

(1) Municipal Staff...

he had owned the land for 15 years and recently wanted to build an awning for the people. "It is not a gas station. A gas station has a tanker and cable. It is a green area," he said. Although he said men had beaten municipality staff, he denied they were his employees. However armed men were seen in the area preventing municipality staff destroying the gas station.

Kabul municipality had before destroyed illegal buildings and gas stations, but this is the first time its staff had been beaten. (Tolnews)

(2) Japan Provides ...

Economy Department and PDC Secretariat, and in partnership with the Government of Japan. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Government of Afghanistan, including: H.E. Mohammad Ismail Rahimi, Deputy Minister of Economy; Mr. Naem Bahir, Director for Administration and Finance from the Office of the Governor of Herat, and Mr. Rahnaward, Director of Economy Department and PDC Secretariat.

Dr. Mohammad Haider Reza, UNOPS Afghanistan Director a.i. said: "This project is very important for farmers and the people of Herat and for Afghanistan economy and its people as a whole. The project will enable the farmers to have easy access to markets and to store their products according to accepted standards until they find their ways to other parts of the country. UNOPS is pleased to work closely with the Ministry of Economy and the Government of Japan on this innovative and critical development partnership."

While H.E. Deputy Minister of Economy stated that: "The Ministry of Economy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan wishes to acknowledge the initiation of a project to support economic and agricultural development in Herat. In partnership with the Japanese Government, the project aims to enhance agricultural based livelihoods through strengthening agricultural value chains. The rehabilitation of roads, markets and export centered infrastructure will boost Herat's profile as a major contributor to the western regions' domestic produce and export output. The project is a multi-stakeholder engagement involving Government, Office of the Governor, Key Provincial line departments, the Government of Japan and UNOPS."

Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Embassy of Japan to Afghanistan, Mr. Kenji Enoshita, said that by finding new markets for the agricultural products of this country, they could not only feed the local population but also bring wealth to the entire Afghan nation as well as to the villages where they were produced.

Fortunately, Afghanistan was very rich in horticulture products, such as almonds, pomegranates, pistachios, raisins, apricots and saffron, to name just a few. Afghanistan could promote its high-quality agricultural products to the world by improving or formulating the agricultural value chain, just as it was done before the wars.

Due for completion in March 2019, two of the city's largest produce markets in Herat will be rehabilitated, in addition to the construction of a cool storage facility, agricultural exhibition and training facility, community bazaar in Injil District of Herat. In addition, two important access roads, totaling 6.5KM will be converted to asphalt to improve access to key markets and reduce congestion.

Once completed, it is being expected that local producers/farmers' income would be increased and approximately 360,000 road users to have better access to the markets and the city.

In addition to the rehabilitation and construction of the facilities in Herat, the 8.77\$ million project would also fund a capacity building training for 300 farmers and government officials in Herat in order to enhance their capacity to maintain the

facilities afterwards.

Japan has been assisting Afghanistan's nation-building efforts in various fields including security, education, health, culture, humanitarian assistance, agriculture, infrastructure and capacity development amounting to 6.25 billion. (Pajhwok)

(3) Britain Faces ...

planning "represents an enormous ongoing risk that none of us can ignore".

"So I think that there is undoubtedly significant ongoing risk which is at least as great as the threat to London in the seventies when the IRA were active on the mainland," he said in the interview.

During the 1970s, Britain faced a concerted terrorist campaign from Irish republicans that saw bars, train stations and parliament repeatedly targeted in bomb attacks. (Xinhua)

(4) Imported Power ...

follows on the signing of a contract for the Bamiyan solar power project producing 10 Megawatt solar power in Kandahar. It is to be the biggest solar power project in Afghanistan. (Tolnews)

(5) Ghani Hails...

in Nahr-e-Kohna village of Dasht-e-Archi district in Kunduz killing at least nine Taliban insurgents, including Salam.

"Maulavi Salam and his associates were eliminated in Kunduz, it is just because of you (the Afghan forces). Today this criminal group is no longer a threat to the people of Kunduz and north-eastern regions," said Ghani.

"The killing of Mullah Salam and his associates in Kunduz province is a major achievement by the Afghan security forces," said Mol deputy spokesman Najib Danish.

The Taliban has been constantly targeting the Afghan forces in the strategic town of Kunduz in northern Afghanistan in its attempts to infiltrate other regions in the north.

