

(1) National ...

of aid-giving countries and representatives from some international partners of Afghanistan attended the day-long meeting organized by the Ministry of Finance.

The purpose of the gathering was to assess progress with regard to pledges the Afghan government had made at 2016 Brussels meeting and to discuss reforms so far implemented in civil services, judiciary, public sectors, jobs creation and infrastructure development. The international community agreed upon a 24-point agenda for Afghanistan for 2017-18, with the Afghan government making 15 pledges.

National Dialogue

President Ghani said 'a national dialogue' would be launched in the coming days in Kabul, in which demands and concerns of different groups and communities would be heard and efforts would be made to address them. He said: "There is the need to talk to every segment of the society including ulema, women and the youth. Some people tried to harm national interests, which would never be allowed."

The president said the indigenous national discourse would be open where every citizen could convey his/her message.

Elections

The president said the national unity government was committed to holding the elections to the Wolesi Jirga and district councils in 2018.

He urged international community's support for holding the elections and said the presidential election would be conducted by next year.

He said the Afghan government would prepare a plan for the elections and share it with the people and the international community.

Peace and security

The president said the people of Afghanistan wanted durable peace and asked the international community to help Afghanistan achieve the goal because the people of Afghanistan had lost patience with violence.

Referring to the May 31 truck bombing in Kabul's diplomatic enclave, the president said Kabul was recovering from the tragedy and called the attack against globally-recognized treaties of diplomacy and inter-state relations.

He said the Afghan government after one week of the deadliest bombing successfully organized the Kabul Process Conference and demonstrated its commitment to peace and stability.

The month of Ramadan saw some 1,000 people dying and sustaining injuries in violent attacks in Kabul and provinces, said the president, who praised the Afghan security forces for their bravery.

The president said the Afghan forces still needed more equipment.

Ghani said the Afghan people's main demands were nationwide peace, justice, good governance and quality service, thus bringing reforms in all areas was a serious need, not an option.

However, he said reforms in all organs, particularly in security and defense organs, were not an easy job, but needed more time.

The Afghan security and defense forces would get more professional and equipped and their procurement matters would be separated and turn into a civil service following the four-year plan, Ghani said.

The president thanked the international community's commitment towards implementation of the plan and said professionalizing and equipping of Afghan security and defense forces was one of the Afghan people's fundamental demands.

The reform process has already started in the two important sectors, said the president, who said the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) was responsible for bringing reforms in civil offices, a process that had already begun and was based on open competition.

All posts of deputy administrative and finance directors of the government and senior posts in the presidential palace, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Supreme Court and Attorney General Office would also follow a transparent process, he said.

Ghani said his government had also the plan for mines' extraction, attracting investments and controlling the country's water resources that would play a vital role in Afghanistan's self-sufficiency.

Without providing details, the president said the government had a program to prevent Afghanistan's waters from going waste, produce energy and improve agriculture in the country.

His statement on water comes as Iranian president Hassan Rouhani recently

criticized construction of several dams in Afghanistan and said Iran could not remain indifferent to building of dams such as Kajaki, Kamal Khan, Salma and other dams in Afghanistan.

However, Rouhani remarks drew angry reactions from Afghans. President Ghani told today's meeting that Afghanistan had huge potential in the infrastructure section. He asked the new mines and petroleum minister to prevent illegal extraction of natural resources and make a comprehensive program for legal extraction of the riches.

Pointing to major economic projects such as CASA-1000 and TAPI, Ghani said Afghanistan would get huge advantage from implementation of the two trans-regional projects.

He said the country's revenue had increased and this process was going on. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted Afghanistan's economic growth at three percent this year, he said. Afghanistan's economic growth was two percent last year. (Pajhwok)

(2) Tehran Denies ...

been seen in Farah, is not confirmed by any state official in Afghanistan, Afkhami-Rashidi said.

Such media campaigns on the issue will create problems regarding bilateral relations between the two neighboring nations, the diplomat noted.

