

Quote of the Day

Pursue one great decisive aim with force and determination.
Carl von Clausewitz

IS Activity Boosts in Afghanistan: Kabulov

MOSCOW - The Islamic State (IS) terrorist organization is expanding its military activity in Afghanistan, Russian Presidential Envoy to Afghanistan, director of the Second Asian Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry Zamir Kabulov said on Friday.

"The IS activity has grown significantly in Afghanistan since summer 2014," Kabulov said. "The group numerical strength is estimated at 10,000 people."

"The figure can continue growing, as the IS slogans and high financing are attractive to Afghan youth," he said.

Kabul's attempts to establish a



peaceful dialogue with the Taliban have been fruitless. The Afghan government's attempts to establish a peaceful dialogue with the Taliban through the world community's mediation have so far been fruitless, Zamir Kabulov, the

Russian president's special envoy for Afghanistan and director of the Russian Foreign Ministry second Asian department, told TASS.

"For the moment, the situation in Afghanistan can be described as extremely tense and unstable with no prospects for radical improvement in sight," Kabulov said.

"Militants from the Taliban movement are using huge forces for direct clashes against the government troops; they are seizing entire districts and intensifying terror attacks in major administrative centers, including Kabul," the Russian diplomat said.

This year has seen no traditional seasonal ... (More on P4)...(1)

JIA Hails HIA Decision, Concerned at Dostum-Noor Rift

KABUL - The Jamiat-i-Islami Afghanistan (JIA) on Saturday stressed the need for resolving the rift between supporters of Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum and Atta Mohammad Noor.

Led by Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, the party said some individuals were exploiting the unstable situation to create misunderstandings between the vice-president and the Balkh governor.

A statement from the JIA said tearing of Dostum's portraits in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of Balkh, was the job of some secret circles that were using the tension to divide the people.

One person was killed and four others were wounded after protestors of the two leaders met in a square and clashed in northwestern Farjabad province on Thursday. "We condemn this insult to



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JAMIAT-I-ISLAMI AFGHANISTAN

Dostum's loyalists and killing of or firing at innocent people during rallies. We want the problem should be resolved through talks," the source said.

The statement said JIA and Jamiat-i-Milli parties should not play into "secret hands" and both sides should avoid acts that disrupted security and helped the enemies

achieve their goals. JIA also supported fair peace talks with militants, welcoming HIA's decision on joining the reconciliation process. The party asked the Taliban to join the peace process. (Pajhwok)

Wolesi Jirga Decides to Impeach Foreign Minister



KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Afghan Parliament) on Saturday decided to impeach Foreign Minister, Salahuddin Rabbani, after he failed to attend a parliament session he had been summoned to.

Rabbani and the Minister of Refugees and Repatriations Sayed Hussain Alimi Balkhi were due to appear before parliament on Saturday and answer questions over the current crisis relating to Afghan refugees in Europe.

Rabbani however failed to attend the parliament session, something which angered lawmakers and led to his impeachment.

"The approach adopted by the minister of foreign affairs is an insult to the house of people (parliament) it is not only the issue of the migrants, the ministry of foreign affairs represents our foreign policy as well. They have politicized the minister of foreign affairs and they must be accountable to representatives of the people," said, Badakhshan MP Fawzia Kofi.

"It would be better for minister of foreign affairs to attend the house as we wait for him. If he continued with his absence, I think in that case, impeachment will be the best option to end disrespect of the parliament," MP Jaffar Mahdavi said.

"For a year, minister of foreign affairs has not attended meetings of the parliamentary commissions on foreign relations and this is a serious problem before the lawmakers," MP Ezmarai Padkhwabi said. Later emotions started ... (More on P4)...(2)

Nuristani Resigns from His Position as AIEC Chief

KABUL - The chairman of the Afghanistan Independent Election Commission (AIEC), Ahmad Yousuf Nuristani on Saturday resigned from his position, an official said.

The deputy presidential spokesman, Syed Zafar Hashimi told Pajhwok Afghan News that Nuristani's resignation was accepted by President Ashraf Ghani.

Nuristani has been heading the independent electoral body since Aug. 03, 2013. (Pajhwok)



Decree on Electoral Reforms not Yet Sent to Wolesi Jirga: MP

KABUL - The government has not sent the presidential decree on electoral reforms to Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) as yet, said a lawmaker on Saturday.

Based on the Constitution, the Presidential Palace should send every constitutional decree to Wolesi Jirga within one month of it being signed. However, it has been three weeks since the decree was issued, but it isn't sent to Wolesi Jirga yet.

