

Quote of the Day

It is a true saying that "One falsehood leads easily to another".

Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

Taliban Have Choice to Engage in Peace Process: US

WASHINGTON - The United States on Monday asked the Taliban to quit fighting and join the government-initiated peace process by entering talks with the Ashraf Ghani administration. State Department Spokesperson, Elizabeth Trudeau issued the call at her daily news conference, urging the insurgent movement to pursue a negotiated end to the conflict in Afghanistan. "We believe the Taliban have a choice. Rather than continuing to fight fellow Afghans, they should engage in a peace process and ultimately become a legitimate part of the political system of a sover-



eign Afghanistan supported by the international community," she said. Responding to a question, Trudeau said the US was aware of reports regarding links between the Islamic State and the Taliban. "We're obviously monitoring the presence of Daesh-affiliated individuals and groups in Afghanistan. "We remain actively engaged with the government of Afghanistan, as well as our partners in the region, to deny terrorist organizations such as Daesh or their branches, safe haven and material support," she added. (Pajhwok)

'Warring Sides Sometimes use Schools as Bastions'

KABUL - Education Minister Assadullah Hanif Balkhi on Tuesday security forces and insurgents sometimes used schools across the country as their bastions and urged the two sides stop harming the education process. Balkhi told a press conference here said he had many times told the security forces not to turn schools into battlefields and stop such activities. "When the two sides get engaged in fighting, they sometimes take positions in schools and as a result, the schools get devastated and students stop attending classes," he said. He hoped the military and insurgents would avoid causing harm to schools and children. Balkhi said currently 500 to 600 schools remained closed in southern, southeastern and southwestern border provinces due to insecurity. He said the Ministry of Interior had directed the police not to use schools as ... (More on P4)...(1)

MAIL and FAO Officials Meet on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture

KABUL - The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Tuesday jointly organized a high-level meeting with the directors of MAIL on nutrition sensitive agriculture. The purpose of the meeting was to share the challenges and opportunities in promoting nutrition sensitive agriculture in Afghanistan, which was based on the outcomes of the regional workshops on the nutrition sensitive agriculture held in five regions from November 2015 to April 2016. The meeting was attended by Nazira Rahman, Director of Home Economics of MAIL, Tomio Shichiri, FAO Representative in Afghanistan, MAIL directors and representatives from UN agencies and NGO's. The Strengthening Policy Development and Coordination for Food Security and Nutrition Agriculture Organization of the ... (More on P4)...(3)

Air Support Sought as Conflict Rages in Nawa



LASHKARGAH - An intense gun-battle between security forces and Taliban militants entered a second day on Tuesday in the Nawa district of southern Helmand province, the district police chief said. Col. Ahmadshah Salim told Pajhwok Afghan News the clash erupted two days ago when the armed rebels launched coordinated attacks on all security posts in the district, calling for urgent support from the central government. The police official said they had lost communication with the checkpoints after coming under attack. More insurgents arrived in the district from Nad Ali district to support their comrades, he said, adding no reinforcements had been dispatched so far to aid the beleaguered security forces. A security source in the district told Pajhwok that the rebels besides overrunning Ainak and Loye Kali's stations had captured many other areas. He said police in the district lacked enough weapons, bullets and other equipment to properly defend the district from militant attacks. Helmand police chief Brig. Gen. Aqa Noor Kintoz also confirmed the fighting in Nawa district and said reinforcements would soon reach the ... (More on P4)...(4)

Daesh Now Trying to Survive in Afghanistan: NATO Official

KABUL - NATO and US forces spokesman in Afghanistan Brigadier General Charles H. Cleveland has said the Islamic State or Daesh group is now trying to survive instead of expanding its activities. In an interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, the spokesman said Daesh was more active in Nangarhar and most of the group affiliates were Pakistani militants. But he said the group's ac-

tivities and strength had reduced by a half and they were trying to survive. After their defeat in Nangarhar, the IS fighters were trying to sneak into neighbouring Kunar province, the NATO official said. He said the Islamic State's activities in Kunar were confined to propaganda only because they had no ability to perform other tasks there. Brig. Gen. Cleveland said as part of the military strategy, operations were first conduct-



ed in Nangarhar's Kot and Haska Mena districts and extended later to Achin district in order the entire province could be cleared of the IS presence. He said ... (More on P4)...(2)

