



CEO States Afghanistan's Humanitarian Aid Needs will Rise

KABUL - CEO Abdullah Abdullah on Monday said at the Council of Ministers Meeting that Afghanistan will need more humanitarian aid this year in order to cope with the influx of thousands of return refugees as well as all the internally displaced people. This comes after government recently called on the international community to help with \$550 million USD which is needed to address the problem. "Lots of people have been displaced and more refugees are coming home. Although refugees returning is good news, we need to take steps to address their problems," Abdullah said. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) meanwhile said war and in-



security is an obstacle in the way of providing aid. According to ICRC, the organization helped nearly 22,000 vulnerable families

in 2016. "2016 was not a good year for the aid organizations and Afghans. ICRC committed to stay with Afghan

people in 2017, and its commitment will be fulfilled if all the war-parties respect humanitarian aid organizations that help the war

weary people," Ramin Ayaz, spokesman for ICRC said. Reports indicate that in 2016, more than 600,000 persons were displaced in the country due to insecurity. According to statistics provided by the state ministry on disaster management, in 2016, Kunduz, Farah, Uruzgan, Helmand, Nangarhar, Faryab, Ghazni, Sar-e-Pul, Paktia, Baghlan and Badghis were the provinces that had the most displaced families. In 2016, 128,000 families were displaced, 59,758 families returned to the country and of the total number, nearly 81,705 families received aid. "All the displaced people who relocated to secure places received aid. But those...(More on P4)...(6)

US Travel Restrictions May be Extended to Pakistan

KABUL - The suspension imposed on travel to the United States from seven Muslim countries could be extended to Pakistan as well, a senior Trump administration official has said. "You can point to other countries that have similar problems like Pakistan and others - perhaps we need to take it further," White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said on Sunday. Speaking to CBS News, Priebus insisted the action was in no way Muslim-specific. Instead the move was aimed at further vetting the people traveling in and out of those countries. President Donald Trump signed a sweeping new executive order on Friday to suspend refugee arrivals and imposed tough new controls on travellers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The curbs began immediately, causing confusion for would-be travellers with passports. Defending the order, Priebus said: "This is not a Muslim ban." (Pajhwok)

Go After Pakistan-Based Terrorists: Karzai to Trump



KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai has urged US President Donald Trump to honour his campaign promise of dismantling terrorist camps in Pakistan. Karzai confirmed receiving letters from Barack Obama in 2012, when the outgoing US leader promised degrading terror safe havens in Pakistan, particularly for the Haqqani group and Lashkari-Taiba. In an interview with an Indian daily, Karzai said: "Obama gave many such promises to me, and my disappointment with him was the reason for the difficulties in our relationship." He told The Hindu terrorists were trained in Pakistan, where the Americans should have gone and that was where President Trump should go. "I don't mean war, I mean political action there must get it right, in Pakistan." The ex-president had been in India for a conference and attended to his cousin Hashim Karzai, who had been flown to India for treatment after being grievously wounded in a bomb blast on at the Governor's guest house in Kandahar January 10. Karzai succumbed to his injuries on Monday, and another relative of former president Yama Quraishi had died on the spot, along with five UAE diplomats. UAE security officials, while refusing to blame any country until the results of its enquiry come in, have held Afghan security "directly responsible" for the bomb attack. Karzai said he fully realised the UAE government's sorrow as an Afghan who had been bereaved as well. "We have...(More on P4)...(9)

Afghan Family Flies into U.S Airport with No Security Issue

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump's administration on Sunday tempered a key element of his move to ban entry of refugees and people from seven Muslim-majority countries in the face of mounting criticism even from some prominent Republicans and protests that drew tens of thousands in major American cities. Trump signed the directive on Friday, but the policy appeared to be evolving on the fly. Democrats and a growing number of Republicans assailed the move and foreign leaders condemned it amid court challenges and tumult at U.S airports. Border and customs officials struggled to put Trump's directive into practice. Confusion persisted over details of implementation, in particular for the people who hold green cards. White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus went on the Sunday morning news programs to say those people would not be blocked. Asked why Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Egypt were not included on Trump's list, Priebus said that maybe more countries needed to be added to the executive order. But Yasser Razayy, an Afghan citizen who flew into Dulles International Airport, said he and his wife and children had no problems going through security. Razayy served the U.S government mission for three years in Afghanistan and flew in on a Special Immigrant Visa. "When I left home, I was not sure if I was going to make it because there were so many twisting news about people who were detained. The executive order was not very clear, so everyone is panicked right now in Afghanistan. "It was very normal. It was really normal, nothing happened, so just like all the people, I was able to get through," he said. "I'm really overwhelmed. When I heard the news about this executive order, I was kind of shocked and I really didn't know what to...(More on P4)...(11)

