Quote of the Day

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi





Email: thedailyafghanistan@yahoo.com Phone: 0093 (799) 005019/777-005019 www.thedailyafghanistan.com

Gen. Nicholson

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Afghanistan Remains High on NĂTO Agenda: Stoltenberg

WASHINGTON - Afghanistan remains high on NATO's agenda despite the challenges posed by the Islamic State in different parts of the world, the alliance secretarygeneral said on Monday.

'Afghanistan is high on our agenda. Afghanistan is our biggest military operation ever," Jens Stoltenberg told reporters during a brief media appearance with President Barack Obama at the White House. The military operation in Afghanistan was a direct response to the 9/11 terrorist attack in the United States, he said, adding European and Canadian soldiers had fought together with American soldiers in



Afghanistan for many years. Obama remarked NATO continued to be the lynchpin, the cornerstone of collective defence and US security policy. "We had an excellent conversation about Afghanistan, in which NATO obviously has been an extraordinary partner with the US." The coalition continued to focus on assisting

security forces, building up capacity, pushing back the Taliban and helping Afghans provide security for their own country, he said.

The president hoped the Afghan government would be able to arrive at some sort of a political settlement that would end decades of conflict and violence in that coun-

"We are grateful for the sacrifices that NATO countries have made -- their men and women fought alongside US troops. They have fought together and they have died together," Obama concluded.

John Nicholson said in an interview: "This intense period of combat interfered with the glide slope we were on. The assumptions we made about our timelines, we have to re-look based upon the high casualties they took."

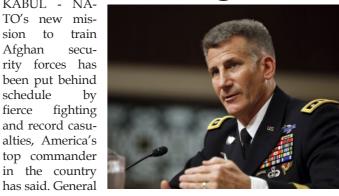
in the country

has said. General

Apart from suffered high casualties, the Afghan forces had to stop training to fight against the insurgents for much of last year, Gen. Nicholson told Reuters. As a result, NATO's projections in terms of the growth and increasing proficiency of the Afghan army and police

(Pajhwok)

Fighting Taking Toll on Afghan Forces' Training KABUL - NA-TO's new mission to train security forces has



were put behind schedule. A month into his latest assignment, Nicholson will share his appraisal of the conflict in Afghanistan with leaders in Washington in June. He would not comment on his recommendations for future troop levels.

In 2015, the general said, 5,500 Afghan forces were killed in action and more than 14,000 wounded. "This would be an enormous shock for any army, (including) a young army that is still growing. Yet they did not break.

Govt. Asked to Send Decree to Wolesi Jirga for Approval

Forces' Retreat in **Helmand Should** Help Battle Taliban

Stanekzai



KABUL - The surprise withdrawal of Afghan forces from parts of Helmand province may leave large areas under Taliban control, but it should bolster the defenses of the volatile southern region, the country's top defense official said.

Acting Defence Minister Masoom Stanekzai said it made little sense to spread forces across sparsely populated districts like Musa Qala and Naw Zad, where government troops pulled out in February. "We needed reorganization. There was a lot of pressure in different parts of Helmand," he told Reuters in Helmand, where he met local tribal elders and commanders of the Afghan ... (More on P4)...(1)



form Commission (ERC). President Ashraf Ghani had decreed seven suggestions of the ERC and called for urgent measures to provide legal cover to the proposals aimed and identification and shrinking at reforming the electoral sys-

and the presence of two foreigners on the Independent Election Complaints Commission (IECC). Also, the panel had suggested the reservation of one Wolesi Jirga seat for the Hindu minority

of constituencies. Other proposals are distribution The proposals include regis- of computerised identity cards, tration of voters, making the 25 percent representation for election bodies accountable women on provincial and district so that ... (More on P4)...(2)

councils and invalidation of the current voter cards.

In line with Article 14 of the election law, if there is a need for amendments, the issue should be referred to the Independent Election Commission (IEC)

Senator Gul Ahmad Azimi told the house that the second presidential decree should land in the lower house as soon as possible

Afghan Taliban Appoint Mullah Omar Relatives to Senior Jobs

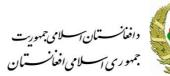
KANDAHAR - A senior figure in the Afghan Taliban says a brother and son of their late founder, the oneeved Mullah Mohammad Omar, have been appointed to leadership positions in the insurgency.

