

Quote of the Day

Education is the movement from darkness to light.

Allan Bloom

Ghani Committed to Implementing NUG Agreement

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani met with his Chief of Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah on Thursday evening to solve their disagreements, the CEO's office said. Ghani has reportedly insisted that the national unity government (NUG) agreement must be implemented and that they should work together in the interest of the nation.

The CEO's office said that at the meeting, which was the second such get-together, Ghani shared his viewpoints about the requests presented by Abdullah and that Abdullah will soon share the president's views with his political allies.

Omid Maisam, spokesman for the

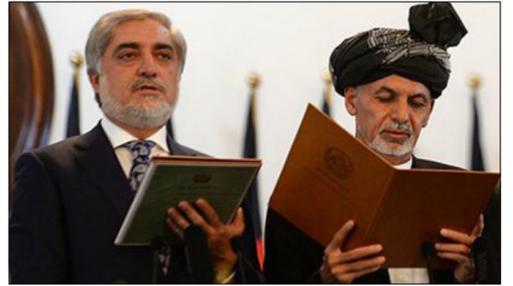


CEO office said: "In this meeting Ghani insisted on the implementation of the NUG agreement, cooperation and electoral reforms. The next meeting will be an opportunity for solving the disagreements."

It is not known when the rift between Ghani and Abdullah will be resolved but civil society members warn that if these disagreements continue it would have negative consequences. "NUG leaders should not sacrifice everything because of their disagreements anymore. These tensions have badly affected the security, economic and political situation of our country," said Sayed Nasir Mousavi, a civil society member.

However, ending the rift is critical for leaders ahead of ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Brussels Summit to Scrutinize Govt's Economic Strategy



KABUL - As part of the economic development commitments to the international community, the Afghan government established the high council of economy, with the president as chairman.

The aim of this council is to find solutions to problems facing the national economy and the private sector - which will be among the topics of discussion in October at the Brussels Summit.

Every month, the high economic council convenes a meeting to evaluate topics on its agenda. However the private sector says that the council so far has failed to implement its programs.

According to the private sector, the lack of capacity within government institutions in real sense undermines the capacity of the council to implement its programs.

Although the establishment of the high council of economy raised new hopes for the implementation of government's economic programs and enhancing capacity of the private sector, the private sector says that 27 of the decisions taken by the council during its 25 meetings so far have not been implemented.

"The high economic council is a competent and specialized institution which makes policies and works to increase harmony between the government of Afghanistan and the private sector - its aimed at creating jobs, attracting investments, starting mega economic projects and facilitating the work of the private sector," said deputy presidential spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi. "It is unfortunate to say that the ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

NATO Acknowledges Presence on Afghan Battlefield



KABUL - The NATO mission, acknowledging its presence on the battlefield, has confirmed an uptick in fighting over the last month in Afghanistan, specifically in Helmand and Kunduz province.

"This is the heart of the fighting season," a US general in Afghanistan told Pentagon press corps on Thursday. "We have absolutely been expecting that this is really when the Taliban were going to try and make their large push."

On average, Brig. General Charles Cleveland said from Kabul, NATO probably had somebody out every night at some place ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Fierce Fighting Underway in Janikhel District



GARDEZ - Fierce fighting is ongoing between security forces and insurgents in the Janikhel district of southeastern Paktia province, a police official said on Friday. Col. Mohammad Ayub, deputy police chief of the province, the fighting in Janikhel erupted at midnight and still raging. Five rebels have been killed and wounded so far. He said one policeman had been killed and three others wounded in the clash. The militants, who had closed key roads, wanted to capture the district, the police officer said.

Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the fighters were steadily zeroing in on Janikhel. They would capture the district soon, he added, denying Taliban's casualties. *(Pajhwok)*

China Launches its First Cargo Train to Afghanistan

KABUL - China launched its first cargo train to Afghanistan on Friday, officials have reported.

The train went from Nantong City, east of China's Jiangsu Province, to Hairatan, a border town and port in the north of Balkh province of Afghanistan.

It is China's first cargo train service to Afghanistan and it takes about 15 days passing through Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan before arriving Hairatan. Two trains are scheduled each month. The new railway route is part of efforts to improve logistics linking nations under the "Belt and Road" initiative. *(PR)*

Electoral Reforms Critical Ahead of Brussels Summit: Akefi

KABUL - Shah Sultan Akefi, the head of the special commission for electoral reforms said on Thursday that it is critical for government to issue a decree on electoral reforms and establish a new election commission before the Brussels Summit in October.

Akefi said that the national unity government's commitment to effecting reforms is key for the continued support of the international community and as such government needs to take practical steps in this regard. He said it is critical that reforms in the electoral system are implemented ahead of the summit and said government must establish a selection committee and that the selection committee must choose a new electoral commission within the next month. "According to Article



79 of the Constitution, if government issues a new decree and the selection committee starts its work and selects members of a new electoral commission, it means that they have taken some practical steps towards reforms. The new commission will need to specify an election date and approve an election schedule. These are important preliminary steps for holding elections which will be supported by the international community," said Akefi. However, organizations supervising the election process have said government is not serious about ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Questions Raised over how Insurgents Infiltrate Capital

KABUL - Members of the public, analysts and MPs have blasted security forces, especially intelligence units, for allowing the infiltration of terrorists into Kabul.

Military analysts and MPs have said that security officials, especially Kabul police department, must explain to the people how insurgents enter the city with explosive-laden vehicles.

Are the security forces weak, are they asleep or does Kabul city not have gates? These are the questions that analysts and people are asking as insurgents continue to target the city. "Yesterday the National Security Council announced that



the attack on AUAF was masterminded by ISI in Pakistan. If they have such accurate information, then why do they not prevent attacks. Why are they asleep?" asked Akbar Jan Arzomand, a political analyst. In recent months Kabul city has witnessed a number of deadly suicide attacks such as the attack on AUAF on Wednesday night. Over the past few months dozens of security forces and civilians have been killed in such attacks. "Security officials are responsible ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Afghanistan Receives 4 New Light Attack Helicopters from US

KABUL - The Afghan Air Force (AAF) received four new light attack helicopters from the United States on Thursday as efforts are underway to boost the capabilities of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). The delivery of the four new MD-530 Cayuse Warrior helicopters on Thursday brings the number of the total helicopters delivered to the Afghan forces to 27. "The first 13 helicopters continue to be modified to support 2.75-inch rocket capabilities and add the im-

proved sighting systems," Lt. Col. Bill Ashford, 438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron commander quoted in a report by Dvidshub said.

"The MD-530s are flying multiple missions a day across Afghanistan," said Ashford. "They are often engaged in providing aerial escort to convoys, providing over-watch to ANDSF operations and responding to 'troops in contact' situations."

MD-530 combat missions are flown by all AAF crews. ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Taliban Intensify Attacks in Northern Afghanistan

KUNDUZ CITY - The Taliban have stepped up their attacks in Kunduz and Takhar in a move that highlights the group's capability to expand its area of operations beyond the east and south of the country by executing co-ordinated offensives. The militants temporarily seized control of the strategic Kunduz district of Khanabad on 20 August by



capturing the local police headquarters and a number of checkpoints before being ...*(More on P4)...(7)*



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