

Quote of the Day

The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.

Leo Tolstoy

Unity Govt. to Justify Every Penny: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has said the unity government besides honouring promises with the Afghans and international partners is up for accountability of every signal penny for the sake of transparency in its affairs.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said the president met with Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) Stefano Maservisi late on Saturday.

The meeting discussed preparations for the upcoming Brussels Summit to be co-hosted by the Afghan govern-



ment and the EU and regional cooperation, the statement said.

The Brussels conference will gather up to 70 countries and 30 international organizations and agencies and will provide a platform for the government of Afghanistan to set out its vision and track record on reform. For the international community, it will be the opportunity to signal sustained political and financial support to Afghan people.

Maservisi said the Brussels conference had special importance with regard to international assistance, partnership and stability in Afghanistan and the focus of international promises with the Kabul administration. ...*(More on P4)...*(1)

Women's Role in Peace Process to be Reviewed



KABUL - The National Unity Government (NUG) leaders will once again pledge to include women in the peace process when they attend next month's Brussels Summit on Afghanistan. The High Peace Council has said they are in support of this and that women can play an effective role in the process.

However, institutions defending women's rights said women have so far just had a symbolic role in the process and are not involved on a serious level.

The NUG will deliver its plan for involving women in peace talks at the summit next month. But the question has been raised over what role will women play in the process.

Ismail Qasimyar, spokesman for the High Peace Council said: "Women play an effective role in peace talks. For instance, the deputy of the council was present in talks with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and she shared her views clearly."

But, Fawzia Kofi, head of parliament's Women's Affairs Commission has blasted government for not appointing talented women in decision making processes.

Kofi said: "At Brussels Summit the issues of women and the economy and international aid for the improvement of women's situations will be discussed. But unfortunately the women who will participate at the summit are not aware of the situations faced by ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

Kabul Police Accused of Withholding info from Media



KABUL - A number of organizations in support of the media in Afghanistan on Sunday accused the Kabul police of hiding details of terrorist and crime incidents in the city.

Reports indicate that police have in the past week prevented the media from covering a number of incidents.

According to reports, incidents of crime have increased sharply in the capital over the past few weeks - with the latest shooting incident in Karte Parwan on Saturday, which left three wounded.

However, reports indicate that police warned eyewitnesses against speaking to the media - threatening them with arrest. The media supporting organizations said this act by police is against the law of access to information and that they want government to tackle the institutions that are hiding information from the media.

"It is against the law, whether it is committed by the Kabul police chief, the Interior Ministry or by Mr. [Mohammad Hanif] Atmar [National Security Advisor]," said Mujib Khalwatgar, chief executive officer of Nai - an organization supporting open media in Afghanistan.

The Kabul police have however rejected the allegations, and said that they have not imposed censorship on media outlets.

"Those who are not responsible should not provide information, those that lack the authority should not give out information, because they will not provide the information properly," said Kabul Police Chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior said access to information was the right of the people and that they will investigate the matter.

"Access to information is the right of the people, but if this has happened, it should be probed," said Najib Danish deputy spokesman for the Interior Ministry. *(Tolonews)*

Reaching Goals Needs International Assistance: CEO

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Sunday said Afghanistan needed international community's assistance to execute government's programmes for economic growth.

Abdullah was addressing the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB)'s special meeting on Brussels Conference to be jointly hosted by the Afghan government and the European Union in the Belgium capital on October 4-5.

The Brussels conference will gather up to 70 countries and 30 international organizations and agencies and will provide a platform for the government of Afghanistan to set out its vision and track record on reform. For the international community, it will be the opportunity to signal sustained political and financial support to Afghan people. Abdullah said there were both challenges and opportunities and the Afghan government was trying to take advantage of the opportunities and about ...*(More on P4)...*(2)



Afghan Leaders Prepare for Brussels Summit

KABUL - To review preparations one month ahead of the key Brussels Summit on Afghanistan, diplomats, international organizations, civil society and the private sector met Sunday at the Presidential Palace in Kabul with senior leaders of the Afghan Government.

The meeting, a special session of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board, was co-chaired by Minister of Finance Eklil Hakimi and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto.

In his opening remarks, President Ashraf Ghani said: "Today you will be hearing from our government about how the reform agenda that we presented in London in December of 2014 is turning into practical actions that are beginning to change the lives of our people."

