Pakistan Offers Help for Peace in Afghanistan: FM

KABUL — Pakistan Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said his country had offered help for peace in Afghanistan.

“Pakistan’s Armed Forces to take action against the terrorists if credible ‘intelligence’ is given to us,” he said, talking to a private electronic news channel.

Pakistan was controlling over 40 percent territory in Afghanistan, he said.

Pakistan did not have sanctuaries in Afghanistan, adding "Just blaming or levelling allegations would not help resolve the problems," he said.

Pakistan had appointed the United Nations about playing role for peace in Afghanistan, he said. (AFP)

Iran, Afghanistan Sign MoU on Trade Cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran and Afghanistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Saturday to expand their bilateral trade cooperation.

The document was signed during a visit Afghanistan in Iran's presence.

The MoU, which is valid for five years, was signed by the head of the Organization for Investment in Afghanistan Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, and Hossien Mesbahi-Moopen, deputy finance and economic affairs minister, was present at the signing ceremony.

The two sides further discussed ways to boost their cooperation in the fields of banking, customs, insurance, and economy.

During the meeting, the Afghan side also asked for the banking cooperation.

Afghanistan Receives AIIB Membership Certificate

KABUL — Afghanistan received a certificate of permanent membership of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Ministry of Finance announced on Saturday.

Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi received the certificate from Jin Liqiang, president of AIIB, on the sidelines of the Washington World Bank and IMF meetings in Washington DC, a statement from the ministry said.

They discussed progress in Afghanistan's membership of the bank, providing financial and technical facilities for solar energy and railway connectivity among Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Iran and China.

Financing infrastructure projects and some other important subjects were considered for discussion.

The membership paves the way for the implementation of major projects in Afghanistan.

In the recent past, the practical work of cooperation in the near future was launched, and his high-ranking delegation will visit Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

KABUL — Acting Minister of MoSAMD Fazulullah Zazi said this during a press conference here held for presenting the ministry’s 3-year activity report.

“Based on the study by the World Bank (WB) about 900,000 of the country’s people eligible for work are unemployed. Thus, we, for creating job opportunities and overcoming these issues, are jointly working with trade unions and employers with regard to devising and executing policies in order to lower the level of unemployment.”

Zazi said about 70,000 youth had graduated from vocational schools over the past three years and one percent of them were absorbed into local and foreign organizations and the rest of others also had found jobs in various spheres.

The minister informed about the organizing of a huge conference in the next two months in Kabul to address the unemployment phenomenon and how to create jobs.

He went on to say that the biometric programme of retorno (compulsory registration of identity) was also underway and about 70,000 people’s identities have been so far recorded.

He about the development budget of the ministry said: “Over the past several years, unfortunately the development budget wasn’t expended properly, but this (Mehr on P4)...”

‘Afghanistan to Ink Transport Agreement with Central Asian States’

MAZAAR-3 SHARIF - Afghanistan would soon sign an agreement with the Central Asian States which will deal with motor routes and routes of the landlocked country, the Ministry of Transport said on Saturday.

Addressing reporters in Mazair-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, Transport Ministry spokesman Hekmatullah Qarqar, said Afghanistan initiated major steps to resolve transport related issues on regional level.

He said the possible agreement was under consideration in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Pakistan at the moment.

He added the agreement would soon be prepared and its implementation would help Afghanistan find new linkages and road.

Qarqar said Afghanistan stopped Pakistan trade vehicles from traveling through the country. In the past Pakistani vehicles would travel to Herat Port but Afghanistan transporters were not allowed to use Karachi port or other area of Pakistan.

He said Pakistani vehicles would drop goods at Turkmen and Spindlechak ports and from there Afghan vehicles would carry the goods to different destinations in the country.

The spokesman informed electronic gates would be established at the custom departments in order to stop corruption and graft. He added the country was facing huge transport issues; however, he pledged to resolve the problems as soon as possible. (Pajhwok)

Work on Iran-Herat Rail-Line to Complete Till 2017 End

HERAT CITY - Construction work on a segment of railroad project extended from Iran to Afghanistan in western Herat province will be finished in the next 10 days and then put into service, said the Iranian Ambassador on Saturday.

Work on the 62-kilometeres long railway project from Iran’s border to Ghoriyan district of Herat was launched in 2007 at a cost of $75 million based on a grant from neighboring country.

The project extended from Iran to Afghanistan in western Herat region, including Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Iran and China.

MPs Blame Karzai for Current Crisis

KABUL — Underscoring the importance of legislating in the Wolesi Jirga, Lower House of Parliament, on Saturday claimed that the former president Hamid Karzai was behind the current crisis in the country and that he should not be allowed to inject in government’s affairs.

“Karzai’s team, Karzai’s band and the process that was established by the name of Karzai, you should know, that the team and this band is corrupt and they have stolen Afghani," MP Gulam Hassan Naqvi said.

“Whatever will be the former president’s message to the families of those...” (Mehr on P4)...