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#### (1) AAF to...

Defense, President Ghani thanked India for the delivery of Mi-25 gunships, calling the close-air support for the Afghan forces a critical need during the current situation.

President Ghani further added that three Mi-25 gunships have arrived in the country and the fourth one will be delivered

He also thanked the commander of the NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) mission and US forces in Afghanistan Gen. John Campbell regarding steps taken for the delivery of additional aircraft to Afghan Air Force.

President Ghani said the first batch of the aircraft will arrive in Afghanistan in the next three weeks as the loading has been

This comes as reports emerged earlier last week that the first batch of fixed-wing combat aircraft consisting of four A-29 Super Tucano planes will be delivered in the month fo Janu-

Meanwhile, the delivery of the aircraft comes as eight Afghan Air Force pilots completed their training recently and graduated from a program hosted by the 81st Fighter Squadron at Moody Air Force Base in United States and will return to Afghanistan for combat.

The A-29 is a multi-role, fixedwing aircraft that will provide the Afghan air force with an indigenous air-to-ground capability and aerial reconnaissance capabilities to support the country's counterinsurgency operations. (KP)

#### (2) WH Mulling...

around the world, The New York Times reports a proposal now under consideration would use a base in Afghanistan as a hub for Special Operations troops and intelligence operatives throughout Central and South Asia. (Agencies)

#### (3) MPs Complaint...

anyone in this province to do illegal actions," Dawood Ahmadi, Logar police chief said. Logar representatives in Parliament have also presented documents over involvement of security institutions in illegal extraction of mines. (ATN

# (4) Etisalat ...

for 200 nominated candidates from all Etisalat's Operating Companies and top 100 Etisalat employees including Mrs. Zarghona were selected through a transparent selection process which included powerful psychometric personality assessment tools, Hogan Personality Inventory and Development Survey, Hogan Business Reasoning Inventory, Emotional Intelligence Report and Competency Based Interviews.in the process.

Mrs Zarghona and Sayed Khodadad Mousavi, former Etisalat employees and current board members of ATRA, and Mr. Ghulam Nabi and Mir Habib Orya current employees of Etisalat Afghanistan are the proud HIPO graduates who are currently serving Afghanistan using their knowledge and experience gained during their training as HIPOs.

'At Etisalat we are committed to provide cutting edge technology to our customers and best in class development opportunities for our employees.' said Dr. Salah Zerguerras, CEO Etisalat Afghanistan, 'The selection of our employees as board members of Afghanistan's Telecom Regulatory Authority is a clear indication of success in provision of development op-

portunities'. During the course of their training, the HIPOs went through rigorous Training & Development programs including mini MBA, Business strategy, value creation, Leadership skills, Business challenges, and practical business development assignments in collaboration with the best and renowned business schools and E- learning Institution in the world including école des Hautes Etudes Commerciales de Paris(HEC Paris), Harvard Manage Mentor, and Duke University Corporate Ed-

While receiving her certificate of completion, Ms. Zarghona commented 'I am honored and privileged by the numer-

by Etisalat for enhancing my knowledge and skills. The development opportunities have helped me in achieving success in my career.'

The third global High Potential (HIPO) Program shall be launched in the coming months. Etisalat Afghanistan intends to nominate more local national employees to participate in this program to further strengthen the global leadership pool of Etisalat.

Since the inception of Etisalat in Afghanistan, the company has been committed to be a key partner in the development of Afghanistan and has taken numerous steps to spearhead the progress and well being of its Afghan National staff at all levels in the company. Besides providing world class voice and data services for 5 million customers across the country, the company also aims at training and preparing Afghans to lead their country into a bright and prosperous future. (PR)

#### (5) China Welcomes...

is willing to continue playing a constructive role and maintaining contact and coordination with all sides. (Xinhua)

#### (6) Daesh's Oppression...

should not stand in front of

Qadir's comments come after the uprising civilians under his command beheaded four members of Daesh to revenge.

Daesh had earlier cut off heads from four civilians in Achin District provoking others to do the same to the group.

According to Haji Ghalib Mujahid, governor of Achin District, two of the four militants beheaded belonged to Tirah valley while the two others were from Orakzai Agency of Paki-

Daesh has killed people through shooting and blowing them up with bombs in parts of Nangarhar province.

