New Unzgan Police Chief Pledges Security, Reforms

TIRINKOT - The newly appointed police chief of central Unzgan province has promised to implement the rule of law and introduce reforms in police depart- ment. Brig. Gen. Mohammad Aslam Hashimi, who recently joined as police chief by the Ministry of Interior, officially introduced to his office. Hashimi said he wanted to bring improvement in the insecure ar- eas of Unzgan and introduce reforms.

"Security would be my priority if I stay for one hour as police chief," he said.

The new police chief asked the residents to fully cooperate with him. The appointment of Hashimi came at a time when the gov- ernment of Unzgan recently ac- cused the provincial police by saying that Unzgan police were neither national nor professional.

Governor Asadullah Saeed accus- ed the new police chief and said: "Military together with his administration would fully cooperate with him."

The governor asked him to intro- duce reforms in police ranks and ensure the security of common people. (Pajhwok)

2 Civilians Killed, 25 wounded in Khosht Motorcycle Bombing

KHOST CITY - At least two ci- vilians were killed and 25 others in-jured in a motorcycle bomb at- tack in the capital of southeastern Khost province on Tuesday, offi- cials and eyewitnesses said.

Witnesses said that the incident took place in a crowded area be- tween Spin Jumate and Kabal in Khost city around 1pm today.

Dr. Soli Saddeh, head of Khost Civil Hospital, told Pajhwok Af-ghan News that they received one dead body and 25 injured people from the incident area. He said that the health condition of two of the injured was critical. Meanwhile, a worker at Bahati Private Clinic in Khost, said that they also received one dead person and nine injured.

Khost police officials confirmed the incident but refused to pro- vide more information about the attack. (Pajhwok)

KABUL - The Taliban have rejected numerous requests from regional powers to allow Afghan officials to take part in the talks, insisting that the United States is their main adversary in the 17-year war and that Kabul is a "puppet" regime.

The insurgents, seeking to reposition strict Islamic law after their 2001 ouster by U.S.-led troops, called off their meeting with the U.S. officials in Saudi Arabia this week because of Riyadh's insistence on bringing the Western-backed Afghan government to the table.

WASHINGTON - The White House said Trump was going to withdraw more than 5,000 of the 14,000 US troops there, a US official told media last month.

Trump, Modi Discuss Trade, Afghanistan: White House

WASHINGTON - The US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed reducing the US trade deficit with India and increasing their cooperation in Afghanistan in a telephone call on Monday, the White House said.

"The leaders agreed to strengthen the US-India strategic partnership in 2019 and exchanged perspectives on how to reduce the US trade deficit with India, expand security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, and increase cooperation in Afghanistan," the statement said.

The United States has slapped tariffs on im- ports of steel and aluminum from India, part of Trump's drive to reduce the US trade deficit and boost American manufacturing jobs.

This comes while, there are reports that Trump is planning to withdraw more than 5,000 of the 14,000 US troops there, a US official told media last month.

Last week, amid reports on a possible withdrawal of American troops, Trump at a cabinet meeting insisted on regional countries' role in Afghanistan and said that India, Russia and Pakistan should be fighting in Afghanistan, which the United States is trying to withdraw from the specific date for a period of up to four months in case insecurity, natural disasters or other similar con- ditions make impossible the principle of general and fair representation in elections and or undermine the credibility of the electoral process.

But such a decision should come from upon the proposal of the commission and en- dorsement of the committee to be comprised of the head and members of the National Secu- rity Council, chairman of the two houses of the Parliament, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Chairman of the Independent Commission of Oversight of Implementation of the Constitution of Afghanistan.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi Pakistan's Minister for Foreign Affairs recently traveled to Iran, Afghanisti- an, ... (More on P4)