

Clean and Green Pakistan Drive a National Cause: Murad Saeed

ISLAMABAD - Minister of State for Communications Murad Saeed has said, under Prime Minister's Clean & Green Pakistan drive, afforestation programme along more than 1200 KMs Motorways and Highways Network of National Highway Authority will help solve issues being faced due to climatic change in the country.

In the past trees valuing Rs.300 Billion were cut down in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Trees play vital role to avoid natural calamities like floods and heat wave.

He was addressing a ceremony held in connection with Clean Green Pakistan at Construction Technology Training Institute (CTTI) Islamabad. Secretary Communications Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, Chairman NHA



Jawwad Rafique Malik and senior officers from Ministry of Communications, NHA & CTTI participated. Director CTTI threw light on functioning and achievements of the Institute. Murad Saeed said, Clean & Green Pakistan drive is adopting form of national cause under which we are to protect our forests and to contribute for planting more & more saplings throughout the country. (Monitoring Desk)

Russia, Germany, France and Turkey Meet for Four-Way Syria Summit

ISTANBUL - The leaders of Russia, Germany, France and Turkey gathered in Istanbul on Saturday for a summit on Syria, where violence this week in the last remaining major rebel stronghold highlighted the fragility of a deal to avert a massive government offensive.

Ankara, which has long backed rebels seeking to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad, and Moscow, Assad's principal foreign ally, brokered the deal last month to create a demilitarized zone in the northwest Idlib region.

Idlib and adjacent areas are the last stronghold of the rebels, who rose up against Assad in 2011. The area is home to an estimated 3 million people, more than half of whom have already fled other areas as govern-



ment forces advanced. Shelling in Idlib killed at least seven civilians on Friday, the largest one-day loss of life there since Russian air strikes stopped in mid-August, a war monitor said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and Erdogan are due to have four-way talks in Istanbul on Saturday. (Reuters)

Protect Europe Like Asterix's Village, Says Czech PM

PRAGUE - Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis on Saturday compared Europe to "the village of Asterix and Obelix", saying its frontiers must be defended from migrants.

Babis, who is known for his anti-migrant stance, made the comments while visiting a museum in Prague with French President Emmanuel Macron.

"The Czech Republic has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Europe," he said. "All those who come have a work permit. One must have the same system in Europe."

Babis met German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday and both



agreed on the need to focus on economic development in Africa to try to slow migration into the European Union.

The Czech Republic and fellow eastern EU states Hungary, Po-

land and Slovakia have rejected a German-backed EU plan to introduce a mandatory quota system to distribute migrants and refugees across the bloc, following the 2015 migrant crisis. (AFP)

Iran President Urges Parliament to Approve 4 New Ministers



TEHRAN, Iran - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has urged Parliament to approve four new ministers and help his government "resist" and "fight" the U.S. as it reinstates sanctions against

the Islamic Republic. Rouhani's comments came as lawmakers were discussing the vote for candidates for the ministries of Labor, Finance, Industry and Transportation. (AFP)

(1) 'Wolesi Jirga...

have also been tasked with checking female voters.

According to Danish, Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and intelligence operatives in coordination with police have thrown a security blank all around the province.

The voting in Kandahar was delayed for a week after the assassination of former Kandahar Police chief Gen. Abdul Raziq in a Taliban-claimed insider's attack two days before the Oct 20 polls.

Abdul Aziz Ibrahim, deputy IEC spokesman, said as many as 111 people, including 12 women, have jumped into the electoral fray in Kandahar, where 173 polling stations are set up.

He said a large number of people participated in the voting process as voters waited in long queues in the morning.

Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) spokesman Syed Shah Saqem said the voting began in Kandahar as deputy governor Abdul Hanan cast his vote in a polling station early in the morning. (Pajhwok)

(2) Envoy Says...

According to the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS), the conference will mainly discuss Afghanistan's 40 years crisis, the reasons which have caused the crisis and also will seek ways to resolve the crisis and get the country out of the current situation.

"We contacted the Taliban based on the suggestion from the central government in Kabul and still we are in contact and we will try to help Taliban and the Afghan government to find a shared language and I am hopeful that we will finally achieve this goal," said Irgashev. He said Tashkent will continue its efforts to increase the annual trade volume between the two countries to \$1 billion. He said this will be done by providing more facilities to Afghan investors. The AISS chairman Daud Moradian said at the conference that conflict

of interests and contradictions of thoughts of different stakeholders in Afghanistan is one of the main reasons behind the 40 years crisis in the country.

"We will try to at least encourage warring parties to talk and the talks will help in reducing violence in Afghanistan," said Moradian.

"We should refer to talks and negotiations. Instead of the culture of violence and rejecting each other, we should move towards accepting each other and have cultural relations," said Rangin Dadfar Spanta, former national security advisor.

William Meley, a professor from Australian National University, who has written a book on Afghanistan's history said Afghans cannot reach a peace agreement among themselves until insurgents commute in borders between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"As long as there are cross-border sanctuaries in Pakistan from which groups like Taliban can operate, it is going to be exceedingly difficult to make effective use of the broad disposition amongst Afghans," said Meley.

Other speakers of the event said corruption and geopolitical issues are other reasons behind Afghanistan crisis.