The group's fighters have also burnt houses of civilians after accusing them for supporting government. (KP)

## (7) Diplomatic ....

said in Islamabad this week that the meeting of the senior officials of the four countries will discuss a mechanism for the second round of dialogue between the representatives of the Afghan government and

the Taliban." The second round of the Pakistan-brokered was scheduled for late July. However, it was cancelled after the death of the Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar, which forced the Taliban leaders to focus on transition instead of talks.

The meeting will take place few weeks after Pakistani, Afghan leaders and Chinese and U.S. ministers agreed early this month to "work together to create a conducive atmosphere that encourages Taliban groups to engage in meaningful and sustained negotiations."

The understanding at a recent quadrilateral meeting is seen very important to end the deadlock in the incessant peace negotiation at a time where there is no let up in violence in Afghanistan even in winter, which is not a traditional season for fighting.

Taliban and Afghan forces have been involved in heavy fighting in southern Helmand province over the past few days that killed dozens of people. The Helmand fighting also prompted aerial strikes by the U.S.-led foreign forces, who had previously announced end to the combat mission in the war-ravaged country.

As the major stakeholders are set for an active role in the peace process, retired army generals, political leaders, members of the parliament and civil society in Pakistan and Afghanistan have also initiated a track-II process to throw weight behind the peace efforts.

The track-II diplomacy has always been helpful to promote dialogue between the two uneasy neighbours.

Organizers say key objectives of the "Track 1.5/II - Beyond Boundaries" are to expand the peace constituency through friendship groups in both countries, and improve sup-

opportunities provided | port for better Afghanistan-Pakistan relationship through dialogue among the influential stakeholders and inform policy makers through consensus recommendations. (Xinhua)

## (8) Taliban Offensive...

are there. And the Afghans are willing to fight. The big problem is, is, we didn't put in the enablers that Defense Minister Stanekzai was talking about, air support, helicopters, intelligence. We ripped those out of Afghanistan before the Afghan forces were ready to operate on their own," he said.

Sedney further added "And we're now paying the price. But the causes go beyond that. The Taliban have mounted in the last two years, since we stopped fighting, we stopped using combat forces, their largest offensives ever. More Afghans are dying today than at any time since before 2001." The remarks by Sedney comes as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for remaining reckless to act against the militant groups waging war in Afghanistan using the Pakistani soil as their sanctuaries, including the notorious Haqqani terrorist network and Taliban group operating mainly from it's Quetta council. (KP)

#### (9) Govt. to...

targeted civil service training. CBR will also support core ongoing public administration reforms.

A feature of CBR is the creation of an elite, senior civil service to help a core of ministries deliver their mandates, along with several hundred management interns to become future leaders. Primary technical skills of these ministries will be ensured through new professional civil service cadres paid market competitive rates, as well as track for civil servants in common functions across government (e.g. financial management and procurement). All positions will be on the tashkeel and supported by the underlying normal civil service.

Funded through ARTF, CBR will absorb aspects of several on-going projects (e.g., MCP and CSRP) and reduce separate donor engagements. Donors active in the sector (USAID, DFID, and EU) are being closely consulted during project development. The expectation is that the program will be approved by the ARTF Management Committee in December. CBR is broadly expected to result in the following: (1) reform of 8 -10 key line ministries fundamental to service delivery and /or economic growth; (2) improved delivery of fundamental services like public health and education; (3) appropriate regulation of and support for investment in areas such as mining and electricity; and (4) hiring of up to 1,000 senior - level civil servants who will make up the executive management group of line ministries, including over 100 -200 in provincial offices, thereby reducing reliance on external technical assistance. More limited reforms will be expected of around 4-5 other ministries. (Wadsam)

# (10) Suicide Car...

Mujahid, a self-proclaimed spokesman of the Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying 10 foreign soldiers were killed in the suicide bombing.

However, eyewitnesses and officials have rejected the Taliban claim as groundless, saying no foreign trooper was at the site of the blast and all the victims were civilians. (Xinhua)

# (11) 68 Daesh ...

Most recently the group beheaded four members of the pro-government militia after which their four fighters were also decapitated. (KP)

# (12) NATO ...

The security officials had earlier said one civilian died and thirteen others were wounded after a Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) was detonated in Hawashinasi area close to Hamid Karzai International Airport around 8:00 am local time. (KP)

# (13) Career Center...

curricula to ensure it is aligned with the demands of the market, invite industry representatives for talks at the USWDP field office/career center, arrange learning experiences, provide internships for students, and so on and so forth. (Wadsam)

#### (14) UN Helps...

civilians killed and 559 injured. Other sources point to thousands of people displaced from their homes.

