

Gen. Dostum Stresses on Enhancing Relations with UAE



KABUL - The First Vice President, Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum met with Mohammad Harib Al-Atiba, the special advisor to Sheikh Sultan Bin Khalifa Al-Nahyan, the ruler of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Kabul. Accompanied by UAE ambassador to Afghanistan, Juma Al-Kabi, matters pertaining mutual interests including UAE-Afghanistan relations and international community's support to Afghanistan especially to insecure areas were discussed. The UAE official in the meeting lauded the achievement of the Afghan government especially in the fields of peace process and independent defense also assured his country's support to Afghanistan. The UAE presidential advisor in the meeting said his country after reviewing the areas which need support and investment would send a delegation to specify the areas which deserve support. Describing Afghanistan as a rich country in term of natural resources, the vice president said the government welcomes foreign investment in the country to create job opportunities and alleviates poverty. The vice president briefed the UAE official about the problems of the flood affected people in the northern ...*(More on P8)...(2)*

MoU for 5 Small Development Projects (SDP) signed



KABUL - The Afghan Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Energy and Water and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Embassy of India on Saturday signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on five new projects under Small Development Program (SDP) funded by Government of India. Hukum Khan Habibi, the Acting Minister of Economy, Eng. Ghulam Faruq Qazizada, the Acting Minister of Energy and Water and Mohammad Tariq Ismati, the Acting Minister of Rural Rehabilitation and Development signed the MoU from the Afghan side whereas Amar Sinha, Indian Ambassador to Kabul signed on behalf of the Government of India. Since 2002, the Government of India has committed \$2 billion dollars to the socio-economic rebuilding of the Afghan state and society in accordance with the development priorities of the Government and the people of Afghanistan. As part of India's bilateral and demand-driven development partnership with Afghanistan, the Small Development Projects (SDP) scheme was launched in 2006 to address the socio-economic and development needs of rural communities in Afghanistan. The Ministry of Economy, Government of Afghanistan was designated as the coordinating body for the scheme on the Afghan side. Phases I and II of the SDP scheme designed for border districts of Afghanistan had an outlay of USD 20 million. In November 2012, the Government of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan signed an MoU earmarking USD 100 million for Phase III of the SDP scheme extending project assistance spread across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The projects are to be identified by Provincial authorities, mainly the Governor of the respective province, and the project proposal is prepared/fine-tuned by the relevant line Ministry. Today, 5 MoUs for the projects under SDP Phase I, II and II program related to construction of a water supply pipe scheme at Kohak village of Argandhab district, a water reservoir at Panjwai District of Kandahar province, a protection wall at Ghost district, a 150m hanging bridge at Kota Naran, a Naharshahi ...*(More on P8)...(6)*

President, CEO Still at Loggerheads Over Two Ministries

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) are still at loggerheads to introduce the new cabinet, sources close to the unity government said Saturday. Earlier, presidential spokesman Nazifullah Salarzai said the cabinet's formation had reached its final stage but a decision was yet to be taken. Sources close to the presidential palace told Pajhwok Afghan News that ...*(More on P8)...(1)*



Paktia Governor be Sacked: Protesters

GARDEZ - A number of people on second consecutive day on Saturday continued their protest in southeastern Paktia province, demanding reforms and immediate sacking of Governor Juma Khan Hamdard. Ziauddin, a demonstrator, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "We want Paktia governor be removed with immediate effect otherwise we will continue our protest till he is removed from his position." Noor Ahmad Rishtiwai, another protester, said the unity government should appoint a competent governor to eliminate ...*(More on P8)...(3)*

Ministers' Performance will be Evaluated: President

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Saturday reiterated the performance of ministers would be evaluated after every six months. In his speech after the oath-taking ceremony by 34 newly-elected senators, the president warned he and the parliament would sack ministers who demonstrated weak performance. In the past, mismanagement was a serious problem, the president acknowledged, warning in future each member of the executive branch would be



held accountable to the head of state and representatives of the people. Every minister would be bound to present his/her performance report

about small and big projects executed in a particular constituency, he noted. Because of absence of accountability, he recalled ...*(More on P8)...(4)*

