Ghani Wants Control Enhanced Over Projects

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday asked the Ministry of Public Works to enhance its control over national infrastructure development projects and their management and weekly report to him in this regard.

As part of his rigorous visits to ministries and departments, Ghani visited the Public Works Ministry to assess its activities, a statement from the presidential spokesperson’s office said.

Calling the control over national projects as a whole, Ghani assisted the Public Works Ministry should remain 90 percent technical and 10 percent managerial to effectively perform its real job of being technical.

Ghani assured the ministry of providing assistance and facilities over the past 13 years little has been done on capacity building in areas of engineering and management, something necessary for projects management and maintenance," he added.

The president underlined the need for coordination among the ministries of public works and the higher education in training engineering students at the Kabul and Polytechnic universities based on the country’s needs.

WASHINGTON - The US House Speaker John Boehner has warned that Afghanistan could go the way of Iraq if the US does not do enough to backstop Kabul against the Taliban and terrorists.

Boehner said Obama’s withdrawal strategy from Afghanistan is already faltering, insisting that the troop pullout from Afghanistan is premature as the US is not ready to pull back from Afghanistan.

KABUL - In a ceremony marking the end of 12-year NATO combat mission in Afghanistan, the Afghan government handed over control of Hamid Karzai International Airport to the US-led coalition Friday.

Karzai said the US-led coalition had invested billions of dollars over 12 years to build the airport.

The airport is the US-led coalition’s largest achievement in Afghanistan, he said.

Karzai said the Afghan government could not be held responsible for the airport’s security.

Quantum Door to Afghanistan

The new role for Australians in Afghanistan

SYDNEY - Australian Defence Force (ADF) operations in Afghanistan will enter a new phase in the New Year, with hundreds of Australian soldiers heading to Southern Command to provide support to Afghan National Police and local security forces.

ADF personnel will provide training support to Afghan National Security Forces as part of the US-led International Security Assistance Force.

The change marks the end of Operation Slipper, which has been Australia’s commitment to the US-led international mission in Afghanistan for the past 13 years.

The transition also recognises that the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have now taken the lead for all combat operations.

Commander of Australia’s joint force in Afghanistan Major General David Halford praised the efforts of the more than 3,500 Australian soldiers who have served in Afghanistan since 2001.

"As we move into this new operation..."