

(1) 100 Years ...

who is currently on an official visit to Kabul, said his trip has come during a "difficult transitional phase" in the country, with the security situation remaining tense. However, he urged government to continue with their peace talks efforts with the Taliban.

"The peace process in Afghanistan and better ties with neighboring Pakistan are necessary, so that people in Afghanistan are given hope for a better life after many years of suffering", Steinmeier said at a joint press conference with Ghani.

He said Germany stands by Afghanistan in its efforts to secure the country and move forward. However, he touched on the issue of the 55 Germany soldiers who have lost their lives in Afghanistan, in the past few years, while working towards SECURING the country.

Steinmeier says the support Germany gives to Afghanistan is with the aim of helping the country stand on its own feet. In line with this, he pledged further German support and aid to Afghanistan.

He said in conclusion that Germany hopes close relations with Afghanistan will continue for another hundred years.

After the ceremony, Steinmeier met with his Afghan counterpart, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, and with Abdullah where he discussed future cooperation between the two countries.

After the meeting, Rabbani said that they had discussed the Afghan refugee situation and cooperation over this matter.

"Germany has an important role in Afghanistan's education system," Rabbani said. "Germany stands with Afghanistan with their honest cooperation" he said adding that both countries have enjoyed a friendly relationship over the past 100 years.

"Afghanistan's first ELECTRICITY producing dam, printing house and telegraph system were all established by Germany," he said.

He says that Germany is one of Afghanistan's biggest allies and previously had thousands of troops in the country fighting insurgency.

However, since the drawdown of troops at the end of last year Germany now has only about 850 in Afghanistan - most of whom are based in the northern parts of the country under NATO-led Resolute Support Mission. (Tolnews)

(2) 300 Casualties...

and wounded.

"Red Cross has said it has sent 220 coffins for the rebels killed in Musa Qala," Rahimi said, adding the humanitarian workers had asked him for help in transferring the bodies of rebels to different provinces.

He said that his office would cooperate with the Red Cross in shifting the bodies to their families. Afghan special forces conducted the overnight offensive in the district centre without support from foreign troops.

He acknowledged 33 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers had also suffered casualties during clashes with the insurgents over the last four days. Officials had previously said 25 security personnel were killed and 40 others wounded in the battle for the district.

The governor said the offensive was still underway to clear all areas of the district of militants. "From now on, we should conduct offensive operations, not defensive, to clear other areas of Helmand soon."

The 215th Maiwand Military Corps spokesman, Lt. Col. Mohammad Rassoul Zazai, said earlier in the day 37 militants had been killed and 93 others wounded during airstrikes in the district last night. (Pajhwok)

(3) Non-Traditional ...

budget of \$75 million will provide community-based education in non-formal classrooms in 13 provinces of Afghanistan. The curriculum and textbooks for this program are approved by the Ministry of Education.

The program will focus on reaching children unable to access formalized schools due to insecurity, difficult terrain or distance. It will also reach older Afghans who missed out on education as children by offering accelerated learning programs.

"Community-Based Education is a proven method for reaching under-

served school-age children,

"It is especially significant for girls because research has shown that if schools are in the villages parents will send their daughters to school." said P. Michael McKinley the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan.

"The initiative will enable 100,000 children, including girls, in 13 disadvantaged provinces to benefit from education from Grade one to 3,

"In addition, with generous support from USAID, a three-year accelerated learning program will enable 20,000 out-of-school children to complete their primary education." said UNICEF Deputy Country Representative Dr. L.N. Balaji.

Meanwhile, Asadullah Hanif Balkhi the Minister of Education this is the best to provide education services for children in remote and rural areas.

"The Ministry of Education believes Community-Based Education and Accelerated Learning Centers are the best approaches to provide education services for children in remote and rural areas," he said.

Balkhi added that after studying in these non-formal classrooms form three years, the students would then be admitted to formal schools.

"These students will study in classes in their village for three years, after completion, the students will be admitted to grade four at formal schools nearby their villages." He said. (KP)

(4) Dostum Clears ...

comes after Kohistanat came under heavy fire during massive clashes between the Afghan SECURITY forces and the Taliban. But following Dostum's arrival in the area three days ago, most parts of the district have been cleared of insurgents. A number of residents of Sar-e-Pul have praised Dostum's efforts but said that the government should create more military bases in areas where insurgents are active.

"A number of residents of this province have bought weapons in order to defend their area. We are asking the people to not allow the Taliban to have activities on their areas," a resident of Sar-e-Pul, Asadullah said.

