

(1) Vice President Danish...

In the meantime, the former senior presidential adviser for reforms and good governance and member of the Grand National Coalition Ahmad Zia Massoud has warned that the persistent tensions over the elections could drag the country towards a major crisis.

Speaking during a press conference in Kabul, Massoud said the government has not responded positively to the demands of the political parties and warned that all election offices would be closed if their demands are not met. (KP)

(2) Afghanistan...

"As far as I know, we have dug 768 semi-deep wells in different parts of Afghanistan," said Karimi.

"All three ministries, Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Agriculture, and Energy and Water must draw up plans for the next eight months on how to build emergency infrastructure so a repeat the issue of drought and water shortages is not repeated next year," said Hashmat Ghafoor deputy Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

United Nations statistics show that this year more than twenty provinces are experiencing drought.

According to the UN 2.5 million people need assistance in the areas affected by the drought. (Tolo news)

(3) Kabul Keenly...

their brutality against the people, including journalists and aid workers.

Saikal said the Afghan security forces continued to grow in size, strength and professionalism, he said, the size of the air force would be tripled by 2020. This would help boost the fight against terrorism.

Upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections would determine Afghanistan's future stability, he believed, saying efforts were underway to ensure the polls were inclusive and transparent.

"Our people expect us to deliver on this national process, by addressing legitimate concerns and preventing fraud and insecurity from jeopardising the process." (Pajhwok)

(4) China Welcomes...

will continue to play a constructive role in that and in moving forward trilateral cooperation China is in close touch with Afghanistan and Pakistan on the second trilateral meeting," he said.

Since last year, China has been holding trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the three countries in a bid to promote reconciliation with Taliban.

The Pakistani delegation also met Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani.

Qureshi's visit came amidst the US' pressure on Pakistan to play more active role in arranging peace talks with Taliban rebels. (Agencies)

(5) Intelligence War...

certain circles in the region want to cut Afghanistan's international relations with the world but did not elaborate further in this regard.

In the meantime, President Ghani vowed that the country would need the NDS forces even after achieving peace and the government is committed to invest more on National Directorate of Security. (KP)

(6) Afghanistan's...

The country's economic growth through strengthening of the private sector, is one of government priorities," the minister said.

He explained the priorities included supporting of local investors in order to improve the capacity of domestic products to increase exports and substitution of imports.

He mentioned the approval of industrial parks policy and the scheme for land in all industrial parks, retrieving 128 acres of parks' lands from usurpers in Khost province and 114 acres in Kabul city, and distributing 60 acres of land to investors in Barik Aab industrial park as his ministry's achievements.

He said 1.3 billion afghans would be invested in the Barik Aab industrial park, which will provide jobs for 9,000 people. (Pajhwok)

(7) Nangarhar Election...

until measures to ensure fair elections were put in place.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the security forces -- led by the police chief -- removed the two protest camps and detained 16 protesters late on Monday night.

He said the IEC office had been reopened for officials and visitors. The provincial police chief Brig. Gen Ghulam Sanyee Stanikzai assured the government violators of the law would be dealt with sternly.

On the other hand, a credible security source revealed lawmaker Zahir Qader's head bodyguard Mohammad Naseem was among the detainees. Pajhwok tried to contact Qader for comments but failed. (Pajhwok)

(8) US Court Sentence...

and statements made during court proceedings:

LAJAWARD and SAID, two Afghan nationals, were part of a drug trafficking organization (the "DTO") based in Afghanistan that produced and distributed large quantities of heroin. Between approximately May 2014 and June 2015, LAJAWARD and SAID worked together in an effort to import large quantities of heroin - in the range of 1,000 kilograms - from Afghanistan into the United States. (Pajhwok)

(9) Afghanistan Eliminate...

their bowlers, supported by outstanding catching and ground fielding, sent the rival crashing out of the event and scored their first-ever ODI win over Sri Lanka.