Abdul Matin, who lost one of his legs in the fighting, said he was happy to receive the help. "I'm in contact with the physical rehabilitation people to have a prosthesis leg made for myself," he added, noting that people are tired of conflict and want the parties to stop the violence.

Parikhal, a mother-of-six who lost her husband in the fighting, said she is grateful to receive an aid package, although she expressed uncertainty as to how she will manage to support her family in the long term. (Monitoring Desk)

## (15) ANSF Kill 15 ...

MOSCOW - Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) killed 15 armed militants in a series of special anti-terrorism operations during the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said Monday.

According to the statement, the anti-terrorism operations were held by joint efforts of Afghan National Police, Afghan National Army and the country's intelligence agency National Directorate of Security (NDS). "The operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Kunduz, Sar-e-Pul, Logar and Ghazni provinces, as a result 15 armed insurgents were killed and one was wounded," the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry added that Afghan National Police confiscated various kinds of ammunition during the operations. The situation in Afghanistan has significantly worsened in the last couple of months, with the Taliban and other extremist organizations, including the notorious Daesh group, taking advantage of instability in the country and launching offensive against the country's big cities.

Deash is a terrorist group outlawed in Russia and many other countries for its numerous atrocities. (Sputnik)

## (16) Only Suicide...

KABUL - A suicide bomber has been killed in the explosion of his own explosives in front of a district police HQ in southern Helmand province.

The incident took place in Gerishk District around 0830 (local time) on Monday after police fired at the suicide bomber attempting to enter to the police HO.

Shah Mahmood Ashna, spokesperson for Helmand police said there was information about the attempts being made to send a suicide bomber into the district police headquarters among the visitors.

He said as the suicide bomber arrives at the gate this morning and police fire at him after recognition, the suicide bomber then blasts his explosives. According to Ashna, only the bomber has been killed in the explosion and there are no casualties to police or civilians.

No group has claimed responsibility for sending the suicide bomber to Geriskh Police HQ but Taliban took credit for a suicide bombing in Kabul this morning that left at least one person killed and 13 others wounded. (KP)

## (17) Afghan Migrant...

PARIS - An Afghan refugee was found killed in the back of a truck in the northern French town of Dunkirk in northern France, where about 2,600 migrants live in a shanty town. on Monday. The driver contacted police after discovering the body and the man's companions.

The man, who was about 30 years old, was hit by an unidentified object when he stuck his head above the tarpaulin covering the back of the lorry to see if it was going in the right direction, two of his com-

panions who were riding with him told police.

The driver discovered them when he stopped at a motorway service stop and heard sounds coming from the back of his vehicle.

Nineteen migrants who hoped to cross the Channel to Britain have died in northern France since June.

About 2,600 live in the shanty town at Grande-Smythe, on the outskirts of Dunkirk, and 4,000-6,000 live in the "Jungle" in Calais. (RFI)

#### (18) Woman Shot ...

KANDAHAR - A woman was shot dead and another injured by unknown gunmen in southern Kandahar province on Monday morning, local officials said.

Samim Ikhpelwak, a spokesman for the provincial governor said that the incident took place in PD4 of Kandahar city after unknown gunmen opened fire on two women. One died and one was injured.

He said the unknown gunmen then fled the area but police have started investigations. The motive for the attack is un-

However, no group including the Taliban has claimed reasonability for the attack so far. (Tolonews)

#### (19)War Against...

Russia or the United Nations," he added.

Last week, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, special envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen, announced the end of the latest peace talks on Yemen, saying that the parties agreed on framework for the negotiations and will meet again on Jan. 14 of 2016 for a new round

The consultations involve 24 Yemeni representatives and advisors in view of implementing a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire, improving the humanitarian situation and returning to a peaceful and orderly political transition. (Xinhua)

#### (20)Russia Not...

Turkey relations have hit the bottom since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011.

Turkey blames Assad for prolonging the crisis, while Damascus accuses Ankara of facilitating the flow of foreign jihadists into Syria. (Xinhua)

that the Russian mission has been mostly successful so far and is facing relatively low costs.

