

(1) NATO Partners....

capacity provided by this contribution will allow these facilities to move across to the grid, which theoretically will cut the power budget by more than 50 percent – from 53 cents to 22 cents per kilowatt hour.

He said that electricity drives stability which is essential to the future of a self-sufficient nation.

Thirteen years ago, only six percent of Afghan citizens had electricity – today 30 percent of the nation has power.

Semonite said that the Afghan government, in cooperation with Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), will assist to gradually add the ANDSF facilities to the electric grid according to a planned schedule.

The transition is expected to take place over the next five years.

He said contributions to the fund were thanks to Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands.

“Because of the commitment you see here today, Afghan citizens will have a reliable power supply and businesses will have an opportunity to thrive. Semonite went on to say that the transition to the grid will also promote regulated systems and transparency as the current heavy reliance on fuel is all too often a problem plagued by corruption.

Deborah Lyons, the Canadian Ambassador to Kabul said: “The project is an example of what can be accomplished when Afghanistan and the international community work together towards a common goal.”

The German envoy, Markus Potzel said: “The investment is aiming at doubling the capacity of the existing electric grid through the construction of a 500 kilovolts transmission line from Turkmenistan to Kabul.”

The Asian Development Bank will meanwhile manage the \$200 million USD contribution.

The U.S. Ambassador to Kabul Michael McKinley said that his country has already contributed \$104 million to the northern parts of the national transmission grid in Afghanistan and that the agreements are a win-win for all parties.

He said the NATO allies and partners are creating a key link in the Afghanistan transmission grid – which among a number of benefits will include the provision of sufficient power for the security services and citizens in Afghanistan – particularly in Kandahar. In addition, this agreement will help improve the sustainability of Afghanistan’s security forces, he said.

“They will support Afghanistan’s development goals in a sustainable manner, provide affordable power to its citizens and integrate Afghanistan with its regional neighbors.”

“This legacy focuses on writing a new and ambitious chapter the this country, one that is committed to its transformation,” he concluded. (Tolonews)

(2) US, China ...

He was welcoming a group of Afghan diplomats at the State Department, who are undergoing a two-week training programme as part of the US-China initiative, which is in its fourth year.

From US, these young Afghan diplomats will travel to China for another two weeks of training.

“It’s our very great hope that in the years to come, the relationship between the US and Afghanistan will be defined not by the legacy of war but by possibilities and, indeed, the gains of peace,” Blinken said.

The programme has enhanced mutual understanding among the three countries and shows the international community’s commitment to Afghanistan’s peace and reconstruction, said Chinese envoy Cui Tiankai. He hailed it as a good model for China-US co-operation in a third country.

“Building on our successful experiences, China, the United States and Afghanistan will extend the programme to the training of Afghanistan’s agricultural and medical care personnel this year,” he added.

Afghan Ambassador to US Dr Hamdullah Mohib hoped the young diplomats would take full advantage of this incredible opportunity to learn from some of the best seniors.

“Our diplomatic corps is 800-strong, emphasising the importance that you

as individuals have to Afghanistan’s international relations. It is a great responsibility – you are carrying the voice of the Afghan people to Washington, Beijing, and other capitals across the world,” he remarked.

“The training programme will equip you – our best and brightest diplomats – with the skills and tools you need to represent Afghanistan abroad,” Mohib said.

He continued Afghanistan was fortunate to have forward-thinking and innovative young men representing it abroad. “We are not lamenting the past, or discouraged by the challenges of the present, but we are focusing on creating a better future.” (Pajhwok)

(3) CEO’s Office...

on [ERC] recommendations,” Faisal said.

Meanwhile Head of Social and Political Affairs Department of the Office of Administrative Affairs Miagul Wasiq said all preparations have been taken to implement the approved recommendations for bringing reforms in the electoral system and that the committee for appointing electoral commissioners will be established based on the decree in the near future.

“The legal issues of the decree belong to the Ministry of Justice and the other issues, particularly providing the facilities, are the responsibility of the Office of Administrative Affairs. And the work on the selection committee to appoint new commissioners will be started soon,” Miagul said.

Meanwhile, former jihadi leader Abdul Rab Rassoul Sayyaf recently called on the government to announce a parliamentary election date as soon as possible.

Addressing a ceremony at Loya Jirga hall in Kabul, Sayyaf said he had a number of recommendations in terms of the current administration, which include the following: “First, the date for parliamentary elections should be announced as soon as possible, and second, if there are any hurdles, the government should hold a Loya Jirga [grand assembly] to make decisions.”

He also suggested that the government should create a decision-making body in order to resolve the important issues currently facing the nation. (Tolonews)

(4) Daesh Kills....

noting that the militants forcibly marry young girls in the district.

