

Quote of the Day

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.

Peter Marshall

MoD Always Tries to Prevent Civilian Casualties: Waziri

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Tuesday said it was shocked more than anyone else by civilian casualties, trying its best during operations to prevent collateral damage.

A day earlier, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released its annual report, saying that 11,418 civilians suffered casualties in 2016.

The report said 3,498 civilians were killed and 7,920 others wounded last year, blaming the Taliban for 61 percent of the casualties, government forces for 24 percent and foreign troops for two percent.



In reaction, the MoD spokesman said in a statement they had carefully read the UNAMA report. Maj. Gen. Dawlat Waziri said the ministry was more worried about civilian casualties than any other organizations and always tried to avoid harming innocent people.

He said President Ashraf Ghani had always ordered security officials and commanders to be more careful about civilian protection during their operations against terrorist groups. ...*(More on P4)...*(1)

Restart Taliban Talks, be Tough on Pakistan, Trump Asked

WASHINGTON - A group of eminent South Asian experts from top US think tanks on Monday urged the White House to restart talks with Taliban and send a strong signal to Islamabad that it would not be business as usual.

"Washington should remain open to attempts to restart Taliban talks with the Afghan government, but should not plan its strategy around this long-shot scenario. It is likely the Taliban will try to convince the international community they are willing to negotiate in order to influence decision-making on troop levels in Afghanistan by the Trump administration," said the report.

Prepared by experts from top American think tanks, the document says although Prime Minister Sharif's government has helped bring Taliban leaders to the negotiating table, Pakistan's intelligence services have played spoiler when it feared that Afghan Taliban interlocutors could not be trusted to represent Pakistan's ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

Children Must be off-Limits, Warring Parties Told

KABUL - Children must be "off limits" during wartime, warned Save the Children, as grim new UN figures reveal almost three children per day were killed by the conflict in Afghanistan in 2016.

A statement from the Save

the Children expressed its concern at startling new UN figures that reveal 2016 to be the deadliest year on record for children in Afghanistan. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan found 923 children were killed last year, ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

Ministry Announces 20pc Cut in Internet Prices

KABUL - The Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MCIT) on Tuesday announced a 20 percent cut in internet prices.

Sayed Ahmad Shah Sadat,

deputy MCIT minister, told a press conference here that previously Kazakhstan offered per MB of internet to ISPs for \$336, Pakistan for \$120 and Iran \$180.

But ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

Wet Spell Claimed 160 Lives, Damaging Hundreds of Homes

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani, ordering the relevant organs to take effective measures for the prevention of possible floods, on Tuesday said at least 160 people had been killed by recent snowfall and avalanches across the country.

President Ghani, in a video message, said that the country had been lashed

by heavy snowfalls in the recent days. The snowfall and rain caused casualties, but he hoped the wet spell would fill water reservoirs and benefit crops, he added. "We should thank God for His blessing and view it (snowfall) as a good omen," Ghani said, regretting the concomitant life and financial losses. ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

Death Toll from Nuristan Avalanches, Cold Snap Soars to 73

JALALABAD - As many as 73 people have been killed and 27 others wounded by avalanches and freezing weather in eastern Nuristan province, the governor said on Tuesday.

Hafiz Abdul Qayum told Pajhwok Afghan News a relief team had reached Bargi-Matal district on Monday

-- a day after an avalanche buried an entire village in the town.

As of Monday afternoon, 63 bodies and 27 injured people were retrieved from the snow. There were 70 homes in the village, where 500 people lived. He said 400 people were still buried under ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

Trump Way Only to Combat Terrorism: Afghan Ambassador to India



KABUL - The Afghan Ambassador to India Dr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali has endorsed the US President Donald Trump's statement

to eradicate radical forces, saying "this is the only way to combat terrorism." Ambassador Abdali made the ...*(More on P4)...*(7)

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