The U.S. officials stressed that Putin could face serious problems the longer his involvement in the more than fouryear-old civil war drags on.

Yet since its campaign began on Sept. 30, Russia has suffered minimal casualties and, despite domestic fiscal woes, is handily covering the operation's cost, which analysts estimate at \$1-2 billion a year. The war is being funded from Russia's regular annual defense budget of about \$54 billion, a U.S. intelligence official said. (Reuters)

## (22)Cooperation...

resulted in violence and extremism and the spread of Islamophobia more than ever. President Rouhani wished prosperity for all Muslims across the world.(PressTV)

## (23) IS Group...

and Shiite-dominated paramilitaries. The operation, at that time the largest by Iraqi forces against IS, was helped by the fact that much of Tikrit's civilian population had fled the city.(AFP)

# (24)EU Supports...

Risk Reduction program (DIPE-CHO) have been quick to respond to the emergency. FO-CUS Humanitarian Assistance, one of the EU's humanitarian partners that are permanently present in the region, is leading the disaster response: it conducts assessments and centralizes the request of emergency relief items. Oxfam, another partner of the European Commission, has reallocated €48,000 in DIPECHO funding to provide blankets, winter clothes as well as hygiene- and other household items.(AKIpress)

# Khalida Zia **Reiterates Demand** for Army Supervision for Local Body Polls

DHAKA - Bangladeshi former Prime Minister Khalida Zia on Monday once again called for the deployment of the army to supervise the local body polls. While addressing a press conference, Khalida Zia, also chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), alleged that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Bangladesh Awami League (AL) party is hatching conspiracy to manipulate the elections which are thought to be an acid test for both ruling and opposition parties to prove their popularity.

Voting at 234 municipalities is slated for Dec. 30. Hundreds of candidates are contesting in the polls for the positions of mayors, which for the first time are being held on the party line nomination. Khalida Zia once again urged the Election Commission to deploy the army in the elections.

Khalida Zia said army deployment is needed to ensure the impartiality and transparency of the elections as her party candidates and agents for the polling centres were being harassed by the ruling party activists. A ruling party spokesman was not immediately available for comments about Khalida Zia's allegations.

Khalida Zia, however, expressed confidence that her party would get around 80 percent of votes if the election is held in a free and fair manner. Khalida Zia said Hasina's AL is planning to show BNP as an unpopular party by rigging votes in the local government elections. (Xinhua)

# **Cameron Visits Flood-**Hit City of York

YORK - British Prime Minister David Cameron visited the floodhit historic city of York on Monday as cities, towns and villages across northern England battled to get back on their feet following devastating storms. Cameron met soldiers and volunteers helping with the aftermath of the flooding as he faced increasing pressure to take more action to prevent further chaos in future.

Around 500 properties were flooded in York, one of Britain's top tourist destinations, on Sunday as two rivers burst their banks. Some residential streets became so inundated that cars were covered up to their roofs. Soldiers helped pile sandbags up

to protect properties and businesses while emergency services paddled around the streets in dinghies trying to find stranded residents. Flooding has also hit the northern cities of Leeds and Manchester in recent days, as well as a string of towns and villages in the region. "Let's have a look and see whether more needs to be done," Cameron told Sky News when asked about his government's response. "After any one of these events, it's right to sit down, look at what you've spent, what you've built, what you're planning to spend, what you're planning to build and work out is it in the right places, are we doing it in the right way, do we need to do more?" The Environment Agency had 10 severe flood warnings in place Monday, signalling a "danger to life", chiefly at points along major rivers in Yorkshire.(AFP)

#### Saudi Arabia Passes **2016 Budget with \$86 Bln Deficit**

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia on Monday passed its budget of 2016 with 86 billion U.S. dollars deficit that will be covered from internal and external loans, Al Arabiya News reported. The budget takes into account the economic growth by keeping the expenditure at 223.9 billion dollars and the revenues at 136. 953 billion. The Saudi Finance Ministry said in a statement on its website that loans are aimed to avoid effecting the cash flow in the banking sector. Meanwhile, Al Eqtisadiya business news website said the non-oil revenues have grown by 43 billion dollars, which reduces the financial pressure of the dropping oil prices in the oilrich country. This is the second year Saudi Arabia has passed its budget with deficit after years of surpluses. Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saudi said last week that the oil prices won't be an issue as the country can survive with years of money reserves.(Xinhua)