

CLAWS Newsletter



Afghanistan Khabar Pana | Volume II | No. 4

by Akashika Mate

DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. Minister Says Conditions Ready for Sharia Implementation ([Tolo News, February 01](#))

Afghanistan's Higher Education Minister, Neda Mohammad Nadim, said the country now has favourable conditions for the full implementation of Islamic Sharia, speaking during remarks in Paktia province. He stressed the role of religious scholars in reforming society, promoting Islamic values and defending the current system, arguing that past governments faced obstacles in enforcing Sharia that no longer exist. Nadim dismissed criticism of the recently approved penal law, stating that all current legislation is Islamic and Sharia-based. He accused critics of lacking knowledge of Islamic law and described opposition to the legal framework as misguided. Earlier, the Ministry of Justice had warned that protests against laws drafted in accordance with Sharia could be treated as opposition to Islamic principles and face legal consequences.

2. Afghan Media Group Flags Detention of Journalists in Pakistan ([Amu TV, February 02](#); [IANS Live, February 02](#); [Hasht-e-Subh Daily, February 02](#))

The Afghanistan Media Support Organisation (AMSO) says at least five Afghan journalists and media workers were detained by Pakistani police over the past two weeks amid an intensified crackdown on undocumented migrants. Among those named were journalist Samim Forough Faizi and cameraman Attaullah Shirzad. AMSO stated that some identities were withheld due to security concerns. While the detainees have since been released, the organisation said arbitrary arrests, visa uncertainties and fears of deportation remain ongoing risks. AMSO noted that many Afghan journalists fled to Pakistan following the Taliban's 2021 takeover, citing threats, censorship and political pressure. However, with visa renewals reportedly stalled and enforcement measures tightened, several media workers have been detained over documentation issues. The group has urged international media rights bodies, UNHCR and resettlement countries to expedite protection mechanisms, warning that Afghan journalists in Pakistan face increasing insecurity and legal limbo.

3. First Known Green Garnet Deposit Discovered in Panjshir Valley ([Amu TV, February 09](#); [Dawat Media24, February 09](#); [Hasht-e-Subh Daily, February 09](#); [Khaama Press, February 09](#); [Pajhwok Afghan News, February 09](#))

Afghan authorities have confirmed the first known discovery of a green garnet deposit in Panjshir province, located in the Aab Dara area of Anaba district. The find was verified by technical experts from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum in coordination with provincial officials. A professional extraction licence has been issued to an individual identified as Syed Rahim. Provincial representatives said the gemstone has now been formally added to Panjshir's list of precious and semi-precious minerals and is expected to contribute to local economic activity. Green garnet, valued for its light to deep emerald hues, is primarily used in jewellery and select industrial applications. The discovery adds to Panjshir's growing mineral portfolio, which already includes emerald and ruby deposits. However, the licensing process comes amid persistent criticism over transparency in mining contracts, with analysts and local observers raising concerns about favouritism in the allocation of natural resource concessions.

4. New Penal Code Introduces Tougher Drug Penalties in Afghanistan ([Atlas Press, February 09](#); [Khaama Press, February 09](#))

Afghanistan's new penal code introduces stricter punishments for drug use, trafficking and cultivation. Individuals found using narcotics can face up to six months in prison, while drug dealers may receive one to seven years' imprisonment, depending on the quantity involved. The code specifies penalties for substances including heroin, opium, hashish, alcohol, tramadol and "Tablet K," with sentences escalating according to the amount seized. Cultivating poppy or cannabis on as little as half a jerib (around 500 square metres) can result in six months to one year in jail, with longer terms for larger plots. Possession penalties range from one year for up to five grams to incremental increases capped at seven years.

A controversial provision removes the right to appeal in narcotics-related cases, making primary court decisions final. The changes come as recent UN findings indicate a shift in Afghanistan's drug consumption patterns toward synthetic substances and misuse of pharmaceutical drugs, despite official bans on production and use. Observers warn that the

absence of appeal mechanisms raises fair trial concerns and could heighten risks of arbitrary enforcement.

5. Ghazni Launches Three Water Supply Projects ([Atlas Press, February 09](#); [Tolo News, February 10](#))

Construction has begun on three clean drinking water supply networks in Ghazni province's Ab Band, Zankhan and Khogyani districts, with a total cost of 20 million Afghanis. Provincial officials said the projects are being implemented by the Directorate of Rural Rehabilitation and Development with financial backing from the World Bank. Once completed, around 1,000 families are expected to gain access to safe drinking water. Local residents welcomed the initiative, citing severe shortages caused by drought and drying wells. Authorities said the projects will also generate temporary employment during construction. According to provincial officials, 10 similar water networks have been built across Ghazni this year with World Bank support, benefiting nearly 4,000 families.

