

Gen. Murad Rejects Gen. Dostum's Plan to Fight Taliban

KABUL - The commander of Afghan National Army Ground Forces Gen. Murad Ali Murad has rejected the plan by first vice president Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum to fight the Taliban insurgents. The first vice president had earlier proposed to establish 20,000 militia forces for the repression of the Taliban fighters. Gen. Dostum had proposed that the militia forces should along side the Afghan National Army forces to fight against the Taliban insurgents. However, Gen. Murad said Sunday that the establishment of parallel forces and outside the formation ...*(More on P4)...*(1)



Militants Posing as ISIS are Taliban: Nazari

KABUL - In response queries of Senators, acting Minister of Defense Enayatollah Nazari on Monday reported that the insurgents operating in regions of Afghanistan have labeled themselves as ISIS when in fact they are Taliban fighters. "Our investigations reveal that Taliban commanders in Afghanistan have changed their physical appearance and are acting as ISIS militants are in fact the Taliban," Nazari told the Senators. In addition, acting Minister of Interior Mohammad Ayoub Salangi said that the Afghan National Police (ANP), despite the lack of efficient weaponry and tolerating massive



casualties, is determined to defend the country against threats posed by terrorists. "Our air force sector has not developed causing us to face several issues even while transferring our wounded and martyred soldiers," Salangi said at the session. On Monday the Senate summoned the acting Minister of Defense, acting Minister of Interior, and First Deputy of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) to inquire about the activities of ISIS in Afghanistan. Several ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

Haidari Asks for Suspension of Nomination



KABUL - Interpol's most wanted Mohammad Yaqoob Haidari who was nominated for the Ministry of Agriculture asks for the suspension of his nomination until allegations are clear. At a live conference in Kabul on Monday, Haidari announced that he is awaiting the response of Interpol officers in regards to the claims. He has been on Interpol's most wanted list of international criminals since 2003 for tax evasion and fraud in Estonia. Haidari is said to have recognized that roughly \$50,000 in taxes may not have been paid to Estonia's government where he owns multiple companies. *(Tolonews)*

Popal Withdraws Nomination as Minister of Finance



KABUL - Jilani Popal, former General Director of the Independent Directorate for Local Governance, withdrew his nomination as Minister of Finance on Monday according to a source inside the Presidential Palace. Sources say that former Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. Eklil Ahmad Hakimi has been nominated as Minister of Finance in place of Popal. Reasons behind Popal's withdrawal are unknown. Hakimi was appointed as the Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. by former Afghan President Hamid Karzai. He has represented Afghanistan in several countries as an ambassador such as the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Japan illustrating a diplomatic career. This news arrives as the National Unity Government (NUG) announced the much-awaited list of minister-designates and nominees for the National Directorate of Security and the Central Bank of Afghanistan. The announcement came after 105 days of the formation of the NUG—a long delay that followed huge criticism from the Parliament and civil society groups. The lists of nominees have witnessed a change since the announcement. Muhammad Yaqoob Haidari, who was nominated for the Agricultural Ministry, has been on Interpol's most wanted list of international criminals since 2003. He is wanted for tax evasion and fraud in Estonia. Haidari has acknowledged that around 50,000 USD in taxes may not have been paid to the government of ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

Turkey to Continue Support to ANSF: Turkish FM

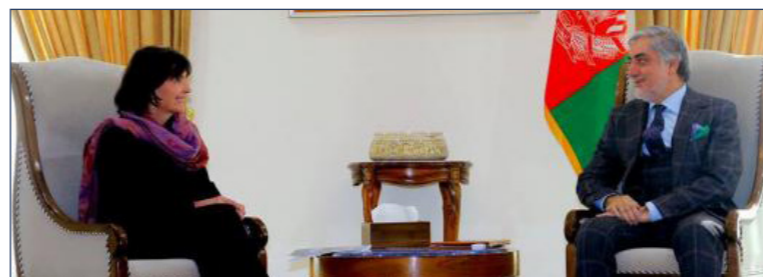
ANKARA - Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has announced that the number of Turkish troops stationed in Afghanistan will be increased from 700 to 1,100. "We will continue training and equipping Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)," Çavuşoğlu said on Jan. 19 in an address to the International Junior Diplomats Program. The training mission will take place both in Afghanistan and in Turkey, he added. Çavuşoğlu also stated that Turkey would spend 50 million eu-



ros to run the management of the Kabul International Airport for a two-year term, adding that Turkey would continue to support infrastructure projects in Afghanistan. The Turkish Parliament authorized the ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

