

(1) MP Alleges...

"Some of Wolesi Jirga members have struck such deals with ministers-designate. They would vote them in return for employment of favorite persons to certain posts."

He did not name anyone, but said such deals between ministers-designate and lawmakers were shameful and the administrative board of the house must intervene.

Mangal said he had evidence to support his claims. "If candidates find their way to ministries through deals and paying bribe, they would never prevent corruption," he said.

Ghulam Hussain Naseri, a lawmaker from Maidan Wardak province, said: "The house members who come such statements should expose the names of lawmakers and ministers-designate."

"Some lawmakers have preconditions before they vote for any ministers-designate, it is the government's job to expose any wrongdoing," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(2) At U.N., Trump...

statement issued after the meeting, a White House official said: "We are withdrawing from the Paris Agreement unless we can reengage on terms more favorable to the United States. This position was made very clear during the breakfast."

U.S. officials attended a Montreal meeting on Saturday of ministers from more than 30 of the nations that signed the climate change agreement. The Wall Street Journal reported that Trump administration officials had said Washington would not pull out of the agreement and had offered to re-engage. (Reuters)

(3) Russians to ...

"We will hold face to face discussions with Russian and Afghan investors and it will be helpful in expanding trade ties," said Atiqullah Nusrat, deputy head of ACCI.

According to ACCI, Russian embassy officials said Moscow is ready to give Afghanistan custom privileges in a bid to increase Afghanistan's exports to Russia.

Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) meanwhile said they are trying to attract Russian investment in Afghanistan.

"Russia's investments in Afghanistan would be very effective in creating job opportunities, improving the economic situation and is a good use of the resources," MoCI spokesman, Musafir Qoqandi said.

Russia is one of the countries that invested a lot in Afghanistan before the civil war and already statistics show that the trade volume between Afghanistan and Russia totals about \$150 million USD annually.

Commerce and industries ministry officials said if Russia considers custom privileges for Afghan goods, it will pave the way for the expansion of trade between the two countries. (Tolonews)

(4) Largest Private ...

government officials.

The township, Monshi Mir Ghulam Township, will be built in the vicinity of the 17th police district of the city, the ministry of urban development and housing said in a statement.

The statement further added that the township will cover an area of around 1534 acres of land.

The township will include 3889 housing units and 103 blocks, the ministry added.

Speaking during the ceremony, minister Naderi said the Monshi Mir Ghulam Township inaugurated today, is one of the largest private housing and township construction projects in the country.

Naderi further added that the township will be constructed taking into consideration the standard international standards, emphasizing that the ministry of urban development and housing will supervise the work of the project.

He said the private township construction has been inaugurated amid growing demands for the accommodation and housing in the city as the population of the capital is considerably on the rise as compared to the other cities of the world.

According to Naderi, at least 1.5 million to 2 million housing units are currently needed for the distribution as he emphasized that the ministry will continue to support such projects to meet the demands. (KP)

(5) Iran Deported ...

and Returnees. About 800,000 of them are undocumented.

"Insecurity and economic issues have caused Afghan youths to leave for Iran and Pakistan," said Shekiba Hashimi, an Afghan parliament member.

The deportation comes as a meeting is expected to be held with the presence of Iranian representatives in Kabul

within two weeks to address the issue of undocumented Afghans. (ATN)

(6) Abbasi Admits...

Islamabad, Financial Times reported. The prime minister told Financial Times in an earlier interview that the US's hardline approach against Pakistan could backfire.

Just days after the Financial Times revealed that the US was considering stripping Pakistan of its status as an ally because of a perceived failure to tackle terrorism, Abbasi said the hardline approach risked backfiring.

He also hinted that Islamabad could drop the US as a supplier of military aircraft.

He did not however go into details as to what other measures Islamabad could take.

But Financial Times quoted a source close to the Pakistani army as saying: "We could make it harder for the US to use supply routes through Pakistan to serve its troops in Afghanistan, and we could stop co-operating on drone attacks. That would make the war in Afghanistan a lot more difficult."

Abbasi also told the Financial Times that US President Donald Trump's new war strategy for Afghanistan and the region was "confusing" and that he had to rely on media reports to find out what Trump's plans were.

