

## Quote of the Day

Must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.  
Sam Levenson

# Attacks Against Kabul up Against Last Year: Shoffner

KABUL - Resolute Support Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner said over the weekend that insurgent attacks have increased in Kabul compared to the past year, and that militants want to show that the Afghan government is not able to ensure people's safety. Shoffner said Afghan security forces have gained several achievements but still they need American forces' support.

According to him, there has been about a 10 percent decrease in enemy motivated attacks against this time last year. But "what we are seeing that is different - are attacks in Kabul. In the greater Kabul area."

He said: "We have seen about a 40



percent increase in IED's this fighting season and about a six percent increase in high profile attacks."

"Kabul has strategic significance for the insurgency and there are really two main reasons for this. The first is that it is the visible symbol of the government's authority. It's the capital city. The second is that the attacks receive wide media coverage and it's what the insurgents want."

In addition Shoffner said although the performance by security forces against insurgents has been praised many times, they still need the assistance of the foreign coalition.

Shoffner had been speaking only hours before a deadly suicide car bombing rocked ... (More on P4)...(1)

## AISA Notes Sharp Investment Decline in First Half of 2015



KABUL - The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) said on Sunday that investment in the country had declined by \$120 million during the first six months of 2015, compared to corresponding period in last year.

Mining, industry and construction were the worst-hit sectors, AISA

head Mohammad Qurban Haqjo told Pajhwok Afghan News. Investments in the first six months of 2014 stood at \$390 million, he recalled, saying the figure declined to \$270 million in the first half of the current year.

Haqjo expressed concerns about the decline, ... (More on P4)...(2)

## Gen. Murad Vows Tit-for-Tat Response to Foreign Aggression



KABUL - Deputy Chief of Armed Forces Gen. Murad Ali Murad on Sunday asserted Afghanistan's preparedness to respond with full force against any foreign aggression. Speaking at a graduation ceremony for 1,400 soldiers and

staff sergeants, Gen. Murad said Afghanistan was fighting a war that was being planned and supported from a neighbouring state. "You, the guardians of your motherland, should know the nature of the ongoing conflict ... (More on P4)...(3)

## EU Suspends E-NIC Funding over Government Delay

KABUL - The European Union (EU) Special Representative and Head of the EU Delegation to Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin, announced on Sunday the suspension of funds for the electronic-National Identity Card (e-NIC) following a consistent delay in the launch of the much-awaited process.

Expressing these statements in an exclusive interview with TOLONews, Mellbin said however that the EU will continue its assistance once the process is started. "Why we suspended our payments ... because we said we cannot continue to

pay for people for rolling out the card when actually the card is not rolled out. So as soon as the card starts being rolled out again, our contributions will start to flow," Mellbin said.

He however urged the Afghan government to determine the fate of those who have already been hired for the program which has been drawn out for more than five years. "The Afghan government will have to decide what it is going to do with this large body of people who have been hired to roll out the cards while this is actually not moving forward."



Furthermore, the EU envoy stressed the need for a test phase of the process which he said could determine whether the rollout can be successful. "I think the technical part is ready for pilot that can test it ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Preparations Finalised for Distribution of Computerised ID Cards

KABUL - The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) on Sunday said preparations for distribution of computerised identity cards had been finalised but the process would be launched in compliance with a presidential decree.

The launch of the new ID cards was delayed after President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani raised concerns about the citizenship cards. MCIT spokesman Nusrat Rahimi said the president wanted to settle the issues linked to the new ID cards.

Earlier, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)'s office said the distribution of computerized national identity cards would begin in two weeks. The distribution of computerized ID cards was earlier scheduled to begin before last year's presidential election, but it had to be delayed for some reasons.

The distribution of ID cards is a joint project of the ministries of interior and telecommunications and information technology. A contract for the project had been signed five years ago.

Mujibur Rahman Rahimi, spokesman for CEO Abdullah Abdullah's, announced that the distribution of computerized ID Cards would begin in two weeks.

He told reporters the ministries concerned had submitted their plans to the Council of Ministers with regard to the distribution of new ID cards.

Rahimi said the Council of Ministers on Monday decided to launch a test distribution process on Aug. 19. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) would oversee the process. He said as many as 369 ID cards would be issued in the initial stage before expanding the process countrywide in the second stage. ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Afghan Leaders Continue to Rally Foreign Pressure on Pakistan

KABUL - In a meeting with the Swedish Ambassador to Afghanistan on Saturday, President Ashraf Ghani continued he recent push for the international community to mount pressure on Pakistan over its ties to terrorism in the region.

The Afghan Minister of Interior (MoI) has praised a recent move by Washington to cut off billions of USD in financial aid to Pakistan. The decision can after U.S. Officials determined that Islamabad had not adequately worked to counter terrorist groups within its borders, like the Haqqani Network.

"We appreciate that the international commu-



nity and the U.S. put necessary pressure on Pakistan in order to prevent it from harboring terrorism," MoI deputy spokesman Najibullah ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Documents of 26 Firms Referred to AG Office: NCP

KABUL - The National Procurement Committee (NCP) on Sunday said more than 11 contracts worth 1.8 billion afghanis have been approved and 26 different firms referred to Attorney General Office (AGO).

Yama Yari, the NCP head, told journalists in Kabul of 11 contracts eight of them were new and other three contracts have been approved after changes. He added the contracts were



evaluated in the latest NCP meeting on Saturday headed by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

These contracts belonged to National Directorate of Security (NDS), Da Afghanistan ... (More on P4)...(6)

## 41 Militants Killed in Newest Security Operations



KABUL - 41 insurgents have been killed in newest security operations, the Ministry of Interior announced on Sunday.

A statement issued by the ministry on Sunday states that the operations were jointly conducted by Afghan

National Police, Afghan National Army and personnel from the National Directorate of Security (NDS) - Afghanistan's intelligence agency in Nangarhar, Baghlan, Kunduz, Faryab, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, Zabol, Oruzgan, Maidan ... (More on P4)...(8)

## Dozens of ALP Men Rescued from Taliban Siege

TIRINKOT - An Afghan Local Police (ALP) commander was airlifted overnight along with his family members and 70 ALP personnel who had been besieged by Taliban insurgents for the last 50 days in central Uruzgan province, officials said on Sunday.

Uruzgan police chief Brig. Gen. Tooryalai Obdiani told a press conference in Tirinkot, the provincial capi-

tal, that ALP commander Mullah Samad remained besieged by the Taliban for the last 50 days in Dehn Sang area of Khas Uruzgan district. During the siege, the armed militants repeatedly attacked the house of commander Samad, killing and wounding some of his family members and ALP men.

He said the insurgents had been ... (More on P4)...(9)

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