6. Afghan Economic Commission Clears Major Agriculture and Fisheries Plans ([Amu TV, February 10](#); [Tolo News, February 10](#); [Xinhua, February 10](#))

Afghanistan's Economic Commission, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar, has approved a National Policy for Agricultural and Livestock Development along with a Fish Farming Development Plan, forwarding both for final endorsement. According to officials, the agriculture policy prioritises mechanisation, irrigation expansion, improved water management, research and extension services, and greater private-sector investment, with the goal of increasing public access to quality agricultural and animal products. Under the fisheries plan, around 7,700 fish farms are to be established across 6,500 hectares nationwide through private investment. Authorities estimate the initiative could generate 50,000 direct jobs and up to 250,000 indirect employment opportunities. The move comes as agriculture—long the backbone of Afghanistan's economy—continues to face pressure from climate shocks, underinvestment and declining international assistance, amid widespread livelihood insecurity.

7. Shiite Leaders in Bamyan Call for Fair Representation ([Tolo News, February 10](#); [Shia Waves, February 13](#))

Shiite religious scholars, tribal elders and civil activists in Bamyan province have called for fair representation in the local administrative structure and greater political participation during a joint meeting with provincial officials. Participants urged authorities to prioritise Shiite-populated areas in development planning and to better utilise qualified Shiite professionals in government institutions, arguing that inclusive governance would strengthen administrative performance and balanced growth. Sayyid Nasrullah Waizi, head of the Bamyan Council of Scholars, stressed that justice and equal treatment are central to good governance. Governor Gul Haidar Shafaq responded that the current administration rejects discrimination and seeks to prevent religious or ethnic tensions. However, attendees highlighted ongoing concerns over equitable employment, protection of religious rights and fair allocation of provincial revenues, calling for measurable steps to ensure meaningful inclusion.

8. Fire in Kandahar Damages Property Worth 28m Afghanis ([Khaama Press, February 11](#))

A fire in Kandahar's second district caused an estimated 28 million afghanis in losses after breaking out in a carpet warehouse on Tuesday afternoon. According to local authorities, the blaze was triggered by an electrical short circuit around 4:30 p.m., with firefighters taking nearly two hours to bring it under control. No casualties were reported. Officials said emergency teams prevented the fire from spreading further, averting an additional 150 million afghanis in potential damage. The incident highlights recurring fire risks in Afghanistan's densely packed commercial areas, where electrical faults and inadequate safety standards remain common causes of urban blazes.

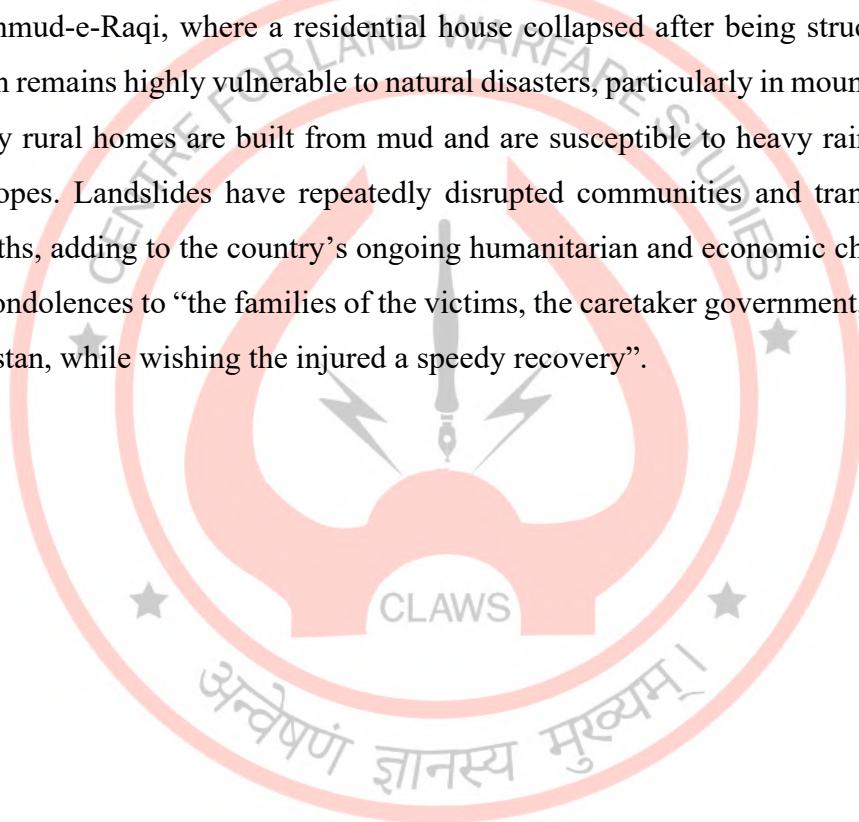
9. Adei Radio Launches in Kabul on World Radio Day ([Kabul Tribune, February 13](#); [Khaama Press, February 13](#))

