

Quote of the Day

The particular human chain we're part of is central to our individual identity.

Elizabeth Stone

Afghanistan Poses no Threat to Neighboring Countries: US

Richard Hoagland said Washington would not open a military base in Central Asia as US military presence is not required in the region.

TASHKENT - The security situation in Afghanistan neither threatens neighboring Central Asian countries nor requires a US military presence in the region, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Hoagland said Friday. Hoagland arrived in Uzbekistan on July 23 for consultations with the country's leadership. The diplomat told reporters that the US State Department was aware that there is a belief that countries neighboring Afghanistan are threatened, but does not agree with this assessment. The Taliban has built up activities



on the Afghani-Tajik border in recent months, triggering fears of the militants' advance to Central Asia. According to data from the non-profit International Crisis Group, about 500 Uzbeks and 300 Kyrgyz joined the ranks of the Islamic State militant group in Iraq and Syria in the past several years. Hoagland reiterated the United States would not open a military base in Central Asia as US military presence is not required in the region. A base in Kyrgyzstan, shut down in 2014, was the last US military facility in the area. US-led NATO combat forces withdrew from ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

MoPH Kicks off National Measles Vaccination Campaign



KABUL - Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) officials on Saturday launched a nation-wide measles vaccination campaign that will see at least 5.5 million children being immunized against the virus. Saturday's launch involves 29 provinces after officials decided to delay the campaign in Badghis and Nuristan provinces due to security issues. In addition, the campaign was already underway in Kandahar, Helmand and Khost provinces. "So far there are no stats which show how many children have died from measles in Afghanistan. But we hope this campaign will increase the children's immunity to this illness," deputy ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Female Delegation Member Expected to Join Second Round of Taliban Talks



KABUL - The Afghan High Council of Peace (HPC) on Saturday announced that a female negotiator will be included in the core structure of the government's delegation for peace negotiations with the Taliban, looking to quell anxieties that progress on Afghan women's issues could be sacrificed in the talks. "In the next round of talks, a female negotiator will also participate," HPC member Mohammad Ismail Qasimiyar said on Saturday. "However, a final decision has not been made regarding who should be the female member," he added. Reportedly a possible ceasefire will be the number one priority on the government's agenda for the second round expected to begin next week. "The second round of peace talks with the Taliban is likely to be held in China," a member of the government's peace delegation named Mohammad Natiqi said. Paradoxically, while optimism around the potential for ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Retaking Dasht-I-Archi Beyond Local Forces' Capacity: PC

KUNDUZ - The Kunduz provincial council on Saturday said regaining control of Dasht-i-Archi district was beyond the capability of local forces. It urged the government to conduct major operations and send reinforcements to Dasht-i-Archi, which fell to insurgents one month ago. Mohammad Yousuf Ayubi, provincial council head, blamed the Kunduz administration for its negligence that led to the fall of the district.

"We warned the local officials many times by telling them the people of the district faced problems and we would protest by closing roads, but all our calls fell on deaf ears," he complained. The public representative said regaining of the district's control was beyond capability of the local forces and reinforcements be sent to the province. Ghulam Rabbani, provincial council member, said the people of Dasht-i-Archi ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Dostum Calls Taliban the Enemy Not 'Brothers'

KABUL - The first Vice-President General Abdul Rashid Dostum on Saturday said that the Taliban are enemies of Afghans, and that he will never call them 'brothers'. In an exclusive interview with TOLONews, Dostum - who is currently visiting battle-weary Faryab province - said there are a number of people inside government that have paved the way for insurgents to destabilize northern parts of the country and that these individuals will be introduced to people very soon. He said that if these individuals don't work in the favor of insurgents and don't help them they cannot carry on their activities. Dostum told TOLONews that the Taliban in



the north are supported by a number of figures inside the government. "We are not denying the fact that there are a number of individuals inside ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Ministry Set to Launch Anti-Drug Drive in 12 Provinces

KABUL - The Ministry of Counter-narcotics is all set to launch an anti-drug campaign - spotlighting harmful effects of drugs - in 12 provinces of the country, an official announced on Saturday. Mohammad Hanif Danishyar, public relation officer of the ministry, said

campaign would be conducted in Helmand, Kandahar, Farah, Uruzgan, Daidkundi, Badakhshan, Balkh, Baghlan, Kunar, Nangarhar, Badghis and Kabul provinces. He told Pajhwok Afghan News more than 200,000 stationery and pamphlets with anti-drug messages would be dis-

tributed to residents of the 12 provinces. The idea is to educate the people on the injurious effects of taking drugs. The official said the anti-drug campaign would continue for five months, during which important information would be shared with media outlets as well. The move will help promote awareness

among the masses. According to Danishyar, the minister of counter-narcotics has recently held meetings with representatives of foreign countries on ways of countering the growing use and smuggling of illicit drugs. The minister hoped efforts of the Afghan ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

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