Doha Talks Will Be Difficult, Tough Decisions Needed: Abdullah

KABUL - Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, said on Thursday that the talks between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Taliban will be difficult, stating that the Afghan team will face issues that will require hard decisions to be made.

But Abdullah pledged that the rights of the Afghan people, including women's rights and civil liberties, will be protected. "I don’t say that these talks will be very simple, these talks will be very hard. We will face issues that will need hard decisions to be made. But the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has gone to Qatar with the support of the Afghan government and the Afghan politicians," said Abdullah.

Afghan politicians believe that recommendations for a ceasefire in the Kabul government and the Taliban to change the political system will obstruct the way toward reaching an agreement.

"The Afghan government will certainly offer a creative proposal, and the Taliban are likely to propose an interim government;..." (More on P4)...(1)

US Embassy Warns of Extremist Attacks Against Women

KABUL - The US Embassy in Kabul has warned that extremist groups are planning to carry out attacks against a variety of targets in Afghanistan.

The embassy issued the warning on Thursday but did not specify which organizations were planning to attack. "The Taliban and Loya Jirga in Kabul warns US citizens that extremist organizations continue to plan attacks targeting Afghanistan’s security forces, political leaders, and government officials. As the Taliban and Loya Jirga in Kabul warns US citizens that extremist organizations continue to plan attacks targeting Afghanistan’s security forces, political leaders, and government officials. As the Taliban and Loya Jirga in Kabul warns US citizens that extremist organizations continue to plan attacks targeting Afghanistan’s security forces, political leaders, and government officials. As the Taliban and Loya Jirga in Kabul warns US citizens that extremist organizations continue to plan attacks targeting Afghanistan’s security forces, political leaders, and government officials. As the Taliban and Loya Jirga in Kabul warns US citizens..., (More on P4)...(2)

Differences on Code of Conduct Related Issues Yet to Be Resolved

KABUL - Government and the Taliban negotiation teams have agreed on one of the two contradictory items related to in internal code of conduct, according to a well-placed source.

The source, however, did not provide more information that the two contradicting items were linked to which topics.

Both teams were discussing to resolve the remaining contradictory items related to the code of conduct, according to the source needed different approach to resolve them. The next phase would be discussion over the other contradictory items relating to future talks, according to the source.

Earlier, government delegation member Nader Nadery told Pajhwok Afghan News that both teams have nearly reached an agreement over the internal rules and regulations of future negotiation. (Pajhwok)

President Scraps Afghanistan Nation Fund

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has abolished the Afghanistan Nation Fund (ANF), according to a statement on Thursday.

ANF was formed in May in compliance to presidential decree to collect donations and distribute them among vulnerable people. It was created under the frame of the contemporary work of Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) with 42 million afghani budget for the salaries of the ART workers for ongoing year.

According to the source the ANF had not received any donations since the outbreak of coronavirus and it remained a contradictory item which the Afghan government negotiation teams have agreed on one of the two contradictory items related to... (More on P4)...(3)

President Orders Probe into Gang-Rape of Girl

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has ordered the Attorney General Office (AGO) and the National Directorate of Security (NDS) to carry out a thorough investigation into the gangrape case of a young girl in northern Balkh province.

Three days back, media reports said the girl was sexually abused by seven men in Balkh. The girl had been duped into travelling to Balkh by seven men in Balkh. The girl had been duped into travelling to Balkh by seven men in Balkh. The girl had been duped into travelling to Balkh by seven men in Balkh. The girl had been duped into travelling to Balkh by seven men in Balkh. The girl had been duped into travelling to Balkh by seven men in Balkh. The girl had been duped... (More on P4)...(4)
KABUL, Afghanistan - Construction of Doshi-Banmyan Highway Progressed by 37%: MoPW

In a recent update, the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW) has progressed 37 percent of the Minawo-Khanabad stretch of the Doshi-Banmyan Highway, which measures 152 kilometers from Doshma to 152 kilometers from Baghlan and reaches 152 kilometers from Bamiyan, a central province.

The project is divided into six phases, according to the statement. The Phase 1 of the project has a length of 24 kilometers and a width of 11 meters, and is signed between the government and a private construction company. The project that shows a 37 percent progress is funded by the World Bank, the statement said.

This project is considered one of the most important steps of the government, which could be an alternative road to Balkh Highways.

The ministry did not provide further details, but said other phases are also being worked on and are progressing.

AAKH - Thirteen Taliban insurgents have been killed and five others injured in a clash in the Dara I Safa Panj district of northern Samangan province, an official said on Friday.

Police Spokesperson Abdul Murri Rahimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban-stermed security forces check points on Thursday.