A private station, Adei Radio, has officially launched in Kabul on World Radio Day, expanding Afghanistan's media landscape. The station is broadcasting 19 hours daily on FM 90.9 in Kabul and around the clock via satellite, with additional streaming through its website and social media platforms. Deputy head Fazl Lival said the outlet aims to provide accurate, balanced and socially responsive programming, including regular news bulletins, analysis, interviews and educational content, with attention to issues affecting women, children and youth. The launch comes amid mounting challenges for the media sector. The Afghanistan Journalists Centre has

reported increasing restrictions on radio operations, including threats, closures and detentions of journalists. According to media monitors, at least 24 directives affecting press activities have been issued in recent years, significantly impacting radio broadcasting across the country.

10. Landslide in Kapisa Kills Four ([Amu TV, February 14](#); [Kabul Now, February 14](#); [Xinhua, February 14](#); [@MofaQatar EN/X, February 15](#))

A landslide in Kapisa province late Friday night killed four people and injured six others, according to provincial police. The incident occurred in Shokhi village near the provincial capital Mahmud-e-Raqi, where a residential house collapsed after being struck by the slide. Afghanistan remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly in mountainous regions where many rural homes are built from mud and are susceptible to heavy rain, snowfall and unstable slopes. Landslides have repeatedly disrupted communities and transport routes in recent months, adding to the country's ongoing humanitarian and economic challenges. Qatar extended condolences to "the families of the victims, the caretaker government, and the people of Afghanistan, while wishing the injured a speedy recovery".



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. Envoys Meet on Kabul-Doha Municipal Cooperation ([Ariana News, February 01](#); [Bakhtar News Agency, February 02](#); [Tolo News, February 03](#))

Suhail Shaheen, acting head of Afghanistan's embassy in Doha, met Qatar's Minister of Municipalities, Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiya, to discuss expanding cooperation between the municipalities of Kabul and Doha. According to Shaheen, talks focused on road construction, overpasses and underpasses, water treatment facilities, urban management, and capacity building for municipal staff. Economic analysts say Qatar's expertise in urban planning, traffic management, infrastructure development and modern construction technologies could support Kabul's infrastructure modernisation if discussions translate into practical implementation. Observers noted that technology transfer, workforce training and structured planning would be key to ensuring long-term benefits for residents.

2. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Drug Use in Afghanistan Shifting Toward Synthetics ([UNODC, February 01](#))

A new UNODC assessment finds that while drug use in Afghanistan remains dominated by traditional substances such as cannabis (46%) and opium (19%), there is a growing shift toward synthetic drugs and the misuse of pharmaceutical substances. "Tablet K" (11%) and methamphetamine (7%) were increasingly cited in communities, signalling a changing drug landscape. The report—the third and final volume of the National Survey on Drug Use in Afghanistan, funded by UNDP—highlights that poverty, unemployment, untreated health conditions, and psychological distress are major drivers of substance use. The findings underscore a severe economic burden on households, with the cost of a single day's methamphetamine use reaching up to 138% of a casual worker's daily wage. Health risks are also mounting: 8% of respondents reported ever injecting drugs, with over 75% sharing needles and limited access to sterile equipment. A significant gender gap persists, with only 29% of women accessing treatment compared to 53% of men. UNODC and partners recommend expanding voluntary, rights-based treatment and harm reduction services, strengthening women-specific facilities, linking responses to mental health and social protection systems, and

tailoring interventions to provincial drug patterns to reduce both health risks and household vulnerability.

3. Developments with Tajikistan

a. Drug Smuggling Continues Along Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border (Caspian Post, February 01; Khaama Press, February 01)

Drug trafficking remains active along the 1,300-kilometre Afghanistan-Tajikistan border despite ongoing counter-narcotics efforts. Tajik border forces recently reported a clash with armed smugglers in which three suspected traffickers were killed. Authorities also seized weapons and multiple packages of hashish and opium during the operation. A spokesperson for Kabul's administration acknowledged that narcotics smuggling into Tajikistan persists, citing the rugged mountainous terrain as a major enforcement challenge. Both sides are reportedly coordinating to tighten border controls, but repeated confrontations and seizures underscore the enduring role of the route in moving Afghan opiates toward Central Asia, Russia and European markets.

b. 17 Armed Clashes Reported Along Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border in 2025 (Khaama Press, February 08)

Tajikistan's counter-narcotics chief Zafar Samad says security forces recorded 17 armed clashes with Afghan drug traffickers along the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border in 2025, marking a sharp rise from six incidents the previous year. The confrontations left two Tajik security personnel and ten Afghan nationals dead, reflecting escalating violence linked to cross-border smuggling networks. Authorities also reported seizing more than 2,700 kilograms of narcotics during the year, underscoring the border's continued role as a major trafficking corridor toward Central Asia, Russia and Europe.

