Bumper Watermelon Yield Creates Thousands of Jobs

JALALABAD - Bumper production of watermelons in the Barakzai district of Jalalabad province has created thousands of jobs, demonstrating a positive impact on the security situation.

Despite the fact that the government has put no effort in most of the areas where watermelons are grown, the positive impact of the production surge is visible in many localities – from Jalalabad to Ghazni district.

The Jalalabad-Torkham highway passes through Barakzai district, where farmers and vendors have established watermelon stalls on both sides of the road, attracting a large number of passengers and drivers to buy the glucose-rich fruit.

To the part of the district, known as Fruit area, stability has partially returned. In the past, drivers and passengers felt unsafe going through the area. But now people stop here for eating and buying watermelons.

Mohammad Esa, a resident of the district, said that, "Watermelons sell well at both sides of the road.

Now we have no problems here. A large number of people come here to buy watermelons." Esa added.

10 Girls’ Schools in Kabul Receive Sports Equipment

KARUL - The Afghan-German Cooperation’s Sport for Development (SfD) program handed over a wide range of sports-material to ten girls schools in Kabul on Tuesday.

Another ten schools located in Asbarez and Marghzar will receive similar equipment during the next two weeks. About 30,000 female students will benefit from the program that provides physical education (PE) classes. The German government will continue to support PE project with a total cost of roughly ASFn12 million.

Together with representatives of the SfD program, the Provincial Education Director Dr. Mohammad Sayed Mameen handed over the new equipment to the principal teachers of Tapar and Shalman High School in Kabul.

On this occasion, Anisullah Azizi, AIPF, said, "It is the first time that we appreciate the cooperation of the government and we are emphasizing a better use of these sports items in school, so we can achieve a better output in the future."

Last year, SfD organized training for the 45 PE teachers holding classes at 20 schools in Kabul and Samangan.

KARUL - The High Peace Council (HPC) said on Monday that it was working on a new peace talks strategy aimed at bringing the Taliban to the table.

HPC chairman Mohammad Karim Khalili said this was in a bid to break the stalemate but that should the Taliban join the negotiations process, this should not be seen as a move to surrender on their part.

Khalili also said the HPC was ready to listen to the Taliban’s views and recommendations and in the event of these being in the nation’s interests the council would take their points into consideration.

Meanwhile HPC secretary Mohammad Akrar Khaplakwaz expressed hope that the new strategy would have positive implications and persuade the Taliban to endure purposeful peace talks. On Monday, the new HPC leadership convened their first meeting and (More on P5)

BSA Has Failed to Deliver: Results of Speaker's House

Wolol Jirga speaker Abdul Rauf Drahmani said insecurity in Afghanistan is threatening the political, economic and social fabric of the country. He said that the BSA has not delivered any improvement to the nation’s security problems.

Insecurity and the political, economic and social fabric of the country are in very serious condition because of lack of order within the White House.

Brizanti not only said the signing of the BSA has failed to result in any significant progress but he also raised concerns over ongoing recruitment processes by Daesh in the northern parts of the country.

Brizanti stated that insecurity is the political, economic and social fabric of the country.

Despite this security arrangement and the long-term strategic partnership with the United States, he said that there has been no improvement in security cooperation.

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HPC to Draw up New Peace Strategy in Bid to Break Stalemate

The High Peace Council said on Monday that any move by the Taliban to join the negotiations process should not be perceived as the group surrendering.

Envoys Draw up RECCA Blueprint

According to the senators, the lack of order within the White House is behind the announce ment of America’s new war strategy in Afghanistan.

He said that continued delay within the White House is behind the delay in announcing and rolling out new strategy.

"And, you know, we all know what the problem is - it’s in the White House. They’ve got to get their act together, announce a strategy. That has to be done by the president, by the way."

"We’ve got to win there. Don’t forget 9/11. And here is what we need to do to get there… Unfortunately, there is so much delay within the White House. But I am confident the United States of America, the best and strongest nation on earth, can do it," he said.

He warned that the U.S was losing the war in Afghanistan and casualties among Afghan forces was high. "We have no strategy. And we are losing. When you’re not winning, you’re losing. And the ANA, the Afghan National Army, is taking unaccept able losses. And we are going to have a new strategy. You know, (More on P5)

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KARUL - US Senator and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee John McCain has criticized President Donald Trump’s Administration for delaying the announcement of America’s new war strategy in Afghanistan.

He said that continued delay within the White House is behind the delay in announcing and rolling out new strategy. "And, you know, we all know what the problem is - it’s in the White House. They’ve got to get their act together, announce a strategy. That has to be done by the president, by the way."

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