

(1) 7 Billion

was collected in the first six months of the fiscal year while the amount last year stood at 51 billion Afghanis.

Hakimi asked the participants to find solution to problems being faced by the revenue collection process.

MoF officials barred journalists from interviewing costume and revenue officials. However, they said that they were trying to achieve the revenue target.

Zabul province revenue director Haji Shamsuddin told reporters that the target for the province was 94 million Afghanis while only 61 million Afghanis was collected so far.

He said that insecurity was the main threat for achieving the target revenue, but he would strive to achieve the set target.

Abdul Rafi Madaqiy, revenue director for Logar province, said they could not collect revenue from four districts due to deteriorated law and order. He said that the target was achieved from only two districts.

It is worth mentioned that the revenue target last year was 132 billion Afghanis while only 100 million Afghanis was collected.

MoF officials last year had said that insecurity and election deadlock were main hurdles that caused decline in revenue collection. (Pajhwok)

(2) Pakistan Sending

against the IS group in nine provinces.

The interior minister said the Afghan forces had been directed to kill all those individuals who kill innocent Afghanis.

Ullomi said plans had been devised to improve security in Ghazni's Qarah Bagh, Nawa, Taliban militants have been in control of Nawa district over the past 13 years. But this year, Afghan security forces captured the town for a few days.

Acting governor Musa Khan Akbarzada on the occasion said the central government should pay special attention to maintaining security in Ghazni.

"Though the security situation in Ghazni is not too bad, but still problems exist and need attention," he said.

Tribal elder Haji Abdul Ahad said insufficient national security forces and the presence of local police and armed militants had resulted in insecurities in the province.

"Local police harass people, they are not trained and know nothing about laws. There are some armed individuals who forcibly take money from people," the elder said, urging the interior minister to disarm illegal armed groups in Ghazni.

The security situation in Ghazni province has lately deteriorated. Last week, gunmen kidnapped 17 people and later freed 10 of them, but the fate of the remaining captives is unknown. (Pajhwok)

(3) Afghanistan,

Indian renewable energy sector, Afghan enterprises, financial institutions, Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, officials from various Afghan Ministries, including, the Ministry of Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy of India, as well as the Ambassador of Afghanistan in India and the Ambassador of India in Afghanistan attended. The Summit introduced Indian businesses from the renewable energy sector - solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and hydro - to renewable energy investment opportunities in Afghanistan and included a presentation by the Afghan delegation of the Kandahar Solar Project. This 10-megawatt hybrid solar photo voltaic power project, aims to replace diesel generators as a source of electricity in Kandahar. USAID Afghanistan Mission Director William Hammink said, "This is an opportunity to continue to link Afghan businesses with Indian partners to facilitate public-private investment in the renewable energy sector. USAID is committed to assisting Afghanistan develop domestic energy resources to stimulate economic and social development."

Ali Ahmad Usmani, the Afghanistan Minister of Energy and Water added, "The Government of Afghanistan characterizes sustainable development as the strategic solution to continuously spur our economic growth whilst minimizing impacts upon the environment. We intend to foster successful collaboration and strategic partnerships between foreign and

local businesses that play a role in promoting the application of renewable energy technologies."

"Access to power is the most fundamental need for industrial growth and for the improvement of living standards in Afghanistan," said Amar Sinha, Ambassador of India to Afghanistan. "India is committed to assisting Afghanistan in achieving self-sufficiency for its energy needs through our development projects like Salma Dam and the installation of several power transmission and distribution lines in different provinces. Participation of Indian companies in the Renewable Energy Summit is another step in this direction." (Pajhwok)

(4) Ghani Orders

computerized e-ID cards. Muhtat said that they had planned to start the distribution of ID cards in eight centers and 24 ministries in the capital Kabul. He assured the president that the problems in his office were resolved.

The participants called the distribution of electronic ID cards an important issue for Afghanis and said that the distribution of the cards would begin in the next few days. The meeting also discussed Afghanistan Independent Day falling on August 19. (Pajhwok)

(5) Dostum Rallies ...

violation of Afghanistan's national sovereignty. The statements have come after a wave of deadly terrorist attacks in Kabul and elsewhere that left scores of civilians dead and ignited outrage around the country.

Condemnations of Pakistan's covert support for the Taliban are nothing new, as many Afghan leaders have accused Islamabad's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) of providing financial and logistical support for militant groups active inside Afghanistan for many years. However, the breadth and intensity of the backlash over the past week is unprecedented.

On Sunday, Dostum urged Faryab locals to answer the recent call for Jihad against Pakistan by the Afghan Ulema Council. The crowd that was gathered to hear him speak responded by chanting slogans against Pakistan and the ISI. "You might be informed about the statement of the Ulema Council in Kabul; they issued the decree of Jihad against Pakistan. The Ulema declared Jihad on the basis of the Sharia," Dostum said. "The people of Afghanistan have collapsed major emperors and Pakistan is nothing for them," he added.

