

(1) Fighting Drug, ...

respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drugs and their precursors' trafficking, corruption and other forms of drug related organized crime including "money-laundering, cybercrime and, in some cases, terrorism."

The participants also agreed to consistently oppose attempts aimed at undermining the existing international system of combating world drug problem, to look for new and innovative approaches to fight drugs, and to adopt measures to improve sharing of intelligence information on transnational organized drug crime, smuggling and sale of illegal drugs, and their precursors. They also highlighted the need for international community, including the regional countries to cooperate with the Afghan government on alternative development and livelihood in the country based on the principle of shared responsibility. The member states are expected to continue cooperation on training specialists of the national Counter-Narcotic agencies.

Vast majority of world's opium poppy, the raw element for making heroin, has been cultivated in militancy-hit Afghanistan, particularly in western and southern parts of the country, where the government security forces have little presence.

In 2015, some 3,300 tons of opium was produced in Afghanistan and some 1.9 million to 2.4 million adult drug addicts have been living in the country. (Xinhua)

(2) Iran's Chabahar ...

said the planned five-party railway link is also important for Afghanistan as it passes through Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and China and then travels to Turkey thus connecting all these countries to Europe.

He said the railway which will run for 1,100 km inside Afghanistan will further facilitate access of Afghan businessmen to Chabahar port.

Balighi said the countries involved in the railway network have already signed an agreement to this effect. Since Afghanistan is a landlocked territory, the minister added, the government is determined to use the railway networks to gain access to international waters.

"That is why Iran's Chabahar port is strategically very important for Afghanistan because the tri-lateral contract signed by Iran, Afghanistan and India will help boost trade exchanges," he added.

In May, Tehran, New Delhi and Afghanistan signed an epoch-making agreement in Tehran to establish a transit and transportation corridor. The agreement known as Chabahar Trilateral Agreement was signed by the three countries' officials in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, his Afghan counterpart Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Tehran.

The trilateral Chabahar agreement will considerably increase making use of Chabahar port that will connect India to Central Asia through Afghanistan and instead will provide Afghanistan's access to India via sea. (Tolonews)

(3) World Bank ...

was accompanied by Annette Dixon, World Bank Vice President for the South Asia Region.

"The World Bank Group will stay the course in supporting the people of Afghanistan in these challenging times," said Peters.

"The World Bank Group commends the government of national unity for its achievements in the last two years under difficult circumstances, and for its preparation of the conference. It will be important for Afghanistan to signal before and after the conference a commitment to implement key policy reforms, building on the achievements of recent years."

WB is providing robust support to the government in preparation for the Brussels Conference, especially through contributing key analytical work for discussions on development issues.

In addition, the statement added that the WB's analytical work highlights the need for continued high levels of aid, with more aid provided through the government budget to maximize local economic impacts and ensure that government can finance its priority programs.

The analysis shows that, with adequate international assistance, policy reforms, private sector development and investment in social services, Afghanistan has the potential to move to a sustainable higher growth trajectory, driven by agriculture and extractives.

"The Bank analysis shows that there is potential for faster growth through agriculture and mining. Agriculture can be a major driver of growth, supporting incomes, cre-

ating jobs, and reducing poverty. Even with the risks involved, mining represents a vital complement to agriculture, providing the only viable source of government revenues and foreign exchange earnings with which to offset expected declines in aid," Peters highlighted.

Peters noted the alignment of the World Bank Group's (WBG) upcoming Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Afghanistan with the draft Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF). The Framework lays a solid foundation for the next four years of collaboration between the WBG and the government.

The Framework recognizes the political and economic uncertainty facing Afghanistan as the government grapples with a range of challenges from insecurity to stagnating growth and rising levels of poverty. "The Country Partnership Framework, expected to be finalized later this year, will remain flexible to respond to the limited fiscal space, continuing uncertainty and evolving government priorities," Peters noted.

