

(1) Govt., Taliban ...

“There are people who want to talk and there could be people who would want to fight. But the group that has the largest number of fighters on the ground and is able to make an impact will have the sway. And that is the mainstream group that is holding the talks,” he said. Although, the agenda of this round of peace talks is not yet made public but a seize fire is expected to be on the top of it. In the first round of peace talks on July 7 Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Afghanistan's deputy foreign minister on political affairs, who was leading Afghan government delegation reportedly told Taliban delegation that fighting and peace talks cannot go together. (Tolonews)

(2) Children Main

Furthermore, the report stated that Afghan boys were also being subjected to forced labor in Iran in the construction and agricultural sectors.

“The purpose of this document is not to scold, it's not to name and shame. It is to enlighten and to energize and most importantly to empower people. By issuing it, we want to bring to the public's attention the full nature and scope of the \$150 billion dollar illicit trafficking industry and it is an industry,” said U.S. State Secretary John Kerry. The Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) however acknowledged the issue facing Afghanistan and blamed it on lack of employment and security.

According to MoRR statistics, over six million Afghan refugees are living in more than 70 countries of the world. Most of these refugees, according to MoRR, are forced to hard labor work.

“In a country where 40 percent of its citizens are jobless, there would [definitely] be high human trafficking,” MoRR spokesman Islamuddin Jurat said. “Insecurity and unemployment have forced our citizens to flee the country.”

The other major concern expressed in the report was about the Afghan migrants who have been forced into sex slavery in Greece - the major route Afghans use for getting to Europe.

Meanwhile, many Afghan asylum seekers, who have paid thousands of dollars to reach Europe, are being deported to Kabul.

“I spent over 10 days in a boat,” Ali Shabani - who was expelled from Sweden - told TOLONews. “If the European rescue boats had not helped us, we would have been dead now.”

Earlier this week, a report from Greece stated hundreds of Afghan refugees had set up camps in Athens, the Greek capital. Pedion Areos, a park in the center of Athens, has become a makeshift migrant camp where more than 420 people are currently staying. Many Afghans in those camps were hoping to move on to Germany and other countries in Europe. (Tolonews)

(3) Pakistan,

National Security Council, the Directorate of Military Operations and the Police, said to Dawn newspaper a military source who requested not to be named.

The source said that the meetings will be held in the city of Peshawar in the northwest province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Bilateral relations are complex, among other reasons, because the two governments accuse each other of supporting armed groups in neighboring territory.

Earlier this month Islamabad protested to the Afghan ambassador following the arrest of a Pakistani consular official in the neighboring country, days after an exchange of gunfire between soldiers of both nations at the border.

Twenty-four hours earlier, the Kabul authorities summoned the Pakistani ambassador, Abrar Hussain, after the armed conflict, which left an Afghan soldier dead and two wounded in the neighboring country.

Last month, Afghanistan accused Pakistani intelligence of planning and supporting the Taliban attack against the Kabul parliament, which was denied by the government of Nawaz Sharif.

Last December the Pakistani authorities initiated a plan to expatriate more than 1.5 million Afghans, after a deadly attack against a school in Peshawar, which killed 148 people, mostly children. Islamabad then said that the slaughter was planned in the other nation. Despite these disagreements, this month in Murree resort, about 60 kilometers from the capital, took place the first formal contact between the Afghan Taliban and the government of Ashraf Ghani, a process driven by the Pakistani army. “We are ready to go the extra mile. We are even willing to become guarantors for any peace agreement” in the neighboring country, said recently to The Express Tribune a senior Pakistani official. (Agencies)

(4) Turkmenistan Backs...

at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, said his country backed the reconciliation process in Afghanistan, which he called a close friend of Turkmenistan.

A statement from the Presidential Palace quoted President Ghani as saying that he looked forward to a visit in near future by his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow.

Ghani added Afghanistan wanted continued cooperation with Turkmenistan and the same would be discussed with Berdimuhamedow in areas of electricity, Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Iran railroad project, Afghanistan-Turkmenistan-Tajikistan railroad and other fundamental economic development projects. In a reference to insecurity in northern Afghanistan that slows down implementation of big trans-regional projects, the Afghan leader said they had initiated some serious efforts at improving security across Afghanistan particularly in the country's north.

Calling Turkmenistan and Afghanistan key economic partners, Ghani said it had been agreed among Afghanistan, India and Turkmenistan at this month's Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summits in Ufa, Russia, that work on the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India natural gas pipeline (TAPI) project should be started in these three countries.

This, the president said, he wanted to finalise with Berdimuhamedow upon his visit to Afghanistan. He said the project once completed would turn western Herat province into a transit region and Afghanistan would find access to the Mediterranean sea.

