Hairatan Port

Traders at Hairatan Port Complain of High Train Fare

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Traders in northern Balkh province complained of facilities at the Hairatan port but complain about high fare of the rail service to Uzbekistan against imports and exports. Hajji Khurshidin Move, an Afghan businessman, said trade relations between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan improved in recent months. He said they faced no problem importing goods via railway but still some small problems remained.

"Without any issue, goods are imported on a daily basis and exports also take to European countries through Central Asia," Mayal said.

According to him, there is no major problem in trade with Uzbekistan through the railway line and facilities for the private sector had increased.

He called the train fare for imports and exports as appropriate and low compared to road and containers.

He also said the Hairatan port played an important and vital role in bolstering Afghanistan’s trade.

Kabul Police use Water Canon to Protest Disrupts Traffic

KABUL - Over a hundred supporters of unsuccessful candidates staged a rally at the Pathanistan Wolt in downtown Kabul, blocking traffic for about six hours before they dispersed by spraying water.

The protesters were demanding invalidation of all Kabul votes and conducting resolutions. They further warned to close the entrance points to Kabul if their demands were not addressed.

The Independent Election Commission has announced final results of the Oct Wolesi Jirga elections from 19 provinces and has pledged to announce the final results from the remaining provinces until March 6.

The protesters who closed many roads caused traffic disruption in the already crowded area.

Heron Officers Call for Intra-Afghan Talks

Activists and religious scholars voiced their concerns at a gathering in Herat on Sunday.

MOSCOV. - As hope grows around the possibility of peace in Afghanistan, after 40 years of war, dozens of youths, activists and religious scholars from Herat on Sunday said intra-Afghan talks should start as soon as possible and dialogue should be initiated by the Afghan government and the Taliban.

A day earlier, a group of prominent Afghan politicians held talks with Taliban representatives in Moscow. The talks were declared "constructive" by some participants. The Afghan government did not however attend as the Taliban has until now refused to engage with government.

Activists in Herat meanwhile said on Sunday the Afghan government and the Taliban should not wait for "foreigners" to bring them together to discuss peace.

One Herat resident, Abdul Ghani said: "No country will bring peace to us unless Afghans themselves roll up their sleeves and strive for peace.

"We should bring peace through negotiations between Afghans,” he said.

"We should sit together and talk with each other about how to bring peace," he added.

KABUL - - A day after consulting politicians, second vice president Sarwar Danish said there was complete consensus among all stakeholders about changes to the electoral law and bringing reforms to the electoral bodies. He also said the Hairatan port played an important and vital role in bolstering Afghanistan’s trade.

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Five New Provinces

KABUL - Sources said the new provinces include districts from Herat, Nangarhar, Ghani, Badakhshan and Farah provinces.

The Afghan government is reportedly working on a plan to create five new provinces in the country, raising the number of provinces to 33 from the current 34.

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) has confirmed the plan, but has not revealed details.

Sources said that government might declareShamsh district of Nangarhar, highest district of Ghanidistrict of Badakhshan and district of Farah as new provinces.

The provinces are located in the country’s northwestern, eastern, northern, western and central regions.

The IDLG has said that discussions are underway to finalize the process.

“Discussions are ongoing about this plan with the Presidential Palace,” said Sayed Shah, head of the IDLG’s public relation department.

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