He added that Daesh centers and prisons were located in the insecure areas bordering Pakistan.

“They [Daesh] are running three prisons in Tirah [border with Pakistan],” Ghalib said. “They are taking hostage tribal elders, religious scholars and a number of police and army members.”

Achin has been considered the main stronghold of Daesh. This year on July 11, Afghan intelligence sources reported that Saeed - who was a former leader of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) before pledging allegiance to Daesh - was killed along with 30 others in an air strike in Achin district. Footage recently received by TOLONews illustrated that militants claiming to be Daesh affiliates torched a number of homes in Pachir Agam district in Nangarhar. (Tolonews)

(5) Some Neighboring ...

and reach out to warm water, Afghanistan defended Pakistan.

“Because of us ‘former Mujahideen’ Pakistan is equipped with developed weapons and atom,” he said.

During the Jihad era, most of the main training camps of ‘Mujahideen’ and decision making centers were based in Pakistan.

Mohaqq said Pakistan always sees its long life in Afghanistan’s destruction. He added that Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour announced ‘Jihad’ in Afghanistan from neighboring country ‘Pakistan’.

According to Mohaqq, if ‘Jihad’ is obligatory in Afghanistan because of foreigners then it is more obligatory in Pakistan because there are more foreigners than here.

CEO Abdullah Abdullah, Senate Chairman Fazal Hadi Muslimyar and former Jihadi commander Abdul Rab Rasoul Sayaf said in the gathering that those who want to destroy Afghanistan need to know that their destruction will come first. (KP)

(6) Sayyaf’s Remarks ...

come and share them with us. They should not take commands from others,” he added.

“The Taliban movement is neither an Islamic movement nor an Afghan cause. As a religious student I want to announce that they [Taliban] aren’t dying as martyrs,” Sayyaf added.

Sayyaf’s remarks on Pakistan and Taliban were widely hailed amongst various Afghan social segments as many inside the country believe that Islamabad is harboring the infamous Taliban group in a bid to destabilize Afghanistan and pursue its own strategic objectives.

On Thursday, some Afghan legislators in parliament and religious scholars come out in strong support of Sayyaf and urged that the remarks were based on reality.

“Sayyaf’s statements illustrate the realities of the country, Taliban’s deeds are neither Islamic, nor based on Sharia,” Nejrabi said.

As rumors continue on Pakistan’s so-called not so honest cooperation in the war against terrorism, public opinion in Afghanistan seems that the majority of Afghans want government to adopt a clear policy toward the neighboring country.

The National Unity Government (NUG) needs to come with a clear stance toward Pakistan, chairman of parliament’s internal security commission, Mirdad Khan Nejrabi said.

Announcing support to Sayyaf’s statement, a number of Afghan citizens have also slammed the Taliban for their atrocities and called them slaves of Pakistan that serve the policies of Pakistan.

According to members of the public, those who deliberately kill the people cannot be called Muslims, referring to the attacks by Taliban.

“Sayyaf’s assertions are based on reality, he illustrated these things from the Quran and Hadees,” religious scholar Waliullah Labib said. “Government in Afghanistan should deal with Pakistan as an enemy and talk with Pakistan from the point of enemy.”

In addition, the religious scholars have called on the warring factions to stop killing each other as the people of Afghanistan are the main victims of violence and cannot tolerate more bloodshed.

“Stop killing the innocent people and halt the war, get instruction from Quran and Hadith,” head of the Sharia faculty of Kabul University Shaheedi said.

“How can they be martyrs, even Allah has cursed Taliban,” a Kabul resident Mohammad Nasim said.

“Those who are killing the innocent people and the children are not martyrs, but deviants,” another resident Sayed Nadir Amiri said.

“Those committing suicide attacks and killing innocents aren’t martyrs, they are deviants, they even kill the people in the mosques,” another resident Hafizullah said.

Sayyaf remains as one of the major critics of Taliban and his anti-Taliban outbursts have been welcomed largely. (Tolonews)

(7) Karzai Doubts

will be aired on Friday the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania that claimed the lives of nearly 3,000.

In response to a question regarding the former president’s opinion on whether the former Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden plotted the attacks from Afghanistan, Karzai said, “That is what I have heard from our Western friends. That is what the Western media says.”

He also added “I have not seen them and I’ve not had any report about them, any report that would indicate that Al Qaeda is operating in Afghanistan.”

In other parts of the preview, Karzai said pointed to neighboring Pakistani militants for fomenting the rise of the Islamic State in Afghanistan.

Denying any Afghan link to the group, Karzai noted that those who have been captured have been found with ID cards.