The Turkmen delegation said the Afghanistan conflict had domestic, regional and international aspects and Turkmenistan supported President Ghani's view that terrorists entered his country to destabilise the region.

The delegation said Turkmenistan had always insisted in international debates that the issues of terrorism and drugs were not confined to Afghanistan alone, but regional countries had to cooperate with Kabul in dealing with the twin menaces.

Afghan ministers of mines, public works, water and energy and head of the Administrative Affairs Department at the Presidential Palace were present at the meeting. (Pajhwok)

(5) Reports about

Quetta Shura were aware of Omar's demise, CBS reported.

An Afghan government official was quoted as saying that Pakistani authorities had recently confirmed the Taliban chief's death due to natural causes.

Under his leadership, the Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 when the hard-line regime was toppled as a result of a sustained US-led bombing blitz for sheltering Osama bin Laden and refusing to hand him over.

Meanwhile, the Taliban rejected reports regarding their chief's demise as groundless. A spokesman for the group told VOA Mullah Omar “is very much alive”. Officials familiar with the nascent peace process also denied the reports, saying they were aimed at derailing the second round of negotiations to be held in Pakistan later this week.

In the past too, there have been reports about the death of Mullah Omar, carrying a \$10 million US bounty on his head. However, they could not be verified.

On the eve of Eidul Fitr, he endorsed the first round of face-to-face peace parleys between Taliban and Afghan government representatives in Pakistan's tourist resort of Murree. (Pajhwok)

(6) Aziz Reiterates....

Minister Nawaz Sharif for promotion of regional peace and stability. There was a frank exchange of views on regional and global issues, the statement concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) Presidential....

for all employees of the national unity government are covered in the national budget, and if there are any payment issues they should be raised with the ministry.

“Each administration is included in the national budget and if their employees' salaries are not paid then they can apply to the ministry and the ministry will solve their problem,” MoF spokesman Abdul Rahim Alizai said on Monday.

According to the sources who spoke to TOLONews on condition of anonymity, a number of employees of the president's office have left their jobs after not receiving their salaries for several months. Some of the disgruntled former employees have reportedly gone to work for former president Hamid Karzai.

Officially, the Administrative Affairs Office and spokesmen for the president have declined to comment on the subject. (Tolonews)

(8) Kabul Commends

need for more frequent exchanges of visits and interaction between ulema, parliamentarians and students, particularly women delegations of the brotherly countries. (Pajhwok)

(9) Five Senior

to remove them,” the statement adds.

Saleem Khan Kundozai took office as the governor for Nangarhar province after its former governor Maulawi Attaullah Ludin resigned in May. He made tough commitments to fight the corruption while giving inaugural speech at the governor house. (Tolonews)

(10) Gambia, Russia....

of gold and foreign currency reserves for quasi-state groups,” he said.

Such quasi-state entities use the huge financial clout of the illegal drugs trade to attract and structure significant human resources. They offer their members an ideological basis that unites them, thus acquiring features of quasi-states, the Russian official explained.

“Boko Haram, Islamic State (Daesh) and a number of others are all examples of such evolution,” the Russian drugs tsar said.

In March, Ivanov said at a press interview that Daesh made up to \$1 billion annually from Afghan heroin trafficked through its territory. He predicted another record-high poppy harvest this year in the country. He also urged raising the issue of fighting the Daesh drugs trade on the highest international level, including at the UN as this is a global security threat.

Russia currently recognizes Daesh as terrorists, which means Russian citizens are banned from participating in these organizations or rendering any support to them under threat of criminal prosecution. The Russian Foreign Ministry earlier called upon all nations to recognize the two groups as terrorists.

In March, the head of Russia's State Security Council, Nikolay Patrusev, called on the international community to abandon double standards on terrorism and start fighting the threat in line with universally recognized norms of international law, reported RT.

In addition, Russian Muslim unions have issued fatwas against Daesh denouncing them as enemies of Islam and calling for the trial and punishment of all its members.

The signing which was held at the fringes of the Moscow-Africa Anti-Drug Dialogue last week also saw the Russian Federation sign similar agreements with Ethiopia and Mali at the end of the Dialogue.

This is connected to Moscow's target to cooperate with African countries to fight cartels that use the continent as transit to smuggle drugs into western countries.

Ousman Sonko, Gambia's Interior minister signed the agreement on behalf of the host while Victor Ivanov, the director of the Federal Drug Control Services of the Russian Federation assented for his country.

The Moscow-Africa Anti-Drug Dialogue sought to create a stronger cooperation between the Russian Federation and African countries in the fight against drug trafficking. More than ten African countries attended the dialogue. (Tolonews)

(11) IWA Calls....

remain deprived of literacy in the country,” IWA member Sami Popalzai said.

