

Quote of the Day

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything. **George Bernard Shaw**

Afghanistan Never Begg Peace from Taliban: Ghani

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has warned Taliban that his Government will never supplicate peace, saying the Taliban dream will never come true that I will do so.

He also pointed that in case of ending war the Afghanistan's economy will grow quadruple, saying we are ready to launch reformation, and will not listen the voices of those who are demanding \$ billions of dollars. Further he went on and urged that fighting corruption is still my priority, demanding the people to cooperate on ensuring stability and peace in the country. President Ghani said, "We didn't want war, peace is my desire, Afghans don't compromise peace, if



someone thinks that I beg for peace and stability his dream will never come true." He also stated that Afghanistan had \$400 million deficit, he believes that I should be prevent the incomes of the country going into those who insulted reformation. "I will implement the Nation desires, I demand the Afghans to stay with the Government, I will not care about the care about the screaming of those who will not gain \$ billions of dollars anymore President Ghani during his speech said." President Ghani also said, "if the war ends the Afghanistan economy will grow quadruple." President Ghani during his first days of Presidency has pushed through to bring Taliban behind the peace table, but his efforts seems to be failed. (Monitoring desk)

Some Elements Fearful of Reform Agenda: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani Friday said that certain circles of powerful and corrupt elements are hampering the reform process as they do not believe it will be in their own interests.

The president renewed his commitment to the Afghan public and said that government will continue with its reform policy and that promises will be met.

Ghani reiterated that government will not surrender to wayward individuals and lawbreakers.

"People do not want corruption and injustice, people do not want waywardness, the people want a government that serves and I am the first servant," said Ghani.

He went on to say that certain circles exploit the uncertainties in the country for their personal interests.

"Our problem is corruption, our problem is the lack of commitment, our problem is not taking the time seriously, our problem is the culture of being a boss and not serving," said Ghani, noting that the existence of powerful elements has overshadowed efforts for governance and reforms.

"Reform is in the interests of people, only a tiny minority thinks that reform is against their interests," Ghani added. "Stability is not supposed to come from the gun, the stability comes from sacrifices and unity between the people, but I want to inform you that those who make a noise, because they are no longer able to make billions of dollars, I do not concentrate on their noise," said Ghani.

Regarding the peace process Ghani said that Afghans do not ask for peace by pleading.

"The Afghans do not make peace with pleading and supplication, anyone who feels that the president of Afghanistan reaches peace by pleading and supplication, he will take his desire to the grave," said Ghani.

The president's remarks come at a time that the performance after two years of National Unity Government (NUG), under Ghani and his Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, is already under scrutiny by the Afghan people - with the majority accusing NUG leaders of failing to deliver on pre and post-campaign promises. (Tolonews)

195 Pilots, Engineers Graduate from Air University



KABUL - Ninety pilots, including a female and 105 aircraft engineers have graduated from the National Air University in Kabul, an official said on Thursday. The graduated individuals received their course completion certificates from Maj. Gen. Mohammad Nabi Ahmadzai, high studies and training commander of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), during a ceremony in the university campus situated in Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. He said the country's air forces suffered huge losses during decades of war and conflict in the country and it was also ignored. (More on P4)...(1)

Pakistan Eyes Enhanced Trade Links with Afghanistan

PESHAWAR - Despite bilateral tensions with the landlocked neighbour, Pakistan has evinced a keen interest in boosting trade and commerce links with Afghanistan.

Pakistan had initiated a track-II trade relationship with Afghanistan, Pakistani Federal Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastagir Khan said during a visit to the Torkham border on Thursday. Customs and National Logistics Cell officials, as well Khyber Political Agent Khalid Mehmood briefed the minister on trade between the two countries and the history of the tribal region.

"Pakistan also desires to strengthen trade relations with Central Asian countries. The only way we can realise this goal is through Afghanistan," the minister concluded. (Pajhwok)

Provincial Budget Allocation Plan on the Brussels Summit Agenda

BRUSSELS - The role of local institutions in the allocation of budgets is one of the key commitments of the Afghan government to its international partners - an issue that will come under scrutiny next month at the Brussels Summit.

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) Thursday said it had defined a plan in this respect and referred it to cabinet on the basis of which provincial governors will have a role in allocating budgets.

