

Reforms Hold Key to Afghanistan's Success: NATO Chief

KABUL - The NATO chief, currently on a visit to the war-devastated country, on Tuesday said Afghanistan's long-term success required sweeping reforms. The issue figured at his discussions with President Ashraf Ghani, Jens Stoltenberg told a news conference in Kabul after talks with the Afghan leader.

"It (reform) means stepping up Afghanistan's investment in the security forces. And it also means ensuring that human rights, including for women and children, are fully respected," he said. Flanked by President Ghani, he supported ongoing efforts to revive the intra-Afghan



peace negotiations. "The peace process is another key element in stabilizing the country over the longer haul. I welcome recent signs of progress." Earlier in the day, Stoltenberg landed in Kabul together with NATO Military Committee Chairman Gen. Petr Pavel.

"Together, we assessed the security situation, reviewed the government's reform efforts and discussed NATO's continuing support to Afghanistan," the secretary general said of his meeting with Ghani. He acknowledged 2015 was a tough year for Afghan forces, who continued to ...*(More on P6)...*(12)

Stoltenberg to Meet Ghani, Abdullah on Afghan-NATO Partnership

KABUL - The NATO chief has arrived in Afghanistan for talks with senior Afghan and Resolute Support mission officials, the alliance announced on Tuesday.

Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, accompanied by NATO Military Committee Chairman Gen. Petr Pavel, will meet President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

His meetings with the national unity govern-

ment leaders would focus on the NATO-Afghanistan partnership, including the ongoing Resolute Support Mission, according to a statement from the alliance.

Stoltenberg is also due to meet senior international community leaders and members of Afghan civil society. He will address Afghan National Defence and Security Forces and Resolute Support officials. (Pajhwok)

UNAMA Chief Reports of Increasingly Volatile Security Situation

KABUL - Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom, on Tuesday evening delivered his three-monthly report to the UN Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan and said deteriorating security and an increasingly vocal political opposition has placed increased pressure on the government in the past three months.



He said the government's peace efforts gained regional momentum through the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) on the Afghan Peace and Reconciliation Process, "but the ...*(More on P6)...*(13)

Taliban District Chief for Kushonda Held in Baghlan

PUL-I-KHUMRI/ZARANJ - A Taliban designated chief for Kushonda district of northern Balkh province was detained by Afghan security personnel in northern Baghlan province, an official said on Tuesday. Maulvi Nasir was on his way from Mazar-i-Sharif to Kabul when apprehended by Afghan security forces at a checkpoint in Khinjan district of Baghlan province, the commander of 2nd brigade of 209th Shaheen Military Corps, Brig. Gen. Farooq Ahmadi, told Pajhwok Afghan News. Nasir was arrested with cooperation of National Directorate of Security (NDS) ...*(More on P6)...*(14)

4 Policemen Killed as Khanshin District Falls to Taliban

LASHKARGAH - Taliban militants overran the Khanshin district of southern Helmand province after heavily clashes that left four police personnel and 11 others wounded, officials said on Tuesday. A senior government official, who wished to go unnamed, confided to Pajhwok Afghan News that heavy clashes were ongoing between the Taliban and security forces since Monday night. The Taliban captured the restive district early



in morning. A local police official, meanwhile, confirmed the district's fall and the loss of four ...*(More on P6)...*(15)

Father-Son Duo Pedals for Peace from Europe to US

WASHINGTON - Carrying the message that "Afghans are tired of war and want peace", a father and son from Nangarhar province have pedaled their way to the United States through a dozen European nations over eight months.

"Afghans are tired of war. We want peace. We want guns to be replaced by pens and papers so that our younger generation read and write, establish industry and revive our agriculture," remarked Nadir Shah Nangarhari.

The 48-year-old told Pajhwok Afghan News in an exclusive interview that after pedaling through 13 European countries, beginning from Turkey some eight months ago, they had reached Washington to communicate to the Americans their message that Afghanistan needed peace.

After meeting lawmakers, government officials and commoners on the streets of Washington DC and suburbs Nangarhari and his son Feroz Khan, 17, plan to move to New York to meet the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. He then has plans to pedal to Canada.

"Everyone does their part ...*(More on P6)...*(17)

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Afghan Air Force Flew More than 20,000 Missions in 2015

KABUL - The Afghan Air Force flew more than 20,000 missions last year as the Afghan national security forces went through a significantly challenging year after assuming the full security responsibilities from the coalition forces.

Hailing the Afghan forces for improving their capabilities, the NATO Secretary General said the Afghan security forces are "showing great courage and determination."

He was speaking during a press conference with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani after arriving to Afghanistan on an



official visit. "They are improving their capabilities. They are stepping up air operations, including with new aircraft," Stoltenberg told reporters in his opening remarks during the press conference.

Stoltenberg further added "To give just one exam-

ple, in 2015 the Afghan Air Force flew more than 20,000 missions - more than twice as many as the year before. This is just one example of how the Afghan forces are making progress."

