

(1) Kabul Expects Positive ...

Shekib Mustaghni, foreign ministry spokesman said.

A number of parliament members meanwhile said the Afghan delegation that participated at the meeting should have full authority to deliver their demands clearly. Before this, five quadrilateral meetings were held and a road map was sketched out for peace, but after the meetings, Pakistan was accused of not fulfilling its promises and the follow up meeting was delayed for one year.

The first quadrilateral meeting was held between Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and US on the sidelines of Heart of Asia Summit in 2015 and following that, four other meetings were held in Kabul and Islamabad. (Tolonews)

(2) China Ready to ...

Afghanistan issue.

"I hope relevant parties linked to Afghanistan will sit together and have talks. China will play a constructive role in Afghanistan," he said, ahead of China's 19th National Congress of the Communist Party. Yao Wen said China would continue to play its role in finding resolution to the Afghan conflict and China has been trying along with other countries to facilitate direct talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban to find solution to the decades-old conflict. (Pajhwok)

(3) Abdullah Raises ...

food and promoting better diet for women and children is one of the biggest goals of the Agenda.

"We had policies, we had methods, we worked on different strategies at different times, but the need for their coherence was felt and understood. Hence, our responsibility to ensure the safety of food was linked to various ministries and institutions. We came to the conclusion that we (need to) establish the National Food and Nutrition Agenda (AFSeN)," said Abdullah.

"From the time of birth to the age of two, is the most important time for us to reach a child's life ... if nutrition is right from conception till the age of two, diseases are eliminated among children," said Minister of Public Health Ferozuddin Feroz.

"This is essential so as to make sure malnutrition becomes something of the past for all women, men and their families and I am confident that by bringing the different sectors at government level and different departments together and making them work together you will create, reproduce very good results in putting in place a range of policies and programs to improve nutrition," said Gerda Verburg, United Nations assistant secretary general and coordinator of the scaling up nutrition (SUN) movement.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation said there is the need for more investment in the agricultural sector in the country in order to combat malnutrition and poverty.

"Food insecurity in Afghanistan is increasing, statistics show that the lack of food safety in 2011 and 2012 was more than 30 percent but this figure has risen to 33 percent in the year 2014," said Nasir Ahmad Durani acting minister of agriculture, irrigation and livestock.

At the end of the meeting, government agencies and representatives from countries and organizations that have backed AFSeN committed to engaging in these initiatives.

"I preach on behalf of Afghanistan, on behalf of FAO, support commitment of my organization to promote Afghanistan food security and nutrition agenda," said Tomio Shichiri, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) representative in Afghanistan.

Lack of food safety is a major dilemma in the country and based on recent surveys, currently, 33 percent of the country's citizens are vulnerable to food insecurity, of which most of them are women and children. (Tolonews)

(4) NYPD Team in ...

Atmar met with the high-level delegation and discussed with them strengthening of Afghanistan police and reforms in the force.

Atmar told the delegation that Afghan police besides ensuring security and public order fought on the frontline against terrorism, something that made the Afghan police unique. "Our police forces have always prevented terrorist activities with great valor."

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the NYPD, especially its anti-terrorism sector, has played a vital role in building relations and trust between police and ordinary people, the statement said.

NYPD has been successful in preventing organized crimes in New York City and has significant experience in this regard. The visiting delegation is going to share its experiences with the Ministry of Interior in fighting against corruption, reforms and combating terrorism.

The NYPD delegation's arrival to Afghanistan is part of US President Donald Trump's promise of assisting the Afghan government in bringing about reforms and strengthening security sector.

The delegation is set to meet Afghanistan security sector authorities. (Pajhwok)

(5) TAPI Gas Pipeline ...

launch the project in Afghanistan.

"When the pipeline arrives at the Herat border the Afghanistan government will start work on the following important works, first it will conduct technical ground and air surveys and more importantly, the route that the pipeline runs through will be cleared of mines," said mines ministry spokesman Abdul Qadeer Mufti.

But economic analysts said that government is moving forward slowly especially given the length of pipeline that will cross Afghanistan.

"It was said that the project will be implemented in 2017 but now they said that it will be implemented in 2020. However, as the government's actions show, its work may not end by the year 2020," said Abdul Wasi Haidari an economics analyst.

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum says that it is currently advising residents in areas that will be affected on the project.

The pipeline will be 1,735 kilometers long and has the capacity of transferring 33 billion cubic meters of gas from Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India through Herat, Farah, Helmand and Nimroz provinces of Afghanistan.

