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March 31, 2015



Mutasim Supports Govt-Taliban Peace Negotiations

KABUL - A veteran leader and former finance minister during the Taliban regime announced on Monday support for the Afghan government-Taliban talks and efforts aimed at bringing tranquility to the war-torn country. Talking to Pajhwok Afghan News, Agha Jan Mutasim urged the government of President Ashraf Ghani and militant leaders to sit across the negotiating table and sort out their differences because fighting would not



lead to any settlement. "The country is virtually burning because of continued war. It is high time for all stakeholders to extinguish the flames of conflict and ensure peace in Afghanistan," added, the ex-minister, who is currently living abroad. The nation, he reiterated, was going through critical times. The only way to put the country on the right track was through reconciliation, he believed. Peace was imperative for the entire region, said Mutasim. (Pajhwok)

Daikundi Security Forces Professionally Improved: Officials

NEILI - Officials in central Daikundi province on Monday expressed optimism that enhanced law and order in the Kajran district was an ample proof that professionalism among security forces had improved markedly. Acting Governor Abdul Haq Shafaq told Pajhwok Afghan News that soldiers of Afghan National Army (ANA) had been deployed ...*(More on P5)...(11)*

Natural Disasters Damage Wheat Crop: Farmers

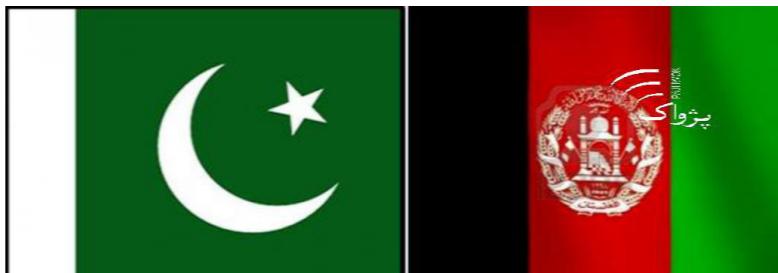
LASHKARGAH - A number of farmers on Monday complained that natural disasters including attacks by insects affected ready wheat crop in southern Helmand province. Muhammad Hussain, a farmer at Naqilabad area of Nad Ali district, said his ready wheat crops had been completely damaged because of natural calamities. He alleged that officials of the agriculture department were aware of the problem but they did not bother to address farmers' reservations. Another grower Noor Ahmad ...*(More on P5)...(13)*

All MPs Faced with Security Threat: Deputy Speaker



at around 6:00pm when people were coming out of a mosque in the area. Gul Pacha Majidi, a Wolesi Jirga member from southeastern Pakistan province, was among the injured. He was on his way to the youth ...*(More on P5)...(12)*

Speakers Call for Joint Counter-Terrorism Strategy



areas including trade. At the discussion was organised by the Citizen Media Commission, he said recent regional developments were important, according ...*(More on P5)...(14)*

Four Polish Soldiers Cleared of Afghan War Crime

KABUL - The Warsaw military court on Thursday cleared, in a retrial, four Polish army officers of war crimes over the killing of six civilians during the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, but found them guilty of negligence in following orders by launching mortar and machine-gun fire on the village of Nangar Khel in 2007. "The court did not establish that the soldiers' actions were deliberate. The shooting of the village was not on purpose, neither was the killing of the civilians," the ruling read. Three soldiers received suspended prison terms of up to two years. The fourth soldier was found guilty of the lesser charge but received no sentence.