Under Salam as Taliban war strategist, the Taliban insurgents last year, managed to capture the center of Kunduz. The takeover of Kunduz by the Taliban sparked strong retaliation from the Afghan public and political forces.

Many blamed poor leadership of the war as the main reason that Kunduz fell to the Taliban. "Mullah Salam and two of his commanders were eliminated during a confrontation with the security forces," said Kunduz governor Assadullah Omarkhail.

According to some sources, Salam spent jail terms in Guantanamo and Pakistan and he played a significant role in the expansion of Taliban in the north and eastern regions of Afghanistan.

The Taliban has confirmed the death of Salam. (Tolnews)

(6) 'Help for ...

the foundation. We are trying to help these families," said Mohammad Ali Afzali, a member of the foundation.

Matiullah Sahil also served in the ranks of Afghan National Army (ANA). He lost both his legs in a mine explosion in Zherai district of southern Kandahar province.

"We want wounded soldiers to realize that we faced similar situations. But now we live normal lives. We are trying to motivate such families and wounded men to also live normal lives," said foundation member Matifullah.

Mansour Faqiri served in the Afghan National Police. He lost his legs during an IED explosion in Kabul. He called on the government to focus on the plight of wounded officers.

"There was an emergency situation, we were ordered to stay in our position, but an IED had been planted in our vehicle and I lost my legs," said Faqiri. "We are proud of having such a brother, he is a symbol for us," said Faqiri's brother Jamalnasir. (Tolnews)

(7) Eshchi Seeks ...

However, Eshchi suggests the two other bodyguards of Dostum will soon appear at AGO, saying he is not satisfied with the interrogation of the

nine individuals because his "original and main culprit" is Dostum. "The nine others are the VP's accomplices. I request Dostum be suspended and produced in AGO."

Despite consistent efforts, Pajhwok did not succeed in getting Dostum's view. Earlier, Junbish-i-Milli party spokesman Bashir Ahmad Tayanj characterised Eshchi as the VP's political rival, spurning the allegations against Dostum as a conspiracy.

Some analysts opine even if the accusations against Dostum are found true, he being vice president could not be convicted. However, others his conviction is possible, asking the government to take serious steps in this regard.

Ajmal Hodman, a legal expert, says in line with Articles 97 and 99 of the criminal law, an accused who may flee should be kept behind bars. The VP bodyguards should have been jailed, because they may flee or go into hiding.

He blames police for failing to arrest the remaining two bodyguards of Gen. Dostum. He wonders why police failed to capture the two bodyguards. He laments the masses, who commit a petty offense, are quickly caught and referred for investigators.

Article 69 of the constitution says: "The President shall be responsible to the nation as well as the House of People... Accusations of crimes against humanity, national treason as well as a crime against the President shall be demanded by one-third of all members of the House of People."

"If this demand is approved by two thirds of the House of People, the House of People shall convene the Loya Jirga within one month. If the Loya Jirga, by two-thirds majority, approves the accusation, the President shall be released from duty and the issue shall be referred to a special court, which shall be comprised of the President of the House of Elders, three members of the House of People, and three members of the Supreme Court appointed by the Loya Jirga."

"The case shall be presented by the individual appointed by the Loya Jirga. In such a situation the provisions of Article Sixty-Seven of this Constitution shall be applied."

Hodman says if the government could not detain the former Uzbek warlord, it could force him to appear before investigators in the best interest of justice and reinforcing public confidence in the rule of law and constitutionalism. (Pajhwok)

(8) Mother-Child ...

conceived through surgical operation," he said.

He said he had no exact figures but could say the rate of mother and child mortality had sharply decreased or even dropped to zero.

"This hospital is very effective in Khost, Not a single mortality case occurred in the third quarter of 2016, it means such cases have been prevented by the hospital," he said.

Khan said the hospital provided healthcare facilities to both children and mothers and patients could also refer to the provincial civil hospital in case of need.

"We mainly focus on mothers, but we also have facilities for children born in the hospital, we have both Afghan and foreign specialists," he said.

The maternity hospital of the Doctors Without Borders also offers services in five districts of Khost. Kaminullah Yad, logistics manager at the maternity hospital, said the hospital branches were currently functioning in Lakan, Sabrai, Garbaz, Tani and Nader Shah Kot districts of Khost.

He said construction work on two buildings at the healthcare center was underway in Sabari and Lakan districts. Construction of each building would cost 75,000\$, he said.

Khost residents said most of their maternity related problems have been solved with activation of the Doctors Without Border hospital.