The IWA has called on the national unity government and Parliament, which is currently on summer recess, to immediate action and amend the access to information law as soon as possible. (Tolonews)

(12) Balkh Education....

still needed to bring improvements to the council's efficiency.

He said that despite their struggles, they had failed to bring changes to the health sector of the province.

Citing an example, Khairandish said that most of the patients complain they were not treated on time or they were not diagnosed properly in the provincial civil hospital therefore they prefer to be treated in private hospitals.

However, he said that improvement in the education sector which was made as a result of the provincial council was a big achievement for his office.

He added that his office evaluated problems of 40 schools to find solution to them in the past few months. Local people were directed to create local councils for evaluating educational process in their areas and report any problem they faced to the provincial council, Khairandish added, saying the move had caused big improvements to the education process.

But he called the appointment of uneducated people based on nepotism in Mazar-i-Sharif and districts' schools big challenges to the education sector.

He also hailed developments in Mazar-i-Sharif City in the recent years but expressed concerns on imbalanced constructions. Most of the areas where the population of people is more than other areas ignored, he said.

He said that Noor Khuda, Dasht Shor, Faqirabad, Ali Chopan and some other areas of the city were completely ignored from developments. (Pajhwok)

(13) Kandahar Gardens....

Zherai, Panjwai, Maiwand, Dand and Daman complain they are receiving very little or no water at all. The shortage is taking a heavy toll on their crops, causing them severe losses, the growers say, calling for immediate action to address the issue.

An orchard owner from the Pashmol are of Zherai district, Abdul Qayyum, told Pajhwok Afghan News irrigation water supply from the dam had been reduced drastically for the past few months. The water paucity has been damaging their farmland, he grumbles.

Some time back, he recalls, growers from different districts visited the governor's office to a lodge a complaint there and seek an early resolution to the problem. He claims there are several areas where irrigation water has completely dried up, pestering the growers who are about to harvest grapes and other fruits.

Haji Niamatullah, another gardener from Arghandab, is irritated by the erratic water supply that has adversely affected him. The district is dotted with pomegranate orchards, which need ample water at this point in the season. Lack of water inexorably translates into a reduced yield, he argues.

His counterpart from Daman district, Haji Nasrullah, says they are going through a double whammy: Water paucity and an encroachment on their right by certain strongmen, who are employing sheer force to irrigate their gardens out of turn. He wants the government to solve both problems on a priority basis. The dam's walls be heightened as soon as possible.

Arghandab irrigation chief Eng. Sher Mohammad Attayee links the water shortage to reconstruction work on the dam and other technical issues. As a consequence, farmers are being affected this season, he acknowledges, warning continued supplies would mean an end to the dam's water within a month. If the dam dries up, crops will suffer even greater damage, he argues, urging the growers to use the available irrigation water discreetly. At a recent meeting, the official told tribal elders and farmers the problem could be resolved if growers took turns irrigating their lands.

Deputy Governor Abdul Ali Sham-si, who recently met tribal elders from different districts on the situation, opines all farmers should equally benefit from the dam water as a matter of right. The officials concerned have been tasked with working out a merit-based schedule for irrigation water distribution,

he continues, stressing the available dam water should continue to meet agricultural needs for the next two months.

He asks residents to expose the powerful individuals who are usurping the water rights of others. The strongmen will be dealt with in accordance with the law and referred to judicial organs, the deputy governor promises.

Provincial officials recently said that 94 percent of reconstruction work on the Delhi dam had been done and the project would be completed soon. A Turkish firm embarked on the project, including the reconstruction of gates, a wall house and tunnels, two years back. The USAID-funded project will cost \$71 million. Under the scheme, the height of the dam's walls was to be raised to seven metres and six additional reservoirs were to be constructed. The project was estimated at \$308 million, with the Ministry of Finance agreeing to pay \$38 million. However, the ministry could not arrange the money and hence the delay. Raising the dam's height is necessary because it has already been hit by 40 percent of sedimentation. Previously, the facility could store 484mm cubes of water, but the capacity has now fallen to less than 300mm cubes. (Pajhwok)

(14) Coalition Advisers....

said Koenig.

The transition of such large facilities has three pillars: military, commercial and political, both on the coalition and Afghan side. Representatives from each pillar in Afghanistan are collaborating with coalition military and commerce department representatives to make this undertaking successful for the country. (Pajhwok)

(15) Women, Men....

She wrote the 35-metre lengthy and 25-centimeter wide letter about subjects discussing family problems concerning women and girls in Afghan society. (Pajhwok)

(16) Police Officers....

some of the selected individuals would be sent to other provinces for the same training. Meanwhile, Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi said appointing educated persons in police would help the force become professional and would lead to a reduced unemployment rate.