Protection of Journalists Rights a Top Priority: CEO

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah pledged on Monday the unity government would do all it could to safeguard the freedom of expression and take steps to resolve the problems faced by the community. At a meeting with Asia Deputy Director at the Human Rights Watch Phelim Kine and Patricia Gossman, a senior HRW researcher on Afghanistan, the CEO said the government was



doing its bit to prevent human rights violations in the country. Respect for human rights and protecting them was an important part of the Afghan constitution, said Abdullah, a former foreign minister. He pledged all-out efforts to discharge ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

Ancient Silk Industry on the Road to Revival



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Females running silkworm production enterprises say the ancient industry is on the road to revival in northern Afghanistan with the help of rural women. In some districts of Balkh and nearby provinces, running a silkworm enterprise starts from a training course on the required methods to produce silk cocoons. Imported from foreign countries, dark-coloured silkworm eggs take about 45 days from hatching to spinning their cocoon under a technical process. About 3000 females in villages of different provinces are associated with a silkworm industry "Maryam Rabia Silkworm Industry." The women in villages rear tens of thousands of silkworms at home and supply the cocoon to the industry for making threads. Rabia Muradi, the industry head, told Pajhwok Afghan News she was associated with the business for the last eight years. She first started her enterprise from rearing 2000 silkworms, which currently numbered at tens of thousands. She said in the first phase, they imported silkworm eggs from abroad and gave them to women in villages. The rural women are already trained in silkworm farming. ...*(More on P4)...*(9)

New Power Substation Opens in Jalalabad

JALALABAD - A 20 megawatt power supply substation, electrifying homes of 20,000 families and some factories, was put into service in this capital city of eastern Nangarhar province on Monday. Governor Attaullah Ludin, Afghanistan Brishna Sherkat chief Abdul Raziq Samadi and officials from the provincial Electricity Department attended the inauguration ceremony in Ghuchko area of Jalalabad city. Nangarhar Electricity ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

Ghani Fires 5 Govt. Officials of Farah

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani fired five government officials of Farah province on Monday on accounts of corruption, according to the Provincial Council Head Farid Bakhtawar. The five fired include the Governor of Farah, the provincial



Aussie Head of MH17 Taskforce New Envoy to Afghanistan

MELBOURNE - The Australian Government has named Matthew Anderson as its Ambassador to Afghanistan. Anderson is a senior career officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and

Corps Commander Peshawar Visited His Counterpart in Afghanistan

KABUL - Pakistani Corps Commander for Peshawar, Lieutenant General Hidayatur Rehman, visited his counterpart in Afghanistan to discuss matters relating to border security, according to

Balkh Municipality Collects 300m Afghanis Revenue

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - The municipality of northern Balkh province on Monday claimed achieving 90 percent of its annual revenue target for the current solar year, which ends on March 21, but residents believe there is room for improvement. Speaking at an accountability conference, Mayor Mohammad Younus Moqim told Pajhwok Afghan News his office had collected 300 million afghanis in annual revenue this year. He



said 280 million afs were spent on development projects. Ten kilometers of road construction and 40

kilometers of footpaths asphalt were part of the development projects implemented by the Habitat financial support, he said. Moqim said that connecting Mazar-Kabul highway with Karta-I-Sulh township of Mazar-I-Sharif city and construction of third police district building was also completed during the ongoing year. He said 70 percent of work had been done on an underground metro system that was currently being implemented in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital. But residents criticised ...*(More on P4)...*(10)