

Ready to End Fight if Foreign Troops Exit Guaranteed: Taliban Splinter Group

KABUL - A splinter group of the Taliban in Afghanistan has said the group is ready to end fighting if the exit of the foreign troops from the country is guaranteed. The group led by Mullah Mohammad Rasool, an arch rival of the slain Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, has said the government should guarantee the exit of foreign troops. A spokesman for the group Mullah Manan Niazi has endorsed the current system in the country, saying it is hundred percent in line with the Islamic values and is greater than the neighboring Islamic countries. He said the group is prepared to sit for peace talks with the Af-



ghan government and the process should owned and led by the Afghan people. This comes as reports emerged earlier suggesting efforts are underway to reach to an agreement between the Afghan government and the Mullah Rasool group. The leader of Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar earlier said the Taliban splinter group led by Mullah Rasool is ready to join peace process. Hekmatyar made the remarks during a video message during which he signed a landmark peace deal with the Afghan government following months of negotiations and efforts involving the Afghanistan High Peace Council. (KP)

Advisor to CEO Among 3 Wounded in Kabul Explosion

KABUL - An advisor to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) was among three people injured in a magnetic bomb blast in the Proja-i-Taimani neighbourhood of Kabul on Tuesday, an official said. The official, who wished not to be named, confided to Pajhwok Afghan News that Dr. Musa Khawrin, the advisor, and two of his bodyguards were injured in the bombing. As the source did not provide details about the condition of the injured, the 4th police district chief, Col. Sarwan Elmyar, said that the incident took place at around 10am. He added one person was injured when the bomb targeted a Hilux vehicle. An investigation into the incident was underway, he continued. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Appoints Envoy for Iran

KABUL - Taliban has reportedly formalized their relationship with Iran by appointing a representative to that country, Pakistani media reported on Tuesday. Mawlawi Nek Mohammad, head of education department in Kandahar before the toppling of the Taliban regime in 2001, is the group's envoy in Tehran, a Taliban leader said as quoted by Pakistan's The Express Tribune. "Mawlawi Nek Mohammad is a frequent visitor to Iran," he added.

"We have named envoys for several other countries, including Central Asian States, and have also increased contacts with Russia," said the Taliban leader, who requested not to be identified in the report. According to reports, the group also enjoys good relations with China and a Taliban delegation reportedly visited Beijing in July at the invitation of China. Taliban leaders are now frequent visitors to Iran as they are campaigning to find new allies, a second Taliban leader said as quoted by



The Express Tribune. A three-member Taliban military delegation, headed by military commission chief Ibrahim Sadr, visited Tehran this year in an apparent move to 'seek military aid' from Iran, the Pakistani news agency reported. ... (More on P4)... (9)

Expo Held in Balkh to Increase Sales of Local Products

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Some 100 business representatives and local government officials attended an exhibition aimed at facilitating sales of Afghan products and acquaint manufacturing companies with products and services available in the capital of northern Balkh province. Participants included representatives from the Provincial Governor's Office, departments of Economy, Women's Affairs, and Commerce and Industries, the Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the Industrialists Union, the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA), and small and medium enterprises. Sponsored by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the expo was an opportu-

nity for Afghan manufacturing companies to exhibit their products, learn about one another and network with government offices that work with the manufacturing sector, the agency said in a statement. The USAID Assistance in Building Afghanistan by Developing Enterprises (ABADE) organized the expo, in part, because local businesses were reaching out to other provinces or even abroad to obtain products or services that actually were available in Mazar-i-Sharif. Speaking at the event, Ahmad Wali Sangar, Economic Development Specialist in Provincial Governor's Office, said: "ABADE is a very useful and effective program whose support to the growth of Afghan small ... (More on P4)... (10)

Child Rescued, 3 Kidnappers Detained in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - child was rescued as three individuals involved in his abduction were arrested by intelligent officials in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Tuesday. Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News intelligent agents arrested the kidnappers during a special operation.

The child was kidnapped from the 7th police district of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar, three days ago. The detainees from Khogyani district had confessed to their crime, the spokesman added. Mohammad Ishaq, father of the child, thanked the intelligent personnel for rescuing his son. (Pajhwok)

2,000 Jawzjan Residents up in Arms Against Taliban

SHIBERGHAN - As many as 2,000 civilians on Tuesday declared their support for Afghan security forces and picked up arms against insurgents in northern Jawzjan province. The 2,000 residents hailing from Moradyan, Khanqa, Mangajak, Faizabad and Aqcha districts attended a gathering here, saying civilians would no more remain silent and would take

steps against insurgents. Mullah Mohammad Faqir, a resident from Faizabad district and a participant of the gathering, said residents were forced into rising in arms against Taliban to defend and secure people's lives. "Taliban severely torture and oppress our people and I myself took a weapon against them to protect and secure my people and preserve a secure environment."