Tax Problems to be Tackled at Upcoming Conference

KABUL - The CEO's office on Monday said the private sector and the ministries of finance and justice will hold a conference in the near future on ways to find a solution to problems facing businessmen - especially in terms of paying tax. They also said they will look at ways to improve trade and investment opportunities. Jawid Faisal, deputy spokesman for the CEO, said the conference will be facilitated by the CEO Abdullah Abdullah. He also said Kandahar traders have met with Abdullah where they discussed the tax law and possible solutions to their problems in



this respect. "The aim is to resolve the traders problems and provide them with more investment opportunities," Faisal said. The spokesman for the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) meanwhile said a number of investors will disinvest if their tax problems are not solved. "We are trying to speak to the president about our problems. If the problems are not addressed, some of...(More on P4)...(7)

Afghan Army to Deploy 600 Soldiers in Helmand

KABUL - The Afghan army will deploy around 600 soldiers to southern Helmand province of Afghanistan in an apparent move to suppress the growing insurgency by the militants in this province. The soldiers are from the 215th Corps, 2/3 Kandak, fresh graduates from an Afghan Army Regional Military Training Center with specialized combat training, the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission said in a statement. Under the leadership of Brig. Gen. Ahmad Zae and Col. Shawali, the newly-trained soldiers will cover Lashkar Gah and other strategic areas throughout Helmand. "When the Kandak arrives in Lashkar Gah, they will not only more than double the ANA's combat capacity...(More on P4)...(8)

IFJ Denounces Attack on VoA Correspondent in Nangarhar

KABUL - A global watchdog on Monday denounced the beating of a radio journalist in eastern Nangarhar province, demanding immediate arrest and punishment to the attackers. Zabiullah Ghazi, a correspondent of Voice of America radio, was thrashed by the bodyguards of former mayor Lal Agha Kakar, who also vandalised his car, on Jan. 26. The incident occurred when Ghazi, on his way to Jalalabad, tried to film the armed bodyguards beating people in a traffic jam. Mayor Gulab Mangal promised an investigation into the incident. In a statement, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said: "We condemn the attack on Voice of America radio journalist Zabiullah Ghazi and urges the authorities to investigate the incident. An attack on journalist should not be ignored as it has serious implications on freedom of the press." (Pajhwok)

80 Taliban Militants Arrested, 3 Gunmen Killed in North



SHIBERGHAN/PUL-I-KHUMRI - Eighty Taliban fighters have been captured and three gunmen killed in northern Baghlan and Jawzjan provinces, officials said on Monday. Mohammad Reza Ghafoori, the Jawzjan governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News security forces detained the militants, headed by Mullah Sheen Gul, as they tried to sneak into Faryab province. He said Mullah Sheen Gul was involved in terrorist activities and operations against the government in different parts of Ghor-march district. The arrests, he hoped, would help improve the security situation. Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Amir Gul Hussainkhel, deputy police chief for Baghlan province, said three gunmen were killed and a fourth wounded during a clash with suspected rebels in Bano-Andrab district late Sunday night. He said a number of gunmen travelling to the district came under ambush, which left three of them dead. The security forces arrested the injured gunman, who was being investigated about his accomplices, he said. Ahmad Walid, a resident of the area, confirmed the incident and said residents were fed up with activities of militants and outlaws. The irresponsible gunmen had shot dead a young man last week, he recalled. (Pajhwok)

CEO's Office Claims Ad Campaign is Part of Its Commitment to Govt

KABUL - Recent billboards erected in parts of Kabul stating "Change In Political System", alongside a picture of CEO Abdullah Abdullah, have sparked questions among the locals, with some deeming this a clear sign of rifts between the National Unity Government (NUG) leaders. However, the CEO's office on Monday rejected these claims and said Sapedar palace respects the NUG's political agreement and is committed to its implemen-

tation. "This is a sign of the commitments we have made to people. We have made specific commitments to the people and we are working on those to bring changes and to fulfill our promises," said Jawid Faisal, a deputy spokesman for the CEO. Political analysts however interpret the billboards differently. "Change in a political system is a historical need for Afghanistan in order for it to become...(More on P4)...(10)



Taliban Attack on Afghan Forces Coordination Center Repulsed in Nangarhar

KABUL - A coordinated attack by the Taliban insurgents was repulsed by the Afghan security forces in eastern Nangarhar province. The provincial police commandment in a statement said the attack was launched

late on Sunday night targeting the coordination center of the Afghan security forces in Bati Kot district. The statement further added that the attack was successfully repulsed and a Taliban insurgent was killed during the clash. According to the statement, the Taliban insurgent killed during the clash has been identified as Qari Naseeb who is hailing from the same area. The Taliban militants group has not commented regarding the...(More on P4)...(12)