He said “There is no element, there is no medium, for them to grow, or to rise, or to strengthen.” (KP)

(8) Pakistani Taliban...

provide an essential underpinning or raise motivation for the senseless

violence that continues to blight our region.”

The remarks by Mosazai comes as the activities by the loyalists of the terror group have been rampant during the recent weeks with reports suggesting ISIS affiliates are also operating private prisons in eastern Nangarhar province where they keep over 120 prisoners which mostly includes members of the Afghan security forces. (KP)

(9) US Company ...

deliveries beginning next year and concluding in 2019, the Navistar Defense announced on Thursday.

Kevin Thomas, the company president, said in a statement: “We are honoured to continue supporting the efforts of the ANSF mission to provide security and rebuilding in their country.”

In a statement, Navistar Defense will provide general troop transport vehicles, water and fuel tankers, ammunition trucks, wreckers and trucks with armored cabs.

Ordered by the US Army Contracting Command, the MTVs will be based on the International WorkStar/7000-MV severe service vocational truck platform. The contractor’s facilities in Springfield and West Point will manufacture the vehicles. (Pajhwok)

(10) Balkhi Visits ...

operation with them.

Islam Qala is 120 kilometres west of Herat City and is considered the biggest point for all Afghan refugees returning from Iran.

The returnees get registered in many centres in the town and receive aid in cash and other necessities from international organisations. They also receive training about localities still littered with landmines and other unexploded munitions.

After visiting the town, Balkhi later met with international organisations dealing with refugees in Herat city.

At the meeting, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and UN Habitat presented reports of their activities, the statement added.

Last month, the ministry said the European Union (EU) had allocated \$11 million for Afghan returnees that would be allotted for construction of residential houses for the returnees in three provinces, including Herat.

Currently 450,000 Afghans are living in Iran on temporary visas, another 840,000 possess legal documents and 90,000 more hold Afghan passports. (Pajhwok)

(11) Czech Troops...

General Jens Stoltenberg, after a meeting with the premier, praised the Czech Republic for having been able to cope with the financial crisis.

The Czech troops have been allowed to serve in Afghanistan until the end of 2016. There were 281 Czech soldiers served in Afghanistan until the beginning of September.

Most of the Czech troops are tasked with guarding the Bagram air base in central Parwan province. The US military is scheduled to withdraw from Afghanistan at the end of 2016.

Sobotka hinted at a hike in the Czech military budget to the 47.5 billion crowns next year. The Czech Republic is one of the 10 countries contributing to the international operation in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(12) Dutch Aid ...

for UN agencies, de Beer had been posted in Kabul for several years and was working for the Swiss non-governmental organisation Helvetas when she was snatched on the streets in broad daylight.

The Dutch foreign ministry said she had managed to speak with her family already as well as with Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders who said he was “relieved” to hear about her release.

“I’m happy that 81 days of uncertainty have come to an end,” he said in the ministry’s statement.

De Beer herself told Dutch public broadcaster NOS late Thursday that she had been “treated well” by her abductors. “They gave me food and drink and I was not mistreated,” she said in a brief phone call with the channel.

She added that she had been kept in

isolation by her captors and was only given a few hours’ notice of her impending release.

De Beer was abducted at gunpoint by four armed men on June 22 outside her office in the Afghan capital’s Taimani area, where other aid workers and journalists live and work.

She had previously worked with the Red Cross from 2000 to 2001 on projects to help widows and orphans in Afghanistan, the Dutch press agency ANP said.

Aid workers in Afghanistan have increasingly been casualties of a surge in militant violence in recent years.

In April the bullet-riddled bodies of five Afghan workers for Save the Children were found after they were abducted by gunmen in the strife-torn southern province of Uruzgan. (Tolonews)

(13) 30 Taliban...

Maulvi Tajikistani and Mullah Wazir Gul and some foreign fighters.

Five policemen were also killed and eight others wounded, the MoI added.

Earlier in the day, Col. Sakhidat Haidari, the deputy police chief for Badakhshan, said the Taliban launched group attacks on Raghestan district on Friday before dawn.

He said the insurgents had overrun half of the district, prompting the authorities to send reinforcements to the district. (Pajhwok)

(14) Govt. Blamed ...

tired of the war in the country and that no mother should have to deal with the death of two sons.

Her sons had both served in the national security forces. One son, Abdul Rahim, was killed just one month ago in clash with the Taliban in Jawand district, Badghis. The other son died in Herat a few years ago.

“The government should pay attention to us,” Gul said. “My two sons were martyred and now I am alone and there is no one to support me.”

