

(1) Multinational...

office will travel to the Russian capital to "partake" in the Friday meeting.

The Taliban have officially confirmed they would attend the multilateral meeting in Moscow on Friday, but a spokesman for the insurgent group clarified Tuesday its delegates will not engage in any Afghan peace and reconciliation talks at the Moscow gathering.

Zabihullah Mujahid said a high-ranking delegation from the Taliban's Qatar-based office will travel to the Russian capital to "partake" in the Friday meeting. He said the Taliban delegation included Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, Mualvi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Mualvi Shahbuddin Delawar, Mualvi Zia-ul-Rahman Madani and Mohammad Sohail Shahin.

In addition, representatives from 12 countries including representatives from Iran, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan arrived for the talks, officials said.

The US foreign ministry said that an official from the US Embassy in Russia would take part in the huddle.

The summit was said to be held in September 4th but it was delayed based on the Afghanistan government's request. (Pajhwok)

(2) Afghan Peace...

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that "we reaffirm our position on the lack of alternative to a political settlement in Afghanistan and the need for active coordinated efforts by Afghanistan's neighbouring countries and regional partners". (Reuters)

(3) Afghan Peace...

period the Afghans eluded decisiveness for making peace in their country and the only achievement was the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan's joining of the peace process. He said recent efforts of the US special representative, Zalmay Khalilzad, showed the peace process leadership was not with the Afghans.

Analysis

Omar Sadar said the survey findings showed 54 percent of those interviewed lacked enough knowledge about the peace process.

"44 percent of the interviewees have negative opinion about Taliban and Daesh and regard them the enemies of Afghans."

He said only three percent of the respondents called the Taliban as mujahideen and a vast majority believed the Taliban lacked the ability to run the government.

He said 63 percent of the respondents said peace programs in Afghanistan had been a failure.

He said 35 percent Afghans believed peace eluded Afghanistan because of interferences of neighboring countries and that the government lacked the ability to maintain peace.

Sadar said a majority of the survey participants wanted a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan conflict.

Most of the interviewees supported an Afghan-led peace process. (Pajhwok)

(4) U.S. Peace Envoy...

The Taliban are fighting the U.S.-backed Kabul government to re-impose strict Islamic law and have stepped up attacks in strategic provinces.

A senior Taliban official said after last month's talks that Khalilzad had asked the Taliban leadership,

based in the Qatari capital Doha, to declare a ceasefire in Afghanistan for six months.

In exchange, the Taliban want the Afghan government to release fighters from jails and the swift removal of foreign forces fighting alongside Afghan troops.

A statement by the U.S. embassy in Kabul about Khalilzad's diplomatic tour in October did not confirm his meeting with the Taliban. (Reuters)

(5) Grand Alliance...

purpose, if they win the election, a presidential decree would be issued to convene a loya jirga and amend the Constitution.

The grand political alliance is a coalition of Junbish-i-Milli Islami party led by first vice president Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, Jamiat-i-Islami led by Atta Mohammad Noor and Hezb-i-Wahdat Islami and other political groups. New National Front party led by Anwarul Haq Ahadi parted ways with the alliance a few days ago over the creation of a prime minister post and three deputies to the president.

Ahmad Zia Massoud warned the election commission that the country could descend into a serious political crisis if the electoral body failed to separate biometrically verified and non-verified votes in the next year's presidential election.

Another member of the grand alliance leadership council, Humayun Humayun, said the alliance would not accept the results of the Wolesi Jirga elections if biometric and non-biometric votes were not told apart. (Pajhwok)

(6) Sima Samar...

Afghan News shows that Sima Samar, current AIHRC head, and Qadaryar YazdanParast, another member of the commission, are shortlisted for AIHRC membership.

Former president Hamid Karzai decreed AIHRC on June 2002 after the Bunn Agreement. Sima Samar, who was appointed as the first head of the commission after its establishment, is still serving on the position.

Samar wants to remain on her position in appointments of fresh commissioners for AIHRC.

