

Quote of the Day

Always forgive your enemies;
nothing annoys them so much.

Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

Abdullah Stresses Closer Afghan-US Military Cooperation

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on Sunday underlined the need for closer cooperation between the armed forces of Afghanistan and the United States. During a meeting with Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Abdullah thanked the US for continued support to Afghanistan. A statement from his office said the CEO called for greater cooperation in the fight against terrorism and establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Abdullah said Afghan



forces were the symbol of pride for their nation and hailed their sacrifices in the war against terror. Abdullah said Afghan forces would defend the motherland and give a befitting response to terrorists with the support of the people and government, as well as backing from the international community. Gen. Dunford thanked the CEO and lauded the commitment of the Afghan people and security forces in the war on terrorism. He reaffirmed ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Observers, Public Slam MPs over Election Reform Deadlock



KABUL - Election monitoring groups and a number of residents on Sunday strongly condemned Afghan legislators for the constant deadlocks that continue to delay the election reform process. They accused MPs of exploiting the reform process for personal motives. Election observers called on the government to search for other legal ways for implementing systematic reforms in the election law. In their political agreement President Ashraf Ghani and his ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Turkey Coup Bid won't Affect Afghan Mission: Nicholson

KABUL - The botched coup plot in Turkey would have no impact on the US-led campaign to support Afghanistan in the war against the Taliban, the top American military commander in the country said on Sunday. In an interview with the Associated Press, Gen. John Nicholson said the NATO mission in Afghanistan included more than 500 Turkish soldiers. But he hailed the professionalism of senior Turkish military officers who supported the government against the ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

NPC Approves three Contracts worth Afs 250 Million



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday evening presided over a meeting of the National Procurement Commission (NPC) granting approval to three project contracts worth 250 million afghanis.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said the contracts approved at the meeting were about the communication project between the ministries and the Afghanistan Finance and Information Department's system, provincial revenues, construction of a retaining wall and a road in Tashqar Ghan Tangi area and the installation of the third turbine at the Kajaki hydropower plant. The statement said the NPC sent back four contracts to the departments concerned for further evaluating their technical aspects. The contracts were about procurement of needed oil for four airbases in Afghanistan, extension in the timescale of the 200-bed Aliabad hospital project, the bypass road in western Herat province, the construction and blacktopping of the road in Andarab district of northern Baghlan ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Surge in Child Marriages Concerns AIHRC

KABUL - Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has again expressed major concern over the rise in child marriages in the country. The commission on Sunday strongly criticized the absence of a political will to combat the growing trend and called on the government to serve justice on those guilty of the practice. On Sunday, a joint seminar between the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, the AIHRC and ministry of labor and social affairs was held in Kabul where the participants discussed strategies to overcome on the problem of child marriages.

Seminar participants said that insecurity; some traditions that dominate society; absence of rule of law; evasion of the law; and a culture of impunity were the main causes of the surge in child marriages. According to the AIHRC report, 226 cases of child marriages were recorded in 1392, in 1393 225 cases reported and 235 cases were recorded in 1364. "The cases which have been resolved by the intervention of the commission, only involved the cancellation of the marriage contracts. The main unresolved issue is that parties who sell the girl, those that buy the girl as well as the persons who endorse



the marriage contract, need to be investigated. The problem is that organs probing these transactions do not have the ability to do so," AIHRC chairperson Sima Samar ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Obama Repeats Vow to Help Afghanistan in Fighting Terrorism

WASHINGTON - The United States President Barack Obama earlier this week repeated his commitment to cooperate with Afghanistan and other countries in fighting terrorism. He told a gathering of ambassadors at the White House the U.S and its allies will eliminate Daesh.

