

Quote of the Day

A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug. Patricia Neal

US Vows to Help Afghanistan Reduce Civilian Casualties

WASHINGTON - U.S. officials have said that Washington will help the Afghan forces reduce civilian casualties in the ongoing war in the country. General Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on Tuesday that one of the main reasons behind the rise in civilian casualties is the increase in air raids conducted by Afghan troops. "Mr. President (Barack Obama) recognized when he approved the request that Secretary Carter made for 2017 and as the secretary said that some areas still lag in terms of capability of the Afghan



forces and our continued presence in 2017 and financial support by NATO nations has approved at Warsaw that will continue until 2020," he said. He added: "Almost 90 percent of casualties in that report were attributable to the Taliban and while it did indicate that the increased number of casualties occurred as a result of actions by Afghan security forces and I do believe that they have taken every possible measure to mitigate the risk of civilian casualties." Meanwhile, the United Nations once again called on ... [\(More on P4\)...\(1\)](#)

Large Islamic State Centre Seized in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - A large Islamic State or Daesh centre has been captured by Afghan commando forces during an operation in the Kot district of eastern Nangarhar province. The Daesh affiliates would manage their activities from the centre in Sarai Bazaar area and would put on trial their opponents. The centre has been captured by commando forces during their operation and now leftover documents and other items could be seen at the facility. Several Daesh black flags had been hoisted on the centre and walls of some nearby shops and "Khilafat-i-Islamia Wilayat-i-Khorasan" (Islamic State of Khorasan province) was written in black colour on the walls of some rooms. Afghan National Army's 201 Selab Military Corps forth ... [\(More on P4\)...\(2\)](#)

122 Daesh Rebels Eliminated in US Airstrikes

JALALABAD - One Hundred and twenty two Islamic State (IS) or Daesh rebels have been killed in US forces airstrikes and 20 others were arrested in Afghan forces raid in the Achain district of eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Tuesday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan the US forces targeted Daesh insurgents in Bandar and Wach Bandar localities in which scores of rebels have been killed. During the air raid the IS rebels headquarters was demolished and weapons and other military gear were destroyed, according to Khogyani. ... [\(More on P4\)...\(3\)](#)

Rabbani Praises Belgium, Norway's Assistance to Afghanistan

KABUL - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Salahuddin Rabbani met non-resident ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Kabul Frederic Verheyden in his office here yesterday, a MoFA statement said. Recalling the history of friendly relations between the two countries, Foreign Minister expressed gratitude over valuable cooperation of Belgium to Afghanistan in security and development spheres, particularly its readiness to host Brussels conference on Afghanistan in collaboration with E.U. In the meeting, both sides discussed and exchanged views on different ... [\(More on P4\)...\(6\)](#)

MoI Claims 260 Taliban Militants Surrendered in Samangan Province

KABUL - At least 260 Taliban militants surrendered to the Afghan security forces in northern Samangan province of Afghanistan, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said Tuesday. According to a statement by MoI, the militants surrendered following 11 days of continuous military operations in Dara-e-Suf district. The statement further added that the majority of the villages in Dara-e-Suf district were cleared of the militants presence during the operations. The operations are still underway to clear the remaining villages where the Taliban militants are still operating, MoI said. According to MoI, at least two commanders of the group were among 260 ... [\(More on P4\)...\(8\)](#)

Kabul Seeks Moscow's Help in Combating Drugs, Terror

KABUL - Kabul has expressed a keen interest in increased cooperation with Moscow in battling the twin scourge of terrorism and drug trafficking. National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar, currently on a visit to Moscow, told a Russian media outlet the objective behind his trip was to make a pitch for strengthening bilateral links.

Sputnik quoted him as saying: "The reason I am here is to ask Russia for help [against the Islamic State]. Russian help is extremely helpful and effective [in fighting terrorism]." He is to meet Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev on ways of boosting political cooperation, security links and economic relations. He hoped for renewed cooperation between



Russia and NATO on Afghanistan. "NATO-Russia cooperation has been extremely ... [\(More on P4\)...\(4\)](#)

Bidding for 2 Mines in Kandahar Held in Abeyance

KANDAHAR CITY - The bidding process and contract signing for two precious stone mines have been suspended in southern Kandahar province due to deteriorated security situation in areas where the riches are situated. The decision was taken by Governor Dr. Humayun Azizi during a weekly meeting in which government officials and Provincial Council members took part. At the meeting, Azizi ordered the provincial Mine and Petroleum department to suspend the contract and bidding

process of magnetite stone mine in Khakrez district and marble stone deposit in the Shah Walikot district. The governor believed excavation work could not go ahead smoothly until the security situation was improved. According to new and old researches, 30 mines of different natural resources exist at more than 17 locations of Kandahar province. They include fluorite, chromite, iron, gold, marble, magnetite, zinc, coal, highly precious and semi-precious stones. ... [\(More on P4\)...\(5\)](#)

UN Calls to End Violence Against Civilians in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, demanded Monday the cessation of violence against civilians in Afghanistan, Cuba's Prensa Latina (PL) news agency reported. He said that the warring parties have to put an end to the deliberate attacks on civilians and the use of heavy weapons in densely populated areas and the death of innocent people.