The Afghan National Peace and Development Framework (ANDPF), the President said, defines the challenge as one of overcoming institutional fragmentation.

"Our government is meeting its commitments to the international community to fight corruption, to improve gender equity, and to advance on the road toward self-reliance through economic growth," he stressed.

"Our country needs to see and hear that its Government is uniting around the causes of justice for the poor and education for its children."

Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi, echoing the president, said that the theme of the meeting was self-reliance. "As we look forward to the Brussels Conference, our task here today is to

show what we intend to do to keep Afghanistan steady on the road to self-reliance," he said.

"The ANPDF sets the stage for the next steps in our journey towards self-reliance. It's a goal I know we all share." Led by Hakimi and the Minister of Economy Abdul Hadi Arghandehwal, a panel presented government's new development strategy to the assembled participants.

In addition, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyred and the Disabled Nasrin Oryakhil spoke about government's plans for promoting economic empowerment for women, and the Minister of Commerce and Industry Homayoun Rasa, Minister of Energy and Water Ali Ahmad Osmani, and Presidential Advisor Dr. Homayoun Qayoumi described government's plans to ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

Hekmatyar's Party Close to Final Declaration on Peace Deal with Govt: Sources

KABUL - Sources close to Hezb-e-Islami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar have said the party is close to a final declaration on peace deal with the Afghan government.

The sources have told RFE that the negotiations regarding the peace deal have concluded and preparations are underway for a final declaration.

A spokesman for the High Peace Council of Afghanistan Mohammad Amin Muzafari has also said they expect to conclude the peace deal with Hezb-e-Islami.

He said a peace agreement containing 25 articles has been prepared with the mediation of High Peace Council. This comes reports emerged earlier suggesting that the party has issued new impossi-



ble-to-meet demands to sign a peace agreement with the Afghan government.

According to the reports, the new demands included cancellation of pacts with the United States, a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign troops and that it be signed by a new government.

The new demands were made as Hekmatyar had earlier said he has changed his conditions for peace process with the Afghan government by stepping back from his ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

Troops Failing on Battlefields Due to 'Poor Training'

KABUL - The director general of the Afghan National Army (ANA) Training Academy said security force members are being killed on the battlefields and losing regions to insurgents due to the lack of decent training.

Attending the graduation ceremony in Kabul on Sunday of almost 1,300 recruits, who were trained in various fields, some officials from the Ministry of Defense (MoD) put the high death toll among soldiers and the failure to eliminate insurgents down to the issue of training.

Farooq Ahmadi, general director of the ANA training academy said: "All the casualties, problems, shortages and loss of equipment to the insurgents are rooted in weak training within the ANA."

Recent reports indicated that currently over 10 districts are under Taliban control. However, MoD officials state that only five districts are in fact under insurgent control. They said these districts are not strategically important to government.

Brigadier General, Abdul Hamid Hamid, Executive Officer of the ANA, said the Taliban is on the verge of being eliminated and that districts under their control do not have political importance to the ANA. Hamid said: "Services are ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

Naderi Presents Robust Urban National Priority Programme at Special JCMB Meeting

KABUL - The Minister of Urban Development and Housing Syed Sadat Mansoor Naderi presented a comprehensive Urban National Priority Programme (U-NPP) at the Special Meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) on Brussels Conference on Afghanistan.

Prepared in coordination with all urban stakeholders, the Urban National Prior-

ity Programme's process included engagements by more than 20 government and public entities. According to U-NPP the stakeholders participating in the regional workshops included 2,155 CDCs, NGOs, the private sector, women and youth, with female participants forming 32%. Minister further added that U-NPP has been organized ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

Safi Airways Operations Suspended Due to AFN 1.15 Billion Outstanding Debts

KABUL - The operations of a major airline in Afghanistan, Safi Airways, was suspended due to a large outstanding debt and taxes payable by the airline, the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority (ACAA) said Sunday.

According to a statement by Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority (ACAA), the decision to suspend the operations of the airline was taken by the Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan. The statement further add-



ed that the airline has an outstanding debt payable amounting to AFN 1,152,774,691.

The Civil Aviation Authority said the outstanding debts are

payable as per the tax declarations of the company for the solar year 1390 to 1393.

The airline did not take any step to clear the outstanding debts ...*(More on P4)...*(7)



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