



# Ghani Calls on Militants to Quit Violence during Ramadan

***Few hours after the president's message, the Taliban carried out a suicide bombing in Khost province, killing at least 18 people.***

KABUL - In a video message on Saturday, President Ashraf Ghani called on all militant groups to quit violence during the Holy month of Ramadan. "On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I urge all militant groups to accept the call of Afghan people on peace or at least avoid killing, conflict and violence during the Holy month of Ramadan in order to respect this sacred month," Ghani said in the video message. Meanwhile, a number of religious scholars and Kabul residents said war and violence in Ramadan is against the teachings of Islam and that they suggest that differences should be resolved through negotiations. "War is forbidden in this sacred month but if someone stands against you and creates violence then you must stand against them in order to defend your country," said Mohammad Ishaq, a religious scholar. Kabul ...*(More on P4)...(10)*



## Taliban Assault on Afghan Military Base Kills 16 Soldiers

KABUL - The Taliban has attacked security outposts around a military base in Kandahar province, killing at least 16 government soldiers and wounding many others, officials said Friday. The overnight attack in the Shah Wali Kot district in Kandahar province triggered intense clashes, killing at least 27 insurgents, police spokesman Zia Durani told VOA. He also confirmed that at least four Afghan soldiers were taken hostage by the Taliban and retreating insurgents did not retrieve bodies of their fighters from the battlefield. A spokesman for the Islamist insurgency took responsibility for the raid, claiming the fighting left 35 soldiers dead ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## 'Some Groups within Government Conspiring'

MAIMANA - Hundreds of supporters of the First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum in northwestern Faryab province accused some groups within the government for staging conspiracy which resulted in deprivation of Dostum from his legal powers. The supporters and members of Dostum-led Jumbish-i-Islami claimed the government was trying to corner the Turkmen people from the political scenario of Afghanistan by using the international assistance. Abdul Ahad Albelik, deputy head of the provincial council, said the Presidential Palace and the National ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Britain Planning to Deploy More Troops to Afghanistan



LONDON - The United Kingdom is planning to send more troops to Afghanistan where insecurity is increasing despite the fact that the US and its allies have deployed thousands of forces there since 2001. "The UK is prepared to increase its contribution to troops in a non-combat role to demonstrate our continued support for the NATO mission in Afghanistan," a government source said Thursday. The United States currently has around 8,400 soldiers in Afghanistan with about another 5,000 troops from NATO allies. Britain currently has about 500 troops in Afghanistan. ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Nangarhar Custom Revenue up in 1st Five Months

JALALABAD - Efforts have been put in place aimed at surge in the revenue of eastern Nangarhar province and huge increase in the first five months had been notices, an official said on Saturday. Elham Mazhar, the Nangarhar custom department head, during an exclusive interview told Pajhwok Afghan News his department collected more than five billion Afghanis in revenue during the first five months. He said there was 1.4 billion Afghanis surge in the collected revenue of first five months compared the revenue of the same period last year. He said last 12.3 billion Afghanis were collected in revenue and hoped that there will be huge surge in this year revenue keeping in view the progress made in the first five months. He said had the Torkham Gate remained unclosed there would have been more surge in the revenue. He said transparency and efficiency in the affairs of custom department led to the surge in the revenue. He, however, said corruption still existed and was not eliminated completely. "Most ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## India Could Send Troops to Afghanistan under UN Mission: Expert

***Kanwal, who is currently in Washington DC, however said that this is his considerate view and that at present there is no appetite in India to send any troops to Afghanistan.***

WASHINGTON - With the Trump Administration looking at other countries to share the responsibilities in addressing major global challenges, a prominent Indian defense expert on Thursday told a Washington audience that New Delhi could perhaps be persuaded to send up to a division of Indian troops - around 15,000 -- to Afghanistan under a United Nations Peacekeeping mission. "If invited, if there is a UN peacekeeping force ... it is my considered view that perhaps India could be persuaded to send up to a division, provided the logistics are in place, provided Pakistan's so-called sensibilities can be put in place," Brig (rtd)



Gurmeet Kanwal, from the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis, said in a close door round table at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Kanwal, who is currently in Washing-

ton DC, however said that this is his considerate view and that at present there is no appetite in India to send any troops to Afghanistan. India, years ago, has already turned down a request to send troops to Iraq. India, he ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Pakistan Reopens Afghan Border on 'Humanitarian Grounds'



QUETTA - Pakistani authorities reopened the main Chaman border crossing at Afghanistan's request after shutting it down earlier this month when the two sides traded fire there, killing 15 people on both sides, the military said Saturday. The move comes on the first day of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan in Pakistan. In a statement, the Pakistani military said the border was reopened Saturday on "humanitarian grounds." Kabul welcomed the decision. The statement said Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to maintain a ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Aircraft Saga: Cases of Bamiyan Officials to Land in AGO Sunday

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior Affairs on Saturday said the cases of three police officials who illegally diverted a plane in Bamiyan Airport last week, will be sent to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) for further investigation on Sunday. The three officials are the police chief of PD1 in Bamiyan, Bamiyan MP Abdul Rahman Shaheedani's son, and a security ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Door to Peace Talks Open in Ramadan: Naeemi

MEHTARLAM - The governor of eastern Laghman province on Friday said the door to peace talks with insurgents would remain open during the holy month of Ramadan. Abdul Jabbar Naeemi addressed thousands of people ahead of Friday's prayer in Mehtarlam, the provincial capital. The governor urged religious scholars and common people to raise their voice for ending the conflict and cooperate with security forces in maintaining peace and order. Naeemi said peace in Laghman was his top priority and those fighting to bring down the system and kill innocent people were the enemies of Islam and humanity. He urged the insurgents to shun violence and join the peace process in order the Afghan Muslims get a sigh of relief from the decades of sufferings. (Pajhwok)

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Procuring Entity	National Procurement Authority (NPA) on behalf of Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MOCI)
Funded By	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Item Description	Consultancy Services for Fund Management Services for Matching Grant Program Under Afghanistan New Market Development Project - Additional Financing
Reference No	NPA/MOCI/96/CS-1709/QCBS
Deadline for Submission of EOI	June 15, 2017 by 13:00 Hours (Kabul Local Time).
Address for Submission of EOI	Request for Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail):  <b>Attention: Mr. Aziz Ahmad Obaidi</b> National Procurement Authority Administrative Office of the President Pashtunestan Wat, Kabul, Afghanistan  Email: <a href="mailto:aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af">aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af</a> copy to <a href="mailto:umar.sultani@aop.gov.af">umar.sultani@aop.gov.af</a> , <a href="mailto:asadullah.haidari@aop.gov.af">asadullah.haidari@aop.gov.af</a> , <a href="mailto:hussain.ali@aop.gov.af">hussain.ali@aop.gov.af</a> , <a href="mailto:assadnoori42@gmail.com">assadnoori42@gmail.com</a> .
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