Salang Pass Closed to Cargo Trucks

KABUL - Salang Pass Maintenance Authority said on Saturday that the Pass was closed due to snow and storms. According to the press release, the highway has been blocked since midnight last night due to snowfall, and heavy transport trucks. The government department added the problem will not last for the next hours on the Salang highway will melt.

Snow thickness on the north is reported to be 36 cm and at up to 100 cm at the southern part is about 30 cm. Meanwhile, the department reported that the Salang Highway is open to passenger vehicles, but must use three-changers for better grip and safety.

The department has asked drivers to consider the speed, weight and height allowed when crossing the route.

Drivers are also advised to follow the rules and regulations of the officials and refrain from overtaking other vehicles, and in any situation should not step inside the tunnels. This comes as Kabul province reported for the First snow of the season. (Khaama Press)

Lawmakers Defend Stance on Next Fiscal Year's Budget Plan

KABUL - A number of lawmakers on Friday said the budget plan for the next fiscal year was rejected over late submission of the document to the parliament and monetary violations.

The plan for the fiscal year (1400) was submitted to the parliament on Tuesday in which the government estimated 452 billion Ails ($11 billion) for the next fiscal year.

"According to the provisions of the law, applying for loans and their approval is the authority of the parliament, but the government has opted for 4 years without consulting the parliament," said Mohammad Azam Khairzada, an MP from Herat.

"With considerable shortcomings of the plan that we noted in the budget plan, we rejected the draft budget. The government needs to take swift action, fill the gaps and not seek the draft budget to be "the house," said MP Sharif Barakzai.

Other lawmakers meanwhile alleged that a number of MPs have suggested some necessary amendments in the budget plan in the government that were not taken seriously by the finance ministry.

In response, the Afghan Ministry of Finance (MoF) said that it will consider necessary measures after assessing those factors that led to the refusal of the document in the parliament.

"In the mid-year budget plan, there is a 4.5 billion Ails addition. [...] More on P4(1)”


The minister of Defense says 70 Taliban fighters have been killed in clashes with the country’s security and defense forces.

The ministry said in a press release on Saturday, that 60 Taliban fighters were killed last night during a security operation in Kunduz province.

The statement added that 22 other fighters of this group were wound- ed in these operations.

According to the Ministry of De- fense, the operations took place in Zhora, Parwan, Maiman, and Shah Wali Kot districts of Kunduz province.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Defense stated, 17 Taliban fighters were killed in Nangarhar province. Meanwhile, seven other insurgents were wounded in an operation by ANA forces in the Hewarab district of Nangarhar province.

Some Taliban weapons and ammu- nition were also reportedly seized during the operation. (Khaama Press)

Buddhist Stupa Renovated in Parwan Province

PAHRWAN - The Afghan government has com-pleted the renovation of a historic Buddhist stupa in the central province of Parwan, officials said.

The stupa that has 1,900 years of history is one of the most important cultural heritage of Afghanistan’s central region and could attract thousands of visitors in the future, officials predict.

During their research, archaeologists have discovered dozens of miles that date back to the Kushan and the Kabul era.

The 35-meter high stupa is located in the southern part of the Hindukush mountain range in the southern part of Charikar city, the center of Parwan province.

"The history of the Buddhist stupa in the southern foothills of the Hindukush mountain range dates and is the time when Bamiyan was the largest residence of the Kushan Empire during the reign of Kusrda. [...] More on P4(1)"
Flour, Sugar, Gold Prices in Kabul

KABUL - The price of flour, sugar and Russian gold have dipped while other items remain steady during the outgoing week in the capital Kabul, market sources said Saturday.

Harim Safizada, a wholesale owner in Shar-e-Naw, said that the price of flour has dropped from 2,350 Afs to 2,275 Afs and sugar price from 4,100 Afs to 4,050 Afs and a bag of Kazakh flour was 1,750 Afs to 1,700 Afs this week.

However, he pointed that the price of a kilogram of African black tea increased from 360 Afs to 380 Afs. He sold a 34kg of Pakistan rice for 2,350 Afs and a kilogram of Indonesian green tea for 300 Afs, the same rates as previous weeks.

Mohammad Omal Hasham, a retailer in Mandari Market, said the retail price of 49 kilograms bag of Kazakh flour was 1,750 Afs, 49 kilograms of Indian sugar was up to 1,800 Afs from 1,750 Afs.

"I sold 80 bags of flour, 50 bags of rice and 10 bags of sugar in the last two days," he said.

Suicide Car Bomber Killed Before Reaching His Target

HELMAND - A suicide attack was foiled and the bomber killed by a long distance, read the statement.

According to the ministry’s statement, the suicide attacker, in an explosives laden car, had planned to target an Afghan National Army (ANA) checkpoint but was identified by security forces and killed before he could reach the base.

The 215 Main Army Corps also confirmed the incident.

The Corps said the Taliban wanted to attack an army base but their plan was foiled.