The recent spate of terrorist attacks in Afghanistan came after news of the death of the Taliban's leader Mullah Omar broke. Infighting over the circumstances surrounding his death, which in fact occurred in 2013, as well as the Taliban's future leadership, resulted in the collapse of the nascent peace process engineered by President Ghani.

Referring to the death Omar, Dostum said that it exposed the extent to which the general public, and Taliban fighters themselves, had been duped into believing the movement was still led by Afghanis. "We want to show the world what these Pakistani generals are doing in Afghanistan under the disguise of Sheikhs," he said. Throughout the north, animosity toward the Taliban and those who support them runs deep, and would likely exist regardless of exhortations from Dostum and leaders in Kabul. In the Shakh village, before it was liberated from Taliban control, business owners were forced to pay extortionate levies or face pain of death. (Tolonews)

(6) Over \$30 Million ...

Out of 26 alleged employees of the ministry, he said six were involved in mass embezzlement and some of them had been arrested by the law enforcement agencies.

According to the AGO, Ahmad Nawaz Bakhtyar, Mohammad Amin Qani, Ahmad Shah Himat, Mohammad Amin Amin, Gul Rahim Zymal and 20 others employees of the ministry had been found guilty in the graft and out of them some were arrested and the remaining were being investigated.

Earlier, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani dismissed six high ranking officials of the Ministry of Urban Development following their involvement in misappropriation. (Pajhwok)

(7) Over \$480m....

for and that the 155 defaulters should be barred from leaving the

country and their assets frozen. Earlier the AGO spokesman told Pajhwok Afghan News that all those small and big debtors who failed to clear their dues had been barred from leaving the country. He added the AGO had sent letters to municipalities and Da Afghanistan Bank branches, asking them to freeze assets of the defaulters.

"The defaulters are obliged to pay their debts. They can't possess even a single Afghan from the national exchequer," he remarked.

Once the country's largest lender, the bank plunged into deep crisis in 2009, when it lost \$987 million in fraudulent property deals, massive off-book loans and credit to fake corporations, prompting the government to take over the bank's affairs and change its name to New Kabul Bank. The government had to finance a bailout of \$825 million to the bank.

Of \$987 million squandered money, the government says it has so far recovered \$437 millions. Twenty-four defaulters have paid their debts until now.

Some of the major shareholders including Mahmood Karzai, Gul Bahar Habibi, Hassin Fahim, Daud Nassir, Mohammad Anwar Jigdalak, Mohammad Tahir Zahir, Mahboob Frotan, Mohammad Ismail Ghazanfar and Amrullah have started paying their debts in installments. According to the AGO, the assets of these individuals are not frozen anymore.. (Pajhwok)

(8) 25,000 Out....

year had been finalized and that there were some problems which had been shared with the Ministry of Education.

He said the majority of schools in Kandahar had no buildings and most of such schools existed in districts.

However, he said the Education Ministry had promised to construct buildings for 26 schools during the ongoing academic year.

Several school buildings in Kandahar City needed rehabilitation, the official said, adding that the problem of textbooks shortage for primary schools had been resolved, but students of class 7, 8 and 9 still faced the problem.

He said the shortage of books for these classes was not only confined to Kandahar, but schools in central capital Kabul also struggled with the issue.

There are a total of 454 schools across Kandahar province, but 147 of them have been closed due to insecurity.

Samimi said the major problem behind the closure of these schools was the shortage of teachers and that problem plagued schools in Kandahar City as well.

He said education department officials were trying to overcome the teachers' shortage problem and pave the way for reopening of closed schools in districts.

He said some aid organizations had opened schools in districts where government-run schools had been closed. Both boys and girls were studying in the NGOs-run facilities, he added.

He said schools in insecure areas lacked buildings and another problem was displacement of families due to insecurity. (Pajhwok)

(9) Rampant

offices on time, leading residents of the district to face problems.

"Our efforts yielded fruits as most of the officers come to their offices on time and address people's problems," he said, adding that in the past people were waiting for months for a small issue.

The provincial council's efforts brought positive changes regarding the reconstruction and security of the province, Mangal added.

Citing an example, he said: "We had meetings with civil society activists and other individuals about security that also led to president's visit to Paktia province to assess the situation."

The provincial council has also shared the problems of Paktia province with the officials in Kabul and they have promised to resolve them, he said. Hundreds of people daily refer to council for solution to their problems and the council members trying to settle them.

Paktia provincial council has 15 members including three women. (Pajhwok)

(10) Measures Discussed ..

