UNAMA announces stance on announcement of final results of Afghan presidential elections

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) announced its stance on announcement of the final results of presidential elections. The UNS mission in a statement said "The United Nations underscores the importance of an orderly process leading up to the announcement of the final results, and continues to stress the equal importance of national cohesion in the period ahead, noting that the election process has been a joint responsibility of all stakeholders, including the electoral management bodies and the candidates, as well as media, civil society and other actors."

The statement further added "The United Nations also stresses the importance of any challenges made to the final results of the election process remaining consistent with the regulations of the country and conducted in the interest of stability and cohesion, and in accordance with the constitution and relevant laws of Afghanistan."

Afghanistan records 408 new positive cases of coronavirus in past 24 hours

The public health authorities recorded 408 new positive cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said. According to Public Health Ministry, the authorities recorded the new positive cases in various provinces. The new positive cases increase the total number of COVID-19 positive cases to 7,072 since the outbreak of the virus in the country.

This comes as the Ministry of Public Health on Sunday reported that 262 positive cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in various provinces. (Khama Press)

Taliban accused of torching 5 bodies in Ghazni

Taliban militants have torched the bodies of three civilians and two security personnel after killing them in the Jaghato district of southern Ghazni province, local officials claim. But the rebels reject the claim as groundless.

Police spokesman Ahmad Khan Serat told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban had shot dead three civilians and two policemen in the Qiaq Dara area of the district on Sunday. He accused the insurgents of burning the victims' bodies inside a vehicle after killing them. "The Taliban have been carrying out such attacks on a daily basis. They have also been killing and maiming civilians."

On the other hand, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid rejected the claims and said the fighters had attacked with a rocket a vehicle carrying government personnel in Qiaq Dara area. (Pajhwok)

More than 140 Afghans return home from India

More than 140 Afghan citizens stranded in the Indian state of Maharashtra have been flown home, says a media report.

At least 143 Afghans boarded a special flight of KAM Air at the Lohegaon airport on Sunday afternoon and left for Kabul, The Hindustan Times reported.

The plane had taken nine Indian citizens to their country, the newspaper reported, citing a senior airport official.

The Lohegaon district administration said none of the outgoing passengers showed symptoms of COVID-19.

"The nine Indians, who arrived on the special flight, were quarantined after being screened at the airport," an unnamed official was quoted as saying. (Pajhwok)

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Guarding the Rights of Women

Social and political circumstances have to change within a society, since such changes are inevitable and are bound to occur. And those who are really interested to achieve something positive from these changes have to understand the nature of these changes and try to divert them towards better destinations instead of trying to block their ways. However, an important fact about the changes that occur within a society is that they influence the weaker strata of society to a large extent. Afghanistan is also one of the societies in the world and it has to go through the process of changes. Though mostly these changes have made negative influence in Afghanistan society and these changes have made Afghan people suffer to a large extent, the changes have still been there as long as Afghan society exists and the people live in it. Though these changes have influenced everyone, the weaker strata of society, especially women, have been largely influenced by these changes.

The changes in Afghan society must be analyzed from two geographies. The first one must be analyzed from within Afghan society, keeping in view the changes that occur with the interactions and development within the social institutions and other sectors. Such a perspective is more cultural and the changes have taken place in Afghan society with a slow pace of changes. The traditional culture and norms and values are strict and slow to change. Moreover, education, that can be a source of change, has not been able to provide the necessary changes in Afghan society. Most of the rural areas still do not have schools and proper education. In addition, the education that is being provided still contains obstacle curriculum that does not help much in changing the mentality of the weaker strata of society. Besides education, a lot of things that have not been supportive of Afghan society with a slow pace of changes. The traditional culture and norms and values are strict and slow to change. Moreover, education, which can be a source of change, has not been able to provide the necessary changes in Afghan society. Most of the rural areas still do not have schools and proper education. In addition, the education that is being provided still contains obstacle curriculum that does not help much in changing the mentality of the weaker strata of society.

Another important factor to consider regarding the nature of changes that may occur in the times to come is gender inequality as it is the ongoing transition period. There are concerns that in some areas, gender further deteriorate and there may be many companies that increase the gender inequality in Afghan society towards further religious extremism and backwardness. The changes so far made and occurred and the ones that may follow do not seem to have much consideration regarding the rights of women and gender balance. Women have been discriminated and they may further be influenced by the future changes to a large extent. Why one of the weaker strata and weaker strata are influenced by these changes? By men and society. Moreover, women fear the return of Taliban-like era and fear that all the developments for improvement of status of women may be lost unless wise decisions are made. In the political bargain with Talibans for the peace process, it is possible that government may make certain changes in Afghan society that may influence the rights of women may suffer further. Therefore, it is really necessary to understand the nature of mentioned changes and try to direct the efforts towards better destinations so that the rights of all strata of Afghan society, including women must be guaranteed.

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Taliban react to signing of agreement of between Abdullah and Ghani

The Taliban group reacted to the signing of an agreement between Ghani and Abdullah in an eastern district of Nangarhar province, the Afghan government and Taliban officials said Monday.

Lt. General Haseen Yousufzai, spokesperson for the 201st Military Corps, east, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban had accepted security check-posts in Kodeh and Mama Khec area of Sherzad district last Sunday in district.

Taliban kill 7 pro-govt fighters in Takhar ambush

At least seven members of an uprising group have been killed as the Afghan security forces faced a Taliban ambush in Yangi Qila district of northern Takhar province.

Taliban police spokesman Khalil-uz-Zebi said Pajhwok Afghan News the pro-government forces faced a Taliban ambush in Yangi Qila district of Yangi Qila district Sunday morning. He added that two of their members belonging to Malik Tattar were killed and two others wounded and added they also took away weapons of the slain fighters.

