



# Experts Pin Hopes on 6-Nation Moscow Talks

KABUL - Optimistic about the outcome of a six-nation conference in Russia on Afghanistan's future that began on Wednesday in Moscow, political affairs experts in Kabul said the Afghan government should push for a consensus roadmap at the summit towards peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Ahmad Shikab Mustaghni, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), told Pajhwok Afghan News the Moscow summit on Afghanistan being held today would discuss joint efforts at bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan.

He said the MoFA's policy and strategy director would represent Afghanistan at the summit being attended by representatives from China, Russia, Pakistan, India and Iran.



Political experts said such summits were in favour of Afghanistan and the Afghan government should get maximum advantage of the meetings. Asif Ashna, a political expert,

said such summits were in the interest of Afghanistan and the government should use these platforms for winning peace in the country. On Russia's role, Ashna said

it was the time for Kremlin to play an effective role in the settlement of the Afghan conflict. He said: "Regional countries are once again looking for friends and alliances to curtail

the US in the region." Shukur Salangi, another expert on international relations, said: "The Russians seem no longer want to stay silent and want play a leading role in the region to resolve the Afghan conflict and reduce the US influence."

He said if the Afghan conflict got further complicated, the US would increase the number of its troops, something not in the interest of China, Russia and Iran. He asked the Afghan government to develop understanding between the US and Russia regarding the Afghan peace or be ready for the return of proxy wars in Afghanistan. Russia hosted a similar conference on Dec 27 but did not invite Afghanistan, Iran and India. (Pajhwok)

# Mellbin, Rabbani Discuss Afghan-EU Cooperation



KABUL - Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and European Union (EU) Special Representative Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin have agreed on continued cooperation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Wednesday they exchanged views on a wide range of issue, including a co-

operation agreement on partnership and development between Afghanistan and the EU. EU's commitments at last year's Brussels conference, the foreign minister's recent visit to Moscow and other regional and global matters also figured at the meeting. (Pajhwok)

# MoFA Seeks Islamabad Help in Diplomat Killing Probe

KABUL - Afghanistan has again asked Pakistan to help investigate the killing of Afghan diplomat in port city of Karachi, a statement from the Ministry of foreign affairs

(MoFA) said on Wednesday. Zaki Abduho, an Afghan diplomat was shot dead by one of the security guard in the Afghan consulate general in ... (More on P4)... (6)

# Taliban, Security Forces Accused of Harassing Civilians



CHARIKAR - Residents of central Parwan province, having sympathies with Taliban and security forces, complain the harsh behavior of the warring parties has forced them to migrate to other places.

But both security forces and the insurgent movement deny harassing civilians, insisting they never create problems for unarmed people.

Gul Khanam, 30, hailing from Shinwari district, alleged the Taliban killed her husband four years back. She was forced to leave her home with two daughters and three sons -- 3 to 11 years old.

"The Taliban got Roohullah, my husband, off a vehicle and shot him to death because his brother Abdul Malik was a commander of Afghan Local Police (ALP). "In the darkness of night, we managed to flee the area, fearing the Taliban may kill us," the woman says, adding they reached Jabal-us-Saraj district early in the morning.

"If the Taliban had seen us in daytime, they would have stopped us fleeing" They lived for sometime in Abshar and Charikar, the provincial capital, after leaving Shinwari.

"My husband's brother is helping us, but his salary is not enough and we are struggling financially. My children collect wood and other materials for burning. I cannot admit them to school because we don't have the resources,"

Abdul Malik says they had to migrate from Shinwari district to Charikar as Taliban posed a threat to their lives. Some of his relatives live a life of fear at the hands of ... (More on P4)... (9)

# NATO Ministerial Meeting to Focus on Defense Spending, Terrorism

BRUSSELS - NATO defense ministers are to tackle defense spending and the fight against terrorism at the organization's upcoming meetings, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Tuesday.

Briefing media on the agenda of the meeting over the next two days, Stoltenberg stressed the importance of strength and unity of the alliance in addressing security challenges.

"NATO is founded on the bond between North America and Europe, and in good times and bad, that bond has been unbreakable," he said. He welcomed that defense spending among European allies and Canada had increased



by 3.8 percent in real terms in 2016 and underlined "the importance of fair burden-sharing and higher defense spending". Stoltenberg also said "ministers will also focus on the fight against terrorism, and threats stemming from the Middle

East and North Africa." New U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis will attend the two-day meeting which starts on Wednesday. U.S. President Donald Trump, who has referred to NATO as "obsolete", said during his ... (More on P4)... (7)

# Abdullah Awarded with Anniversary Medal by Kazakhstan



KABUL - - The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Afghanistan Omirtai Bitimov met with the Chief Executive of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah and presented him the anniversary medal "25 years of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan" on Feb.11, reported the press service of the Kazakh foreign ministry. Abdullah expressed gratitude to the President of Kazakh-

stan Nursultan Nazarbayev for the presented award and highlighted the importance of cooperation with the country in politics, economy, public safety, education and culture. The Afghan Chief commented on the last constitutional reforms' implementation of Nazarbayev saying that Kazakh president found the balance between democracy and ... (More on P4)... (8)

# Pakistan Summoned Afghan DHM after Deadly Lahore Attack

KABUL - Pakistan has summoned a top Afghan diplomat over a deadly attack in Lahore city of Pakistan which left at least 13 people dead. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in a statement said "Foreign Office calls in Afghan DHM, registers concern over terrorist attacks on Pakistan by Jumaat-ul-Ahrar from sanctuaries in Afghanistan."

