

Quote of the Day

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.

Diogenes Laertius

Masoom Stanikzai

Afghan Forces Facing Terrorists Supported by Neighboring Intelligence

KABUL - The former acting minister of defense and acting head of the Afghan intelligence Masoom Stanikzai said the Afghan forces are facing threats posed by terrorists who are receiving support from the neighboring intelligence.

Stanikzai was speaking during a gathering in Kabul to introduce the acting NDS chief and acting Minister of Defense.

Without elaborating further on which neighboring country's intelligence agency is supporting the terrorists fighting in Afghanistan, Stanikzai said the NDS operatives are always on alert to foil conspira-



Stanikzai called the NDS operatives a 'Silent Force' who are always prepared to fight against the foreign conspiracies against the national stability of the country.

pared to fight against the foreign conspiracies.

He promised President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah and the Afghan people to use all efforts to protect the country against the threats posed by the terror groups.

According to Stanikzai, the Afghan forces successfully passed through a challenging year with the lack of necessary equipment to fight the insurgents.

He said the Afghan forces are well prepared to suppress the terrorists in the country by receiving more equipment from ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

France, Afghanistan Sign MoU over New Archaeological Map



KABUL - Afghanistan and France has signed MoU which gives the responsibility of establishing an archaeological map of Afghanistan to the French Archaeological Delegation.

Jean-Michel Marlaud, France Ambassador to Afghanistan, said that according to the agreement archaeologists will prepare maps which will provide details about Afghanistan's archaeological sites.

The project is being implemented to preserve Afghani-

stan's heritage.

"What is the use of such an archeological mapping? The first interest of course, by knowing the site, is to try to preserve them and to save them from looting or destruction," Marlaud said.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Information and Culture called the move a very important step towards the preservation and maintenance of historical heritage site in the country.

"There are a lot of sites that we ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Bamyan Women Rally against Unjust Decision of Govt.



BAMYAN CITY - Dozens of women from central Bamyan province on Tuesday rallied against the government's decision to implement the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUTAP) power project through Salang Pass.

The power project will import 500kv of electricity from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Pakistan through energy-starved Afghanistan. The protestors accused the government of fueling differences among Afghan tribes, imbalanced development and depriving central provinces of progress. They asked the United Nations (UN) to highlight the injustice.

The protestors carrying lanterns rallied in front of the UNAMA office in Bamyan City, the capital of the province, and asked for justice.

Afghan Women Network (AWN) head, Sughra Atayee, told Pajhwok Afghan News the aim of the rally was to indicate people's disappointment with government's injustice.

She alleged the government's decision to change the route of TUTAP project from Bamyan to Salang was creating divisions among different tribes. The decision was not right ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Paktia Protestors Warn Against Change in TUTAP Project Route



GARDIZ - Hundreds of people from southern Paktia province staged a rally, asking President Ashraf Ghani not to change the route of a multinational power project.

The Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUTAP) power project will import 500kv of electricity from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to Pakistan through Afghanistan.

Hundreds of people, including tribal elders and civil society activists, gathered in Paktia province, urging the president to implement the TUTAP project through the Salang pass.

The protestors chanted slogans that implementation of the project through Paktia province was their right, an issue they said should not be politicized.

Shayesta Jan, a civil society activist who participated in the rally, told Pajhwok Afghan News that 60 percent work on the project had been completed in Paktia. He said it would be an injustice if the project route was altered.

A tribal elder, Habibullah Mastan, declared: "We have no problem with other provinces, but we will not let anyone snatch our rights." He said the government should use other resources for electrifying Bamyan and other provinces.

Mastan warned the government of a knee-jerk reaction if the route of ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

UK's Cameron Caught Calling Nigeria, Afghanistan 'Corrupt'

LONDON - British Prime Minister David Cameron has been caught on microphone saying that leaders of "fantastically corrupt" countries including Nigeria and Afghanistan will attend an anti-corruption summit in London.

Cameron will bring together politicians and officials from around the world Thursday as part of efforts to clamp down on bribery, money laundering and other forms of wrongdoing.