The implementation of TAPI will earn Afghanistan up to \$500 million USD a year in transit duties. The project will also help Afghanistan to purchase 1.5 billion cubic meters of gas for thirty years at a reasonable price. The gas will be utilized in Hajigak iron mine and Mes Aynak copper project.

Some 200 kilometers will pass through the territory of Turkmenistan, 735 kilometers through Afghanistan, 800 kilometers through Pakistan up to Fazilka settlement on the border with India. (Tolonews)

(6) Only Reforms...

did not act in accordance with people's request, the people themselves based on their legitimate right could take steps for change and reforms.

Rabbani also said the current government lacked the capability to hold Wolesi Jirga and district council elections on the due date. He urged the government hold elections on the given date in order to restore public trust.

"Budget for electoral commissions, polling stations and registration of voters remain ambiguous which shows the election authorities are unable to conduct polls in time."

The JIA head, pointing to insecurity in Badakhshan, said: "The conflict in Badakhshan is a project but there is no ideological similarity between residents of Badakhshan and the controllers of the project." (Pajhwok)

(7) An Independent ...

IWA CEO Sayed Ikram Afzali said.

In reaction to these remarks, the National Unity Government (NUG) said the strategy is comprehensive and an effective option for tackling corrupt people and eradicating corruption.

"The main focus of the strategy is on the ministries that have the most revenues and expenditures and that all the offices should put into practice their operational plans based on the strategy framework," the president's deputy spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazavi said.

A number of parliament members meanwhile said the only way to fight corruption is to stop the culture of impunity and to investigate major cases and to everyone guilty of corruption accountable.

"Now the situation is worse even those who are involved in corruption do not worry, because they have supporters," MP Sayed Ali Kazimi said.

Transparency in policies, good leadership, good financial and resources management, transparency in recruitment processes and establishing a special court to address land grabbing cases are the main principles of the new anti-corruption strategy. (Tolonews)

(8) OSCE-Supported ...

new tools to further enhance regional economic co-operation in Central, South and Southwest Asia. The event was organized by the Centre for Strategic Studies of Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry in partnership with the Institute of International Relations of Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, OSCE said in a release.

The speakers focused on enhancing regional co-operation in the field of energy, assessing regional and inter-regional connectivity and the potential for regional trade and transit facilitation. The forum participants exchanged views on how regional economic initiatives and projects can contribute to regional security and stability and explored new areas for economic co-operation and integration in the region with a focus on the role of Afghanistan.

"The OSCE has been making continuous efforts to assist Afghanistan through various activities and the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat supported today's event within the framework of its extra-budgetary project aimed at facilitating dialogue on regional

infrastructure among stakeholders of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process," said Natalya Drozd, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat.

"Today's forum offered an excellent opportunity for enhancing dialogue on strengthening economic co-operation on Afghanistan among different international, regional and national stakeholders," she added.

It is expected that key outcomes of the academic forum will contribute to the main forum and working group sessions of RECCA VII, which are planned to be held in November in Ashgabat.

Since 2005, the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) has served as a leading platform for cross-border economic dialogue, trust building, and action in Central, South and Southwest Asia. The RECCA Academic Forum is a platform for scholars, policy analysts and policymakers from across the region to identify opportunities and challenges and respond to the barriers that hinder economic co-operation across the wider region. (AKI)

(9) Afghan Student Develops ...

internet clubs and people can go there to use Chattak app. Because people do not have to use their Chattak accounts more than two to three times a month," Nusrat added.

Nusrat said he has spent over eight months developing this app and now a number of government and foreign organizations are reviewing the app's performance.

"If government wants to support the next generation, they should support such innovations," Agha Malok Sahar, a computer science graduate student said.

Although Nusrat hopes his app will be used nationwide in the near future, he is still waiting for the result of the organizations' review of the app's performance. (Tolonews)

(10) Afghan Troops ..

for the provincial police headquarters in Kandahar, told Anadolu Agency.

Earlier, Zabihullah Mujahed, spokesman for the Taliban, claimed on Twitter the militant group had overrun the security check posts in the district and killed 12 security personnel.

Janan Gulzay, representative of Maruf district in Kandahar Provincial Council, told the Pashto language service of local Azadi Radio that the Taliban had gained control over the district.

Despite being the birthplace of the Taliban movement, Kandahar nowadays enjoys relatively peaceful environment compared to the restive neighboring provinces such as Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan and Ghazni. Maruf district was the site of a deadly suicide car bombing by the Taliban on September 27 that killed 12 members of the security forces.

According to the estimates by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), a U.S. watchdog, the Taliban control 11 districts and influence 34 of 407 districts (11 percent), while the government controls 97 districts and influences 146 districts (60 percent).