4. Taliban Envoy Urges SCO to Allow Afghanistan's Participation (Afghanistan International, February 02; Khaama Press, February 02)

The Taliban-appointed ambassador to Russia, Gul Hassan, has said Afghanistan should be allowed to participate in meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in line

with its observer status. In remarks to Russia's TASS news agency, he expressed hope that a Taliban representative would be invited to upcoming SCO sessions, arguing that observer membership should entitle Kabul to attend deliberations. Founded in 2001, the SCO includes Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Iran and several Central Asian states, with Belarus joining in 2024. Afghanistan and Mongolia hold observer status, though unlike Mongolia, Taliban representatives have not been invited to recent high-level meetings, including the 2025 Council of Prime Ministers session in Moscow. Despite Russia maintaining working ties with the Taliban administration, the group remains largely unrecognised internationally, complicating its formal participation in multilateral forums.

5. Afghanistan Announces \$50m Humanitarian Aid for Afghanistan

(Hasht-e-Subh Daily, February 04)

Australia has pledged \$50 million in new humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan, with Foreign Minister Penny Wong stating the funding will support vulnerable communities grappling with economic collapse and food insecurity. The package will prioritise women and girls, as well as food security initiatives, and will be delivered through trusted international humanitarian organisations to ensure transparency and reach those most in need. With this latest commitment, Australia's total humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan since 2021 has reached \$310 million. The announcement comes as UN agencies estimate nearly 22 million people across Afghanistan require urgent humanitarian aid, amid ongoing economic decline, drought, unemployment and shrinking global assistance. Aid groups continue to warn that funding shortfalls threaten relief operations, urging sustained international engagement to prevent further deterioration in living conditions.

6. World Health Organisation Delivers Oxygen Supplies to Afghan Hospitals

(Kabul Now, February 05; Khaama Press, February 05)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has delivered oxygen supplies and oxygen analysis devices to 12 hospitals in Kabul and facilities across 11 other Afghan provinces, aiming to strengthen patient safety and improve the quality of care. The shipment, supported by donors including UNITAID, is designed to help frontline health workers provide safer and more reliable oxygen therapy, particularly for critically ill patients and children suffering from respiratory conditions. Afghanistan's healthcare system continues to face acute shortages of

essential medical equipment. The UN estimates more than 14 million people will require health assistance this year, while UNICEF reports that approximately 3.7 million children suffer from acute malnutrition annually. Although the oxygen deliveries are expected to ease immediate pressure, aid agencies stress that sustained international funding remains crucial to stabilise the country's fragile health infrastructure.

7. Developments with Pakistan

a. [IOM-UNHCR Report Surge in Afghan Detentions \(IOM Pakistan, February 05; Tolo News, February 07; Amu TV, February 08\)](#)

More than 7,000 Afghan nationals were detained in Pakistan over the past month, according to a joint International Organisation for Migration-United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees report. Around 6,200 undocumented migrants and 740 Proof of Registration (PoR) card holders were detained in January alone, with over 95% of those held either lacking documentation or carrying Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC). Balochistan recorded the highest number of arrests (3,713), followed by Islamabad (1,528), with additional cases reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Punjab.