Spinner Mujeeb trapped Kusal Mendis leg before wicket before Sri Lanka could open their account. Mujib, Rashid Khan, Gulbadin Naib and Mohammad Nabi got two scalps each to bundle out the opposition for 158.

The winners will take on Bangladesh in the last Group B match, although the result will not matter as both sides have already marched to the Super Four stage. (Pajhwok)

(10) 'Pakistani Forces...

said he has men and weapons and could defend the country's soil without government's help. Meanwhile, a number of tribal elders in the three districts said they were fed up with daily shelling from Pakistan and they would either surrender to Pakistan or would put up resistance. Tribal elder in Lalpura district, Najibullah, said no one -- the provincial government, the center government and the parliament -- had inquired about their

situation.

Another elder Mian Shah Rukh said many families had fled homes in border districts due to the Pakistani shelling and the displaced families might migrate to Pakistan if the Afghan government did not come to their rescue.

He said the Pakistani forces started shelling Rena and Parchaw areas about two months ago and the cross border firing still continued. He said the Pakistani forces fired light weapons day and night and periodically fired rockets and mortars.

The Lalpura district chief, Nimatullah Noorzai, also confirmed the Pakistani forces had been shelling border villages over the past one year, forcing many families to flee.

He said yesterday 19 mortars were fired into Lapura from the Pakistani side of the border.

But Nangarhar's governor spokesman Attaullah Khogyani said they had not been formally shared any report about any new shelling or advance by the Pakistani forces.

He said the Afghan forces had the ability and energy to respond to such aggression in a befitting manner. (Pajhwok)

(11) Anti-Corruption...

Forces for judicial procedure.

Of them, seven wanted to smuggle heroin to India and Saudi Arabi via the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. (Pajhwok)

(12) Work Speeded...

by the Afghan government, according to Farooqi.

He said the remaining amount would be provided by two Turkish firms for the 15 MW electricity project.

Work on the projects was launched in September 2017 after a delay lasting three years and at the time it was pledged the project would be completed in one year. but so far only work on the retaining walls and preparation of land has been completed.

Farooqi said they had accelerated efforts to complete the project in the next few months.

He said the issue electricity shortage being faced by the Kandahar industrial park would be totally resolved after completion of the two projects and electricity produced beyond the need of the park would be supplied to Kandahar city residents.

Kandahar industrial park is currently supplied electricity by generators running on fuel, but the production is not enough to meet the park's requirement.

About Kajaki Dam's hydropower, Farooqi said power turbines on the dam stopped due to the shortage of water in the reservoir.

"Generally the whole of the country and particularly Kandahar is seriously affected by drought and that is the reason the water level in Kajaki Dam reduced from 70 meters to 47 meters and it cannot run turbines", he said.

Kandahar residents currently have access to only seven megawatts of electricity which is available for only seven or eight hours a day.

Three turbines are installed on Kajaki Dam and in the normal situation they produce 51 megawatts of electricity, of which 20 megawatts is supplied to Kandahar residents.

About extension of electricity from Kabul to Kandahar, Farooqi said that the imported electricity had reached Ghazni province and a survey for extending it to

Kandahar had been completed.

He said efforts for land acquisition for power pylons installation from Ghazni to Kandahar were underway.

Eng. Ghorzan, an official at the solar power project, told Pajhwok that the project was 70 percent complete and the rest of other activities would also be completed in near future.

He said 50 percent of equipment for the project had arrived and the remaining equipment was on its way. The projects would be ready for use in the next six months, he added.

Kandahar investors and residents said they were happy over the new power projects, but complained about their slow implementation.

Faizulhaq Mushkani, deputy head of Kandahar Industrialists Association, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the shortage of electricity was a challenge for all residents, particularly factory owners.

He said 154 factories in Kandahar were semi-functional and another 135 plants had been closed due to the absence of electricity. Many other investors were awaiting the solar power so they could run more factories, he said.

Mushkani said 200 factories active in Kandahar produced cotton, ghee, cotton cake, soap, ice, packages, plastic pipes, food items, drinks and others and employed around 5,000 people.

