

Quote of the Day

Laws alone can not secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population.

Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

Constitution

The citizens of Afghanistan have the right to form social organizations for the purpose of securing material or spiritual aims in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 35

Reg: No 352

Volume No. 2957

Thursday March 05, 2015 Hoot 14, 1393

www.outlookafghanistan.net

Price: 15/-Afs

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

15,000 ANA Soldiers Quit Service in Single Year



KABUL - A new report published by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) based in Washington, D.C. indicates that, over the past year, some 15,000 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers quit their jobs. According to SIGAR, the loss of 8.5 percent of the ANA's force to attrition has left it with a smaller number of troops than it had at the start of last year.

In response to the report, the Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD) published a press released Wednesday maintaining that the 15,000 figure in fact makes up just 3.5 percent of

the military, and includes soldiers who were killed or injured in the line of duty.

Yet analysts, including former security officials, have suggested the main factor behind the worrying attrition trend of the ANA that SIGAR hoped to highlight could simply be poor management on the part of the MoD.

"It could be improper attitudes of the officials, or the burden of the job and too few holidays, or the rejection of demands made by the soldiers," former Deputy Minister of Interior ... (More on P4)...(1)

Ministry of Defense Rejects SIGAR Report



KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Wednesday rejected reports that soldier from Afghan National Army (ANA) were deserting en masse, but acknowledged that a decline of 3.5 percent had occurred in its ranks.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) reported on Tuesday that ANA was facing a decline in personnel due to mass

desertions and casualties. The report stated that between 2013-14 around 1,300 soldiers lost their lives and 6,200 were wounded. At least 40,000 personnel have deserted, the report added.

In a statement MoD admitted that a 3.5% decline has occurred in the army ranks for various reasons, but denied reports on desertions. Efforts were underway to tackle the issue of ... (More on P4)...(2)

Herat Remains Shut in Protest against Inflated Electricity Rates



HERAT - Western Herat City will likely remain shut for two days after the people's council called for a two-day strike to protest against the increase in electricity rates.

The protests began about two weeks ago after dozens of residents including religious leaders staged protest against what they claimed skyrocketing electricity bills.

The Herat People's Council warned if the government didn't fulfill their demands, the people would not pay their bills, and would begin further civil movements.

"This is the first stage of our protests," protester Haji Aminullah warned. "If our demands are not fulfilled, the people's ... (More on P4)...(4)

Fate of Snow-Trapped Villagers Unknown

TALOQAN - Avalanches triggered by heavy snowfall has isolated residents of at least seven villages in Warsaj district of northern Takhar province for the past nine days, an official said on Wednesday, fearing a humanitarian crisis.

Acting governor Abdul Latif Ibrahim said they had no information about casualties in the avalanches, but they feared a humanitarian crisis if residents stuck in the snow were not rescued. Ibrahim, leading a team ... (More on P4)...(5)

Taliban Lay Siege to Badakhshan Town

FAIZABAD - The Taliban have laid siege to the Yamgan district of northeastern Badakhshan province, causing acute food shortages, an official said on Wednesday.

Yamgan administrative chief Nawroz Muhammad Haidari said the Taliban holding positions on mountain peaks were constantly fighting with security forces.

"Currently the district is surrounded by Taliban and there is no way for residents to visit neighbouring districts," he said, adding the insufficient number of security forces could not keep insecurity for the town.

Badakhshan police chief Gen. Baba Jan said hundreds of foreigners linked to the Uzbekistan and Tajikistan Islamic movements fought alongside local Taliban in the province. The foreigners trained local insurgents in making bombs, he said. A resident of Gharmi village said they were concerned about the security situation and felt Taliban's threat all the time. The situation had a negative impact on their lives, he said. But Yamgan district ... (More on P4)...(6)

General Lloyd Austin

ANSF Still Need Sustained Help

WASHINGTON - Observing that Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have the capability to provide security to their people, General Lloyd Austin, Commander of the US Central Command, on Tuesday told lawmakers that they still need some help with sustainment.

"The Afghans have the capability to provide for the security of their people and they demonstrate this on a daily basis. However, they do still need some help with sustainment; and, that includes resupply operations, particularly to remote or mountainous areas," Gen



Austin told members of House Armed Services Committee during Congressional hearing.

They need help with fixed-wing and rotary-wing aviation; and also with intelligence, surveil-

lance, and reconnaissance support. Additionally, due to the delay in government formation, some key leaders who will see the Afghans through the ... (More on P4)...(3)

48 Killed in Rescue Operation to Free Passengers

QALAT - At least 48 militants have been killed so far during the operation in southern Zabul province to rescue about 30 passengers abducted about two weeks ago on the Kabul-Kandahar highway, security sources said.