Poland's Supreme Court had ordered the retrial of the four soldiers who had been charged with and later acquitted by a Warsaw court of committing a war crime in Nangar Khel, in 2007, while ...*(More on P5)...(15)*

Health Officials Given a Month to Shape up

ASADABAD - Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz on Sunday visited the civil hospital in eastern Kunar province and set provincial health officials a month-long deadline to streamline their affairs. Feroz visited the main hospital in Asadabad, the provincial capital, inspected various wards and evaluated facilities there before addressing a gathering at the Public Health Directorate. In his address, the minister called the hospital's administration weak and said patients were offered substandard healthcare services amid no care for cleanliness. He set the provincial public health officials a month-long deadline to streamline the hospital's affairs. The minister also pointed ...*(More on P5)...(10)*

Projects Marred by Graft, Allege Residents

FAIZABAD - Residents and civil society activists on Sunday alleged a majority of development projects were marred by brazen corruption in northeastern Badakhshan province. They voiced the claim at a gathering titled "better coordination of development projects and good governance". Hundreds of residents, civil society activists and local officials were in attendance. Syed Omar Baher, a civil society activist, said some of the projects had not been evaluated. For instance, he added, construction of a canal, a \$5.5 million project in 4th police district of Faizabad, had many shortcomings. "One of the walls does not have a concrete foundation." Deputy Governor Gul Mohammad Bedar promised to form a committee, also including civil society activists, to evaluate the project and submit its report. "It is ...*(More on P5)...(16)*

Council Fears US Troop Decision to Hurt Faltering Peace Process



KABUL - The official body overseeing the Afghan peace process and other influential players in the region have criticised President Ashraf Ghani for pushing for U.S. troops to stay longer, saying it could hurt the chances of ending the Taliban insurgency. Talks between the government and Taliban

have yet to begin, although militant leaders have signalled that they are ready to negotiate through Pakistani mediation. The conflict costs thousands of lives each year.

Progress towards highly sensitive talks appears to have stalled, in part over divisions within the Taliban. ...*(More on P5)...(17)*

EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN KART-E-PARWAN, KABUL

OPEN TENDER NOTICE FOR PURCHASE OF VEHICLES

The Embassy of Pakistan, Kabul, Afghanistan is seeking tenders from Afghan companies/firms to bid for supplying four of the following vehicles. The details of the vehicles required are as following:

- Make = Toyota / Kia / Hyundai
- Type = Hilux / Avanza / Rav 4 / Sportage / Tuscan
- Drive = Left Hand (Automatic / Manual)
- Model =2015
- Colour= White or Silver

If the vehicles are not available in the local market and the bidder or supplier wants to import the said vehicles, then it has to be ensured that the bid amount quoted includes the transportation costs for the vehicles. The Embassy however, would ensure that the supplied vehicles are exempted from the leviable customs duties and taxes as permissible to the Embassies.

The bidders can submit their quotations on their business letter head either in person at the embassy located in Kart-e-Parwan during any working days (Sunday to Thursday) or through a sealed envelope or email at perekpabul@mofa.gov.pk which should be distinctly addressed to the "Purchase Committee for Vehicles".

The bids can be submitted within one week of the advertisement of this tender and the maximum time period for the performance of this bid is May 10, 2015.

Public Order Police Deployment Approved



JALALABAD - The Ministry of Interior has approved the deployment a Public Order Police (POP) battalion to improve the security situation in eastern Nuristan province, an official said on Monday. With Afghan National Police (ANP) mainly on duty in districts, two units of the army are also based in some areas of Nuristan for maintaining peace, said Brig. Gen Nasir Ahmad Safi, commander of the 2nd POP battalion. He told Afghan Pajhwok News the POP unit's deployment was approved on March 25 and would be sent soon to Nuristan. "The ministry has sent a delegation to discuss ...*(More on P5)...(18)*

Unknown Gunmen Abduct Five Passengers



MAZAR-E-SHARIF - At least five more passengers have been abducted by the unknown gunmen this time in northern Balkh, the tragic incidents dramatically increasing since the abduction of 31 passengers from southern Zabol, with their fate still unknown. These five persons were kidnapped yesterday evening from Sholgara district, the district governor Sera-juddin Abid said. Denying providing further details, Abid stated that the search operation has been launched to rescue the abductees. This has been the fifth abduction in less than two months, with the first incident took place in southern Zabol when unknown gunmen abducted 31 passengers travelling on Kabul-Kandahar highway. The second incident was the abduction of 10 passengers from Ghazni when unknown gunmen abducted six more ...*(More on P5)...(19)*