He said the power projects should be implemented on time and according to the promises. (Pajhwok)

(13) Women Seek Action...

at five houses in the provincial capital.

Many addicts visited those houses to purchase the illicit substances, she claimed. The women blamed security organs for failing to prevent the practice and detain the drug dealers or arrest the addicts.

Police chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Maroof Ahmadzai had earlier told Pajhwok Afghan News that newly-appointed counter-narcotics officials had curbed the sale and consumption of narcotics.

He said a dozen people were detained during a special operation against drugs. They had launched drive against smugglers as well, the police chief concluded. (Pajhwok)

Turkmenistan Launched a \$1.5 Billion Fertilizer Plant

Garabogaz - Neftegaz.RU. The solemn opening ceremony of the new industrial facility - Garabogazkarbamid plant took place in Turkmenistan with the participation of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Foreign partners - Mitsubishi Corporation (Japan) and Gap Inşaat (Turkey) implemented the largest in the region investment project. The new modern enterprise will work using the most advanced technologies.

Among them are the technologies of the Danish company Haldor Topse that will allow producing over 2,000 tons of ammonia daily, and 660,000 tons of ammonia a year. It will be used as the main raw material for the production of concentrated solid nitrogen fertilizer - carbamide. The new enterprise will produce 3,500 tons of carbamide fertilizers per day, 1,155 million tons of carbamide fertilizers per year, which are planned to be exported by sea.

The Turkmen Gulf of Garabo-

gazgol is one of the few places on the planet where sodium sulfate and other valuable salt minerals are crystallized on industrial scale under natural environmental conditions. The construction of another carbamide plant in Garabogaz is the next step in the development of the diversified mineral industry of the country, and the increase of its export potential. (Agencies)

HSBC Banker Becomes Uzbek Finance Minister's Adviser

TASHKENT - Director of the HSBC Debt Capital Market in London Odilbek Isakov has been appointed the adviser to Uzbekistan's finance minister and head of the new debt-management department in the finance ministry, the ministry announced.

Isakov has held the position in HSBC since March 2016 and has worked in the bank for 12 years. He was nominated the Most Impressive Global Emerging Markets Banker by Global Capital in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

He is a member of the Buyuk Kelajak (Bright Future) Expert Council.

The new department of the finance ministry was formed by the presidential decree of July 21, which envisages acquiring a sovereign credit rating and appointment of a consortium of banks headed by JP Morgan Chase as a financial consultant to obtain the rating and issue sovereign bonds of Uzbekistan. (Trend)

Anti-Kremlin Activist Saved by Prompt Treatment: Doctors

BERLIN - Anti-Kremlin activist Pyotr Verzilov would probably have died following an apparent poisoning in Moscow last week if he had not received prompt medical treatment, his doctors in Germany said on Tuesday.

Verzilov, publisher of a Russian online news portal with close ties to the outspoken activist group Pussy Riot, is still very disoriented as he convalesces in Berlin's Charite hospital following what his ex-wife said was either an assassination attempt or a warning shot.

Doctors at the hospital said Verzilov was suffering from anti-cholinergic syndrome, a condition in which the passage of certain neurotransmitters is blocked, the sudden onset of which was strongly indicative of poisoning.

"I don't believe his position was seriously life-threatening in hospital, but we can imagine an unfavorable outcome if he'd been alone at home," Kai-Uwe Eckardt, the doctor treating him in Berlin, said.

Verzilov, known in Russia for protest stunts including a pitch invasion at the World Cup final, was treated in a Russian hospital for four days last week before being flown to Berlin for further care.

Activists and security services are on high alert for poison attacks with origins in Russia following the poisoning of former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal in Britain earlier this year, blamed by London on Moscow.

Jaka Bizilj, a Germany-based activist who helped arrange Verzilov's treatment there, said Verzilov had not stopped hallucinating his cat Rubinstein in the hospital room, and had taken one of his Berlin doctors for a prison warden. "But he's getting better every day." (Reuters)