WB Promises $46m in Incentive Grant to MoF

Afghan government welcomed the US President Trump’s new national security strategy, calling it in line with Afghanistan’s shared objective against terrorism.

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Tuesday said the World Bank (WB) has promised $46 million as an incentive grant for reforms in the ministry’s revenue department.

Afghan Hamid Abdul Rashidi, MoF spokesman, said after the MoF honored and implemented its pledges with WB about reforms in the Afghan administration, the WB again promised an assistance of $46 million as incentive aid to the MoF.

He said the money provided by the WB would be spent through the National Budget on further reforms based on government’s priorities. (Pajhwok)

KARUL - The US President Donald Trump’s new national security strategy affirms the enduring US-Afghanistan strategic partnership. President Ashraf Ghani’s Office said on a statement on Tuesday.

“The national security strategy and the US South Asia strategy are the cornerstones upon which our shared efforts to defeat terrorism and bring stability to Afghanistan are built. Our partnership, which reflects a renewed US commitment, will set the conditions to end the war and finally bringing peace to Afghanistan,” the statement said. (More on P4)

CEO Hails Iran, Pakistan for Honorable Repatriation of Refugees

KABUL - Chief executive officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah says as a result of joint work with the EU, the number of the returnees have declined, according to a statement from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Tuesday.

Addressing a gathering on the International Migrants Day (IMD) the CEO said: “We are also grateful to the governments of Iran and Pakistan for providing needful facilities for Afghan returning migrants to their countries”.

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) marked the International Migrants Day on Monday in a function held in Kabul.

The event, held in the Government’s Media and Information Center (GMC) brought together representatives from the Government of Afghanistan, UN Agencies, International Organizations, Humanitarian Actors, Embassies, Parliamentarians, Afghan Civic Society and Afghan Community.

KARUL - German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen has said that NATO was too hasty in its withdrawal from the country, and she voiced its regret that the conflict there would continue.

In a visit to German troops in Afghanistan, the German Bundeswehr troops have been in the country for 15 years in the wake of a US-led invasion in 2001 as part of Washington’s “war on terrorism.” (More on P4)

Violence Against Women

KHOST CITY - Incidents of violence against women have been on the increase in southeastern provinces, especially in Khost province, an official said on Tuesday.

Poverty, insecurity and low level of education were cited as main reasons behind the growing incidents of violence against women. (More on P4)

European Parliament Hails Indian Aid to Afghanistan

KARUL - The European Parliament has visited India as a regional partner helping maintain peace and development in Afghanistan.

In a resolution, the European Parliament also commended New Delhi for using its soft power in building the war-torn Afghanistan in the past 16 years. (More on P4)

Pakistan’s Chief Justice, Justice Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that the military cannot ignore the changes that are taking place in Afghanistan. After the Pakistan Senate but he did not elaborate further in this regard.

However, he said border management is necessary to protect the Pakistan-Afghan border and on other parts of his speech he said the recent visits to neighboring countries had proved to help improve Pakistan’s ties with them.

This comes as Pakistan has long been criticizing and objecting regarding the presence of India in Afghanistan.

On the other hand, the US Department of Defense, its latest report, called India as Afghanistan’s most reliable regional partner and the largest contributor of development assistance in the region.

The report further adds that this assistance includes civil development projects such as the Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam and the Afghan parliament building.

According to Pentagon, India provides significant training opportunities for Afghan officers and non-commissioned personnel and has frequently offered to increase its border sharing for Afghanistan. Approximately 135 Afghan travel to India each year to attend various military academy and commissioning programs.

“Impact has also donated limited security assistance, most notably four. (More on P4)

KARUL - German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said on Monday that the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan has been carried out too quickly, making her regret her visit to the city of Camp Marmal in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

“I haven’t forgotten how it was at the beginning when we got out …too quickly with too big a reduction in troop numbers [in 2014],” she said, stressing that it was plain to every one that there was still ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

“There’s still a lot to do but I’m convinced that we’re going in the right direction with our mission,” von der Leyen added. She said that the Afghan army would still need support and training from coalition troops.

“We’ll need to have a lot of stamina – Afghanistan will occupy us for a long time yet.” (More on P4)

Indian Parliamentarians have been in Afghanistan for the country for 15 years in the wake of a US-led invasion in 2001 as part of Washington’s “war on terrorism.” (More on P4)

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan’s Chief Justice, Justice Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that the military cannot ignore the changes that are taking place in Afghanistan.

The incident included beating, poisoning, killing for honour, injury, forcible expulsion from homes, underage marriage, suicide, marriage for the sake of money, and denying alimony, said Zarmina Shams.

She added 227 incidents of violence had been registered last year in the Southeastern Zone but his year the number rose to 36, showing 30 percent increase.

Poverty, insecurity and low level of education were main reasons. (More on P4)

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AFSANA - The deputy chairman of the lower chamber of Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Vladimir Bezbik, suggested to build Kazakh grain terminals and elevators in Afghanistan. In his opinion, this will help selling Kazakh wheat in this country in a profitable and timely manner. This year Kazakhstan has faced a problem of rolling stock shortage. About 3.5 thousand of rail cars cannot return back from abroad for a month, reports AktobeAgrolot.

For a variety of reasons, Kazakh farmers cannot sell their crop. One of the main reasons is the lack of grain hoppers. The problem also lies in the absence of conditions to end the war and finally bringing peace to Afghanistan, the statement said. (More on P4)

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