

Quote of the Day

Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success.

Napoleon Hill

Govt. to Report on Land Grabbing At Brussels Summit

KABUL - As Afghanistan prepares to attend the Brussels Summit, the Independent Land Authority said on Sunday that it is preparing a report on the Afghan government's efforts to curb land grabbing in the country.

The authority says it is concerned as the practice continues in parts of the country.

According to the authority, over 200,000 hectares of land has been usurped over the past 14 years by a number of government officials and powerful figures in 34 provinces of the country.

The office has been authorized to recover over 2,200 hectares of land.

Head of planning and policy at the authority, Ghulam Husain Rahmani, said the practice has decreased fol-



Following recent efforts by government plan to make the anti-land grabbing and that they have prepared a draft efforts more effective across the coun-

try. "The draft has been finalized by the high council of land and water and was sent to cabinet. Later it will be sent to the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption with all its details so that it can be used to track the suspects that are involved in this act," Rahmani said.

Meanwhile, a number of Ghor residents and civil society activists have accused a local MP of usurping land and violating the law in the province. "Government cannot implement the law against these people. The governor and commanders in Ghor lack the power to talk about this. I hope the central government takes some steps in this regard," said Husain Hakimi, a civil society activist in Ghor. (Tolnews)

Political Tension has Negative Impact on Warfronts: Mohaqiq



KABUL - The second deputy chief executive officer (CEO) on Sunday said the recent tension between the unity government leaders had a negative impact on the war fronts in the country. Mohammad Mohaqiq told a press conference in Kabul there was no doubt the political wrangling had negatively affected the war fronts. "Undoubtedly some painful incidents are related to recent political statements. I hope the political dispute will soon be resolved."

CEO Abdullah Abdullah after criticising President Ashraf Ghani in a conference had said until his questions were not answered by Ghani, he would not participate in Cabinet meetings. The CEO had also complained that the president had not met him during the past three months to discuss current issues.

Abdullah also had expressed concern over non-implementation of fundamental pledges in the unity government agreement. He mentioned the untouched elements of the accord as calling a Loya Jirga to amend the Constitution and create the post of a prime minister for the CEO, electoral reforms and others.

After Abdullah's criticism, sources at the Presidential Palace said President Ghani and Abdullah had a meeting at the Presidential Palace on last Wednesday and the two discussed the ongoing issues.

The sources had said it was scheduled the two leaders would have two more meetings in future. Mohaqiq said for better security situation, three factors including performance of the government and security forces and support from civil society were needed.

He said recently the unity government leaders had decided to hold three meetings on resolving the problems. He hoped the meetings would be able to overcome the issues. (Pajhwok)

1000 Cadets Graduate from Kabul Military Academy



KABUL - Graduating from the Kabul Military Academy on Sunday, some of the 1000 cadets said they were ready to defend the country's soil and would not allow the enemy to shed the blood of Afghans.

They expressed these views after their graduation from a two-month training course at the military academy here.

One of the graduates, Habib Rahman, said: "We bravely underwent the training. Until there is a single drop of blood in our bodies, we will give a mouth-breaking reply to the Afghanistan's enemies."

He said he was ready to defend the country and the soil and warned the enemy that they would not be allowed to shed the blood of Afghans. Rahman said he joined the academy with high spirits and learned military, technical and warfare skills in theory and practical during the two months and 10 days course. Now he was ready to serve the country.

Another cadet, Mirwais, said: "We grew up watching the conflict. We are well familiar with wars. What we learned at the academy prepared us to bravely defend the soil."

Yet another graduate, Hikmatullah, said he vowed to fight until his last breath as he wore the military uniform.

He said they went through tough military training and learned skills of using advanced weapons and military techniques.

Gen. Mohammad Nabi Ahmadzai, education, training and doctrines head at the Ministry of Defence, said 1000 cadets graduated from the academy upon completing different courses.

He told the graduates that they could succeed in their campaign with unity and asked them not to allow anyone to create disunity among them.