"Iran-Afghanistan air space and land borders are the peace and friendship frontiers," said the Iranian diplomat, adding that both the people and officials in the two countries are not going to pay attention to such media campaigns which are aimed at disturbing brotherly and friendly ties between Tehran and Kabul.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is making every attempt to strengthen peace and stability in Afghanistan and reconstruct the country, said Afkhami-Rashidi.

He went on to say that a rickety neighbor is not going to benefit neither Iran nor any other country.

Elaborating on Tehran-Kabul ties, the official further said that Iran and Afghanistan enjoy very good relations in all areas. Afkhami-Rashidi stressed that the exchange of delegations and signing of agreements between the two countries prove their friendly and brotherly cooperation.

Enemies are trying to wreck the friendship, he said, advising the two countries to be vigilant against the plots.

About a week ago, an Afghan lawmaker claimed that a chopper belonged to Iran has been identified in Qala Kah in Farah province at midnight. (IRNA)

(3) 'Pakistan Need...

conflict in Afghanistan.

"The strongest nation on Earth should be able to win this conflict," he was quoted as saying.

McCain and Graham supported substantial increase in the US military presence in Afghanistan.

Senator Graham said the past strategy of gradual pull out of US forces from Afghanistan failed because the Taliban remained unbeaten.

But Senator Elizabeth Warren, one of the two Democrats in the team, stressed the need for focusing on a political solution and accused the Trump administration of neglecting diplomatic efforts to win this war. She also urged Pakistan to do more.

"While they have taken positive steps, we told Pakistani leaders they must do more to eliminate safe havens and terrorist groups in the region," she tweeted.

The Senate delegation, which met senior Pakistani and Afghan officials as well as commanders of the US-led Nato forces in Afghanistan, is expected to share its observations with the Trump administration. The delegation also visited South Waziristan.

Senator Warren, a rising Democratic star who is considered a serious candidate for the next presidential election, said she also discussed Pakistan's role in the war against terrorism with the army chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, when she met him in the Pakistani capital last week.

"I met with Pakistan Army Chief Gen. Bajwa to discuss the critical role Pakistan must play in countering terrorism in the region," she tweeted. She also talked about the delegation's July 3 visit to South Waziristan. (Pajhwok)

(4) New Graduates ...

would be deployed to the countryside. The latest graduation came as Taliban militants and Islamic State (IS) affiliates have escalated attacks over the past couple of months and fighting has been continuing in half of the country's 34 provinces.

The graduation will boost the capacity of the Afghan army and enable the security forces to further check subversive activities, Rizae said. (Xinhua)

(5) Political Stability...

development was not possible if there was no contact between the rulers and the ruled and the best way to restore people's trust was holding fair and free election.

The CEO said the door of talks with insurgents remained open but neighbors should deny safe havens to terrorists because the move had no good outcome for the region.

Abdullah said refugee families returning to Afghanistan should not be a burden but their skills and abilities should be used in the country's development. Cabinet members, ambassadors of aid-giving countries and representatives from some international partners of Afghanistan attended the day-long meeting organized by the Ministry of Finance.

UN secretary general's special representative for Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto on the occasion said the Afghan government's efforts at improving the country's situation were commendable.

The UN envoy assessed today's meeting as positive, saying issues discussed at the event needed to be followed up.

He asked the Afghan government to take advantage of the current opportunities and have a realistic approach towards issues in order people believe the government was doing service to them. (Pajhwok)

(6) Flash Floods...

medicines to the affected families, he added.

Dehqan said some medicines, cash money and an assistance team would be also transferred by a helicopter of the Ministry of Defense (MoD) to the affected area.

He said that floods in Baharak, Khash and Yamgan districts of Badakhshan also caused casualties and losses.

He said exact figures of casualties and losses were not clear in the three districts but the affected people were in need of urgent help. (Pajhwok)

(7) MRRD Signs ...

378,906,000 afghanis included construction of bridges, irrigation dams, irrigation canals, river embankment and surrounding walls for schools.

The schemes would be implemented in Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Ghor, Herat, Kandahar, Kunar, Khost, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktia, Samangan, Sar-i-Pul and Zabol provinces under observation of the Regional Programs (RP) of the MRRD, the source said.