"The signals we get from Washington are confusing, but our message is very clear: we are committed to fighting terror and we will continue to fight terror," Abbasi told the Financial Times.

"All it will do [if the US downgrades Pakistan as an ally] is degrade our efforts to fight terror, and I am not sure if that will work for the US," he said. (Tolonews)

(7) MoD Almost...

organized into battalions and will work under the command of army corps in different provinces.

Based on the needs of every province, a number of local army officials will be deployed to assess the local needs.

The MoD also said the militia forces will receive the same pay as other security forces - but their uniforms will be in different.

"It is important how they want to use the forces to secure the national interests of the country," parliament's internal security commission head, Mirdad Nejrabi said.

Although there is no exact information regarding the numbers, sources from within the MoD said they will probably total around 20,000.

"The forces should be defined and they should be equipped with the necessary equipment. Also their sources should be known," MP Bashir Ahmad Tayyanj said.

The model being used is much like that in other countries, including India's Territorial Army, an auxiliary force who serve on a short-term contract basis with the regular armed forces. (Tolonews)

(8) Payne to ...

in Honolulu for talks with Commander for US Pacific Command Admiral Harry Harris and will pay her respects to US military personnel who have lost their lives in world wars. (Pajhwok)

(9) Olympic Council...

of sports. He asked the OCA head to send a delegation to Kabul for making the AOC policy and an election mechanism for National Olympic Committee (NOC).

Al-Sabah responded an OCA team would visit Afghanistan after the Asian Games.

After the inauguration ceremony in Turkmenistan, Ghani departed for the United States to attend the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in New York. (Pajhwok)

(10) Govt. Brushes ...

medals at international Olympiads, which proves the academic excellence of the schools, said officials.

On Monday, officials from Afghan-Turk schools honored the medalists in Kabul.

This comes two days after the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) alleged that the Gulen-linked schools were promoting terrorism in their schools in Afghanistan.

However, these claims were vehemently denied by education officials.

"171 students from Afghan-Turk schools have won gold, bronze and silver medals at the international Olympiads and it is a great achievement," said Yilmaz Aytan, coordinator of Afghan-Turk schools.

"The allegations made against these schools are baseless and false," said deputy minister of education for Islamic studies.

Meanwhile, a number of lawmakers in parliament have asked officials in Kabul and Istanbul not to exploit education for political purposes.

"The Afghan and Turkish governments

should not exploit education for their political motives," said MP Kamal Nasir Osuli.

"Let's come together and not allow these schools to be closed, everyone in their part should work in this respect," said MP Amanullah Paiman.

Abdul Hamid Nomani is one student who won a gold medal at a mathematics competition in Bulgaria. He is in class 10 and enrolled at an Afghan Turk school three years ago.

"There is nothing about terrorism or politics in our curriculum," said Nomani.

"I call on everyone not to allow these schools to be closed," said Arman Rasa, a student of an Afghan-Turk school. The Afghan-Turk schools started in Afghanistan 23 years ago. Currently up to 8,000 students are enrolled at these schools which are in various cities around the country. (Tolonews)

(11) 17 ADB-Funded...

canal protective wall of about 589 meters, reconstruction of irrigation canals and two ponds for agricultural land. Meanwhile, Qari Abadullah Mujahid, administrative chief of Khoram Sarbagh, said canals in nine villages had been destroyed by floods last years. Farmers faced problems in irrigating their lands.

He added with the implementation of these schemes the agricultural problem affecting 5,800 acres of land and gardens had been resolved and about 8,000 families would benefit from them. According to him, work on these projects was completed in 18 months through public development councils. The projects provided work opportunities for 38,000 people for a day.

Residents of the villages are happy with the schemes. One of them, Mohammad Ayub, resident of Khaderyan, hailed the completion of the 305-metre-long canal. He said the problem of irrigation water had been resolved in their area. Meanwhile, the RRD director said work on six infrastructure projects costing more than 18 million afghanis was underway in five villages of the district. The projects include the construction of two bridges, each 10 metres long, 630 metres of retaining walls and a waterhead. (Pajhwok)

(12) Uruzgan

procedure plan, the Taliban were required to let projects' monitoring team work in areas under their control.

