

# Council Concerned over Discord Between NUG Leaders

KABUL - The Council of Protection and Stability of Afghanistan on Tuesday said it was concerned over the tension between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, saying that if it continues it will endanger the national interests. Members of the council said at a gathering on Tuesday that the rift between National Unity Government (NUG) leaders will encourage insurgents and it will affect the morale of the security forces. They said they have met with the leaders and have urged them to end the tension. "The rift between the two leaders has created frustration among the people



and it has encouraged the country's enemies. We are concerned that it will affect the morale of the security forces as well. Our stance is that we support none of the leaders," said Massoud Trishtwal, spokesman of the council. According to the council, the issues that have resulted in tension between Abdullah and Ghani are not important and that government should focus on holding parliamentary elections as well as the Constitutional Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly). "Tension is not in favor of the national interests. A further delay in elections is also not in favor of the country. The government is established based on a political... (More on P4)...(9)

## Roadside Bombing Claims 6 Civilians Lives

LASHKARGAH - Six civilians have been killed and five others wounded as a result of a landmine explosion in the Nawa district of southern Helmand province, an official said on Monday. Omar Zwak, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the roadside bomb struck a fielder brand vehicle belonging to civilians near Afghan National Army's (ANA) camp. The vehicle was on its way from Nawa to Khanshin district. Women and children were among the dead and injured, he added. Aghah Gul, a caregiver and relative of the injured people, said the victims of the blast were due to attend an engagement party. He said, five women, one man, and a child killed and three women and as many children wounded in the incident. According to hospital sources five injured including women and children had been evacuated to the hospital. Militants have not commented about the incident. (Pajhwok)

## Balkh Photo Exhibition Boosts Afghan-Uzbek Ties

BALKH - A photo exhibition was launched in Mazar-e-Sharif city in Balkh on Tuesday - aimed at improving Afghanistan-Uzbekistan relations. Under the theme of "Afghan-Uzbekistan Friendship" the three-day exhibition displays images from 28 photographers from both countries. "The exhibition will be open at the Balkh University for three days," said Adel Abdul Razakov, Uzbekistan's Consul General in Balkh said: "We have tried to display the pictures from different sides of life in Uzbekistan." Visitors to the exhibition - which were mostly stu-



dents - said the initiative will benefit cultural ties between the two countries. "We can get more information about the culture of Uzbekistan through this initiative," said Rukhsar, a law... (More on P4)...(10)

## NDS Seize Suicide Vests, Hashish

KABUL/JALALABAD - National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel have seized four suicide vests and explosives in central Kapisa province while police recovered 81 kilograms of hashish in eastern Nangarhar. A statement from the spy service said intelligence agents recovered 200 kilograms of explosives, nine landmines, 86 mortar shells, 44 warhead sand thousands of bullets and military ware. Separately, police recovered a large quantity of drugs in Nangarhar. Police spokesman Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said two suspects had been captured with 81 kilogram hashish. He said, the suspects, smuggling the drugs from Kabul to Torkham, were arrested at the Daronta police check-post. (Pajhwok)

## 'Some Senior Officials Back Illegal Gunmen in Takhar'

TALOQAN - A number of senior government officials 'support' illegal armed militia groups in Yangi Qala district of northern Takhar province, alleged the district chief on Tuesday. The Yangi Qala district chief, Mehrabuddin Haqju, told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview that the number of illegal armed individuals had recently increased in the district. He called as main cause of insecurity in the district the presence of irresponsible armed men who Haqju said were also involved in land grabbing, drug smuggling, kidnapping and collecting ushr from peo-



ple. "These armed men violate laws and create problems for law enforcement forces in the area. They also harass local residents," said Haqju. Former jihadi commanders led the armed groups and the local government has been unable to bring them to justice, said the district chief. He said the illegal armed groups also enjoyed support of government officials. "We have... (More on P4)...(11)

## Would be Suicide Bomber Among 5 Arrested

PUL-I-KHUMRI - A would-be suicide bomber was among five others arrested by intelligence forces in northern Baghlan province, officials said Tuesday. Governor, Abdul Sattar Bariz told Pajhwok Afghan News that two militants were detained by National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces in Doshi district of Baghlan. A would-be suicide bomber and his guider were detained when entering to Pul-I-Khumri, the provincial capital, he said. Local officials said that a drug smuggler along with 49 kilograms of hashish was also arrested in Baghlan. Yar Mohammad, a resident of Pul-I-Khumri City, was happy about the detention and said, "NDS forces are working day and night for the protection and safety of people, but some powerful individuals try to create problems to them," He asked the government to award honest people and punish warlords and law violators. (Pajhwok)

## Afghanistan, 4th Major Recipient of Iran's Exports Last Year

KABUL - Iran's Ambassador to Kabul Mohammad Reza Bahrami said Afghanistan was the 4th major recipient of Iranian exports during the past Iranian year (ended March 19). Talking to IRNA on Monday, he said the two countries are also planning an extensive phase of bilateral cooperation in political, economic, security and cultural areas in near future. Referring to numerous exchanges of visits between Iranian and Afghan officials, the ambassador referred to the visit of the Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani to Iran.



