

Quote of the Day

Give to every human being every right that you claim for yourself.

Robert Ingersoll

NATO to Help Afghan Forces Defeat Terrorism

KABUL - NATO has decided to stay in Afghanistan with 13,000 troops to train, assist and advise Afghan security forces to defeat terrorism and stabilise the war-torn country. Jens Stoltenberg, the alliance secretary-general, reiterated the commitment during a question-answer session at a pre-ministerial meeting press conference in Brussels. "NATO has played a key role in the fight against terrorism for many years. We have to remember that our biggest military operation ever, the operation in Afghanistan, the purpose of that operation is to fight terrorism," he said. International troops were in



Afghanistan to prevent the country from becoming a safe haven for international terrorist groups again, he added.

"There are many different international terrorist groups today in Afghanistan and that is the reason why we have decided to continue to stay in Afghanistan with 13,000 troops..."

Stoltenberg believed the best weapon they had in the fight against terrorism was to train and enable local forces to combat the scourge.

About the deployment of more forces, he said: "We are firmly committed to our Resolute Support Mission and heads ... (More on P4)...(1)

Terrorism is a Common Enemy of Both States, Nawaz Tells President Ghani

KABUL - The Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said terrorism is a common enemy of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Nawaz made the remarks during a telephone conversation with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

According to a statement by Prime Minister House of Pakistan "Afghan President Ashraf Ghani telephoned Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and expressed condolences over loss of life in yesterday's Lahore terrorist attack."

"PM stated that terrorism



is a common enemy of both States and such cowardly acts cannot deter our resolve," the statement added. At least 13 people were killed ... (More on P4)...(2)

President Ghani Fires 10 Officials in Herat

HERAT CITY - Six border police officials and four senior transport managers have been removed from their jobs in western Herat province following a presidential order, an official said Wednesday. Herat governor's spokesman, Jilani Farhad, told Pajhwok Afghan News the sacked officials included the commander of the third border police battalion, two military officials stationed at the Islam Qala Port. Detective manager, passport manager, protection unit manager and

four senior managers of the Herat transport department had been fired and replaced with new individuals in compliance with the presidential order, he said. The officials were fired after a delegation investigated complaints about corruption and misuse of authority by the said officials, Farhad said. Herat residents and drivers have several times complained about money extortion by police on the Herat-Islam Qala highway and bribery by some officials. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan Established 3 Hospitals in Afghanistan

Zakhilwal for More Collaboration in Health Sector

ISLAMABAD - The Afghanistan Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Omar Zakhilwal said that the collaboration between two countries in the sector of health will help in improving the relations of two neighbouring countries. He was speaking at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences where he met with Afghan medical professionals. "Afghan government is thankful to Pakistan and PIMS which provided training opportunity to Afghan doctors here," said Dr Omar. The ambassador also appreciated the establishment of 1st kidney hospital in Afghanistan with cooperation of Pakistan. Afghan ambassador held a short session of discussion with Afghan medical trainees at PIMS, organizers and faculty. Vice Chancellor (VC) Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University (SZABMU) Javed Akram stated that the training will contribute in promoting the cordial and brotherly relations between two countries. "It is just the beginning and more steps



would be taken to facilitate the medical professionals from neighbouring country," he said. Meanwhile, PIMS administrator held a briefing on the training of Afghan professionals at PIMS. Around 68 Afghan health professionals including nurses and paramedic staff are being trained for three months in different departments of PIMS and will return back to their home country. These Afghan medical professionals will serve in the three hospitals being built by Pakistan government in different cities of Afghanistan. The program has been launched with the ... (More on P4)...(4)

EU to Sign Agreement on Partnership and Development

KABUL - The European Union will sign a cooperation agreement this week on partnership and development in the presence of President Ashraf Ghani, which will constitute a new framework

for EU-Afghan relations. The agreement will be signed on Friday in Munich by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini and the Afghan Minister of

Finance of Afghanistan Eklil Ahmad Hakimi. The cooperation agreement will formalize the EU's commitment to Afghanistan's development under the "decade of ... (More on P4)...(3)

