Govt Asked to Talk with Pakistan on Reopening its Airspace

KABUL - Afghan airlines are using Iran’s airspace as a new air route for Kabul-Delhi flights as Pakistan’s airspace remains closed to commercial flights following India-Pakistan military tensions since last month.

Pakistan government promised to re-open the airspace last Tuesday but it still remains closed and only four airports are operational in that country.

Thousands of Afghans are traveling to India on a daily basis, mostly for treatment purposes. The flights which took one and a half hours through Pakistan’s airspace are now taking six hours to reach New Delhi, officials from Kam Air said. According to the officials, every passenger was charged $350 to $450 in the past but now the prices have increased to $500 and $600.

Kam Air uses an Airbus A340 for daily flights. (Tolo news)

Eight Taliban Militants Killed in Farah Operation

KABUL - At least eight Taliban militants were killed and three others wounded in an operation conducted by Afghan forces in western Farah province, a local official said on Sunday.

Hashmatullah Ahmadi, a spokesman for Afghan Army told Ariana News that Afghan forces have launched a clearance operation in central Farah city of the province. According to Ahmadi, at least eight militants were killed and three others injured in the operation, while a number of villages were also cleared of the Taliban.

He added that two Taliban vehicles were destroyed and a number of their weapons seized by Afghan forces.

The Taliban has not made a comment about the incident yet. (More on P5, 7)

5,900 People Infected with HIV/AIDS in Afghanistan

KABUL - Officials from the Ministry of Public Health said their statistics show that 5,900 people have been diagnosed positive with HIV/AIDS virus around the country. The statistics were made public in a meeting organized on the activities of the ministry, especially in prevention of HIV/AIDS. The meeting was attended by the ministry’s officials and representatives of international organizations.

Mamozai Zewar, the Deputy Minister of Public Health, said that 28 people lost their lives due to HIV/AIDS infection. He said there was the possibility of a contact between Lamm Khan and Iranian President Erossou Resultan in the near future.

He said railways system would soon be extended up to Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey and Russia. Pakistan’s Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said on Saturday that Pakistan railways will connect Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey and Russia through rail.

The railway extension system would soon be extended up to Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Russia. Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan of his recent visit to Iran, Pakistan Railways of cooperation with Turkey and Iran had also assured of their cooperation for upgrading the rail link.

Pakistan’s Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said on Saturday that Pakistan railways will connect Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey and Russia through rail, according to Pakistan media reports. Addressing laborers at Railways Workshop at Mughalpura, he said Turkey and Iran had also assured Pakistan Railways of cooperation for upgrading the rail link.

The minister said he had apprised Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan of his recent visit to Iran, which had assured of cooperation. He said there was the possibility of a contact between Lamm Khan and Iranian President Erossou Resultan in the near future.

He said railways system would soon be extended up to Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Russia, adding that Turkey and Iran had assured of their cooperation for the purpose. (Tolo news)