

(1) Four-Nation ...

asked that neither his name nor nationality be used because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Aziz expressed annoyance during the first round of talks held last month when Faisal issued public statements saying Pakistan was to produce a list of Taliban representatives willing to talk peace. The list never materialized and Aziz chastened officials participating in the talks about speaking to the media.

Aziz said whatever roadmap the four-country meeting agrees upon, it will have to clearly lay out each phase of what is certain to be a multi-phase process. He said there also has to be a way to gauge progress

"We believe our collective efforts at this stage ... have to be aimed at the persuading maximum number of Taliban groups to join the peace talks," said Aziz. "This will contribute to imparting a momentum to the process offering the incentive of political mainstreaming to the insurgent groups, and gradually shrink the space for the irreconcilables."

Pakistan, which is accused by Kabul of allowing Taliban leaders safe havens on its territory, is seen as key to getting the Taliban to the table. Pakistan was one of only three countries to recognize the Taliban government before it was ousted by the U.S.-led coalition in 2001. However Aziz earlier told the AP that Pakistan's influence over the Taliban is overstated, recalling several times that the Taliban ignored Pakistan.

Although few details are available it would appear significant that the heads of the Pakistani and Afghan intelligence agencies met in Islamabad on Thursday ahead of the Saturday's four-country meeting.

Pakistan's intelligence agency, the InterServices Intelligence or ISI, has long been accused by Afghanistan as well as Washington of providing backdoor assistance to Afghanistan's Taliban. Washington has openly accused the ISI of supporting the Haqqani network, a U.S.-declared terrorist group, a charge it denies.

The ISI is believed to be one of the most powerful tools available to influence Taliban leaders to join the process. (AP)

(2) Ulomi Close...

meeting Chief Executive Abdullah, who nominated Olomi to the ministry and who would be consulted before any replacement can be appointed.

The move comes as officials from Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China are meeting in Islamabad to try to lay the ground for a resumption of peace talks with the Taliban.

Speculation over the future of Olomi had been swirling for months after he survived moves by a group of members of parliament in November to launch a no confidence motion against him over the deteriorating security outlook.

The Taliban have stepped up their insurgency since the withdrawal of most foreign troops in 2014, briefly seizing the northern city of Kunduz last year and mounting a series of deadly suicide attacks in the capital Kabul. According to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, a U.S. Congressional oversight body, the Islamist insurgents now control more territory than at any time since 2001, when the Taliban was driven from power by U.S.-led forces in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks in New York.

At the same time, the government has been hobbled by political infighting, which has prevented the appointment of a permanent defence minister for more than a year.

Disagreements over the approach to dealing with the insurgency also prompted the powerful head of the National Directorate for Security, Rahmatullah Nabil to walk out of the job in December. (Reuters)

(3) 1st Polio...

many people crossed the border illegally.

"Unfortunately, we cannot do much to address the issue of malnutrition in children. However, we have been focusing on permanent transit points at the border with Afghanistan," he said.

There are 2,500 transit points across Pakistan, which will to take more steps to ensure that no

child entered the country without immunisation.

In Pakistan, one polio case has been confirmed by the National Institute of Health. A sample collected from 34-month-old Ijaz Khan from Karachi in January confirmed the child had the onset of polio. (Pajhwok)

(4) Over 10,000 ...

are struggling to establish strong bases while in a defensive role, they continue to face resistance from the Afghan Taliban as well militants belonging to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan who seems to be preparing an attack against them, a move that could slow the recruitment of the terror group, according to the research report.

The research report, citing ISIS sources, also revealed that the loyalists of the terror group have been coming under pressure from some of its donors to increase activities in Central Asia, using its well-developed contacts with Central Asian jihadist groups in northern Afghanistan.

"Early findings for the new research project suggest that Daesh has established a foothold in Afghanistan and is still growing. However, its advance more closely resembles a hurdle race than a triumphant march. So far, Daesh has been mainly troubling the Taliban, but it is unlikely that it will remain focused on competing with other insurgent groups," the commentary piece concludes. It also adds "In order to establish its jihadist credentials vis-à-vis donors and potential recruits, Daesh will have to increasingly target the Afghan government, and Russian, Iranian and Western interests. But does it have the ability to hurt these actors? For that, it will need capabilities that it has not yet demonstrated and not just 'numbers' of fighters." (KP)

(5) Government ...

Taliban have once again strengthened their position on the outskirts of Kunduz City and Chardara district, posing a huge threat to the provincial capital. Any new Taliban attack may be harsher and more dangerous, he warned.