Mohammad Sarwar, a resident, said many women would lose their lives to childbirth before

the hospital was opened.

"This hospital is very beneficial to our people, in the past, people would take their patients to expensive private clinics, but now people refer their patients to the DWB hospital which provides free of cost and day and night services," he said.

A total of 370 people, including foreigners, work at the central maternity hospital of the Doctors Without Borders in Khost. (Pajhwok)

(9) Hundreds of ...

Industrialists Association (KIA), said up to 300 million liters of fuel had been provided by the central government for immediate activation of the factories.

He said 4.2 million liters more oil would also be provided to help keep the industries operational for coming six months.

And after four months the same quantity of fuel would be provided to the factories, the KIA head said.

He said earlier the industrial park was provided electricity for eight hours but in future there will be electricity for 10 hours, calling it a new development.

Sadiq said the government in Kabul had pledged launching work on a 10MW solar electricity plant soon and negotiations in this regard were in last stages.

Haji Faizulhaq Mushkani, a member of Kandahar Industrialists Association and owner of a factory, said there were more than 200 factories in the province that needed 10 megawatts of electricity. The factories were currently supplied only three megawatts. The industrialist said they were satisfied with the available electricity but called outages as unacceptable.

"We were promised regular and continued electricity besides the activation of 10 megawatt solar electricity plant during the next one year," he said. However, Mushkani said the solar power project had been suspended over the past three years and needed urgent resumption.

The factories remained closed for a month due to absence of electricity, with each factory suffering an average loss of 500,00 to 600,000 afghanis, he said.

Kandahar factories produce cotton, ghee, soap, ice, ice-cream, package materials, plastic dishes, pipes, edible items, non-alcoholic drinks, oil, cake and others.

Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS) head for Kandahar, Eng. Sayed Rassoul, confirmed receiving 300,000 liters of fuel from the central office.

He said he had also requested the supply of 4.2 million liters of fuel for the industrial park in Kandahar. He said the fuel would be provided to them in near future.

USAID was supposed to establish a solar power plant at a cost of 15\$ million for the Kandahar industrial park. The plant was to be made functional by last summer, but work on it is yet to be initiated.

The agency has asked DABS to provide land for the solar power plant and extend transmission lines from the plant to the industrial park.

DABS has also met certain other requirements, including the acquisition of 80 acres of land, making a sketch and establishing 135 pylons and extending power transmission cables, according Rassoul. But till the USAID was yet to launch work on the project, the official said.

However, he said the USAID had recently promised to initiate work on the project in few days and complete in one year.

On the other hand, installation work on a third turbine at the Kajaki hydropower dam has finished recently. The work was launched on August 2016 .06. The earlier installed two turbines have capacity to produce 33MW of power and the third one has the capacity to produce 18.5MW. The dam is now able to produce 51.5MW of power.

Currently, power is supplied to Kandahar from the Kajaki dam only, but power lines are often cut off during fighting, leading days and even weeks' long blackout.

It's pertinent to mention here that yesterday an Indian company signed an agreement

of extending power cables from Ghazni to Kandahar. According to the company the work would be speedy and carried out with good quality.

Kandahar residents say they will continue their protests until the power issue is fundamentally resolved. (Pajhwok)

(10) Top Daesh ...

of security officials which hurt the local residents.

She also claimed the Taliban wounded three women in Sardara village.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid in a short message confirmed two of the group fighters had been killed in Nawabad village and their bodies were with security forces. (Pajhwok)

(11) Teenage Boy...

magnetic bomb. Munir Rahimi, a police official, said the incident took place hours after he parked the pick-up in the headquarters last night.

The bomb destroyed the pick-up but caused no casualties or other damage, he said. (Pajhwok)

(12) Senior Taliban...

and eight other Taliban, said Sher Aziz Kamawal, a senior police commander in northern Afghanistan.

Akhund, who oversaw the Taliban offensive that briefly seized Kunduz city in 2015, had previously been reported dead several times by Afghan officials.

This time however, his apparent death was confirmed by top Taliban officials, including a commander in the eastern province of Khost. (Reuters)

(13) Two Arreste...

Balkh provincial council.

"The disappearance of weapons paves the way for empowerment of armed opposition groups and is a threat to security forces," said Rajab Ibrahim, another member of the council.

