

## Quote of the Day

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Lao-tzu

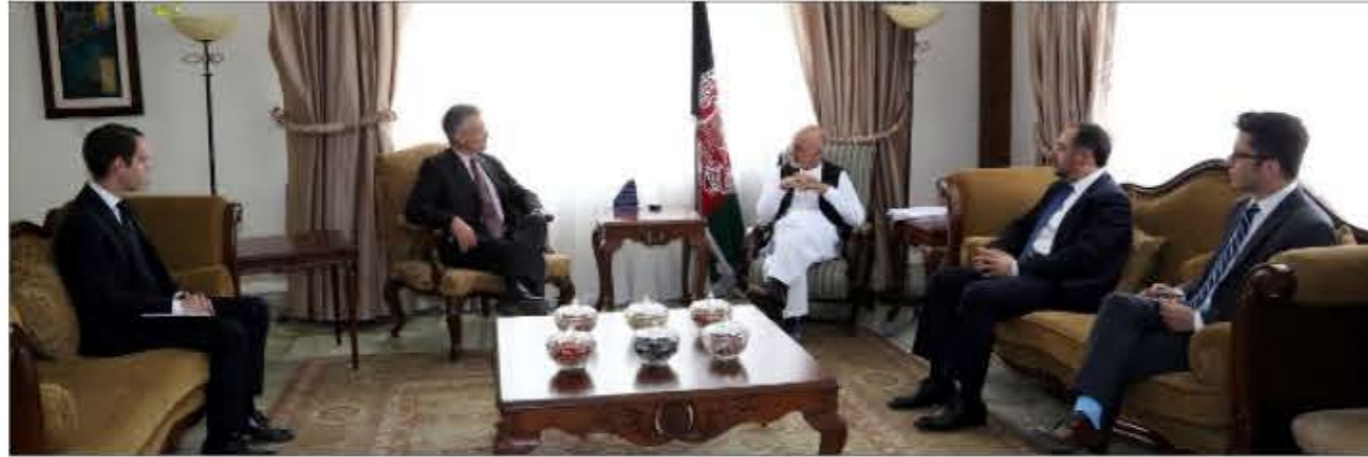
# We're in Critical Condition, But on Right Track: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday said Pakistan should understand the situation in Afghanistan and consider the same definition for terrorism in Afghanistan it defined for itself.

In a farewell meeting with Peter Semneby, the outgoing Swedish Ambassador to Kabul, Ghani said the world and the region was in agreement with Afghanistan on fighting terrorism and especially the links between criminal economy and terrorism.

Ghani insisted that peace talks with the Taliban would be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

It quoted Ghani as saying the Afghan government had been trying to im-



prove relations with Pakistan during the last decade. He urged Islamabad to sincerely help Afghanistan advance its peace process.

Ghani said his concentration had been more on security situation in the country in over the past few months, during which Afghan security forces had

thwarted enemy's plans to capture more territory.

"The enemy has faced defeat on the frontline and ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Alemi Balkhi Pakistan to Extend Afghan Refugees Stay for 2 Years



KABUL - Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi, minister for refugees and repatriation, on Saturday said Pakistan pledged to extend Afghan refugees' stay for two more years.

The announcement came following a trilateral meeting in Kabul attend-

ed by Balkhi, his Pakistani counterpart and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Balkhi said Pakistan's officials promised to extend stay of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan without forcing out any refugees. ... (More on P4)...(2)

## EU Envoy Afghan Govt. to Revitalize Ties with Pakistan



KABUL - In a fresh development, European Union's Special Envoy for Afghanistan Franz-Michael Mellibin said that Afghan government was thinking about "revitalising" the process for normalisation with Pakistan, media reports on Friday.

Pakistan's Dawn.com reports that Amb Mellibin, who also heads the EU Delegation for Afghanistan, was speaking at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad.

The EU ambassador's views contrasted the vibes com-

ing from Kabul, where the leadership is increasingly adopting a belligerent tone towards Islamabad.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had after assuming presidency last year taken a number of steps to improve ties with Pakistan that had been marred by distrust during his predecessor Hamid Karzai's tenure.

However, President Ghani's critical remarks against Pakistan after last week's high-profile terrorist attacks in Kabul ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Death Toll at 10 in Kabul Suicide Car Bombing

KABUL - A suicide car bomber detonated his explosives on Saturday afternoon, killing at least 10 people and injuring nearly 60 others, officials have confirmed.

According to a Ministry of Public Health spokesman Wahidullah Mayar, 10 people, including one woman and three foreign contract workers, were killed in the attack. ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Musa Qala under Threat of Falling to Taliban: District Chief

LASHKARGAH - The Musa Qala district of southern Helmand might fall to the Taliban if the government failed to dispatch direly-needed reinforcements as militants were closing in on the towncenter, an official warned on Saturday.

Mohammad Sharif Khan, the town's administrative chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the Taliban were only at a 50 meters distance from the district centre. He said the insurgents had started ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Panel Electoral Reform Suggestions to be Submitted Next Week

KABUL - The Electoral Reforms Commission on Saturday promised submitting next week a set of suggestions based on discussions with people.

Shah Sultan Akefi, head of the panel, told Pajhwok Afghan News they had collected views and suggestions from more than 1,500 people regarding elections reforms from all seven zones of the country.

These people, he said, were



members of civil society, political parties and legal experts. He did not go into detail, but hoped the suggestions could pave the way for parliamentary elections. According to Akefi, 90

percent of the people whose views and suggestions have been obtained said those accused of electoral fraud should be prosecuted. Akefi said currently 13 million people ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Tajikistan, Turkmenistan Push for Political Solution to Afghanistan's Problems

KABUL - The presidents of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have called for political solution to Afghanistan's problems.

Tajikistan's president Emomali Rahmon after a meeting with his

Turkish counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow in Ashgabad, capital of Turkmenistan, said that political solution is the only way to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan. A joint statement issued by the two

leader's states that the use of force would not solve the internal problems of Afghanistan but it will have opposite results.

The statement further states that Tajikistan ... (More on P4)...(7)

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