The acting governor acknowledged the militants had transferred heavy weapons to Chardara and if not defeated, they might use them during another attack on Kunduz City.

Earlier, Chief of Armed Forces Gen. Qadam Shah Shaheem had visited security forces in the strategic city. He said an operation in the province would be launched before the arrival of the spring season.

He insisted coordination among security forces had improved, claimed situation had got better after the creation of the zonal police headhunters of 808th Spinghar and 20th Pami. (Pajhwok)

(6) Clinton Hints...

act collectively to destroy their networks. She pledge to eradicate terrorists' networks if elected as president.

"We have to build coalitions, something that I did to take on the Iranian nuclear program, and what I will do as president to make sure that we defeat these terrorist networks," she said

Noting that US President, Barack Obama, decided to leave more troops than he had originally planned, Clinton said currently there is a very cooperative government in Kabul.

"We have a very cooperative government there, with Ashraf Ghani and his top -- his top partner, Abdullah. And they are doing their very best. And the Afghan army is actually fighting. The Afghan army is taking heavy losses defending Afghan territory," she said.

Sanders said troops from Afghanistan can't be withdrawn overnight. "You can't simply withdraw tomorrow. Wish we could, and allow, you know, the Taliban or anybody else to reclaim that country," he said. (Pajhwok)

(7) Karzai Urges...

that has killed thousands of civilians and crippled the nation's economy.

Peace efforts broke down last year after it became known the Taliban movement's founder and leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, who sanctioned the talks, had been dead for two years, exposing deep fissures within the insurgency.

In January, the group made a raft of demands to be met as a

pre-condition to joining talks, including the removal of the group from a UN blacklist, formal recognition of a political office for the group and the release of political prisoners.

Some observers were skeptical those demands would be met and there have also been doubts about whether competing factions of the Taliban that have been fighting for control of the group will be willing to join.

Nevertheless, the Afghan government has said it expects at least parts of the Taliban to agree to peace talks within six months, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said in New Delhi last week. (FNA)

(8) DAB Sells...

amount to the central bank can pay it to the Bank a day before the bidding starts and can participate in future bids. Partial settlements are not allowed by the Bank and the bidders are required to submit their guarantee up front during the period specified by the Bank.

The central bank plans to continue injecting US dollar into the market in a bid to control the rising value of US dollar against Afghani. (Wadsam)

(9) Country Headed ...

News, Massoud said there were only six months left in expiration of the deadline but the government was yet to take steps for conducting the grand assembly. If the unity government did not take immediate steps toward organising the Loya Jirga, the country would face a serious political crisis in addition to economic and military problems, he warned.

"On the completion of the two years, conducting the Loya Jirga or extending the term of the government will be an illegitimate and unconstitutional act," he said.

Regarding peace talks, he said as long as the US and Pakistan were not sincere, there process would not come to fruition, as had been the case over the past 12 years.

Quadrilateral meetings on peace are being arranged on the one hand and US generals predict a bloodier wars in Afghanistan on the other, according to the ex-advisor, who alleged: "They (Americans) are spreading this propaganda to promote their own interests."

He asked the government to conduct the traditional assembly for the resolving the current problems. The rulers should task a commission with asking political leaders and influential individuals to help resolve the current problems. (Pajhwok)

(10) University...

jointly opened the box of question sheets. Zabihullah Zamrai, the provincial council secretary, said irregularities had been noticed in past Kankor exams.

He asked the MoHE to be honest with students of Nangarhar in announcing the results. He, however, said the examination process was going well.

Nangarhar University Chancellor Babrak Miakhel said around 10,401 graduates, including 900 females, from different high schools of Nangrahar appeared for the exam.

In the three-day examination process, no chance for cheating and other irregularities would be provided to students, he said.

Nafesa, one of the participating students, said students in some provinces were able to find access to answer keys and that was why more students from other provinces succeeded in the examination.

But Syed Ezatullah Mujadidi, deputy head of the Kankor examination committee, rejected the claims of cheating and other irregularities in Kankor.

He said earlier there had been some problems with the examination process, but those issues had been resolved. (Pajhwok)

(11) China's Role ...

the mega project. Yao Jing said as member of the four-nation talks on Afghanistan reconciliation, Beijing praised Kabul's efforts at bringing peace and ending the war in Afghanistan.

President Ghani thanked the Chinese government and people for their well wishes for and cooperation with Afghanistan and hoped more high-ranking Chinese officials would visit Kabul. Ghani called as important China's role in the four-nation talks

and urged China's cooperation in various Afghan sectors. (Pajhwok)

(12) Governor ...

