Ghani Committed to Implementing NUG Agreement

KABUL – President Ashraf Ghani met with the head of Executive Office Abdullah Abdullah on Thursday evening to sort out disagreements, the CEO’s office said. Ghani has repeatedly insisted that the national unity government (NUG) agreement must be implemented and that they should work together in the interest of the nation.

The CEO’s office said that at the meeting, which was the second such get-together, Ghani shared his viewpoints about the situation presented by Abdullah and that Abdullah will present his views with his political affiliate.

Oral Musam, spokesman for the

NATO Acknowledges Presence on Afghan Battlefield

KABUL – The NATO mission, acknowledging its presence on the battlefield, has confirmed an uptick in fighting over the last month in Afghanistan, specifically in Helmand and Kunduz province.

“The heart of the fighting season,” a US general in Afghanistan told Pentagon press corps on Thursday. “We have absolutely been expecting that this is really when the Taliban were going to try and make their larger campaign.

On average, Brig. General Charles Cleveland said from Kabul, NATO probably had somebody out every day on the battlefield, has confirmed an uptick in fighting over the last month in Afghanistan, specifically in Helmand and Kunduz province.

Fierce Fighting Underway in Jalalabad District

KABUL – Insurgents are infiltrating the capital, raising questions over how the security forces have been able to contain the fighting in the city.

“Security officials are responsible for containing the infiltration of terrorists,” a political analyst.

Military analysts and MPs have said that security officials, especially Kabul police department, must explain to the people how insurgents enter the city with impunity and lack of control.

Questions Raised over how Insurgents Infiltrate Capital

KABUL – Members of the public, analysts and MPs have asked security forces, especially Kabul police department, to consider the people’s panic.

Are the security forces working? Are they asleep or do Kabul police not have any control over the city? These are the questions that analysts and MPs are asking as insurgents continue to target the city.

Yesterday the National Security Council convened a meeting with the Interior Minister about the need to strengthen the council to ensure that security forces are able to contain the infiltration of terrorists into Kabul.

China Launches its First Cargo Train to Afghanistan

KARUL – China launched its first cargo train to Afghanistan on Friday, officials have reported.

The train went from Nantong City, east of China’s Jiangsu Province, to Hazarajat, a border town and port in the north of Balkh province of Afghanistan.

It is China’s first cargo train service to Afghanistan and it takes about 15 days passing through Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan before arriving Hazarajat.

Afghanistan Receives 4 New Light Aircraft from US

KABUL – The Afghan Air Force (AAF) received four new light attack helicopters from the United States on Thursday as efforts are underway to boost the capabilities of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF).

The delivery of the four new MD-500 Cayuse Warrior helicopters on Thursday brings the number of the total helicopters delivered to the Afghan Air Force to 27. The last 12 helicopters were modified to support 27-inch rocket capability and added the improved sighting systems.

Brussels Summit to Scrutinize Govt’s Economic Strategy

KARUL – As part of the economic development commitments to the international community, the Afghan government established the high council of economy, with the prime minister presiding over the body.

The aim of this council is to find solutions to problems facing the national economy and the private sector — which will be among the top priorities of discussion at the Board of the Brussels Summit.

Every month, the high economic council convenes a meeting to evaluate topics on its agenda. However, the private sector says that they have not been held implementing the program.

According to the private sector, the lack of capacity within the government institutions in real sense undermines the capacity of the council to implement its programs.

Economic Strategy

The new commission will need to implement ahead of the summit and said government must take practical steps towards reforms.

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US, Pakistan Discuss Afghan Reconciliation Drive

PESHAWAR – Top Obama administration officials and Pakistani diplomats have conferred on regional security, including efforts for promoting reconciliation in Afghanistan.

US Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Olson, Special Assistant to President Obama, Dr. Pervaiz Lavoy and Compromiser of Resolute Support Mission Gen John Nicholson visited Islamabad on Thursday.

In a meeting with Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry, Dr. Lavoy expressed Pakistan’s resolve to allow anyone to use the land against any country.

The US delegation also met Chief of Army Staff Gen Qasim to discuss regional security issues and a mechanism for the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

KABUL – The Taliban have stepped up their attacks in Kunduz and Takhar in a move that highlights the group’s capability to expand the area of operations beyond the east and south of the country by escalating coordinated efforts.

The security forces are to be supported by the local police headquarters and a number of checkpoints before being arrested.