

## Quote of the Day

If passion drives you,  
let reason hold the reins.

**Benjamin Franklin**

# Ghani Vows to Overcome Corruption in Defense Ministry

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said on Monday at a ceremony at the Ministry of Defense that government has started a campaign to fight the endemic corruption in the ministry in order to curb the high casualty toll among security forces.

In doing so, would show them respect for the sacrifices they make every day to defend the country, he said. "Corruption is [one of the] reasons behind high casualties among the security forces and this is not acceptable for me or for the soldiers," Ghani said.

Meanwhile, the president announced the handing over of apartments to 14 families of martyred security force members.

Also, he provided cash to at least 100 families of martyred Afghan soldiers.

He said government is committed to supporting these families. In a message to anti-government armed groups,



Ghani said Afghanistan will become their graveyard if they refuse to join the peace process. "You [insurgents] rejected the peace talks in the past two years. If you continue to follow the wrong path, the country will become your graveyard," he stated. The

Chief of Army Staff, Qadam Shah Shahim, meanwhile said they will leave no stone unturned to reduce casualties and they will continue to support families of martyred Afghan National Army soldiers. "We will do our best to reduce security forces' casualties and protect martyrs and disabled soldiers' families," he said. Meanwhile, these families urged government to address their challenges. "Government is responsible to protect and support martyrs families," an army soldier said. (Tolonews)

## Japan Willing to Help Expand Chabahar Port

KABUL - Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Kentaro Sonoura has said Tokyo has reached an agreement with New Delhi on working for the expansion of Chabahar Port in Iran.

The visiting deputy foreign minister, during a meeting with President Ashraf Ghani, promised to help boost Afghanistan's foreign trade, a statement from the Presidential Palace said on Monday.

It added the Afghan peace process, mega economic projects and regional cooperation were also discussed at the meeting. Sonoura said Japan remained committed to keeping the promises made to Afghanistan at the Brussels Conference.

He hailed the national unity government's efforts to ensure good governance, curb corruption, expand economic activities and transit cooperation at the regional level and promoted peace and reconciliation.

Ghani lauded Japan's construction work in Afghanistan and said Tokyo's help in the education sector had been impressive. With the cooperation of Japan, he acknowledged, more than a hundred policewomen were working in... (More on P4)...(1)

## Obama says Toughest Decision was over Troop Surge in Afghanistan



WASHINGTON - What was President Barack Obama's hardest decision during his two terms in office? A massive troop surge in Afghanistan, he said in an interview aired Sunday.

"Toughest decision was early in my presidency when I ordered 30,000 more troops into Afghanistan," Obama, who leaves office in less than two weeks, told ABC.

After a protracted debate inside the administration that pitted U.S. military commanders against White House advisers, Obama announced the 30,000-troop surge in December 2009.

The decision would bring the U.S. contingent in Afghanistan to nearly 100,000 troops along with almost 50,000 allied troops.

"I think it was the right deci-

sion because the Taliban at that point had gotten a lot of momentum before I'd gotten into office, partly because we hadn't been paying attention as much as we needed to Afghanistan," Obama said in the interview taped Friday.

The president had hoped to withdraw most U.S. military forces from Afghanistan by now, leaving behind just a small force.

But the United States still has some 8,400 military personnel in the country, and announced Friday it is sending some 300 Marines to Helmand province in the coming months.

Meanwhile in Iraq, more than 5,000 US soldiers are still on the ground providing critical support to the country's army, which is unable to man a war... (More on P4)...(2)

## Draft Budget to Land Again in Wolesi Jirga



KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga members Monday criticised cancellation of session and said the draft budget for 2017 fiscal year was ready to land again in the house next week.

Cancellation of session The Wolesi Jirga holds its general sessions on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday in a week and its commissions meet on Sunday and Tuesday, but yesterday the general session was not held.

Rahima Jami, a lawmaker from Herat province, said:

"We received message that today some drafts laws will be discussed by different panels, but the offices were occupied by senators and the day was lost."

Meshrano Jirga's general sessions are held on Sunday and Tuesday and commissions meet Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. Commissions of both the houses, according to their term, should use commission offices.

Draft budget The Wolesi Jirga... (More on P4)...(4)

## Gen. Nicholson Acknowledges Need for Pak-Afghan Border Mechanism



RAWALPINDI - Commander Resolute Support Mission (RSM) and US Forces in Afghanistan General John W. Nicholson, arrived Pakistan on Monday.

On reaching Pakistan the visiting General had a meeting with Pakistani Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release here said. Gen. Bajwa appreciated role

of erstwhile International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and presently Resolute Support Mission (RSM) Force for peace and stability in Afghanistan. Gen. Bajwa acknowledged continuous support of RSM to enable Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) for enhancing the capacity and capability to independently tackle security challenges in Afghanistan. He... (More on P4)...(6)

## Chinese Embassy Praises MoU between Chinese Firm and MoPW

KABUL - The spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in Kabul in a statement on Monday said that the signing of the Agreement of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Dari-Suf-Yakawlang (178 Kilometers) Road Project between China Road and Bridge Corporation and Afghan Ministry of Public Works is another important outcome of jointly building the Belt and Road between China and Afghanistan. It has great significance in enhancing the transportation infrastructure... (More on P4)...(3)

## Kazakhstan to Invest \$1.2 Bn into HPS Construction in Afghanistan

ALMATY - Kazakhstan plans to invest \$1.2 bn into a dike and HPS construction at the Kokcha river in Takhar province, reported the Afghanistan Telegraph Agency (AFTAG) with a reference to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. According to Abdul Basir Azimi, Deputy Minister on Financial-Administrative Issues of the Ministry of Energy, measures are being taken to attract investments in the field and appropriate projects are being developed. In his words, the Ministry is considering proposal of a Kazakhstani company... (More on P4)...(5)

## Uzbekistan, Afghanistan Review Cooperation

BAKU - Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov on Monday received the delegation of Afghanistan headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai in Tashkent, reports the press service of the Uzbek Foreign Ministry. The talks focused on bilateral cooperation issues and the upcoming events between the two countries. The Deputy Foreign Ministers of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan on the same day held... (More on P4)...(7)



NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

### OPEN TENDER

### CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS NRC/CSO17002

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) would like to invite competent companies to submit bids for the following,

REQUIRED ITEMS	QUANTITY	LOCATION	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISIOIN
CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS	4	NANGARHAR	24 JANUARY 2017

#### Essential criteria for bidders:

Interested national Construction companies should have previous experience construction of comparable or identical school buildings for international organisations (IOs), national or international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or United Nations (UN) agencies.

#### Collection of tender documents:

Prospective bidders may collect the tender documents from NRC offices in Kabul and Jalalabad between the hours of 08:00 - 16:00, Sunday-Thursday.

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Kabul  
Khurshid TV Station Street, Kolola Pushta, PD4  
Kabul, Kabul Province, AFGHANISTAN  
Tel: 0700-228-509

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Jalalabad  
House 3, Old Saranwali Street, Phase 4,  
Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, AFGHANISTAN  
Tel: 0706-264-562

Bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope before the deadline at 16:00 on Tuesday 24 January 2017. NRC reserves the right to select/reject without any explanation, any bids, in part or full, as it may deem necessary. No liability or claim in that respect would be admissible or entertained whatsoever.



Azizi Bank offers its esteemed customers best and exciting package of medium loans

of USD 100,000 -500,000. The loans are available for customers with

exciting schemes and cool options.



[www.azizibank.af](http://www.azizibank.af)

1515