Graphs as per the IOM-UNHCR Report

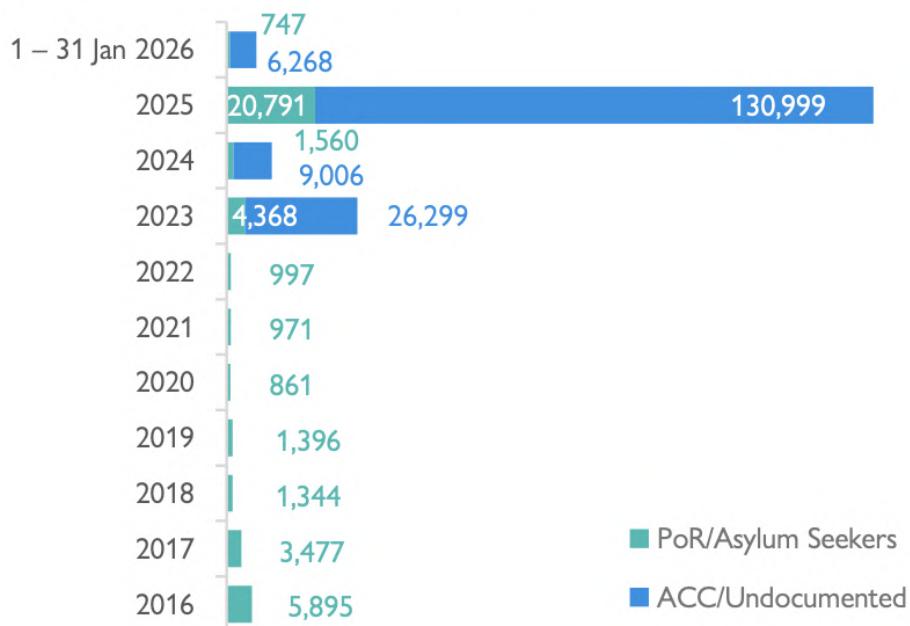


% OF ARRESTS BY LOCATION (1 – 31 January 2026)



	Sindh	8%
	Balochistan	53%
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	11%
	Islamabad	22%
	Pakistan-administered Kashmir	0%
	Punjab	6%

ARREST AND DETENTION BY YEARS



The report said over 77,000 Afghans returned from Pakistan in the first month of the year, nearly 7,000 through forced deportation, while 95% cited fear of arrest as the primary reason for leaving. Over the past 11 months, more than 1.15 million Afghans have returned, including about 158,000 forcibly expelled. The findings come as Pakistan advances a phased deportation plan targeting undocumented foreigners, amid suspended visa extensions and heightened border tensions, prompting concerns over legal status and protection for vulnerable migrants.

b. 153 Afghan Migrants Released from Pakistani Detention (Bakhtar News Agency, February 05)

Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation says 153 Afghan migrants have been released from Pakistani prisons and repatriated this week through the Spin Boldak border crossing. According to officials, the individuals had been detained for periods ranging from one day to two months before their return. Upon arrival in Kandahar province, they were registered by local refugee authorities, provided humanitarian assistance and transported to their home areas. The development comes amid reports of intensified arrests of Afghan nationals in Pakistan, with some sources alleging harassment and extortion during detention. Amnesty International has previously called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to halt what it described as unlawful detentions and mistreatment of Afghan migrants. Pakistan continues to host millions of Afghan refugees and migrants, many of whom face legal uncertainty and

periodic crackdowns, underscoring the need for coordinated border management and stronger safeguards for migrant rights.

c. [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan: 70 Civilians Killed in Afghanistan-Pakistan Border Clashes \(UNAMA, February 05; Amu TV, February 08; Khaama Press, February 08\)](#)

A recent UNAMA Human Rights Service report documents a sharp and unprecedented surge in cross-border civilian casualties in Afghanistan between October and December 2025, attributing 70 civilian deaths and 478 injuries to Pakistani military forces. The majority of casualties occurred during an intense escalation between 10 and 17 October, when cross-border clashes resulted in over 500 civilian casualties in a single week—figures that far exceed annual totals recorded in previous years since UNAMA began systematically documenting such incidents in 2011. Notably, casualties continued even after a ceasefire was announced on the evening of 15 October, with further artillery and aerial attacks documented in Khost, Kandahar, and Paktika. In November and December, additional airstrikes and cross-border fire caused further civilian deaths, many of them children, and included incidents such as labourers being shot at border crossings and homes being hit during overnight bombardments. Beyond immediate fatalities and injuries, the report underscores the long-term humanitarian impact: permanent disabilities (including amputations and blindness), psychological trauma, destruction of homes and businesses, livestock losses, and repeated displacement, particularly in Spin Boldak.

d. [Afghan Refugees in Islamabad Report Surge in Arrests, Extortion \(Khaama Press, February 06\)](#)

Afghan refugees in Islamabad say police raids and detentions have intensified in recent weeks, particularly in the E-11 sector and parts of Faisal Town. Residents report repeated house-to-house searches, with some alleging forced entry and confiscation of belongings during inspections. Others claim they were subjected to extortion demands during the operations, heightening fears among families already living in legal uncertainty. Many refugees say they fled Afghanistan to escape Taliban reprisals, but now feel increasingly insecure amid stepped-up enforcement and deportation efforts targeting undocumented nationals. The United Nations has previously warned that deported Afghans—especially women, journalists, former officials and security personnel—may face serious risks upon return. Refugees are calling on

international organisations and Western governments to intervene, urging safeguards against forced returns as humanitarian concerns mount.

