Afghan Finance Minister Resigns, Citing Personal Reasons

**Afghan Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi, one of the top allies of President Ashraf Ghani, resigned on Tuesday, citing personal reasons.**

KABUL - Eklil Ahmad Hakimi announced on Tuesday that he has resigned from his position as Finance Minister of Afghanistan due to “a personal reason”. Hakimi did not provide details about his decision when he addressed a press conference on Tuesday morning.

"Today during my press conference about MoF’s achievements, I also announced tomorrow as my last working day as Afghanistan’s Finance Minister. With many family priorities, I decided to step back from work and care best for my loved ones," Hakimi tweeted hours after his press conference.

He was appointed to the position in February 2015. He is a former Afghan diplomat and has served as Afghanistan’s ambassador to China, Japan and the United States. (Tolo news)

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EU Wants UN Convention Against Torture Enforced

KABUL - The European Union (EU) on Tuesday welcomed Afghanistan’s ratification of the UN Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol.

The EU reiterated its call for a broad ratification and effective implementation of the convention on International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

In a statement, High Representative Federica Mogherini reaffirmed EU’s commitment to eradicating all forms of torture and expressing support for its victims and for accountability and justice to be achieved.

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Johnson Meets Afghan Leaders on Security, Counter Terror

KABUL - British foreign secretary Boris Johnson on Monday called on President Ashraf Ghani after arriving in Kabul, with both the sides discussing issues of mutual interest, particularly the ceasefire and the peace process in Afghanistan, a statement said.

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New Nangarhar Governor plans to Restrict Rupee

JALALABAD - The new governor of eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday said he was working on a ‘special plan’ to facilitate business deals in the afghani instead of the Pakistani rupee.

However, residents of Jalalabad, the provincial capital, members of the provincial council and experts were sceptical about the governor’s statement as argued similar promises in the past could be honored.

Nangarhar governor Hayatullah Hayat told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview that his new plan was under work in a way not to harm public interest.

Hayat...(More on P4)...(2)

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Improved Framework for Af-Pak Transit Trade Urged

PESHAWAR - Afghanistan and Pakistan have been asked to ink an agreement on consular access to prisoners and improve the framework for transit trade. The Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Committee (PAJC), Beyond Boundaries, also called for work on a reasonable plan for Afghan refugees' dignified repatriation.

In a statement on Monday, the committee also stressed the need for facilitating bilateral trade and addressing negative perceptions about each other.

The track-II initiative suggested media exchanges and proposed highlighting of progress made under the Afghans-Pakistani Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS)...(More on P4)...(1)