

Quote of the Day

"The will to succeed is important, but what's more important is the will to prepare."
- Bobby Knight

CEO Underlines Total Implementation of Unity Govt Deal

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah, clinging to his position, on Monday insisted on complete implementation of the agreement on forming the national unity government.

Amid persisting differences with President Ashraf Ghani, the CEO met a number of jihadi leaders, parliament members and other influential individuals at his office late on Sunday.

A statement from his office quoted Abdullah as thanking the jihadi leaders and influential figures for supporting him in his political wrangling with the president.

"Formation of the national unity government was the result of the sacrifices you rendered two years ago. Afghanistan would have been in a precarious position now if you



had not sacrificed," the CEO remarked. Abdullah apologized to the nation for his failure to do enough during the past two years. The deal on establishing the incumbent government was aimed at

political stability in Afghanistan, he said. About people's participation in the presidential 2014 elections, he said the Afghans had proved their commitment to democracy and con-

fidence in concrete action.

Hailing his supporters the greatest intellectual asset, Abdullah said the Afghans had opened a new door for their country with their votes. However, he regretted people's demands had not been met in the past two years.

"We preferred patience, but I assure people their efforts would not end up in smoke," CEO added. About his Thursday's speech, Abdullah said: "Whatever I said was not my personal anger; it was the truth the people should understand."

He continued: "I have tolerated what I could. Now I'm in a position where I could no longer wait and feel obliged to inform the people of the existing situation." He affirmed his... (More on P4)...(1)

UNAMA Considers Essential Political Deal's Implementation

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer Abdullah on Sunday held talks with United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) chief Tadamichi Yamamoto regarding the latest developments and both called as essential the implementation of the political agreement legitimizing the government.

A statement from the CEO office said Abdullah and Yamamoto discussed key national issues particularly the latest developments in the country. The two thoroughly evaluated key political and security issues and developments and figured out the existing problems.

Similarly, the two sides called as essential the implementation of the national unity agree-

ment that gives legitimacy to the current system, the implementation of electoral reforms and complete preservation of the system and giving practical shape to general demands, the statement said.

Meanwhile, European Union delegation head and Special Representative for Afghanistan Franz-Michael Mellibin called on Abdullah at his office.

Mellibin praised Abdullah for always making efforts to ensure stability and the rule of law in Afghanistan, the CEO office said.

Abdullah has started consulting his allies and holding meetings with foreign envoys after once again developing differences with President Ashraf Ghani. (Pajhwok)

Cyclists Celebrate 97th Anniversary of Freedom

KABUL - In celebration of Afghanistan's 97 years of independence a cycle race was held in Kabul over two days.

The ladies 20km race was held on Sunday from Shaheed Rabbani Education University to Taq-e-Zafar area in Paghman district. Masuma Alizada won the event with Zahra Alizada and Rukhsar coming in second and third respectively. After crossing the finish line first, Alizada said: "I am happy that I managed to become the first one out of the riders. I hope that one day I can win such a competition competing with riders from other countries." Nargis, who came in sixth said that such competitions will have a positive impact on the development of the sport among girls. She said, it would also help families believe in the sport, which will help encourage more girls to participate. On Monday, a 30km race was held for men.

They cycled from Darul Aman Road to Taq-e-Zafar. Khalid Sultani from Panjshir province came in first. Second place was won by Anis Naiemy from Balkh and Ehsanullah Kandahari from Kandahar took third place. Sadiq Sadiqi, director of the cycling federation, says that these competitions aim to develop cycling in provinces as the best riders come to Kabul and compete with Kabul riders. Ten women participated in Sunday's race and were from Kabul, Balkh and Bamian while 30 men took part in Monday's race. (Tolonews)

Tajikistan to Host Discussions Afghanistan on Trade and Economic Ties

BISHKEK - Businessmen from Afghanistan and Tajikistan will discuss trade opportunities in a round table in Dushanbe on Tuesday, the Chamber of Commerce of Tajikistan said.

The round table meet up aims at development of trade ties between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Trade turnover between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the first half of this year fell by 43.5% and amounted to \$31 million. (AKIpress)

Heavy Battles Ongoing in Fifteen Provinces: MoD

KABUL - The Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD) said on Monday that currently security forces are fighting insurgents in 15 provinces in Afghanistan.

