

## Quote of the Day

Words without actions  
are the assassins of idealism.

Herbert Hoover (1874 - 1964)

# Russia Role Imperative in Ensuring Afghanistan's Security: NATO

MOSCOW - NATO officials said Afghanistan severely needs regional cooperation for ensuring security and stability and 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 Hanif Atmar, the Afghan National Security Advisor (NSA) asked the country to cooperate with Afghanistan in fighting terrorist groups, particularly IS group and also training of the Afghan air force.

Meanwhile, a Russian senior diplomat, Zamir Kabulov said, 'Afghanistan has ex-



perienced more than three decades of war and political instability, as the radical extremist groups, particularly the Taliban and Daesh are still targeting the civilians somehow, therefore, Russia is ready to jointly work with NATO on rehabilitation of common 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 ensure, 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.' ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

## Indian Pledges Greater Role in Bamyān's Reconstruction



BAMYAN CITY - The Indian ambassador to Afghanistan, during a visit to central Bamyān province, has said his country will take part in the reconstruction of the impoverished province. Manpreet Vohra on Friday travelled to Bamyān, where he visited some reconstruction projects, including Hajigak Iron Mine.

He said that a plan for the construction of a 14 kilometers road to Band-i-Amir Dam and graveling of another three kilometres road, suggested by local people, was currently under review.

"India-funded projects in Bamyān show its desire to forge cordial and cooperative relations with Afghans. India wants to play an active role in the reconstruction of Bamyān ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

## Atmar Off to Iran to Discuss Security Situation



KABUL - National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar has traveled to the Islamic Republic of Iran on a two-day official visit, a statement from the National Security Council (NSC) said on Saturday. With his Iranian counterpart Atmar would discuss wide range of security issues, including situation at the border between the two countries, the statement said. Fight against terrorism, halt of poppy cultivation and drug trafficking and bringing stability to the border areas would be the other topics of discussion between Atmar and Iranian National Security advisor Ali Shamkhani.

New measures would be talked about during the meeting to improve situation ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

## Govt, Hizb-E-Islami Expected to Resume Talks

KABUL - Ghairat Baheer, head of the political wing of Hizb-e-Islami, said Saturday that a four-member delegation from Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) is expected to arrive in Kabul with a few days to resume peace talks with the Afghan government.

This comes after initial rounds of talks hit a deadlock in June reportedly over certain demands tabled by the militant group.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's High Peace Council (HPC) has said that the draft peace accord with Hizb-e-Islami has been finalized. They said they hope the accord will be signed by both parties.

"The negotiations will be resumed from the point it had stopped; we hope that these talks yield an outcome and the accord is finalized," said Baheer. "We believe that the ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

## Over 60% of Paktia Schools without Buildings

PAKTIA - Local officials in Paktia 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 acting Education Director Luqman Hakimi 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," Hakimi added.

Meanwhile, Paktia deputy governor Abdul Wali Sahmi called on the Education Ministry to address the challenges, adding that they have already informed the ministry about the problem. "The governor's office ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Finance Ministry Outlines Plan to Reform Sector

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) Saturday announced the approval of the Public Financial Management Reform (PFMR) document which is aimed to reform government's financial sector and increase national income and revenue.

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

Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani has said that the establishment of the Public Financial Management Strategy was a milestone in implementing



reforms in the financial sector in the country.

The PFMR outlined by government is aimed at managing national budget allocations on the basis of national needs, execution of

projects and helping the budgetary units report on their spending with clarity and transparency.

Ghani said that every government institution is responsible for implementing the ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

## Helmand War Rages As Battles Spread to Outskirts of Capital

LASHKARGAH - As battles continue raging in the war-hit southern province of Helmand, some lawmakers on Saturday blasted provincial authorities for what they called a lack of coordination between security forces.

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 (Taliban) fight in groups including guerrilla war, they can not be deployed in a certain location forever," said Mohammad Radmanish, deputy spokesman of the ministry of



defense. At the same time, rumors have surfaced that the Taliban has cordoned 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, ISI (Pakistani) ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

## Govt. to form 'Special Unit' to Stop Illegal Mining

FAIZABAD - Local officials in Badakhshan said Saturday that a 'special unit' will be formed in a bid to stop illegal mining in the province - particularly the illicit extraction of lapis lazuli.

"During my visit to Kabul, I talked with President Ashraf Ghani about the increase in illegal extraction of lapis lazuli by powerful figures [in Badakhshan]. He [the

president] decided to establish a special unit in order to ensure the security of Badakhshan's mines," Badakhshan governor Faisal Begzad said.

Meanwhile, the provincial council of Badakhshan welcomed the move by government and said Afghanistan will soon become a self-reliant country if its mineral resources are used legally. ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## AHRAM Voices Concern at Abuses of Children's Rights

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

Rohena Bawar, speaking for the Afghanistan Human Rights Action and Mobilization (AHRAM), insisted human rights, particularly the rights of women and children, were being spurned consistently.

Speaking exclusively to Pajhwok Afghan News, the AHRAM official recalled the harrowing incidents of violence against Rukhshana, Zahara, Farkhunda and many other in-



dividuals. She lamented cutting off parts of children and women's bodies, torture, illegal court trials, social customs and other issues contributed to a spike violations of their

rights. About AHRAM, she said the project was aimed to organize activities of human rights activists, and ensure access to information about violence ...*(More on P4)...(11)*



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