The statement said 90 percent cost on 41 of the projects would be provided by the Ministry of Finance and 10 percent would be contributed by local development councils.

Two of the projects would be implemented with donation from India and the costs of the two other projects would be paid by Kazakhstan.

According to the statement, 132,467 local residents would benefit from the projects and thousands more would find job opportunities during their implementation.

Rural rehabilitation and development minister Eng. Nasir Ahmad Durrani asked the private companies to ensure that quality was maintained and the projects were completed in the stipulated time.

He said the aim of the projects was to connect rural and agricultural areas with the market and promote agricultural products. "The aim of water supply and building retaining walls is to protect farmlands from flooding and make them more productive," he said. (Pajhwok)

(8) Faryab Ladies ...

now, women have not had access to any formal sporting facility in the province. According to Shah Wali Parsa, the head of the Faryab sports department: "It is place of joy and pride that today our women can exercise at such a fitness center."

"Every human - men and women - need exercise and women need it more. Before there was no place for women to exercise and we are happy with the opening of this fitness center and I hope that all families let their daughters and wives exercise here," said one female gym member.

Faryab officials said the gym now enables local women to exercise in a safe and secure environment.

The officials called on government and the private sector to open more gyms around the country for women. (Tonlows)

(9) Senators ...

and electricity production.

Rouhani, during an international conference last week in Tehran, the capital of Iran, said: "Dams' construction in Afghanistan and Sistan-Baluchestan Province (in Iran) play a role in the desiccation of rivers." Rouhani further added that "people will be forced to leave their homes; civilizations will be destroyed." Najeeba Hussaini, a Meshrano Jirga or upper house member told Sunday's session that construction of power dams was Afghanistan's internal topic and Iran should pay for using Afghanistan's water over the past few decades." Nisar Haris, another senator, said the Afghan government should take the issue seriously and approach it through legal ways.

Gulalai Akabari, a legislator from Badakhshan province, said neighboring provinces had waged a war in Afghanistan for their own interests, but the Afghan people should continue developing their country with their hard work. According to her, recent stances of the neighboring countries, particularly of Iran, proved their enmity with Afghanistani people.

"The current war in which the people of Afghanistan are dying is only for water and mineral resources of Afghanistan," she said, adding the neighboring countries did not want Afghanistan become self-sufficient."

Mohammad Asif Sidiqi, 2nd deputy chairman of Meshrano Jirga, who chaired the session, said: "The ongoing war in Afghanistan is for water and minerals and for achieving them, neighboring countries finance terrorist groups every day to fuel fighting in Afghanistan, so the countries can easily reach their goals."

He termed recent Taliban attack on Salma Dam guards in Herat province as their overt opposition to Afghanistan's national interests, saying: "I feel pity for Afghan Taliban and for whatever they are fighting is actually implementation of neighboring and regional countries' projects in Afghanistan."

In the current situation, the Afghan government needed a strong policy for controlling and managing its water resources, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(10) Work on ...

was allocated as 'bonus' after an increase in the municipality's revenue last year.

He said the 10-metre wide road would be blacktopped seven centimeters and would be completed in two months.

Acting Governor Ghulam Muhiuddin Siddiqi said construction of other roads in Lashkargah city was also in their plans. "The roads which have been destroyed, we are trying to make funds available and rebuild them to reduce difficulties."

Abdul Khaleq, a resident of the area, said one side of the road, which had been built, was always busy and often witnessed traffic accidents. He hoped the road's rebuilding would help reduce traffic accidents.

Helmand is an insecure province where the Taliban are in control six out of 12 districts. (Pajhwok)

(11) Hundreds Killed...

district police chief Nafas Khan told Xinhua.

He also noted that the government forces would do their best to restore lasting peace and stability in the troubled district and adjoining areas.

Khan, however, contended that no security personnel have been harmed in the fighting for the control of the isolated Nawa district.

Disputing the claim, Zabihullah Majahid who claims to speak for the Taliban outfit, in contact with media asserted that the armed group after killing nine security personnel has forced the government forces to retreat Nawa district.