AABAK - Three Taliban insurgents have been killed and five others injured in a clash in the Dara I Safa Panj district of northern Samangan province, an official said on Friday.

Police Spokesperson Abdul Murri Rahimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban-stermed security forces check points on Thursday.

KABUL, Afghanistan - Gen Scott Miller, commander of the US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, speaking during a visit to the eastern province of Laghman said the ongo- ing negotiations in Doha “very promising” yet include some rising concerns about civilian casualties.

“Discussions in Doha are very promising and important for the Afghan people, we also know that Taliban violence has to go down,” said Miller as quoted by TOLOnews.

“I personally am a little con- cerned about the civilian caus- alties…the results of bombs that civilians keep striving, and we need to bring the vio- lence down, that is the will of the people,” he said.

Meanwhile, Acting Minister of Inf. More on Pajhwok.

September 19, 2020 - You’ll be tested today, Gemini. Have confidence in your words and done your homework, this day can be a life-enhancing endeavor in motion.

Sep 19, 2020 - Action is the word of the day, Capricorn. Be the change you want to see tonight, and keep moving forward. You have a great deal of physical energy today, although you may not wish to exert all of it. Control your energy and use it wisely. The future is bright.

Sep 19, 2020 - It’s time to take a bold step, Leo. Have confidence in yourself and all the careful planning you’ve been pri- marily doing for the last few months. Be- cause that much of the hard work is paying off, and it’s only if you’re willing to take the next step. The opportunity is there. All you need to do is jump off.

Sep 19, 2020 - Your timing is a little off, Virgo. Positive energy is coming your way today, but you should look for the opportunities that are right in front of you. You may get through some seemingly insignificant upturns right now. Clear away all the things that have limited you in the past. The future is wide open. Empower yourself to make the changes necessary to build your life the way you want it.

Sep 19, 2020 - Today is a fantastic day, Libra, but it’s not the day to get off on the wrong foot. You’ve got a little bit of a temper today, so try not to let others set you off. Control your energy and use it wisely.

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September 19, 2020

Why Public Participation Matters in the Peace Talks

Conscient of the governed is one of the fundamental principles of democratic government. According to this principle Afghan government shall ensure the right of the citizen of the country in political decision-making, especially their participation in the peace talks directly as the participants of the peace process.

Any agreement reached through the peace talks will only be legitimate and acceptable if it is based on the will of the people. Such agreement not only allows opportunity for ending violence, but also for negotiating new political structures and relationships. Peace process usually lead to structural changes of the state, systems of governance. Access to resources, security and opportunities for political participation for the citizen of the country and the international community. Peace process offers opportunities for dialogue between the government and insurgent groups, and for the consolidating peace at the national and international level through political decision making. Therefore, the way the process proceeds will result in the combination of factors of particular importance. The issue of citizen’s participation is of particular significance in the intra-Afghan talks as the greatest gift Taliban has shown that it is basically against the democratic processes at all.

The risk of the peace talks, as we experienced in the US-Taliban agreement, is the dominant paradigm of pacemaking can be called ‘side pact-making’, the leaders of the combatant groups are brought together closed doors, often in a foreign country and frequently with the assistance of an international mediator, to reach an agreement which satisfies the minimum demands of the negotiators. The agreement is then announced to a largely ignorant and unacquainted people. The agreement not only creates a large gap and often polarized public, who are then acquitted to accept it and expected to cooperate its implementation. Exactly, this happened during the US and Taliban talks and the US-Taliban talks to the people of Afghanistan. Based on this deal, the US gave the Taliban too many privileges, as a result this negotiation was a step towards the transition of a group out of a back listed terrorist group. However, this mode of negotiation has created a new opportunity for the ending of civil war in a number of countries like Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and El Salvador. This success should certainly not knock the door closed to the opportunity for the Afghan people to have an agreement that is based on the principle of public participation. A good agreement must be designed to engage all the political groups and political parties with a requisite degree of public support that are willing to participate in the talks. In both ways, the Afghan government has successfully contributed to the ending of civil war in a number of countries.

A sustainable agreement requires that key actors must be involved in the negotiation. These key actors’ participation shall be ensured. To this end, the political negotiations must be designed to engage all the political groups with a requisite degree of public support that are willing to participate in the talks.

