KAREL - President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday stressed national unity and patience to have a strong leadership, saying Afghanistan as a country led by arbitrary actions and democracy also did not mean ‘everything is mine’. The president expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Afghan youth parliament in Kabul. His speech comes as the Afghan youth leadership comes three days after Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah criticized President Ghani’s policy and said he was going to express his difference with Ghani publicly.

“Some unqualified pledges of the national unity government agreement such as concerning a Loya Jirga, attending the Constitution and the creation to post of a prime minister to replace the executive directorate and introduced a new format have not been implemented so far. The CEO also expressed concern about the president’s behavior with ministries and said Ghani did not meet him during the past few months. However, addressing the youth parliament, the president did not mention Abdullah’s statement, but said, “Democracy does not mean everything would be solved to the interest of a particular person, this country is not someone’s personal asset, but it is the country of lions.” “If you say ‘I’m the only best one’ and I also say the same thing, then none of us could be winners, but if we praise each other it would value itself,” he added. Ghani added the Afghan nation even in worst situations did not raise voice about divinities because they were strong and supported unity in the country.

He asked the youth to listen to the demands of Afghan people and work for resolving their problems. “Those who say it should be people’s collective identity to change what we are, expressing the people and leadership is a heavy responsibility, people’s judgment is always fair and we must hear their voices,” he said. Speaking to (More on P4)...

17 Villages under Taliban ‘Control’ in Baharak, Badakhshan

FAZABAD - Badakhshan official said Sunday that about 37 villages in Baharak district are under Taliban control and that insurgents are demanding usher (illegal taxes) from the locals. Security officials in the province have warned that if government does not clear the district of Taliban, Baharak’s security will be threatened. The district governor Samul- lah Ahq said that Taliban are located about two kilometers from the center of the district. In the meeting, those leaders of Badakhshan representatives informed government have voiced their concerns regarding the security situation and have also urged government to take urgent action. The governor told the meeting, it is reported that the Taliban is gaining ground on a daily basis and that it is expanding its control. Ahq said: “Taliban exist in Baharak villages and is making life difficult for the people. Approximately 17 villages are under Taliban control. They freely walk in the region and hurt people, teachers, especially Tahsil’s said Pakistanis Agha, a commander of public uprising forces in Baharak. Baharak police confirm that Taliban are active in the district, but said they are planning to launch an operation against them.

“Four villages are under Taliban control in Baharak near borders with Warkak district, when the operation is started those villages will be cleared of Taliban”, said Mr. Agha to the Baharak police department.

Satulah Mandas, an MP for Badakhshan said: “Local security forces are unable to take back the occupied villages by Taliban. Central government needs to take serious action to retake the fallen regions from the Taliban. A big operation was started one month ago for the retaking of Warkak district and is losing gold mines in the province, but security forces here now they did not achieved anything”.

Abdullah may Declare New Stance As Rift with Ghani Deepens

KAREL - The rift between the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah is scheduled to announce his new position and new leadership. The Associated Press reported that Abdullah had ordered without consulting his chief executive. After Abdullah’s criticism, the Presidential Palace respond to replace the executive directorate and introduce a new format have not been implemented so far. The CEO also expressed concern about the president’s behavior with ministries and said Ghani did not meet him during the past few months. However, addressing the youth parliament, the president did not mention Abdullah’s statement, but said, “Democracy does not mean everything would be solved to the interest of a particular person, this country is not someone’s personal asset, but it is the country of lions.” “If you say ‘I’m the only best one’ and I also say the same thing, then none of us could be winners, but if we praise each other it would value itself,” he added. Ghani added the Afghan nation even in worst situations did not raise voice about divinities because they were strong and supported unity in the country.

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AGO Committed to Fighting Corruption: Hamidi

KAREL - Attorney General Hamidi on Sunday said the Corruption Justice Task Force (TJF) would be a powerful and independent body to curb corruption in the country and wage a real fight against the menace from the country. He said this while addressing a gathering on the second round of reforms in the Attorney General Office (AGO), introduction of his two deputies and another five officers at the top prosecution offices.

Hamidi said the AGO would look into corruption cases and would try to eliminate the menace from the country along with discharging other responsibilities. (More on P4)

Investments Fall as Afghanistan Prepares to Brussels Summit

KAREL - in government preparations to attend the Brussels Summit, as figures presented by Afghanistan Invest ment Support Agency (AISA) indicate that investments have decreased considerably in Afghanistan since the establishment of the National Unity Government (NUG) in 2014. AISA officials said there has been a 90 percent fall in the registration of new companies for investment during this period. Figures show by AISA reveal that at least $1 billion USD was invested in the country over the past two years while according to the registration, this amount was over $2.2 billion USD during the same period under the previous (More on P4).

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