

Quote of the Day

One man with courage makes a majority.

Andrew Jackson

Ghani Promises Justice Over Taliban's Crimes Against Humanity

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said Saturday that a preliminary assessment of Kunduz city shows that the Taliban's actions against the people of Kunduz city are crimes against humanity and that those guilty will be identified and brought to justice. "Taliban and their terrorist collaborators in addition to causing fear and intimidation among the citizens of Kunduz, have resorted to extrajudicial killings of civil and military individuals and residents of Kunduz as well as torturing and harassing them". He said in a statement issued by the Presidential Palace that the Taliban has violated people's dignity and honor, resorted to rape, and set free the prisoners



most of who had been convicted of murder or violation of people's dignity and property. "They looted people's belongings and government's property, set fire to a number of government buildings including those of Radio and Television, educational and higher educational institutions, and have inflicted severe losses on the business and commerce of the people of Kunduz province," the statement read. "They have also looted the belongings and properties of United Nations offices, and other NGOs, consulates and representations of foreign countries." He went on to say that these ... (More on P4)...(1)

Germany Afghanistan Withdrawal in 2016 is Premature as Taliban Resurgent



BERLIN - The German government wants to extend its deployment in Afghanistan for one year initially, German newspaper Welt am Sonntag cited high-ranking NATO sources as saying. Although NATO has withdrawn almost all of its combat troops, it still has soldiers stationed in the country to train lo-

cal forces. Up to about 850 German troops are in Afghanistan on this mission. NATO had planned to withdraw all forces by the end of next year. "At the meeting of the NATO defence ministers in the coming week in Brussels, Berlin will suggest extending the ... (More on P4)...(2)

600 'Militants' Flee Syria, Vows to Ramp Up Bombing: Moscow



MOSCOW - Russian air strikes Saturday targeting the Islamic State group in Syria have sown "panic", forcing some 600 "militants" to abandon their positions and head to Europe, Moscow claimed. Summing up the results of Russia's first three days of strikes, a senior official with the General Staff said Russian jets had made more than 60 sorties over 50 IS targets and added that Russia would ramp up its aerial campaign. "Our intelligence shows that militants are leav-

ing areas under their control. Panic and desertion have started in their ranks," Colonel General Andrei Kartaplov, a senior Russian General Staff official, said in a statement. "Some 600 mercenaries have abandoned their positions and are trying to find their way into Europe," Kartaplov said. "Over the past three days we have managed to undermine material and technical resources of the terrorists and significantly reduce their combat potential," he added. "We ... (More on P4)...(4)

A Brutal Taliban Shows its True Colors this Past Week

KABUL - Recent actions by Taliban insurgents in Kunduz city have clearly shown how violent and brutal the group is today - compared to what they were like in the mid-1990s.

According to a number of lawmakers and members of the public, today's Taliban is not interested in joining the peace process and they show no mercy for their fellow Afghans.

They say the recent utterance by the Taliban over joining the peace talks was mere lip-service as they have no intention to do so.

"From the day Kunduz fell to Taliban until now, the people are burning in the fire," Shukria Paikan, an MP from Kunduz said. "Bodies are lying on the ground and people cannot bury them."

"What the Taliban did in Kunduz was their real face. They showed that they don't know society, they don't accept young and elderly, they don't know humanity and they are the extreme [symbol] of brutality," another lawmaker Qazi Nazir Ahmad commented.

At one stage people had hoped that the Taliban had taken a more moderate direction politically but their action this past week following ... (More on P4)...(5)

Emotions Run High in Parliament over Dand-E-Ghori Deal

KABUL - Emotions ran high in Afghanistan's Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Saturday when MPs were clearly divided over the recent signing of the controversial Dand-e-Ghori deal which prevents either Taliban or security forces from carrying out attacks or operations respectively. MPs shouted out at each - with some being in favor of the Baghlan accord and others being vehemently opposed to it.

The vocal outburst by MPs came during and after the Minister of Borders and



Tribal Affairs Gulab Mangal's speech to the House which saw him answer questions posed by the lawmakers.

A number of MPs opposed to the deal said this accord has resulted in the area becoming a Tali-

ban stronghold. According to them, the Taliban have raised their flag in Dand-e-Ghori and are fighting security forces.

However, the minister reiterated his stance that the deal was signed between government officials and tribal elders and not with the Taliban. He said this was done in a bid to improve the security situation.

"The deal was made with the ethnic elders not with the Taliban. If it has been signed with the Taliban, I am ready to resign," Mangal said, who came ... (More on P4)...(3)

Air Strike on Afghan Hospital under Investigation: Carter

WASHINGTON - U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the United States still was trying to determine how an airstrike hit a hospital run by Medecins Sans Frontieres in the Af-

ghan city of Kunduz on Saturday. "A full investigation into the tragic incident is under way in coordination with the Afghan government," Carter said in a statement.

He said the area around the hospital had been the scene of intense fighting in recent days with U.S. forces supporting Afghan Security Forces against Taliban fighters. (Reuters)

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