Hekmatyar Denies Links with Talib an or Daesh

KABUL - Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of the Hezb-e-Islam movement, has denied links with Daesh or the Taliban party after holding the upcoming presidential election is the only way to solve the crisis in the country.

Speaking at a press conference in Kabul on Thursday, he said he believes coalition government is in the country. He added that he was expecting he would hold a meeting with participation of all political parties and opposition groups about the situation in the country. While “some of the political parties were reluctant, the meeting will be held on the future with the participation of most of the partis.”

In reply to a question about the ongoing tensions between Atta Mohammad Noor, whose migration was approved by President Ghani, Hekmatyar said “It is a very small internal issue between him (Atta Mohammad Noor) and the government,” and added it “can be solved by the government.”

More than two weeks ago, the presidential palace announced that the president had accepted the migration of Atta as环比. Later the government announced that engineer Hamed Nedzaf had been appointed as successor to Noor. Noor denied his migration. He has regularly attended his office as Baloch governor over the past few days. (More on P4)

Elections Underway to Select New IEC Chief

KABUL - Over 81 candidates have filed nomination papers for the post as head of the election commission.

Officials from the election committee of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) on Thursday said that over 81 candidates have filed nomination papers for the post of chairman of the IEC.

Of the total number of applicants, 50 candidates have officially submitted their applications to the selection committee, said an official of the selection committee. However, election monitoring groups and observers have termed the actions of selection committee as illegal.

“In our view, the work of the selection committee is illegal. Based on the law, the president should have picked someone as head of the IEC from the list which was referred to government initially,” said Waqas Rashid, chairman of the Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the head of Hezb-e-Islami, has called for transparent elections to be held in the country. Holding the upcoming presidential election is the only way to solve the crisis in the country, he said. (More on P4)

Efforts Underway to Select New IEC Chief

KARUL - Government statistics show that at least 80 people were killed and 130 were wounded in suicide attacks in Kabul City during last two months.

Kabul residents sharply criticized security agencies for their failure to prevent such attacks.

The figures show that militants affiliated with Daesh militants carried out three deadly attacks in Kabul during the past two months.

The first target attacked Jamiat-e-Islami party supporters gathering in a restaurant in Kabul in which 10 civilians were killed and 20 others were wounded. Nusrat Rahimi, a spokesman for Interior Ministry, said the institution continues its efforts to prevent militant attacks in the city.

“Recently, the enemy is focusing its attacks on cultural and educational centers, but security forces continue their efforts to implement their plan preventing the safety of the people,” said Rahimi.

The second suicide attack targeted Taliban Cultural Center in Kabul in which 49 civilians and 19 others were wounded. Atta Mohamad Noor, a member of the IEC, said.

No Progress on Expansion of Key Mines in Afghanistan

The Natural Resources Monitoring Network says government should take steps to improve mining projects in the country.

KABUL - The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) said the government is currently assessing Kirkuk, Dashkashem and the Ghuristan cement factory to establish how it could improve operations of these mines. The MoMP will submit its report to the high economic council once the assessment on the mines is wrapped up, said Abdul Quader Mutti, spokesman for the ministry. Officials of the Natural Resources Monitoring Network (NIC) have expressed deep concerns about conditions at mines in the country, calling on the government to take steps towards improving the situation. The contract for the Dokdak coal mine and Ghirai... (More on P4)

Pakistan Use Terrorism as Foreign Policy Tool: Menacer

ISLAMABAD - the Pakistani military officials have warned that the growing political tensions between Islamabad and Washington could negatively affect the security situation in Afghanistan. A spokesman for the military of Pakistan Gen. Asad Ghani has said that the two countries are still allies but he insisted that the country will never compromise on its prestige and integrity.

He made the remarks during an interview with a private TV channel and once again raised concerns regarding the key role given to India in the new South Asia strategy of Washington. Gen. Ghani also said that the military of Pakistan has the capability to counter any threat to the national interests of the country.

“Today is really a day of light when people’s houses are enlightened in the district of Jamshid, an engineer of the project who other engineers and workers who contributed in the completion of the scheme.

He said that it was part of the national program to provide balanced electricity service to all parts of the country. The president thanked DABP, Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance for what he said, fundamentally... (More on P4)

President Inaugurates Maidan Wardak-Ghazni Power Project

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday launched the supply of 220 kilowatt inductive electricity to southern Ghazni and central Maidan Wardak provinces.

During the inauguration ceremony in Chamba area of the capital Kabul, the president ordered Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkan (DABP) head to provide medical treatment to Jamshid, an engineer of the project who was injured during work and appreciate all other engineers and workers who contributed in the completion of the scheme.

“Today is really a day of light when people’s houses are enlightened in Maidan Wardak and Ghazni provinces,” he said.

He congratulated the people of the two provinces and said a long awaited demand of Ghani and Malian Wardak provinces was met today. Eleven provinces including Ghani and Badghis that pay double or four times higher in power bills would be paid serious attention, Ghani said.

He added that it was part of the national program to provide balanced electricity service to all parts of the country. The president thanked DABP, Ministry of Energy and Water, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance for what he said, fundamentally... (More on P4)