In its most recent quarterly report to the U.S. Congress, SIGAR noted that 27 percent of Afghan districts remain contested. (AA)

(11) As Afghan War ...

the provincial councilwoman, who is just 30, adding, "Unfortunately, these days violent extremism has a bigger advertising budget than does the promotion of peace." Confronting the horrors of a war they hope to end one day, young Afghans are making themselves heard through traditional media and on the Internet. These Afghans, many educated and non-traditional, are countering messages from militant groups which seek to play upon ethnic and religious differences to encourage violence.

The young Afghan voices are organic. They belong to students, young politicians, and also journalists. In the case of Asia Television, support from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) helps sustain a regular peace dialogue which runs alongside a slate of soap operas and other entertainment shows. The support is part of a nationwide UN effort to invest in peace, and the show's producers say it sends a strong message and helps drive grassroots conflict resolution.

Young Afghans remain highly susceptible to war propaganda, which comes in the form of street whispers and threats over social media. At the same time, it is a challenge for the central government to win the respect of young Afghans, especially in distant provinces. "Without security, we can't have peace," says Arash Majedi, 23, who serves lamb and chicken kabobs in a strobe-lit shisha café, which plays a steady beat of Iranian rap music. "It is the responsibility of the government to stop someone from blowing us up." Set on the western edge of Afghanistan, surrounded by pockets of war and bordering Iran, Herat is a five thousand-year-old center of Asian culture caught between a tide of extremism and popular, albeit ancient, traditions of cultivating flower gardens and reciting poetry with friends and relatives.

"Insurgents are active in almost all the districts around us," said Said Sayedi, 28,

who heads a conflict resolution center in Herat, which has struggled for funding in recent years. "In some cases, foreign powers are trying to dominate more moderate insurgent groups to keep other militants in check."

"We try to encourage independent thinking and help the young choose non-violence," he said. "This needs to be elaborated in order that they can break free." Sayedi concedes that there are many "no go zones" around Herat where conflict resolution experts can't enter. "We would need an escort to go south to Shindand district. There are lots of kids - 15 and 16 years old - who are being recruited there by rival factions."

The brittle lines between war and peace shift daily like a twisting viper in the sands around Herat. UN officials said local peace initiatives remain in dire need of more outside help to sustain their work. "Afghan youth are actually reaching out to the UN and conveying to us their wish that the UN [and others] can play a new role in regional peace negotiations," said Najibullah Rezaee, a UN political affairs officer.

Even as the battle for the hearts of young Afghans intensifies, new voices are speaking up. "Despite the challenges and marginalization young Afghans face, they still are carrying out a new and dynamic role in support of peace," said Fraidoon Poya, a public affairs officer with UNAMA in Herat.

Behind the iron gates of Herat University, built to a modern and spacious design after the fall of the Taliban in 2001, Arman Qaderi, 23, a senior in the law faculty, organizes classes and edits texts on peace. His Peace Club has produced, with the help of Professor Nasir Rahimi, a systematic approach to changing minds and behavior.

"The most important thing we can do is help to motivate people who already feel the urge for peace," said Qaderi. A colleague Fardina Salehi, 28, works as a financial secretary and also as an instructor in peacemaking. "Here in Afghanistan, we experience more war than we do peace," said Salehi. "I've learned that peace starts in the family and moves to society. Our approach is totally different than any of the other classes taught here at Herat University. We approach learning through discussion, participation and brainstorming."

"Due to ongoing conflict, we are all in violence with each other - even within our own families," said Salehi. "When I watch violence on TV, my mind is further disturbed. We all have to seek ways to calm our minds."

Professor Rahimi said he has seen a change sweeping across the campus in Herat. In a walk with students down to a newly-inaugurated Park for Peace, he reflects on some changes he's seen in recent years. He says peace is not an easy path, but one with a growing following.

Recently, twenty students from the Sharia Law faculty took a two week journey to India to walk in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi. The tour included visits to Gandhi's home and to his ashram. When violence engulfed Herat on a recent week, these same students helped to organize a city-wide blood drive to support victims of sectarian violence.

"When we began our peace initiative, a lot of students doubted the approach: They said, 'You can't possibly bring peace after so much failure and war,'" said Professor Rahimi. "Students openly wonder - after decades of war - how talking about peace is going to make a difference. After they overcome initial doubts, however, they come to me and ask how they can move towards a deeper understanding of peace." (UNAMA)

(12) Below 5pc of...

face lack of irrigation and potable water." "The water from Helmand River usually flows on temporary basis, it flows for three or four months a year, that's why the lack of water in Nimroz has become serious," he said. He said a clean drinking water project had been extended from Qala-i-Fath area of Chahar Burjak district to Zaranj but people could not benefit from the scheme due to the absence of meters.