"Based on the Constitution, every constitutional decree issued during recess of parliament should be sent [to Wolesi Jirga] within 30 days. The recent presidential decree on electoral reforms hasn't been sent to the Wolesi Jirga so far and I am looking forward to receiving



the decree soon," said Irfanullah Irfan, the deputy secretary of Wolesi Jirga.

It is believed that as result of the delay in sending the decree to Wolesi Jirga and delay in beginning the work of the election commissions' selection committee, the government will not be able to hold parliamentary and

district councils' elections in the scheduled time.

"The elections will not be held in the solar year 1395, if bringing about electoral reforms were further delayed and this will question legitimacy of elections and even the government," said Assadullah Saadati, a member of the special ... (More on P4)...(3)

Curriculum of all Universities Being Reviewed



JALALABAD - To have a specific teaching curriculum, a review of course components at all universities has been launched, the higher education minister said on Saturday.

Farida Momand, who visited the university in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, said there were some problems in the current curriculum and they needed to be addressed.

"We have started reviewing the curriculum in order to bring reforms. We want to have a uniform curriculum for all universities," the minister said.

She said there were also some problems in the Nangarhar University's curriculum and the problems would be discussed by a delegation of the Higher Education Ministry in

consultative gatherings with teachers and students.

After the consultative gatherings, the shortcomings in the curriculum would be resolved after a debate at the ministry, she said.

However, she did not provide a timeframe for resolving problems in the curriculum, but said it would be done soon.

Syed Osman Hashmi, a student at the Nangarhar University, said the higher education curriculum had a lot of problems.

"In some universities, teachers have added their own books to the curriculum, which is not of international standard and in line with contemporary needs. Each province has a different curriculum." Meanwhile, Nangarhar ... (More on P4)...(4)

SHORT-TERM EXPERT REQUIRED

IN COAL SECTOR

"Study to Assess the Present Situation, Gaps in Capacity, Technology and Policy & Regulatory Instruments in Coal Sector in SAARC Member States."

IN ENERGY STORAGE

"Potential for Energy Storage Technologies in Electricity Sector of SAARC Member States."

IN ENERGY STATICS

"Training on Energy Statistics for Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal."

Please visit: <http://www.sarcenergy.org/NewsEvents/NewsEvents.aspx>

192 Infrastructure Projects Completed in Badakhshan Province



FAIZABAD - National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Saturday completed 192 infrastructural projects which cost AFN 233,320,000 in Argo, Shuhada, Baharak, Warduj, Kof Aab, Darwaza-e-Bala, Wakhan, Yamgan, Teshkan, Zebak, Shahr-e-Buzurg, Darwaz, Shikai, Kiran-wa-Minjan, and Arghanjkhwa districts of Badakhshan province.

According to NSP Provincial Manager in Badakhshan province, these projects include the construction of four social centers, irrigation reservoirs, protection walls, retaining walls, culverts, bridges, gabion walls, a

public bath, a recreation area, micro hydro power stations, side ditches, sidewalks, irrigation canals, extension of water supply networks and graveling rural roads.

Approximately, 26,600 families in different communities had an opportunity to gain access to basic human needs upon completion of these projects.

Since its inception in Badakhshan province, the NSP has been able to execute thousands of uplift projects in different sectors including transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, etc while the work of hundreds of others is currently in progress in various communities. (PR)

Bamyan Governor Calls for Municipal Accountability



BAMYAN CITY - The governor of central Bamyan province on Saturday directed the new municipal administration to struggle for transparency and accountability.

Governor Mohammad Tahir Zohair, addressing an introduction ceremony for Mayor Eng. Mohammad Aman, said municipality officials had been accused of corruption in the past. But Bamyan residents expected the new mayor to deliver basic civic services and make the department accountable, he said. "We are looking forward to seeing the day when mayors will be selected by people." Last year's development budget for Bamyan was 64 million afghanis, but funds for 2016 had been jacked up to 120 million afis, the

incoming mayor said.

Over the past five years, the municipality's revenue has been between 300,000-500,000 afis, but last year the revenue rose to 150 million afis, according to the former mayor, Eng. Khadim Husain Fitrat.

He linked the remarkable increase in revenue to the municipality's better management and efficiency. Provincial council head, Husain Dad Khalili, asked the newly appointed mayor to make the municipality a service-oriented and efficient department, which set store by accountability.

For his part, Aman assured participants he would properly discharge his duty and make the department accountable. He promised delivering better services to the people. (Pajhwok)