Alti, a resident of Mangajak, said Taliban killed two of his innocent brothers who had a broom shop and lived their lives peacefully. He also joined the armed campaign against insurgents and would fight ... (More on P4)... (11)

Would-be Suicide Bomber Arrested in Parwan: NDS



KABUL - A would-be suicide bomber, planning an attack in the capital of central Parwan province, has been detained, the spy service said on Tuesday. A statement from the National Directorate of Security (NDS) said Mohammad Khan, who planned to carry out a suicide attack in Charikar, was arrested before he reached his target. Khan was directed by a Taliban commander, Maulvi Manaf, to target government officials with an explosives-rigged motorcycle, the intelligence agency said. Separately, a depot of weapons belonging to the Taliban was discovered in the Kishkatan village on the outskirts of the capital of central Kapisa province. The arms dump contained three Kalashnikovs, eight hand grenades, 12,000 bullets and two military uniforms. The statement did not give any date. (Pajhwok)

Taliban Fail to Reach Goals in Helmand: Qahraman

LASHKARGAH - President special envoy for security in Helmand Abdul Jabar Qahraman on Tuesday said the Taliban had been unable to reach their targets in the southern province despite the conflict was planned on regional level. Addressing a gathering at the police training academy in Lashkargah, the provincial capital, Qahraman said the Tali-

ban captured many areas in Helmand over the past one year, but they were unable to reach their main targets. "The Taliban wanted to capture Helmand, a goal they could not reach, so we have won the war in Helmand, not lost," said the former lawmaker, who claimed the conflict in Helmand had been planned on regional level. "It was a big fight

which was planned on regional level. The armed opposition was tasked with destabilizing the strategically important province, but Afghan forces did not let them do so." Qahraman said the conflict had worried local residents but security forces were making all efforts to maintain security. He said a new recruit ... (More on P4)... (12)

70 Taliban Fighters Killed in Farah Airstrikes

KABUL - At least 70 Taliban militants were killed in airstrikes carried out by U.S forces in Farah province on Monday night, said Hassan Shah Frogh, commander of 606 Ansar Police Zone in Farah. He said that over 30 insurgents were wounded in the airstrikes. According to him, a number of explosives, weapons' cache and vehicles related to the insurgents were also destroyed as a result of the airstrikes. He said their military operation will continue to target insurgents' hideouts. Meanwhile, NATO's Resolute Support mission confirmed the airstrikes, saying they were carried out to help Af-

ghan forces in their military operation against insurgents. "We can confirm that on 17 Oct, U.S forces conducted multiple airstrikes in Farah district, Farah province and four airstrikes in Bakwah district, Farah province in defense of friendly forces. While we can't discuss all of the details of the operations, we can confirm that B52s were not used. Because we are supporting the ANDSF in their ongoing efforts to secure Farah, we refer you to the GIROA for additional details on those operations," said Brigadier General Charles Cleveland, Deputy Chief of Staff for Communication, Resolute Support. (Tolonews)

51 Taliban Killed in Helmand: Officials



LASHKARGAH - At least 51 Taliban insurgents including their three commanders were killed in Helmand province on Monday, Helmand media office said in a statement. According to the statement the Taliban were killed in Afghan security forces ground and air operations in Bashran area of Lashkargah city and parts of Garmser district of Helmand province. During the operations 12 Taliban vehicles, six motorcycles and weapons were destroyed. Recently Taliban insurgents intensified their attacks in Helmand, Farah, Uruzgan, Baghlan and Kunduz provinces, but the Taliban has sustained heavy casualties during military operations. (Tolonews)

Abdullah Office Denies Dostum Injured in Faryab

KABUL - The Office Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on Monday rejected as 'untrue' injuring of First Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum during an operation against militants in northern Faryab province. Earlier in the day, CEO Abdullah Abdullah told a Cabinet meeting he presided over that Dostum had been slightly injured during yesterday's fight. But CEO spokesman Javed Faisal said Abdul-



lah's statement was based on preliminary information, but when he spoke to Dostum in person it was revealed Dostum had not been injured. General Dostum is cur ... (More on P4)... (14)

2 Killed in an Assault on Parwan Wedding Ceremony

CHARIKAR - Unidentified gunmen attacked a wedding ceremony, killing two people and wounding a third in central Parwan province, a resident said on Tuesday. The gunmen attacked the ceremony in Abdi Bai area of Charikar last night. A brother of the bodyguard of Wolesi Jirga member Haji Almas and one of the attackers were killed and another bodyguard was injured. Resident Fitratsad two attackers fled the area while

the body of the slain assailant lay at the Parwan Central Hospital. Abdul Qasim Sangin, a physician at the Parwan hospital, said one dead body and one wounded person were brought to the hospital last night. The injured is in stable health condition. One resident, who wanted to go unnamed, revealed the deceased and the injured were the groom's brothers. He confirmed that one of the ... (More on P4)... (15)

8 Insurgents Killed, Over a Dozen Wounded in Jawzjan Clash

SHIBERGHAN - Eight Taliban insurgents were killed and at least 13 others injured in a clash with security forces in the Darzab district of northern Jawzjan province, local authorities said. Governor Rahmatullah Hashar told Pajhwok Afghan News around 350 insurgents attacked a police check-point in the Sardara village of the district on Monday night. The insurgents fled the area after eight of them

were killed and 13 others wounded in return fire from the security personnel. One policeman injured in the clash was in stable condition, the Hashar explained: "Bismillah and eight others, former militants who were ostensibly fighting against the Taliban as part of an uprising group, have rejoined the insurgents with their weapons." Security was stable in the area in the wake of the

gunbattle and the security forces were trying to strengthen their checkpoints in the area, the governor continued. Resident Muhammad Hasansaid Bismillah, formerly a member of Mufti Niamatullah's group, had joined the peace process along with 220 other Taliban two years ago. "Bismillah was fighting against the Taliban as a member of the uprising group in Sardara village. ... (More on P4)... (16)