Govt. Offices, Officials Owe Afs 1b to DABS in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - The power utility chief for eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday said a number of government departments and officials owed one billion afghanis in total to the company in arrears. Da Afghanistan Brishna Shirkat (DABS) director for Nangarhar, Waheedullah Popalzai, warned the defaulters of cutting off their connections if they failed to clear the dues. He told a press conference here that he had made an organized plan to overcome load-shedding in Jalalabad, the provincial capital. He said 25 megawatts of power was provided to Nangarhar from the Naghlo hydro-power dam while they had prepared a 50MW power network in line with people's demand, citing it a reason for outages



in some areas. Popalzai said a 60MW capacity switch had been installed in the Naghlo dam and a third 20MW transformer was being installed at the dam. With establishment of the sub-station, power supply would be increased by 18MW and the process of giving new connections would be started, he said. A number of government agencies and officials owed one billion afghanis to the power company in arrears, Popalzai said, adding if they didn't pay their power bills

Iran, Afghanistan Reach New Customs Deal

KABUL - Heads of Iranian and Afghan customs offices have reached a preliminary agreement on the creation of a transit-oriented green customs path, a media report said on Tuesday. The agreement was reached during a meeting in Tehran between Deputy Economy Minister and the Head of Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration (IRICA) Masoud Karbasian and his Afghan counterpart Ahmad Reshad Popal, Tehran-based MNA news agency reported. The deal's implementation will turn Chabahr port city into an exports and imports hub for Af-



ghanistan by providing Afghan traders and economic activists the opportunity to transit goods in the shortest possible time. Activation of Chabahr Free Trade Zone will offer more suitable conditions for economic activity in several border cities of the two neighboring countries. Karbasian said as two ancient countries, Iran and Afghanistan enjoyed common cultures and languages and development of Afghanistan would mark an honor for Iran since expansion of ... (More on P4)...(5)

AUA Closed after U.S., Australian Professors Kidnapped

KABUL - The American University of Afghanistan (AUA) has been temporarily closed after an American and an Australian professor were kidnapped at gunpoint in Kabul. The professors were driving through the western part of Kabul on the Darulaman Road when they were kidnapped by two armed gunmen, one of whom smashed his gun barrel through the

passenger-side window and pulled the two men out of their vehicle. The body guard and the driver for the two abductees were left uninjured, police said. "We are devastated by the news and will remain vigilant to ensure the safety and security of all university personnel and students" university president Dr. Mark English said in a statement. ... (More on P4)...(6)

MoLSAMD, USAID to Enhance Women's Job Opportunities

KABUL - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Afghan Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding to improve women's chances to get jobs. Under the MoU, USAID would support President Ghani's job stimulus initiative through the USAID Promote-Women in the

Economy (WIE) program and Promote-Women in Government (WIG), a statement from the USAID said. The initiative will place young women between the ages of 18 and 30 in paid internships or apprenticeships, enhancing the workplace skills of women, and improving their chances of getting jobs. The Afghan government estimates that there are

approximately 700,000 job seekers including high school graduates and those with college or university degrees who enter the job market each year with little to no prospects of finding employment. Through this new partnership, USAID and MoLSAMD will collaborate to ensure that women throughout the country have access to on-the-job training through Promote-WIE internship and

apprenticeship programs and to increase awareness of other opportunities for specialized technical training. The Promote-WIG program will collaborate with MoLSAMD to facilitate over 3,000 women's successful entry to the Afghan civil service by certifying a multi-faceted internship training program and addressing policies and regulations that limit ... (More on P4)...(7)

Belarus Ambassador Presents Credentials to President Ghani

MINSK - Oleg Ivanov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of Tajikistan and concurrently to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan presented his credentials to President Ashraf Ghani, BeTA learned from the press service of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After the ceremony the parties discussed the results of

top- and high-level meetings which took place in 2015-2016. An agreement was reached to continue inter-parliamentary cooperation. The parties reaffirmed the importance of the opening of the office of the Belarusian Afghanistan company in Kabul in the autumn of 2016. The same day, the Belarusian Ambassador met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of ... (More on P4)...(8)



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