

### (1) Secure ....

the fields of pharmacology and medical services in the region, and called for the Islamic Republic's assistance to Afghanistan in this regard. Also on Sunday, Iran's Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh-Hashemi met his Afghan counterpart in Tehran where the two signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to improve cooperation in the fields of health and medical treatment.

According to the MoU, Tehran and Kabul would bolster cooperation in the fields of medical equipment, health care systems, primary health care, medical treatment, building hospitals, training courses and medical tourism. (IRNA)

### (2) Peace Talks....

comprehensive deal with the Taliban to end the violence. "At the moment, there are no signs or indications to resume the talks. The Taliban declared war and announced allegiance with al-Qaeda. Pakistan and a new Taliban leadership are amongst the two important issues," Natiqi added.

Referring to the soured relations between Kabul and Islamabad, the European Union (EU) Special Representative and Head of the EU Delegation to Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin, on Sunday said that the frustration and anger among Afghan officials is in some way understandable. However he called upon the two countries to resolve their disputes and disagreements by using diplomatic channels and negotiations.

The EU envoy warned against the breakdown in relations and said it was a mistake. (Tolonews)

### (3) Efforts on...

departments to recover the remaining amount. "Those who have not cleared their debts yet should understand that we don't want even a single Afghani of Kabul Bank to remain with them. It's the nation's money and we'll obtain it."

Last month the AGO announced that 155 Kabul Bank debtors were barred from leaving the country and their properties had been confiscated.

Azizi said some of these debtors were detained at Kabul Airport and had paid their debts.

He said the AGO was in contact with different countries to deport those individuals to Afghanistan who still had debts with Kabul Bank. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Final Agreement....

key stakeholders of the transit and trade project.

"We have sent the preliminary draft to the stakeholders and it has been approved," ACCI deputy chief, Yunus Mohmand, told TOLONews.

"The Lapis Lazuli agreement will be finalized in the next month, and then it will be signed between the five countries."

The corridor connects Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey via road and rail - which will create a key transit trade route through Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Balkans to Central Europe - and also effectively connect South Asia to European countries. The importance of this route to Afghanistan is that it is a new route, being shorter, cheaper and safe.

The Lapis Lazuli Corridor will start in Aqina in northern Faryab province and Turqundi in western Herat province and continue through to Turkmenbashi in Turkmenistan, then cross

the Caspian Sea to Baku - Azerbaijan's capital. From there it will proceed to Tbilisi, Georgia's capital and on the Turkey before joining the motorways and railway network to Europe. (Tolonews)

### (5) US Rules...

Kabul. The mission sought to help the Afghan national security forces continue to take the lead for security in their country, he continued. It was serious mission that the US remained committed to, but there was not new strategy in Afghanistan, the official added. It is for the Taliban to decide on their future, he continued.

"If they're going to renounce violence and renounce the terrorist type tactics that they use and contribute to a meaningful reconciliation process in Afghanistan, well then, you know, we support that, an Afghan-led reconciliation process," Kirby said. He ruled out evolving a new strategy for Afghanistan, insisting there was no new plan with regard to the Taliban. The US wanted to see Afghan-led political reconciliation continue to advance and it was encouraging to see the first round of talks held a few weeks ago.

About the involvement of Beijing in the peace process. Kirby said China shared a border with Afghanistan. As long as that participation was helpful to an Afghan-led process, he explained, the US would not oppose Beijing's role.

"Yes, there's been some violence in Kabul as recently as just a few days ago and you're right, Taliban claimed responsibility for some and others they didn't. So I'm in no position to judge who's responsible," Kirby concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (6) AGO Refers ...

embezzlement scandal, the unnamed source said, adding that his case will be sent to a special court soon.

The Attorney General's Office has however finalized the case of the six officials and referred the case to a preliminary court in Kabul. This comes almost three months after President Ashraf Ghani suspended them during a meeting of Council of Ministers.

"After investigations, the case of the six officials from the urban development ministry, who are accused of corruption, has been sent to court," AGO spokesman Basir Azizi said.

The suspended officials were arrested early June at the Afghan border with Tajikistan when they were trying to flee the country.

Ahmad Shah Hemat, the head of the central housing department; Mohammad Amin, the head of the real estate and accommodations department; Ahmad Nawaz Bakhtyari, the head of the housing enterprise department; Gul Rahim Zyarmal, the head of planning and project manager for the 5th Macrorayan; Sayed Amanullah Sadat, the head of the finance department; and Mohammad Amin Qane, the head of the apartments and rentals department are the six officials involved. (Tolonews)

### (7) MoI Officials ...

by the insurgents on the issue Pakistan Government has summoned the Afghan Ambassador Janan Musazai to provide more details on losing 4 Pakistani military forces.

