NEW YORK - Briefing the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday, the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, said the recent “security and political crisis was sparked by a terrorist bombing in Kabul’s centre on 31 Mar.” He said this was followed by demonstrations protesting growing insecurity which turned violent, and then a suicide attack at a subsequent funeral of one of those killed in the demonstrations. He told the Security Council that the “political fault-lines that emerged are increasing along an ethnic basis, which is particularly worrying”. During the anti-government demonstrations on 2 June, at UNAMA conducted extensive outreach to leaders on all sides, particularly leaders of political movements which were considering joining the protests. We urged restraint, warned of the negative consequence as for everyone of loss of control, and requested them to give time to allow their grievances to be addressed without violence,” he said. He said that coupled with intensive efforts by government and members of the diplomatic community, the immediate risk of escalation was defused. “I remain concerned, however, that without changes in governance practices we are likely to face future crises that might be more difficult to contain.” He said that there have been indications since last summer “that the Afghan government is increasing its efforts to improve governance.”

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Wednesday said the smuggling of metal scraps was being strictly curbed, referring to steps to combat smuggling at iron-melting factories against a “reasonable price.” Mohammad Ibrahim Shams, general director for government enterprises at the MoF, appeared in a joint news conference with Afghanistan Steel and Iron Industrial Association (AISIA) members and officers of diminishing factories here. Shams said their initial study in the past four months showed 5,700 tonnes of old and used metal were available with civil and military organizations. He said the government had decided to stop all metal scraps to active steel mills through a bidding and a transparent procurement process.

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has signed the bill on prevention of electronic crimes into law, the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology said on Tuesday. Nabi Nangyal, a spokesman for the IT minister told Pajhwok Afghan News the 27-article law had become part of the panel code after its approval by the president. Meanwhile, acting Telecom and IT minister Eng Sayed Ahmad Shah Sadat said before there was no law to punish people for crimes they committed on the internet. “Now when the law is approved, anyone who commits character assassination or messes with the social media, there are punishment codes and the accused can be punished,” the law recommends fines and imprisonment up to 10 years as punishment, he said.

Pakistan Affecting Afghanistan Stability: Pentagon

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon on Tuesday said Pakistan was the “most influential” external actor affecting Afghan stability and the military alliance’s mission. “Pakistan views the outcome of Afghan conflict to be in its national interest and thus remains driven by its India-centric region policy objectives,” the Pentagon said in its six-monthly report to Congress.

It said the Afghan-oriented militant groups, including the Taliban and Pakistan-based networks, were expected to take effect measures for full implementation of the law. “Now when the law is approved, anyone who commits character assassination or messes with the social media, there are punishment codes and the accused can be punished,” the law recommends fines and imprisonment up to 10 years as punishment, he said. Former deputy IT minister Amir Majid on his Facebook account said that all departments of the government were expected to take effective measures for full implementation of the law.

Although Pakistan military operations have disrupted some militant sanctuaries, certain “ties remain strong,” the Pentagon said.

KARUL - The Afghan government on Wednesday said it would not allow Pakistan to use a deal between the two countries to smuggle metal scraps into Afghanistan. A spokesman for the Afghan government, Azad, said the people and the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan had agreed that the Durand Line as an international border since it was drawn in 1896. Azad said the Pakistan government had accepted the Durand Line as an international border since it was drawn in 1896. The Pakistani army on Tuesday announced a plan to start bordering the Pakistan-Afghanistan border with three tribal agencies on its side. In a statement, Pakistani army’s military wing said the fencing was being carried out in two phases along the 2,640-kilometer (1,640-mile) border. “Scraps to active steel mills will not be more difficult to contain,” he said. He said that there have been indications since last summer “that the Afghan government is increasing its efforts to improve governance.”

KABUL - In Afghanistan where its own citizens are among the largest exporters of narcotics, the United Nations has been pivotal in promoting anti-narcotics measures. The United Nations has been working with the Afghan government to combat the illegal drug trade, which has been a significant source of revenue for the Taliban and other insurgent groups. The United Nations has been involved in providing training and technical assistance to the Afghan government’s law enforcement agencies, as well as providing funding for the construction of facilities and the purchase of equipment. The United Nations has also been involved in promoting alternative development programs, which are designed to provide alternative economic opportunities for farmers and other communities dependent on the illegal drug trade.

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MoF Serious in Curbing Smuggling of Metal Scraps

Afghan Govt Says Won’t Allow Border Fencing

Foreigners Easily Get Afghan Citizenship than Afghans

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