4 Border Police, 3 Taliban Killed in Fatal Clash

FAZARAI - Four border policemen and three insurgents have been killed in a clash in western Faizabad in Badghis province near the border with Pakistan, police said on Saturday.

Police spokesman Mohammad Mohib told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash erupted at Shukur Aba Naer Farms fort on Saturday night, leaving four border policemen and three attackers dead.

He said the slain insurgents included, Mullah Saeed known as Osmei. The insurgents attempted to attack the border police who were on a patrol about one kilometer away from their post.

Border Police Commander Killed in Blast Ball

Mazar-e-Sharif - At least three security personnel, including a commander of border forces, have been killed in northern Balkh province on Saturday.

Harib Rezaie, a spokesman for the 206th Shura Military Corps, said a landmine attack on a checkpoint of a border unit caused the deaths.

He said the incident took place in the Dusht district, saying that when the filter was turned on the commander was traveling in a truck inside the base.

"The target was identified as the base forces and the attacker was shot dead from a long distance," read the statement.

Meanwhile, the ministry of defense said that the separate incident on Friday morning two suicide attackers were identified and ...(More on P4)...(7)

15 Doctors ‘Injured’ in A Bus Accident: Panjshir

PAJSHIR - Local officials in Panjshir province confirmed Saturday that 15 doctors were injured in a bus accident.

"They were traveling from Kabul to the capital of Panjshir, Helmand, during the period. At least 10 people died from the past 24 hours, taking the re...

Taliban Warned of Losing Opportunity for Peaceful Settlement

KABUL - The union of the Hizb-e-Islami factions said Saturday that the Taliban is at a disadvantage in Kabul on Friday evening, the ministry of defense on Saturday said that the ministry of defense said that a separate inc

The war that is being identified as the base forces and the attacker was shot dead from a long distance," read the statement.

The statement warned that the Taliban will not enter into dialogues with them in future if they do not show flexibility in the talks for a peaceful settlement of the ongoing conflict.

Juma Khan Hamidzad, head of the Union of Hizb-e-Islami factions, said the peace negotiat ing team representing the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was working on taking both sides of the conflict to take advantage of the current opportunity and to move forward, with both sides on a counter-proposal.

"Unfortunately, the delega tion of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan until now has not been able to gain any momentum in their mission," said Juma Khan Hamidzad, the head of Union of Hizb-e-Islami factions.

The union of the Hizb-e-Islami factions drafted an open letter from its leaders to the central council of the Taliban party. (TOLO NEWS)

More on P4)...(8)

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The intra-Afghan dialogue began with much fanfare in Doha, the capital of Qatar, but no breakthrough has been made since the negotiating sides sat across a table over the issue of ceasefire, reduction of violence, and the republic system. Diplomats stipulate quietly go west to smoothen the various media statements and political rhetoric. Supporters of the republic insist that the Taliban came to the table with no genuine intention as they intended their attacks against Afghan combatants and non-combatants. Earlier, Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani had no religious justification for it and was suffering from fear of perceived threat to its activities. The Taliban group has insisted that the Doha Agreement be based on the Islamic Sharia as the one that maintains its essential role as the negotiating positions. The agreement coupled with the Taliban’s military pressure on the Afghan government is in the interest of no party.

Meanwhile, regional and global stakeholders have to put pressure on the Taliban to reach an agreement—acceptable by all stakeholders. The recognition increased, their prisoners were released, and the Trump administration accepted to withdraw the US forces from Afghanistan. The intra-Afghan dialogue began with much fanfare in Doha, but no breakthrough has been made since the negotiating sides sat across a table over the issue of ceasefire, reduction of violence, and the republic system. Diplomats stipulate quietly go west to smoothen the various media statements and political rhetoric. Supporters of the republic insist that the Taliban came to the table with no genuine intention as they intended their attacks against Afghan combatants and non-combatants. Earlier, Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani had no religious justification for it and was suffering from fear of perceived threat to its activities. The Taliban group has insisted that the Doha Agreement be based on the Islamic Sharia as the one that maintains its essential role as the negotiating positions. The agreement coupled with the Taliban’s military pressure on the Afghan government is in the interest of no party. The recognition increased, their prisoners were released, and the Trump administration accepted to withdraw the US forces from Afghanistan. The intra-Afghan dialogue began with much fanfare in Doha, but no breakthrough has been made since the negotiating sides sat across a table over the issue of ceasefire, reduction of violence, and the republic system. Diplomats stipulate quietly go west to smoothen the various media statements and political rhetoric. Supporters of the republic insist that the Taliban came to the table with no genuine intention as they intended their attacks against Afghan combatants and non-combatants. Earlier, Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani had no religious justification for it and was suffering from fear of perceived threat to its activities. The Taliban group has insisted that the Doha Agreement be based on the Islamic Sharia as the one that maintains its essential role as the negotiating positions. The agreement coupled with the Taliban’s military pressure on the Afghan government is in the interest of no party.
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2) Lawmakersleet...  
3) Afghan National...  
4) Buddha Stupa...  
5) 10/7m AFs Retaining...  
6) Amid Virus...
WINDSOR — A second-in-comand, accused of helping to kill the 1988 bombings of two US embassies in Africa, was killed in August in Iran at the age of 57, the Times reported on Sunday. If true, it would be the second high-profile case of a commander to be assassinated in recent years.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard has arrested an American journalist and an American citizen for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government of Iran. The journalist, named as Qassem Soleimani, has been held incommunicado for several months after being arrested while traveling on a fake passport.