In identical operations, the government forces have been pounding Taliban hideouts in Faizabad district of the northern Jawzjan province and Chamtal district of Balkh province over the past five days, Jawzjan police chief Rahmatullah Turkistani said Sunday.

More than 50 Taliban fighters, according to Turkistani have been killed and dozens of others injured over the past five days, forcing militants to flee to the nearby mountains.

The security forces have also thwarted Taliban designs to capture Chamtal district bordering Faizabad district in Jawzjan, Turkistani said, adding the security forces would continue to target anti-government militants elsewhere in the country.

The Taliban group has speeded up activities since launching its so-called annual spring offensive launched in late April and since then has gain grounds

in parts of the country, although it has failed to overrun a city.

Afghan observers believe that the Taliban militants like past years would step up operations in summer to gain more grounds and consolidate positions ahead of winter in the mountainous Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

(12) Samangan's ..

Qari Ibadullah Mujahid said the Taliban killed Niamati about two kilometers away from the village hours after his abduction.

Baba Qanbar is located on the border with Dehna Ghor district of northern Baghlan province, Mujahid said. The Taliban came from Dehna Ghor and killed the peace body's public relations official, he added.

However, there was no claim of responsibility for the assassination and no arrests have been made so far in connection with the murder.

Mohammad Bai, head of the Samangan high peace committee, called the assassination of the public relation official 'a big loss', saying Niamatullah Niamati had been an active and a kind person.

He said nine days ago the Taliban killed another former jihadi commander named Abdul Ghafor in Khwaja Qashqar village of the district.

Qari Saifuddin Sadat, former Samangan peace committee head, was killed by an undefined person after offering evening's prayer in January 2016.

According to another report, two Taliban fighters were killed and three others wounded during a clash in north-eastern Badakhshan province.

Provincial police spokesman, Ahmad Zahid Omari, told Pajhwok that 35 policemen who were moving to Sar Safa area of Yaftal district for duty came under Taliban ambush.

In the ensuing clash, two Taliban militants were killed and three others wounded, with the police escaping unhurt.

The Taliban have not yet commented on the attacks so far. (Pajhwok)

(13) Hundreds ..

Wilmington port and aboard the vessel 'MV Glovis Sun' along with other equipment that were unloaded at the Karachi port last month.

Though the category of the trucks was not specified in the documents, port sources said they were Humvee vehicles which were under extensive use of the US army in Afghanistan.

About six months ago, another vessel carrying a small number of Humvee vehicles was unloaded at the Karachi port.

The documents confirm that the importer of the consignment was the US army and dates for the bill of lading were in April and May. The vehicles have a capacity of 2.5 tones.

The US has decided to increase the number of its troops in Afghanistan by another 4,500 men, adding to its current strength of 8,500 personnel.

Mohammad Radmanish, deputy spokesman for the Afghan defence ministry, told Pajhwok Afghan news the delivery of military vehicle was not a fresh development but the move was part of US and international community commitment to support Afghan security forces in different areas. (Pajhwok)

(14) Taliban Say ...

being dealt with in accordance with the law.

He said the Afghan government was committed to rights of all prisoners, including political. He said all officials concerned had been directed to behave in proper way with prisoners so they could live a normal life after their release. (Pajhwok)

(15) 7 Rebels ...

one Kalashnikov and five grams crystal substance was recovered from the detainees in Shakarkhelo area.

He said the detainees had confessed the smuggling of illicit substance during initial investigation. (Pajhwok)

(16) 5 Daesh ...

district by Afghan air force, said a statement from the spy-network.

Mullah Abulahad known as Hezbulah the key commander of the group, Qari Mahibulla known as Mustaar Imami, Mullah Sadruddin known as Ja-beer, Qari Mudoodi, Faiz Mohammad known as Zahar Mar were the Daesh commanders killed in the airstrike, according to the statement.

The insurgents were on their way to Darz Ab district in a corolla type vehicle when attacked by Afghan air force.

The exact time and date for the air raid on Daesh rebels was not mentioned. (Pajhwok)