Provincial council secretary Zabihullah Zamarai said forests were being cut in areas controlled by insurgents. "Pacheragam, Achin, Haska Mena and some other districts have thick forests, but in areas where the government has no writ, forests are cut down. We hope local residents will prevent this practice."

A resident of Jalalabad, Sangar, said the government used to plant tens of thousands of trees each year, but did not take care of them. (Pajhwok)

(13) Dozens of ...

including him to leave the village and displace to new city of the district where dozens of other families from other villages had already been displaced.

The government was responsible to keep the security of the citizens, he said.

Meanwhile, Naziri said that they inflicted heavy casualties on Taliban last night as a result of another clash in the Dand-i-Ghori district. But Mujahid claimed that they repulsed the attacks of security personnel by causing casualties on them. (Pajhwok)

(14) Young Innovator ...

traffic light cost him 500 afghanis compared to \$200 each of those installed in cities. He said the signal light made by him consumed less electricity.

He said his traffic lights could also be controlled by mobile phone. "An ordinary mobile phone is installed and when you give it a missed call, turns off and on."

Hashmi said electrical appliances made by him were sold in the market against very low rates compared to those made by companies.

He said if the government wanted to buy his appliances, he would make them at low costs.

The governor's spokesman, Munir Farhad, told Pajhwok Afghan News he was happy learning about Hashmi's innovation work and promised to meet him about his products.

Farhad promised that the innovator would be called to a meeting at the governor's house on Monday and a decision about his electrical appliances would be made. (Pajhwok)

(15) 1,400kg Expired ...

expired medicines. "The owners of pharmacies sell expired medicine on us, because most of the people are uneducated. Once I purchased six types of medicines, when I took them to my home and checked there, four medicines were expired, so I returned the expired once to the pharmacy," a resident of Bazarak, Mohammad Samim said.

Lack of controlling Pakistani and Iranian border, the expired and sub-standard medicines have been illegally imported to the country, the officials in the ministry of public health, said. (Pajhwok)

(16) No Progress...

of the province. "The Taliban has started attacks on checkpoints and have captured three to four checkpoints and a number of people have been killed and injured," said Ajmal, a local policeman.

A number of ALP commanders in the province said that the Taliban has captured several of their checkpoints, however, security officials in the province declined to comment. (Tolonews)

(17) Afghan ...

Meanwhile, Nangarhar provincial government in a statement released Saturday confirmed killing 28 IS fighters during drone attacks in Achin and Kot districts on Friday night.

"The air strikes pounded IS fighters in Lataband area of Achin district and Sayed Ahmad Khil area of Kot district late Friday night and early Saturday, killing 28 rebels and injuring 10 others," the statement said.

Two cars of IS fighters were also destroyed during the strikes, the statement added.

There were no casualties on the security personnel, the statement added. Active in the mountainous districts of Achin, Kot and Batikot districts of the eastern Nangarhar province, along the border with Pakistan's tribal areas, IS fighters

have been challenging Afghan security forces over the past several months. (Xinhua)

(18) Faizabad...

Energy and Power Eng. Sultan Attayee says five power generators could produce only 1.5 MW of power in a city of 7,700 families.

In order to let each household meet important needs, the authorities are obliged to provide at least four hours of electricity to city residents in 24 hours, he argues. More than 2,000 families of the city do not have government electricity.

Another resident of the sixth municipality district, Hayatullah, says: "We have to use lanterns or candles at night, but even then my two children can't study."

Even if round-the-clock supply is ensured, he cannot afford to pay 28afms per kw. He wants the government to resolve the problem and provide electricity to citizens at a lower cost.

They have another power generator with the capacity of 1MW in the province to provide electricity to the rest of the families. But more than four hours of power a day could not be supplied, said Deputy Director of Energy Eng. Mohammad Din.

The only way of resolving the problem is the construction of the Shorabak power dam to be constructed at a cost of 30 million euros. Funded by Germany, work on the dam has been delayed over the past three months, he says.

Kokcha river zone head Eng. Mohammad Rafi Behman says Germany has granted a contract for building the dam to Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA).

In the digging process, sand in the land has resulted in enhanced work quantity, prompting TIKA to request Germany and the Ministry of Energy and Water to increase funding.

According to the procurement law, whenever work gets increased, it is the president's prerogative to enhance the budget for a project or decline such a hike request, he concludes. (Pajhwok)

(19) Three Members...

will not to be deceived by human traffickers. "The incumbent government has taken away everything from people. People leave for Europe due to insecurity and unemployment and eventually they lose their lives," said Mohammad Essa, Nawroz's brother. "Human traffickers are playing with the lives of people and government should also prevent human trafficking," said his uncle.

