

Quote of the Day

A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.

Sir Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

US Vows to Defeat Daesh in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria

WASHINGTON - U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said that Daesh will be defeated in Iraq and Syria, but it will not be enough as the militant group continues its activities in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Barack Obama has said that terrorist organizations such as Daesh and Al-Qaeda are posing harm to Muslims rather than other people.

"It is necessary to defeat ISIL (Daesh) in Iraq and Syria, it is not sufficient since this cancer in some cases is in Afghanistan and Libya," said Carter.



Obama says that Daesh and Al-Qaeda network are the real enemies of Muslims.

"In fact it is ISIL and Al-Qaeda and organizations like those that are waging war on Muslim communities even during the Holy Month (Ramazan) and discriminating against Muslim Americans is also an affront to all those values that are making our nation great, so on days like this and every day we need to be clear about what we stand for," said Obama.
The U.S. ... (More on P4)...(1)

MPs Question Govt's Anti-Taliban Policy Amid Kunduz Battle

KUNDUZ CITY - In the wake of recent attacks by the Taliban on Kunduz's Dasht-e-Archi and Qala Zal districts, a number of lawmakers in parliament on Thursday blasted the political leadership for what they called a lack of strong commitment within government to eliminate the Taliban and curb their advance on strategic locations.

They said government leaders have failed to deliver on their promises to carry out comprehensive reforms to heal the scars the people of Kunduz suffered following the Taliban's takeover of the strategic town last year. Back in September, the Taliban managed to seize control of Kunduz city for a few days - the first ... (More on P4)...(2)

Once Again Bamyanis Protest Against TUTAP Route Change

BAMYAN - Once again, a number of people on Friday staged a protest demonstration in central Bamyan province to renew their demand for routing a multimillion transnational power import project through the impoverished province.

This was for a fourth time, the people of Bamyan staged a protest demonstration under the slogan "Our right is not silence" and asked the government to route the TUTAP project, designed to deliver electricity from Turkmenistan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan, via Bamyan rather than the northeastern district of Salang. The 500volt high voltage transmission line will make power ... (More on P4)...(3)

Politics, Legal Issues Hinder E-NIC Rollout



KABUL - Humayoun Muhtat, the head of Electronic National Identity Card (e-NIC) department Thursday said that politics and legal issues are delaying the rollout of electronic identity cards, reiterating his department's full readiness to launch the much-awaited process.

"In my view, e-NIC rollout will be launched if leaders of the national unity government take the initiative to resolve the political and legal issues hindering the process. All necessary arrangements have been put in place and necessary consultations have been completed," he said.

"National programs which have direct impact on the future of the citizens are extremely important. The programs in which all the citizens see themselves and agreed by all parties in the country," said Muhtat.

Amid controversy, meanwhile, a number of political commentators have said ... (More on P4)...(4)

AAF Receive 4 More Light Attack Aircraft from US

KABUL - The Afghan Air Force has received 4 more light attack aircraft from coalition partners and were handed over to the 209th Corps of the Afghan National Army in northern Afghanistan. The commander of the Afghan Air Force Abdul Wahab Wardak told reporters in Mazar-e-Sharif city that the planes will be used to suppress the militants in northern and northeastern provinces.

He said the planes, A-29 Super Tucanos, were handed over to the Afghan Air Force by the US forces and called it an important step to further reduce the gap in close-air support for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. Gen. Wardak further added that the majority of the counter-terrorism operations are currently being implemented by the Afghan forces.

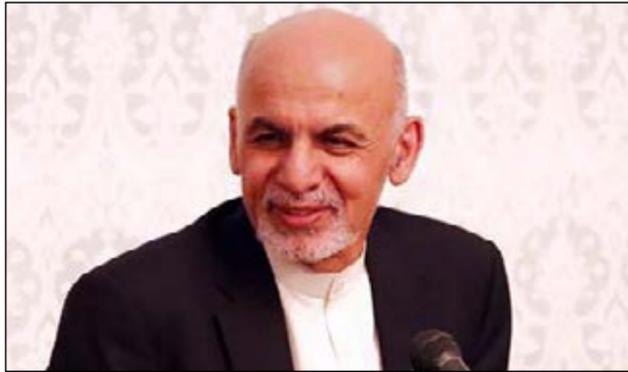
According to Gen. Wardak, the Afghan Air Force has now been equipped by up to 60 percent. The A-29 is a multi-role, fixed-wing ... (More on P4)...(7)

Ghani Vows Serious Fight Against Drugs

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has reiterated his commitment to fighting poppy cultivation and drug trafficking in the country.