In addition to this loss, the mother said her husband died when he saw the body his son, Abdul Rahim – who was newly engaged. (Tolonews)

(15) Civilian Deaths...

“we couldn’t find someone to hear” and “we want end to hostage-taking and killing of civilians in roadside bombs.”

They said government’s indifference took lives of civilians on a daily basis in different parts of the

Hussain Dad Ahmadi, Afghanistan Civil Society Organisation head, told Pajhwok Afghan News “through these shows we once again raise our voices on behalf of those who lose their lives on a daily basis in every corner of the country and to express our sympathies with them.”

He accused government officials of indifference and urged the international community to ensure that true peace prevailed in the country and violence was put to an end.

Golsoom Nekzad, a civil society activist, said through their performance, they wanted to show solidarity with the bereaved families and urge the government not to be indifferent towards them. (Pajhwok)

(16) Afghan Football ...

& National level for securing a place for the championship, teams from various foreign countries are invited to participate directly for the Cup. 100 teams, including teams from Afghanistan, Brazil, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Sweden and Ukraine will vie for top honours in this year’s tournament. The Brazilian legend and undisputed ‘King of football’, Pele, shall attend the finals of the tournament on October 16.

The Afghan teams get a rousing welcome and massive popular support every time it plays in Subroto Cup. Embassy of India, Kabul on behalf of all Indians wholeheartedly wishes for all the success to both the teams for Afghanistan. (PR)

(17) Pakistan

hammad Mangal, said the posts captured by militants were occupied by Pakistani militiamen, who had hoisted their own flags there.

The Pakistani militias had also started constructing facilities in the area, he said, without giving details about the nature of the construction

Meanwhile, a security official revealed the Pakistan border guards were targeting Afghan border posts with rockets from Tal area. The source said a large training centre of Pakistani forces was located in the area. (Pajhwok)

(18) Afghani....

tea for 240afs, said a dealer in the Kabul food market, Ahmad Javed. But wholesale prices varied from retail rates in some parts of the city. Ahmad Omaid, a shopkeeper in the Dahn-i-Bagh locality, sold a 24-kg sack of rice for 1,800afs, a 49-kg bag of sugar for 1,800afs and a 50-kg sack of flour for 1,400afs.

He sold a 16-kg tin of Momin ghee for 1100afs, a kilo of black African team for 270afs and the same quantity of Indonesian green tea for 250afs.

Mohammad Fawad, a jeweller in Timor Shahineighbourhood, said the price of one gram of Russian gold fell from 1,650 afs to 1,600 afs and the same quantity of the Arabian variety was sold at 2050 afs, against its last week’s price of 2150 afs. (Pajhwok)

(19) Family of ...

one son and a God. They killed my son. His father is old and we don’t have other supporter,” Aurangzeb’s mother said.

“The government should punish those who commit such acts,” Aurangzeb’s sister said.

Aurangzeb was killed in Hootkhel area of Kabul while trying to prevent revelers from entering the area. On Wednesday a caravan of the vehicles, commemorating Massoud Day, was stopped by security forces when it wanted to enter Hootkhel area. Aurangzeb was killed and two other security forces members were wounded when revelers started shooting.

“We were on the way when a bullet hit me and I fell down on the ground,” said Hamid a Kabul resident.

Hamid’s father said they were walking outside when it was fired and they saw their son on the ground.

A doctor in Ibn Sina Hospital was also beaten by the young people who were driving on the Kabul streets on Wednesday.

“They had guns. They hit my face,” said Mirwais Himmatt, a doctor in Ibn Sina Hospital told TOLONews. (Tolonews)

(20) Russia to...

but Damascus’ struggle against the IS.

“We support the struggle of the Syrian state against the so-called Islamic State, which does not present any Islam and is not a state for that matter,” he said.

Lavrov said Moscow has always defended collective efforts based on international law, adding that he considered the Syrian army the most efficient and powerful ground force to fight the IS. (Xinhua)

(21) Australia...

inland area and two in coastal area. Major General Han Peng, deputy chief of staff of Guangzhou Military Area Command, said the joint military exercise helps to build cooperation, friendship and trust among the three armies. (Xinhua)

(22) Increasing ...

eral Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan and Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi are attending the meeting. Traders viewpoint While apprising the prime minister about their problem, traders cited the increasing production cost as the biggest hurdle in the increase of country’s exports. (Agencies)

(23) China, U.S.

United States, Los Angeles is a top travel destination for Chinese visitors.

“Los Angeles has seen five consecutive years of double-digit growth in Chinese visitation, outpacing every other international market and the numbers aren’t even close,” said Ernest Wooden Jr., president and CEO of the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board. (Xinhua)