Indonesia Says Ready Host Afghan Peace Talks

KABUL - Indonesia is ready to host Afghanistan peace talks, the country’s special deputy envoy said during a meeting with Foreign Minister Sabahuddin Kabrani.

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry special envoy Dewa Peraya met with Kabrani and discussed with him the Afghan peace process, a statement from the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. (More on P4)

Kabul Police Foils Smugglers Bid to Sale an Ancient Sculpture for $250,000

KABUL - The Kabul Police forces have foiled smugglers’ bid to sell an ancient sculpture for 250,000 US Dollars, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said.

According to a statement released by Ministry of Interior, a suspected smuggler was arrested in connection with the sale and smuggling of the sculpture. (More on P4)

Europe Should Pay for Afghan Refugees in Iran ‘If They Support the U.S.’

ANJCIKAN - Afghan entrepreneurs are finding increasing success in Turkey, taking advantage of their considerable know-how and the country’s simplified procedures for refugees setting up new businesses, Agence France-Presse reported on Sunday.

When Haji Yakup Burhan fled the violence of his home country 30 years ago he took his family and his money to Saudi Arabia, hoping to open a restaurant. But as refugees, his children had terrible getting into school, according to AFP. He moved to the United Arab Emirates, but the expense of Dubai proved too much.

“Two years ago, he moved to Turkey and opened a restaurant in Istanbul’s Elifan neighborhood, taking advantage of the country’s relatively open business environment for refugees,” said AFP.

“I have 15 people working for me in this restaurant. They are Afghans, Iranians and Turks,” said the 55-year-old Burhan, at his Afghan Kebab restaurant. “Over 60 per cent of our customers are Afghans living here. The rest are Arabs, Iranians and Turks.”

Turkey hosts nearly four million refugees, including some 3.5 million Syrians. But Afghans come next, at more than 145,000, according to the country’s tourism ministry figures released last year.

AFP said that while some people in Turkey viewed refugees as a burden, refugees had made not just a significant investment in places such as Burhan’s bustling Istanbul suburb.

Last September, to encourage foreign investment, Turkey slashed the threshold at which Turkish citizenship is offered to foreigners buying property from $1 million to $250,000, spurring an 82 percent increase in foreigners buying real estate in the first quarter of this year, according to the Turkish Statistical Institute. Sheikhussein Araqchi, a former Afghan minister now in Iran, said.

“People cannot protect their lives and money in Afghanistan,” he said. “They want to come to Turkey and Afghanistan to have safety.”

In their meeting with President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday, they discussed U.S.-Afghan Civilians Assistance Review to promote strong governance and self-reliance as proposed by President Ghani in his letter to US President Donald Trump and other issues related to Afghanistan, the President Palace said in a statement.

According to the statement, the two sides also discussed the peace process and preparations for the upcoming presidential elections. (More on P4)

Business Booms for Afghan Refugees in Turkey

The US official and Afghan leaders discussed the peace process and upcoming elections among other topics.

Turkish police have foiled a plot by smugglers to sell an ancient sculpture to Europe for $250,000, with the seller arrested.

UNAMA Concerned about Civilian Harm from Increased Violence During Ramadan

The UN mission in Afghanistan called on all parties to halt the fighting during Ramadhan.

The head of UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Mr. Tadamichi Yamamoto, said.

“Taliban attack on the eve of Ramadan against the Afghan National Police headquarters in Pul-e-Khumri, Baghlan province, caused many civilian casualties, with women and children among the injured. These two attacks in civilian-populated urban centres took place against a backdrop of widespread reports of a recent intensification of the conflict in various regions of the country, as well as multiple claims that civilians are paying a heavy price.

UNAMA actively looking into allegations of civilian casualties resulting from international military forces’ aerial operations in Farah and Nimroz provinces against reported drug manufacturing facilities. The locations are not easily accessible and there are numerous operational challenges to the verification of civilian status of persons allegedly harmed by these operations. UNAMA will continue to conduct the Security Council mandated impartial monitoring and recording of harm to civilians, making its findings public as part of work to promote accountability and limit civilian harm.”

“(More on P4)