Abdul Kabir, another resident of Sar-e-Pul said that "we are asking the government to work on the plan for the stability of Sar-e-Pul."

The security forces have re-taken control of Dar-e-Alaf-e-Safid area of Kohistanat which had fallen into the hands of the Taliban a year ago.

The local officials said that nearly a thousand foreign fighters are in clashes with the security forces in Sar-e-Pul.

Sar-e-Pul has six districts - of which three of them face threats. (Tolnews)

(5) Afghanistan Seeks ...

million now.

"There are some security challenges, but the new government is committed to bringing peace to the country and to work for the economic development of the country through establishing good relations to other countries," he said.

"We are there to provide the required support for Koreans interested in investing in our country."

NEI is a non-profit organization that Doctor Steven Kwon founded in 2003 to fight malnutrition among people in high-mortality areas in Afghanistan.

The foundation has helped to build a soy industry, which has expanded to 22 provinces. (KP)

(6) Indonesia Ready...

Afghanistan's development since 2006 and it planned to build an Islamic centre in here in the near future.

Deputy Foreign Minister Naseer Ahmad Andisha, while speaking on the occasion, said Afghanistan and Indonesia enjoyed friendly relations since six decades.

He said both the countries had the same religion and culture and faced the common threat of terrorism which needed a combined strategy to be eliminated.

He said Indonesia had the experience of Afghanistan's current situation and the Afghan government would welcome Indonesian assistance in this regard.

He asked the Indonesian head of mission to implement agreements that had been signed by former president Hamid Karzai during his visit

to Jakarta. (Pajhwok)

(7) Rice, Sharif ...

was also discussed, according to Pakistani media. The White House meeting is expected to confer a counter-terrorism cooperation, Afghanistan and nuclear security.

Afghan-Pakistan tensions, the suspension of the Afghan reconciliation process and the impasse in Islamabad-Delhi relations, issues of concern for the Obama administration, also figured at the talks.

According to Dawn, Rice was also expected to convey the prime minister US apprehensions about the recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(8) Minister Vows...

Department building has been constructed at a cost of 32 million afghanis provided by Germany. It has 11 administrative rooms, a huge conference hall and the solar power facility.

He said the government was concerned about growing unemployment and efforts were underway to generate job opportunities for educated youth of the country.

Naderi added most Afghans were without homes and the ministry was striving to generate funds to build housing schemes for them. Every family will be able to pay at least 20,000 afis in each installment to become the owner of a house.

Earlier, the minister inaugurated the construction of a private township in the 6th municipality district of Faizabad. The township, having over 200 plots, will be constructed in line with a modern design. (Pajhwok)

(9) 240 Disabled...

would be distributed soon.

Laila, a disabled woman, said: "I had been living in rented houses with my six children. I'm glad having this apartment now and I don't care if I'm without food or water because I will live under the roof of my own house."

Holding the documents in her hands, Laila said she never thought one day she would own her own house, something that rekindled her hope in life.

Nasrin Oryakhail said unemployment remained a major challenge the disabled persons faced and the 5,000 afghanis monthly stipends they received was not enough.

"The disabled people get treated irregularly inside and outside the country. Most of these individuals come from poor families and are the ones who go to the frontline. Rich people's sons don't go to the frontline," she remarked.

She suggested the disabled persons should have their own hospital for proper treatments.

Figures with the Wolesi Jirga's commission on the disabled and martyrs show there are more than 800,000 disabled persons in Afghanistan with females constituting 41 percent of them.

But the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry says only 120,000 disabled persons are registered with it. (Pajhwok)

(10) Huge Expenses...

The peace committees, which operate under the HPC head office in Kabul, have 888 members and 142 staff members.

Expenses: Though millions of dollars have been spent on the peace process, but information in this regard has largely been denied to journalists.

According to the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU), an independent research organisation based in Kabul, 782 million US dollars had been set aside for the reintegration programme.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) writes that donor countries assisting the programme have been divided into three categories.

The Ministry of Finance and other authorities concerned do not provide needed information about the donors in first and third categories, but the Ministry of Finance says the donors in the second category have so far pledged \$130.4 million in assistance with the programme.

Of the \$131.7 million channeled through the UNDP in 2014, so far \$109 million has been utilised, according to the ministry. The UNDP also writes the second

category donors have assisted the APRP programme with \$131.7 million.

But advisor with HPC on foreign relations Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar said the HPC expenses stood at nearly \$3 million a year.