During his interactions with the Afghan leadership, Peters emphasized the WBG's support for regional cooperation to help Afghanistan leverage its unique geographic location at the crossroads of South, Central, and West Asia to meet its substantial and growing needs for energy and water and to explore opportunities for trade and labor migration. The statement noted that in line with this, the World Bank Group has already provided Afghanistan a \$316.5 million USD grant to the regional transformational Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000).

As for future WBG support, Peters reassured Ghani and Abdullah of the continued support of the WBG's International Development Association (IDA) for Afghanistan, including leveraging donors' resources to finance investments and knowledge services that help stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and ensure delivery of social services and national integration. (Tolonews)

(4) MPs Demand...

the 3rd decree circumventing the lower house which could be dissolved anytime ahead of the parliamentary elections.

The Wolesi Jirga's five-year term expired on June 22, 2015, but the president extended its term until fresh elections are held.

On August 23, the Cabinet approved in principle a draft election law, underlining the imperative of a single-seat system at polling stations for the upcoming Wolesi Jirga polls. Qudratullah Sahak, a lawmaker from Kabul in his remarks about ICOIC members not appearing before the house said that all government organs were answerable to the nation and they could not refuse giving explanation to the people.

Nader Shah Bahr, a lawmaker from Ghor province, also stressed taking necessary action against ICOIC members and said: "No budget should be allocated to this organ for next year so its members are obliged to leave their duties." He asked the house administration board to take action against ICOIC members who brought under question the independence and position of the parliament.

Several other lawmakers also demanded action against the ICOIC members.

However, Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said the ICOIC members had met the house's administrative board on Sunday and explained their position, but the house could only decide about them once the required quorum was complete. (Pajhwok)

(5) Population ...

between leaders of the National Unity Government (NUG) over some controversial aspects of the cards, mainly the inclusion of ethnicity and nationality.

"A technical committee is working on this to see whether the population registration department should continue its job in the structure of the ministry of interior or whether it should be turned into a sovereign body. Practical work will start once the committee completes its job," said Dawa Khan Meenapal, deputy presidential spokesman.

"A committee under the chairmanship of his excellency second vice president Sarwar Danish has been formed. The committee is expected to finalize the three-item draft plan which was issued for the rollout of electronic identity cards and refer it to the cabinet," said Mol deputy spokesman Najib Danish.

Bringing about fundamental reforms in the election law and rolling out the electronic ID cards were among the top promises of the NUG leaders during their election campaigns.

However, many insist that the NUG

leaders have failed to deliver on campaign promises. (Tolonews)

(6) Junbish-i-Roshanai...

including Jafar Mehdawi, Mohammad Ali Akhlaqi, Ahmad Behzad, Rehana Azad, Arif Rahmani, Ghulam Hussain Nasiri, Abdul Rahman Shidani and Zulfikar Omaid Najji, would be held responsible for any kind of losses.

It made clear the protest organisers would be introduced to the attorney office. The Junbish-i-Roshanai is scheduled to stage a protest tomorrow (Tuesday).

At least 84 people were killed and over 300 wounded when twin suicide bombers blew themselves up inside a rally some two months earlier. Daesh or Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility.

The protestors wanted the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUTAP) power project to be executed through central provinces of the country, dominated by the Hazara community.

But the government said the project would be implemented through Salang, the northern part. Government officials have asked Junbish-i-Roshanai leaders to come to the table for talks on the issue. (Pajhwok)

(7) Zakhilwal ...

who they intend to target; and does not distinguish between 'good' and 'bad' of them."

Pakistani authorities allege TTP extremists use Afghan sanctuaries with the help of the neighboring country's spy agency for staging and plotting cross-border deadly attacks on civilians as well as security forces.

Kabul, which has long blamed Islamabad for covertly supporting the Afghan Taliban, rejects the charges. Media reports Sunday said suspected U.S. airstrikes in southeastern Afghanistan were believed to have killed a top commander of the extremist Pakistan Taliban and several of his partners.

