

Quote of the Day

Things do not change;
we change.
Henry David Thoreau
(1817 - 1862)

US will Not Allow Safe Havens in Afghanistan: Obama

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama said on Monday that the U.S must never allow Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven for terrorists again.

Speaking at the 95th National Convention for Disabled American Veterans in Atlanta, Georgia, Obama said: "Today we salute our forces serving there on a more limited mission -- supporting Afghan forces, going after terrorists -- because we must never allow Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven for terrorists to attack our nation again."

He said: "And we've come together to welcome our newest veterans into your ranks -- from Desert



Storm, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq -- our proud 9/11 Generation. This is a time of transition. When I came into office, we had nearly 180,000 American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Today, that number is less than 15,000. Most of our troops have come home."

"To all of you who served in Afghanistan, you can take enormous pride in the progress you helped achieve: Driving al Qaeda out of its camps. Toppling the Taliban. Delivering justice to Osama bin Laden.

"Helping Afghans improve their lives. There are millions of boys and girls in school, and democratic elections ... (More on P4)...(1)

Pakistan Imposes War on Afghanistan: Atmar



KABUL - National security adviser, Muhammad Hanif Atmar says Pakistan imposes war on Afghans. Hanif Atmar who arrived in Kunduz province with defense and interior ministers and NATO commander for evaluating the security situation in the province declared that the government has a complete plan for eliminating the Taliban group and will soon launch a special operation in this province.

While Islamabad claims that Kabul has not done enough to stop Pakistani Taliban militants living in Afghanistan from crossing the border and mounting attacks on Pakistan, Kabul has frequently had the opposite complaint: that Islamabad does little to deter Afghan Taliban members from staging attacks on their homeland from Pakistan.

Earlier, Chief of National Directorate of Security has also said that Afghanistan is facing an imposed war. However, US-led Resolute Support (RS) Mission Commander General John Nicholson believes that suppressing the enemy in a sudden is a difficult task and they also cannot have success in operations. "Resolute Support (RS) Mission's focus is on Kunduz and ... (More on P4)...(3)

Beijing in Touch with All Sides on Afghan-Led Peace Process

KABUL - Without confirming or denying a Taliban delegation's reported visit to Beijing, China said on Tuesday it remained in touch with all sides on the Afghan issue.

The Foreign Ministry in Beijing said China wanted the Afghan government and the insurgent movement to launch peace talks as soon as possible to restore stability.

China Daily quoted a spokesperson for the ministry as saying Beijing would continue to play a constructive role, and it had always supported the Afghan peace process.

A delegation led by Abbas Stanikzai, head of the Taliban's



political office in Qatar, reportedly paid a trip to Beijing from July 18 to 22 at the invitation of the Chinese government. The visiting

team "informed Chinese officials about the occupation by invading forces and their atrocities against the Afghan people". (Pajhwok)

Balkh Departments Owe 200m Afs in Power Arrears

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Several government departments in northern Balkh province owe 200 million afghanis in unpaid electricity bills to Da Afghanistan Brishna Sherkat (DABS), an official said on Tuesday. DABS chief for Balkh Mohammad Nasim Ganjai told a press conference regarding a recent hike in electricity rate here that from now on, electricity bills would be prepared in categories keeping in view power consumption.

About ten days ago, hundreds of residents of two districts -- Balkh and Dehdad -- and some areas of the provincial capital, Mazari-i-Sharif, arrived at the provincial council office, demanding a cut in electricity rate. Earlier, the price of a kilowatt of electricity had been fixed at 6.25 afghanis in Balkh, but the rate was not acceptable to the governor's house, residents and their representatives.

Nasim Ganjai said in the second half of the ongoing solar year, the electricity bills would be categorized in Balkh like in Kabul. He said under the revised rates, consuming power from one kilowatt to 200kv would be charged 2.5 ... (More on P4)...(2)

Govt. Accused of Sabotaging Electoral Reforms Process



KABUL - The former head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC), Fazel Ahmad Manawi, has said the National Unity Government does not have the will to bring about reforms to the electoral system and that there are a number of circles within government that do not want reforms to happen. "Circles at the Presidential Palace are sabotaging the electoral reforms process," he said. Meanwhile, electoral monitoring organizations said there is no legal barrier regarding the reforms ... (More on P4)...(4)

Junbish Party Rejects HRW Report on Abuses in Faryab

KABUL - Junbish-i-Milli Islami Afghanistan (JMIA), the party led by First Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum, on Monday rejected a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report accusing its members of killings and other abuses.

In a report released a day earlier, HRW said the Junbish militia was involved in killings and other abuses of civilians in northern Faryab province in late June 2016. The watchdog said it had interviewed the villagers in the aftermath of the attack, asking the Afghan government to prosecute those involved. President Ashraf Ghani has reportedly ordered an investigation into attacks by ... (More on P4)...(7)

Russia Should Play A Constructive Role to Stabilise Afghanistan: NATO

KABUL - NATO Urged Russia to play a constructive role in helping to stabilise Afghanistan.

Meanwhile Moscow plans to resume cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on Afghanistan, a media report said on Tuesday, citing a Russian foreign ministry statement.

Sputnik quoted the director of the Second Asian Department at the ministry as saying Russia was willing to revive joint projects with NATO in Afghanistan after receiving positive signals from the Western alliance. Separately, Russian media outlet RIA Novosti



quoted a senior diplomat as saying Moscow had not yet seen practical steps from NATO, which viewed Afghanistan as a common issue for both sides. "We have to somehow

work together. Great, let us go back to the projects that we have previously discussed and which you, NATO, have suspended," Zamir Kabulov was ... (More on P4)...(5)

Govt's Anti-Corruption Center Asked to Start Work

KABUL - The anti-corruption judicial center that was established last month to investigate important corruption cases was asked to start work in order to resolve cases that are pending.

"A number of senior government officials are accused of corruption therefore they do not want the anti-corruption center activated," said Khan Zaman Amarkhail, head of Afghan Anti-Corruption Network (AACN). Meanwhile, other watchdogs said the anti-corruption authority should be free of po-

litical interferences. "The center should be independent. It should assess the cases of powerful figures," said Yama Turabi, the chairman of the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. The Attorney General's Office meanwhile said they are working on the issue and that they will start their activities in the near future. "We have taken measures. The secretariat is working on preparing the tools and facilities for the center. Prosecutors will ... (More on P4)...(8)

Riyadh Ready to Help Kabul Vanquish Terror Networks

KABUL - A top Saudi diplomat has promised all-out support for the Afghan-led reconciliation process and efforts to further boost bilateral relations. Ambassador Mesfer Al-Ghaseb met President's Special Representative on Reform and Good Governance Ahmad Zia Masoud in Kabul late on Monday.

A government statement said they discussed issues of mutual interest, including security in Afghanistan and the Muslim world, emergence of ISIS and extremism. The ambassador re-



affirmed Saudi commitment to bolstering links with Afghanistan in different spheres, including the good governance. Security in Afghanistan was in the interest

of the region and the world, he commented. Al-Ghaseb added his country was willing to cooperate with Afghanistan in areas including the ... (More on P4)...(9)



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