e. **Afghanistan Halts Medicine Imports from Pakistan (Kabul Tribune, February 09; Khaama Press, February 09)**

Afghanistan's Finance Ministry has enforced a nationwide ban on medicine imports from Pakistan, effective February 9, blocking clearance at all customs points. Officials said the measure is part of a broader crackdown on smuggling, warning that any illegal entry of pharmaceuticals will trigger legal action under customs regulations. Authorities have urged traders to secure alternative supply routes swiftly to prevent shortages in hospitals and private pharmacies. The ministry said procedures for importing medicines from other countries would be eased to stabilise supply chains. Kabul has already signalled plans to source pharmaceuticals from countries such as Uzbekistan and India to reduce reliance on Pakistani routes. The move comes amid worsening bilateral tensions and trade disruptions, raising concerns over medicine availability and pricing unless alternative channels become operational quickly.

f. **Khwaja Asif Signals Possible Action Against Afghanistan (Amu TV, February 11; Atlas Press, February 11; Khaama Press, February 11)**

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said a potential military action against targets inside Afghanistan could take place before Ramadan, citing what he described as security threats emanating from Afghan territory. In a television interview, Asif alleged that militant groups, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), have safe havens in Afghanistan and said Islamabad was evaluating its options. While he did not provide operational details, he stressed that Pakistan would not remain silent in the face of such threats. The remarks come amid already strained ties between Kabul and Islamabad. Pakistani officials have repeatedly accused the Taliban administration of allowing anti-Pakistan militants to operate from Afghan soil—a charge Kabul denies. Analysts warn that any unilateral military move could heighten cross-border tensions and further destabilise already fragile border regions.

g. **UNAMA, Pakistan Discuss Cross-Border Terrorism and Regional Stability (Afghanistan International, February 12; Khaama Press, February 12)**

Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Mohammad Sadiq Khan, met a delegation from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in Islamabad to discuss regional security and cooperation. According to Sadiq Khan, the talks focused on cross-border terrorism, militant activity based in Afghanistan, and broader regional security concerns. The meeting was attended by Indrika Ratwatte, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan, and Malick Ceesay, head of UNAMA's office in Islamabad. Participants also discussed the human rights situation in Afghanistan, trade, and recent security developments. Sadiq Khan said both sides stressed the importance of ensuring Afghan territory is not used against any country and highlighted the need for coordinated regional and international efforts to address shared security and stability challenges.

8. UN Flags Ongoing Threat from ISIS in Iraq and Afghanistan **(Khaama Press, February 05)**

The United Nations has warned that the Islamic State group and its Afghanistan-based affiliate, ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K), continue to pose a serious regional and global security threat. Briefing the UN Security Council, Assistant Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism Alexander Zuev said that although the overall number of attacks has declined, ISIS-K remains resilient, rebuilding its ranks and expanding recruitment through online networks. He cited a recent Kabul attack claimed by the group that left seven people dead and several injured. Council members, including the United States, Britain, China and Pakistan, stressed the need for sustained international cooperation to counter evolving threats linked to Afghanistan. UN officials noted that after territorial losses in Iraq and Syria, ISIS has shifted focus toward Afghanistan and parts of Africa, where affiliated networks remain active. Taliban authorities, however, maintain that ISIS has been largely dismantled in Afghanistan. Despite contrasting assessments, the UN underscored the need for continued global coordination to prevent the group from regaining operational strength.

9. Ariana Afghan Airlines Expands Kabul-Delhi Flights Amid Pakistan Border Closure **(Pajhwok Afghan News, February 05; Afghanistan International, February 06)**

Ariana Afghan Airlines has expanded its Kabul-New Delhi route, increasing services to six weekly cargo flights and two passenger flights. The carrier said the move is aimed at boosting

transport capacity and strengthening trade and commercial links between Afghanistan and India. The expansion comes as cross-border trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan remains suspended, with key land crossings and ports closed. Amid strained relations with Islamabad, Taliban authorities have encouraged traders to explore alternative routes, shifting greater economic focus toward India and Iran to sustain imports and exports.

10. Developments with the United States of America

- a. [US Federal Court Orders Resumption of Afghan SIV Processing \(United States District Court for the District of Columbia, February 06; Refugee Rights Organisation, February 09; AfghanEvac Organisation, February 10; Khaama Press, February 10\)](#)

A federal judge in Washington, DC, has ordered the US administration to immediately resume processing Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) applications for Afghan allies, ruling that an indefinite suspension violates congressional mandates and a prior court order. In *Afghan & Iraqi Allies v. Rubio*, Judge Tanya Chutkan stated the administration lacks authority to unilaterally halt a process Congress required to be expedited. While broader travel restrictions on Afghan nationals remain in place, the court directed that Chief of Mission (COM) application reviews—the first step in the SIV process—must restart for eligible class members.

