

UN Worried About Afghan Children After 2014



KABUL - In a statement released this week, the United Nations (UN) raised concerns about the conditions facing Afghan children in 2014, highlighting research that shows 40 percent of all Afghan children face nutritional risks and many suffer direct violence spilled-over from fighting between the Afghan government and militant groups.

"2014 was devastating year for millions of children," UNICEF Spokesperson Christophe Boulterac said. More Afghan children than in any other year were said to have been affected by poverty and violence.

"Their future is the future of this country and they have suffered serious injuries," another UN spokesman named Aziz Protan said.

Beyond security concerns, the UN has taken issue with children's health and living conditions, especially among child laborers. Many children in Afghanistan are breadwinners for their homes and are forced to do physical labor. Fardin is a 14 years ... (More on P4)...(3)

Japan Pledges \$20m in Aid to Afghanistan

KABUL - In response to an urgent request from Kabul, Japan on Wednesday pledged to provide approximately \$20 million or 11.4 billion afis under the Non-Project Grant Aid.

A statement from the Embassy of Japan said Wednesday that the exchange of note for this Non-Project Grant Aid signed between Hiroshi Takahashi, ambassador of Japan to Afghanistan and Atiqullah Atifmal, acting minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan.

The amount which provided through this Aid would contribute to ease the governmental financial gap, namely the balance between revenue and its expenditure, ... (More on P4)...(4)

Govt. Has No Will to Name Cabinet: MPs



KABUL - Wolesi Jirga members on Wednesday lambasted the unity government lacked the political will and determination to introduce a new cabinet involving committed and qualified individuals.

After being sworn in on Sept 29, both President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah had promised they would unveil the cabinet within 45 days, a deadline they failed to meet.

Lower house member from Kabul Zakria told a general session the people ... (More on P4)...(10)

Concerns over Cabinet Delay Inflated: Feldman



KABUL - The US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan has said concerns over delay in cabinet formation by the Ashraf Ghani administration are inflated.

Daniel Feldman said in an interview late on Tuesday President Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah had assure the international community the issue would be resolved soon.

Speaking to the Voice of America's Pashto Service, he said the two leaders had set standards for the nomination of cabinet members.

"Although new ministers have not been appointed so far, the new Afghan government's performance has been effective over the last three months," he remarked. The security agreements ... (More on P4)...(11)

New Mission to Start in 4 Days: NATO

KABUL - NATO announced on Wednesday its new mission "Resolute Support" -- aimed at training and advising Afghan security forces -- would start in four days. Deputy Commander of NATO Lt. Gen. Carsten Jacobson told journalists in Kabul NATO was satisfied with its achievements in the last 13 years and the new mission would also focus on Afghan forces. He lauded the ability of ANSF, saying they were able to take the lead in combating terrorism. "After this we will remain in the war zone but not on a war mission."



"We understand that ANSF need our support and advice. Our main aim is how to make these forces more efficient," the commander explained. Jacobson said NATO was fully committed to the promises it had made at the London Conference. "We believe Afghans are also happy with what we have done. Now we end our combat mission with confidence." The commander acknowledged since the start of the transition process, ANSF had shown maturity and they were prepared for a complete takeover. As many as 12,500 NATO soldiers from 30 countries would remain in Afghanistan for the new ... (More on P4)...(1)

Afghan Cabinet Formation in Final Stage

KABUL - Amid repeated delay in introducing minister-designates to Wolesi Jirga or the Lower House of parliament for approval to form the cabinet, presidential spokesman Nazifullah Salarzai has said that the cabinet would be formed by the end of the month.

Although there is no statement from Arg or the Presidential Palace, Salarzai, in talks with local media emphasized that "the cabinet will be formed within the time set by the president." President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani who assumed office in late September promised in his maiden speech to form the cabinet within 45 days, a deadline has al ... (More on P4)...(2)

Afghan Carpets Win 1st Position in UAE Show

KABUL - Afghan carpets got first position at an exhibition held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Tanwir Investments chairman said on Wednesday.

Daud Jabbarkhel told Pajhwok Afghan News around 160 companies from the Middle East, Central and South Asian countries took part in the exhibition.

He said carpets weaved by Afghan women were showcased at the show and they won the first ... (More on P4)...(5)

Illegal Armed Groups Not Acceptable: President

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday warned illegal armed groups of dire consequences if they challenged the government's writ.

The president said this during a video conference with newly appointed officials of northern Kunduz province, including Governor Mohammad Umar Safi, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.



Safi briefed the president on the security situation of Kunduz and informed him about problems and challenges being faced by people there.

President Ghani said ensuring good governance was his government's top priority and encouraged Kunduz officials to serve the people at all cost. ... (More on P4)...(6)

ISIS Trying to Seize Parts of Afghanistan: Putin



MOSCOW - Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of Russia has expressed his concern regarding the security situation in Afghanistan.

He said in his new remarks in Kremlin that Islamic States (DAISH) is trying to make influence in Afghanistan and occupy parts of the country.

He said some of the provinces of Afghanistan are facing serious threat from DAISH.

Although no one in Afghanistan has announced support to DAISH but previous reports indicate the existence of their supporters in the country.

However, in the neighboring Pakistan months ago some of the key commanders of the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan announced ... (More on P4)...(9)

Afghan Forces to Face Tough Challenges in 2015: US

WASHINGTON - Afghan security forces face a tough challenge in 2015, a senior Obama administration official said on Tuesday, hoping they would secure the country after the US war in Afghanistan comes to an end on December 31. "They have ... (More on P4)...(7)



Iran Resolved to Boost Border Markets' Role in Trade with Afghanistan

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official said Tehran is aware of border markets' significant role in the enhancement of its trade interactions with the neighboring countries, and informed that a new market of this kind is to be established near Neshandon town at the border with Afghanistan. ... (More on P4)...(8)

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