

Quote of the Day

Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom.
Thomas Jefferson

EU Envoy

Poor Political System Led to Fall of Kunduz

KABUL - European Union (EU) Ambassador to Afghanistan Franz-Michael Mellbin on Wednesday told TOLONews the collapse of Kunduz came as a "big surprise" to the international community and is a technical setback for the Afghan government. He said he believes that inefficiency in the political system led to the fall of the city. According to Mellbin, the Kunduz crisis is the result of an incompetent political system and not the inability of the security forces. "It was a big surprise to the international community and a technical setback to the Afghan



government and it is very important that lessons are learned from Kunduz so that in future we don't have a repeat of the situation," Mellbin said. "We are waiting for independent reports to emerge from Kunduz and I am confident that it will happen. We have also encouraged from our side the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission look into what happened in Kunduz ... What is very important is that we get a good understanding of what happened. For now we have very worrying reports. I remain deeply concerned," Mellbin added. He said: ... (More on P4)...(1)

Tajik President Meets with Putin over Afghan Situation



MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmonov on Tuesday in the Russian city of Sochi on the Black Sea. Speaking to his Tajik counterpart in front of television cameras Putin said he was concerned about the situation in the region. "We have a need to discuss the bilateral relationship and the situation in the region, which of course worries us," Putin said addressing Rakhmonov. Tajikistan is a member of the Moscow-led military bloc, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (ODKB). Talking in Sochi, Rakhmonov said his country is worried by the situation across the border with Afghanistan. "The situation is worsening daily in Afghanistan. In fact fighting is going on along more than 60 percent of the border with Tajikistan, the neighboring ... (More on P4)...(2)

Afghanistan Needs Us: Gen. Campbell

KABUL - General John Campbell on Tuesday told the US Senate Armed Services Committee that, in his opinion, the United States should maintain a presence in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future as Politico reports. The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan is recommending a change in President Barack Obama's plans of drawing down nearly all U.S. troops from Afghani-



stan by the end of 2016. Army Gen. John Campbell told a Senate panel he has given ... (More on P4)...(3)

Top UN Refugee Official Calls for Renewed Int'l Focus on Afghanistan

KABUL - The United Nations' most senior refugee official is appealing to the international community to

refocus its attention on Afghanistan, warning that it would be dangerous to ignore ... (More on P4)...(4)

Iran Supporting Illegal Afghan Refugees Impossible

TEHRAN - Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli said that Iran currently shoulders the heavy burden of supporting illegal Afghan refugees and nationals but it cannot continue the same in the long term.

Interior minister: Supporting illegal Afghan refugees impossible. In a meeting with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) António Guterres which took place on the sidelines of the 66th session of the Executive Committee (ExCom) in Geneva, he stressed the need for making arrangements for implementation of the international community and relevant institutes' commitments to contribute to sustainable repatriation of the Afghans to their country. He said adopting suitable measures to ensure security in the region, Afghanistan in ... (More on P4)...(5)

Terrorists Include Taliban and Criminals: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani for the first time announced at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday that "terrorist groups" are made up of Taliban, criminals and foreign terrorists - unlike his previous statements where he often referred to the Taliban as either brothers or political opposition. "Preliminary assessments



by intelligence agencies show that terrorist groups in Afghanistan are criminal groups, Taliban and foreign terrorists who commit unforgivable crimes on behalf of outsiders and drug smugglers," said Ghani, who has made a U-turn on his public comments regarding the Taliban and also apparently changed ... (More on P4)...(6)

Obama's Afghanistan Pullpack will Leave 'Vacuum' for Taliban: Congressman

WASHINGTON - an Iraq war veteran, said Wednesday that President Obama's plan to scale back troops in Afghanistan would leave a "vacuum" in which the Taliban will rise as the Islamic

State did in Iraq. Wenstrup, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, sent a letter to Obama Monday urging the president to maintain the current level of 9,800 U.S. troops

in Afghanistan through 2016. The letter was signed by almost two dozen Republican committee members, including Chairman Mac Thornberry (R., Texas). The ... (More on P4)...(7)

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