At a Buckingham Palace recep-



tion Tuesday, a television microphone caught Cameron saying "we have got some leaders of some fantastically corrupt countries coming to Britain."

He referred to "Nigeria and Afghanistan - possibly two of the most corrupt countries in the world."

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani - both elected in 2014 - have promised to curb corruption in their countries. Both are due to attend Thursday's meeting in London. (AP)

New Kabul Bank Merger into Agri Development Fund Opposed

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Tuesday said the High Economic Council (HEC), opposing the merger of the New Kabul Bank, has stressed an effective plan to save the institution and improve the banking sector.

A statement from the ministry said the HEC, at a meeting on Monday, discussed the privatization of the New Kabul Bank and other economic issues. MoF officials shared with the council progress in privatizing the New Kabul Bank.

The council believed merging the bank with the agriculture development fund to provide financial services to farmers was not a good option.

It tasked a team of experts to assess the situation of the New Kabul Bank and evolve an effective plan in consideration of the current state of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) to the benefit of all institutions concerned.

MoF had previously announced that Join Stock and Pakistan's Muslim Commercial Bank (MCB) were qualified for purchasing the New Kabul Bank. However, selling the Kabul Bank to the MCB sparked an angry reaction from the Meshrano Jirga -- or upper house of the parliament. The Senate decided the Pakistani bank should be expelled from the bidding process.

Kabul ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

HOOAC Termed Govt. Efforts Not Enough to Uproot Corruption



KABUL - Officials from the High Office of Oversight and Anticorruption (HOOAC) on Tuesday termed government's efforts inadequate to uproot endemic corruption in public offices.

The head of the office, Sayed Ghulam Husain Fakhri, said the National Unity Government (NUG) should not delay in assessing big corruption cases.

"Government's efforts to overcome corruption [in public offices] is not enough nor satisfactory. Much more should have been done but was not done [in this aspect]," he said.

President Ashraf Ghani last month said Kabul will attend the Brussels and Warsaw summits showing achievements not messages; however, there are concerns over a lack of assessment of big corruption cases.

Fakhri commented on this, saying that the support from a number of high-ranking officials towards corrupt figures is among the biggest obstacles in government's efforts to assess big cases.

Meanwhile, a number of officials and MPs termed government's ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Nicholson Daesh Unable to Wield Influence in Afghanistan



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Daesh or Islamic State (IS) has been unable to wield influence despite efforts in Afghanistan, NATO's Resolute Support (RS) mission's commander said on Monday.

Gen. Mick Nicholson was talking to reporters at a joint press conference with Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor after their meeting here. The meeting was also attended by northern zone Afghan National Army (ANA)'s commander Gen. Abdul Hamid Hamid and police command-

er Gen. Baba Jan. Noor said the RS commander's visit to Balkh showed the alliance's support for the local government and security.

Strengthening and equipping Afghan security forces was stressed and given attention during the meeting, he said, adding from now on, the Afghan forces besides maintaining defensive mode would also continue operations.

Nicholson, while replying to a ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Afghan, Tajik Leaders Call for Security to be Boosted on Border

DUSHANBE - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his Tajik counterpart to bolster security on the common border, the press-service of the Tajik leader said in a press release Tuesday.

"The sides stressed the need to strengthen border cooperation and security. Through the creation of favorable conditions, we will consistently strive for the border between the two countries to be turned into a border of stability, friendship and cooperation," the press release reads. The sides also highlighted the need to fight terrorism and extremism, as well as drug trafficking to prevent the financing of terrorism.

"The sides also supported the



elimination of difficulties and struggles in the Islamic world and providing a new level of cooperation among Muslim nations," according to the press release.

The leaders of the two countries also signed a deal on extradition and agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation. The sides agreed to meet twice a year to discuss

measures to broaden their mutual relations.

On May 12, the president of Afghanistan is set to take part in a ceremony to mark the launch of the construction of an electricity transmission system, the CASA-1000, that will connect Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. (Sputnik)