

Quote of the Day

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

Mahatma Gandhi

Indian political and spiritual leader (1869 - 1948)

Endemic Corruption a Serious Concern: RS

KABUL - The head of the transparency unit for the NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) mission in Afghanistan on Wednesday said that corruption is a serious concern for the Afghan government.

Speaking at a conference, General Anoyled urged the Interior Minister to launch a serious campaign to root out the problem in order to secure continued international aid for Afghanistan.

"We are concerned about corruption in the Afghan government. You [Interior Minister] should fight this phenomenon seriously," he said.

"Transparency and accounta-



bility should be increased in the ministry in order to witness the continuation of the international community's support to Afghanistan," General Anoyled said.

The conference, which was attended by high ranking security officials, discussed issues of transparency and accountability in the Ministry of Interior (MoI). Meanwhile the findings by a joint committee of evaluation and assessment in the fight against corruption revealed that there is still the possibility of corruption within the Ministry of Interior (MoI) - particularly with regards to contracts involving ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Russia Calls for Joint Efforts to Combat Terrorism

MANILA - Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev called here Wednesday for joint actions against terrorism since his country and France had just experienced deadly terror attacks.

Addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO summit, the Russian prime minister said terrorism spreading is a "truly global challenge" which is against the whole civilized world.

"This challenge requires joint answer, coordinated and truly concrete actions," said the Russian prime minister.

He noted that explosion in the Russian aircraft over Sinai Peninsula, which claimed 224 lives, and the massive killings in Paris are crimes against the whole world.

On the economic sphere, Medvedev said topics discussed in APEC meetings are in twin with his country's Asia-Pacific policies, noting that two thirds of the Russian territory lies in the region. He called on APEC ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Mohammadi Embroiled in Frozi Gas Deal: Document

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani's suspended legal advisor Abdul Ali Mohammadi recently called on government offices to purchase gas from Khalilullah Frozi's company - Gas Group - so as to help pay off the convicted Kabul Bank defaulter's loans.

Mohammadi, who was suspended late Tuesday over a controversial housing project contract informed all government offices - via the Ministry of Finance - that they could sign deals with Frozi's company.

In a typed document dated November 2, 2015, and addressed to the Ministry of Finance, the letter stated: "Based on the agreement between



Kabul Bank clearance department and the Gas Group company, the Gas Group has recently restarted its supply services."

It then stated: "The revenue earned by this company will go to the loan department of Kabul Bank to cover the loans of Khalil-

ullah Frozi. Therefore it is requested that all government offices should be given notice to sign agreements with this company to meet their supply needs."

The document was then signed by Abdul Ali Mohammadi, President's Legal Advisor. ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Obama Calls on World Leaders to Address Climate Change

MANILA - U.S. President Barack Obama Wednesday called on world leaders and the private sectors to address the issue of climate change and encourage more investors to get into clean energy.

Obama made the call in a speech at the APEC CEO Summit 2015 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Metro Manila. "No nation is immune to the consequences of a changing climate," said Obama.

"The old rules that said we can't grow our economies and protect our ...*(More on P4)...(4)*



Ghani Reviews Security Situation in Helmand as Clashes Continue

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday reviewed security situation in southern Helmand province, according to a statement released by the Presidential Palace.

The president, through video conference with security officials in the province, also received reports on the security situation there.

The president instructed defense and interior ministers to ensure coordination among security organs, the statement said.

The Taliban militants stormed security checkpoints in Musa Qala district ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

MoI Warns of Intense Winter Offensive Against Taliban to Continue

KABUL - Afghanistan Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Wednesday said that an intense offensive with Taliban will continue in the winter season.

Yet, the wind is shifting dramatically in Afghanistan, spokesman of interior ministry said that vulnerable areas have been identified in the winter season and increasing ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

"Kazakhstan and Afghanistan in the Face of Modern Challenges and Threats, Aimed at the Integration and Economic Development"

Interview with Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Afghanistan Mr. Omirtay Bitimov

Mr. Omirtay Bitimov, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

An official visit to Kazakhstan is expected by the President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, accompanied by members of the Government of National Unity, held high-level talks with the Head of our state Nursultan Nazarbayev, in the narrow and expanded format, the sides will sign a number of interagency and intergovernmental agreements and memorandums.

On the agenda of the meetings and discussions to bring issues concerning regional security, situation in Afghanistan and prospects of development of bilateral and multilateral relations.

Our two countries complement and need each other, in the economic sphere - Afghanistan, with a 30 million population has a broad market for the export of our domestic products, Kazakhstan with modern technology and trained staff - is a potential participant in the investment projects in the IRA.

Astana and Kabul have similar positions on many political issues in the international arena, in particular, Afghanistan supported Akorda's initiatives as well as AICA, the creation of the Islamic Organization of Food Security and the regional Center of Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty. Kazakhstan, in its turn, is supporter of peaceful settlement of the Afghan conflict, an active partner of Kabul in Istanbul process of countries of "Heart of Asia" for Afghanistan and others.

Mr. Omirtay Bitimov, how do you

assess the level of cooperation between Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, what, in your opinion, the prospects for their development at this stage?

