Ghani Vows to Overcome Corruption in Defense Ministry

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said on Monday at a ceremony at the Ministry of Defense that government has started a campaign to fight the endemic corruption in the ministry in order to curb the high casualty toll among security forces.

In doing so, would show them respect for the sacrifices they make every day to defend the country, he said. "Corruption [is one of the] reasons behind high casualties among the security forces and this is not acceptable to me or for the soldiers," Ghani said.

Meanwhile, the president announced the handing over of apartments to 14 families of martyred security force members.

Also, he provided cash to at least 10 families of Afghan soldiers.

Ghani said government is committed to supporting these families. In a message to anti-terrorists, he said: "We will do our best to reduce casualties and protect martyrs and disabled soldiers’ families," he said. Meanwhile, these families urged government to address their challenges. "Government is responsible to protect and support martyrs’ families," an army officer said. (Telomax)

Draft Budget to LandAgain in Wolesi Jirga

KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga members Monday criticized cancellation of the draft budget for 2017 and said the draft budget for 2017 fiscal year was ready to land again in the house next week.

Cancellation of session. The Wolesi Jirga holds its general sessions on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday in a week and its commissions meet on Sunday and Tuesday, but yesterday the general session was not held. Rahima Jami, a lawmaker from Herat province, said:

"We received message that today some drafts laws will be discussed by different panels, but the offices were occupied by senators and the day was lost."

Meanwhile, General session’s offices are held on Sunday and Tuesday and commissions of both houses, according to their term, should use commission offices.

Draft budget the Wolesi Jirga,...More on P4...

Chinese Embassy Praises MoU between Chinese Firm and MoPW

KABUL - The spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in Kabul in a statement on Monday said that the signing of the Agreement of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Dasht-i Saf-Yakawlang (178 Kilometer) Road Project between China Road and Bridge Corporation and Afghan Ministry of Public Works is another important outcome of jointly building the belt and Road between China and Afghanistan. It has great significance in enhancing the transportation infrastructures in Afghanistan. (...)More on P4...

China to Invest $1.2B into HPS Construction in Afghanistan

ALMATY - Kazakhstan plans to invest $1.2 billion into the heavy power station at the Kokchara mountain in Takhar province, reported the Afghanistan Telegraph Agency (ATAG) with a reference to the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. According to Abdul Basir Azimi, Deputy Minister on Financial-Administrative Issues of the Ministry of Energy, measures are being taken to attract investments in the field and appropriate projects are being developed. In this regard, the Ministry is considering proposal of a Kazakhstan company. (...)More on P4...

Uzbekistan, Afghanistan Review Co-operation

BAKU - Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov on Monday received the delegation of Afghanistan Ministry headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Karzai. During their talks, reports the press service of the Uzbek Foreign Ministry, the talks focused on bilateral cooperation issues and the upcoming events between the two countries. The Deputy Foreign Ministers of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan on the same day held... (...More on P4...)

Japanese Willing to Help Expand Chabahar Port

KABUL - Japan’s Deputy Foreign Minister Kentaro Sonoura has reached an agreement with New Delhi on working for the expansion of Chabahar Port in Iran.

The visiting deputy foreign minister, during a meeting with President Ashraf Ghani, promised to help boost Afghanistan’s foreign trade, a statement from the Presidential Palace said on Monday. It added the Afghan peace process, economic projects and regional cooperation were also discussed at the meeting, Sonoura said Japan promised to keep the promises made to Afghanistan at the Brasilia Conference.

He hailed the national unity government’s efforts to ensure good governance, curb corruption, expand economic activities and transit cooperation at the regional level and promoted peace and reconciliation.

Ghani lauded Japan’s construction work in Afghanistan and said Tokyo’s help in the introduction of technology would be impressive. With the coop- eration of Japan, he acknowledged, more soldiers, policemen and soldiers would be needed. (Tolonews)

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Meanwhile, the president announced the handing over of apartments to 14 families of martyred security force members.

Also, he provided cash to at least 10 families of Afghan soldiers.

Ghani said Afghanistan will become a paradise if they refuse to join the peace process. "You [insurgents] rejected the peace talks in the past two years. If you contin- ue to follow the wrong path, the country will become your graveyard," he stated. The Chief of Army Staff, Qad dark Shah Shahzad, meanwhile said they will leave no stone unturned to reduce casualties and they will continue to sup- port families of martyred Afghans. "We will do our best to re- duce security force casualties and protect martyrs and disabled soldiers’ families," he said. Meanwhile, these families urged government to address their challenges. "Government is responsible to protect and support martyrs’ families," an army officer said. (Telomax)

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