

UN Focuses on Afghan Youth



KABUL - The Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) announced on Friday that working with the Afghan youth is a top priority for the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon. The UN recently helped organize a music concert in Bamyan in front of the Buddha statue to honor International Youth Day.

"For UN secretary general Ban Ki Moon, working with and for young people is one his top priorities. For International Youth Day he has encouraged member states, youth led organizations and other stakeholders to act to promote the rights of your young people and maximize the development potential of the youth around the world including of course in Afghanistan," an official from the UNAMA office in Kabul said.

At the concert in Bamyan, many youth and women showed up to watch and participate in the performances.

"I don't understand what kind of people are those who engage in wars and violence, because they disturb the general public and their..." (More on P4)...(3)

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Tuesday said the unity government would not compromise on Afghanistan's national interest under any circumstances. He was speaking at a three-day conference involving police commanders from different provinces in Kabul. NATO and senior Afghan intelligence, defence and interior ministries' officials were present on the occasion, a statement from the CEO of-fice said. ... (More on P4)...(1)

Dr. Abdullah
No Compromise on National Interest



Ghani Visits Iran Soon to Stabilize Bilateral Ties

KABUL - Following formal invitation extended by his Iranian counterpart, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani is set to visit Tehran to further bolster cooperation between the two countries in multifaceted areas, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

Earlier, the president had expressed optimism that relations with neighboring states were navigating toward positive direction. The statement said that the visiting Iranian vice-presi-



dent Mohammad Shariatmadari held detailed discussion with the president ranging from economic cooperation to peace and security. During the course of meeting, it was decided that a joint ... (More on P4)...(4)

Afghanistan Cricket Team Fans Await First World Cup Match

SYDNEY - Fans of Afghanistan's national cricket team are crowding in Australia's city of Sydney to root on their team against Bangladesh in their history making World Cup match on Wednesday.

Afghan spectators in Sydney have prepared special national team jerseys and have stocked up on the Afghan flag to sport during Wednesday's match cheering on their team.

Sydney resident and avid fan of Afghanistan's cricket team Mustafa Herawi said that this is a dream to come true.

"It has always been my dream to watch my country, my team, play in the World Cup," he said excitedly. "We've come from Canberra to support our team."

The Afghan national cricket team will be facing Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand and Scotland in the 2015 Cricket World Cup matches. (Tolonews)



Complacency about Corruption Put International Mission at Risk: IT-DSP

KABUL - The international community's mission in Afghanistan was undermined by a slow response to corruption threats, a report issued by Transparency International UK's Defence & Security Programme (TI-DSP) has found.

Corruption damaged the integrity and sustainability of Afghan national institutions, sapped the confidence of Afghan society in the international community and



hampered capacity-building efforts. Those efforts also failed to adequately deter the activities of corrupt actors. The report, Corruption: lessons from the international mission in Afghanistan, is based on detailed interviews

with 75 people involved in the Afghanistan mission, including members of the international community and Afghan nationals. The report identifies nine reasons the international community was slow to develop a response to corruption. These include complacency about the nature and extent of corruption threats, political dilemmas involved in responding to corrupt actors, ... (More on P4)...(5)

Pakistan's Army and ISI Chiefs Arrive to Kabul



KABUL - Pakistan's Army Chief Gen. Raheel Sharif and the Director Gen. of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Rizwan Akhtar, the country's intelligence agency chief, arrived in Kabul on Tuesday.

The two top security authorities are in Kabul on a one-day visit to discuss security issues between both countries.

In his meeting with CEO Abdullah Sharif, Abdullah said that in a joint combat against terrorism and improving ties between the countries. "Those who conduct insurgent attacks are not only the enemies of Pakistan, but they are the enemies of both countries," Sharif said. "The menace of insurgency has led us to work together and fight this phenomenon jointly as the people of both the countries are affected."

Appreciating Pakistan's recent cooperation with Afghanistan, Abdullah said that in ... (More on P4)...(2)

Danish Woos Iranians to Invest in Afghanistan



KABUL - Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish on Tuesday asked Iranian businessmen to invest in the rich mining and agriculture sectors of Afghanistan.

He said this during inauguration ceremony of second Afghan-Iran expo in Kabul, which was attended by senior officials from both the countries, including Iranian Ambassador to Afghanistan Mohammad Raza Bahrami. As many as 84 companies from Iran and 16 from Afghanistan showcased their food, construction, agriculture, fashion, industrial, electric and mines related materials in the four-day exhibition. Afghan Chamber of Commerce and In ... (More on P4)...(6)

Suspicious Grow Around Government's Delay in Distribution of New ID Cards



KABUL - Officials from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MoCIT) have cast suspicion around the government's delay in distribution of new electronic identification cards intended to help ensure more credible and transparent national elections. They have claimed circles within and outside the government have tried to stall the distribution of the cards in attempt to protect their own interests. Although over 1,000 employees currently work at the Electronic ID Card Office, focusing on technical functioning, informa-

tion collection, registration and distribution. However, with the entire project now on hold, awaiting a decree from President Ashraf Ghani to set the distribution plans in motion, they are now said to no longer be getting paid. An official from the office, who spoke to TOLONews on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said that the employees of the ID Card Office were all hired with high salaries. The lowest salary among employees of the office is said to be 500 USD. And yet, with the IDs now complete and ready for ... (More on P4)...(7)

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