According to him, a number of local Taliban leaders have showed consent to their decision and the provincial administration would sign the agreement with area residents and tribal elders. However, some provincial governance officials supported the decision but others opposed it.

Rural rehabilitation and development director Eng. Shams Rahman, told Pajhwok Afghan News welcomed the decision and demanded its early accomplishment.

According to him, security problems have blocked their activities and they couldn't carry out projects in areas under Taliban.

He said currently work on 13 projects of his department worth 182 million afghanis had been stopped due to insecurity.

Rahman said if the mentioned projects weren't implemented, the ministry concerned would cancel them.

Agriculture, irrigation and livestock department head, Zalmai Alko, also said if an agreement aimed at allowing projects was signed with tribal elders, influential figures and insurgents, it would help complete half-done projects.

However, refugee and rehabilitation director, Abdul Qahar Dost and finance and administrative in-charge at the governor's house, Abdul Jaleel Achakzai, expressed fear about the agreement.

They believed the Taliban would take all facilities and equipment of projects and would use them for strengthening their ranks.

Achakzai said Taliban in areas under their control extorted money from vaccinators processes, telecom networks and even education offices.

Residents of the province expressed happiness over the provincial government's decision to implement reconstruction projects in insecure areas through spending aid money.

A resident of Tirinkot city, the provincial capital, Abdul Qadeer, said insecurity had brought most of the projects to a halt, with ordinary people bearing the brunt of the situation. (Pajhwok)

(13) 200,000 Farmers...

seeds will also be distributed to farmers in the right time."

Winter wheat seeds are planted in October in Afghanistan.

Sadaat said the association established last year had membership of 130 seed production companies.

Wolesi Jirga member from Herat province Ghulam Farooq, who was

present at the seed purchasing agreement, asked MAIL to ensure the seeds reached needed people in far-flung areas.

He said it had been experienced that the seeds had earlier not reached farmers in remote parts. (Pajhwok)

(14) Shindand Air ...

said the apartment key was handed over to General Qudrullah Sediqi by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

The statement further added that Gen. Sediqi was hailed for his services mainly in providing air support by delivering logistics to the ground forces, evacuation of the security personnel, and conducting raids on enemy hideouts.

The apartment has been purchased with the funds from the budget of the ministry of the defense, the Administrative Office of the President said.

President Ghani said the government will prioritize the allocation of accommodation for the security personnel in all construction projects.

The Afghan Air Force continues take more responsibilities as the Afghan government and the country's international allies including US and NATO have stepped up efforts to bolster the capabilities of the Afghan force and Air Force.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani earlier said the United States will hand over six helicopters to the Afghan national defense and security forces in the coming two weeks.

The NATO-led Resolute Support mission says "The first of 4 UH-60's has completed its final technical evaluations and will be delivered to the Afghan Air Force in September." (KP)

(15) First-Ever Solar...

the plant, termed the \$3.5 million project as "a biggest one" in Afghanistan. He said the plant would produce two megawatts of power. The solar panels would produce 1,700 kilowatts while the wind turbines would generate 300 kilowatts, he added.

He said nearly 15,000 families would benefit from the plant-generated electricity. The complex on 40 acres of land contained 5,320 solar panels and three wind turbines.

Osmani expressed gratitude to Japan, which funded the project. According to the minister, the plant will benefit 100 small factories in the industrial town of Herat city, the provincial capital, as well.

He said the new plant would help reduce reliance on power imported from neighboring countries. He said similar projects would be carried out in various provinces in the next few months.

Amanullah Ghalib, Da Afghanistan Breshna Shirkat (DABS) general director, said: "It is for the first time a power plant has been connected to Herat city's electricity network. This will help us pay \$400,000 less than the cost of the imported power annually."

Some provincial council members and Herat residents welcomed the project and expressed their happiness. They hoped more such projects would be launched across the country to shun reliance on imported power. (Pajhwok)

(16) 250 Poor ...

efforts and had convinced traders and businessmen to

"It is our priority that our countrymen get education in all fields. We all should try hard and

Samiullah Ahmadzai, head of the RHSI, said the purpose of the agreement was to help poor students continue their education and spread awareness about welfare organizations. (Pajhwok)

(17) Civilians Among...

were also injured in the incident but their injuries were not life-threatening, he said.

