Tobagar alleged residents of several areas, including Garmser district, had stolen equipment from local health clinics. He also complained some people interfered in their affairs. A shortage of lady doctors is another problem.

However, he did not provide details about those interfering in health affairs, but said they were local and Kabul officials. Tobagar asked all warring sides to them provide better services to the people.

A provincial council member, Hayatullah Mayar, told Pajhwok Afghan News a number of health-care centres had been closed and their equipment stolen in Nawa and Nad Ali districts. He said the clinics had been shut by escalating fighting. "These clinics have been damaged by locals, as the militants do not attack health centres and schools," he explained.

Mohammad Essa, an inhabitant of the Kharaba area of Nawa district, said the local clinic had been closed as a result of clashes.

"People have to take their patients to Lashkargah for the treatment of any type of disease. It is a big problem for us," he remarked, asking the officials concerned to reactivate clinic as soon as possible.

An attendant at Bost Hospital in Lashkargah, Haji Abdul Aziz, said: "I am a resident of Nawzad district, where there is only one clinic that gives two or three types of medicine to patients."

He said people would not bring their patients to Lashkargah if there were sufficient medicine and doctors in their areas.

A patient in Bost Hospital, Abdul Malik, said: "I have come from Musa Kala district. Only one clinic is functional in our area but it has no medicine, and doctors."

Most of people are obliged to evacuate their patients to medical facilities in Lashkargah, the provincial capital. Some of the patients are said to have lost their lives on the way to hospital.

Some days back, the Doctors Without Borders said people could not take patients to hospitals due to the conflict in Helmand – one of the most unstable provinces of the country. Four of its districts are currently under Taliban's control. (Pajhwok)

(16) Residents Blast close to us and exchanged fire several times. This situation has exhausted us," Nazak Barak a police officer said.

Meanwhile, the closure of the highway has created enormous problems for residents and motorists who on Wednesday appealed to government to resolve the problem.

"The highway is closed and we are traveling with lots of problems; we ask government to reopen the highway soon for the sake of the people," said one local resident Amir Mohammad.

"The highway is closed for almost one month and no one can use it; insecurity is doubling residents problems. Helmand residents are tired of war and we want government to tackle the problem," said another resident, Abdul Shokor.

According to Amiry the main challenge is that the Taliban have embedded themselves in civilian houses and planted countless roadside mines in the area. (ToloneWS)

(17) Trained on...

saying that the two groups are having leadership councils based in both Quetta and Peshawar cities of Pakistan from where they launch attacks in Afghanistan. (KP)

(18) Turkey will...

terror propaganda. "We strongly condemn such initiatives that portray this [Operation Euphrates Shield] as a movement against the Kurds in Syria [and] as an operation to block Kurds' achievements," he said.

Kalın indicated that Turkey condemns attempts to portray the operation as if it were targeting the Kurds, saying that Turkey has no problems with Syrian Kurds and aims to clear its borders of all terrorist groups, including DAESH and the PKK-affili-

ple attacked police with woods and stones. He said currently five policemen under treatment in hospital for injuries.

Glasses of five police vehicles were broken and a car burnt by some miscreants who had come from Kabul to Bamyan.

The governor said there was no civil society activist among the protestors who had arrived from Kabul to Bamyan with bad intention and security forces were investigating the incident. (Pajhwok)

(12) 97 Militants...

during the operations and as a result of separate attack across the country over the same period.

Joint Afghan security forces also seized weapons and defused several roadside bombs and landmines planted by the militants, the statement added.

The Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants since early April after Taliban militants started their so-called annual spring offensive and step up attacks across the country. (Xinhua)

(13) ANA Soldiers...

the other hand, Taliban claimed killing 20 ANA soldiers and capturing their base. They confirmed only three militants were killed and five others injured in the attack. (Pajhwok)

(14) Islamic State...

administration to postpone plans to reduce U.S. combat troops in Afghanistan last year.

However, Afghanistan Analysts Network, a Kabul-based think tank that monitors political developments in the country, says ISKP has made "many enemies" since it pledged allegiance to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi nearly two years ago. The group's "sphere of dominance" has dramatically decreased, forcing its fighters to confine themselves to a few districts of the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, which it was attempting to use as a base from which to establish a presence in Kunar and Nuristan provinces and elsewhere.

