GARDEZ - A number of tribal elders and religious scholars in southeastern Pakhtunkhwa province on Tuesday urged the Afghan government to stop the violence before Eidul Adha and take real steps towards lasting peace in the country.

The participants of the gathering called on the Taliban to end the four-decade war by first declaring truce and taking real measures in this regard.

Ahmad Jan Faiz, a tribal elder and member of the People Peace Movement (PPM), expressed the hope that the latest Qatar negotiations would succeed. He suggested national interest should be declared a national interest in the ongoing peace process.

Faiz termed truce a base for peace and said, “Conversely, the first step towards peace and it should be taken and without truce, peace would be impossible and hope the fourth round would also include this condition.”

Zahir Oryakhel, another tribal elder, said the government required to remove the government and without direct talks, peace was not possible.

He accepted the warning parties of being busy protecting their own interests in the ongoing Qatar talks by trying to get leverage.

Muhiuddin Ghilai Hasani, a religious scholar, said the ongoing conflict had not only destroyed the country’s economy but was responsible for social and structural collapse. The Afghan government, “Were the government and people together, all problems, including all people, would sooner solve them.”

He said, “Peace is a divine order and this year’s responsibility to work for peace.”

KABUL - The government of Denmark, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Brazil Wednesday signed an agreement in which the Danish government will provide $1.2 billion to the Afghan government to support its efforts in different areas. The main of the agreement focused on the peace talks and women empowerment.

The assistance will help women’s meaningful participation in peace and security, including gender in humanitarian action and address violence against women and girls through supporting comprehensive services for survivors and scaling up evidence-based work in the primary prevention of violence.

The assistance would also be helpful in strengthening women and women’s economic opportunities and engagement in the economy and support women’s participation in leadership and government.

Nicola D’Hippolyte Petersen, Ambassador of Denmark, said, “Afghanistan has achieved progress towards gender equality and women’s empowerment, however, the challenges for women in Afghanistan are massive.”

He, therefore, appealed the women in all aspects of “(More on PA...).”

ARETES (Apr 21-May 20)
Dedication, devotion. Anx. Your blood is hot and passion may boil over. You may be more- than-you-can-be at this time. You may have a number of relationships that can be of benefit to you, if you can control your emotions.

LUNA (July 22-Aug. 21)
Today your energy has redoubled at all areas of your life. You can move back to your former or experiment with different old or styles and foods. You need to be fluid in your routine, even it just means doing sunny sand-flows or bright Hawaiian patterns. You will feel lighter and more flirtatious.

CAPRICORN (Dec 21-Jan 20)
You've been on a solid ride for several months, Scorpio. You've been excited in your personal and career life. It's been a great year, but this year you may have extra money in your pocket, Capricorn. Capricorn, take care to invest this money wisely rather than spend it all. You'll be happier sacrificing short-term gratification for the future financial gain. Positive relationships and socializing are indicated this evening. Make a point to get together with close friends and loved ones.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 19)
You're feeling much more confident about your abilities and talents. You're taking risks that you didn't before. You're feeling much more confident about your abilities and talents. You're taking risks that you didn't before.

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Nimroz Growers Happy with Melon, Watermelon Yield
ZARANI - Agriculture officials in southwestern Nimroz province say the yield of watermelon and melon in the province reached 3.5 million tonnes this year, showing an 18 percent increase this year.

Agriculture Director Mohammad Akbar Sharifi told Pajhwok Afghan News around 350,000 tonnes of watermelon and 501,000 tonnes of melon had been produced in the province last year.

He said around 90,000 hectares of land were cultivated with melon and watermelon in this province this season.

Most of the watermelon and melon were produced in the Chakcharan district of the province, he said, adding they had asked the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MoIAL) for facilities to export the fruits.

Farmer satisfaction and concerns
-(More on PA...).