

Millions of Dollars in Aid to ANA Embezzled: SIGAR



KABUL - The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) in its report revealed that millions of dollars had been embezzled in the construction of a facility for the Afghan National Army's (ANA) Camp Commando.

In a statement, SIGAR noted that the facility cost the US a total of \$57.1 million. In its detailed report it said that the generators bought for the Camp could only provide about 25% of the intended power. Limited power stemmed from damage to the electrical system caused by the ANA making an improper and unauthorized connection to a transformer.

In addition, the US ... (More on P4)...(3)

Afghanistan Offered Posts to Taliban Leaders in New Government

KABUL - The Government of National Unity has offered posts to senior former Taliban leaders in the new cabinet which has not been formally announced.

A source close to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has told BBC that the Taliban leaders who were considered in the new government are Mullah Zaeef, the former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Wakil Muttawakil, the former Taliban foreign minister, and Ghairat Baheer, a close relative of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, whose forces are allied to the Taliban.

The source has further ... (More on P4)...(5)

Ghani Rejects Report Offering Ministries to Taliban Leaders

KABUL - Presidential spokesman Nazifullah Salarzai on Friday rejected report as concocted that the government of national unity had offered three ministries to senior former Taliban leaders in the new cabinet.

Earlier, media reports said President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani offered Taliban with three ministries including rural development, Hajj and religious affairs and border affairs. Sources said Taliban leaders who were considered to be adjusted in the new setup included Wakil Muttawakil, former Taliban's foreign minister, Mullah Zaeef, former Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan and Ghairat ... (More on P4)...(6)

No Cabinet Until Standards Met: Ghani Aide

KABUL - A presidential spokesman on Thursday said the cabinet's formation had reached its last stage, but a final decision was yet to be taken, pending standards set for nominations.

Nazifullah Salarzai told Pajhwok Afghan News he could not give an exact date for the announcement, which could come anytime.

He also did not comment on several names that were recently published in some media outlets as potential nominees.

"Process of choosing cabinet picks is in its final stage, but the decision



hasn't been finalised as yet."

Salarzai said there wouldn't be any announcement of a cabinet until the president was not fully satisfied with selection of the ministers-designate.

Commitment to national unity, efficiency and women's representation were the standards being considered in the cabinet's formation, he said.

A source close to the Chief Executive also confirmed to Pajhwok that a list of nominees published by some media organisations was not final.

The ... (More on P4)...(1)

Abdullah, UN Envoy Discuss Cabinet, Reforms

KABUL - UN secretary general's special representative in Afghanistan Nickolas Haysom on Thursday called on the unity government to honour its promise of introducing an honest cabinet, which he said the Afghans were impatiently waiting for.

Haysom expressed these views during a meeting with Chief Executive Officer Abdullah

Haysom and Abdullah discussed the delayed cabinet and reforms in the electoral system, a statement from the CEO's spokesman office said.

The UN envoy hailed the unity government's efforts at forming the new cabinet and said all people were awaiting the government to implement its pledge on a professional and honest cabinet.

Abdullah told the UN envoy that the cabinet would be introduced soon as they had promised and reiterated the council ... (More on P4)...(2)

India Pledges Support in Developing Textile Industry

KABUL - The government of India has vowed to assist in developing the textile industry of Afghanistan as part of New Delhi's reconstruction efforts and help assist the Afghan economy.

The commitment was during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Commerce and Industries of Afghanistan and Ministry of Textiles of the Republic of India on Wednesday.

Acting Minister of Commerce and Industries, Muzamil Shenwari and Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Amar Sinha signed the MoU which will focus on expansion of business and cooperation in the field of textiles and clothing.

"As per MoU, both sides agreed to cooperate in developing closer economic relations and bilateral cooperation in the field of textiles, clothing, cotton, man-made fibre and handlooms," according to a statement released by the Indian Embassy in Kabul. ... (More on P4)...(7)

Govt. Approves Special Military Operations against Insurgents

KABUL - The government of Afghanistan approved special military operations in a bid to tackle the terrorist activities by anti-government armed militant groups.

During a meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) chaired by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, the special military raids were approved after incorporating new changes, the Presidential Palace said



following a statement. According to the National Security Council (NSC), special military raids are one of the most effective ... (More on P4)...(4)

UNODC Blames Corruption for Increased Drug Trafficking

KABUL - The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has pointed to extensive corruption in governmental offices as the main reason behind increased drug trafficking in Afghanistan.

The comments come just weeks after news broke that infamous drug kingpin Haji Lal Jan Ishaqzai was illegally released from



prison after paying a bribe amounting to a reported 14 million USD to officials in the ... (More on P4)...(8)

IEC Influence in Parliament Prevents Amendment in Election Law: Abdoh

KABUL - Reform in the election law, part of campaign promises of unity government leaders, has been challenged with the influence of electoral bodies in the Parliament, says the legal and judicial commission of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of the Parliament).

The commission head, Mohammad Abdoh, claimed on Friday that the Independent Election Commission (IEC) officials have promised the lawmakers to declare them successful in next year's Parliamentary election if they disapproved the proposed amendments in the election law.

After the longest Presidential Election marred by scores of fraud complaints, both President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah promised to broadly change the electoral system to ensure trustworthy elections in the future.

However, two weeks after amendments proposed, a number of Parliamentary committees have so far refused the change; something Abdoh believes influence of election commission in the Parliament.

"Both the electoral bodies have entered negotiations with a number of lawmakers to avoid changes in the law," Abdoh said, adding the election officials ... (More on P4)...(9)

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Pakistan Role to Combat Terror Vital: CEO



KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah and NATO's European command on Thursday while terming Pakistan's role crucial for combating the menace of terror, underlined greater cooperation between Islamabad and Kabul to ensure peace in the region.

A statement from the CEO office said that US Air force Gen. Philip Breedlove, who is the commander of US-European Command and NATO allied Command Operations discussed a number of issues in the meeting. NATO's commander for Afghanistan Gen. John F. Guynes ... (More on P4)...(10)

Pakistan Not Extending Deadline for Refugees Return

KABUL - A meeting on policy recommendations and registration of Afghan refugees was said to be attended by senior officials in Islamabad and decided that deadline for repatriation of Afghan refugees would not be extended beyond December 31 2015.

Times newspaper reported that the deadline which was extended by the government of Pakistan after a Tripartite agreement between Pakistan, Afghanistan and UNHCR. The proof of registration (PoR) cards of Afghan refugees would no longer be valid after 31st December 2015. ... (More on P4)...(11)