He asked the officials concerned to pay attention to people's problems otherwise they would start agitating. Abdulhai Rahguzin, who owns a hop in Zaranj, told Pajhwok Afghan News that people across Nimroz including the provincial capital had no access to clean drinking water and in some areas people travel long distances to fetch water home. "The water which private companies distribute to public is not fully safe and it also causes diseases, but people buy it because they have no other option," he said.

Malalai Ahmadi, another resident of Nimroz, also said the lack of potable water was a challenge in the province. She said residents of the province had long been consuming unsafe water.

"Some people buy clean water but what about the poor lot who cannot afford it," she asked, and grumbled despite large amount of money coming in foreign aid to Afghanistan over the past more than a decade, the Afghans continued to drink unhygienic water. She hoped the officials concerned would

take action and provide clean water to the public as soon as possible.

Mohammad Younus Haqbin, a civil society activist, said water taps had been installed in people's homes but its distribution needed installation of meters.

Unsafe water threatens Nimroz residents' health

Salahuddin Ayubi, another civil society activist in Nimroz, also said the people of Nimroz had long been suffering from the lack of safe water.

"Around 50 to 60 children fall ill and are hospitalized on daily basis after consuming unclean water, we want clean water for public consumption and the problem should be resolved," he said.

Nasir Ahmad, a resident of Zaranj city, said his four-year child infected diarrhea after drinking unclean water and his treatment cost him 2,000 afghanis.

"We purchase clean water, but its taste changes ... sometimes bitter, sometimes salty and sometimes muddy. The company does not provide clean water always," he said.

Gul Bahadur Shah, a doctor in Zaranj Civil Hospital, also said usage of unsafe water created health related problems in people. He said most of the patients coming to the hospital were affected by water-borne diseases.

"Most of residents of Nimroz cannot afford to buy clean water everyday so they use unhealthy water that causes diseases," he said.

Major water supply network in Zaranj

The water supply network project in Zaranj was completed after several years of work but residents of the city are yet to benefit from the project for unknown reasons.

Eng. Farid Azim, provincial rural rehabilitation and development director, said that the water supply project after its completion was handed over to the water supply department and his office had no role in that.

"The Zaranj water supply project was implemented in two phases at a cost of \$22,000, the project was completed and inaugurated in June this year," he said.

He said the Afghan government-funded project has the capacity to supply 243 liters of water in one second and can resolve the problem of Zaranj people.

However, Eng. Shah Wali, acting head of Nimroz water supply department, said the water would not reach the people until they installed meters in their houses.

He said the water supply network would facilitate 27,000 families in Zaranj and each family should install meter to use the service. Currently only 530 families have so far installed the meters, he added. (Pajhwok)

(13) 15 Militants...

killed and some had been missing after the strike, he claimed.

For his part, Durrani rejected the claims. At least 30 militants had been killed and many others wounded during an operation conducted three days ago in Ghorak district, he said.

Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed overrunning Maroof district and other areas. In a statement, the rebel group said it had seized 17 police personnel and killed several others. (Pajhwok)

(14) Casualties as Taliban, ...

cannot protect the district center and launch an operation at the same time, they are only in defensive position."

Residents of Chaharsai village said Daesh gunmen asked local people to leave the area before they enter clashes with the Taliban.

A resident of the area, who wished to go unnamed, said that people started leaving homes when clashes erupted between the two sides and Daesh rebels torched tents of local people during the battle. (Pajhwok)

(15) Afghan National ...

Taliban but the district centre was only relocated for lack of its own building.

There have been reports about the fall of Ghorak district to the Taliban but the Afghan forces recaptured several areas during an operation that was launched three days ago. The Kandahar governor, police chief and other officials visited the district centre and raised the national flag during a special ceremony. (Pajhwok)

(16) NDS Special ...

province has been responsible for carrying out a range of attacks in Kabul. The explosive-laden car was stopped by the NDS's special unit in Surobi district on Monday afternoon.

According to the statement, the men the NDS arrested were involved in a number of attacks on Afghan security forces in the past in different parts of the country. (Tolonews)

(17) Iran Beats ..

The white clad Iranian players started the match in a dominant fashion, and forward Mahdi Javid managed to open the scoring in the second minute. Ali Asghar Hossainzadeh Navlighi, who currently plays for Sanaye Giti Pasand club in the Iranian Futsal Super League, doubled Iran's lead three minutes later, before he made it 3-0 in the 7th minute. (Press TV)