

Quote of the Day

There is no duty more obligatory than the repayment of kindness.

Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

President, CEO Praise Troops on Independence Day

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani along with CEO Abdullah Abdullah on Wednesday addressed a large gathering of delegates at a ceremony to mark the country's 96th Anniversary of Independence. The ceremony, which was held at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, was attended by high-ranking officials, foreign dignitaries, military personnel, cabinet ministers and parliamentarians among others. Ghani's focus was primarily on the security forces and the level of commitment shown by them in fighting insurgency and in turn safeguarding the country's sovereignty, while Abdullah said the country was united despite the aggression imposed



upon it. Ghani praised the troops for what they are doing and for what they have achieved and said that he will soon hand out over 1,000 medals to honor the efforts of Afghans - of which most of these medals will go to security force members. He said security forces are managing the battle against insurgents well and that they have the necessary experience to do so. According to him, insurgent activities is the primary reason for the recent increase in civilian casualties. However, he urged the nation to embrace the move by clerics and the elders to support security forces. ... (More on P4)...(1)

USAID Contributing \$15m to Landmark Population Survey



KABUL - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced to contribute \$15 million to the Afghan government to support completion of a landmark household and population survey. A statement released by the USAID on Tuesday said that once complete, the survey will, for the first time in more than 35 years, provide Afghanistan and donors with reliable economic and demographic data, which can be used for future planning. The Afghanistan Central Statistics Organization manages the \$74-million Socio-Demographic and Economic Survey jointly with the United Nations Population Fund, which is ... (More on P4)...(2)

Ulumi Urges Taliban to Get Rid of Foreign Slavery

KABUL - Interior Minister Noorul Haq Ulumi on Tuesday urged the Taliban to get rid of slavery of neighbouring countries, particularly of Pakistan, and instead work for their own country's development.



Addressing a gathering on the eve of Afghanistan's 96th Independence Day in Kabul, Ulumi said that now it was now the right time for the Taliban ... (More on P4)...(3)

US Concerned over Increased Violence in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The United States on Monday expressed concern over increase in violence in Afghanistan and supported President Ashraf Ghani's recent effort to address this security challenge in the country. "We are obviously concerned about the violence ... (More on P4)...(6)



WHO Stresses Pakistan, Afghanistan to Intensify Fight against Polio

KABUL - The World Health Organization (WHO) urged Afghanistan and Pakistan to step up efforts to minimize the spread of polio, media reports.

A statement released by the WHO cautioned that vaccinations of air travelers in Afghanistan should be tracked. It said that there is "no exit screening and restriction of unvaccinated travelers has been implemented at international airports". The statement said that the growing risk of its spread associated with the ongoing suspension of vaccination campaigns in Kandahar was ... (More on P4)...(4)

Ash Carter No Place to Hide for Terrorists

KABUL - U.S Defense Secretary Ash Carter said on Tuesday there was no place in the world for terrorists to hide and that US troops in Afghanistan are trying to ensure the world and the U.S's security.



Speaking at a memorial service for five slain service members in Chattanooga, who died in a recent shootout in the U.S, Carter said Washington and its al-

lies are intent on eliminating terrorists. The U.S Defense Department said the increase in violence in Afghanistan, particularly the emer-

gence of Daesh, has resulted in U.S troops staying longer. Meanwhile, the US State Department says the presence of 10,000 American troops in Afghanistan is to help the Afghan government's bid to overcome security challenges. "Obviously we are concerned about the violence in Afghanistan and in around Kabul certainly. That is a deep ... (More on P4)...(5)

Gen. Dostum 1,000 Militants Pledged to Join Govt-Initiated Peace

MAIMANA - First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum said on Wednesday around 1,000 militants had pledged to shun violence and join the government-initiated peace process today.

Dostum had been spearheading anti-militants campaign in western

Faryab province for the last three weeks to purge the area of anti-state elements. Talking to journalists in Ghormach district of the province, Dostum said that a number of localities, including Khwajakitri and Hazar Kala areas, the vital ... (More on P4)...(7)

Mohaqiq Concerned About Spread of Takfiri Terrorism

TEHRAN - Second Deputy CEO Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq expressed concern that the terrorist activities in Syria and Iraq are spreading to Afghanistan. "The incidents happening in Iraq and Syria have recently spread to Afghanistan," Mohaqiq said in a meeting with Iranian Supreme Leader's top adviser for international affairs Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran on Wednesday.

He expressed regret that more terrorist attacks have been conducted against the Afghan people in recent months. Velayati, for his part, underlined Iran's support for the Afghan people and government to help them resolve their problems soon. He also referred to the Afghan foreign minister's recent visit to Pakistan, and expressed ... (More on P4)...(8)

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