

Quote of the Day

Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.
Nikita Khrushchev

President Barack Obama Al Qaeda Core Dismantled in Af-Pak Border Region

WASHINGTON - US President Barack Obama has said the international military alliance has made significant progress in war-torn Afghanistan. But despite the progress made, he said, it was still critically important for thousands of trainers and advisers supporting the Afghan military efforts there. America's combat role in Afghanistan was over, but the world had to make sure the Afghans were getting the kind of assistance they needed, he stressed.



In a conversation with US troops

deployed around the world, the president claimed they had done an incredible job in dismantling the core Al Qaeda network in Pakistan's tribal region. A transcript from the Department of Defence quoted Obama as saying: "They (Al Qaeda) still pose a threat, but it is much diminished." In 2011 when US commandos were ordered to raid Osama Bin Laden's residence in Abbottabad, Obama said he was only half sure the most wanted man was hiding there. (Pajhwok)

New Line Organisation

Mass Youth Migration Most Pressing Concern

KABUL - Expressing concerns about the mass migration of Afghan youth, the New Line Organisation (NLO) on Thursday accused the government of negligence to create job opportunities for them. Fahim Sediqi, NLO director, told journalists here that illegal migration of youth to foreign countries had increased alarmingly what he said was a major concern for civil society organisations in the country. Sediqi accused the government of indifference in this regard, saying his organisation was working on a plan to prevent the problem and would submit it to the government. He said they would also incorporate views from civil society activists, political and media elites in their plan. He said their suggestions included reporting the consequences of illegal migrations and the creation of a committee comprising representatives from three relevant ministries in coordination with civil society organisations and the UN to find ways. NLO also suggested that the government should limit the number of foreign employees in companies and other organisations and provide more employment opportunities... (More on P4)...(1)

UK Envoy World Firm on Fighting Daesh in Afghanistan

KABUL - British ambassador to Afghanistan Karen Pierce said on Thursday that the United Kingdom and the international community remains committed to fighting Daesh in Afghanistan - particularly as Daesh poses a significant threat to international peace. In an interview with TOLOnews, Pierce reaffirmed her country's commitment to fighting Daesh in a bid to eliminate them completely. She emphasized the fact



international partners were intent on destroying the group. Pierce also touched on issues of corruption currently facing... (More on P4)...(4)

Security Situation in South Remains Fragile: MP

KANDAHAR CITY - A lawmaker on Thursday said security in southern provinces remained fragile due to rivalries between government officials and lack of coordination among security forces. Hamidzai Lalai, a Wolesi Jirga member from Kandahar, was talking to reporters on his return from an official trip to southern Zabul, central Uruzgan and southern Helmand provinces. He said he traveled to these provinces in order to strengthen coordination among local officials, provincial councils, the Wolesi Jirga and the central government. He said the security situation of Kandahar province was better compared to Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul provinces, where some... (More on P4)...(2)

President Orders Amendments to Income Tax Law

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has ordered amendments to the income tax law in order to resolve financial problems of the country, officials said on Thursday. During Wednesday's cabinet meeting, chaired by Ghani, a 13-article procedure for the import of vehicles without documents was approved. Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi highlighted the challenges to industrialists. Seeking to address the challenges, a draft law prepared by the



ministry was approved. Finance and justice ministries were tasked with amending the income tax law and presenting their

proposals in this regard, a statement from Cabinet Secretariat said. The issue of computerised passports, raised by Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, was also discussed. Foreign, finance and interior ministers were directed to evaluate the project and send a final draft to the Presidential Palace, the statement added. Rabbani said the International Civil Aviation Organisation... (More on P4)...(3)

UN Envoy Stresses Need for Int'l Support for Afghanistan



KABUL - Afghanistan continues to need the sustained support of the international community as its stability cannot be taken for granted, said Nicholas Haysom, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, in a briefing

to the Security Council on Friday. Noting that the people of Afghanistan are facing what the UN envoy called "an opaque future," and are keenly monitoring their environment for signs of international dis... (More on P4)...(5)

Islamabad to Taliban: Shun Terror, Return to Talks

PESHAWAR - Islamabad on Thursday asked the Taliban's new leadership to shun the insurgency and return to reconciliation talks with the national unity government in Kabul. A Foreign Office spokesman told a weekly media briefing in Islamabad reaffirmed Pakistan's willingness to facilitate the peace dialogue. He hoped the group would shun violence. A second round of the Pakistan-brokered peace talks were postponed in the wake of disclosure of Taliban su-



preme leader Mullah Omar's death in late July. Subsequent attacks in Kabul strained relations between the neighbours. Qazi Khalidullah, the foreign ministry spokesman acknowledged the crunch issue between the two countries was to restore confidence that was eroded due to recent events. "Peace in Afghanistan is important not only for the people of that country but also for... (More on P4)...(6)

MEC Govt. Fails to Prioritise Anti-Graft Struggle

KABUL - The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) on Thursday said the unity government was yet to include the anti-corruption struggle in its priorities. At a press conference here, MEC head Rashid Behroz

said they had submitted many recommendations to the unity government, but they were not incorporated in the 100-day action plans of ministries and independent government institutions. The 100-day action plan programme was initiated by President... (More on P4)...(7)

Envoy Tehran Backs UN Efforts to Reconstruct Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshroo underlined Tehran's strong support for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) as well as the UN agencies in their efforts to provide development and reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan. "Tehran will continue its full support for the promotion of security, stability and comprehensive and sustainable development in Afghani-

stan through strong bilateral relations as well within UNAMA, since the security in Afghanistan is the security of Iran's borders and the region," Khoshroo said in a statement... (More on P4)...(8)

Noor Follows Gen. Dostum in Leading Military Operations in North

MAZAR - The acting provincial governor of northern Balkh province Ata Mohammad Noor has followed the First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid in leading military operations against the militant groups in northern parts of Afghanistan. The operations were conducted in different parts of northern Balkh, Jawzjan and Sar-e-Pul provinces of Afghanistan, according to the



provincial government media office. The operations were jointly conducted by the Afghan National Police, National Directorate of Security (NDS), Afghan national Army, Afghan Police Special Operations... (More on P4)...(9)

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