

Quote of the Day

Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment.

Baltasar Gracian

'Afghanistan to Witness Launch of Anti-Corruption Machine': AG

KABUL - Attorney General, Farid Hamidi, promised that a serious and speedy campaign against corruption will be launched in the near future. Hamidi was speaking during a press conference in Kabul where he promised that the government will accelerate fight against graft in the country. He said Afghanistan will witness an anti-corruption machine launch to start a major fight against the growing corruption in the country. Elaborating further on his claims regarding the launch of the anti-corruption machine, Hamidi said serious work is underway to establish a judi-



cial center and the people of Afghanistan will soon witness the start of the process.

The Attorney General further added that the Attorney General's Office is busy in review-

ing the cases, insisting that no innocent individual should be tried or sentenced for alleged involvement in corruption. Hamidi also added that the audit work in the Attorney General's Office will also increase in a bid to ensure transparency. The remarks by the Attorney General followed a day after the officials in Attorney General's Office announced that 40 attorney generals were replaced or newly appointed in over 15 provinces. According to the officials, the new appointments and changes have been made in a bid to ensure justice and accelerate the work of the organization. (KP)

Over 700 Refugees Feared Drowned off Italy: UN



ROME - Over 700 refugees may have drowned in three Mediterranean Sea shipwrecks south of Italy in the last few days, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has said. A spokesperson for UNHCR Carlotta Sami has told The Associated Press that an estimated 100 people were missing from a smugglers' boat that capsized on Wednesday. Sami further added that around 550 others were

missing from a boat that capsized on Thursday morning. In the meantime, the refugees have said that the boat which was carrying about 670 people did not have an engine and was being towed by another smuggling boat before it capsized. At least 25 people from it survived and 79 others were rescued by patrol boats and 15 dead bodies were recovered. ...*(More on P4)...*(1)

Add Pakistan to List of Terrorist States, MPs Urge United Nations



KABUL - While calling for sanctions against Pakistan, the Meshrano Jirga on Sunday asked the United Nations (UN) to add the country to the list of terrorist states. Senator Maulvi Mohiuddin Munsif said: "The killing of Taliban leader Mullah Mansour and a funeral ceremony for him held in Pakistan show it is the main cause of problems in Afghanistan. It is questionable why the UN doesn't impose sanctions on Pakistan." He said the neighbor country must be added to the list of terrorist countries as its real face exposed to all people in the world. At a meeting on Saturday, Council of Protection and Stability of Afghanistan head Abdur Rab Rassoul Sayyaf said Pakistan should stop interfering in Afghanistan. "I want to tell Pakistan you are now exposed to the entire world. If you don't stop sponsoring the scourge, you would be added to the list of terrorist states," Sayyaf had said. Another senator, Mohammad Hassan Hotak, supported Sayyaf's statement and said: "Pakistan is the main cause of death and destruction in Afghanistan. The country ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

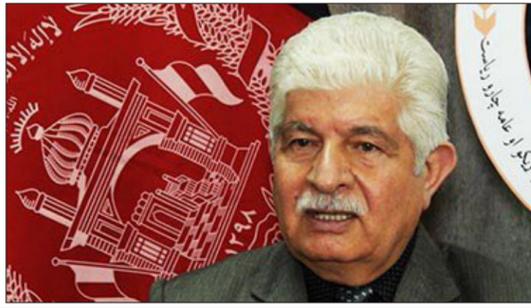
Asif Decries US Inaction over TTP Safe Haven in Afghanistan



SIALKOT - Asserting that top leadership of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) enjoys safe haven in Afghanistan, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said no international power, including the United States, is willing to take action against the group. "They [international powers] are unwilling to conduct operations in the Afghan areas from where TTP leaders, including its head honcho Mullah Fazlullah, are hatching conspiracies with the help of India to destabilise Pakistan," the Express Tribune quoted him as saying. According to reports, Islamabad has repeatedly complained to the Afghan Government and Nato forces that the TTP militants are using the Afghan soil as springboard for launching terrorist attacks in Pakistan. The Defence Minister said the U.S. drone attack on May 21 that killed Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Akhtar Mansour in Balochistan was not a failure of Pakistan's foreign policy and instead affected the efforts under way for establishing peace in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan will continue its efforts to establish a durable peace in Afghanistan because it desires good relations with its neighbours. He urged that both Kabul and Washington should show their 'direly needed sincerity' for this purpose. Ascertaining that the country's defence was in safe hands and no one could dare to cast an evil eye on it, he said that ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

US Presence a Sign of Robust Action against Terrorism: MoD

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Sunday said that the establishment of U.S. military bases in Afghanistan will help determine an effective campaign against threats emerging from the Taliban and other terrorist groups. Joining the defense ministry, some Afghan political commentators have also hailed U.S. military presence in Afghanistan as a key element in thwarting threats and curbing



foreign meddling. They argue that foreign intervention in Afghanistan has dropped to some extent after the signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) between Afghanistan and the United States. "The al-Qaeda, Taliban and Daesh groups operate here, they (U.S) forces can target them from these bases and help us in providing equipment and funding." ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

