President Assures Nangarhar Industrialists of Full Support

Afghanistan Embraces Sendai

KABUL - Consultations are ongoing on creating a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, representing civil society, before the end of the current year. Deputy Minister of Disaster Management and Humanitarian Affairs Mohammad Haidari made the announcement in the capital on Monday.

Also Afghanistan’s focal point for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Haidari said: “We have three national priorities when it comes to development:...”

Speaking in Ulaanbaatar, he said the priorities were Sustainable Development Goals, implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

According to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, healthy food is part of an Afghan delegation attending a UN-sponsored training session on the newly launched Sendai Framework.

Haidari said consultations were underway at a provincial level and there is an ambition to go down to district, wherever possible, to have both national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction in place.

Surat Panda, ODR advisor, said that the effort is gaining momentum in light of a drought which has hit 30% of the country’s 34 provinces affecting one million people. “The situation is not good. We are seeing a lot of migration from these areas.”

The timely collection of data is a key challenge in Afghanistan, given insecurity in much of the country. The UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, USAID, US AFRICA, ICRC, IOM, and WHO are working with Afghan authorities to promote disaster risk reduction in Afghanistan.

Wells Due in Islamabad for Talks on Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - US President Donald Trump’s point person for the region is scheduled to arrive in Islamabad to meet members of the Wolesi Jirga.

KARUL - During the five-day campaign, officials say, about 52,000 Afghan vaccinators will visit 6.4 million children under the age of five.

Afghan Minister of Public Health Ferozuddin Feroz has emphasized the neutrality of polio vaccination campaigns. An official statement issued to mark the start of the current campaign, Feroz said that it was being conducted during the high transmission season for polio when children are most vulnerable to getting the virus.

“Our primary reports show, that in round of the campaign, around 1,240,000 children could be deprived from polio vaccine in Helmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Kandahar and Kunduz provinces, where the anti-government elements are not supporting the implementation of campaigns,” the minister noted.

Taliban insurgents and Islamic State militants are active in Kunar and Nangarhar next to the border with Pakistan in the east. The Taliban controls or influences the rest of the provinces in the south and north, where the vulnerable Afghan child population is located.

Afghan health authorities have reported nine polio cases this year in the country, the highest number of wild polio cases in the world. The latest, a three-year-old child, surfaced last week in Nad-e-Ali district of southern Kandahar province.

Officials say the boy was among over 900,000 children in Kandahar during a UNISDR training session held in Kabul.

The Swiss president and a UN team to observe the Eid ceasefire, which ended two days ago. He added both Afghanistan and Pakistan are interested in resolving the crisis.

Ambassador Al-Iman Wess, a senior State Department diplomat, who has just concluded her trip to Kabul, is due to meet Pakistan’s Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua and other officials in Islamabad.

The two sides would explore ways of resuming the Afghan reconciliation process ahead of the parliamentary elections in the neighboring country, a foreign ministry official said.

Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity, the official believed theTalks could return to talks after the successful Eid ceasefire, which ended two days ago.

On Monday’s hearing, a foreign ministry official said.

According to Kargar, Uzbekistan is interested in investing about $300 million in the construction of a 675-km railway line from Mazar-e-Sharif to Herat which will connect Uzbekistan with Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan has established a transit hub at its border with Afghanistan in order to promote trade and transit ties between the two countries, President Ashraf Ghani’s advisor on Central Asian Affairs Shakir said Saturday.

According to Kargar, the development project is expected to be operational within a few weeks. It is a railway line and station, a trade center for commercial goods and roads for transporting of goods.

A presidential decree ordered Uzbekistan to invest 500 million dollars to build stations in Uzbekistan’s Andi Jan port, said Kargar.

Speaking to Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity, the official believed the Talks could return to talks after the successful Eid ceasefire, which ended two days ago. He added both Afghanistan and the United States were in a push to reach a deal with the Taliban in the coming months.

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KABUL - Former Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdul Razaq Wali- di on Monday appeared before a special tribunal after being accused of corruption and misuse of authority.

The special tribunal was established to tackle cases against current and former government ministers accused of corruption and Monday’s hearing marked its first session.

Monday’s hearing, held at the Supreme Court in Kabul, was presided over by a three-judge panel, led by Judge Zaman Safi.

Wali di has been accused of abusing his authority and embezzling revenue collected from the ten percent tax levied on mobile phone users.

The accused has rejected the claims and the allegations have been part of a political conspiracy against him. He also questioned the legitimacy of the court and the ability of it to “speak for all.”

KABUL - Uzbekistan is also looking at building a 675-km railway line from Mazar-e-Sharif to Herat which will connect Uzbekistan with Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan has established a transit hub at its border with Afghanistan in order to promote trade and transit ties between the two countries, President Ashraf Ghani’s advisor on Central Asian Affairs Shakir said Saturday.

According to Kargar, the development project is expected to be operational within a few weeks.

“Now most of our transit problems in Uzbekistan have been solved. New Afghanistan’s goods can be transported to Russia and China through Uzbekistan’s Andi Jan port,” said Kargar.

Kargar also said the establishment of such a transit hub in Uzbekistan will “open a new chapter” for transit trade between the two countries, "We have expressed our willingness to do so. New Afghanistan’s goods can be transported to Russia and China through Uzbekistan’s Andi Jan port,” said Kargar.

Kargar also said the establishment of such a transit hub in Uzbekistan...More on P4...