In Logar, seven Taliban insurgents were killed and five others wounded in an airstrike in Tarinkot district of Logar province on Sunday night, said police spokesman.

NATO reaffirms support to Afghanistan as Afghan leaders sign deal to end political impasse

Afghanistan’s President Ashraf Ghani, right, and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah for arrangement of the second day of the NATO summit in Warsaw, Poland, Saturday, July 9, 2016. US President Barack Obama and other NATO leaders have been the second day of a summit meeting in Warsaw that’s expected to lead to decisions about Afghanistan, the central Mediterranean and Iraq.

The NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, left, the alliance’s support to Afghanistan and the Afghan leaders a signed agreement to end the political impasse.

“We welcome the signing of the agreement between Afghanistan's President and Chief Executive. The agreement is important for resolving the political impasse in the country,” (Khaama Press)

5 attacking Taliban killed in Nangarhar clash

Five Taliban militants have been killed during a clash with security forces in a northern district of eastern Nangarhar province, the Afghan government and Taliban officials said Monday.

Lt. General Haseen Yousufzai, spokesperson for the 201st Military Corps, east, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the Taliban had accepted a security check-post in Kodeh and Mama Khec area of Sherzad district last Sunday.

Dried fruit prices 22pc down compared to last Eid

Prices of some dried fruits showed a 22pc decline as compared to their rates in last year’s Eid. Sources revealed that the price of a kilogram of dried apricots ranged from 500 to 600 afghans.

A Pajhwok reporter visited the city and met shopkeepers, and family members.

He added the area was now crowded and people security check-posts in Kodi district late on Sunday night, said police spokesman.

Don’t go out of home needlessly, MoPH urges masses

Starting new guidelines, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on Monday said every individual was at risk of contracting coronavirus but the pandemic could be curtailed from spreading by implementing health guidelines.

Every individual is at risk to be infected with coronavirus. Being infected with coronavirus is not a shame and by applying health guidelines the spread of coronavirus could be prevented to family members and friends,” the ministry said.

The Ministry of Public Health is urging people to maintain social distancing and hospitalization is aimed at combating the spread of COVID-19.

Using masks and ensuring handwashing is essential. The guidelines suggest people should not go out of their homes unnecessarily and when they go out of their homes they should wear mask and maintain two meters of physical distance.

How to live a normal life under COVID-19

Don’t go out of your home and in case something urgent you should be mask is a must. In taxi, not sitting unnecessarily and when you sit keep two meters distance.

The guidelines suggest not to visit crowded places, prefer to go on foot or car and ensure physical distance.

The MoPH guidelines also include reporting of symptoms for coronaviruses patients and how to live through the current situation. Staying away from crowded places is encouraged.

In addition, the guidelines also recommend health seeking for people who look after coronavirus patients and family members.

The MoPH also guided people regarding cooking and boiling of food, which a patient who loses the fight to coronavirus.
Global health leaders are pushing for an independent review of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO is facing questions on how it dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a source familiar with Chinese President Xi Jinping’s actions in the period. The source, speaking during Monday’s opening ceremony, said China had acted “very quickly” and “very strongly” during the initial outbreak in Wuhan, the capital of the central Chinese province of Hubei. The virus outbreak began in the city in late December, and spread to other parts of China and beyond. The virus has now infected millions of people worldwide, and the WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic in March. The WHO said on Monday that there had been 174,242 new infections and 2,524 new deaths worldwide in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of cases to 4,389,053 and the number of deaths to 300,607. There have been more than 180,000 recoveries so far. The WHO said the epidemic was getting under control. In other opening remarks, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus welcomed a proposal made during a review of the WHO’s handling of the pandemic and said it would initiate an independent “opportu-...
A car bomb attack killed or wounded at least 47 people in Southeastern Ghazni province of Afghanistan, the provincial government said, according to a statement released by Provincial Governor’s Office. The militants detonated a Humvee Armored Personnel Carrier in Saqafat area of Ghazni city at around 4:40 am local time. The statement further added that the attack which targeted the 701 Special Unit of the Afghan intelligence, killed 7 others. The explosion also damaged many homes as far as 2 kilometres away from the site of the explosion, the statement said, adding that 8 of the wounded individuals are in critical condition. The Taliban group claimed responsibility for the attack. (Khaista Press)

Hajji Hassan Ahmadzai, a tribal elder, addressed the gathering in Pul-i-Khumri, the provincial capital, saying the government did nothing for people of urban areas as even they lacked clean drinking water. He accused the government of discriminatory behavior with people of the province. He also accused some powerful individuals of grabbing land of Kochi tribesmen who now faced multiple problems. Mohammed Shah, Markaz-i-Baghlan district development council’s head, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had shared their issues regarding projects in their district with the government.

Hundreds of residents of northern Baghlan province on Monday attended a protest gathering and asked the government to launch development projects in urban areas of the province. (Pajhwok)

Afghan government has received $200 million from the World Bank (WB) incentive policy development grant after completing some reform programs, a statement from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) said on Monday. The WB handed over $200 out of total $400 grant on Sunday to the government of Afghanistan, the statement said. The grant was provided to the Afghan government for successfully implementing the biometric process for civil servants and to launch an electronic tax return program for large taxpayers. The money will be spent through the national budget in accordance with the priorities of the Afghan government. Earlier, the WB approved a 360 million grant to help Afghanistan sustain the pace of key economic and public finance reforms, and support the country to manage current risks and uncertainties compounded by the COVID-19 crisis. The Incentive Program Development Policy Grant comprises $180 million from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank Group’s fund for the poorest countries, and $240 million from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), managed by the World Bank on behalf of 34 donors. (Pajhwok)