

Quote of the Day

This land of ours cannot be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.

Richard M. Nixon

Civilian Casualties Remain at Record High Levels: UNAMA

KABUL - Afghanistan's ongoing war continues to exact a heavy toll on civilians with numbers for the first six months of 2015 remaining at record highs, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said on Wednesday.

In their latest findings for the first six months of this year, UNAMA's 2015 Midyear Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict documented 4,921 civilian casualties. Of those were 1,592 deaths and 3,329 injured between January and June. This is a one percent increase against the same period last year.

However, in the first six months of 2015, UNAMA documented a 23 percent increase in women casualties and a 13 percent increase in children



casualties. "The rise in the numbers of women and children killed and maimed from conflict-related violence is particularly

disturbing," said Danielle Bell, UNAMA Director of Human Rights.

"This year, UNAMA recorded the highest number of children and women

casualties compared to the same period in previous years. All parties to the conflict must undertake stronger measures to protect ... (More on P4)...(1)

UN Upbeat about Resumption of Peace Dialogue



KABUL - The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan on Wednesday said the consequences of Taliban's leader death were yet to sink in, expressing optimism it would lead to the reopening of peace talks. Speaking to journalists, Nicholas Haysom said it was not UN's responsibility to lead the peace parleys on behalf of Af-

ghanistan. "It's our duty to convince the warring factions to sit across the negotiating table and support the peace process." Haysom added it was not yet clear what the consequences of Mullah Omar's demise would be, but he hoped it would lead to the opening of new ways for the peace process even if it did not make ... (More on P4)...(2)

Hanif Atmar

Violation of Territorial Integrity Unacceptable



KABUL - National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar on Wednesday said the government would allow no one to violate Afghanistan's territorial integrity. The advisor was talking to elders of Kharoti, Wazir and

Sulemankhel tribes from the Barmal district of southeastern Paktika province at his office in Kabul, the National Security Council spokesman said. Tawab Ghorzang told Pajhwok Afghan News the ... (More on P4)...(3)

66 Taliban and Daesh Insurgents Killed in Nangarhar Drone Strike

JALALABAD - At least 66 Taliban and Daesh insurgents were killed in seven separate drone strikes by foreign forces in eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday, local officials said on Wednesday.

The drone strikes started in Haskamina and Sherzad districts of the province at 4pm local time on Tuesday and continued for almost three hours, a spokesman for the Provincial Governor Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said.

"Forty six Taliban insurgents were killed in Haskamina and Sherzad district and 20 Daesh fighters were killed in Haskamina district of ... (More on P4)...(4)

Gen. John Campbell

Taliban can not Defeat ANSF

WASHINGTON - There is no way the Taliban can defeat assertive Afghan national security forces, a top American general based in Afghanistan told a Washington audience on Tuesday.

At the maximum, the Taliban and allied insurgent organisations could conduct terrorist strikes, Gen. John Campbell, head of US and NATO forces, said in his address to Brookings Institute.

He acknowledged Afghan forces, in charge of more than 95 percent of counter-terrorism operations, had been experiencing a high



level of casualties. But the brave and young Afghan forces has successfully managed to keep the Taliban at bay and not letting them gain con-

trol over districts or towns as was the case earlier. However, he expressed concern over the high rate of ... (More on P4)...(5)

Pakistan Hopes Afghan Peace Negotiations to Resume Soon

KABUL - Tariq Fatemi, Pakistan prime minister's special assistant, is optimistic that peace talks will resume soon and pave the way for stability in Afghanistan, media reported.

Fatemi expressed the hope in a meeting with Tadamichi Yama-

moto, deputy special representative of the UN secretary general for Afghanistan, who called on him in Islamabad.

They discussed the ongoing efforts for Afghanistan's stability. Fatemi said the successful holding of the first round of peace talks

was an important milestone.

He reiterated Pakistan's commitment to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. He emphasized the need for continuous regional and international engagement with Afghanistan for peace, ... (More on P4)...(6)

Pezzotti

Ceasefire Needs for a Permanent Peace in Afghanistan

KABUL - Italian ambassador to Afghanistan said that a series ceasefire throughout the country needs for a permanent peace in Afghanistan.

The Italian diplomat declared that gaining peace from political chan-



nel will be more effective and the new leader for Taliban raised hopes for peace in Afghanistan. Ambassador Luciano Pezzotti in a special interview with Ari-anews claimed that NATO's 13 years ... (More on P4)...(7)

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