Three commanders of the armed militants operating under Daesh group were also among the killed militants, said Gen. Abdul Hamid, commander of the Afghan National Army (ANA) 205th Atal Corps.

"Domestic and foreign militants



holding black flags are being fought in this operation in which 48 militants have been killed so far," Gen. Hamid said. "A wom-

an wearing military uniform has also been arrested after being injured in the battle, and she is ... (More on P4)...(7)

121 Insurgents Killed in Fresh Clearance Operations

KABUL - 121 insurgents have been killed in fresh clearance operations across the country.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Interior on Wednesday states that the operations were conducted in past 24 hours.

According to the statement 23 foreign fighters were among those killed.

The statement further states that nine insurgents were also wounded in the operations carried out separately in Nangarhar, Takhar, Kunduz, Sar-i-



Pul, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Herat, Ferah and Helmand provinces.

A number of different types of Improvised Explosive Devices

(IEDs) were also discovered and defused by the security forces during the operations, the statement adds. Among ... (More on P4)...(8)

Sar-E-Pul, Takhar Women Seek Justice



SARE-E-PUL - A woman who lost her husband, two daughters and a son in an attack by armed men in northern Sar-e-Pul province has claimed hidden efforts were underway to release the perpetrators from jail who have already sentenced to death.

Sakina, who was injured in the attack, arrived to Kabul to seek justice from the government, saying she lost her entire family about six months ago after turning down a marriage proposal of an armed group ... (More on P4)...(9)

31 Water Reservoirs Built

AIBAK - Construction work on 31 water reservoirs has been completed to resolve water shortage issue for orchards spreading over 130 acres of land in northern Samangan province, an official said on Wednesday.

Eng. Abdul Majid Khirkhwa, in charge of the National Horticulture Livestock Projects (NHLP), told Pajhwok Afghan News the project's cost \$412 million provided by the World Bank, with the beneficiaries paying a 23 percent of the total expenses. He said 17 water reservoirs were constructed ... (More on P4)...(11)

Projects Benefiting 5,000 Families Completed

FAIZABAD - More than 5,000 people would benefit from recently completed 31 different projects in various districts of northeastern Badakhshan province, an official said on Wednesday.

Abdul Wali, the provincial National Solidarity Programme (NSP) head at the Rural Development Department, told Pajhwok Afghan News the projects included small hydropower dams, retaining walls, the construction of footpaths along roads and buildings for social centers.

Residents of Argo, Shahr-i-Buzurg, Darayem and Shuhada districts benefited from the projects that cost more than 48 million afghanis spent from the Rural Development Ministry's budget.

A Shahr-i-Buzurg district resident, Abdul Raqib, said about 100 families in their area found access to potable water with the establishment of a water channel.

"We would drink standing and ... (More on P4)...(12)

Aghbar Appointed as CEO's Security Advisor

KABUL - Lt. Gen. Muhammad Zahir Aghbar has been appointed as security advisor to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Wednesday.

Earlier, Aghbar served as protection brigade commander at the National Directorate of Security (NDS),



Kabul police chief and head of Olympic committee.

During the recently held presidential elections, he was campaign manager of Reforms and Unanimity team led by Abdullah.

Two days back, Gen. Abdul Malik and Amanullah Zadran have been appointed as ethnic and tribal affairs advisors at CEO office. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Denied Exit from Helmand: Official

LASHKARGAH - A senior Interior Ministry official on Wednesday said the ongoing "Operation Zulfikar" had denied safe passage to Taliban insurgents in southern Helmand province and the fighters were left with no option but to put up resistance.

Deputy General Commander of Afghan Local Police at the Ministry of Interior, Brig. Gen. Abdul Hamid Hamidi, told reporters in Lashkargah, the provincial capital, that security forces had mounted immense pressure on the Taliban.

The insurgents started fleeing Helmand with the launch of the Operation Zulfikar, but they could not flee because all exit routes for them had been blocked, leaving them with no option but to put up resistance, the official said.

Hamidi said the outcome of the operation would become known soon, saying security forces spearheading the offensive maintained good cooperation and they had air support.

He said Afghan Local Police (ALP) personnel were fighting on the frontline along with other security forces in the operation and the under-resourced ALP had emerged as a strong force. He said the ALP ... (More on P4)...(13)

Afghan Pilot among Women of Courage

WASHINGTON - Captain Niloofar Rahmani, the first female fixed-wing Afghan Air Force pilot in the history of Afghanistan, has been selected for the prestigious International Women of Courage Award for the year 2015.

Rahmani along with nine others from various parts of the world, including Tabassum Adnan, founder, Khwendo Jirga from Swat, Pakistan would receive the award at the State Department



ment later this week in presence of the US First Lady, Michelle Obama. The Secretary of State's

International Women of Courage Award annually recognizes ... (More on P4)...(10)