

Quote of the Day

We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible.

Vince Lombardi

Ghani Issues New Combat Orders to Curb Civilian Casualties

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has issued fresh combat orders to government officials, particularly the security forces, in an effort to curb civilian casualties in the ongoing war.

President Ghani made the remarks during a special meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) on Friday, asking the Afghan defense and security institutions to work jointly with the United Nations (UN) in Kabul and probe the civilian death toll in the country.

In a statement, the presidential palace said the government was considering an inclusive plan containing reassessment of the procedures during the military operations, combat order and support for war victims.

The decision comes just a few weeks after deadly suicide bombings hit



major Afghan cities particularly the nation's capital Kabul in which dozens of Afghan civilians including women

and children were killed and hundred others were wounded. "In the meeting of security council,

president as supreme commander of the armed forces instructed the defense and security forces to take initiative in the battle field and prevent civilian casualties," deputy presidential spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi said. The Afghan government is considering new military war principles at a time that casualties among Afghan citizens is still on the rise which many blame on the Taliban.

Controversy surrounds recent civilian deaths in Afghanistan after the new Taliban leadership declared all-out war against the Afghan government and foreign forces in the country following the death of Taliban's reclusive leader Mullah Omar's death.

Apparently, the recent spate of security threats and Taliban suicide attacks and destructive ... (More on P4)...(1)

Ghani Not Satisfied With 4 Ministers' Work: Source



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani, not satisfied with the job of four ministers, has warned them to be fired if they fail to improve their performances, a source in the Presidential Palace said on Saturday.

The source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told Pajhwok Afghan News President Ghani

had started evaluating progress with regard to the first 100-day action plans of ministers and meeting ministers on a daily basis over the last few days.

He did not go into details, but said Ghani had so far evaluated the performance of many ministers, a process ongoing. Zafar ... (More on P4)...(2)

CEO Set to Receive Suggestions on Electoral Reforms



KABUL - The Election Reform Commission (ERC) would submit public suggestions with regard to reform in the electoral system to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Saturday.

ERC Deputy Chairman Sadiqullah Tawhidi told Pajhwok Afghan News the suggestion would be submitted to the CEO who would transfer it to President Ashraf Ghani.

The Commission's head Shah Sultan Akefi earlier said the ERC had collected views of as many as 1,500 people in

seven zones of the country.

The ERC had said the government was committed to introduce drastic reforms to the electoral system to ensure free, fair and transparent ballot.

The commission has formally begun getting suggestions from political parties, civil society organizations, women rights activist and international stakeholders regarding reforms to the electoral system.

Earlier, the electoral reforms commission reassured to evaluate all conditions for which ... (More on P4)...(5)

New Kabul Bank not Functioning Efficiently: IWA

KABUL - The Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) on Saturday said their investigations suggested that the New Kabul Bank lost \$65 million in the past six years.

The IWA Head Sayed Akram Afzali told reporters the semi government bank was in miserable condition as it could not improve after it was hit by financial crisis.

He said incompetent administration, irresponsible attitude of officials especially in the centre and at the Ministry of Finance (MoF) ... (More on P4)...(3)

India Rejects to Revive Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan

NEW DELHI - India has turned down another invitation from Afghanistan to hold a meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) which may revive the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in 2011, said local media Saturday.

The local daily The Hindu quoted diplomatic sources at the highest level as saying that New Delhi has conveyed its inability to hold the meeting that would be



chaired by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Afghan counterpart Salahuddin Rabbani "due to prior commitments."

New Delhi has also conveyed that Swaraj will

not attend the upcoming Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) in Kabul on Sept. 3 - 4, and instead Sujata Mehta, Secretary of Multilateral and Economic Relations, will represent India at the conference, said the report. But India's low-level attendance at the RECCA may not affect relations given India's 2.3 billion U.S. dollars commitment of aid to Afghanistan, ... (More on P4)...(4)

Kabul Asks Islamabad to Treat Taliban as it Would its own Enemies

KABUL - Kabul on Saturday called on Islamabad to treat insurgents in its country the same as it would treat its own enemies and act against those who declare war on Afghanistan.

The Afghan president's deputy spokesman, Sayed Zafar



Hashemi reiterated that Kabul's stance towards Islamabad has changed and is clear, and that Pakistan should fulfill promises it has made to Afghanistan in the past.

"We want insurgency to be defined as it is done in Pakistan. ... (More on P4)...(6)

Iran's Services to Afghan Refugees Admirable

TEHRAN - The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that Iran's services to Afghan refugees are admirable.

UN official: Iran's services to Afghan refugees admirable Pedro Commissario Afonso

made the remarks on the sidelines of visit to Torbat-e-Jam city on Saturday.

He said that the agency has reached agreement with Iran concerning insurance coverage for foreign refugees, under which those vulnerable emigrants ... (More on P4)...(7)

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