Ghani Issues New Orders to Act Against Terror Groups in Nangarhar

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has instructed the Ministry of Defense (MoD) to take strict measures against the terror groups in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. The provincial government media office in Nangarhar in a statement said President Ghani in his meeting with the leaders of Khogyani district has said that the ministry of defense has been instructed to clear Khogyani and all other parts of Nangarhar from the presence of ISIS militants. The latest instruction by President Ghani to the ministry of defense to act against the terror groups has been issued amid ongoing operations in the restive districts of Nangarhar. Nangarhar has been among the relatively calm provinces in eastern Afghanistan but the anti-government armed militant groups including the ISIS loyalists have been attempting to expand their foothold in this province during the recent years.

In the... (More on P4)...(2)

Afghan Forces Receive HIMARS Support During the Counter-Terrorism Operations

KABUL - Ministry of Finance Ehsal Hakimi and ADB Deputy Country Director Ms. Shanny Campbell signed the agreements in the presence of President, cabinet members and MPs.

“Roads are an integral part of the government’s development agenda. The construction of road networks helps the government achieve its aim of a connected Afghanistan,” Hakimi said. However, he added, substantial economic benefits from roads could not be sustained without adequate maintenance, which helped keep the network in good condition. For that purpose, the ADB signed a financial agreement with the Ministry of Finance to support the construction of a 151-kilometer reliable transport sector as an important pillar for Afghanistan to continue its economic development. She hoped the two projects signed today would improve the quality and efficiency of road transport services, facilitate regional connectivity and promote inclusive economic growth.

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In the... (More on P4)...(4)

India Most Reliable Regional Partner of Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - Pentagon has told the US Congress that India is Afghanistan’s most reliable regional partner and the largest contributor of development assistance in the region. The United States Defense Department has welcomed additional economic, medical and civilian support from New Delhi to Afghanistan and has told the US Congress that India is Afghanistan’s “most reliable regional partner”. India is Afghanistan’s most reliable regional partner and the largest contributor of development assistance in the region, said the Pentagon in its report to the Congress titled “Expenditure Stability and Security in Afghanistan”.

This assistance includes civil development projects such as the Afghanistan India Friendship Dam and the Afghan parliament building, Times of India said in a report.

68pc Satisfied with Charikar Municipal Services: IWA

KABUL - Forty to 60 percent of people are satisfied with municipal services in Charikar, Herat City, Mazara-Sharif, Jalalabad, Bamyan City, Mahmol Raqi, Kunduz City, Kabul and Garkh. The level of public satisfaction with municipal services was assessed in a recent survey by the Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA), which interviewed more than 4,000 people aged 18 years or above.

IWA Director Sayed Iram Afzali announced the results of the survey at a press conference here in Kabul on Saturday. Public satisfaction with the Charikar Municipality was at 60 percent. Similarly, 52 percent of respondents were satisfied with the performance of the Herat Municipality and 44 percent with Mazara-e-Sharif, he said.

People’s contentment with the Jalalabad Municipality stood at 39 percent, 30 percent with Bamyan, 34 percent with Mahmol Raqi, 50 percent with Kunduz, 47 percent with Kabul and 40 percent with Garkh.

In the top three provinces, the level of people’s satisfaction was high with services such as control and standardisation of construction of buildings, bus terminals, solid-waste management, urban health and hygiene, access to information and canalisation.

However, residents of the cities wanted improvement in governance in delivery of urban services, he said, adding: “... (More on P4)...(5)

Iran, Afghanistan Vow to Boost Economic Ties

TEHRAN - The co-chairs of Iran-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group met in Tehran on Saturday and exchanged views on the way for boosting bilateral ties.

“Today’s communications are a new chapter in both nations’ (Iran and Afghanistan) boost bilateral cooperation significantly and improve relations in the economic and private sectors,” Iranian MP Shooshtari Karim, the Iranian MP in his meeting with Afghan MP Dawood Khalani in Tehran, Mr. Khalani and Mr. Karimus jointly chair the parliamentary friendship group of Iran and Afghanistan.

The Iranian lawmaker highlighted the significant role that the parliamentary friendship groups can play for enhancing relations.

“Iran’s Parliament is ready to share experience in the field of building a friendly and stability Afghanistan parlia- ment,” Noted the Iranian legislator.

Referring to the issues “... (More on P4)...(6)

Donors Unwilling to Support Electricity Generation Projects: Ghaleb

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In the... (More on P4)...(7)