MoD Spokesman Should Apologize for 'Reporters are Crazy' Remarks: Nai

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) spokesman Gen. Dawlat Waziri should apologize for his remarks calling the reporters crazy, an organization supporting open media in Afghanistan said Wednesday. The organization, Nai, said Gen. Waziri made the remarks during a televised program on a private TV channel in Kabul. It said Gen. Waziri has insulted the reporters for calling all reporters 'crazy'. Calling Gen. Waziri one of the good colleagues of reporters and media outlets in the country, Nai said the majority of the reporters and media agencies are satisfied with the cooperation of Gen. Waziri. However, it said the latest reaction of Gen. Waziri has harmed the feelings of the reporters and those organizations supporting media in Afghanistan. According to Nai, no complaints have been submitted by any reporter or news outlet regarding Gen. Waziri so far. Nai urged Gen. Waziri to apologize for his latest remark in a bid to show his support and cooperation with the reporters and media outlets. In the meantime, Gen. Waziri, said he is not low cultured and tendered his apology his apology for anyone who was harmed with his words during any open debit. (KP)

Taliban Take 52 Jawzjan Farmers

SHEBERGHAN - A total of 52 farmers from Darzab district have been taken away by the Taliban, Jawzjan police said on Wednesday. The provincial governor spokesman Mohammad Reza Ghafoori said the incident took place when a local Taliban commander, Mawlawi Mohamamdullah Mansour, visited the area to collect charity from the farmers. He said the provincial authorities are continuing their efforts to secure the release the farmers. However, Taliban has claimed that the farmers had a dispute over land in Charsai area of Darzab district and were therefore they taken away. A Taliban spokesman has said the farmers will be released after their court announces its verdict on them. (Tolonews)

Mattis US Committed to NATO



BRUSSELS - U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Wednesday made clear that the United States was committed to NATO while also reinforcing the Trump administration's demand that allies pay their fair share. Speaking at his first NATO defense minister's meeting, Mattis called the alliance "a fundamental bedrock for the United States and for all the trans-Atlantic community." That message, delivered as Mattis stood alongside NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, comes amid mixed signals from President

Donald Trump and as chaos swirls in Washington. The Pentagon chief made no references to the abrupt forced resignation Monday of Michael Flynn, the U.S. national security adviser, over his pre-inauguration discussions with Russia, and what the change may mean for U.S. policy toward Moscow. "I haven't changed what I'm heading there for," Mattis told reporters traveling with him to the NATO gathering. "It doesn't change my message at all." The allies' interest and concern ... (More on P4)...(5)

German Development Cooperation with Afghanistan Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

Financed by KfW - German Development Bank



Regional Infrastructure Development Fund - RIDF

BMZ-ID 2010 66 562, 2011 65 034, 2013 65 048, 2014 67 885, 2015 67 762, 2016 67 633

Prequalification

Construction of three Girls' High Schools in Takhar Province, Afghanistan

In Taloqan:

- TKH-S-2014-01a - Construction of N° Awal TLQ Girls' High School
- TKH-S-2014-01b - Construction of Bibi Maryam Girls' High School

In Rustaq District:

- TKH-S-2014-02 - Construction and Rehabilitation of Rustaq No.1 Girls' High School

The main items of works are:

- Construction of double-storied school buildings with reinforced concrete frame structure in three locations (up to three buildings per location, each building with 13 classrooms)
- Rehabilitation or demolition of existing classrooms buildings
- Delivery and installation of school furniture and equipment
- Construction and/or rehabilitation of boundary walls, outdoor wash points and toilet facilities
- Elaboration of site-layout and additional architectural and structural details; as-built drawings

The project is financed by the German Development Bank KfW, in the scope of the German Development Cooperation with Afghanistan, and will be implemented through the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), conditional to actual budget allocation and to approval by Steering Committee if applicable.

Afghan contractors and international contractors with a base in Afghanistan with experience as General Contractors in the construction of school buildings - preferably in Northern Afghanistan - are herewith invited to apply for prequalification for the above projects. International contractors are explicitly encouraged to form Joint Ventures with national/local contractors.

Tendering will be undertaken according to KfW-Development Bank's "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and associated Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries" (August 2016), which can be downloaded at <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/Download-Center/PDF-Dokumente-Richtlinien/Vergabe-E.pdf>.

Interested contractors shall request the prequalification documents by e-mail from info@ridf-af.org clearly stating "Construction of 3 High Schools" in the subject line. The request for the prequalification documents must contain the full name and address of the applicant, including contact telephone number and e-mail address.

Contractors fulfilling these requirements will be sent the prequalification documents via e-mail.

The deadline for submittal of the completed prequalification documents is 18 March 2017.



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