The overnight attack took place in Bermal district of the Paktika province adjacent to the Pakistani border.

Rais Khan, also known as Azam Tariq, of the so-called Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, the TTP, and his son were among those reported killed in the attack, according to militant sources.

The U.S. military Sunday confirmed to VOA it carried out two airstrikes in the area, but refrained from discussing details for "operational security reasons."

TTP has been waging a deadly insurgency on the state of Pakistan for over a decade. Most of its leaders and a large number of fighters fled to Afghanistan two years ago when the Pakistan military launched a major ground and air offensive against them in border areas.

The Pakistani Taliban is blamed for the killings of thousands of people in Pakistan during the past decade in terrorist attacks. (VOA)

(8) Govt. Ready...

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Earlier, The Kabul Garrison warned the Junbish-i-Roshanai movement of harsh action if staged a protest that may cause loss of life and property. Peaceful gatherings, protests and rallies constituted a legal right of every citizen, but violent demonstrations would not be allowed, a statement from the Kabul Garrison said. (Pajhwok)

(9) China to Build ...

guards and armed drug smugglers there.

The increased activity of Afghan Taliban in the northern Kunduz province is another source of concern.

A large part of the main highway connecting Tajikistan's most populous regions to China lies along the same border and armed trespassers this year kidnapped several Tajiks doing maintenance works on that road.

In a decree published on Monday, the government instructed the State National Security Committee to sign an agreement with the Chinese side which provides for the construction of eleven outposts of different sizes and a training center for border guards.

China, which according to official statistics sells goods worth \$2.5 billion a year to Tajikistan has already

built one outpost on the Tajik-Afghan border, its first one, earlier this year.

Russia used to station its own border guards on the frontier until 2005, and after that kept a regiment in the Tajik city of Kulyab, 42 km (25 miles) from the Afghan border. But Moscow pulled the regiment out in December last year and moved it to the capital, Dushanbe, about 200 km further away. (Reuters)

(10) Private Varsities...

private sector higher education institutes and universities should also allocate seven percent of their enrolment quota to entitled persons with disabilities.

Based on the law, the private universities should give a 25 percent discount in fees to people with minor disabilities.

According to the second article of the law, the ministries of public works, education and higher education should help provide the mentioned facilities to the special people.

Habib Rahman Malikzada, 28, a master's degree student who lost both his legs in a bomb blast 17 years ago, said conditions for admission in higher education institutes were unacceptable.

A resident of central Parwan province, Malikzada said the law for people with disabilities had been amended four years ago, but most of organizations were unaware of it. Malikzada graduated from Habibia High School of Kabul in 2009. He passed the entry test and found his way to the agriculture faculty of Nangarhar University, but he was unable to continue his education there due to his health problems.

"I was obliged to get admission in Dawat Private University in Kabul and received my bachelor in political science in 2013," he added.

Malikzada after suffering from joblessness for two years, started his master's degree in political science at Ibn-i-Sina University in 2016. He is currently in second semester of political science.

He said a number of physically challenged youth erected tents last year in front of the parliament in protest against non-enforcement of the law. Some officials during the protest pledged to take decisive steps for enforcing the law, but nothing in practical was done, he added.

"Higher education for people with disabilities is very important to enhance their capacities and help them not to become burden on their families and society," Malikzada said.

The Rights and Benefits of People with Disabilities Law orders the Ministry of Public Works and Social Affairs to make a procedure for implementation of the law. But Malikzada said the procedure was yet to be implemented and the private universities did not accept some provisions of the law.

"If private universities do not accept the law and violate it, we would again gather and erect protest tents," he warned.

Zarina Azami, 21, a first year student of political science in Khatamun Nabiyeen University, said both of her legs were paralyzed after a crowd of people run over her during distribution of aid to refugees in Balkh province. She was two years old when the incident took place.

"I was introduced to Khatamun Nabiyeen University by the human rights commission, but the university head did not sign my letter to allow me to pursue my education free of cost and he said he did not accept the law," she said.

