KABUL - Exporters of high-value Afghan food products will showcase their goods to international buyers this week at the Gulfood Exhibition, the world’s largest food and beverage trade show.

Over 50 Afghan businesses are attending the five-day exhibition and closed the Kabul-Kandahar highway in Maqur district of southern Ghazni province for the past six nights at Kabul hotels area of the capital.

The remarks by Ahmad Nuriullah come as tension between the nuclear-armed neighbors has risen sharply over the killing in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Thursday of 40 Indian paramilitary police in a suicide bomb attack claimed by the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Muhammad militant group.

U.S. envoys say Pakistan has an important role to play in the Afghan peace effort, given its links to the Taliban.

Taliban representatives are scheduled to meet prospective buyers, with over half of them displaying Afghan agricultural products. "Gulfood has had a dramatic effect on our ability to generate overseas sales," said Bilal Ahmed, president of King Khan Ltd., a Kandahar-based fruit exporter. "Because of Gulfood, we have received orders from up to 27 items and ask all businessmen to pay the duty. According to the list, a container carrying medicines has to pay $1,000 to $3,000 for the goods taken to or brought from the Agina port. The Taliban recently announced establishing a customs office and imposing customs duty on export and import goods via the Aqina port. In addition, a vehicle carrying tires, most batteries, mobile phones, oil, gas and spare parts has to pay $2,500 to $5,500. Vegetable, potatoes, wheat, corn, salt, cement are charged $1,000 to $2,000 per ton. Meanwhile, businessmen and residents of faraway provinces asked the government to address their problem and reopen the highway in Maqur at the earliest possible. Bahram Bae, another passenger from the Darazai district of northern Farah province, told Pajhwok Afghan News they were living in a Kabul hotel for the past five days and most of them were laborers who had spent their money on food and rent. They urged the government to address their problem and reopen the highway in Maqur at the earliest possible.

KABUL - Hundreds of passengers closed Kabul-Kandahar highway for two hours in the Company area of the capital. The passengers, who have spent several nights at Kabul hotels due to the closure of the highway in the Maqur district of southern Ghazni province for the past six days, blocked the busy road from 7am to 9am. Haji Zaheer, a passenger from the Marwand district of Kandahar province, told Pajhwok Afghan News they were living in a Kabul hotel for the past five days and most of them were laborers who had spent their money on food and rent. They urged the government to address their problem and reopen the highway in Maqur at the earliest possible.

KABUL - Pakistan’s ambassador to Afghanistan said on Tuesday that peace talks between the United States and Afghan Taliban militants would be affected if India resorted to violence against Pakistan in response to a deadly bombing in the Kashmir region.

"If India resorted to violence against Pakistan in response to a deadly bombing in the Kashmir region, bilateral peace talks would be affected," Pakistan’s ambassador to Afghanistan said.

Meanwhile, U.S. envoys say Pakistan has an important role to play in the Afghan peace effort, given its links to the Taliban.