

## Quote of the Day

To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe.

Marilyn vos Savant

ARG

# No Specific Timeframe for the Conclusion of Peace Deal with HIA

KABUL - The Presidential Palace announced Tuesday that there is no specific timeframe for the conclusion of peace deal with Hezb-e-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Deputy presidential spokesman Syed Zafar Hashemi told reporters that peace process is always complicated and it would be a mistake to confirm a timeframe regarding the peace agreement. Hashemi further added that small and big changes normally takes place everyday, in every seconds and at the final seconds of peace process.

He said the Afghan government will update the Afghan people



once the two sides reach to an agreement.

This comes as the Afghan government signed the draft peace agreement with Hezb-e-Islami

last week. Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Khan told reporters last week that the draft agreement has been signed and will

become enforceable once the Hezb-e-Islami party signs it.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive Officer Abdullah said Sunday that the Afghan government is close to conclude a peace deal with Hezb-e-Islami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Abdullah further added that negotiation between the High Peace Council and Hezb-e-Islami are underway.

However, he insisted that the national interests of the country and the Afghan people are a top priority in all key issues, insisting that there will be no negligence in this regard.

He also emphasized that anyone joining ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

## Abdullah Reaffirms Commitment to Peace Process, Reform

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah, reaffirming Kabul's commitment to talks with its armed opponents, has said peace will elude Afghanistan if the region does not change its political outlook.

"We are committed to continuing peace talks through bilateral and multilateral coordination mechanisms," the CEO said, calling reforms the cornerstone of the national unity government.

While addressing the World Humanitarian



Summit in Turkey, he said stability remained a distant dream for many people who were increasingly affected by extreme poverty, natural disasters, political crises, violent extremism, water ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

## Modi to Inaugurate Salma Dam



KABUL - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate Salma Dam, a massive dam built and funded by India in Herat province. Located in the Chesh-e-Sharif district, the hydroelectric project, which is on the Hari Rud river, is expected to benefit almost 100,000 families in four districts of the province, by providing them with electricity and irrigation water.

Experts meanwhile stand firm that if government undertakes such big hydro-electric dam construction projects, they will not only benefit the country economically but will also help create jobs for the people.

The dam, which is 20 km in length and three kilometers in width, has a water storage capacity of 640 million cubic meters. This will be utilized to generate 43 megawatts of electricity for 40,000 families and will irrigate ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

## Vohra Meets 152 ICCR Scholars



KABUL - With a view to build the human resources of the Afghan nation and its people, Government of India annually offers 1,000 scholarships for Afghan nationals under the Special Scholarship Scheme administered by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), for pursuing Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses in Indian Universities and Educational Institutions.

Mr. Manpreet Vohra, Ambassador of India to Afghanistan on Tuesday met and conveyed his best wishes to the first batch of 152 ICCR scholars who shall be shortly proceeding to Bengaluru to pursue courses such as BBA, BCA, B.Sc. BA (Economics), MBA, MA (Pol. Sc.) etc., during the academic year 2016-17. Ambassador ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

## India Mulling to Deliver More Helicopters to Afghanistan

KABUL - The government of India is mulling to deliver more helicopters to Afghanistan in a bid to help boost the airpower of the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces.

The Office of the President in a statement said the issue was discussed during a meeting between President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The statement further added President Ghani thanked India's support and cooperation with Afghanistan, specifically in delivery Mi-25 gunship helicopters and urged the Indian leadership to further assist the Afghan forces.

In response, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the relevant security sector in the Indian government has been instructed to seek ways for the delivery of more helicopters to Afghanistan.

President Ghani also hailed the Indian government for supporting Afghanistan in implementation of key infrastructure projects, including the Salma dam. ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

## Ghani Issues New Decree as TUTAP Review Commission Submit Findings

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani issued a new decree following the conclusion of a review commission to study the route for the 500kV transmission line.

The presidential decree states that a 220kV double circuit power line will be transmitted from Doshi to the central provinces to transmit 300 megawatt of electricity that would be enough for the entire central provinces.

The decree further states that the power 220kV power line should be executed to include the construction of a 220kV (double circuit) electricity net-



work to transmit 300 megawatt of electricity from Doshi to center of Bamyan with the start of the project to be from the first of the month of June and should conclude in the solar year 1398. A substation should also be

constructed in Bamyan province with the execution of the project to be the start of the month of June and must finish in the solar year 1398.