She said one of her classmates in the university, another disabled girl, might leave her education due to the high amount of fee.

However, Khatamun Nabiyeen University head Abdul Qayum Sajjadi said "I accept whenever a person brings a letter from a credible source that proves his/her disability."

"I know people with disabilities have the right to be provided with free education. If any such people come here, I will grant them education facility of their choice without any fees," he said.

Mohammad Amir Kamawal, head of private universities and institutes at the Ministry of Higher Education, said currently 127 private institutes were active in the country where 38,000 students were studying.

"Based on the people with disability law, all persons with disabilities have the right to get higher education free of cost, no one has the right to take fees from them," he said.

"I have told students with disabilities to contact me if they face any problems," he added. Kamawal added he had discussed with other relevant officials the enrolment of disabled students at private universities against the seven percent quota and with 50 percent discount.

Nafisa Sultani, head of martyrs and people with disabilities commission of the Wolesi Jirga, said he had played her role in preparing the Rights and Benefits of People with Disabilities Law.

With her one disabled, she stressed implementation of the law and said she had discussed with MoHE minister resolving the problem.

She added the Ministry of Public Works and Social Affairs should evolve a practical procedure for the law's implementation.

"It is regrettable that some healthy youth misuse the term disability and get scholarships for foreign universities," she said.

Jamila Afghani, deputy public works and social affairs minister, said the Rights and Benefits of People with Disabilities Law was not confined to people who lost their organs to security incidents, but it was also applicable on people who were born with disabilities.

"Unfortunately higher education institutes do not cooperate with us on this matter, but we have plan to hold a joint meeting between ministries and representatives of all private higher education institutes to discuss the issue," she said.

"We should find a practical way for providing free education to people with disabilities in private schools and higher education institutes," she added.

According to statistics of the Ministry of Public Works and Social Affairs in 2011, there were more than 100,000 people with disabilities in Afghanistan including 1,000 of them enrolled in private universities.

Faisal Amin, public works and social affairs ministry spokesman, said 38,874 people including seven percent of them with disabilities were studying in 127 private institutes across the country. (Pajhwok)

(11) Pakistani Taliban

was Raees Khan, hailing from the Barwand sub-district of Waziristan. He fled after the launch of an operation by Pakistani forces in the region. Raees Khan served a schoolteacher in South Waziristan before joining the BaitullahMehsud-led Taliban faction. He sneaked into Paktika, where his hideout was struck in the Mangalkai area of Birmal district.

Tariq, his son, two other Mahsuds and three Wazir tribesmen from the Madakhel tribe of North Waziristan were killed in the airstrike, according to a Pakistani security official, who did not want to be named. (Pajhwok)

(12) NUG Accused...

leaders have not been able to even solve problems inside government. "The security situation is worsening. Thousands of youth are fleeing the country. There are tens of thousands of youth with an unknown future in the country and there is corruption mostly inside government," he said. Speaking on the issue, the Defense Ministry deputy spokesman Mohammad Radmanish said: "We had casualties (among troops), but we are equipped and improving gradually. We have taken measures to thwart threats and they are effective." (Tolonews)

(13) Slain ANA...

dilapidated house with my wife, two daughters and as many sons amid huge economic problems," said the father.

He said his slain son was the only breadwinner for the family and relied on him economically and his other sons were small and unable to work.

"We had some land that would help us meet daily needs to some extent but devastating floods deprived us that source of income as well," he said.

Najib's mother said they brought up their sons in the face of backbreaking poverty in the hope that they would support them in their last days of life. She said their had not yet vanished and they still struggled with life.

She said they were in bad economic condition and often asked neighbours for assistance. She said no government or charity organisation had provided them with any assistance even after one year of his son's killing.