According to the ministry some areas where battles are raging are in areas that have fallen to the Taliban.

The MoD said that twenty planned operations are underway in fifteen provinces and commando forces are involved in eighteen special operations in the country.

The ministry also said that Taliban insurgents are well equipped in their fight against security forces.

"Such problems have been



created in the districts where we don't have army troops and police troops are there, the enemy seized the opportunity and at

night the enemy comes and seizes the center of the district for one or two hours or even one day," said Dawlat Waziri, the MoD's spokesman.

Military analysts believe that the collapse of districts and areas to the Taliban are because security forces are demoralized and exhausted. "Increase in those battles has caused exhaustion which generally undermines the morale," said Mirza Mohammad Yarmand former deputy Interior Minister.

Six districts in Helmand have witnessed heavy clashes in recent weeks and parts of these districts have collapsed to the Taliban. Recently, ... (More on P4)...(2)

Bariz Blames Security Forces for Dahna-I-Ghori's Fall

PUL-I-KHUMRI - The governor of northern Baghlan province on Monday blamed the fall of Dahna-i-Ghori district to Taliban on security personnel's negligence.

Addressing a press conference, Abdul Sattar Bariz alleged the district fell to militants as a result of negligence of security officials. A delegation has been appointed to investigate the district's capture.

He said reinforcements had arrived to launch an operation to retake the town and clear it of insurgents.

A provincial council member,



Firozuddin Aimaq, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Taliban launched a coordinated attack on security forces in the district a day ahead of its fall. The

militants suffered heavy casualties in retaliatory action," Aimaq said the Taliban captured the district without any resistance, ... (More on P4)...(4)

Baghlan's Dahna-I-Ghori District Falls to Taliban

PUL-I-KHUMRI - Local officials on Monday confirmed the Dahna-i-Ghori district of northern Baghlan province was under the Taliban's control.

One official, who wished not to be named, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the district fell to the militants after heavy fighting on Sunday night. "Afghan forces retreated to the Jang Aghli area of Dahna-I-Ghori, bordering Samangan province," the source disclosed. Security forces have not yet commented on the district's



fall. A provincial council member, Firozuddin Aimaq, also verified the fall of the district but said there was no information yet about the fate of Afghan forces fighting the rebels. A ... (More on P4)...(5)

Roshan Awards Scholarships to Afghan Students through Youth Brand "Yaraan"

KABUL - Roshan, Afghanistan's leading communications provider, announced it awarded "Student of the Year" scholarships to thirteen top students from participating universities in Afghanistan. The scholarships were awarded as part of Roshan's "Yaraan by Roshan" brand, an exclusive platform designed to empower Afghan youth.

"At Roshan, we are committed to providing opportunities for Afghan youth and enabling them to be the next generation of young Afghan leaders," said Altaf Ladak, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Roshan. "Access to higher education still remains elusive for many talented and ambitious young Afghans who are unable to afford the tuition to top ... (More on P4)...(6)

Atmar Warns Against ISIS Expansion if Found Sanctuaries in Pakistan

KABUL - The National Security Adviser of Afghanistan Mohammad Hanif Atmar has warned against the expansion of insurgency by the loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group if they managed to gain sanctuaries in Pakistan. In an interview with RFE's Pakistan service, Atmar said if the terror group finds sanctuaries and financial resources in Pakistan the issue will be prolonged and expanded in the region.

Atmar further added that the leader of the terror group



Hafeez Saeed Khan who was a former Pakistani Taliban leader was killed in Afghanistan and so far at least 12 leaders of the terror group have been killed. The ISIS loyalists in Afghanistan ... (More on P4)...(7)

Demands Grow for Probe into Australia Refugee Abuse

CONBERRA - Australia was Monday facing growing opposition demands for an inquiry into its treatment of asylum-seekers on remote Pacific islands after further allegations emerged of abuse against refugees. Photographs published in Australian media on the weekend showed two bloodied Afghan men after they were allegedly attacked with an iron bar by locals on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island.

The graphic images follow the leaking last week of some 2,000 incident reports filled in by workers on the second island to which Australia sends asylum-seekers arriving by boat, Nauru, detailing abuse suffered by asylum-seekers. "We're seeing more and more disturbing reports coming out from Nauru," opposition Labor leader Bill Shorten said Monday. "Just because ... (More on P4)...(8)



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