

Quote of the Day

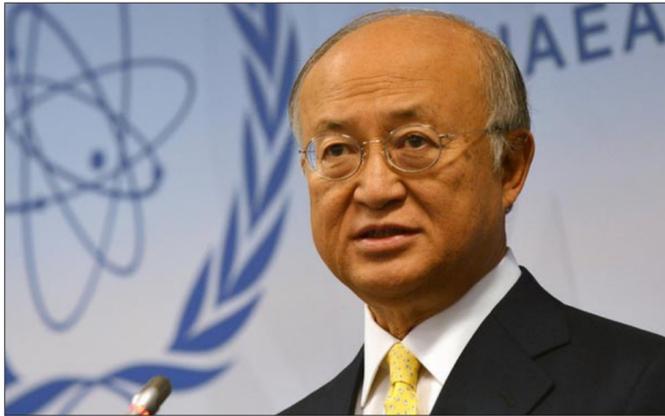
Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory.
George S. Patton

UN Chief Warns on 'Nuclear Terrorism'

VIENNA - The world needs to do more to prevent "nuclear terrorism", the head of the UN atomic watchdog has warned ahead of an important summit and in the wake of the Brussels terror attacks.

"Terrorism is spreading and the possibility of using nuclear material cannot be excluded," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Yukiya Amano told AFP in an interview late Thursday.

"Member states need to have sustained interest in strengthening nuclear security," he said. "The countries which do not recognise the danger of nuclear terrorism is the biggest problem."



Amano's comments came before a summit of around 50 leaders in Washington on March 31-April 1 on ensuring that nuclear material in the world's roughly 1,000 atomic facilities are secured.

Highlighting the risks, in December Belgian police investigating the November 13 Paris terror attacks found 10 hours of video of the comings and goings of a senior Belgian nuclear official.

The material, filmed by a camera in bushes outside the official's home, was reportedly found at the property of Mohamed Bakkali, incarcerated in Belgium for his links to the Paris attackers. (AFP)

Special Envoy Renews UN Support Pledge for Afghans



KABUL - The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Thursday renewed its pledge to continue supporting Afghanistan, the peace process and the fight against corruption. Tadamichi Yamamoto, who recently took charge as UN Secretary General's special representative for Afghanistan and UNAMA head, met with President Ashraf Ghani and once again stressed continued support for the Afghan government. Yamamoto briefed the Afghan leader about UNAMA's activities for 1395. (More on P4)...(2)

Peace Negotiations between Govt. and Hizb-E-Islamic Party Unclear



KABUL - No results have reportedly been achieved in the peace negotiations between government and Hizb-e-Islamic party, said members of the group. Hizb-e-Islamic party delegation members said that Hizb-e-Islamic wants political participation in the system.

The party said if the negotiations reached a positive outcome Afghan Taliban will also be encouraged to join the peace negotiations.

"Issues such as participation and justice have been considered for all and these are the issues people of Afghanistan called for and the delegation so far has not presented any difficult condition that the negotiation face failed," said Nadir Afghan member of the coordinating council for the party.

Meanwhile a number of senate house members say they are not optimistic about the peace process. "Maybe Afghan Taliban gets courage and comes to the peace process but what..." (More on P4)...(6)

Af-Pak Trade through Kurram Agency Sees Sharp Spike

PESHAWAR - Afghanistan-Pakistan trade through the tribal region of Kurram has seen a significant spike during the current fiscal year, a Peshawar-based custom official said on Thursday.

Exports and imports at custom stations in Kurram Agency had sharply risen after the closure of such facilities at the Ghulam Khan port in North Waziristan, he said. Imports from Afghanistan through Kharlachi, Burki and ShaheedandoDhandareas in Kurram Agency from July to February doubled to Rs6 billion, revealed the official, who did not want to be named. Similarly, he added, Pakistani had exported goods worth Rs28 billion to the landlocked neighbour during the July-February period, up from Rs25 billion. The main exports to Afghanistan included wheat flour, rice, fresh fruits and vegetables, rock salt, construction material, medicine, chipboard, kitchen utensils. (Pajhwok)

Afghanistan, China Preparing to Sign Silk Road Accord

KABUL - China Ambassador to Afghanistan Yao Jing on Thursday asked the Afghan government to finalise the draft agreement on the Silk Road project and hand it over to his country for a review.

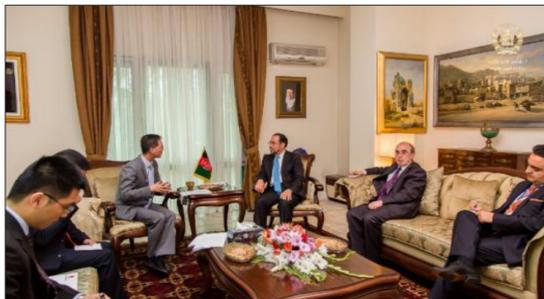
The agreement after being finalised by both the countries would be signed during Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abullah's visit to China.

A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said the Chinese envoy met with Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani.

The envoy assured his country was ready to host CEO Abdullah on his official visit and hoped the agreement would be signed soon between the two countries.

Jing also extended invitation to Rabbani to attend the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) scheduled for late April, 2016.

Rabbani assured that work on finalizing the Silk Road project agreement was underway in coordination with the ministries concerned and it would be completed and shared with China in the near future. He also said an



Afghan delegation would participate in the CICA foreign ministerial conference.

Afghanistan and China share an 85-km border in Wakhan area of northeastern Badakhshan province. Both Zebak and Wakhan districts border Pakistan, Tajikistan and China.

The ancient road, involving a series... (More on P4)...(3)

Japan Contributes \$21.3 to Afghan Emergency Assistance

KABUL - The government of Japan on Thursday announced providing \$21.3 million to different international agencies for humanitarian and emergency assistance in Afghanistan.

