

Quote of the Day

Be great in act, as you have been in thought.

William Shakespeare
Greatest English dramatist & poet (1564 - 1616)

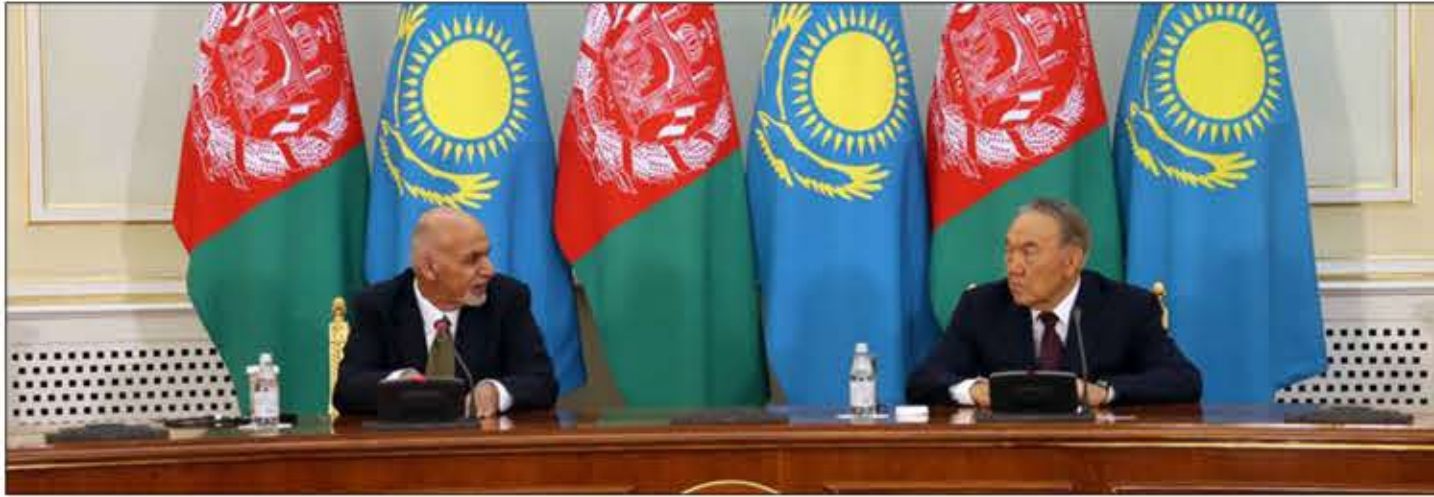
President Ashraf Ghani

Taliban is a Real Threat

ASTANA - President Ashraf Ghani in Kazakhstan said that the Taliban and Daesh is a real threat for Afghanistan and for the region.

Speaking at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, Ghani said that the recent Taliban attack in Kunduz shows that the Afghan people are not in favor of the Taliban and that if the insurgent group wants the support of the people they need to come up with a democratic plan.

"The Taliban is a real threat. This is not a national issue only for Afghans. Afghan and Pakistani Taliban have changed into a threat for South Asian countries. They are problem creators. I am ready to hand over the gov-



ernment to them through a democratic process."

He said despite changes within the Taliban following the meeting in Norway with civil society activists earlier this

year, the recent attacks in Kunduz by the group has made them extremely unpopular among the people.

"Recent attacks in Kunduz reveal that human rights violations by the group were

unexpected by the people especially as a number of changes had been detected in the group's views after the Norway meeting."

Referring to recent ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

UN Approves 'all Necessary Measures' to Fight Daesh



NEW YORK - The UN Security Council on Friday authorized countries to "take all necessary measures" to fight the Daesh group in a resolution that won unanimous backing a week after the Paris attacks.

The measure drafted by France calls on all UN member states to "redouble and coordinate their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks" committed by Daesh and other extremist groups linked to Al-Qaeda.

French President Francois Hollande welcomed the adoption, saying the resolution would "help mobilise nations to eliminate Daesh", which has claimed responsibility for the attacks that left 130 dead in Paris.

Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said countries should now find concrete ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

MPs Urge Clear Strategy to Fight Insurgents

KABUL - The speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Saturday said MPs are ready to join security forces on the battlefields if needed.

The MPs said in their Saturday session that they were extremely concerned about the increased insecurity in the country and warned the Taliban would seize more equipment and weapons by taking control of districts.

"If no attention is paid to Helmand, Nangarhar, Badakhshan and Kunduz security situation, then it will become difficult for the government to retake fallen area from militants," said Sayed Akram, an MP from Nangarhar.

"Yamgan fell to the Taliban two days ago. This district has collapsed three times in the past few months but government has not learnt any lessons," said Zikria Sawda, an



MP from Badakhshan.

Meanwhile other MPs urged government to hold a special national security council meeting to find an effective way to overcome security challenges in the country.

"My recommendation is that if parliament wants to do something real for security, it should hold a special session and prepare a scheme that can help government and security agencies to overcome

insecurity," said Almas Zahid, an MP.

"If needed we are ready to stand besides our security forces in the battlegrounds and defend the country," said Abdul Raouf Ibrahim, the Wolesi Jirga Speaker.

MPs also said winter is a good time for security force members to come up with a strategy to stamp out insurgency during next year's fighting season. *(Toloneews)*

Kunduz Fact-Finding Team Release Results



KABUL - The Kunduz fact-finding commission, appointed by President Ashraf Ghani, on Saturday released their findings into the recent fall of the city to the Taliban and said there had been no government-linked conspiracy behind the incident but that the Taliban had received orders from Pakistan. Commission chairman, former NDS chief, Amrullah Saleh said Kunduz war ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Task Team Meets with Ghani over Smart City Scandal

KABUL - The task team appointed by President Ashraf Ghani to investigate the controversial 'Smart City' housing project met for the first time on Saturday and held a meeting with the president.

This comes after Ghani last week suspended his legal advisor Abdul Ali Mohammadi and directed the head of the high office of oversight and anti-corruption to investigate the Smart City Township contract that Mohammadi allegedly facilitated between convicted Kabul Bank CEO and defaulter Khalil Frozi and the Urban Development Ministry. Mohammadi has however, vehemently rejected claims that he had been involved in the signing of the controversial ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

UK to Provide £9m to Support Rural Afghan Girls' Education

KABUL - The United Kingdom has pledged to grant 9 million pounds to support girls' education in rural areas of Afghanistan.

An agreement to that effect was signed between British ambassador to Kabul, Karen Pierce, and Afghan Education Minister Asadullah Hanif Balkhi on Thursday.

The fund extends till 2017 through the British Girls Education Fund and is an extension to a three-year program that began two years to improve girls' education on rural level. The 49mn pounds program was supported by the British organization and some other ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

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