Ghani Discusses Range of Issues with Pakistani Delegation



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani discussed host of issues ranging from boosting bilateral cooperation to security, stability and fighting terrorism with the visiting Pakistani delegation, a statement from the Presidential Palace said Saturday. According to the statement, the delegation included Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, and Afrasiab Khat-tak. They talked to improve political relations, security situation and joint cooperation on combating terrorism. Both the sides discussed in details the issue of Afghan refugees in Pakistan in a meeting that held on Friday. The Pakistani politicians said both the neighboring countries faced similar challenges in terms of security and they were needed to jointly tackle the problems. The Pakistani side said the policy of Islamabad had changed about countering terrorism. "There is no difference between good and bad terrorists. The threat is not only to Pakistan but to the entire region," an official wishing anonymity quoted the Pakistani delegation as saying. President Ghani said the Afghan government was exploring all avenues to improve relations between the two countries and resolve their problems. The solution of challenges could take time but the Afghan government would adopt all possible measures ...*(More on P8)...(5)*

Cabinet to be Unveiled on Monday: Speaker

KABUL - Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga—or lower house of parliament—on Saturday pledged cabinet ministers would be introduced to the house for vote of confidence this Monday. Abdul Rauf Ibrahim told the session that President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani during a meeting promised to introduce cabinet nominees to the house this Monday. After taking oath on September 29 last year, both the president and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah had promised they



would unveil the cabinet within 45 days, a deadline they failed to materialize. Earlier, the lower house gave the government one week time to introduce the cabinet. The president after the oath-taking ceremony by 34

newly-elected senators reiterated the much-delayed cabinet would be named soon. A lawmaker from Badghis province criticized the government for failing to announce the cabinet after three months. (Pajhwok)

Afghanistan Needs ICRC Support: Danish

KABUL - The Second Vice-President, Sarwar Danish, in a meeting with ICRC Chief has said that Afghanistan need farther International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) support in the health sector. ICRC impartial and humanitarian assistance has proved important in improving living conditions, the vice president said adding the people of Afghanistan would never forget the assistance of ICRC especially to the war injured and Afghan Red Crescent Society. "We need further assistance of ICRC especially in the field of health," the second vice president further added that ICRC presently



providing health assistance in two provinces and the government is hopeful that ICRC will extend its health assistance to all the provinces of the country. The second vice president also said, "We are ready to take into account the suggestions of our international friends with regard to human rights and modify Afghanistan

laws if needed." The ICRC Chief briefed the vice president about the entity's activities over the past years and its plans for the future. However, the official said ICRC presently has hospitals in two provinces but would do its best to take the injured persons and patients from other provinces to its hospitals. (BNA)

Oath Taking Ceremony of New Senators Held

KABUL - Thirty four new elected senators took oath in front of President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Saturday in Kabul. These senators found way to the upper house of parliament or Mashrano Jirga through elections held in their provincial councils. Mashrano Jirga has a total of 102 members, 34 are which are elected through the elections in provincial councils. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in the oath taking ceremony called senators "the real representatives of the nation" and asked them to serve the nation. President Ghani also told senators that after the new cabinet starts working every minister is obliged to present his/he activity report to the National Assembly. He said this report will be due every six months. "If any minister could not present the report then we will shake hands with him" Ghani said. Regarding the announcement of the new cabinet, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said that it will be announced. (KP)

Mullah Omar Not off the US Target List: Pentagon

WASHINGTON - The Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, is not off the target list of the US forces in Afghanistan, the Pentagon said Friday. "No," the Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Admiral John Kirby told reporters at a news conference when asked if the Taliban leader is off the US target list. "To the degree he is still targeting our Afghan allies and US troops, yes, he remains a threat," Kirby said. The Pentagon applauded President Ashraf Ghani's efforts to stand



up his government. "We are grateful for the work and the efforts that he's already put in place and the trajectory that this relationship is on now that we have a new mission inside Afghanistan," Kirby said. Kirby said that "more broadly, we're grateful ...*(More on P8)...(7)*

Construction of Residential Housing Development Completed: ADFD

ABU DHABI - Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) on Saturday said that construction work at its US\$167 million residential housing development in Kabul, has been completed and that work is underway to complete the project's infrastructure and amenities. The fund says that the handover of the project, which will see 3,330 housing units built on a 54-hectare site in Kabul, will be handed over in July 2015. The housing units were

designed to suit family lifestyle of Afghans. Director-General of the ADFD, Mohammed Saif Al Suwaidi, reiterated the keen interest of the UAE government in standing by Afghanistan as a major partner in the country's social and economic sustainable development. He added that such projects represent an effective and major contribution to the development of the Afghan capital and back the Afghan government's efforts to encounter the challenges of social welfare and ...*(More on P8)...(8)*