According to the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, more than 250,000 Afghans left for Europe in 2015. However, more than 3,000 migrants in total drowned off Turkey and Greece before reaching their destiny. (Tolonews)

(20) Syrian FM...

frustration with the defeats dealt against the Saudi-backed militants in key Syrian areas recently. "After the victories of the Syrian army and its allies, the conspirators against Syria have become desperate with the failure of their tools on ground, so they decided to enter personally," he remarked. (Xinhua)

(21) Heavy Security...

would be immediately impounded. "I can't remember a tournament match with so much security," Robert Broussard, the head of security for the French Rugby Federation, told sports daily L'Equipe on Saturday. "This match is taking place in a very particular context." Side streets were blocked and arriving fans underwent two safety checks upon arrival.

A first perimeter was set up 50 meters from the stadium where fans had bags checked and people were lightly patted down as police armed with rifles stood nearby. (AP)

(22) 15 Iraqi Security ...

are said to have been on their way to attack the positions of the security forces in Sajjariyah district in eastern the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, the source said.

Sajjariyah district has been freed recently from IS militants by security forces and allied Sunni tribal fighters, but clearing operations continued as the militants densely planted bombs in buildings, whilst small groups of IS militants

are still carrying out sporadic attacks against the troops using the buildings as hideouts. Also on Saturday, a booby-trapped house detonated during a search operation in the district of Soufiah in eastern Ramadi, leaving six security members dead and five others wounded, the source added. (Xinhua)

(23) Syrians Flee ...

conflict that has killed at least 250,000 people and driven 11 million from their homes. Advances by the Syrian army and allied militias, including Iranian fighters, are threatening to cut off rebel-held zones of the city, still home to around 350,000 people, while more than a million live in government-controlled areas. Mevlut Cavusoglu, foreign minister of Turkey, which has already taken in 2.5 million Syrians, said up to 55,000 were now fleeing to the frontier. (Reuters)

(24) S. Korea Sees ...

revised plan, according to Seoul's foreign ministry. The DPRK rocket, which Seoul has denounced as a banned test of ballistic missile technology, would be launched at the main Tongchang-ri rocket launch station on the country's west coast. According to weather forecast, it was expected to have cloudy sky on Monday and snow on Tuesday at the rocket base. On Thursday and next Saturday, rain or snow was expected. On Sunday and Wednesday, it was forecast to have sunny skies in the region. (Xinhua)

(25) Britain's...

the sector employs over 400,000 across northern England. He was speaking after attending an event in Leeds promoted by UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) which showcased the Yorkshire region as a Financial Centre of Excellence. Wharton will attend a similar event in Manchester later this month. Wharton said despite London's square mile being undisputed as Europe's financial capital, he highlighted the fact that most people employed by the sector in this country were based outside of the capital.

In 2012 alone, he said, companies in the sector across the Leeds and Sheffield city regions contributed more than 20 billion U.S. dollars to the British economy.

Wharton said several key players in the sector are choosing to "near-shore" their services, moving jobs out London or back to Britain from overseas. (Xinhua)

(26) Majority of ...

Jihad, run in the parliamentary elections, they altogether would get three-four percent of the votes.

The last legislative elections were held in the Palestinian territories in January 2006, when Hamas ousted Fatah, while the last presidential elections were held in January 2005, in which President Abbas won.

The poll also showed that 58 percent of those who joined it, are not deeply concerned that President Abbas will quit his post, while 34 percent said they are because there is no alternative to him.

"About 66 percent believe that holding the presidential elections immediately is the best choice to avoid Abbas resignation, while 13 percent said that choosing a successor to Abbas has to be through Fatah movement," said the poll. (Xinhua)

(27) North Korea ...

opposition from governments that see it as a long-range missile test.

Japan and South Korea said North Korea had issued a Notice to Airmen that the launch would take place some time between Sunday and the following Sunday, Feb. 14. The IMO, a United Nations agency, also said on Saturday it had received a notification from North Korea of the change.

Isolated North Korea says it has a sovereign right to pursue a space program. But it is barred under U.N. Security Council resolutions from using ballistic missile technology.

Tension has been high on the Korean peninsula following the North's fourth nuclear test, on Jan. 6. A rocket test now would compound fears about North Korea putting a nuclear warhead on a missile that could reach not only South Korea and Japan but possibly even the west coast of the United States. (Reuters)