"Government must investigate the matter and clarify that who are behind such cases or who supports such people," the council's member Nasim Rahimi said. (Tolnews)

(14) UN's Zeid...

to protect. And our rights, the rights of others, the very future of our planet cannot, must not, be thrown aside by these reckless political profiteers," he added. (Xinhua)

(15) Paris Mayor ...

Monday during a visit to Tokyo, adding: "As the president of France said, this is not something big countries say to each other." (AFP)

(16) UN Chief ...

reminded that the most effective tool to counter human rights violations is prevention, which includes capacity-building states, institutions and civil society. (Xinhua)

(17) S.Korea to ...

ceremony would happen as early as Tuesday, adding that more details would be announced separately after the signing.

The land swap deal was initially scheduled to be inked in January, but it was delayed amid strong oppositions at home and abroad. On Feb. 3, Lotte held a board meeting, in which it failed to endorse the contract. The signing is forecast to accelerate the remaining procedures for the THAAD deployment in South Korean soil. (Xinhua)

(18) Syrian Army...

Palmyra, since the Syrian army unleashed a counter offensive to retake the city on Jan. 14 this year, just days after the IS militants took the city for the second time.

The Observatory said battles are taking place on three fronts near Palmyra simultaneously. It added that the Syrian forces advanced from the northwestern part of the city, becoming six kilometers from its northwestern entrance. (Xinhua)

(19) Iraqi Forces...

foot of the 4th Bridge, federal police and rapid response forces advanced to the adjacent neighborhood of Dindan and took new positions there amid heavy fighting with IS militants, Lt. Gen. Raid Shakir Jawdat, commander of the federal police forces, said in a separate

statement.

Earlier in the day, Yarallah said in a press release that federal police and interior ministry rapid response forces recaptured al-Tayaran neighborhood.

The troops are clearing the neighborhood from IS militants, who suffered heavy casualties after days of fierce fighting, Yarallah said without giving further details. (Xinhua)

(20) Japan's Lower ...

sectors to pull Japan out of its economic slump, or concrete solutions to tackle the shrinking and aging population which is hollowing out both Japan's workforce and its consumers. (Xinhua)

(21) US General ...

military combat jihadi groups near the border with Syria. Washington has provided more than 1\$ billion in military assistance to Lebanon since 2006. (AP)

(22) Iran FM ...

and human costs, the Islamic Republic has been actively fighting drug trafficking over the past three decades.

Iran has spent more than USD 700 million to seal the borders and prevent the transit of narcotics destined for European, Arab and Central Asian countries. The war on drug trade originating from Afghanistan has claimed the lives of nearly 4,000 Iranian police officers over the past 34 years. (Presstv)

Russia, Tajikistan to Continue Efforts to Ensure Stability in Central Asia

DUSHANBE - Putin and Rahmon held talks Monday during the Russian leader's visit to Tajikistan.

"The sides will continue coordination of efforts aimed at neutralizing security threats coming from the southern direction against the Commonwealth of Independent States," the statement says. According to the document, Putin and Rahmon agreed that the presence of Russia's 201 military base in Tajikistan remains an important factor in ensuring regional security. (Sputnik)

Uzbekistan, US Mull Relations, Int'l and Regional Issues

TASHKENT - Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov and US Department of State Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central Asia Daniel Rosenblum exchanged views on the Uzbekistan-US relations, as well as some international and regional issues in Tashkent.

Kamilov and Rosenblum also mull the meeting of the American-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce held in Tashkent February 1, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said Feb. 27.

US Ambassador to Uzbekistan Pamela Leora Spratlan also attended the meeting. (Trend)

Poland's Populist Govt Brings Hope to Struggling Rural Areas

KOBYLIN-BORZYMY, Poland - Life has always been hard for Witold Pogorzelski, a farmer in eastern Poland. Fuel shortages in the communist era prevented him from transporting his produce. In the capitalist era, the nearby sugar factory that provided an income to him and his wife was forced to close.

But now, as the 64-year-old prepares for retirement, he feels like there's finally a bit of hope.

He and his wife Barbara are among those who voted for the populist Law and Justice party, which won power in 2015 promising to help those left behind by the inequalities of Poland's free-market era, to protect traditional Catholic values and to rebuild national pride.

The party won 38 percent of the vote nationally, which gave it a majority in parliament. But here in Kobylin-Borzmy, a modest rural community about a 2½ hour drive northeast of Warsaw, the party won 85 percent. Support was also very high in many surrounding communities, making this the heartland of a populist revolt bringing radical change to the Central European nation of 38 million people. (AP)