The lawsuit, brought by the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) and Freshfields on behalf of Afghan and Iraqi applicants, argues that many allies have waited years beyond the legally mandated nine-month timeline. The court scheduled a status hearing for February 24, requiring the government to outline how it will comply and accelerate long-delayed cases. The decision is seen as a significant development for Afghans who supported US missions and remain at risk while awaiting relocation.

- b. [Afghans at Camp As Sayliyah Offered Payments to Return \(Khaama Press, February 12; Reuters, February 12\)](#)

The US State Department has begun offering financial incentives to Afghans stranded in Qatar to return home. More than 1,100 Afghans have remained at Camp As Sayliyah since early 2025 after resettlement programmes were halted. S Paul Kapur, Assistant Secretary of State, told lawmakers that about 150 individuals have accepted payments reportedly set at \$4,500 for

principal applicants and \$1,200 per additional family member, though options for relocation to third countries remain unclear. The group includes former US-affiliated personnel, women linked to special operations units, and relatives of American servicemembers—many considered at risk if returned. Advocacy networks such as AfghanEvac have condemned the programme, calling it a betrayal of Afghan allies. Lawmakers critical of the move argue that financial inducements amid stalled resettlement pathways risk pressuring vulnerable individuals to return to Taliban-controlled areas without adequate safeguards.

11. Afghanistan and China Deepen Engagement Across Moscow and Beijing Channels ([Alemarah English Afghanistan, February 06](#); [Tolo News, February 06](#))

Mawlawi Gul Hassan Hassan, the Islamic Emirate's ambassador in Moscow, met Chinese Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui to discuss expanding political and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and China. According to the Afghan embassy in Moscow, the talks focused on strengthening bilateral relations, enhancing regional security, and promoting broader regional cooperation. In parallel discussions, Afghanistan's envoy in Beijing, Bilal Karimi, met Chinese Foreign Ministry officials, including Liu Jinsong and Special Envoy Yue Xiaoyong. The sides reviewed political and economic ties, activation of the Wakhan Corridor, and consular matters. Chinese officials reiterated respect for Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity while supporting continued engagement. Although China has not formally recognised the Islamic Emirate, it has maintained working-level cooperation across trade and regional initiatives.

12. Power Outages Hit Kabul and 12 Provinces After Uzbek Line Failure ([Dawat Media24, February 06](#))

Widespread electricity outages have affected Kabul and at least a dozen provinces after a major imported power line from Uzbekistan failed during severe winter weather. Afghanistan's national utility, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), said a technical fault occurred on the 220kV Naibabad-Pul-e-Khumri transmission line, reportedly triggered by storms and heavy snowfall. Key provinces affected include:

- Northern & Central Regions: Samangan, Baghlan, Parwan, Panjshir, Kapisa, and Maidan Wardak.
- Eastern Region: Kabul, Logar, Laghman, and Nangarhar.
- Southeastern Region: Paktia, Khost, and Ghazni.

Repair teams have been deployed, but restoration efforts are slowed by blizzards and difficult terrain. While limited domestic generation—including hydropower—is being used to ease shortages, rolling blackouts persist. The outage has intensified pressure on hospitals reliant on generators, businesses facing operational losses, and households struggling without heating in sub-zero temperatures. Analysts say the crisis underscores structural weaknesses in Afghanistan’s energy sector, with long-term solutions likely requiring grid modernisation and greater investment in domestic and renewable power sources to reduce reliance on imports.

13. Medical Cooperation with India

a. Afghan Red Crescent Society to Send 15 Heart Patients to India for Treatment

(Afghan Islamic Press, February 08; Hasht-e-Subh Daily, February 08;

Khaama Press, February 08)

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has announced it will send 15 patients with serious heart conditions to India for specialised treatment, launching the effort as a pilot programme due to the lack of advanced cardiac care facilities inside Afghanistan. In the first phase, three patients are expected to travel shortly, with arrangements underway for the remaining 12 in the coming weeks. Officials said the initiative aims to expand cooperation with international medical partners and provide lifesaving care to patients who have faced years of delays. Afghanistan continues to struggle with shortages of specialised equipment and trained medical staff, forcing many families to seek costly treatment abroad. While the transfer offers immediate relief for selected patients, experts say sustained investment in the country’s health sector remains critical for long-term solutions.

b. India Donates 131 Cartons of Td Vaccine to Afghanistan (Kabul Tribune,

February 12; Khaama Press, February 12; Afghan Ministry of Public Health,

February 13; Bakhtar News Agency, February 13)

