Russia Role Imperative in Ensuring Afghanistan’s Security: NATO

MOSCOW - NATO officials said Afghanistan severely needs regional cooperation for ensuring security, adding that Russia can play effective role alongside NATO in this regard.

Having good neighborhood relations and regional cooperation is imperative to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan, the NATO officials further said, adding we are committed to be alongside Russia and use any means to reach this goal.

In his recent visit to Russia, Mohammad Hamid Atmar, the Afghan National Security Advisor (NSA) asked the country to cooperate with Afghanistan in fighting terrorism groups, particularly IS group and Daesh.

Mohammad Atmar, a Russian senior diplomat, Zami Kabulov said, ‘Afghanistan has experienced more than three decades of war and political instability, as the radical extremist groups, particularly the Taliban and Daesh are still targeting the civilians, sometimes even women, therefore, Russia is ready to jointly work with NATO on rehabilitation of combat projects in Afghanistan.’

Calling Russia’s role and support effective in peace negotiations, a number of experts said the Central Asian countries, such as Afghanistan has badly affected by terrorism, thus, Russia should cooperate with Afghanistan in fighting terrorism.

An MP, Mirdad Nejrabi said, ‘peace would never ensue, unless the regional countries willing to honestly cooperate with Afghanistan and, in fact, ensuring peace in Afghanistan directly links to stability in region and the world.’

Finance Ministry Outlines Plan to Reform Sector

KARABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) Saturday announced the approval of the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) document which is aimed to reform government’s finance sector and increase national income and revenue.

Once reforms are brought in government institutions, the national income will be increased, said Minister of Finance Abid Hakimi.

Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani has said that the establishment of the Public Financial Management System was a milestone in implementing reforms in the financial sector in the country. The PFMS outlined by government is aimed at managing national budget allocation on the basis of national needs, execution of projects and helping the budget unit report on their spending with clarity and transparency.

Ghani said that every government institution is responsible for implementing the... (More on P.:0)

Over 60% of Pakia Schools without Buildings

PATTIA - Local officials in Pattia said Saturday that more than 65 percent of schools in the province are without buildings and that they will be closed if the problem persists.

Paktia’s elected Education Director Lopahin Hadi- m said that a lack of textbooks and professional teachers are other challenges that the province has to deal with.

“We distributed textbooks for students but they were not enough. Now we are faced with a lack of textbooks,” Hadi said.

Meanwhile, Pakia deputy government Abdul Walid Samhi called on the Education Ministry to address the situation. “We have already informed the ministry about the problem. The governor’s office... (More on Patia-08)

Helmand War Rages As Battles Spread to Outskirts of Capital

LASHKARGAH - A battles continued in the third day in Helmand province on Saturday, affecting the provincial council of the area.

They said that several areas in the province have collapsed to the Taliban over the past few weeks and that the fighting is taking a heavy toll on security forces.

"They (Talibans) fight in groups, including guerrilla war, they can not be deployed in certain areas," said HImamul-Rahman Radmanesh, deputy spokesman of the ministry of defense. At the same time, rumors have surfaced that the Taliban has cordon off the Kandahar-Lashkargah highway. “The Army and other forces are deployed over there, but the coordination between these forces is not good, drug smuggling and an intelligence war are other issues,” said one... (More on P.:10)

AHRAM Voices Concern at Abuses of Children’s Rights

KARAL - A human rights organization on Saturday expressed deep concern over the deteriorating situation of women and children alleging their basic rights were violated.

Rehena Raswar, speaking for the Afghanistan Human Rights Action and Mobilization (AHRAM), insisted human rights, particularly the rights of women and children, were being sporadically. Speaking, exclusive to Passawarkh, Afghan Nusratkhaye AHRAM official noted the harrowing incidents of violence against Balkhshana, Zhai, Farah, and many other in individuals. She lamented cutting off parts of children’s and women’s bodies, tortures, illegal court trials, social customs and other issues contrib- 
buted to a spike violations of their rights. About AHRAM, she said the project was aimed to eradicate activities of human rights activists, and ensure access to information about violence... (More on P.:10-14)

Indian Pledges Greater Role in Bamyan’s Reconstruction

BAMYAN - The Indian ambassador to Afghanistan, during a visit to central Bamyan province, has said his country will take part in the reconstruction of the province.

Mamoot Vohra on Friday travelled to Bamyan, where he visited some reconstruction projects, including Hijaziq Iron Mine.

He said that a plan for the construction of a 14-kilo meter road to Bamiyan-Anabar Dam and gravelling of another three kilometres road, suggested by local people, will be currently under reconstruction.

India-funded projects in Bamyan show its desire to forge cordial and cooperative relations with Afghanistan. India wants to play an active role in the reconstruction of Bamyan... (More on P.:06)

UN Envoy Commends Offensive in Pakistan’s Tribal Region

PESHAWAR - The top UN envoy in Afghanistan has appreciated an ongoing military offensive in Pakistan’s volatile tribal region of Waziristan, the military’s media wing said.

At a meeting with Chief of Army Staff General Ra- hib Shinjali on Friday, the UN chief’s special rep- resentative commended the sacrifices of Pakistani security forces for peace and stability in the region.

Codenamed Operation Zarib-Azab, the offensive has led to clearing large swaths of the strategic region of insurgents, Pakistan claims, pledging to continue with the military actions.

Ambassador Tadzidni Yamamoto called on Gen. Sharif at the General Headquarters in the garrison town of Rawalpindi... (More on P.:05-06)

Takhar, Kunduz Clashes Displace Thousands of People

TALIBAN - Continued fighting between the army and the Taliban in northern Afghanistan has forced as many as 3,000 families to leave their homes in some districts of northern Takhar and Kunduz provinces, an official said Sunday.

Sayed Mortaza Hamidzad, head of refugee and repatriation department forTakhar, told Pajhwok that 3,000 people, were in need of food, water and other materials. Jannishah, the resident Nazimkhanoz-ri area in Kunduz district, they left their... (More on P.:06-07)