The statement further added that Syed Abdul Nasir Yousafi was called-in to the Foreign Office, yesterday, by

Additional Secretary. "The Afghan DHM was conveyed the grave concern of Pakistan about the continuing terrorist attacks on Pakistani soil by the terrorist outfit, Jumaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) from its sanctuaries inside Afghanistan," the statement added.

According to Pakistan's Foreign Ministry "Attention of the DHM was also drawn to the earlier actionable intelligence shared by our authorities with the Afghan side. Afghanistan ... (More on P4)... (10)

# MoI Asked to Arrest Dostum's Guards: AGO

KABUL - The Attorney General's Office has urged the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to take action against security guards of first vice-president Abdul Rashid Dostum, accused of torturing and sexually harassing a tribal elder.

A credible source in the AGO told Pajhwok Afghan News the office had recently requested the MoI to arrest Dostum's nine bodyguards involved in beating Ahmad Eshchi, a former governor of northern Jawzjan province. "But the ministry comes short of doing that," said the source of the MoI's failure to arrest guards of the VP.

The MoI shared information with the AGO in a letter about arrest warrants issued for the guards, but the information was unsatisfactory, he said.

"In response to the MoI letter, the AGO said that detention of persons is the responsibility of police, the AGO once asks the police to take action," the source said.

However, MoI spokesman Siddiq Siddiqi said the ministry was always cooperative with the AGO. But he said detention of Dostum's bodyguards was the responsibility of the Protection and Security of VIPs Department.

He said information about MoI's responsibilities in such cases had been shared with the AGO. The AGO issued arrest warrants ... (More on P4)... (11)

# NSC Decides to Register Vehicles Countrywide

KABUL - The National Security Council (NSC) has approved in principle the procedure for registration of vehicles including non-custom paid (NCP) and biometric entry of their owners.

The NCS met with President Ashraf Ghani in the chair at the Presidential Palace on Tuesday evening, a statement from the palace to Pajhwok Afghan News said.

The meeting appreciated the Afghan security forces' performance against the country's enemies and assessed the security situation of Helmand, Kunduz, Baghlan, Nangarhar, Uruzgan and some other provinces.

The statement said the meeting also directed relevant organs to take decisive actions for elimination of militants.

After evaluating the country's security situation, the meeting approved in



principle the procedure for registration of all vehicles including NCP and storing their owners' biometric data across the country. The vehicular registration plan has been prepared by the NSC in coordination with relevant organs. Based on the procedure, security organs are responsible to register their vehicles and their biometric data, the statement said.

"The aim of the plan is to prevent car suicide bombings and identify owners of vehicles being used in crim-

inal incidents." The statement said the ministries of interior and telecommunications and information technology as well as the NSC were tasked with preparing executive plan for the procedure in the next two weeks. The meeting also approved a regulation simplifying extradition of Afghan suspects and defendants in foreign countries. Based on the regulation, humanitarian rights of the suspects and defendants and prisoners would be protected by both the sides, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

# UAE Envoy to Kabul Dies of Wounds from January Bombing



ABU DHABI - The United Arab Emirates' ambassador to Afghanistan has died of wounds sustained in a January 10 bombing in Kandahar that also killed five other UAE officials, state media said Thursday.

Ambassador Juma Mohammed Abdullah Al Kaabi had been leading a UAE delegation to the provincial governor's office in Kandahar when the bomber struck, killing 12 people instantly. Both he and governor Humayun Azizi suffered serious burns.

The UAE's official WAM news agency described the ambassador as a "martyr". The attack was one of a spate of bombings that hit three Afghan cities on January 10, killing 57 people.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for twin bombs that hit a parliamentary annexe in Kabul and a suicide bombing in Lashkar Gah, capital of restive Helmand province.

But it did not claim the Kandahar attack. The UAE has historically had good relations with the Taliban. It was among only three governments that recognised the Taliban administration that ruled in Kabul between 1996 and 2001. Security in Afghanistan has become increasingly ... (More on P4)... (12)

# Kabul Saddened over UAE Ambassador's Death



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani is deeply saddened by the death of the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Kabul, Juma Mohammed Abdullah al-Kaabi, after he succumbed to injuries sustained in an attack in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, the Presidential Palace said in a statement on Wednesday.

Ghani said in the statement that the attack will not hamper the ties between Kabul and Abu Dhabi as the two countries enjoy strengthened relations.

"Shedding the blood of Afghanistan and UAE citizens in this terrorist attack will strengthen the two countries will to fight and combat terrorism," Ghani said.

The president sent his condolences to the family of the ambassador al-Kaabi and the people of the UAE.

The blast occurred inside the Kandahar governor's high-security guest house where the UAE diplomats, including Ambassador Juma Mohammed Abdullah al-Kaabi, gathered for dinner. The attack in Kandahar last month left 11 dead including five UAE diplomats. (Tolonews)