He said funds from donor countries were being used through various ministries and departments in peace related projects.

"Rumours being circulated among the people and the media that millions of dollars had been spent on the council are completely baseless. The HPC budgets during the past four or five years were \$2.5m sometimes \$2.6m and \$2.8m below \$3 million. These budgets are less than received by other departments and ministries. The funds were used to arrange gatherings, meetings, conferences, direct and indirect contacts."

He said claims made regarding huge spending were about the amounts which had been directly given to on-budget line ministries.

"I will cite a practical example; the US gives \$50 million to the Rural Development Ministry for its development projects and National Solidarity Program (NSP). Maybe some of the money was used to provide jobs to reconciling militants."

Gains

The High Peace Council says so far 10,500 militants have joined the peace process, with nearly one-fourth former rebels surrendering in northwestern Badghis province. The fewer number of militants joined the peace process in southwestern Nimroz province. (Pajhwok)

(11) Nearly 100 ...

operation was unclear. Both soldiers were members of the Air Force's Special Tactics squadrons. Such squadrons contain Special Operations troops, commonly employed on close air-support missions, where ground controllers help direct airstrikes. Their deaths raise to five the number of American soldiers killed in the Afghan conflict this year. At least six American contractors have been killed as well.

Afghan officials said it was a case of mistaken identity. Afghan forces have been nervous after attacks by insurgents dressed in the uniforms of the Afghan military and the police and even the American military.

Attacks have been on the increase countrywide and have already drawn American forces deeper into the conflict than at any point since their combat role officially ended on December 31 last year.

As the Musa Qala District fell on Wednesday, members of a United States Air Force Special Tactics Squadron were rushed into Camp Bastion, recently renamed Camp Antonik, the military headquarters of Helmand Province.

While the train, advise and assist mission is supposed to preclude combat operations, it does allow for American troops to conduct counterterrorism missions, such as against Al Qaeda, and to provide force PROTECTION in emergencies. The insurgents in Musa Qala are entirely Taliban forces.

"The coalition is now providing air support, and both Afghan and coalition forces are carrying out aerial bombardment and targeting Musa Qala District, and soon we will conduct ground operations to clear up the area," said Mohammad Rasoul Zazai, the spokesman for the Afghan National Army's 215th Corps in Helmand. (Tolnews)

(12) Analysts Warn ...

ANSP. In a fresh offensive, the Taliban killed at least 22 Afghan Local Police ALP personnel and three civilians on Friday.

"The government of Afghanistan needs to take the initiative and provide the best management in areas recaptured from Taliban so that the infiltration of Taliban is prevented again," Kapisa MP Mohammad Iqbal Safai said.

The situation is not limited only to Shereen Taga as the Taliban has made gains in other regions as well. "Lack of technical equipment on one hand and lack of reinforcements on the other are among the main reasons this problem must be resolved and more inclusive plans must be forged," military commentator Mia Gul Wasiq said.

"The Afghan armed forces are involved in battles across the country. So we can not deploy an army bri-

gade in every district, because we need more troops. We conduct the operations, police and other local organs should save the area," Dawlat Waziri, a defense ministry spokesman said.

Following the US military intervention in Afghanistan back in 2001, the country started forming an armed forces of 350,000 personnel to shield the country against international terrorism and militancy, however, since then, Afghan forces and their foreign counterparts have been involved in confronting the Taliban and other insurgent groups such as Daesh. (Tolnews)

(13) ALP Strength ...

of Nangarhar had been cleared of militants as a result of the offensive. He said 13 Afghan security personnel were killed and another three wounded during the operation.

But a Taliban's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, claimed in a statement issued to media outlets that 92 security personnel had been killed and wounded and their several vehicles destroyed during the operation, a claim rejected by the officials concerned.

Waziri said security forces stationed in the three districts had been supplied logistics enough for six months and that the insurgents could not create insecurity.

Nangarhar police chief Brig. Gen. Fazl Ahmad Sherzad said the number of ALP personnel would be increased in the Khogyani zone in order to prevent possible infiltration of militants.

Sherzad called the Operation Iron Triangular a success because civilians did not suffer casualties during the operation and that all areas in the three districts had been cleared of militants as a result.

To a question about possible return of the Taliban after the end of the operation, the police chief said: "Security on roads need enough security forces and have the plan for it."

Without providing any figures, he said the number of ALP forces in the Khogyani and the Shinwari zones would be increased several folds as recommended by the interior minister.