A press release issued by the Presidential Palace said that Ghani has ordered the Independent Directorate of Local Governance to send letters to governors and police chiefs of seven provinces, that have not been successful in eliminating poppy cultivation, to speed up their efforts in tackling the problem.

Ghani said that controlling Afghanistan's waters, preparing an exact figure about the country's land and overcoming the land ownership problem are measures that can reduce poppy cultivation in the country. He said that the ways to fight poppy cultivation and drug smuggling will be discussed at the Brussels Summit to be held in October. (Tolonews)



Nicholson and Sharif Discuss Afghanistan's Peace Plan

KABUL - U.S. top commander in Afghanistan Gen. John Nicholson and Pakistan's Army Chief Gen. Raheel Sharif met on Wednesday and held talks on Afghanistan's peace process.

Nicholson, the commander of the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, was on a routine visit to Pakistan during which he held discussions with Sharif over Afghanistan and Pakistan's border issues and prospects of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. It was Nicholson's first visit to Pakistan since President Barack Obama earlier this month announced adjustments in the plan for the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan - agreeing to leave



behind 8,400 troops through the end of this year.

NATO has also renewed its pledge for its continued support to Afghanistan.

Nicholson had welcomed Obama's decision to slow down the withdrawal, saying it would send a message to the militants that they

will not win militarily, and reconciliation was the only solution.

He believes that the move would help improve regional security and benefit U.S. counterterrorism efforts in the region.

Early this week, Obama re ... (More on P4)...(5)

UN Calls for Women to be Included in Peace Talks

KABUL - Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, on Thursday advocated for broader involvement by Afghan women in the peace talks process between government and insurgent groups, saying a peace process without the participation of women was not acceptable to the organization.

The statement comes amid a surge in acts of violence against women and government's failure to serve justice on the perpetrators.

UN Women has criticized the absence of Afghan women through several rounds of peace talks and has called on the Afghan government to



address the concerns of the world body in this respect.

Mlambo-Ngcuka also called for government to step up efforts to address the ongoing challenges facing women such as the rise in domestic violence, open trials of women by the Taliban and child marriages. The UN of

icial questioned the absence of Afghan women during the recent rounds of peace talks held in Pakistan in recent months. "UN women does not have the capacity to fight the Taliban, that is a security issue, so we would like to encourage the government to use ... (More on P4)...(6)

Kunduz on the Brink of Collapse Once Again: Public Reps



KUNDUZ - Public representatives and a lawmaker on Friday expressed their concern about the deteriorating security situation in northern Kunduz province and said the provincial capital could once again fall to the Taliban if the tide of insecurity was not reserved. The concern was raised two days after the Taliban captured Qala-i-Zal district and locked in intense gun-battle with security forces in Dasht-i-Archi district.

Meshrano Jirga or Senate secretary Abdullah Qarlaq, who represents Kunduz people at the upper house, told ... (More on P4)...(8)

Defense Minister Visits Nangarhar to Launch Major Anti-ISIS Operation

JALALABAD - The minister of defense General Abdulah Habibi has visited eastern Nangarhar province to discuss the launch of a major operation against the loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group in this province.

The provincial government in a statement said Gen. Habibi met with the provincial officials to discuss the launch of the operation.

The statement further added Gen. Habibi also visited the 201st Silab Corps of the Afghan National Army and

discussed the operation with the military officials in detail. President Mohamad AShraf Ghani has given the task to 201st Silab Corps to eliminate the loyalists of the terror group rom Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan provinces. ... (More on P4)...(9)

IMF Approves \$45 Million Financial Arrangement for Afghanistan

KABUL - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Thursday it has approved \$44.9 million in three-year financial arrangement for Afghanistan.

According to IMF, the Extended Credit Facility (ECF)

is aimed at helping to advance the authorities' reform agenda, build confidence, and catalyze resources from donors.

The program supported by the ECF focuses on policies to maintain macro-financial

stability and reforms that lay the foundations for private sector development, IMF added.

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today approved a ... (More on P4)...(10)

Pakistan, Afghanistan to Discuss Border Management Next Week



ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Afghanistan will hold a high-level meeting in Kabul on July 26 to discuss a mechanism to keep in check illegal cross-border movement, officials said on Friday.

Islamabad introduced a new mechanism from June 1, making it obligatory for every Afghan citizen to carry legal travel documents for entering into the Pakistani territory. Earlier, thousands of Afghans, living near the border, would enter Pakistan without passport ... (More on P4)...(11)



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