HPC Useless in Current Circumstances: Deputy CEO

KABUL - The first deputy chief executive officer on Saturday said there was no need for the High Peace Council (HPC) in the current circumstances.

Eng. Mohammad Ali Khan said the HPC had no importance in the ongoing peace efforts. The HPC had no function, he said.

He said the body had not been involved in the ongoing peace efforts nor it was aware about details from the latest contacts in this regard.

The deputy CEO said President Ashraf Ghani was taking forward the peace bid through his special representatives.

Khan said the HPC had no importance in the ongoing peace efforts. The HPC - More on P4.

Nimroz IDPs Demand More Aid, Assistance

The residents on Saturday welcomed the construction of a cultural centre in the central Bamyan province, hoping it would help bring theatre performances, local music, and guests in the form of short films by Bamyan youth.

Asadullah Rahmati, head of the centre, said their wish was to be a bridge and coordinator between local cultural, civil society and other artistic organizations.

There is more than 30 cultural organizations function in Bamyan province, but they have been marred by lack of coordination. We all of us should bring these organizations together for exchange of knowledge and experience and boost the cultural life of the country - More on P6.

Czech Airborne Unit Decorated for Afghan Service

Specialists spent four months training Afghan troops in helicopters

SAB-PUL, CITY - Some 20 service activists held a protest rally against growing insecurity, demanding security forces to bolster law and order in the province.

The protesters demanded Immediate release of 33 abducted passengers and asked the government to arrest all those who had punished perpetrators involved in Farahkund serial killing.

Azim Rasool, one of the protesters, said security situation in Sar-e-Pul has been deteriorating in which path the provincial government is also responsible. It has been almost two months

Nangarhar Residents Demand Appointment of Governor

The residents in eastern Laghman province on April 11.

Hazrat Ali, a Wireless Engineer member of the inhabitants of 32 passengers in the province, is not coming to our province, he said.

It has been almost two months

Khost Local Councils Play Vital Role in Education Boost

KUNDUZ CITY - As many as 250 local councils have been established in six districts of northern Kunduz province to support the education process, an official said.

Education Director Mohammad Zaheer Nazim said the councils had an effective role in promotion of education in the war-affected province in recent years. Despite clashes, schools were functional and students attending classes, he added.

He said Pajhwok Afghan News the councils spear-headed by tribal elders and locals had been tasked with ensuring security for schools in their respective areas and encouraging children towards education.

Around 50 to 60 local councils in each district have been established in each district to support education.

The council members confirmed their role in promotion of education and security for schools was important. Enhar Gai, one of the council members from Dasht-i-Archi district, said their locality was insecure and there was the possibility of attacks on schools anytime.

Gai Khan Zaynal, the principal of Jamil Mohammad Shabab High School in .(More on P6)

Six Camp Pendleton Marines Receive Medals for Bravery in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - Six Marines from a Camp Pendleton-based special operations battalion received medals for bravery during a prolonged firefight in Afghanistan in 2012.

Gunny Sgt. Brian Jacklin, 32, a native of Los Angeles, received the Navy Cross for "bold initiative and complete dedication to duty." The Navy Cross is the second-highest decoration for combat heroism to the Medal of Honor.

Receiving the Bronze Star were: Gunny Sgt. William Simpson IV, Staff Sgt. Christopher Backhaus, Staff Sgt. Hafeez Hussain, Sgt. William Hall, and Sgt. David Harris. The five displayed "courage and gallantry."

All were part of the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion assigned to the Taliban stronghold of Helmand province.

The unit was consisting the Army in clearing a village in the Upper Narcopul Valley when Taliban fighters attacked, according to the Marine Corps.

With 32 houses wounded, Jacklin took command, led a counter-attack and helped his team move through open terrain.

In one scene for a U.S. helicopter, Jacklin rammed his vehicle against lethal grenades at the gate.

When his unit was relieved by another special operations unit, Jacklin stayed behind to provide intelligence and additional fire support.

"Nothing is more awe-inspiring than to look on the faces of fellow operators surrounded by death [and see] the casual smile of confidence as they acknowledge that things will be what they will be. If this is how we die, let's do it right and die with our legacy," Jacklin told a gathering of guests and awards at the award ceremonies at Camp Pendleton. Jacklin was on his second deployment to Afghanistan, after three to Iraq. (Agencies)

Cultural Centre Inaugurated in Bamyan

BAMYAN - The residents on Saturday welcomed the construction of a cultural centre in the central Bamyan province, hoping it would help bring theatre performances, local music, and guests in the form of short films by Bamyan youth.

Asadullah Rahmati, head of the centre, said their wish was to be a bridge and coordinator between local cultural, civil society and other artistic organizations.

There is more than 30 cultural organizations function in Bamyan province, but they have been marred by lack of coordination. We all of us should bring these organizations together for exchange of knowledge and experience and boost the cultural life of the country - More on P6.

Dubbed Afghan Service Cross of Merit in the Third Class, the decoration for combat heroism was bestowed on Captain Christopher Backhaus, Staff Sgt. Hafeez Hussain, Sgt. William Hall, and Sgt. David Harris. The five displayed "courage and gallantry."

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