The Afghan Taliban is hostile toward ISKP, whose fighters are thought to come mostly from Pakistan's frontier regions, prompting fierce clashes over territory in the last year. Afghan government forces, assisted by the U.S. military and NATO, have also waged campaigns against the group. Against this background, the deadly ISKP attack on a peaceful protest by minority Shia Hazaras in Kabul in July shows the group is changing tactics and choosing "soft" targets to gain attention and boost its fighters' morale, according to the think tank. (Agencies)

(15) 3 Children ...

council member, demanded immediate investigation into the incident and asked security officials to arrest the culprits and put them behind the bars. (Pajhwok)

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ated Syrian Democratic Union Party's (PYD) armed wing, the People's Protection Units (YPG).

He also noted that statements made by U.S. officials equating Turkey with the YPG in the fight against DAESH are unacceptable and that a cease-fire or agreement being made with terrorists is out of the question. He added that the PYD/YPG are offshoots of the PKK terrorist organization. "You cannot defeat a terrorist group with another terrorist organization," Kalın said, highlighting that Turkey is against all types of terrorist organizations.

Kalın also noted that fighting terrorism is Turkey's priority and will continue to be so regardless of whether it receives support from allies or not. However, he noted that terrorism is a global problem and its solution requires global cooperation.

Concerning the cross-border operation in northern Syria conducted by the Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA), Kalın said the objective of the operation is to clear DAESH terrorists from a 90 kilometer (56-mile) stretch of territory along the Turkish border.

Regarding the Gülenist Terror Group (FETÖ) threat, Kalın said the president would also discuss FETÖ leader Fethullah Gülen's extradition to Turkey with President Obama. He also said it is unacceptable that European states had not sent high-level officials to visit Turkey since the failed coup attempt on July 15 orchestrated by FETÖ, speaking after several lower level European trips in recent weeks. (Monitoring Desk)

(19) Turkey, U.S....

or People's Protection Units (YPG) elements in the west of Euphrates," the statement said.

The Pentagon described the clashes, which it said were in areas where the IS is not located, as "unacceptable and a source of deep concern" and called on all sides to stand down. (Xinhua)

(20) Yemenis Wary...

the other hand, it appears to be a response to growing criticism of the U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led military operation either through providing logistic support or arms sales, they said. (Xinhua)

(21) Syrian Ambassador...

the Syrian government is responsible for two chlorine gas attacks, one in 2014 and one in 2015.

Chemical attacks are believed to have taken place in several areas in Syria over the past years. In August, 2015, the UN Security Council established JIM to identify the perpetrators of the deadly chlorine gas attacks in Syria. (Xinhua)

(22) Russian Official...

first constructed in 1975 by several German companies. However, work was halted when the United States imposed an embargo on hi-tech supplies to Iran after the 1979 revolution. (Xinhua)

(23) Uzbekistan Celebrates.

preservation of the country's stability, strengthen the faith of people in the future. Along with ongoing in key sectors of the economy reforms, market transformations are taking place in the health, education, culture and art, physical culture and sports. The annual expenditure of the State Budget for education and training totals 10-12% of the GDP, which is almost twice the UNESCO recommendations on the size of investments that should be addressed in this area to ensure stable development of the country - namely 6-7%.

The practical realization of strong social policies can be seen as an example of positive changes in health care. In particular, last year 500 billion soums were directed in the country for the construction, reconstruction, overhaul and equipping of 141 medical institutions. Optimization has been completed and rural healthy units have been supplied with modern diagnostic and medical equipment of rural health units.

The measures taken helped achieve a dramatic reduction in the incidence of diseases among the population. The average life expectancy of the Uzbek people has increased from 67 to 73 years. Over the past five years the country has significantly reduced maternal and infant mortality. According to these indicators, Uzbekistan fully achieved the Millennium Development Goals.

Today, Uzbekistan gets high marks from leading rating agencies in the world economic growth, the creation of the best conditions for doing business, security, care for the health of citizens, which is a good example of well thought-out and forward-looking policy of the state in all directions. (PR)