He said the graduates would not be sent immediately to the military fronts, but they have to undergo further training at 14 different military schools. (Pajhwok)

NPC Approves 20 Contracts Worth Afs 5.5 Billion

KABUL - The National Procurement Commission (NPC) has approved 20 contracts worth 5.5 billion afghanis, the Presidential Palace said in a statement on Sunday.

The statement said the NPC meeting that took place on Saturday evening at the Presidential Palace was presided over by President Ashraf Ghani.

In 30 areas, 11 framework contracts concerning regional and central security units, provincial police headquarters, public order, border police, special units, public protection and fuel and food for

security forces under Ministry of Interior and airlifting of Army personnel were approved.

Other contracts approved were about the construction of a 11.9km road from the second Banu road in Baghlan province to Andarab district, a 7km road from Herat province's Minarono area to Naqra village and a 2.5km road and two bridges between Argun and Gilan districts of Paktika province.

The contracts also included oil procurement for the maintenance of the Salang Tunnel. The contract for railroad and road construction at the



Aqina port was approved in principle under the condition that the existing observations were to be addressed and

further explanation offered regarding the documents. The NPC rejected a contract about... (More on P4)...(1)

WB Assists \$70m to Afghanistan Irrigation System Development

KABUL - World Bank (WB) has provided \$70 million to assist Afghanistan's ministry of water and energy for reconstruction and development of irrigation system.

The assistance was announced by World Bank in a session headed by the country's chief executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul.

In the session, minister of water and energy Ali Ahmad Osmani said that his ministry had two new visions in connection with water in the country, adding that first the country's water resources should be dealt as treasury of



today and tomorrow's generation and second, the country's water should be used as its resources and would be soundly delivered to next generation.

In the session, an official for World Bank said that the bank was committed to long-term assistance to Afghanistan and the... (More on P4)...(2)

Russia Says ISIS-Taliban Ceasefire is Worrying

MOSCOW - Russia has expressed concerns regarding a truce allegedly reached between the Taliban group and the loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in Afghanistan.

Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, has said the truce between ISIS terrorist group and the Taliban group is worrying as the situation deteriorates on political and security level in the country. She noted the



deteriorating security situation in eastern Nangarhar province where both the Taliban and ISIS militants are conducting insurgency besides the Taliban group has been launching coordinated attacks in northern and southern parts of the country. Zakharova also expressed concerns regarding... (More on P4)...(3)

Lack of Coordination Resulted in Khanabad's Fall: Soldiers

KUNDUZ CITY - The lack of coordination between security forces is the main reason why Khanabad district fell to the Taliban, said soldiers fighting insurgents on the Kunduz frontline.

According to them, they have been fighting Taliban for days - with no coordination among themselves.

The Taliban took control of Khanabad early Saturday morning, however



by Saturday evening security forces had retaken the district. TOLnews' Nematullah Ahmadi, the

first journalist to access Khanabad after it was retaken by security forces has... (More on P4)...(4)

Taliban's Shadow Governor Along with 42 Militants Killed in Khanabad

KABUL - Taliban's shadow governor for a strategic town in northern Kunduz province has been killed along with 42 other militants in a military offensive, the army said on Sunday. Security forces launched the operation -- Thunder 14 -- to retake Khanabad district that was seized by the insurgents a day earlier after heavy clashes, the Afghan National

Army (ANA) said. A statement from ANA's 209th Shaheen Corps said: "The security forces, backed by the army's air power, killed 43 militants and injured 14 others in Khanabad, Aliabad and Imam Sahib districts." The Taliban's shadow district chief, Dr. Hussain, was among the fatalities, the statement said, adding the fighters... (More on P4)...(5)

Refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan Offered more Sops by NDA Government

New Delhi - In what comes as a good news for the refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan living in India on long-term visa, the government has decided to provide more sops to them. They will now be able to avail facilities such as opening bank accounts and purchasing properties.

The government has decided to provide these facilities in order to provide the refugees a comfortable living without any complexities and giving them opportunities just like the other citizens of India.

The refugees including Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Jains, Parsis and Sikhs will now be able to... (More on P4)...(24)



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