

## Quote of the Day

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

John F. Kennedy

### President Barack Obama

# Terrorism Threats Remain in Region, Also in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama addressed a variety of national security topics during his live multimedia Worldwide Troop Talk at Fort Meade in the United States on Friday and said that despite their continued war against terrorism significant threats from terrorist organizations persist in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and North Africa.

In a U.S. Department of Defense report, Obama said: "We've done an incredible job in going after and systematically dismantling the core al-Qaida network that was operating primarily in the Fatah region be-



tween Afghanistan and Pakistan." But he said radical violent extremism has "metastasized" and spread to other areas. He noted that currently Daesh has settled in Syria as "ground zero" for violence, which he said calls for U.S. presence and air domination.

"We are pounding [Daesh] every single day," Obama said. "Our airmen are doing extraordinary work with the support of all the other service branches, and we're providing training, assistance and support to the Iraqi security forces on the ground, ... (More on P4)...(1)

### IDB Pledges Fresh Aid to Afghanistan

KABUL - The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) announced Friday that it's working jointly with the Afghan government on a four-year plan aimed at providing assistance to boost the agriculture sector in the war-hit country.

The IDB officials said that the bank was willing to provide long-term Islamic development loans to Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan government.

Underlining the factors playing a key role in Afghanistan's economic growth, IDB officials said that the Afghan economy was vastly relying on agriculture, a key point that motivates IDB to con-



sider fresh financial aid to Afghanistan.

"Besides agricultural development, there is a need to establish more industries and agricultural products should be raised to a level to compete in the market," Said Aqa, deputy chairman of IDB told TOLONews on Friday. He said on the request of Afghan ... (More on P4)...(2)

### India to Help Treat 4,000 Afghan Kids with VSD

KABUL - The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) on Saturday said 4,000 Afghan children with a hole in the heart called Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) would be treated over the next five years with support from India.

A contract worth \$5 million was signed between Indian Ambassador to Kabul Amar Sinha and ARCS chairperson Fatima Gilani. After signing the contract, Fatima said VSD was a serious disease in Afghanistan, but was common in many Asian countries.

She thanked the Indian government for its support in the treatment of children suffering from VSD, saying that they had also encouraged hajj pilgrims to contribute at least 1000 afghanis each to the ARCS fund in this regard. Under the agreement, India ... (More on P4)...(5)

### Current Peace Mechanism Requires Reform: Ghani

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said that the current peace mechanism in the country requires reform.

While talking to local elders from Kandahar, Zabol, Uruzgan, Helmand, Nimroz and Farah provinces in Presidential Palace, President Ghani said that the environment in Afghanistan has changed. He said most countries have confirmed our stance for peace as rightful, adding that Mullah Omar's death has brought changes in the situation.

President Ghani further said that a national consensus is required in order to



bring potential reforms in the current mechanism of peace process. At the end of the meeting, President Ghani requested these elders ... (More on P4)...(4)

### MPs Split over E-NIC, Blame Foreigners for Delay

KABUL - Legislators in parliament on Saturday said if government has reservations about the census law in relation to the identity card process it should refer it to the Wolesi Jirga so that the legislative body can consider necessary amendments.

Parliament speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy referred to the concerns that exist amongst

the legislators about the persistent delay of the roll out of the national electronic identity cards (e-NIC) and said that there was no ... (More on P4)...(6)



### Senior Officials Behind Insecurity: MPs

KABUL - Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) members on Saturday pointed fingers at some government ministers, governors and local security officials who they accuse of being party to the insecurity in the provinces, claiming these officials support not only the Taliban but Daesh as well.

The MPs said that Taliban



and Daesh insurgents are being transferred between provinces with the help of officials. ... (More on P4)...(3)

### Sacked AISA Employees Burn Academic Documents



KABUL - Sacked staff members of the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) on Saturday set alight their educational documents during a protest demonstration in Kabul, alleging they had been removed illegally.

Numbered around 50, the protesters were chanting "death to Mohammad Qurban Haqjo" the AISA's ... (More on P4)...(7)

### Massoud Insists on E-University Entrance Test System



KABUL - President's special representative for reforms and good governance Ahmad Zia Massoud on Saturday said the low level higher education's curriculum created problems for the recruitment of newly-graduated university students.

During a meeting with Ministry of Higher Education officials here, Massoud asked the ministry to work ... (More on P4)...(8)

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