"We will not be deterred. We will not relent," Obama said. "We are going to keep taking out Daesh leaders and pushing Daesh back in Syria and Iraq. We're going to keep standing with our partners from Africa to Afghanistan and we are going to destroy this vile terrorist organiza-



tion." Obama did not explicitly link the attack to Daesh militants who have been connected to recent attacks around the globe, saying that the details were not yet clear. "These terrorists are targeting and killing innocent people of all backgrounds and

all faiths, including Muslims. I know I speak for all of us when I say these individuals and these networks are an affront to all of humanity," he said. He urged Americans to continue to uphold the values of freedom of religion and ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Afghan Forces Need to be Strengthened: Gen. Dunford

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani, during a meeting with visiting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of US army General Joseph Dunford, on Sunday said the Afghan Special Security Forces and the air force needed to be further equipped and strengthened. A statement from the Presidential Palace said the president met with Gen. Dunford and a high level delegation accompanying him at the Presidential Palace in the morning. The statement said the two sides conferred on strengthening Afghanistan's security forces, the fight against terrorism and regional issues. It quoted Gen. Dunford as



praising the Afghanistan security and defence forces, particularly the Afghan Special Forces, who had great achievements despite tough conditions. The high-ranking American military officer said the Afghan Special Forces were one of the best institutions

in the region. He assured of his country's continued support to fund, equip and train Afghan security and defence forces, the statement said. President Ghani thanked the US and all international partners for their cooperation with Afghanistan to ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

US Delivers 5 New Combat Helicopters to AAF

WASHINGTON - The United States has completed the delivery of 5 more combat helicopters to the Afghan Air Force in a bid to improve the capabilities of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). "Five new MD-530 Cayuse Warrior helicopters arrived at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan, July 16, 2016, via a C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Wash. The MD-530s were delivered to the Afghan air force increasing their fleet from 18 to 23," the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing said Saturday. Each of the newest helicopters is capable of firing rockets or .50-caliber machine guns. These newest aircraft provide



an expanded capability for the AAF to support the Afghan National Army's ground fight. This comes as the Afghan Air Force (AAF) received five new combat helicopters from the United States in mid-June this year. According to the MD Helicopters website, "The MD-530F's high altitude lift capability ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Afghanistan to Become WTO Member on July 29

KABUL - Afghanistan will become the 164th member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on July 29th of this year, 30 days after the Protocol of Accession was ratified by the Afghan Parliament. WTO members officially approved Afghanistan's accession at the Tenth Ministerial Conference in Nairobi on December 17, 2015 and the Protocol of Accession was signed between Afghanistan's First Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Khan Rahmani and Director-General Roberto Azevedo. Afghanistan is the 36th government and the ninth least-developed country (LDC) to join the WTO following accession negotiations since the WTO was established in 1995. Liberia, also an LDC, will meanwhile become the 163rd WTO member on 14 July. LDCs represent a fifth of the WTO membership. (Agencies)

Uruzgan Province on Brink of Collapse: Local Official

TEHRAN - A local official in Afghanistan's central province of Uruzgan warned that the entire province is in danger of falling to Taliban militants. Mohammad Zaher Naderi, member of Uruzgan provincial council, said the province

is on the verge of collapse with extensive assaults by the Taliban. The Taliban are tightening hold on the province and more areas are falling to them, he added. Naderi said while the Taliban are in control of half of

Uruzgan, heavy fighting is underway in the other half with the Afghan military and security forces, whom he said lack enough capability to hold back the militants. Spokesman for Uruzgan's governor Dost Mohammad ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Nangarhar Elders Demand Decisive Action Against Daesh

JALALABAD - Tens of Nangarhar tribal elders and politicians have called on government to take serious action to eliminate Daesh in the country. At a gathering on Sunday, they expressed their concern about the presence of Daesh

insurgents in Nangarhar. "If government wants help from the people, form Nangarhar residents in particular, we are ready to fight terrorists shoulder by shoulder with Afghan forces," said Gul Pacha, a tribal elder in the province. According to

reports, Daesh operatives are active in Kot, Nazian and Achin districts. They use these areas to besiege and attack government forces. Talking to the gathering, the first deputy speaker of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper ...*(More on P4)...(10)*