

Quote of the Day

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something.

Plato

Greek author & philosopher in Athens (427 BC - 347 BC)

Iranian Official Demands Cooperation to Curb Poppy Cultivation in Afghanistan

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian anti-narcotics official called for all-out cooperation by all the world Powers to stop or reduce poppy cultivation in the world's largest opium producer, Afghanistan.

"We demand Europe's practical cooperation with Iran in exchange of information and modern facilities, such as X-ray machines, for easier discovery of narcotics," Director-General of Iran's Anti-Narcotics Headquarters for International Relations Mahmoud Bayat said in a meeting with European Union special envoy to Afghanistan Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin in Tehran on Saturday.

The Iranian official underlined the need for replacing poppy cultivation with another crop.



Mellbin, for his part, acknowledged that the UN and the EU have not achieved much success in efforts aimed at chang-

ing the Afghan nation's way of earning income. In relevant remarks last week, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani

underlined the necessity to put an end to poppy cultivation in Afghanistan to prevent the ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Efforts Underway to Locate and Release Hostages in Zabul



QALAT - Officials and local community elders in southern Zabul province have been trying to locate and release the group of civilians kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on Saturday.

Mohammad Anwar Ishaqzai, governor of Zabul province said Sunday that security forces ransacked some suspected areas but did not find the hostages.

Ishaqzai added that security agencies have been strictly working on the issue.

Conflicting reports have been published about number of the hostages, some state they were 30, some suggest 20 and some other then put it at 14 but Ishaqzai said that its specific number is still unknown.

They were driving in different vehicle when armed men stopped their vehicles in Nawrak area of Qalat, the provincial capital of Zabul, and kidnapped them.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction but the previous mass abduction was reportedly the work of Uzbek militants who have announced allegiance to Daesh.

The 31 passengers ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Turkmenistan

We Don't Need Any Help with Afghan Border



BAKU - Turkmenistan's government has told the United States that it doesn't need help in protecting its border with Afghanistan, a senior American diplomat has said.

If true, this means Turkmenistan has changed its mind. Earlier this year U.S. military officials said that Ashgabat had asked for aid to help guard its southern border, which over the past couple of years has been the site of repeated clashes between Taliban militants in Afghanistan and Afghan and Turkmen security forces.

"The Turkmen recently expressed a desire to acquire U.S. military equipment and technology to address threats to their security along their southern border with Afghanistan," said General Lloyd Austin, the commander of U.S. Central Command, in testimony to Congress in March. "We will do what we can to support those requests."

This week, Deputy Assistant Secretary State Daniel Rosenblum visited Ashgabat, and gave a press conference on November 18 where he was asked about U.S. cooperation with Turkmenistan vis-a-vis border security. "We have seen reports, some in the press and elsewhere, ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Businessmen

Welcome New Trade Ties with Kazakhstan



KABUL - Afghan businessmen on Sunday said they met with Kazakh Prime Minister Karim Massimov last week and held constructive discussions that helped resolve issues and cement trade ties.

Yunus Mohmand, the deputy head of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said that issues on expanding trade between the two countries, transit issues, the establishment of an Afghanistan bank branch in Kazakhstan, resolving visa issues for Afghan businessmen, facilitating trade to Kazakhstan and the importation of fuel and gas were discussed.

Yunus Mohmand said that the prime minister agreed to help Afghan traders by expanding trade ties and to pave the way for investment by Afghan traders in Kazakhstan.

He further added that "the meeting we had with the prime minister of Kazakhstan resolved almost all our problems including the visa issue. Meanwhile, the prime minister promised to expand trade dealings between Afghan and Kazakh traders."

According to the Afghan businessmen, Kazakhstan is interested in ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Natural Gas Prices to Go Down in Days: Rasaw

KABUL - The natural gas prices which recently moved up from AFG40/45 to AFG70 per KG in capital Kabul and provinces would go down in days, Humayoon Rasaw Minister of Commerce and Industries said.

Rasaw who was summoned to Saturday's session of the Lower House of Parliament or Wolesi Jirga said that reason behind the spike of gas prices is that foreign currency has gained more strength against AFG and there is cleaning going on in gas factories in



Turkmenistan. He said Turkmenistan's gas is comparatively cheaper for Afghanistan but its delivery

was halted because of the cleaning, adding that it would be completed in three to ...*(More on P4)...(2)*



JALALABAD - An Afghan girl whose family was displaced from Achin district of Nangarhar province due to fighting between militants of Islamic State (IS) and the Afghan security forces, sits outside a temporary shelter at an Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in Rodat district of Nangarhar province. According to UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) figures, the number of internally displaced Afghans was 683,000 by mid-2014, estimating they will amount to 900,000 by the end of 2015. (Afghanistan) EFE/EPA/GHULAMULLAH HABIBI

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