

## Quote of the Day

Great minds have purposes,  
others have wishes.

Washington Irving

US essayist, historian, & novelist (1783 - 1859)

# AGO Reshuffles 40 Key Posts, Appoints Qualified People

KABUL - In an unprecedented move, the Attorney General of Afghanistan (AGO) has reshuffled at least 40 posts in Kabul and its provincial headquarters, appointing qualified attorneys and professional people in an effort to provide satisfactory services to the people. Speaking to TOLONews, Basir Azizi spokesman to the AGO, said on Saturday that the reshuffling is aimed at designating qualified people and the process will continue. "The appointments are aimed to boost transparency and develop the legal expertise in the attorney general's office and to highlight our gains and demonstrate our



commitment to the faithful people of Afghanistan," he said. Saturday's development was an unprecedented move since the new attorney general assumed office and it represents the AGO's commitments and firmness for reforms and fighting corruption. "We must evaluate

a new decision from a different perspective, we must appreciate the changes which have been considered in the AGO," senator Fazel Hadi Muslimiyar said. "We hope that the Attorney General of Afghanistan will prioritize other necessary programs as well and complete them soon," MP Mohammad Abdoh said. This comes at a time that previously the European Union (EU) in a survey said that the majority of Afghans still do not trust government institutions. The survey said that the majority of Afghans are prepared to fight corruption, but they do not know how to start the campaign against the trend. (Tolonews)

## US Passes New Law, Giving Troops More Power



WASHINGTON - The US Congress's committee on military affairs has passed a new law on the basis of which the US forces are granted special powers to target the Taliban, Daesh and Haqqani network in Afghanistan. The new law has defined some additional authorities to US forces and says that the American troops must be provided with more resources and that 9,800 US forces will stay in Afghanistan until April 2017. Meanwhile, the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) has said that the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Kabul and Washington provided new hope for the Afghan security forces and it confirmed United States' continued aid to Afghanistan in the military spheres. "In terms of training, in terms of monitoring the joint operations against regional terrorism and ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Ex-Envoy US Won't Tolerate Terrorist Safe Havens in Pakistan



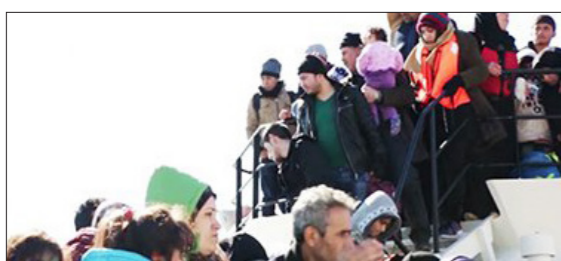
KABUL - James B. Cunningham, in an interview with the Atlantic Council, hoped that Pakistan, in particular its spy agency ISI, would understand the change in the American approach. "I hope that this is the beginning of a message that we will not tolerate any more the strategic challenge that is posed by the leadership of the Taliban being in Pakistan and having a safe haven there," he observed. It was the beginning of a new phase in the effort to bring the Taliban into a political discussion," Cunningham said, suggesting ISI officials might have been involved in setting Mansour up. The official account is that the Obama administration had informed Pakistan of the strike after it took place. In places like ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Militants Planning Attacks in Kabul City, US Embassy Warns



KABUL - The US Embassy in Kabul has issued a security alert warning its citizens regarding militants planning attacks in the city. "The U.S. Embassy in Kabul continues to receive reports of militants planning unspecified attacks in Kabul City and elsewhere in Afghanistan against locations and individuals with potential American connections," the alert by the embassy states. It also adds that the militants are looking to attacks Afghan and U.S. government facilities, foreign embassies, foreign guest houses, restaurants, hotels, airports, civilian ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Number of Afghan Refugees Returning Home on the Rise



KABUL - Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation has said that the Afghan government is determined to step up efforts to provide job opportunities for those refugees who return home from European nations.

"We cannot not address the issues of huge numbers of Afghans who are repatriated and provide them services. We signed a memorandum of understanding with 10 countries and we will assess the issue to find how the MoUs are implemented," deputy minister of refugees and repatriations Alima said. ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Rabbani Criticizes NUG for Not Implementing Political Agreement

KABUL - Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani has criticized the leaders of the national unity government, President Ashraf Ghani and his CEO Abdullah Abhdullah, for not implementing the political agreement.

Rabbani who also serves as head of Jamiat-e-Islami party was speaking to his parity members in Kabul on Saturday where he said that the future political stability of Af-



ghanistan is linked with the implementation of the political agreement, calling on the NUG leaders to ensure the implementation of electoral reforms in the election system, convene the constitutional amendment Loya Jirga and order the electronic national identity cards distribution. In the wake of Jamiat's meeting on Saturday party leaders expressed their views on a number of ... (More on P4)...(2)

## 25pc Hike in Power Tariff to Collapse Local Industries

KABUL - Industrialists on Saturday criticized the 25 percent hike in electricity tariff and the Meshrano Jirga called the government's decision as cruel.

A month ago, Da Afghanistan Breshna Shirkat (DABS) announced increasing the power tariff by 25 percent for consumers in Kabul and 13 other provinces who use imported electricity, linking the hike to the depreciation of the afghani against the US dollar.