Zeid issued these statements following the publication in Geneva and Kabul of a UN report reflecting almost 64,000 people killed in the Central Asian country since 2009, while in the first six months of this year, 5,166 civilians were either



killed or maimed. According to the High Commissioner, about a third of people who lost their lives or were mutilated and wounded were children. The testimonies of survivors describe the agony thousands of families in Afghanistan are suffering, he said. The official expressed his sorrow for the situation in the country, invaded and oc-

cupied in 2001 by the US and its allies under the pretext of the war against terrorism. The UN report and the statements by the High Commissioner for Human Rights came just two days after the murder of 80 people during a terrorist attack on a peaceful demonstration in Kabul. The attack also saw 230 other persons injured. (Bernama)

Attorney General Promises Impartial Probe into Rally Attack

KABUL - Afghanistan's Attorney General Farid Hamidi on Tuesday pledged to carry out a transparent, just and impartial probe into the deadly blast on Saturday in Kabul that left 84 dead and 304 wounded. Speaking in a televised broadcast, Hamidi urged the Enlightenment Movement and the public to cooperate with the commission in its investigation.

"One of the characteristics of the commission compared to other commissions is that it has other duties besides probing the incident; therefore, I want to assure people that the commission's assessments will be just, neutral and transparent," he said. He said that the commission,



after completing its investigation, will ensure justice is brought and that no one will be pardoned if found guilty. "Justice will be implemented and justice will be ensured on anyone, anywhere," he added. Meanwhile, families

of victims have called on the commission to conduct their investigation independently. "My son was divided into pieces. Now what will the commission do about my pain and sorrows - that I have gained ... [\(More on P4\)...\(7\)](#)

Access to Finance Creates More Women Entrepreneurs

KABUL - USAID's Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) program, in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, organized the "Empowering Afghan Women through Access to Markets and Financial Services" at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul on July 26, 2016. The event recognized successful Afghan women entrepreneurs, representing thousands of others from across the country, who have benefited from improved access-to-finance, business-to-business, and internship opportunities facilitated by USAID's FAIDA program. Since its inception in 2011, FAIDA has provided more than \$56 million in private sector loans to over 5,500 businesses, including \$3.2 million to almost 1,800 female-owned or operated businesses. These loans have benefitted over 75,000 Afghan families by helping to create nearly 6,000 new jobs, of which about 1,800 are for women. "Businesswomen and ... [\(More on P4\)...\(9\)](#)

Impressive Parkour Video Attributed to Afghan Police Forces

KABUL - A video has gone viral shortly after it was shared online on social media websites which purportedly shows the Parkour moves by the individuals in Afghan police uniform. The video has surfaced online months after a similar video was published by an Afghan rapper to encourage the Af-

ghan National and Defense Forces (ANDSF) as they are going through a tough period of time amid deteriorating security situation. It is not clear if the video has been recorded by the security institutions which shows a group of Afghan youth performing Parkour moves.

The Afghan youths have been adapting the Parkour skills similarly as they have been adapting initiatives in other fields, including sports and technology. A group of Afghan youths attracted attentions internally after they displayed their parkour ... [\(More on P4\)...\(10\)](#)

Hundreds of Families Displaced As Heavy Fighting Rages in Farah

FARAH - At least 12 militants have been killed and hundreds of families displaced by ongoing clashes between security forces and Taliban in the Pushtrod district of western Farah Province, an official said on Tuesday. The

governor's spokesman, Mohammad Nasir Mehri, told Pajhwok Afghan News the clashes erupted late on Monday in Dukan wa Chik and Charmas villages. Security forces have air support, with

more commando reinforcements on the way to the embattled areas. Ghausuddin, the district's administrative head, said more than 500 Taliban were fighting against the security ... [\(More on P4\)...\(11\)](#)

11 Afghan Soldiers, Scores of Militants Killed in Past 24 Hours: MoD



KABUL - At least 11 soldiers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) forces lost their lives and scores of militants were killed in the past 24 hours, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said. "The Afghan National Army (ANA) forces are prepared for all kinds of devotion and with all force to maintain security and comfort for the people of Afghanistan," a statement by MoD said, adding that 11 Afghan soldiers were martyred during counter-terrorism operations against the internal ... [\(More on P4\)...\(12\)](#)



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