Russia Favors Dialogue with Taliban: Lavrov

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at an event in India on Monday said an inclusive political dialogue for peace in Afghanistan should include the Taliban and other regional countries, the Hindustan Times reported.

"We are ready to start a dialogue with the Taliban," Lavrov said. However, he added that the Taliban must be willing to negotiate and abandon violence.

Incidents of Human Rights Violations up by 15pc in Eastern Zone

JALALABAD - Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission (IHRRC) officials say more than 400 complaints of human rights violations have been registered in the eastern zone this year.

The commissioner's branch for the eastern zone expressed concern at security organs failing to initiate action to arrest human rights violators — something that further aggravated the problem. Emmadullah Lanza, AHRC supervisor for the eastern zone, told Pajhwok Afghan News that most of the human rights violation cases filed this year concerned violence against women.

He said human rights violations had increased by 15 percent over last year. The main reasons behind the surge included ineffective law enforcement and lack of government writ in many areas.

Although significant changes had been made in judicial organs, police and other security forces failed to arrest human rights violators or bring them to justice, Lanza added.

Salena Hamidi, AHRC head for the eastern zone, confirmed sécuric organs' lax approach to dealing with human rights violators.

She accused the security organs of releasing ... (More on P4)...

NATO Prolongs Chief Stoltenberg’s Term for 2 More Years

KANDAHAR - A visiting High Peace Council (HPC) delegation on Tuesday said the government would agree to every mechanism the Taliban suggest for reviving the stalled peace talks to find a negotiated end to the conflict in Afghanistan.

Addressing a gathering at a think-tank event in India, the American strategy of defeating extrem-ism and terrorism in Afghanistan was not viable as the mili-
tary method of the last 15 years had not reduced violence in the country.

"You cannot resolve the situation without having everybody on board and around the table. The government of Afghanistan, the Taliban, and those who can influence the situation, including neighbours who feel the bad influence of what is going on in Afghanistan should have a political solution," said Lavrov urging for a broad-based discussion covering all sides from the region and Central Asia.

He also slammed reported US allegations that Russia had been open to unconditional talks with the Taliban and had been helping the group with arms.

"Nazar over there any proof or fact that Russia sup-
ported the Taliban or armed the Taliban as alluded by some Ameri-
can officials. We have... (More on P4)..."...

New Envoy Vows to Attract Turkish Investment

KABUL - New Turkish ambassador for Afghani-
tan has promised to persuade Turkish compa-
nies to invest in Afghanistan, a statement from the Presi-
dential Palace said on Tuesday.

The newly-appointed Turkish envoy presented his credentials to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, which he accepted and bestowed hospita-
lity on the envoy.

The envoy said Ankara would remain committed to Attract Turkish Investment...

Chinese, Russian FM Meet on Cooperation, Regional Integration

NEW DELHI - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov vowed to maintain the high-level Multilateral Comparativ-

ative Strategic Partnership of Coordination and proactive cooperation within the Shanghai Coop-

eration Organization (SCO).

At their meeting on the sidelines of the 15th relat-
tional meeting of foreign ministers of China, Rus-

sia, India and Mongolia, Wang said China and Russia have been firmly supporting each other on issues of core interests, closely cooperating with each other on international affairs, and actively contributing to the establishment of a new type of international relations.

"We expect all politicians, including He
lmatyar, to encourage people towards unity and harmony," said one senator Lailuma Ahmadi.

"In the face of current circumstances in the coun-
try, these statements... (More on P4)..."...

NATO prolongs Secretary-General’s term two years

KABUL - The Independent Election Commis-
sion (IEC) has again called on the government to step up efforts to appoint the head of the election management body and加速 the pace of making eminent elections for not doing so.

Responding to the IEC allegations, the presi-
dential spokesman said the government is commit-
ted to paving the way for the elections to be held and pick someone as IEC, mouth as soon as possible.

"The government is committed that elections be held on time. Nec-

cessary measures have been taken regarding election security and its

financing. The appointment of the head of the commission will take place in terms of the law," said deputy presidential spokesman Dons

Khan.

"The plan has been sent to government and ministry of finance to secure the budget for the process," added Sayed.

The elections... (More on P4)..."...

Nato promotes diplomacy over force

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday said the alliance would continue promoting diplomacy over force.

"Let us not forget the Afghan people," the secre-
tary general said.

"Let us not engage in senseless war. Let us engage in diplomacy, let us engage in dialogue. Let us talk to the Taliban, let us talk to the people of Afghanistan," Stoltenberg said.

"We have to stop this war, we have to bring peace to Afghanistan," he added.

"Let us not forget the Afghan people. Let us not forget the Afghan women and children. Let us not forget..."...

China, Russia call for Afghan peace

The Chinese and Russian foreign ministers met in India on Tuesday to discuss ways to promote cooperation in the region.

"We need to continue our cooperation in the region. We need to continue our dialogue with each other on international affairs, and actively contribute to the establishment of a new type of international relations," said Wang.

"We are committed to maintaining a high-level Multilateral Comparative Strategic Partnership of Coordination and proactive cooperation within..."...

Quote of the Day

“We improve ourselves by victories over ourselves. There must be contests, and you must win.”

Edward Gibbon (1737 - 1794)