As such, the most significant challenges of the peace talks in Afghanistan are to engage all the political parties. The issues of public participation are the backbone of the peace talks. There will be no negotiation, and the agreement of participation of women, Marginalized groups, religious and ethnic minorities in the peace talks. Therefore, participation of all walks of the society is important for the legitimacy of the peace agreement but ensures its legitimacy as well.
Pakistan gets stay over $6bn fine in Reko Diq case

The remarks came at a time Afghanistan and Pakistan are working to finalise an agenda for the intra-Afghan talks that will determine a political settlement in Afghanistan, as well as the achievement of the past two years. Peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban were postponed last month due to the coronavirus crisis. The Taliban have made demands for a unilateral ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign troops, as well as for the recognition of a political settlement. The talks have been ongoing between the parties for months, with the Taliban and the Afghan government set to sign a US-backed peace deal in Qatar.

TRADE

Talks between both sides need to come to a shared agreement on how to move forward. "Both sides need to see the need and come to the realization that we must put peace on the table," said Allahdadi.

AUSTRALIA

The Australian government has announced measures to reduce the transmission of the coronavirus in the country. The measures include restrictions on gatherings and the closing of non-essential businesses. The government has also advised citizens to practice social distancing and to wear masks in public places. The measures are expected to remain in place until the end of April.
EU unveil plans to combat racism increase diversity.

Neighborhood News

China holds military drill as US envoy visits Taiwan

Beijing—China says it is conducting military exercises in response to US envoy Keith Krach's visit to Taiwan. The US envoy's trip relies on a recent extension of the Patricia Bergesen, a fast patrol vessel. It is the US envoy's second visit to Taiwan.

U.S. officials have repeatedly denounced the recent COVID-19 relief measures in the United States, noting that they did not boost the economy. The US Constitution states that the government can use emergency funds to finance the military, and the government has used such funds for a variety of purposes.

Peru president faces impeachment vote amid pandemic turmoil

LIMA—Peruvian President Martin Vizcarra is due to face a vote of no confidence in Congress on Friday, following a probe into his involvement in an alleged plot to campaign against his political opponent. The probe was initiated by a dissident lawyer who claimed that Vizcarra had been involved in a scheme to rig the election.

The president has denied any wrongdoing and has vowed to fight on. However, the opposition has been increasingly vocal and has called for Vizcarra's resignation.

The vote is expected to be held on Friday, with lawmakers set to vote on whether to remove Vizcarra from office. The impeachment proceedings were triggered by a complaint filed by the opposition leader, who accused the president of violating campaign laws.

If Vizcarra is removed, he would become the second president to be impeached in Peru in recent years. The last impeachment vote was held in 2018, although the judge ultimately acquitted all charges against former president Pedro Castillo.

The current impeachment proceedings are seen as a test of Vizcarra's ability to survive political pressure. The president has been accused of accepting bribes from businessmen and of using government resources for personal gain.

Governments around the world including Peru have faced scrutiny over their handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Peru, the opposition has been particularly critical of the government's response, which has been criticized for its slow and inconsistent approach.

The impeachment vote comes as Peru is grappling with a growing number of COVID-19 cases, with the country's health system under strain. The opposition has called for Vizcarra to resign immediately in order to devote more attention to the pandemic.
KABUL, Afghanistan - President Ashraf Ghani in a decoy approved inclusion of mother’s name on Tazkira (also National ID), in his ongoing efforts for peace and national unity, said on his twitter page.

“Continuation of BOMCA with the participation of Afghanistan will allow us to broaden regional dialogue and boost connectivity,” EU Special Representative said.

According to Charlotte Adri, the head of Cooperation Section of the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan, the primary task of the new five-year agenda is to improve the border services and achieve transparent and accountable mutual trade in the region. Khalid said.

The EU is committed to assist Afghanistan in border management projects in order to achieve sustainable and effective systemic border management. The EU is spending 70.5 percent of its financial support to the Afghan government for border management projects.

In addition to this, the updated program for the next five years will focus on providing adequate border control capacity, and facilitation of EU - Central Asia Cooperation Strategy.

The BOMCA, thus, will allocate part of the fund to equip and train personnel at Afghan border checkpoints. EU officials stated that the EU will result in greater overall security in the Central Asian region.

EU to Fund Extension of Border Stability Program to Include Afghanistan

NUR-SULTAN - The European Union (EU) will extend its Border Management Program in Central Asia (BOMCA) to Afghanistan and has already made a proposal for an extra €500 million (US$577 million) pledge for the 18th phase of the program from 2021 to 2025, the BOMCA project steering committee has reported.

Since 2003, BOMCA has been assisting Central Asia in countering terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, and human trafficking. The EU allocated €431 million euros (US$474 million) over the past 17 years. The program spent most of its funds to supply Afghanistan and Tajik checkpoints with specialized equipment.

The number of total cases is now 80,044, according to Johns Hopkins University. The number of deaths from COVID-19 in the country has been confirmed and reported 4,538.

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