“About 600 people from eastern provinces today sat the exam. It shows our educated youth are enthusiastic to join the police force and defend the country,” Kunduzi remarked.

Training officer at the Police Training Centre, Col. Gula Jan, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they had for the first time initiated the process to train police officers. “They will undergo a six-month training and then will be distributed officer certificates.”

He said so far 60,000 police constables and corporals had graduated from the police training centre and it would for the first time that officers would graduate from the facility.

“Police officers are trained only in Kabul where the training takes two years, but the high school graduates will become officers in six months in Nangarhar,” Gula Jan said.

One of the test participants, Maroof, told Pajhwok Afghan News he was optimistic to be selected for the training.

He said he wanted to join the police force because he could not afford to pursue higher studies due to economic constraints. (Pajhwok)

(17) Civil Society Netwo....

eager for talks. But the conflict has expanded recently, he noted.

He said the talks without ceasefire would increase the mistrust between the two sides.

Regarding Pakistan's role in the talks, Jami said, the neighboring country has always played a double game in Afghanistan: “If the second round of the talks take place in Pakistan, there won't be any positive outcome.” Abdullah Ahmadi, a member of TJCC, said if the talks continued openly without behind-the-curtain dealings it would lead to a good path.

Issuing a joint statement the groups said a general ceasefire in all parts of the country should take place as a fundamental element of the talks so that it could create good faith among the people. Based on the Access to Information law, they demanded, the government should keep the masses and civil society groups informed about the peace parleys. The groups also suggested crea-

tion of a new entity to replace the High Peace Council because the council could not gain people's trust and confidence over the past few years. (Pajhwok)

(18) Civil Society Stresses.

members to join police department, although, the existence of policewomen was direly needed in the Afghan society.

Ahmad Shah Stanikzai, a civil society activist, said history showed Afghan women were brave and rendered greater sacrifices for the defence of motherland.

During a meeting with civil society activist and officials from the MoI, he said Afghan women actively took part in the political, social, economic and security development of the country in the past 14 years.

The meeting passed a resolution for effective implementation of suggestions embedded in the resolution for the promotion of women in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(19) Conflicting Views....

militants were killed and 17 others wounded during the clashes. He also confirmed the death of six ANA soldiers and seven civilians. But a statement from the 201st Sibal Military Corps received by Pajhwok Afghan News claimed 22 rebels were killed and 52 others wounded in Marawara fight.

It said that Pakistani military personnel identified as Omar was also among the dead.

The statement confirmed the loss of only three ANA soldiers in the conflict. On the other hand, Kunar Governor Wahidullah Kalimzai said that 12 insurgents were killed and 26 others injured in clashes in Marawara. He added that five soldiers were also killed and six others wounded.

However, a Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed killing 10 ANA soldiers in attacks on Kunar governor's house and some security posts on Tuesday. (Pajhwok)

(20) 5 Construction

behind the incident was unclear. The abductees included four workers and an architect, he said without identifying the construction company. Noorak area is currently under Taliban control. About a year ago, four workers of a construction company in Chaharsada district of the province were also kidnapped and then killed by militants. (Pajhwok)

(21) India Has....

difficult” and “would require a lot of transformation in the way we manage our economy”. He underlined that India will have to transform its agriculture completely, grow its services and manufacturing sectors and give a boost to healthcare and tourism. Garg noted that a “big challenge” will be to get people out of agriculture and use them in the manufacturing and services sectors, while also ensuring that agricultural production in the country increases. (CNN)

(22) U.S. Stocks....

zation, but we are not satisfied with our growth in audience,” said Jack Dorsey, interim CEO of Twitter, in a statement. Shortly after the opening bell, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 32.13 points, or 0.18 percent, to 17,662.40. The S&P 500 gained 3.85 points, or 0.18 percent, to 2,097.10. The Nasdaq Composite Index rose 12.92 points, or 0.25 percent, to 5,102.12. (Xinhua)

(23) Thailand's Tier-3....

What have several other countries done to get above the Tier-3 ranking, compared to Thailand which had already taken legal action against nearly 100 suspected human traffickers? “Let's accept the fact that we were wrong. There were rules about human traffickers by which we had earlier failed to abide. We were punished because we had not corrected our mistakes,” commented the Thai leader. Prayut pledged to continue to fight human traffickers following arrests of nearly 100 suspected traffickers allegedly preying on Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants in southern Thailand bordering Malaysia.. (Xinhua)

(24) Counter-Terrorism....

operate across national boundaries, Adesina added. He said the visit to Benin Republic will round off diplomatic shuttles to neighboring countries, which Buhari embarked upon on assumption of office in May. (Xinhua)