The funding will allow the agencies, including UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS, WFP and IOM, to address humanitarian challenges through provision of vital support to refugees returning from Pakistan and Iran.

A statement from the embassy of Japan said to people suffering from food insecurity, malnutrition, natural disaster, displacement and other critical situations would also benefit from the aid.

The UNHCR has been given



\$4,000,000 to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan, foster sustainable reintegration of returnees and deliver assistance to refugees in south-eastern Afghanistan.

Japan's contribution would help UNHCR provide protection to and monitoring of returnees, as well as maintain the function-

ing of three encashment centres in Herat, Nangarhar and Kabul provinces. UNICEF - USD 2,300,000 Contribution from the Government of Japan will enable UNICEF to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services to nearly 20,000 individuals who have been affected by conflict or natural... (More on P4)...(4)

Kandahar Students Paint Walls to Support Education

KANDAHAR - A number of school students in Kandahar have painted walls to encourage others to go to school and also to close the gap between students and schools.

The students said they want to encourage families to send their children, who have been deprived of education, to school.

"We painted the walls and wrote our slogans in favor of education in order to encourage families to send their children to schools," said a student in Kandahar.

Meanwhile, officials from Kandahar Education Directorate said they support the campaign in order to inspire families to let their children embrace education.

Kandahar Education Director Mohammad Ewaz Nazar said more than 100



schools have been shut due to insecurity in the province therefore they want to push anti-government militants to agree to reopening the schools.

"The main goal of this move is to reach the society through an academic environment. This will raise public awareness on education and it will positively impact the society," he said.

This comes after all schools are closed in Shorabak and Regestan districts in Kandahar and also more than 100 schools are closed in other districts in the province. (Tolonews)

Ghani Intervenes as Dostum-Noor Tension Lingers



KABUL/MAZAR-I-SHARIF

- Reacting to violent clashes between supporters of Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Mohammad Noor, President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday said protests were people's right, but those restoring to violence would be dealt with sternly.

One person was killed and four others were wounded after supporters of First-Vice President Dostum and Balkh Governor Noor clashed in Maimana, the capital of northwestern Faryab province on Thursday.

In a statement from the Presidential Palace, President Ghani insisted such violent acts were unacceptable and stressed "completely peaceful protest demonstrations" in line with the Constitution

and said those restoring to violence were violating the Constitution.

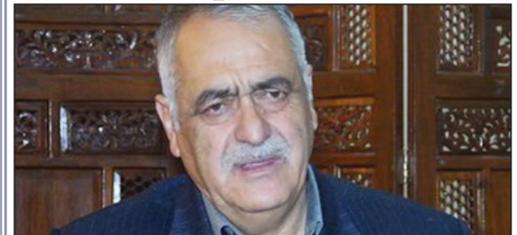
The president said the armed clash involving illegal armed men during the protest was clear violation of the country's laws. He said the government not only wanted an end to the violence but it had directed security forces to deal with sternly with elements trying to take the law into their hands.

The statement said President Ghani had assigned an authorized delegation with investigating the incident and to identify the perpetrators and take legal action.

Over the past two days, Dostum's supporters have been protesting in some northern provinces after the VP's portraits... (More on P4)...(1)

HOOAC

Political Meddling Hinders Probes into Corrupt Elements



KABUL - The High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC) said Friday

that ethnic and political meddling in the work of judicial institutions has delayed legal procedures against those involved in embezzlement and corruption in the country.

Failure to follow up on corruption cases in the ministry of urban development affairs is debatable, said Lieutenant General Sayed Ghulam Husain Fakhri, Director General of the High Office of Anti-Corruption on Friday.

"Persistent delays have been made in these cases like other major cases of corruption," Fakhri said, referring to the corruption cases against six defendants in the ministry of urban development affairs and housing scandal who

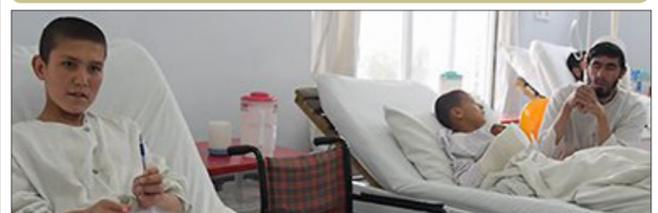
were dismissed from their posts by President Ashraf Ghani a year ago.

"Until now the court has not issued its verdict and people are not satisfied with the investigations so far," he added.

Joining the HOOAC, the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) has also criticized the delays in the implementation of justice against the criminals, calling the reluctance against the law.

Last year Ghani suspended six top officials from the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs on charges of corruption and assigned the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to probe one of Afghanistan's biggest... (More on P4)...(5)

Kabul Emergency Hospital Raises Concerns over Increase in Casualties



KABUL - Kabul Emergency Hospital officials on Thursday said that the number of war-related casualties this year has increased against those in the same period last year - many of which are children who have lost limbs.

According to officials, between 150 and 300 casualties are admitted to the Kabul Emergency hospital every month. Last year, they treated more than 3,000 patients in total, said officials.

"I wish peace would come to our county and that our children no longer get injured and that suicide blasts and bombings stop," said the father of one wounded child from Ghazni.

"I was in my garden when a man fired

a gun and the bullet hit my foot," said Mahajer Agha from Parwan.

The hospital officials said that the number of wounded have increased compared to last year and that at least 40 percent of the injured are under 14 years of age.

"Unfortunately the number of patients this year has increased compared to last year and this is not a good sign," said a hospital medical coordinator.

One Paktiya shopkeeper, Eidi Mohammad, called for an end to the war. He said: "I was opening my shop one morning when a blast occurred and my hand was injured." "Nothing will come from... (More on P4)...(7)