Mullah Gul Rahman Saleem said on Tuesday that Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, Mullah Omar's son, has been named to lead the Taliban military commission for 15 provinces. Mullah Omar's brother, Mullah Abdul Manan, has been years earlier. (AP)

appointed head of religious affairs, Saleem, a member of the Taliban's ruling council,

The move consolidates the positions of both men as the new head of the Taliban, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor seeks loyalty from dissidents to shore up his own position. Yaqoob and Manan had opposed Mansoor's ascension after it was revealed last summer that Mullah Omar had died more than two





ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

6th April 2016

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MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF "NATIONAL SUPERVISION CONSULTANTS" (ENGINEERING FIRM)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved funding of US \$ 56.66 million under the Grant NO: G0411 (ADF) & G0412 (AITF) and the Project No: 48326-001-AFG: Northern Flood-Damaged Infrastructure Emergency Relief project (N-FIER) in October 2014 (to be implemented over 3 years) to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) to support the worst-affected provinces in the Northern Afghanistan during the severe flood from March to June 2014. The project is to assist the government's efforts in the rehabilitation of damaged irrigation and rural road infrastructure. The project is rehabilitate (i) small-scale irrigation and rural road infrastructure in 27 and more worst-affected provinces based on the damage and needs assessment (DNA) undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and (ii) larger-scale irrigation system infrastructure in three provinces based on the DNA undertaken by the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW). The executing agency is the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the implementing agencies are Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD) and Ministry of Energy & Water (MEW).

N-FIER-PMO-MRRD, invites eligible "National Supervision Consultants" (Engineering Firm), with qualified Engineers, having "experience in Rural Infrastructure of Irrigation, Road and Bridges Projects" to submit their "Expression of Interest" (EOI) for "Supervision and Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Infrastructure Projects of Irrigation, Roads and Bridges" in 27 provinces of Afghanistan for a period of 16 months (June 2016 -September 2017). The Expression of Interest (EOI) should be submitted online only through http://cms.adb.org. Please also visit MRRD and National Procurement Authority (NPA), websites for the advertisement of EOI. The deadline for submission of EOI is 5th May 2016; by 1:00PM; Afghanistan Time. PMO-N-FIER-MRRD will not accept any hard or soft copies of EOI, if not submitted through http://cms.adb.org website. For the complete REOI and TOR, please download the attachment from http://cms.adb.org.

If any further queries needed in this regard, please do write an email to: Jeevanand.kumar@mrrd.gov.af and qudoos.akbari@mrrd.gov.af



KABUL - A member of the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) on Tuesday said the current political crisis in Afghanistan stemmed from the traditional electoral system.

AECC commissioner Azizullah Aryafar told a press conference here that people in Afghanistan did not try to address root causes of a problem.

He said no basic change had come to the minds and hearts of Afghan poli- There would be no reforms



ticians and they did not use new methods which had good results in other countries

"We have the crisis and instability like a big tree, but we are trying to remove a branch of the tree and say we have brought reforms. if we don't root out a prob-

lem," he said. He said if changes were brought to the electoral bodies and still the whole system did not accept internal and external values, there would be no transparent, desirable and acceptable

MoF Names 2 Eligible New Kabul Bank Buyers

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Tuesday identified two 'eligible buyers' of the New Kabul Bank and asked the companies, including a local firm and a Pakistani bank, to submit their technical proposals in the next four months.

Once the country's largest lender, the Kabul Bank plunged into deep crisis in 2009, when it lost \$987 million in fraudulent property deals, huge off-book loans and credit to fake corporations. The big-time scam prompted the government to take over the bank's affairs and change rename it as New Kabul

Later, the government announced a \$825 million bailout plan for the bank, whose scandal soon came to be the talk of the town. The scam angered international donors besides generating a heated debate in Parliament. Of \$987 million stolen, the government claims having recovered \$437 million. Twenty-four defaulters returned their debts until July, 2015.

Mohammad Aqa Kohistani, treasure department director at the Ministry of Finance, told a ...(More on P4)...(4)

SediqiAfghan Militants Still Armed and Financed on Other Side of Border

...(More on P4)...(3)

KABUL - The Afghan anti-government armed militant groups are still receiving support as they use safe havens on the other side of border.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) spokesman Sediq Sediqi told reporters in Kabul that the militants still receive financial support and are being equipped outside the coun-

Sediqi further added that the militants continue to their insurgency activities using the safe havens located on the other side of the border.

He did not elaborate further regarding the safe havens of the Afghan militants located outside the country but the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the Afghan militants to use their soil for planning and coordinating attacks in Afghanistan.

The Taliban group's council based in Quetta as well as the notorious Haqqani terrorist network are believed to have shelters in Pakistan. ...(More on P4)...(5)

Nila Bagh Street, Darulaman Road, District 6, Kabul, Afghanistan; email: info.rp@mrrd.gov.af; web: http://www.mrrd.gov.af; Tel: +93 020 25220428