



# Winter Offensive Shafaq-2 Kicks off in Kunduz

KUNDUZ - Security forces have launched a winter offensive codenamed Shafaq-2 in to dismantle rebel strongholds in northern Kunduz province and eliminate security threats, an official said on Saturday.

Lt. Gen. Sher Aziz Kamawal, commander of the 808th Spinzar Zone in north, told reporters on Friday night large-scale operations had been conducted this year against militants in unstable localities.

He said: "We have worked effective winter security plans for eliminating insurgents and as you can see that I have visited Zarkharid area on the outskirts of Kunduz City."

He added the Shafaq 2 operation would feature ground troops and air force person-



Meanwhile, Governor Asadullah Omarhkel said based on presidential orders three districts -- Aqtash, Kabad and Gul Tapa -- would be cleared of Taliban soon. "I assure Kunduz residents that Taliban will never capture the any part of the province again." Deputy police chief, Col. Masoom Hashimi, said security patrols were conducted in Kunduz City. People should know the security forces had a huge winter operation plan. Although the countrywide Shafaq-1 operation was carried out last month, some districts are still under Taliban control. The government says it is ready to take back all areas from the militants. But some security officials claim the Shafaq 1 operation has yielded positive results in terms of eradicating insurgent hideouts and inflicting casualties on fighters. (Pajhwok)

While the offensive would be conducted in coordination with provincial security forces.

## US Praises Azerbaijan's Important Role in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The international community is in need of countries like Azerbaijan, Commander of the US Transportation Command, Air Force General Darren McDew told reporters in Baku on Saturday.

He said Azerbaijan is a peaceful, secure and constantly developing country. He noted that it is his first visit to Azerbaijan and he thanked the Azerbaijani people for hospitality.

General McDew also noted that he ... (More on P4)...(7)



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## Thousands of Children Do Hard Labor in Farah

FARAH - More than 8,500 children have been engaged in labor works in western Farah province, with only five percent of government services reaching children.

The number of children pushed into hard labor is increasing with each passing day. Selling materials on roads, washing cars, collect-

ing plastics, metal cans and even food items from garbage are daily activities of most of children in Farah.

Rahela, a seven-year-old is one of these kids. When the clock was ticking closer to 8 o'clock at night, Rahela and two of her brothers (Mirwais 11, Abdullah 9) were busy collecting ... (More on P4)...(8)

## AKTC to Rebuild 4 Historic Sites in Kabul

KABUL - The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) will soon start the rebuilding process of four historic sites in capital Kabul, including the sites located along Kabul River.

The AKTC officials informed regarding the plans during a meeting with the Minister of Urban Development and Housing Syed Sadat Man-

soor Naderi. Hailing the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's resolute cooperation in Afghanistan, Minister emphasized on the need for coordination among the urban sector and asked the Kabul municipality, the capital zone authority, and the officials of urban development sector ... (More on P4)...(9)

## U.S Embassy Allegations Against Dostum Should be Probed

KABUL - Michael McKinley, United States (U.S) ambassador to Afghanistan, on Saturday said allegations lodged by Ahmad Eschi, against First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum should be investigated transparently.

McKinley said he was shocked to hear of the allegations by Eschi that Dostum

had allegedly ordered his men to beat him up and sexually assault him. Eschi is the former Jawzjan governor. "Investigations and transparency is important to send the right signal to the Afghan people that no one is above the law," he added. Parliament also insisted that ... (More on P4)...(10)

## Mashal Appointed as New ACB Chairman



KABUL - "I will continue to make a stronger national team which actually represents all ethnic groups in the country," Mashal said.

Shukrullah Atif Mashal was introduced as the new chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) at a ceremony on Saturday.

A number of MPs and senior government officials attended the event.

Present at the gathering was Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) speaker Fazl Hadi Muslimyar who said cricket is a tool that can strengthening unity among Afghans.

He urged the new ACB chairman to improve on merit-based appointments and staff selection within the organization.

"Cricket is a national sport. It has been highly effective when used to strengthen national unity [among Afghans]. Cricket has brought smiles and joy to Afghans through its international events. All the national cricketers are thinking about their success when they compete for Afghanistan," Muslimyar stated.

The Finance Minister Eklil Ahmad Hakimi meanwhile praised the former ACB chairman Nasimullah Danish for what he achieved and said cricket should be an inclusive game in Afghanistan and that the selection of players must be done on merit.