Issue of voluntary repatriation, he added, would also be discussed in the meeting. According to Balkhi, currently more than 2.5 million Afghanis lived in Iran out of which

around 800,000 had legal documents and 500,000 more held passports but the rest did not have any documents.

"The unity government has a different approach to address problems of refugees and their repatriation than the previous government," he said, adding that repatriation was one of government's top national priorities.

Mohammadi Far, Iranian representative at the summit, said his country was concerned about the fate of those refugees who travelled to Turkey via Iran and Europe and their number was on the rise.

"The same way that the Afghan government has serious focus on repatriation of Afghan refugees we expect them to also cooperate with us to legalize the presence of all Afghanis in Iran," he added.

Maya Amirtunga, the UNHCR representative for Afghanistan called the meetings important, saying they would discuss issue of Afghan refugees in Iran and their repatriation to Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(11) Baher....

however going to happen. The test phase will initially cover 24 government ministries and eight registration centers will be "It will start soon and I don't think that this time the delay will be for a long term basis," Baher said.

Among the concerns - causing the delay - is that computer software within the digital ID department needs to be upgraded. In order to do so, negotiations still need to be held with the contractor, sources said.

According to them, the company which has produced the chips for the digital ID cards so far, has stopped producing them and a new contract has yet to be formalized with a new supplier.

In addition, it is believed that staff registering data do not have access to read the data details once uploaded or to bring changes if needed. Only high-ranking staff members can access the read facilities and make changes.

Up to now, 14,000 samples of digital ID cards have been printed.

"As long as the work is delayed, it is a problem for people. The issue should be resolved through consensus as it has become political now," university lecturer Shahla Farid said.

But protecting personal information recorded on the cards is a primary demand by the public. It is also hoped that the issuing of digital ID cards will cut down the problem of electoral fraud. (Tolonews)

(12) Contracts for

minister, the development projects would be executed in Nuristan, Khost, Sar-i-Pul, Paktia, Maidan Wardak, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kapisa, Panjsher, Ghazni, Helmand, Logar, Ghor, Badghis and Faryab provinces.

Azimi said the implementation of the projects would bring positive change in the lives of people, especially farmers, who would get encouragement to stop cultivation of illicit crops.

The companies representatives who got the construction contract of these projects pledged to complete the work in given deadline. The minister said that the mentioned projects would be completed in one year time and would be ready for use.

Azimi said the execution of these projects was part of the 100-day plan and fortunately the procurement procedure of the contract had been completed and work on the vital projects would begin soon. (Pajhwok)

(13) Launch of the ...

every single household and all other establishments where people live or work.

The survey will follow different stages: mapping of the province, data collection, data entry and data analysis. The findings of the survey will provide up-to-date and accurate information on the number of households in the province, age and sex distribution of household members, and information about education, health, employment and other socio-economic information. The data collected from the survey will be analyzed in a provincial report to be launched in near future. .

"CSO has developed the required expertise to successfully conduct SDES. Hopefully by 2018, all provinces in Afghanistan will be covered by this survey. For the

people of Takhar this is an opportunity to assist CSO in successfully completing this data collection exercise", said Dr. Bashir Najeeb, UNFPA Population and Development Officer, on behalf of UNFPA Representative in Afghanistan. (PR)

(14) Operations

against the Afghan forces.

"The operation in Khogyani is successful because many areas have been cleared of the presence of militants. Now Khogyani, Hesarak and Sherzad districts are secure, roads are open while the operation is still ongoing."

To a question, the military official said: "Police posts will be increased in the Khogyani district if needed. We plan similar operations in other areas and we also plan to deploy our troops in other areas."

Addressing the ceremony, 301 border zone commander Brig. Gen. Wali Khan Shinwari recalled Ghazi Amanullah Khan's noble achievements and urged the Afghanis to work for national unity.

"The history tells us the ongoing war in Afghanistan is not ours. We have been victimised for the interests of our neighbours. So it is hoped the Afghanis stay united."

The high-ranking border police officials also said the Afghan forces had the ability to defend their areas.

Meanwhile, Dr. Nasir Kamawal, the deputy head of the provincial council, said the Afghanis, particularly the national security forces, should defend their motherland, keeping in mind the past experiences. (Pajhwok)

(15) 140 Couples

Abdul Jabbar, in his address to the ceremony said such mass marriages were Islamic and prevented expensive weddings. He urged the couples to advance their lives in line with Islamic teachings.

A member of the provincial council, Mohammad Hasham Sarwari, one of the event organizers, said that all the 140 couples were youth from poor family backgrounds and could not afford to arrange their marriages.

