

Quote of the Day

Love is the bridge between you and everything.

Rumi

Eight Governors Yet to Register Assets: HOOAC

KABUL - The High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC) on Friday said at least six governors out of 14, who were asked to register their assets 20 days ago, have agreed to continue the process. However, eight of them have not responded to the HOOAC's request in this respect.

The HOOAC chairman Ghulam Sakhi Fakhri said they have given a two weeks deadline for the governors to register their assets, otherwise government will cut their salaries and other privileges.

According to him, governors of Zabul, Faryab, Nuristan, Kunduz, Baghlan and Kandahar provinces have registered their assets after a request by the office.

Fakhri stated that governors of Paktika, Kapisa, Ghazni, Badakhshan, Paktia, Helmand, Uruzgan and acting



governor of Balkh have not registered their assets so far. "We will send a list of the officials, who have not registered their assets, to the Ministry of Finance, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance

and to the Presidential Palace in order to take action against them," he said. Meanwhile, Mohammad Qasim Hashimzai, head of Independent Commission for Overseeing Implementation

of the Constitution said the governors' move is against the law and they should be held responsible for it. "Refusing to register assets is the violation of the Constitution. The officials who have

refused to register their assets should be investigated," he mentioned.

The Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) has not commented on the issue so far.

However, the IDLG spokesperson Munira Yusufzada recently said that a number of governors are yet to register their assets due to technical problems.

"The IDLG in collaboration with the has sent the forms to the relevant officials. But the registration process has delayed due to technical problems; not intentionally," Yusufzada said.

The Ministry of Finance meanwhile said senior officials from customs and other offices of the ministry are yet to register their assets.

"We have prepared the list of officials of the Ministry of Finance ... (More on P4)...(1)

Governor Vows to Foil Taliban Designs in Southern Province



LASHKARGAH - Governor of Helmand province Hayatullah Hayat has vowed to foil the designs of Taliban insurgents to overrun the troubled and poppy growing province.

"The malicious designs of enemies in Helmand province would be foiled and the enemies would face humiliating defeat here," governor Hayat told Xinhua.

He made the remarks amid ongoing heavy fighting between government forces and the Taliban militants for the control of the strategically important Sangin district over the past nearly a week. In the latest crackdown against Taliban fighters in

Sangin district, at least 18 armed insurgents, according to security officials, have been killed and several others injured over the past couple of days.

Taliban militants have exerted pressure in Sangin district since last week and so far dozens of people including militants, government forces personnel as well as civilians, according to locals, have been killed.

"Government forces would defend Sangin district at any cost to thwart Taliban vicious designs," governor Hayat said, adding reinforcement has been sent to Sangin district to beat the insurgents. ... (More on P4)...(2)

Governor Concerns Over Sar-E-Pul Security

KABUL - Sar-e-Pul governor Mohammad Zahir Wahdat in an interview with TOLONews said he is concerned about security situation in the province as terrorists have recently infiltrated the Kohistanat district.

The governor stated that son of Tahir Yoldash, head of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, has come to Sayad district in Sar-e-Pul where he is recruiting for Daesh.

He urged security agencies to launch a large-scale military operation in Kohistanat in order to prevent the district from becoming a safe haven for terrorists.

"We will become more vulnerable in the future if the central government and our allies from the international community do not pay attention to this matter," he said.

Meanwhile, a number of Kabul provincial council members blamed security agencies for a delay in launching winter military operations against insurgents across the country.

"Security forces and our president who says he is the Commander in Chief of the army should pay attention to the province and launch military operations [against insurgents]," said Abdul Khaliq Zazai, a member of the council.

Commenting on the issue, the Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said: "We have enhanced our operations and activities in vulnerable regions during the winter. We hope that we will not have war in the [coming] spring, but if the war continues, we will defeat the enemy by using better equipment." (Tolonews)

Govt's 'Silence' on IEC Secretariat Questioned

KABUL - A number of electoral monitoring organizations on Friday questioned government's 'silence' over the selection of the head of the Independent Election Commission's (IEC) secretariat, saying that the rejection of the three nominees for the position will undermine the independence of the electoral bodies.

The institutions said the delay in selecting the head of the IEC secretariat will postpone the upcoming parliamentary and district council elections.

Three weeks ago, the IEC introduced Imam Mohammad Warimach, a former member of the IEC media commission; Ahmadullah Archiwai, head of public awareness department of the IEC and Popal Habib as nominees for head of the secretariat, but all were rejected by government. "If the IEC trusts its decision



and its nominees, it should discuss the issue with government. And if there is a problem, government should make the issue clear and make a clear decision in this respect," said Mohammad Yusuf Rasheed, executive director of Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

"People will not expect a transparent elections in the future if the [IEC] activities continue this way," said Tabaw Danish, member of Afghanistan's Lawyers Union.