Bilateral cooperation between our countries is developing consistently and steadily. In the political sphere there is understanding the current situation in the world and the region, as well as in Afghanistan and around it. Kazakhstan, as a member of the international community and a regional state, supports the Afghan settlement. As for as you know, Astana participates in the Istanbul process of "Heart of Asia" for Afghanistan.

In April, 2013 in Almaty Ministerial Conference was held, at the opening of which the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev noted that "a fundamental element of international assistance programs - is the economic rehabilitation of Afghanistan. It is necessary to speed up the expansion of economic cooperation in the region and actively integrate these processes in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan is a firm supporter of regional integration. Our country is actively investing in the creation of a regional transport infrastructure." Another Akorda's initiative is the creation of regional Center for Emergency and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty (the Agreement on the establishment of the Centre ratified by the Parliament of Kazakhstan in 2014), which allows to provide technical assistance to the Afghan authorities to respond to emergency situations of natural and manmade. September 29, 2014, the newly elected president of Afghanistan M.A.Gani said that Kazakhstan is "an important and positive example for Afghanistan." He emphasized the role of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, who has made "phenomenal results" in the development of the country and



noted the extensive experience of Kazakhstani specialists in the development of mineral resources, pointing to the need for cooperation between oil and gas sectors of the two countries. Kazakhstan can share experience in the construction of infrastructure, roads and railways. The IRA needs in this area over the next 10 years will amount to 40 thousands Km of roads and 3 thousands Km railways. Afghanistan is interested in the purchase on regularly base Kazakh wheat grain and flour. President M.A.Gani proposed to the Government of Kazakhstan to continue State Education Program RK-IRA, operating since 2010. Implementing, this initiative of our President, State Program is serious and real Kazakhstan's contribution to the normalization of the situation in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan in 2014 provided humanitarian assistance to the residents of the two Afghan provinces of Badakhshan and Jowzjan affected by landslides, river flooding and other natural disasters. In this year Kazakhstan has allocated another batch of humanitarian aid (vegetable oil, warm clothes, tents, canned foods), including for

refugees in the attack on Kunduz and victims of the recent devastating earthquake.

What are the prospects of regional cooperation in Central Asia with the IRA in the fight against religious extremism, international terrorism and drug trafficking?

The international community and the Afghan authorities to take joint measures in this direction, but they are, as practice shows, are still insufficient to reduce these modern challenges and threats.

Regional Conference of Central and South Asia against violent extremism, was held in Astana in June 2015 which was attended by Afghan delegation has a great international importance. Minister of Religious Affairs and Hajj of the IRA Mr. Osmani spoke at the Fifth session of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, he had raised questions about the relationship of young people and Islam.

Kazakhstan, as part of the Istanbul process, is a member of Confidence building measures on counter-narcotics.

In general, I think it needs to develop the cooperation in counter narcotics sphere on bilateral and multilateral

format. At the same time, the initiative must come from the capitals of our states. Without the goodwill and political decision concerned participants in this process it is impossible to achieve the desired results.

In your opinion, what sectors of the economy of Afghanistan are the most interesting for Kazakh investments? Also, what are the prospects for Kazakhstan's business do you see in this country?

The most attractive for Kazakh business in Afghanistan are mining, energy, construction and transport industries. Local environmental conditions are similar to some of the regions of Kazakhstan, which enables our technicians to easily adapt to them.

The international tenders will be continued - to develop fields (average volumes) of minerals and construction of power transmission lines and the substations, including in the framework of the international project "Central Asia - South Asia" (CASA-1000), the preparation of technical and feasibility study and further construction of the Afghan section of the railway "Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan". It planned to build with foreign participation satellite city of Kabul "Dehsabz", Kabul Ring Road, the reconstruction of the tunnel through the Salang Pass, a wide network of irrigation systems and low-power and another projects.

Kazakhstani specialists could successfully cooperate with Afghan counterparts in the field of agriculture, local farmers need of our experience, for example, in zoenengineering, karakul breeding, rearing cattle of meat and dairy breeds. Great practical interest are used in the Republic of Kazakhstan advanced technologies for fruit and vegetable processing and manufac-

turing of the final product.

It should be noted that the main deterrent wide promotion of Kazakhstani business on the Afghan market for goods and services is still security.

Your opinion, what sectors of the economy and spheres of life should be a priority for Afghanistan in the medium term?

I think in order to achieve certain economic heights in the medium term, Afghanistan now has to determine the necessary technology for the development of its production and begin to build a socially and economically important facilities to provide quality vocational education to develop their domestic business, where local companies in such favorable conditions will be able to work successfully in this market. As for trade and economic cooperation, Kazakhstan at the regional level is one of the potential investors in Afghanistan.

We see Afghanistan as a country with a developing economy with which we would like to build our relations in such a way as to achieve large volumes of trade, investment, broad ties in the field of infrastructure development, agriculture, energy, and education and culture. At the present stage our companies of the two countries are working together to identify new business opportunities, to create and develop joint enterprises. Ultimately, this will increase the use of Kazakhstani goods and services in the Afghan market. I suppose this is the main result of bilateral cooperation between our countries, which, in turn, is the imperative of the time.

In conclusion I would like to wish the brotherly and friendly people of Afghanistan to achieve these goals the quickest recovery of the national economy, peace and stability.