

AFGHANISTAN WEEKLY

13 July – 19 July 2026

POLITICS · ECONOMY · FOREIGN AFFAIRS · INTERNAL SECURITY · DEFENCE · HEALTH · EDUCATION · SOCIETY

POLITICS · ECONOMY · FOREIGN AFFAIRS · INTERNAL SECURITY

13 JULY – 19 JULY 2026

POLITICS

- PVPV Minister Mohammad Khalid Hanafi publicly defends the Herat dress-code crackdown on 13 Jul, telling reporters 'there is no oppression or barbarism' and dismissing international criticism as propaganda.
- Tolo News (13 Jul) reports the Taliban's army chief is seeking to bring a dissident commander back to Kabul, underscoring continued friction inside the security establishment.
- Political messaging stays dominated by the Pakistan deportation drive after Islamabad's 10 Jul deadline for 'undocumented' Afghans lapsed, with Kabul framing mass returns as evidence of Pakistani hostility.
- Taliban authorities in Ghor detain more than 10 people over alleged ties to anti-Taliban opposition networks, Tolo News sources report on 15 Jul, extending a pattern of internal political policing.

ECONOMY

- USD/AFN continues to weaken through the week, drifting from the mid-64 range on 13 Jul toward 65.9–66.6 by 19 Jul as informal Sarai Shahzada trading reflects sustained demand for dollars.
- Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) again holds its benchmark lending rate steady, prioritising currency stability as the afghani depreciates against a backdrop of returnee-driven demand pressure.
- RFE/RL reporting (16 Jul) notes that five years after the Taliban takeover, growth has stalled, inflation has spiked and investment has dried up, leaving households reliant on remittances.
- Gold and silver prices in the domestic bullion market edge higher through mid-week before easing slightly by the weekend, tracking global spot prices and the softer afghani.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- UNAMA chief Georgette Gagnon warns on 17 Jul that the Taliban's justification for the girls'-education ban is 'neither convincing nor sufficient', and says the UN could withdraw support for the next Doha meeting on Afghanistan if restrictions persist.
- Pakistan's mass deportation campaign continues to strain bilateral ties; Al Jazeera's Inside Story (11 Jul) frames the drive as intertwined with the wider security stand-off between Kabul and Islamabad.
- China, Turkey and Qatar continue quiet mediation efforts aimed at stabilising the fragile understanding reached after the October 2025 and subsequent 2026 ceasefire rounds.
- International rights bodies keep pressing the Taliban on the Herat crackdown, adding to diplomatic friction ahead of any prospective Doha-track engagement.

INTERNAL SECURITY

- Herat's morality police detain at least five more women over two days in mid-July, Amu TV sources say, describing an intensification of dress-code and public-conduct enforcement.
- Residents report Taliban patrols demanding payments of around 13,000 afghanis from families seeking the release of detained women, with a male guarantor required.
- Border districts along the Durand Line remain tense following earlier July clashes in Nangarhar and Badakhshan, keeping security forces on alert through the week.
- The Ghor detentions of alleged opposition sympathisers add to a broader pattern of Taliban internal-security sweeps reported across multiple provinces this month.

DEFENCE

- Reports emerge on 13 Jul that the Taliban's army chief is working to bring a dissident field commander back under central control, pointing to unresolved command tensions.
- Taliban forces remain on high alert along the Durand Line through the week, with security posts reinforced following the string of cross-border clashes since late June.
- No major new cross-border strikes are independently confirmed in the 13–19 Jul window, though monitors describe the ceasefire framework from October 2025 as fragile and unresolved.
- Analysts continue to note that recurring skirmishes reflect a deeper, unresolved dispute over the Durand Line rather than a durable de-escalation.

HEALTH

- UNICEF's 13 Jul report 'Too Little, Too Late' finds 3.7 million children under five face heightened malnutrition risk in 2026, with acute malnutrition worsening in 26 of 34 provinces.
- Tolo News (15 Jul) reports WHO has confirmed four new wild poliovirus cases in Afghanistan, one of only two countries where the virus remains endemic.
- The 2026 Health Cluster response remains critically underfunded, with only about 17% of the required US\$190.8 million received as of mid-2026, following WHO's high-level polio mission earlier in the month.
- Around 150 humanitarian-supported health facilities have suspended operations or closed since January 2026 due to funding shortfalls, narrowing access to care for vulnerable communities.

EDUCATION

- UNAMA's Georgette Gagnon states on 17 Jul that the Taliban's rationale for banning girls from secondary and higher education remains unconvincing, linking the issue directly to future Doha-track engagement.
- A 13 Jul commentary highlights how the Taliban's cut-off at sixth grade converges with the onset of puberty and weakened protections against child marriage, deepening the crisis beyond lost schooling.
- UN agencies continue to cite roughly 2.2 million adolescent girls now excluded from secondary education, with UNICEF warning the figure could exceed four million by 2030 if the ban persists.
- A survey reported by Amu TV (15 Jul) finds 75% of aid organisations have accepted Taliban-imposed conditions to keep operating and retain women staff, reflecting the squeeze on the education and aid sectors alike.