The journalist's arrest in March 2020 led to widespread speculation that he had been targeted by Iran. The journalist was known to have been working on a book about Iran's nuclear program, and had previously written articles for the New York Times and the Washington Post.

The journalist's arrest has sparked international concern, with some countries expressing concern about Iran's human rights record. The journalist's family has said that they are not aware of his whereabouts and are seeking information about his fate.

The journalist's arrest is likely to intensify tensions between Iran and the West, which has already imposed sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program. The journalist has also been linked to a number of other high-profile cases in recent years, including the capture of a US military drone in 2019.

The journalist's death would be a significant blow to the Iranian government, which has already lost several high-profile figures in recent months. The journalist was widely respected for his journalism, and his death is likely to be seen as a significant loss for the international community.
KABUL - Days before being fired, ex-defense secretary Mark Esper voiced his reluctance to the pullout of additional US troops from Afghanistan in a classified memo. The then secretary opposed the White House’s plans for additional cuts as imprudent, the Washington Post said. The US withdrawal agreement with the Kabul government said that the Doha deal did not recognize the US-Taliban deal signed late in February in Doha.

"All wars must end," the memo stressed, with "we are not a people of perpetual war — it is the antithesis of everything for which we stand and for which our nation fought." "All wars must end," the memo stressed, with "we are not a people of perpetual war — it is the antithesis of everything for which we stand and for which our nation fought."

"We are not a people of perpetual war — it is the antithesis of everything for which we stand and for which our nation fought." (Pajhwok)

KABUL - Coming winter will be the coldest winter in Afghanistan in 100 years, according to the country’s state ministry for disaster management and humanitarian affairs. The prediction comes as 13 provinces of the country have been experiencing rain and snow since last evening. Afghanistan Meteorological Department’s data shows that 25 provinces of the country are facing the threat of flooding and avalanches. The threat will be serious in seven provinces namely Ghor, Badghis, Herat, Balkh, Panjshir, Parwan and Ghor, where 1.2 million people are vulnerable.

"The Kabul government, the Taliban misuse the Doha deal," said Amrullah Saleh. According to the Afghan government, the Taliban misuse the Doha deal: "None of Taliban commanders know about the Doha deal. They (Taliban commanders) say that they are ordered to increase violence and attack cities," said Saleh. Meanwhile, the Iranian ambassador in Kabul, Bahadur Amrinian, also stated that Iran does not recognize the deal as well. The government was not aware of the Taliban and US talks. Now I think that one side feeling success in the peace talks and the battlefield. First of all, both sides should change negotiating attitudes," said Amrinian. On the other hand, the UK government said that the Doha deal paves the way for intra-Afghan peace talks, and it is worth to be preserved. I agree that there are problems, and..." (More on P4)...

KHOST CITY - Pajhwok findings show a contract worth 107 million afghanis for retaining wall project in southeastern Khost province has been awarded on fake documents. Approved by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the project should be implemented with approval of the rural development councils of the certain areas. However, contract for only 4,722 meters of the wall has been awarded. The project is being executed in Haranah, Qalad, Landoor, Shajad and South areas of Alisher district, thus according to the procedure, the contract is also the right of the five development councils in the certain areas. But documents obtained by Pajhwok show the MRRD has awarded the project contracts development councils of other areas... (More on P4)...

KABUL - First Vice President, Amrullah Saleh, said that the Afghan government did not recognize the US-Taliban deal signed late in February in Doha. Addressing the Herat Security Dialogue virtually, Saleh said: "We did not recognize the Doha deal. We did not welcome the deal. We did not approve the deal. We just said that we noted the Doha deal. The deal will be imposed on us if we used a strong term," said Saleh. According to the Afghan government, the Taliban misuse the Doha deal: "None of Taliban commanders know about the Doha deal. They (Taliban commanders) say that they are ordered to increase violence and attack cities," said Saleh. Meanwhile, the Iranian ambassador in Kabul, Bahadur Amrinian, also stated that Iran does not recognize the deal as well. The government was not aware of the Taliban and US talks. Now I think that one side feeling success in the peace talks and the battlefield. First of all, both sides should change negotiating attitudes," said Amrinian. On the other hand, the UK government said that the Doha deal paves the way for intra-Afghan peace talks, and it is worth to be preserved.

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