

Quote of the Day

A problem well stated is a problem half solved.

Charles F. Kettering

Take Action against All Terror Groups, US Asks Pakistan

PESHAWAR - The United States has renewed its call for the Pakistani military to disrupt all terrorist networks as part of the ongoing offensive in its tribal badlands near the Afghanistan border.

While underlining the need for action against the insurgent outfits, a top US diplomat on Tuesday suggested the US remained concerned at the Haqqani network's presence in Pakistan.

US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Jarrett Blanc told a group of journalists in Islamabad: "We have been very clear with the government of Pakistan that terrorist networks, who launch attacks from here, need to be disrupted."

Blanc, concluding his visit to Kabul and Islamabad, said the US expected Pakistani security forces would not discriminate among militants and go after all those threatening security in the region.



Hopeful about the revival of the Afghan reconciliation process, he believed the dialogue would resume soon. "We are absolutely hopeful that the process can be resumed. It is for Taliban to decide on talking to their government."

Hours earlier, the Taliban announced Mullah Omar's family had pledged allegiance to the movement's new chief, Mullah Akhtar Mansour. The envoy indicated the Taliban would decide on talks with the Afghan government after ending the transition process.

Blanc insisted the resumption of dialogue depends on the Taliban, saying all stakeholders, ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Promoting SMEs for Economic Growth



KABUL - Mohammad Qurban Haqqo head of Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) said on Wednesday that economic growth, reducing the trade deficit, creating job opportunities and increasing exports in the country are dependent on the support of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Speaking at the start of a two-day conference on SMEs at Karwan University in Kabul, AISA officials said that in the past 14 years no attention has been paid to the value or development of such enterprises.

Haqqo said that small and medium enterprises are critical to the country's economy and that support in terms of loans, tax breaks and other initiatives should be implemented to help develop the sector.

In addition, he said Afghanistan's trade deficit ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

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Planned UN General Assembly Seen as Key Platform for Afghanistan



KABUL - Experts believe that the upcoming session of the United Nations' General Assembly will be a perfect opportunity for Afghanistan to lodge its concerns over Pa-

kistan. Afghan experts told TOLONews on Wednesday that Pakistan's interference in Afghanistan and its undeclared war in the country should ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Iran to Help Upgrade Scientific Know-How for Afghan Archeologists

TEHRAN - Head of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Research Center said on Monday that Iran is willing to upgrade scientific know-how of Afghanistan archeologists and welcomes their presence in Iranian research studies.

Iran to help upgrade scientific know-how for Afghan archeologists Mohammad Beheshti made the remarks in a meeting with a delegation from Afghanistan including head of Afghanistan Archeology Research Center and professors from Kabul University.

He said that participation of Afghan experts in archeological ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's adviser to the prime minister on foreign affairs and national security Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday informed the Senate that efforts were being made for the resumption of peace talks between the Afghan Taliban and the Afghan government, local media reported.

Aziz said the announcement about Mullah Omar's death had caused the suspension



of the talks. He stated that now Mullah Omar's son, Mullah Yaqub, had himself confirmed that

his father had never left Afghanistan, had died of tuberculosis and hepatitis and was buried in Afghanistan, reported Pakistan's Dawn News.

"Mullah Omar's son has confirmed that his father had died and was buried in Afghanistan," said the adviser. Aziz also strongly rejected reports that Mullah Omar had died in Pakistan and ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Efforts Underway to Revive Peace Talks: Aziz

MUDA Minister Attracting More Russian Investment in Afghanistan

KABUL - Sayed Sadat Mansour Naderi, the Minister of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA) and Housing leading a government delegation has left to Moscow to convince more Russian investment and discuss the practical steps of the agreements already made between the two countries over housing projects in Afghanistan. Naderi has met with Russia's special envoy to Afghanistan ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Mullah Omar's Family Pledges Allegiance to Mansour

KABUL - Taliban's late supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar's family has pledged allegiance to the group's new chief, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, ending a bitter succession dispute.

Omar's brother Mullah Abdul Manan and son Yaqoob pledged their allegiance to Mansour during a meeting, the Taliban said in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement did not say when and where the meeting took place, but added Masour ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Changes to Election System will be Disastrous: IEC

KABUL - As efforts to reform the electoral system gather momentum, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) on Wednesday warned that any changes to the election law could be detrimental to the people of Afghanistan. "We think that bringing changes to the election law under the current situation will be disastrous to the ...*(More on P4)...(6)*



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