The IEC and the Presidential Palace would not comment on the issue. However, the Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah's spokesman Mujib Rahman Rahimi at a press conference on Thursday said they are committed to bringing reforms to the electoral process.

"The next election has two goals: people will select parliament and district councils' members and will send their representatives to the Loya Jirga [the Grand Assembly]," Rahimi said. (Tolonews)

NATO General Hails Progress Made by Afghan Forces

KABUL - Supreme Allied Commander Europe Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti paid a visit to Afghanistan from January 23 to 26 and witnessed the efforts of coalition members executing the Resolute Support (RS) a statement from the RS said on Thursday. Scaparrotti met with leadership at Headquarters Resolute Support here, as well as Train, Advise, Assist Commands around Afghanistan.

The visit took place during the Afghan led and developed winter campaign, which focuses on force regeneration, training and leadership.



The 39-member coalition led by NATO has provided significant support to the winter campaign through its mission to train, advise and assist Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

"I am encouraged by the steady progress the Afghan

National Defense and Security Forces are making," Scaparrotti said. "It's clear that NATO is helping them build a professional and effective force."

During the visit, Scaparrotti met with coalition leaders to discuss ... (More on P4)...(3)

CEO's Office Defies Ghani-Noor Power-Sharing Talks

KABUL - Commenting on recent reports of talks on power-sharing between President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah, the CEO's spokesman Mujiburrahman Rahimi on Thursday said no individual and no force would be allowed to undermine or move the political share of the CEO to someone else.

The statement comes after reports emerged of ongoing negotiations between Ghani and Atta Mohammad Noor, the

acting governor of Balkh province. However, the outcome of the talks remains uncertain. Noor said in a recent interview that he was hoping to extend his political influence to a national platform but Rahimi said his demands have not been discussed between the leaders of the national unity govern-

ment. According to Rahimi, even if the president endorses Noor's demands, it will not impact on the political authority of the ... (More on P4)...(4)

Placed on Suspension, Qalandar District Chief Being Investigated

KHOST CITY - The administrative chief for the Qalandar district of southeastern Khost province has been suspended days after he called the Taliban holy people.

Some days back, Wreshmin Gul Bashari, speaking to media representatives about the militants' control of the district, said that the Taliban were pious people.

A government official, who wished to go unnamed, told Pajhwok Afghan News Bashari had been suspended and fate would be determined on the conclusion of an ongoing investigation.

A commission comprising officials from the police headquarters, intelligence agency, attorney office, governor's house, information department and other organs is probing the district chief's



statements. Meanwhile, Bashari said his talks about the situation in the district with a private television channel had falsified. Qalandar district, which has been under Taliban's control for the last few years, is located east of Khost City. The district's affairs are handled in the capital of the province. (Pajhwok

Insider Attack Kills 8 Policemen

MAIMANA - Insider attack on a police checkpoint claimed the lives of eight policemen in the northern Faryab province on Friday, spokesman for police in the province, Abdul Karim Yurash said.

"The gruesome and bloody incident occurred in a checkpoint in Pashtunkot district along the border with Almar district at 02:30 a.m. local time today," Yurash told Xinhua. However, the official added that the person behind the deadly incident was a Taliban fighter who surrendered to local police commander Shir Alam Khan 15 days ago and after committing the carnage rejoined the Taliban insurgents.

Almost all the victims in the checkpoint were members of same family, the official added. (Xinhua)

Amid Enhanced Business Ties India Soften Visa Regime for Afghans

KABUL - Indian embassy in Kabul has announced more relaxation in its visa policy for Afghans, a statement from the diplomatic mission said on Friday.

"Embassy of India, Kabul is pleased to inform all Afghan nationals that with effect from 1 February 2017 Indian visa regime has been further liberalised to make it even more convenient for Afghan nationals to visit India," the statement said.

It added the duration of 'Tourist Visa' has been enhanced to one year with continuous stay of 90 days during each such visit, as against the existing provision of stay of 30 days. The provision of ... (More on P4)...(5)

Pakistan Embassy, Consulates to Remain Closed on Feb 5

KABUL - Pakistan embassy and its diplomatic missions across the country would remain closed on Sunday February 5, 2017, a statement from the embassy said on Friday.

"It is for the information of general public that the Embassy of Pakistan and the Consulates in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif, will remain closed on 5th February, 2017 (Sunday) on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day," the statement read. It added that all Pakistani and Afghan nationals were, therefore, informed to approach the Embassy for any consular work, including the visa, on next working day. (Pajhwok)



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