"Political and security crisis has intensified. In my point of view, today, the geopolitical crisis has also intensified. It means, in different layers, competitions formed in Afghanistan between national, regional and international players in Afghanistan on gaining resources and having influence," said Sardar Mohammad Rahimi, political affairs analyst and university lecturer.

Herat Security Dialogue will continue for two days. The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies says Taliban was also invited for the conference. (Tolo news)

(3) Iran, Afghanistan...

transactions with Iran, the official said Kabul currently does not have the necessary banking system and infrastructures to pay Iranian trad-

ers with dollar.

Based on the talks between the two sides, Salimi added, a branch will open in each country via which the foreign currency (dollar) will be transferred safely. he did not provide further details.

He added that traders from the government and the private sector are all of the opinion that the revenues from exports should return to the country as soon as possible so as to oil the wheels of the industry; however "modifying the procedures and providing the new infrastructures will take time". (Agencies)

(4) Survey Finds...

smiled or laughed the previous day -- down from 64 percent in 2012.

Gallup took the survey in July in face-to-face interviews of 1,000 Afghans.

More than 8,000 people were killed or wounded in Afghanistan between January and September, with the country on track to be deadlier than Syria this year.

The United States has increasingly appeared to be looking for an exit strategy after 17 years of war in Afghanistan, with a US envoy recently holding talks in Qatar with a representative of Taliban insurgents.

Some four million Afghans last weekend voted in long-delayed legislative elections amid widespread accounts of polling problems. (AFP)

(5) Afghanistan to...

we will open air corridors with China cities in the near future to start pine nuts exports," said Rasa. Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) meanwhile said Afghan investors have almost 5,000 tons of pine nuts ready for exporting to China. Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO of the ACCI, said only one Afghan factory has prepared 3,000 tons of pine nuts to export to China.

"Afghanistan is one of the biggest producers of pine nuts in the region. But when we look at pine nuts exports, a high amount of the pine nuts is not sent directly from Afghanistan, but is exported from

neighboring countries, especially Pakistan," he said. "Statistics show that more than 10,000 tons of our pine nuts are being exported from Pakistan to China every year."

Officials said the Ministry of Economy has prepared an outline titled "Productive Afghanistan" which predicts that Afghanistan's revenues from pine nuts will increase to \$1 billion annually - if pine nuts smuggling to Pakistan stops.

Based on assessments of the Ministry of Economy, government will earn almost \$2 billion annually from selling pine nuts, given that processing centers and modern packaging facilities are established in the country.

According to Ministry of Economy, Afghanistan's total export value is around \$800 million annually.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock meanwhile said that at least 23,000 tons of pine nuts is produced in the country every year. However, investors said that almost 33,000 tons of pine nuts is produced in the country annually.

Afghanistan's south-east provinces - Paktia, Paktika and Khost - are the biggest pine nuts producers in the country. (Tolo news)

(6) Woman, Teenage...

Hamidullah Azimi, provincial Human Rights Commission head, confirmed the incident and said the murderer had been arrested by security forces.

"We will closely follow this incident in judicial organs so the criminal is punished according to the law," he said.

He said 27 murder and suicide cases of women were registered by the commission in Faryab this year.

Meanwhile, Faryab police said the body of a teenage boy was found from a well in the first police district of Faryab city on Friday night. Police spokesman said the victim Shah Mohammad, 15, had been shot dead. Two people have been detained in connection with the in-

cident, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) 7 People Killed...

The Kabul-Kandahar highway had also been closed as a result of the bombing but reopened for traffic after few hours.

Taliban claimed credit for the bomb attack. Zabihullah Mujahid, the group's spokesman, claimed dozens of security forces were killed and wounded in the attack. (Pajhwok)

(8) Petrol, Gold...

food items, the prices of sugar and flour have increased.

Food Traders Union head in Kabul, Fazal Rahman, said that the price of 49 kilograms of Pakistani sugar increased from 1,620afis to 1,740afis and 50 kilograms of Kazakhstani flour from 1,320afis to 1,340afis.

However, he said that 24-kg of Pakistani rice cost 2,020afis and a tin of 16 liter of Khurshid ghee 1,020afis, the same prices of last week's.

Noor Ahmad Khairkhwa, a tea seller in Kabul Mandavi, said a kilogram of Indonesian green tea cost 280afis and the same amount of African black tea 300afis -- same prices as last week's.

Ahmad Wali Panjsheri, who owns a grocery store in Dahn-i-Bagh area of Kabul, sold a 50-kg sack of Kazakhstani flour for 1,400afis, a 49-kg bag of sugar for 1,800afis, 24-kg of Pakistani rice 2,400afis a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,150afis, one-kg of Indonesian green tea for 300afis and the same amount of black African tea for 350afis -- higher than wholesale rates.

The prices of gold also jumped up. Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweler in Timor Shahi area of Kabul, said the price of one gram of Arabian gold was increased from 2,300afis to 2,400afis and the same quantity of Russian variety from 1,850afis to 1,900afis.

According to Haji Mir Hussain Sadaqat, owner of Sadaqat Money Exchange Services in Kabul, one US dollar accounted for 75.25afis and 1,000 Pakistani rupees 586afis against last week's 75.80afis and 586afis. (Pajhwok)