According to the Article 7 of AIHRC, the commission is comprised of nine members including men and women who are appointed by the president for a period of five years. The head of the commission is also one among the members who is also appointed by the president.

The joint statement said after reviews of documents of the applicants, the joint work group found 330 people including 62 of them women and 268 others men eligible for membership of the AIHRC. From the list, the work group found 210 of applicants including 43 women and 168 men meeting the membership standards of the commission but only 181 applicants including 35 of them women and 146 men appeared for interview, the source said.

The statement said [t]he joint committee of the civil society held a second phase of interviews for the applicants on October 7 and marks of candidates were reviewed.

After the review of marks of the applicants, 105 of them including 35 women and 70 men were interviewed for a second time and 81 of the candidates including 33 women and 48 men were eventually accepted as eligible for the membership of the AIHRC and introduced to the Presidential Pal-

ace, the statement added.

"The joint civil society committee is proud of discharging its responsibility according to the presidential decree and procedure of the joint civil society committee with honesty and impartiality, this committee requests the Presidential Palace and the review committee to select members of AIHRC from the list in the shortest time possible so the commission continues its activities," the statement said.

As the office term of the current commissioners ended four months back, the Presidential Palace released the decree for identifying and appointing new members of the AIHRC.

Based on the decree, the chief justice is head of the review committee with the attorney general, justice minister, women's affairs minister and head of Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of Constitution (ICOIC) members of the committee.

The committee would suggest 27 individuals to the President for final approval as AIHRC members in consideration of the organizational and authorities law of the commission.

The article 1 of the organizational and authorities law of the AIHRC says: "The work group should be comprised of seven members from representatives of the civil society for simplification of the appointment of AIHRC members through a transparent and inclusive process."

Introduction of 81 individuals for AIHRC membership also drew some criticism.

Khushal Khalil, who nominated as commissioner and was selected in the list of 110 individuals, said that people occupying these positions must have education in legal studies and social sciences, work experience in the two areas and good background of human rights values according to the procedure for candidates.

Based on the Paris Principles, the candidates for membership of AIHRC should at least be able to represent one of intellectual, philosophic and jurisprudence schools, he said.

"I considered myself as eligible for the commissioner position of AIHRC as I have nine years of work experience in this commission, I have written for years about human rights... and I was the only candidate who prepared a written plan for improvement of human rights in the country," he said.

He said he was included in the list of 110 candidates and he secured good marks, but his name was removed from the final list of 81 candidates. "In the final list, some candidates even do not know the ABC of human rights", he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) MoD Sends in...

of being negligent regarding the Jaghori attack.

The MPs said although they repeatedly urged government to send backup forces to Jaghori, security departments did nothing to help.

The Jaghori district clashes come just three months after Taliban launched group attacks on Ghazni and seized parts of the city. (Tolo news)

(8) Pakistan...

led the Pakistan side in the meeting, which discussed matters related to Afghan refugees and other categories of Afghan nationals residing in Pakistan. (Agencies)

(9) MoU Signed...

and would bear a total cost of \$400 million.

The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank would fund the project, ARG Palace said, adding that the reconstruction work of the dam would be implemented in four phases.

According to ARG Palace, the dam walls would be raised to 12 meters in the phase of the reconstruction work that would increase the dam reservoir from 298 million cubic meters to 798 cubic meters.

The second phase include irrigation system which would help with the irrigation of 20 thousand hectares more land, third phase include supply of drinking water to Kandahar city and the villages located in its proximity, and the fourth phase include generation of 24 megawatts of electricity for Kandahar city. (KP)

(10) Most Incidents of...

not like a hostile brother."

Mohammad Younis Qanoni, a former vice president, hailed the efforts of Musafa Kazami and said: "Kazami had special plans and programs which could bring drastic change in the lives of Afghans." He criticised the conduct of Wolesi Jirga polls and demanded the election commission to reveal the true results of elections. (Pajhwok)

(11) Azerbaijani Peacekeepers...

leadership of Azerbaijan for the active cooperation in this field.