Mansour's Fake Identity Papers: 2 More Suspects Nabbed

PESHAWAR - Pakistan has detained two more individuals involved in helping Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour get Pakistani identity documents. The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has been blamed for fraudulently 'selling' Pakistani citizenship to outsiders. The interior minister has ordered a re-verification exercise to remove illegal entries in the database. A statement from the Ministry of Interior said Azim Ahmad Achakzai, a Balochistan Levies Force official, was apprehended in Quetta for helping Wali Mohammad



acquire a manual Pakistani ID card. Riffat Iqbal, another NADRA official, was picked up in Karachi for tampering with records to secure the Pakistani citizenship of Wali Mohammad's second wife and children. He had disappeared

after the drone attack. On Friday, NADRA Junior Executive Syed Afsar Hassan was taken into custody for allegedly tampering with family records to pass off foreigners as Pakistani citizens. He had been involved with a human trafficking racket as well. (Pajhwok)

Afghan-Chinese Language Learners Compete in Proficiency Contest

KABUL - The Chinese Bridge, the worldwide contest of Chinese proficiency for foreign college student, was held in Kabul on Sunday, the first of its kind in the country. Eight students from the Confucius Institute at Kabul University took part in the contest and the best two will present Afghanistan for the final competitions in China this year. Addressing the contest, Zhang Zhixin, Charge d'Affairs A.I. of the Chinese embassy to Afghanistan, said the Chinese Bridge Contest aims at boosting the Chinese language and culture among Afghan learners and, in extent, further promoting the cooperation and people-to-people exchanges between the two neighboring nations. He stressed that China will further enhance the support of Chinese language education in Afghanistan. Habibullah Habib, chancellor of the Kabul University, said the Chinese language education bridges the communication and cultural exchanges among Afghanistan and China. With the fast-paced economic development in China, more and more Afghan youths have shown their interest in learning Chinese. He hoped the Afghan students will enhance their command of the Chinese language and also take lessons from the Chinese experience of socio-economic development to benefit Afghanistan. Jan Ali Yousufi and Negina Sana won the top two after three rounds of competition, namely Chinese Proficiency, knowledge about China and Chinese culture, Chinese culture-related talent show. Sana told Xinhua that she felt excited to win the ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

NPC Approves 34 Contracts, Saving 180 Million Afs



KABUL - The National Procurement Commission (NPC) approved 34 contracts worth 8.5 billion Afghanis, a statement from president's office said on Sunday. The contracts included twenty-three infrastructure projects such as construction of third phase of Kamal Khan hydropower dam, resume work on Shah-wa-Aroos dam, design and monitoring of irrigation schemes in western Herat's Pashtun Zarghooon district, reconstruction of Korman-Garam Aab of Ghor province, design and construction of 500 kW power transmission line from Pul-i-Khumri to Arghande and rehabilitation of Islamic Civilization Centre in Ghazni, were approved during NPC meeting chaired by President Ashraf Ghani, a statement from Presidential Palace said. Other contracts regarding the purchase of equipment for Afghan National Army, goods and services projects of general directorate of administrative affairs, ministries of foreign affairs, higher education, mines and petroleum, and the ministry of martyrs, disabled, ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

31 Development Projects Completed in Kapisa Province

KABUL - National Solidarity Programme of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD/NSP) on Sunday said that 31 development



projects worth AFN 41,000,000 completed in Mahmood Raqi, Hesae Awal-e-Kohistan, Hesae Dowam Kohistan and Nijrab districts of Kapisa province. According to NSP Provincial Manager in Kapisa province, these projects include the construction of three social centers, a retaining wall 2,383 meters in length, a 1,416-meter gabion wall, a protection wall, 76 culverts and 1,810 meters of paved sidewalks. Approximately, 7,157 families in different communities had an opportunity to gain access to basic human needs upon completion of these projects. Since its inception in Kapisa province, the NSP has been able to execute 2,340 uplift projects in different sectors including transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, education, etc while the work of another 185 is currently in progress in various communities. (PR)

Taliban's Divided Faction Criticize Hibatullah's Appointment

KABUL - Criticizing the appointment of Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada as Taliban's new leader, Mullah Mannan Niazi, spokesman for the Taliban's breakaway faction led by Mullah Rassoul, said on Sunday that the newly appointed leader is a puppet of Pakistan - just as his predecessor, Mullah Mansour, was. He said Mullah Rassoul's faction wants an Islamic government in Afghanistan and that foreign troops should not stay in the country as invaders. He said: "Hibatullah was appointed by those who appointed Mansour as Taliban's leader. It is part of the conspiracy that has started against the Taliban in the past." "Those that are killed in the country are killed as a result of the fatwa issued by the unjust muftis that now claim they are leading Taliban. They are our killers and their hands are stained with our blood," he added. The withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan has been one of the main pre-conditions of terrorist groups in terms of joining the peace process, but this time, the breakaway faction of the Taliban brought up the issue, with a slightly different angle. "We do not want all foreigners, as invaders, in Afghanistan, but we want Afghanistan to have good relations with the world in the framework of international rules," he said. Meanwhile, the presidential palace said they are ready to embrace the militant groups that quit insurgency and join the peace process. "The peace door will always be open for the groups that quit killing the people, accept the Constitution of Afghanistan, and cut relations with terrorist groups," said President Ashraf Ghani's deputy spokesman Shahussain Murtazawi. Peace talks with militants, particularly with Taliban, has been government's top priority over the past several years, but the efforts have not yielded considerable results so far. Analysts said they believe that there is still opportunity to carry on the peace process with militant groups. (Tolonews)