The decree also states that a distribution network should be constructed in Bamyan to supply electricity to at least 20,000 families. The project should in the month of June and should conclude in November of 1398. The relevant institutions have also been instructed to present a plan for the construction of electricity supply network in the other central provinces and must submit it to the cabinet for approval ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

## Chabahar Deal Realized Dream of Afghans after 150 Years: Official

KABUL - Afghanistan dream of having access to the international waters has been realized after the signing of the tripartite agreement between Iran, India and Afghanistan, a senior Afghan official says. Chabahar deal realized dream of Afghans after 150 years: Official

President Ashraf Ghani's Deputy Spokesperson Zafar Hashemi told reporters on Tuesday that the agreement signed by the three countries in the free port city of Chabahar on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in southern Iran, will open a new chapter for



cooperation between regional states.

The agreement is going to provide Afghanistan with new and unique alternatives, Hashemi said.

The official referred to negotiations between Afghan

president and Iranian officials on security issues, management of border water resources, and the Afghan refugees living in Iran saying that Kabul, in dealing with its neighbors, follows a policy of cooperation and integration. ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Russia

## Operation in Syria will Never Become 'New Afghanistan'

GROZNY - Russia's operation in Syria is a "pin-point military plan" and it will never grow into a "new Afghanistan," Deputy Russian Security Council Secretary Yevgeny Lukyanov told reporters on Tuesday.

"Someone predicted that this will be a new Afghanistan or something else. That will never happen," Lukyanov stressed. "This is a pin-point limited military plan," he said, describing Russia's campaign in Syria.

"The main goal of our military operation was to launch a political dialogue," he said. "There needs to be an agreement, an agreement only through compromise."

"We are not Syrians, we will not fight for Syria there," Lukyanov said. "They should solve all issues themselves. We are helping but you see in what a limited format."

According to the official, some 33,000 gunmen have already been destroyed in



Syria in the operation against terrorists, and 5,000 of them have been killed by the coalition forces.

"According to our estimates, in the beginning of our operation Jabhat al-Nusra and Daesh had around 80,000 gunmen," Yevgeny Lukyanov said. "28,000 have been already destroyed, and the coalition destroyed another 5,000 over two years."

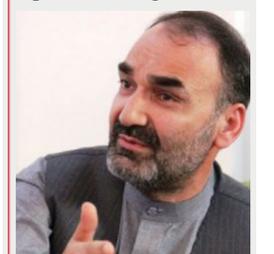
He said a turning point in the fight against terrorism in Syria has already come. "I believe that not only we think so," Lukyanov added. "Judging from the reaction

of the so-called actors on this theater of war and sometimes aggressive manifestations of the terrorist irreconcilable opposition, they strive to disrupt the process that is already a sign of a turning point."

Another sign is the withdrawal of a major part of Russia's forces from Syria. "More than 100 settlements have acknowledged the ceasefire as a legal fact and observe it," he said. "Naturally, in these conditions the forces opposing this process will do everything to torpedo it." Russia launched the operation against terrorists in Syria on ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## Killing of Mullah Mansoor May Lead to More Fighting, Suicide Attacks: Noor

KABUL - The acting provincial governor of northern Balkh province Ata Mohammad Noor has said the killing of Taliban supreme leader



er Mullah Akhtar Mansoor may lead to more fighting and suicide attacks in coming weeks.

In an interview with Reuters, Noor said "Fighting may well pick up in some parts of the country after the killing of the Taliban leader, with suicide and bomb attacks (used) as a means of downplaying the importance of losing their leader."

Noor further added that the authorities had to brace for a surge in violence as rival candidates established their claims to the leadership of the insurgency.

He also pointed to a spate of suicide bombings as well as the intense fighting that led to the temporary fall of the northern city of Kunduz last year as Mansoor looked to consolidate his newly won position.

In the meantime, Noor said some of the Taliban militants may surrender if the government works well pointing towards a scope for the government to exploit a likely fracturing in the insurgency.

This comes as the Taliban group issued a statement late on Monday stating that the death of the group's leader will not have any impact on the insurgency activities of the group.

The statement by Taliban further added that the campaign by the Taliban militants is not for a single person which would end or become weak by his death, warning that the death of their leader will spark more revolution.

On the other hand, reports emerged Monday regarding the start of negotiations among the Taliban leadership council to appoint a successor for Mullah Akhtar Mansoor.

The reports further added that the leader of Haqqani terrorist network Sirajuddin Haqqani, Mullah Omar's son and his brother are among the possible successors of Mullah Mansoor. (KP)