The couples hailed from different areas of Samangan, he said, adding that the businessmen besides paying all the expenses also gifted cloths and 10,000 in cash to each couple. The total cost of the ceremony stood at \$80,000, he said.

One of the grooms, Sardar Mohammad, a resident of Khuram district, thanked the businessmen who sponsored the ceremony on behalf of other grooms.

"I got engaged three years ago and since then I with my father and a brother worked in our farm fields and saved 350,000 Afghanis for the bride's Mahr, but we still were unable to hold the wedding ceremony due to our poor economic condition," he said. (Pajhwok)

(16) Govt. Asked to ...

had so far killed more than 600 civilians and held captive another 270 in the Shinwari zone, urging people of eastern provinces to stage uprisings against the group. Members of the National Movement and Change Council on Monday held a gathering in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, saying the security situation in the Shinwari zone was worsening with the passage of time and many people had suffered losses as a result.

The group's leader, Haji Noor Agha Malakzai, told the gathering: "According to our information, weapons are being supplied to these outfits (Taliban and Daesh) and military uniforms being sewn for them possible in the same districts."

Malakzai did not provide further details in this regard and the governor's house has so far not reacted to his claim. (Pajhwok)

(17) Tajikistan's CNS ...

opium and 86.6 kg of hashish in the Hamadoni area in the pool for the fish growing.

During the operation to arrest the owner of the above-mentioned cache in the district Farhor smugglers put up armed resistance to the National Security Committee. By returning fire the above-mentioned Afghan drug smuggler was killed. At the place of the incident there were found Kalashnikov rifle with three shops and 70 ammunition, 8.2 kg of opium, over 1 kg of cannabis.

DSP SCNS RT stresses that on May 5 against the destruction of smugglers on the Tajik-Afghan border was carried out a special opera-

tion, then he and his accomplices, leaving 146 kg of drugs on the Tajik bank went to the neighboring territory. (Asia Plus)

(18) Foreign National

They were however released - in two batches - within a week following the intervention of tribal elders.

In February, armed gunmen kidnapped 31 bus passengers in Zabul. After months of negotiations 19 were released in a reported prisoner swap. However, the whereabouts of the remaining 12 hostages is still unknown. (Tolonews)

(19) Nimroz Governor's....

the governor's son for the killing. Hussain Baksh, a Quick Response Force officer, said Mohammad Arif son of the governor had first wounded Naworz Ali for overtaking but the official succumbed to injuries in the hospital.

Mohammad Yunus, the governor's secretary, confirmed the officer had died following the clashes in the governor's convoy but denied the governor's son involvement.

"Some people who want to defame the governor want to blame his son. The governor's son was there but he was not involved in the incident."

He said investigations were ongoing and nobody had been detained so far. (Pajhwok)

(20) RCN Wants....

expressing their anger and hate towards Pakistan.

He said they were planning to hold such campaigns in different parts of Kabul to become united against Pakistan. "Crimes of Pakistan have increased, the peace talks have failed and differences between government leaders have put aside some major national issues."

He voiced concerns regarding Afghanistan's nose-diving economy and rise in insurgents' attacks. He blamed Pakistan's interferences for rise in instability in Afghanistan.

Ehsani urged the National Directorate of Security (NDS) to disclose identity of those who were plotting attacks in Afghanistan and award them capital punishment so that it should be a lesson for the others.

He said a five-day national mourning should be announced for the victims of recent attacks in Kabul. "Pakistan cannot reach to its goals alone without some people's help from inside our system."

He also criticized international community. "We strongly condemn the US and NATO's stance towards Pakistan and consider it a double game. The money given to Pakistan by the US and the UK goes to terrorism and this shows they have indirect hand in supporting terror."

Zahir Mahboob, another member of the network, said: "Pakistan's military sends gifts of suicide bombers with the help of domestic spies. Identity of these spies should be made public." (Pajhwok)

(21) Nangarhar Floods....

Local officials said that dozens of families have been displaced and are in need of support.

However, the provincial Red Cross department said that investigations are underway and it will provide aid for the victims.

Recent floods in the region has caused extensive damage to property - with an estimated 2,500 families having been affected.

A recent Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority report indicates that since the beginning of the year more than 700 Afghanis have lost their lives through various natural disasters. (Tolonews)

(22) Herat Explosion....

due to criminal and signs of beatings were on their bodies."

However, Rozi said that the police have launched an investigation into the incident, adding that a district police chief has been dismissed over the incident. (Tolonews)

(23) Iraqi PM

demonstrations by angry Iraqis in Baghdad and several other southern cities against slack public services, power shortage and massive corruption. (Xinhua)

(24) British Gov't....

BNP Paribas Real Estate, the Aga Khan Development Network, and University of the Arts London. (Xinhua)