Referring to the excellent service of Azerbaijani peacekeepers, General Lyons stressed that the participation of Azerbaijani soldiers in the mission in Afghanistan is an integral part of the cooperation between Azerbaijan and the United States, as well as Azerbaijan and NATO.

During the meeting, the sides also exchanged views on bilateral military cooperation. (Trend)

(12) Leaving Afghanistan...

that they could not win on the battlefield.

"It's pointless continuing to fight, it's counter-productive to continue to fight and that they can achieve more by sitting down and engage in constructive talks to find a political, peaceful solution."

The NATO chief welcomed President Ghani's unconditional peace talks offer to the Taliban and the US initiative to initiate preliminary talks with the rebels.

"But we need to combine these peace initiatives with continued military support. There is no contradiction between being firm and strong on the battlefield and at the same time engage in political efforts."

"Actually, as long as we are strong, as long as we provide continued military support to the Afghan forces, that's the best way to create a platform for a political, negotiated solution."

He said NATO mission in Afghanistan was the alliance biggest military operation.

"It's the only time NATO has invoked Article 5 and we did so after attack on the United States, 09/11/2001 and therefore, you are actually serving in the biggest and the most demanding and challenging NATO operation." (Pajhwok)

(13) US War on Terror...

millions of people in the three countries - with the highest number in Afghanistan.

The report indicates that 2.61 million people were displaced during the war in Afghanistan.

It says that about half of the 2.6

million refugees from the war in Afghanistan are found in Pakistan (1.3 million people). More than 900,000 Afghans are living in Iran. Most refugees from the war against ISIS in Iraq and Syria have been hosted in Turkey - nearly 3.5 million people. Iran is also hosting nearly a million Syrians and Iraqis.

In Europe, some countries, most notably Turkey, have accepted many refugees; others, for instance Italy, have criminalized refugees and those who assist them. Even when the wars end and the refugees and internally displaced persons return to their homes, there will be a lasting legacy, the report says.

"This update just scratches the surface of the human consequences of 17 years of war," the report said in its conclusion. (Tolo news)

(14) Afghan Hindus...

to them many Afghan Hindus and Sikhs have left the country over the past years.

"We don't want to hold Diwali festival this year due to Jalalabad incident and the loss of important figures such as Gen. Raziq and Jabar Qahraman," said Sorpal SinghKhalisa, deputy head of a committee of Hindus and Sikhs.

Diwali is one of the most valued festivals for Hindus and Sikhs in the world and they celebrate it by music, fireworks and lighting candles.

"In previous years, we were doing fireworks and based on the principles of the festival, our sisters were coming and we were giving them their expenses as gift and we were very happy," said Cartar Singh, a resident of Kabul, who explained their excitement in Diwali celebrations of previous years.

"This festival was celebrated widely in Afghanistan in previous years, but now our population has decreased here. In the past, we were 120,000 families in Afghanistan," said Ragbir Singh, member of Hindus and Sikhs committee of Dharamsala in Kabul. Hindus and Sikhs have lived in Afghanistan for generations; however, various conflicts have forced many of them to leave the country and settle elsewhere. (Tolo news)

(15) 11 ALP Personnel...

Abdul Jalil Sediqui, administrative chief for Khashrud district, said the clash continued for two hours. (Pajhwok)

(16) Policeman among...

The clash ended after reinforcements approached.

Meanwhile, Abdul Jabbar, a resident of Aqha district, said that security situation was deteriorating in the district since the last six months. "Insurgents are operating only a kilometer away from the district center and they attack Afghan forces every night there," he said.

Afghan forces do not have the ability to repulse insurgents' attacks and they defend their posts only, he added. The insurgents may soon capture this district if the situation not improved, he concluded.

Taliban did not comment yet about the incident. (Pajhwok)

(17) Taliban's Red...

However, the 209th Shaheen Corps said the identity of the slain Red Unit commander of the Taliban has not been ascertained so far.

In the meantime, the 209th Shaheen Corps said another commander of the Taliban identified as Mullah Najibullah was among at least 13 militants who sustained injuries during the clash.

The anti-government armed militant groups including Taliban have not commented regarding the report so far. (Pajhwok)