"The 25 percent increase in electricity charges means making domestic industry to stop production because industrialists already face several economic challenges and cannot pay extra bills,"



Afghanistan Industrial Association (AIA) chairman Sakhi Ahmad Peyman told a press conference here. He said there were 2000 small and medium size factories across the country and most of them would collapse if the government did not reverse its decision and no entrepreneur would be willing to invest in the country. He asked the government to revisit the increase in power price and provide credit facilities and land to industrialists because local industries were the main pillar of the country's economic development. Meshrano Jirga chairman Fazl Hadi Muslimiyar, who was present ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Access to Information Vital to Build Strong Society: Bokova



KABUL - UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova has pledged seeking further support from potential donors, in particular for capacity building of Afghan media workers. The UNESCO office in Afghanistan is ready to launch a Women Media Service project, including investigative reporting by female journalists and capacity building throughout the country.

The safety of Afghan journalists, the role of women in media and access to public information by the people were the issues considered Irina Bokova on arriving in Kabul for a two-day visit.

She met Shafika Habibi, director of the Afghan Women Journalists Association, Najiba Ayubi, deputy director of the Afghanistan National Journalists Organisation, Danish Karokhel, member of the Oversight Commission for the implementation of the Access to Information Law and Najib Sharifi, director of the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee. Karokhel shared his perspective on the implementation of the Access to Information Law approved in December 2014. "Eleven months back we created ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Atmar Wants Belarus to Train, Equip Afghan Security Forces



KABUL - National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar has asked Belarus to help train and equip Afghan security forces, the National Security Council (NSC) said on Saturday.

Atmar expressed the view during a meeting with Belarus foreign minister, NSA and a number of other high-ranking officers in Minsk, a statement from the council said. During the meetings Atmar underlined the need for a joint campaign against terrorism, saying Afghan security forces had made huge gains in the fight against the scourge.

Atmar said Afghanistan needed continued support from the international community, including Belarus, in terms of training and equipment for its security forces.

The global fraternity must take the war on terror to its logical conclusion, the NSA said, explaining how Belarus could help improve the capacity of Afghan security forces. Atmar has been on a state visit to Russian and European countries, drumming up support and technical assistance for Afghan forces. (Pajhwok)

## Nuristan-Kunar Road Reopens after Military Offensive

ASADABAD - A key road between eastern Nuristan and Kunar provinces has been reopened as a result of a military operation code-named "Sher Ghashai" (Lion Arrow).

The road that connects Nari and Ghaziabad districts of Kunar with eastern districts of Nuristan, including Bargi-Matal and Kamdesh, was blocked by a rockslide one and a half months ago in Dab Barwar area of Asmar district, the Kunar governor's spokesman, Abdul Ghani Musamim, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

But Taliban militants had been posing a challenge to the reopening of the road and security forces launched an operation last night and reopened the road, he said, adding everyone could travel on the route without any problem.

Local residents also confirmed the road had been reopened and said they suffered a lot due to the blockade.

A resident of Nari district, Abdul Wahid, told Pajhwok Afghan News the people of eastern parts of Nuristan and Kunar's Nari and Ghaziabad districts had been in great trouble due to the road block.

He said the blockade had resulted in an unprecedented price hike and that some patients had also died after failing to reach hospital. A resident of Ghaziabad district, Hayauddin, said he was happy over the reopening of the road and urged the government to establish security posts on the road.

Meanwhile, the Taliban said only civilians were allowed to travel on the road and government officials could not do so.

Their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said insurgents were still in the area and they had closed the road against ... (More on P4)...(8)

## UK Expected to Deploy More Troops to Afghanistan

KABUL - In line with new plans being mulled by defence chiefs, the United Kingdom may deploy troops to Afghanistan, a British daily has reported.

As part of the proposals, the British training mission in the war-devastated country would also be extended by at least a year, Daily Mail said.

Prime Minister David Cameron could announce extending a 450-strong training mission into 2017, as Afghanistan continues to slide into chaos.

The UK will likely consider boosting security in Kabul, where the British mission is based, with an extra deployment of more than 100 soldiers.

Cameron is expected to make the announcement at the upcoming NATO summit in Warsaw next month, the newspaper said.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman was quoted as saying: "While we routinely look at the support we and other NATO partners give Afghanistan, no decisions have been made."

Currently 450 British military personnel are deployed in the country in the framework of the Resolute Support mission, led by NATO, to train, assist and advise the Afghan forces. (Pajhwok)

## Taliban Suffer Heavy Casualties in South, 52 Killed, 29 Wounded

KABUL - The Taliban insurgents have suffered heavy casualties during the clearance operations in southern parts of the country, the 205th Atal Corps of the Afghan National Army said.

According to a statement by 205th Atal Corps, at least 52 militants were killed and 29 others were wounded during the operations.

The statement further added that the operations were conducted in Gundu, chenarto Kariz, Koh Albak, Albak and Siya Oba villages in north of Shawali Kot in Kandahar and Kandahar-Uruzgan highway.

At least 4 Ford Ranger police vehicles and 25 motorcycles in custody of the militants were also destroyed during the operations, the statement added.

According to the 205th Atal Corps, the operations were conducted with the support of the Afghan Air Force and the artillery units of the Afghan National Army.

The anti-government armed militant groups including the Taliban insurgents have not ... (More on P4)...(9)