Durand Line has been the key of chaos points in between the Afghan-Pakistani military forces which has always brought up security challenges for the two countries since decades, Pakistani troops has

tried to disrupt the security condition on the bordering areas as usual, officials in Ministry of Interior affairs have declared the main perpetrator Pakistani officials and its military on interfering into Afghanistan's soil. (ATN)

### (8) New System ....

This system would be activated throughout the country to ensure transparency in judicial organs.

Provincial appeal court head Sayed Abdul Ghaffar Zubair told Pajhwok Afghan News that in the past relatives and friends of convicts and media did not access to complete information about a case but now they can have access through their website and see the operations of judicial organs, attorneys and police. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Ghazni Governor....

leaders in UAE.

He said Gen. Yasin, an official of National Directorate of Security (NDS) and Abdul Wahid Qaderi, the governor's advisor who are in custody had also accompanied him in these trips. He alleged they have also taken 200,000\$ allowance from the government for their trips.

"Allowing Taliban for firing rockets and seizure of suicide belts from governor's office are ample proofs that the governor has hands with Taliban," he continued.

Mohammad Shafiq Nang, the governor's spokesman, rejected the allegations. "The governor has no hand with the insurgents. He has no meeting with any of Daesh leaders in UAE or any other country."

The civil society activists also issued a statement that the government was unable to secure highways they should provide residents with weapons to ensure their own security.

"The Ghazni governor should be sacked immediately and replaced by someone who is not a Taliban sympathizer. The police chief should take drastic measures to ensure law and order," added the statement.

The governor's spokesperson said only Nawar district faced security challenges while rests of the districts were safe. Mohammadullah Farzan, a civil society member, said kidnappings and hostages' bids had forced many people to leave the province for foreign countries.

He said in the last 14 years, Ghazni has been unsafe making people suffer the most.

Maj. Gen. Hakim Angar, Ghazni police chief, said all highways in the province were safe. "We only had some challenges in Qara Bagh district. We have established three security posts and now the problems have been resolved." (Pajhwok)

### (10) Over 60 ....

ighting against the government forces but added that security forces were ready to respond to any attacks by insurgents.

"Abdul Khaliq Khan, the first deputy of MoD went to Helmand, and our forces are ready for a military operation. Our airstrikes continue to tackle the enemy," he said. Most of the Taliban insurgents killed, died due to airstrikes by foreign troops, said officials.

"Our forces have imposed high casualties on militants and the enemy is retreating," Deputy Governor of Helmand, Mohammad Jan Rasoulyar said.

Musa Qala was once a key stronghold for the Taliban - an area used for training camps and drug smuggling operations. (Tolonews)

### (11) NAI Accuses ...

NSC said it reaffirms its strong commitment to further strengthening freedom of expression and access to information, and believes that free press keeps people informed and maintains responsibility in governance.

But Mujib Khelwatgar, Head of Nai - a non-government agency supporting open media in Afghanistan - said such acts by the National Unity Government (NUG) puts a damper on the achievements made in freedom of speech over the past 14 years.

"The attempt by the NSC and in particular by Mr. Hanif Atmar - National Security Advisor - should be prevented; otherwise the past 14 years achievements in freedom of speech in Afghanistan will be deterred," Khelwatgar told TOLONews. He termed limitations on freedom of speech as signs of a lack of trust on the part of the NUG leaders in terms of freedom of speech and citizens' rights. (Tolonews)

### (12) Islamic Scholars ....

he remarked.

Shamsi stressed that Ulama should continue conducting such conferences in the future so they would get informed about ongoing problems and teach peace. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Nangarhar ....

stepped up their activities in the Shinwari zone. He asked the central government to reverse the tide of insecurity in the province and dismantle insurgent hideouts.

The public representative also said they wanted the words "Afghan and Islam" to be mentioned in the computerized national identity (ID) cards.

Zamarai said drastic reforms needed in every department particularly security and governance. He said Taliban militants used to flee areas during operations and stage a comeback after security forces conclude their offensives.

The council's deputy head, Dr. Nasir Kamawal, said the security situation in Nangarhar was not good and Taliban militants got strengthened with each passing day.

He said many families in the Shinwari district had suffered due to the infighting between militant groups.

Another PC member Suhrab Qadari said President Ghani might dismiss graft-tainted officials, but stopped short of going into details. (Pajhwok)

### (14) SAARC Launches...

of this festival will improve relations between countries which are members of SAARC and we hope that by the end of this festival the members of SAARC announce their opinion [on future events]." SAARC was established in 1985 aimed at promoting the economy, the collective self-reliance among countries in South Asia, and to accelerate socio-cultural development in the region.

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal are members of SAARC and Afghanistan became a member in 2007. (Tolonews)

### (15) Pakistan Fomenting...

central council, told a gathering in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, that the gathering was held to condemn Pakistan and muster support for the anti-Taliban push Dostum has been leading in the north.

Kargar told Pajhwok Afghan News on the sidelines of the gathering that General Dostum had initiated the anti-Taliban operation in compliance with a decision of the National Security Council (NSC) and President Ashraf Ghani's directives. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Plot to Attack ...

training in Pakistan and wanted to attack Dostum in Qaisar district.