Insisting that the Afghan ...*(More on P6)...*(16)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Someone might need to tell you that you're shouting before you even notice you raised your voice. Your enthusiasm may be over the top today, encouraging you to turn a simple idea into one that is so overblown your credibility suffers. Fortunately, practicing a little sensitivity serves you well now, preventing you from unconsciously making things more important than they actually are.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You could overreact with stubbornness if people try to override your decisions today. It's so easy for a little disagreement to quickly escalate that you find yourself in the middle of a conflict without even realizing there was an issue. Thankfully, you can prevent an exhausting battle if you're willing to go out of your way to compromise. Take the high road and let tempers settle before you resume discussions.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may try to exert more self-restraint than you actually possess today. Thankfully, you're not worried about getting too worked up over something that's important to you. Instead, you're probably overly concerned with honoring someone else's privacy. The Moon's presence in your sign urges you to vent your feelings, but expressing the whole truth might be inappropriate now.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

You're often someone others confide in because they can usually count on your willingness to listen. But your receptivity may be overshadowed now by your eagerness to talk about your feelings for a change. It's perfectly natural to harbor your own ambitions and want to share them instead of just reflecting on everyone else's needs.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

You may be panic-struck today once you realize how much work there is to do this week. You might even experience a twinge of regret if you recently took off too much time to play. But the illusion that time is running out is exacerbated by the restless Gemini Moon, and worrying won't help you get back on track. Instead, roll up your sleeves and put your nose to the grindstone.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Your rational mind normally doesn't require external supervision, but the encouragement you are currently receiving could color your deliberations. Your ruling planet Mercury opposes audacious Jupiter today, spinning your mental process out of whack and making you susceptible to inflationary thinking. Nevertheless, don't criticize anyone else for your outrageous conclusions. Blaming others takes time and energy away from improving your game.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

You sincerely want to explain your position to your coworkers now, but everything you say seems to be taken out of context. It's more complicated than simply telling your story, since you may feel the need to exaggerate and turn your presentation into a melodrama. Your motives for sharing might not be apparent to others, prompting them to pull back in uncertainty. If people withdraw today.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You wish everyone would recognize your contributions and appreciate the fact that your efforts go beyond the call of duty. Unfortunately, expecting so much from others could make satisfaction even more elusive now. Unrealistic demands won't make anyone feel better today, nor will acquiescing to something that's not in your best interest.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You could grow overly concerned with how you make decisions today, yet this obsession won't necessarily help you choose the right course of action. Visionary Jupiter's opposition to rational Mercury forces you to seek solutions to the most complicated problems now. Thankfully, there's no reason to prove your analytical superiority to anyone. Just focus the best you can and methodically push ahead toward your goals.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

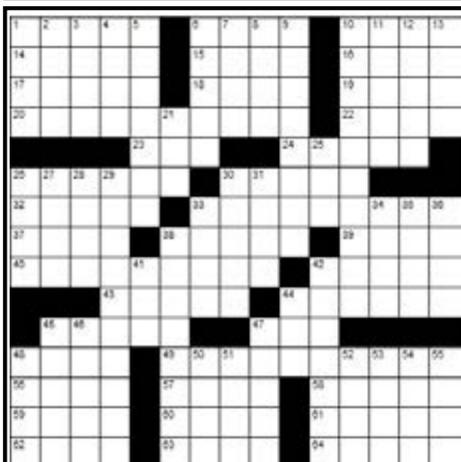
You mountain-climbing Goats often get ahead in life because of your sure-footedness, but your unflappable persistence could be your secret ingredient to success now. You may be surprised by how quickly everyone else gives up today, especially when they see an easier path to follow. But even as alternative routes appear, keep your eyes focused singularly on your destination.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

It's nearly impossible to hide your dissatisfaction with the status quo today, especially in a close relationship. Someone could irritate you now by taking undeserved credit or simply needing too much attention. You aren't interested in feeding anyone's ego; you just want to create change with the least amount of drama possible.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Unfortunately, once you start explaining your perspective to a friend or associate today, you might not know when to step off your soapbox. You may be extra talkative with mischievous Mercury buzzing about in your sign, opposing exaggerating Jupiter in your 7th House of Relationships. Try and remember that your current thinking is anything but objective. Don't be afraid to keep your involvement in a project to a minimum.



Across

1. Of the highest quality, 6. Storm, 10. An old spelling of "True", 14. Paper with a crinkled texture, 15. Wreaths, 16. "Sure", 17. Lubricated, 18. Chocolate cookie, 19. Unadulterated, 20. A tornado over water, 22. Feudal worker, 23. Dawn goddess, 24. SSSS, 26. An irrational devotion, 30. Eagle's nest, 32. "Smallest particles", 33. Sacred writings, 37. Chunk, 38. Set of principles, 39. Russian emperor, 40. Freedoms, 42. Equals, 43. Cut into cubes, 44. Gun enclosure, 45. Part of a leg, 47. What we breathe, 48. Baby buggy, 49. Disinclined, 56. Wisdom, 57. Require, 58. Female internal reproductive organ, 59. Not closed, 60. Contest, 61. Ringworm cassia, 62. Exam, 63. Hurried, 64. Ceased.

Down

1. Flat-bottomed boat, 2. Murres, 3. Fur, 4. Type of sword, 5. Remedy, 6. Gummy shapeless matter (plural), 7. Relating to aircraft, 8. Place, 9. Mystical, 10. Typographer, 11. Utilize again, 12. Deservedly receives, 13. "Whoopee!", 21. Comes after Mi and Fah, 25. Take in slowly, 26. Autumn, 27. Decorative case, 28. Grave, 29. Hindrance, 30. Hurt, 31. Goddess of discord, 33. Anagram of "Ties", 34. End, 35. Unusual, 36. At one time (archaic), 38. Engravings, 41. 18-wheeler, 42. Intent, 44. It is (poetic), 45. Metaphor or hyperbole, 46. Rabbits, 47. Assisted, 48. Conspiracy, 50. Half-moon tide, 51. Greek territorial unit, 52. Baking appliance, 53. Found on most beaches, 54. Sea eagle, 55. Twosome.

Yesterday's Solution

ankle, began, camel, cuts, damsel, dunce, elixir, else, escape, flare, focus, gent, gone, green, implements, instrument, invigorate, limit, mania, means, mesa, mince, nomad, nonsense, oasis, passionate, pitch, rims, rotor, said, sale, scam, share, silence, sleuth.