"We also have a special plan for Daesh and the group will be dealt with an iron hand," the police chief said. (Pajhwok)

(14) Illegal Armed ...

claiming the people of Daikundi had rejected the woman governor. The MPs insisted on the appointment of a male governor who could deal with the situation in an effective manner.

But Governor Masooma Muradi, during her maiden speech, said women too had the ability to head provinces. She also pledged tackling all challenges in an efficient fashion to put the province on the road to development.

On the other hand, Wolesi Jirga member Sherin Mohseni acknowledged tens of armed groups had been active for the past few years in Daikundi. Without naming anyone, he said some government officials were supporting the illegal groups. Mohseni accused former jihadi commander Mohammad Ali Sadaqat of killing an education officer in Khadir district. Sadaqat had been named by the Ministry of Interior as highway commander for Badghis province.

"Law must be enforced and the government asked why it cannot prevent the commander from illegal activities," he said. Sadaqat, accused of harassing people and having a personal jail, joined the peace process along with his supporters last year. (Pajhwok)

(15) Girl Raped...

processes. According to Khojistani, the sister of the accused who is now behind the bars was sexually abused several years ago.

She said, to take the revenge of her sister, the boy recently kidnapped and raped sister of the man who was allegedly behind the rape.

The incident took place in Farkhshah area of Nijrab District.

Meanwhile, Police Chief of Kapisa province says that the case has been registered and the accused is under further investigation.

Brigadier General Abdul Karim Fayeque said that initial investigation reveals the involvement of more

people in this case. (KP)

(16) Pajhwok...

speakers will throw light on recent developments.

The fate of peace parleys after Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar's death, proxy wars in Afghanistan and Kabul-Islamabad relations are the main topics for discussion.

Also on the agenda are issues like the High Peace Council's role and armed opponents' disenchantment with the reconciliation campaign.

In his opening remarks, Pajhwok's Editor-in-Chief and Director Danish Karokhel his news agency had been covering happenings all across the country over the past 12 years, besides releasing analytical reports on Afghanistan's political, economic and social landscape.

In an effort to establish itself as a credible media outlet, Pajhwok offers subscribers variegated information on a whole host of topics, including video, audio and photo services.

Over the past six months, he said, Pajhwok had been compiling information and material on the peace process with the assistance of the US Institute of Peace (USIP).

One overriding object behind the project is to convince people to join hands within the framework of the reconciliation drive for Afghanistan's stability and preventing further bloodshed.

Pajhwok Afghan News had also created a special website carrying comprehensive analytical reports, features on dispute resolution, interviews, writings on peace from the Islamic perspective, he said.

Danish added that sharing people's views, poems, speeches, messages, resolutions, audio services, pictures, caricatures, books, profiles of militant groups, peace heroes and civil society's struggle for reconciliation were other highlights of the website. (Pajhwok)

(17) India to Allow ...

been spread about land acquisition bill, which has scared the farmers. We do not want that. The government is open to any suggestion in the interest of farmers," he said. (Xinhua)

(18) Iraq Bombs

Obeida al-Jazaa'ri, an Algerian, who was the leader of suicide bombers in Euphrates (Furat) area, which includes Anbar province.

On Thursday, IS militant group claimed the responsibility for the deadly suicide bomb attack that killed a number of officers and soldiers, including Staff Major General Abdul-Rahaman Abu Raghif, deputy commander of Anbar provincial Operations Command, and Staff Brig. Gen. Sefien Abdul-Majid, commander of the Army's Tenth Division. (Xinhua)

(19) Libya's Anarchy...

agency LANA reported that on July 17 alone, around 2,700 illegal immigrants have been rescued off the Libyan coast as they were attempting to reach European coasts. (Xinhua)

(20) Malaysia s....

leader," he told media before heading to the rally, whose numbers police estimated at 25,000 on Sunday afternoon.

The protest has brought into the streets a political crisis triggered by reports of a mysterious transfer worth more than \$600 million into an account under Najib's name.

Najib, who denies wrongdoing, has weathered the storm and analysts say the protest is unlikely to inspire broad public support for him to quit because it lacks a strong leader.

However, Mahathir - the country's longest-serving leader - was a leader of the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), which represents Malays. (Reuters)

(21) JCPOA Prelud ...

also expressed Iran's readiness to bolster ties with Singapore in the fields of energy, science, technology and culture.

The Singaporean ambassador, who submitted his credentials to President Rouhani, called for increased trade and economic exchanges with Iran. He said Singapore is keen to boost cultural and tourist ties with the Islamic Republic as a country with an ancient civilization. (PressTV)