However, a resident of the area, Mohammad Akram, said three members of a family were killed and a woman wounded in the airstrike.

"A mosque in our area was also attacked and destroyed in the airstrike but no one was hurt," he said.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said their fighters escaped unhurt in the Deh Yak airstrike.

He claimed five Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed in an attack on their base in Sinai area of Andar district of Ghazni. The clash left one Taliban fighter dead, he added. (Pajhwok)

(18) 6 Civilians...

All six individuals onboard the truck were killed in the blast, he said, accusing militants of emplacing the improvised explosive device.

Kandahar police spokesman Zia Durrani confirmed the incident and police had reached the area and had launched an investigation. The roadside bombing takes place in Kandahar after a lull in violence. Officials say police defuse dozens of landmines planted in public areas on a daily basis in Kandahar. (Pajhwok)

(19) Torkham Scanner ...

said the machine was experiencing technical difficulties for many years and the problem had been shared with the ministry concerned.

Dr. Durrani said the machine was useful in ensuring transparency and preventing drug trafficking to the country. But the scanner was a hurdle to illegal business of some officials, the public representative alleged.

"This machine belongs to the Customs Department and was incapacitated with orders from the commissionerate officials, customs officials are also involved in this."

"The commissionerate and the customs department are two different institutions, but they would not reactivate this machine because they are afraid of it."

He considered repairing of the machine as important and said the scanner played key role in preventing corruption and insecurity, weapons and drugs.

However, Torkham commissionerate officials rejected the claims of Dr. Durrani.

They said the scanner was damaged due to a clash between Afghan and Pakistani forces in Torkham last year.

Commissioner Qais Shenwari told Pajhwok the scanner did not belong to his department and that it was damaged after being hit a mortar during the border skirmish.

"We have submitted several documents to the central government to repair the machine."

On the other hand, Nangarhar customs department head Ilhamuddin Mazhar denied customs or Torkham commissionerate officials were involved in damaging the scanner.

He told Pajhwok the scan machine had technical problems and there were no professional technicians to repair it.

"Unfortunately, we lack professionals to maintain advanced technology equipment; this problem is not only confined to the scanner."

Mazhar said in addition to Torkham, around 35 scanners were installed at several ports and cross points all over the country, but all of them remained inactive for long times due to lack of standard hardware and professional technicians.

Mazhar also said the American embassy had signed a contract with a foreign company to install the scanner at Torkham.

The company trained some people on how to use the machine but none of them was professional. He said they were trying to sign contracts with other companies in order to repair the machine. Torkham customs department officials provided documents they had sent to the Ministry of Finance about the scanner, but there was no response from the ministry. It has been mentioned in the documents that the scanner machine was damaged due to technical problems years ago.

More than six of such documents were shown to Pajhwok, in which the concerned departments have been asked for help in repairing the scanner.

It is not known when the scanner will be repaired, but customs officials said promises to resolve the issue soon have been made with them. (Pajhwok)

(20) Criminal ...

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials in the Ministry of Interior (MoI) earlier informed regarding the arrest of two individuals involved in the brutal murder of three people and wounding four others during a brawl in the city. (KP)

(21) Paktika Reserve...

mysteriously killed on his way to Gomal district. Security forces reached the district but zonal and provincial police chiefs handed over the town to the Taliban without any resistance.

Abdul Rahman asked the government to send an independent delegation to investigate the incident and unearth facts, otherwise all officials of the Reserve Battalion would quit their jobs.

Communication in charge of the Reserve Battalion 2nd Lt. Mohammad Esa Mohammadi said all personnel of the battalion were ready to quit if the issue of Gomal district was not addressed.

Another officer of the Reserve Battalion, Khudaidad, blamed the provincial security bosses for improper behavior. He demanded intervention from the central government to ascertain why 45 posts were left to the Taliban.

Acting police chief for Paktika, Dadullah Khan, claimed the Reserve Battalion personnel belonged to the same locality and did not allow others to be hired. He said Sulaiman Jan recently took over as acting head of the battalion and hoped the situation would be controlled soon.

It is pertinent to mention that 12 personnel and head of Reserve Forces were killed in the Taliban attack on Gomal district, which currently being controlled by the militants. (Pajhwok)