India has delivered 131 cartons of Td (tetanus and diphtheria) vaccine to Afghanistan as part of its ongoing humanitarian assistance. According to the Ministry of Public Health, each carton contains 768 doses, with each vial holding 10 doses. The batch was manufactured in August 2025 and is valid until July 2028. Officials said the shipment is intended to strengthen preventive immunisation programmes and support broader healthcare services. The donation follows India's recent contribution of approximately 9.5 tonnes of anti-cancer medicines, underscoring continued health-sector cooperation. Afghan health authorities said the vaccines will be used to bolster routine immunisation efforts amid ongoing challenges facing the country's medical system.

14. Japan International Cooperation Agency and United Nations Office for Project Services Sign \$10m Climate Resilience Deal for Afghans

([HT Syndication, February 09](#); [Khaama Press, February 09](#))

Japan's JICA and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) have signed a \$10 million, two-year agreement to strengthen climate resilience and disaster preparedness in vulnerable Afghan communities. The initiative will focus on community-based disaster response, volunteer training, and the development of local facilities to better manage floods, droughts, and other climate-related emergencies. Officials said the programme aims to reduce risks in regions increasingly exposed to extreme weather, while improving local response capacity. Afghanistan remains highly vulnerable to climate shocks that damage agriculture, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Japan continues to play a key donor role in supporting humanitarian relief, infrastructure recovery, and disaster risk reduction efforts through UN partnerships.

15. UNAMA Hosts Doha Process Private Sector Meeting ([Afghan Voice Agency, February 10](#); [Tolo News, February 10](#))

The third meeting of the Doha Process Private Sector Working Group was held in Kabul, hosted by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), with participants joining both in person and online. Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry said representatives from key ministries—including Foreign Affairs, Finance, Industry and Trade, Economy, and Labour—as well as the Central Bank, UN agencies, international organisations and regional ambassadors attended the session. Discussions were divided into two segments: economic growth and

inclusion, and coordination and transparency within the private sector. Participants expressed support for continued engagement under the Doha Process framework, which seeks to facilitate dialogue between Afghanistan and the international community, particularly on economic and humanitarian cooperation, with a focus on strengthening the private sector and promoting sustainable development.

16. Developments with Iran

a. Kabul-Tehran Move to Strengthen Border Coordination and Legal Frameworks (Tolo News, February 10)

Afghanistan and Iran have agreed to accelerate efforts to update border documents and physical markers following a telephone discussion between Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, and Afghanistan's Minister of Borders, Tribes and Tribal Affairs, Noorullah Noori. According to the Iranian Embassy in Kabul, both sides described current border cooperation as positive and emphasised the need to continue and strengthen coordination. The two officials agreed to expedite joint technical and legal meetings. Afghan authorities have pledged full cooperation in formally demarcating and renewing border markers. Analysts say structured technical engagement could help prevent future disputes and reinforce stability along the Afghanistan-Iran frontier.

b. Afghanistan-Iran Trade Reaches \$5 Billion (ANI News, February 12)

Trade between Afghanistan and Iran has reached approximately \$5 billion in the current solar year, according to figures shared at an event in Herat marking the 47th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution. Iran's Consul General in Herat, Ali Reza Marhamati, said monthly cargo volumes have risen sharply from around 5,000 tons last year to over 90,000 tons, reflecting improved logistics and smoother customs coordination. Officials credit the expansion largely to the Herat-Khaf railway and growing reliance on Iranian trade routes, particularly as commerce with Pakistan faces disruptions. The Herat Chamber of Industries and Mines described Iran as Afghanistan's largest trading partner, with significant volumes of goods imported directly or transiting through Iranian territory. Analysts say the corridor is helping stabilise provincial markets, support employment, and cushion supply chain shocks amid shifting regional trade dynamics.

17. Afghan Migrants Arrested in Turkey During Attempted Crossing

(Khaama Press, February 13; Pakistani Connect, February 15)

Turkish authorities have detained 18 Afghan migrants near Edirne while attempting to cross irregularly into Europe via land routes. Border forces said the arrests were made during an operation targeting unauthorised migration movements toward European countries. After completing administrative procedures, the individuals were transferred to migration centres for deportation processing. Officials said enforcement operations against irregular migration and human smuggling networks are continuing across key transit regions. Edirne remains a major crossing point for migrants heading toward Europe. According to data from the Directorate General of Migration Management, more than 152,000 undocumented migrants, including over 42,000 Afghans, were detained across Turkey in the past year, underscoring sustained migration pressure along the route.



About the Author

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