A week ago, Dostum's military convoy came under attack from militants in Faryab but he and his guards escaped unhurt. Six rebels were killed and 13 others were arrested along with their weapons in retaliatory attack by Afghan forces.

Dostum travels in northern region to lead Afghan forces fighting against militant groups. (Pajhwok)

### (17) Marawara ....

government had made the promise five years ago, but was yet to honour it.

"The government besides the canal should also reconstruct the road until the Ghaki Pass," he said. The pass connects Kunar province with Pakistan's tribal region of Bajaur.

Wahidullah Kalimzai thanked the people of Marawara for their cooperation with the government and urged them to work for peace by inviting Taliban militants to the peace process and denying them safe havens.

He assured the elders that his administration would pay special attention to the reconstruction of the town and called on them to remain cooperative with the government. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Sherpao ....

stability in the region, the ex-chief minister said: "Afghanistan and Pakistan, being two brotherly countries, should move in tandem to combat the scourge of terrorism that has affected both."

Currently a member of the National Assembly, Sherpao believed peace could be brought to the region only if extremist forces were defeated and terrorism reined in. Peace is an absolute imperative for the two neighbours, he insisted.

He remarked terrorism knew no borders, afflicting people of all backgrounds. "I myself have escaped unhurt in four suicide attacks," the lawmaker said, stressing the need for a combined campaign against the menace. (Pajhwok)

### (19) 2nd Crop of...

that "fight has been ongoing regularly in the area. People confront shortage of water and there is no other source of living for people except poppy cultivation."

No project had been initiated in northern districts of the province nor the residents had been assisted during the last 14 years, he complained.

Nawzad district resident Din Mohammad also confirmed second production of poppy cultivation. "People have recently started poppy cultivation," he added.

Najmuddin, a resident of Nad-i-Ali district, said that second production took only three months and provide good quality of opium.

According to directorate of counternarcotics, poppy was cultivated over more than 103,000 hectares of land last year in Helmand province. According to officials, they had destroyed poppy over around 3,000 hectares of land. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Takhar Pistachio....

ternal war some local commanders cut-off most of pistachio tress in the district. But the resident took a bold step and stopped cutting of pistachio trees by imposing cash penalty on those involved in this activity.

Agriculture Director Mohammad Salim Saeed said there was more production of pistachio in the Farkhar district compared to other places.

He said heavy rainfall, floods

and gusts had damaged the pistachio production in other areas of the country.

According to the agriculture director, more pistachio jungles were situated in the Rustaq, Cha Ab, Yangi Kala and Baharak districts of the province. (Pajhwok)

### (21) Mother, Son....

vincial police launched an operation that resulted in the death of six Taliban members, including four Pakistani nationals, said Dawood, an Afghan Army officer.

"After the incident, we launched a clearing operation in which six Taliban insurgents were killed including four citizens of Punjab [province] in Pakistan," he stated.

The locals have meanwhile, strongly condemned the burning of their homes by the Taliban. They also accused insurgents of burning several copies of the Holy Quran. (Tolonews)

### (22) Afghan Forces ....

jured in the raid while security forces took three others with them.

He said he was the designated district chief for Mohmand Dari district in the past but joined peace process along with five supporters about one and a half year ago.

"The peace committee has given me card and provided me with monthly salary and protection of my family, but the government has violated the agreement," he said, claiming that security forces found nothing in his house. Rahman added that he was currently serving as schoolteacher in the capital Kabul.

He asked the government not to harass people who joined peace process because rebels would stop shunning violence. (Pajhwok)

### (23) Construction ...

to inspect the road occasionally.

Resident Abdul Wase Hasyal, who lives close to the site, recalled the road had been built a decade ago. Due to its poor quality, he alleged, the road was damaged soon.

The lousy road that often remained closed due to different factors including accidents, caused heavy vehicles a lot of damage, he said. He urged the authorities to build the road in better way this time around. (Pajhwok)

### (24) Rocket Attack...

huge explosion, which smashed windowpanes of nearby houses.

"We were afraid enough that we left our home and stayed with our relatives due to fear of another rocket," he recalled.

Since last two months, at least 12 rockets fired from Dand-i-Ghori area on Pul-i-Khumri City, which had left a child and a man dead and ten others wounded. (Pajhwok)

### (25) Turkey to

ment Party have refused to take part in an interim government after a series of talks.

The ruling Justice and Development Party is seeking an early election that would give the party an opportunity to win back its majority in the parliament.

No single party won a parliamentary majority to form a single-party government in the June 7 national elections. (Xinhua)

### (26) Iraqi PM ....

entire area, becomes untenable. The collapse (of Iraqi forces) that the enemy wanted did not happen," he said. "Beiji has become a key front for the defense of Samarra, Salahuddin (province) and even Baghdad." (AP)