KABUL - China being SCO’s current chair is playing a proactive role in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan. The Afghan and Chinese teams were led respectively by Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Karzai and Vice-Foreign Minister Kong Xuan You.

The meeting discussed the current situation in Afghanistan and its neighboring regions, the reconciliation process and measures for cooperation between SCO and Afghanistan. India supported the offer of President Ashraf Ghani to the armed opposition for talks and the need for an Afghan-led reconciliation process in an environment free of terror and violence. (Pajhwok)

KABUL - India has underlined the need for continued global assistance for Afghanistan’s socio-economic development based on priorities of the Afghan people.

India’s Additional Foreign Secretary Gitesh Sarma issued the call at the second meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group in Beijing, according to the foreign ministry in New Delhi.

A statement from the ministry said New Delhi reiterated its support to the membership of Afghanistan in the SCO and renewed its willingness to work with member states to bring peace and stability to the war-hit country. The meeting discussed the current situation in Afghanistan and its neighboring regions, the reconciliation process and measures for cooperation between SCO and Afghanistan.

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India Stresses Aid for Afghanistan’s Development

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Talks the Best Way Bring Peace, Stability in Afghanistan: China

BEIJING - China has welcomed Afghanistan’s new peace strategy with the Taliban and said peace was the only suitable option to end current conflict in Afghanistan, a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said on Tuesday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Karzai has traveled to China and held meetings with Chinese Foreign Secretary Kong Xuan You, the statement said.

During the meeting Karzai thanked the Chinese government for organizing trilateral meetings between Afghanistan, Pakistan and China for counter-terrorism and pushing new energy in the peace efforts. The two sides also discussed the June 9th and 10th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting and the sideline meeting between the presidents of both countries.

The Afghan deputy foreign minister also asked his counterpart to help accelerate development projects China was conducting in the country. (More on P4)

All Right Hand Drive Cars to be Collected, Disassembled

KABUL - The Traffic General Department on Monday said the plan to collect around 70,000 right-hand drive vehicles and thousands of unregistered vehicles would be implemented all over the country.

Col. Mohammad Shafiq Sayedi, the traffic department head, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the plan would be implemented following the National Security Council (NSC)’s decision.

Article 19 of the traffic law mandates vehicles should move on the right side of roads and driving right-hand vehicles is illegal.

Sayedi said the NSC in 2011 gave temporary licenses for five years to right-hand drivers and when the period ended, all right hand drive vehicles should be collected and disassembled.

He said the five-year term of temporary right-hand vehicle licenses had ended in 2016 and the NSC in 2017 decided to collect the right hand drive cars.

The traffic general department has now decided to seriously (More on P4)... (More on P4)

In a Week, 286 Unregistered Afghans Return from Pakistan

KABUL - As many as 286 undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan last week through Torkham and Tchinak border crossings, officials say.

Barker monitoring team of the Directorate of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR) say 271 Afghans returned home voluntarily while 15 were deported.

The number of returnees shows a 16 percent decrease compared to the previous week when 837 Afghans returned home voluntarily while 15 were deported.