He said that the governor of Afghanistan's Central Bank is also going to visit Iran soon to work out a framework for mutual banking cooperation. According to the ambassador, customs officials from Iran and Afghanistan have also signed an agreement to increase the number of border customs points from the present three to five. He said that Iran's 4th trade exhibition to be held in Kabul next week could help increase Iran's trade volume. (IRNA)

## ANP Warns Against Forced Repatriation of Afghans

PESHAWAR - Awami National Party (ANP) provincial chief Ameer Haider Hoti on Monday underlined the need for cordial relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Speaking to journalists in the northwestern city of Mingora, he said greater cooperation between the neighbouring countries on issues of common interest was the need of the hour. "Peace in Pakistan is linked to peace in Afghanistan. Forced repatriation of Afghan refugees would create problems and strain the already tense relations between the two countries," he warned. Hoti said his party had



always supported tension-free relations with neighbours, including Afghanistan. Stability in the landlocked country was in the interest of Pakistan, he insisted. (Pajhwok)

## ACB Names Players for Training Camp Ahead of BD Tour

KABUL - The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has named 26 players for a 15-day training camp in India, beginning from September 3 at the Greater Cricket Sports Complex Ground. The training camp has been arranged ahead of Afghanistan's tour of Bangladesh (BD), where the men in blue will play three One-Day International (ODI) matches against the hosts at the Sheri-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur. Bangladesh and Afghanistan will play their first-ever ODI series on Sept. 25, 26 and October 1, said Nasimullah Danish, chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board. "I've made it clear to the selection committee that it is a difficult task picking the squad for playing against Bangladesh in their home ground," he added. Danish, however, believed the players were committed to undergoing rigorous training, playing the best possible game and providing spectators high-quality entertainment. Injuries were a part of the game, he acknowledged, urging every player to stay fighting-fit and ready. Shafiq Stanikzai, ACB CEO, said: "The objective of the training camp is to ensure the overall physical fitness of all players, enhance their skills and prepare them for the upcoming series against Bangladesh." Players for the training camp are Asghar Stanikzai, Mohammad Nabi, Mirwais Ashraf, Samiullah Shinwari, Dawlat Zadran, Nowroz Mangal, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Najib Zadran, Gulbadin Naib, Mohammad Shahzad, Rashid Khan, Yamin Ahmadzai, Hamza Hotak, Javed Ahmadi, Rahmat Shah, Naveen Ul Haq, Nasir Jamal, Najiat... (More on P4)...(12)

## Nangarhar Activists Launch Campaign Against Use of Forex

JALALABAD - A number of civil society activists in Nangarhar on Tuesday launched a campaign in protest over the use of Pakistani rupees in domestic transactions, saying that government has failed to deal with this problem in the eastern parts of the country. According to reports, Pakistani rupees are mostly used instead of Afghanis in Jalalabad city markets. "Now, it is the time to put an end to the use of foreign currency. We must support the Afghan currency," said Taj Mohammad Tamkin, an activist in Nangarhar. Another activist, Sebghatullah, said: "More than 90 percent of Nangarhar residents have Pakistani rupees in their pockets." Meanwhile, a number of Nan-

garhar residents accused local officials of failing to introduce the Afghan currency instead of Pakistani rupees in markets in the province. "The governor and other officials in Nangarhar have not done anything so far to stop the use of foreign currencies. We ask them to take this issue seriously," said Mikhail, a Nangarhar resident. However, the Nangarhar governor's office said that through their campaign they will soon boost the use of Afghan currency in local markets. "I hope all the people are encouraged to use Afghan currency," said Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, head of Nangarhar governor's office. This comes after Kandahar



police chief general Abdul Raziq recently called for the use of Pakistani rupees in Kandahar transactions to be banned. Earlier this month he said that law enforcement agencies had been directed to take steps against the use of Pakistani rupees in local markets and by local businesses. (Agencies)

## Taliban Bomb Kill own Commander and 4 Comrades

HERAT - A Taliban commander was killed in an explosion in western Herat province along with four other Taliban insurgents. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said the slain Taliban commander was identified as Taj Mohammad and fell prey to an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by fellow militants. According to a statement by MoD, the incident took place in Shindand district which is among the relatively volatile districts in Herat. The statement further added that three Taliban insurgents

were also wounded in the incident. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the report so far. Taliban insurgents and militants belonging to the other insurgent groups frequently use Improvised Explosive Device (IED) as the weapon of their choice to target the security forces but the ordinary civilians are often targeted in such attacks. IEDs are considered as the main motive behind the growing casualties of the Afghan National Defense and Security... (More on P4)...(13)

## Marjah-Lashkargah Road Reopens

LASHKARGAH - Security officials said Tuesday the road connecting Marjah district with Lashkargah city in Helmand has been reopened to traffic - 20 days after their clearing operation started. Until Tuesday the Taliban had essentially formed a ring around the

provincial capital cutting off the city. Now however, that ring has been broken after the 35km stretch of road was cleared of insurgents, said officials. Officials said however there had been sacrifices made by the secu-

rity forces in their efforts to clear the road but no details were given. "Our operation is ongoing and we are trying to clear the area. The reason for our operation being slow is so as not to harm civilians," said Ghulam Reza, the commander of the 4th... (More on P4)...(14)

## 4 Suicide Bombing Vests, Large Cache of Explosives Seized

KABUL - A large cache of explosives and weapons was seized in Kapisa province close to capital Kabul by the operatives of the Afghan intelligence. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) said the cache was discovered during an operation conducted in the vicinity of Kapisa province but no

further details were given. NDS further added that the cache included 4 suicide bombing vests, 200 kgs of explosives, 9 Improvised Explosive Device, 86 rounds of mortar, 20 rounds of 82mm rockets, 3 BM1 rockets, 7 hand grenades, 4 RPG7 rockets, 580 explosives capsules, 800

meters of explosives belt, and thousands rounds of ammunition of different type. It is yet not clear on what purposes the anti-government armed militant groups were looking to use the explosives for. However, the anti-government armed militant groups including the... (More on P4)...(15)