"The executive board has the authority to introduce the best candidate to the President [Ashraf Ghani]. New strategies should be implemented to improve cricket in the country. We selected Mashal from three candidates," Hakimi said.

Meanwhile, the new head of ACB said he is committed to ... (More on P4)...(13)

# Pakistan Not Doing Enough to Disrupt Haqqanis: Pentagon

WASHINGTON - Pakistan has not made sustained efforts to disrupt the Haqqani network, needing to take steps to deny safe haven to terrorist outfits, the Pentagon told the US Congress on Friday.

Sustained Pakistani efforts to counter Haqqani Network threats were not seen during the past six months," the Pentagon said in its latest half-yearly report for the period ending in November.

"The US continues to be clear with Pakistan about steps it should take to improve the security environment and deny safe havens to terrorist and extremist



groups," said the report.

Cross-border firing incidents in June and July at the Torkham crossing had also complicated efforts to increase Afghanistan-Pakistan cooperation on reconciliation and counterterrorism issues, the Pentagon said.

Despite complications, the US continued to support an Afghan-led process for a negotiated resolution of the conflict, and was working with international partners to set conditions for a peaceful political settlement between the Afghan government and the Taliban and other militant groups, it said.

On September 22, 2016, Kabul signed a peace agreement with the Hezb-e-Islami led by Gulbadin Hekmatyar, demonstrating the potential for insurgent groups to participate in an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political reconciliation process, the report said.

At the same time, the report said consistent mid-level military-to-military dialogue between Afghanistan and ... (More on P4)...(11)

## Humanitarian Crises after Refugee Influx in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - Eighty percent of refugee families who recently returned from Pakistan have been settled in eastern Nangarhar province, officials say, fearing humanitarian crisis after the influx.

Residents, officials and provincial council members say the arrival of a huge number of refugees in Nangarhar has created multiple problems.

Ghulam Haidar Faqiri, the provincial refugees ... (More on P4)...(12)

## We Stand with Those Fighting Terrorists, US Forces in Afghanistan Tells Pakistan

KABUL - The US forces in Afghanistan (USFOR-A) marked the second anniversary of a deadly attack on Peshawar school that left over 130 children dead.

"Dec. 16 marked the second anniversary of the horrendous attack on the Peshawar Army Public School, which killed more than 130 children," USFOR-A said in a statement. The statement further added "In July, a U.S. strike killed the mastermind of the attack, Umar Khalifa. Although his death will not bring back the victims, we remember those who lost family and friends."

"We will continue to stand with all those who join the common fight against terrorists in Afghanistan and Pakistan," the statement added.

The statement by the US forces in Afghanistan was issued a day after Pentagon released its latest report on Afghanistan. ... (More on P4)...(14)

Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), after regular processes through facilitation help of National Procurement Authority (NPA), has completed the procurement process for Contract reference : NPA/DABS/95/W-1183/ICB for Design, Supply, Construction, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 110/20kV Sarobi Substation. The proposed contract award is made to, **M/S AK-AY Elektrik Limited (Registered at Deri ve Endustri Serbest Bolgesi9. Sokok 113/5B 2.kat Tuzla Istanbul) the proposed award have to currency as follow:**

No	USD POrtion	AFN Portion
	<b>2,549,110</b> : two million five hundred forty nine thousand and one hundred and ten USD Only	<b>71,829,000</b> : Seventy one million Eight hundred and twenty nine thousand AFN only

Following are the details of unsuccessful bidders :

SINo	Bidder's Name
1	RGM International Group LLC
2	Aster SC JV
3	LLC Inter RAO Engineering
4	JV of JSC" ELECTROYUZH MONTAZH" and Imrani Energy Construction
5	JV sayqa- HK energy
6	FEKA Construction Company
7	Storyservice-97 LLC

Proposed Award Decision of the Contract is based on the Clause no. 43rd of procurement law. Independen bodies (Companies or individuals) have any objection to the proposed Award can submit their written protest attached with reasons in accordance to rule no.84th of Procurement Procedure till 7 days after publication of this notice to Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Office of the Chief Finance Officer, Ist Floor, Chaman Houzori, District 8, Kabul, Afghanistan.

The notice does not mean signing of the contract, and the contract will not be signed till completion of above mentioned deadline.