Habibullah, 7, brother of Najib, said: "I am student of 7th class. We find food with difficulty and that's the main hardships in our lives." (Pajhwok)

(14) 4 Romanian...

kept informed of the soldiers' condition. "All measures are in place to secure the best treatment and care for the four injured." (Pajhwok)

(15) U.S., Russia ...

"Russia and Iran must convince the Assad regime that they hold to the ceasefire. Every option still needs to be considered including the withdrawal of support to either side." (Xinhua)

(16) UNSC Holds..

asked the council to press for a cessation of the violence and protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, weekly 48-hour pauses in the fighting for aid convoys "without preconditions neither from the government nor frankly from the op-

position" and "to press for medical evacuations ... from eastern Aleppo."

"Amid intensive air strikes reported on Friday, following the announcement of the beginning of a government offensive, an announcement was made by the government itself," de Mistura said, resulting in "scores of reported civilian deaths and injuries, including those of many children." (Xinhua)

(17) EU to Pus...

Bulg will meet with a number of key delegations, such as the United States, China, India, Russia, and invite them to join the GMBM scheme from its start, set for 2021, according to the press release. (Xinhua)

(18) Russia Receives...

last week that the Algiers meeting would try to reach a consensus to freeze outputs for at least one year.

The OPEC members pump up 33.4 million barrels per day, which is a very high level that would never help push prices to hike, said Algerian Energy Minister Noureddine Bouterfa. (Xinhua)

(19) Japan Kicks...

(in annual agricultural exports) early," Abe said.

The prime minister also hopes that Japan's ratification would spur the deal's passage in the U.S. Congress, analysts here have said.

"Japan wants to take lead to create an atmosphere for the TPP pact to come into effect as early as possible," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference Monday.

However, with both of the U.S. presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton of the Democratic Party and Donald Trump of the Republican Party, openly against the pact, the future of the TPP is at bay.

The opposition parties in Japan have also vowed to block the ratification of the TPP pact, saying that the pact failed to protect Japan's national interests. (Xinhua)

(20) French President

camp, where about 9,000 migrants who fled war zones live, will be "completely" and "definitively" dismantled.

"The situation is not acceptable. Our objectives are clear: we must guarantee the safety of Calais citizens, maintain public order and ensure dignified conditions for migrants," Hollande stressed.

In a visit to migrants reception centre in Tours, southwest Paris, on Saturday, Hollande unveiled a plan to disperse migrants who are living in the French port city into groups of 40 to 50 people for a limited period between three and four months. (Xinhua)

(21) Trump, Clinton...

Trump has touted himself as the law-and-order candidate, and has on numerous occasions expressed support for the police. At the polar opposite side of the spectrum, Democratic candidate Clinton has called for social justice.

One of the topics to be discussed on Monday's presidential debate will be the general direction of the country, and Trump is likely to argue that he is the man to set things straight in a chaotic world.

"Trump will take advantage of urban unrest to say things are out of control and the nation needs a strong leader to restore order.

He will say the police are under attack by protesters who don't understand law enforcement," Darrell West, vice president and director of governance studies of the Brookings Institution, told Xinhua.

These appeal well with Trump's white voters who don't like disorder and who fear minority protesters taking over urban streets, West said. (Xinhua)

(22) S.Korea's Import...

imports rose 0.7 percent in August from a year ago, marking the first increase since September 2014. It was a rebound from a 13.1 percent decline in July.

The rebound reflected expectations for economic recovery in the near future. Slower fall in global oil prices also contributed to the rebound in import value last month.

The export volume index advanced 3.9 percent in August from a year earlier, but the export value index declined 1.4 percent amid lower crude oil prices. The net terms-of-trade index for goods, which gauges how many goods can be imported with a unit export, came in at 101.29 in August, up 1.3 percent from a year earlier. (Xinhua)

(23) US Air Force...

cannot do everything. So the theory of the case is by growing effective, indigenous forces in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, with relatively modest investment, we can sustain the environment in which violent extremism, in this case, won't flourish." (Defence News)