SOCIETY

- Herat's women's-rights crisis extends into a fifth consecutive week, with new detentions reported by Amu TV and continued avoidance of public spaces by local women.
- PVPV Minister Hanafi's 13 Jul defence of the crackdown draws renewed condemnation from rights groups, even as Taliban officials insist 'everything is fine in Herat'.
- Large-scale returns of deported Afghan families from Pakistan continue to strain host communities and basic services in border provinces.
- Civil-society and diaspora networks sustain pressure over the Herat detentions and forced-payment reports, keeping the issue in international rights advocacy.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan | 13 JULY – 19 JULY 2026 — News Index (1/2)

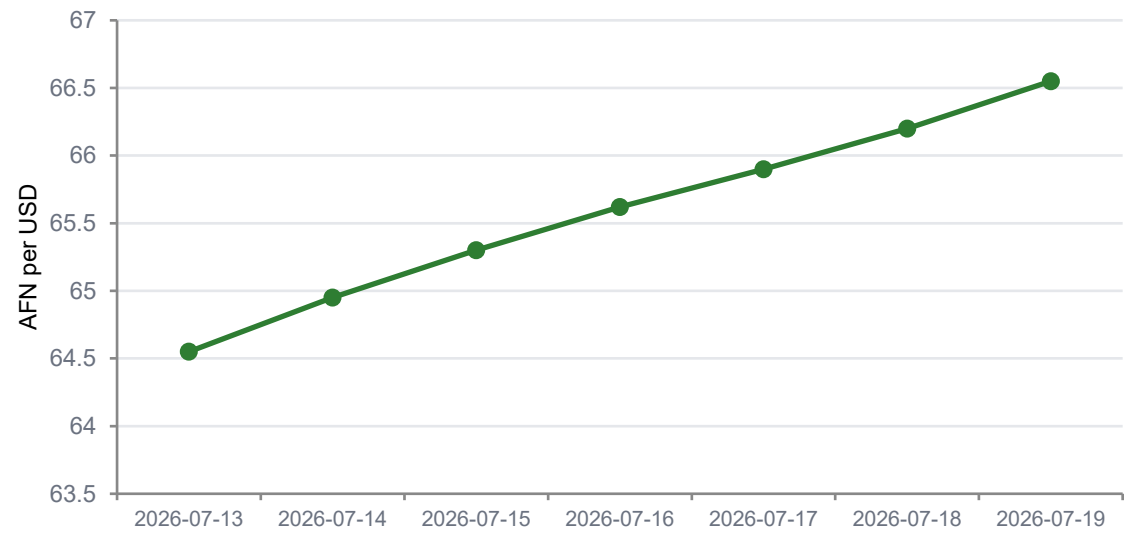
No.	Date	News Headline	Sector	Source
1	13 Jul	Afghans under pressure again in new Pakistani deportation drive	Society	RFE/RL
2	13 Jul	Taliban says 'no oppression' of Afghan women after dress-code crackdown	Internal Security	France 24
3	13 Jul	3.7 million young lives at risk of malnutrition, UNICEF warns	Health	UN News
4	13 Jul	From sixth grade to marriageability: how the Taliban is redefining girlhood in Afghanistan	Education	Zan Times
5	13 Jul	Tolo News in Dari: Taliban Army Chief seeks to bring dissident commander to Kabul	Defence	Afghan Online Press / Tolo News
6	15 Jul	WHO confirms four new polio cases in Afghanistan	Health	Tolo News (via Afghan Online Press)

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan | 13 JULY – 19 JULY 2026 — News Index (2/2)

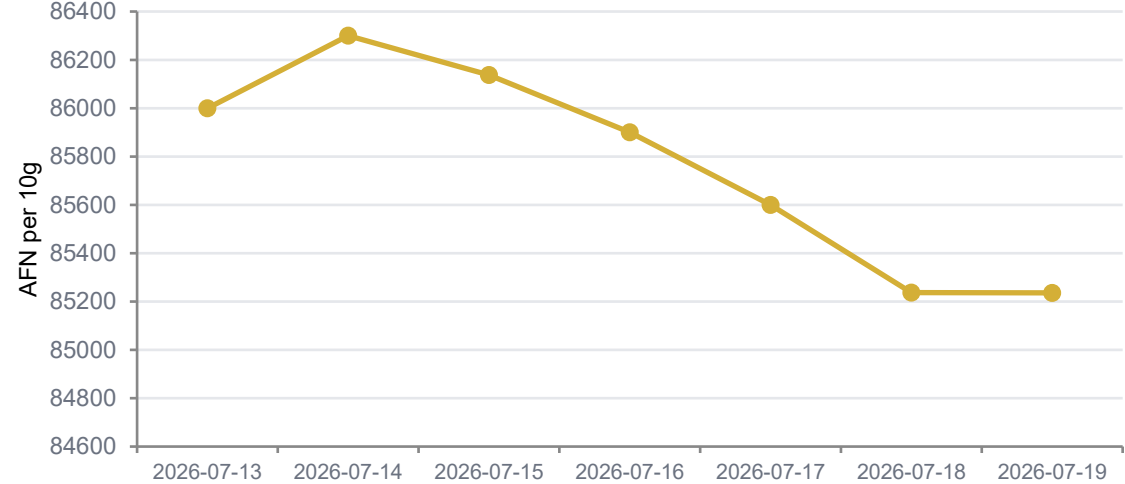
No.	Date	News Headline	Sector	Source
7	15 Jul	Taliban detains more than 10 in Ghor over alleged opposition ties, say sources	Internal Security	Tolo News (via Afghan Online Press)
8	15 Jul	Taliban: women not oppressed after dress-code crackdown	Society	Manila Times
9	15 Jul	Survey: aid organisations accept Taliban conditions amid funding pressure	Health	Amu TV
10	16 Jul	Afghanistan's economy sputters five years after the Taliban takeover	Economy	RFE/RL
11	17 Jul	UNAMA: Taliban's justification for girls' education ban is not convincing	Education	DID Press Agency
12	19 Jul	Sources say Taliban detained five women in Herat over two days	Internal Security	Amu TV

ECONOMIC INDICATORS | Week of 13 July – 19 July 2026 | Afghanistan

USD / Afghan Afghani (AFN) Exchange Rate



Gold Price in Afghanistan (24K per 10 grams, AFN)



Silver Price in Afghanistan (per 10 grams, AFN)