The Afghan cabinet has approved the plan, however a number of governors said that the plan so far has not been implemented.

Despite the endorsement of the plan by cabinet, governors on Thursday raised their concerns over its non-implementation. "We will report on the reforms and income and budget. (More on P4)...(3)

Dostum Breaks Silence, Blasts Ghani for Power Concentration

KABUL - First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum on Thursday hit out at President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani for centralising the power and warned to take final decision about his future in a grand gathering.

Addressing a crowd of his supporters in his Kabul residence, Dostum said the president kept all powers with him and apologised to his followers for not materialising the pledges he made with them during election campaign.

"I want to talk to the people in details. I am the son of a farmer, lived my life in a village and worked in the field, but now I cannot resolve the problems of my people. Some ask me why you don't go to the office. What will I do there when I have no power and my signa-



ture has no impact," said the first Vice-President.

Dostum claimed Ghani enjoyed power to appoint heads of nine independent commissions, district chiefs, provincial police chiefs and chiefs of police districts. He questioned, was it justice? The head of Jumbish po-

litical party and former defence minister said in line with constitutions the power of decision making at council of ministers, and security institutions should be with the vice president but currently the National Security Council (NSC) was responsible for it. (More on P4)...(2)

US Calls Haqqani Network a Threat to South Asian Region

KABUL - The Haqqani network and other terrorist groups in Pakistan and along the Afghanistan border pose a continued security threat to the entire South Asian region and beyond, the US alleges.

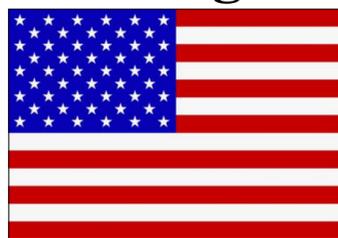
A trilateral dialogue of the United States, India and Afghanistan in New York next month would be a way forward for deciding Afghanistan's future, State Department spokesman John Kirby told a news briefing on Tuesday.

He tended to reject the suggestion that Secretary of State John Kerry and Defence Secretary Ash Carter were divided on Pakistan's role in the US-led

campaign against the scourge of terrorism.

Earlier in the week, Secretary Kerry said Pakistan had taken strong action against the Haqqani network in recent months. But Carter refused to certify that Pakistan had done enough to counter the network. His refusal led to the suspension of \$300 million of US military aid to Pakistan.

Kirby remarked: "We all recognise the continued security threat that is posed by the Haqqani network and other terrorist groups that operate inside Pakistan and



along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan."

He added the Pentagon was aware of that and the US continued to discuss the issue with its allies in the region. "I'm not aware that there's any dissonance here in terms of the way we're seeing it." (Pajhwok)

WFP Committed to Food Security for All Afghans

KABUL - The Executive Director of the World Food Program (WFP), Ertharin Cousin, wrapped up a four-day visit to Kabul today, declaring the organization's commitment to continue working for the food and nutrition security of all Afghans.

"Afghanistan faces many challenges, including meeting the emergency food assistance needs of those recently uprooted. WFP works to ensure all Afghans have access to sufficient, nutri-

tious food," said Cousin.

"Our team will continue working in partnership with the government, other UN agencies and NGOs, to improve food security and nutrition for millions of Afghan people".

She said that while WFP had reached almost 2 million of the most food insecure Afghans with food and cash assistance since January 2016, the organization needed US\$50 million in donor funding to reach. (More on P4)...(4)

Bring Home Your Investments, Ghani Asks Traders

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Friday said Afghan entrepreneurs have invested more than 28 billion dollars of working capital in Dubai and Pakistan alone. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony for a key housing scheme in Kabul, Ghani urged the businessmen to bring home their investments for Afghanistan's reconstruction.

He also renewed the national unity government's strong commitment to fighting the scourge of corruption and called for the transfer of investments to

the country.

Ghani underlined the importance of private-sector investments, asking Afghan businessmen to play an effective role in strengthening the country's economy and ameliorating the lot of their compatriots.

While referring to the housing problem, he said the government was determined to sort out the issue and provide the required land on priority. "We are all public servants and I am the first one." (Pajhwok)



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