President Ashraf Ghani has emphasized on more and urgent efforts to properly manage the country’s water resources which he called a natural asset, saying work so far done in this regard is inadequate.

In the context, an 18-month transitional process, the RAND Corporation has developed the draft agreement and the document has been shared with senior Afghan officials in Kabul, as well as with stakeholders in the region. The 11-month-long intra-Afghan government, extension of U.S. assistance to Afghanistan, creation of a high-level council, coalitions to the constitution, amnesty, Taliban’s complete renunciation of links with terrorist organisations, release of prisoners and formation of an impartial team to implement the deal are the main points.

Rand Corporation’s Peace Deal Viewed as a Proposal

The RAND Corporation has prepared a potential peace agreement in Afghanistan, but independent analysts insist that a final deal is yet to be achieved.

Second Vice President Sarwar Danesh, Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, Finance Minister Mohammad Humayon Qarzawi, Rural Development Minister Najibullah Kamar and President’s Adviser Amrul Karim also presented their views regarding property and more accurate management of water resources.

FAITH
Always be yourself, express yourself, have faith in yourself, do not go out and look for a successful personality and duplicate it.

Quote of the Day

NEW DELHI - The Taliban must have a role in Afghanistan in future, Iran's foreign minister said on Wednesday, but asked that the hardline Islamist group should not have a domineer role.

Efforts for a negotiated settlement of the 18-year war in Afghanistan have gathered pace in recent weeks, even as reports that U.S. President Donald Trump plans to withdraw thousands of U.S. troops triggered uncertainty in Kabul.

U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad has held three rounds of talks with the Taliban, but on Tuesday, the militants cancelled a fourth round, which had been due in Qatar this week.

The militants said they called off the talks because of an “agenda disagreement”, especially over the involvement of officials from the Western-backed Afghan government as well as some possible caveats.

Largely Shi'ite Muslim Iran has long been wary of the Sunni Muslim Taliban.

Afghanistan Says End to War a 'Dream' Without Taliban Talking to Government

KABUL - Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah on Wednesday said that the Taliban's refusal to involve the government in peace talks means the end to a conflict that has lasted 17 years can only remain a dream.

Abdullah's remarks came a day after the Taliban called off a fourth round of talks with U.S. officials in Qatar, due to start this week, over disagreements about the involvement of Afghan officials, a possible ceasefire and prisoner exchange.

Efforts for a negotiated settlement have gathered pace in recent weeks, even as reports that U.S. President Donald Trump plans to withdraw thousands of U.S. troops triggered uncertainty.

The United States is pressing Taliban leaders to sit down with an Afghan government that includes the Taliban but that the U.S. sees the United States as the main proponent and dismiss the Kabul administration.

In any peace deal in which the rights of our citizens, that have been gained with a lot of sacrifices, are not respected, the deal is a dream and will never happen,” Abdullah told gathering in Kabul, commemorating the 15th anniversary of the invasion.

“Today the talk about the withdrawal of foreign forces is an excuse for continuation of war and gaining more opportunities.”

A Taliban leader told Reuters that the talks, which would have been the fourth round with U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, would have again been on a U.S. withdrawal, power exchange and the lifting of a ban on movement of Taliban leaders.

Taliban sources said that they had demanded the U.S. authorities release 250 prisoners and that they would free 3,000, but that U.S. officials were not keen to discuss the exchange.

The war in Afghanistan is America’s longest overseas military intervention. It has cost Washington nearly $1 trillion and killed tens of thousands of people (More on P4).

Increase Electricity

There is plenty of snow in the highlands of the republic this year, and the newly commissioned energy capacities in the country an increase in the supply of electricity due to the growth of electricity production in the country and the demand for electricity in neighboring countries.

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