Clerics Urge Afghans to Work for National Unity

GHANJ/SHARAN - Religious leaders in southern Ghazni province have urged the Afghans to eschew ethnic differences and work for solid national unity.

Attending a Sera-um-Nabi conference in Ghazni City, on Friday evening, the scholars said the Quran had declared all Muslims in brotherhood. Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks should live like brothers.

The day-long conference was organised by civil society group “Zheraat” (file) and was attended by a number of religious scholars, tribal elders and local residents.

One of the speakers, Mullah Mohammad Nazir, shed light on the life of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and urged the Afghans to pen books for national unity. Religious scholar from the Qadishag (More on P4-01).

42 Rebels Killed in New Danang Offensive

ASADABAD - Forty-two Taliban militants were killed and several others wounded as a result of a newly-launched operation in the Danang district of eastern Nuristan province on past 24 hours, an official said on Saturday.

Mr. Gen. Mohammad Zaman Wazir, the 201st Solo Military Corps commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News that security forces had made progress during the ongoing operation.

Eight bodies of Taliban fighters were found in Kamlal area and handed over to local residents, he said.

Wazir... (More on P5-01)

Anti-Taliban Group in Pakistan Seeks Govt. Support

GARDEZ - An anti-Taliban group in the Rabat locality on the outskirts of Gardez, the capital of southeastern Paktia province, on Saturday urged the government to assist it in the fight against rebels.

Salarzai, deputy commander of anti-Taliban tribal militiam, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they had been waging a struggle against the insurgents but needed government’s assistance in purging their area of fighters.

Some members of groups visited the provincial council headquarters late on Friday and asked the public representatives to contact higher authorities for equipping and arm ing them.

“We will fight till our last breath against the armed insurgents if the government extends us a helping hand,” said Salarzai, who demanded weapons and ammunition... (More on P5-01)

Armed Militants Concentrate in Afghan-Tajik Border

DUSHANBE - Tajik Interior Ministry Ramazan Rahmatova has confirmed information about concentration of armed militias in the Afghan area near the Tajik border.

Militants that have concentrated in Afghan areas bordering Tajikistan are members of various terrorist groups, including Taliban and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), Rahmatova told journalists in Dushanbe on January 18.

“In this connection, Tajikistan is taking... (More on P5-01)

115 Illegal Afghans Rounded up in Peshawar Raids

KARUL - Pakistany security agencies have detected more than 115 Afghan citizens during a two-day search operation in southwest Sylhet, a Peshawar province, a media report said on Saturday.

At least 434 suspects, including 20 unregistered Afghan citizens, were detained in different parts of the province, especially Peshawar, on Thursday and Fri day, a Pakistani newspaper reported.

A large quantity of arms and ammunitions were seized by police and security forces during the operation, which led to the forcible shutdown of several private hospitals in different neighbourhoods of Peshawar.

Police spokesman Rauf Ahmad told Dawn that 875 rounds and a large quantity of ammunition had been recovered from the detainees. At least 1,617 boxes... (More on P5-01)

150 Truckloads of Inferior Fuel Seized in Nimroz

ZARANJ - The customs department of southwestern Nimroz province on Saturday announced seizing 150 truckloads of low-quality fuel imported from neighbouring Iran.

The Council of Ministers banned inferior fuel imports this year, Customs Director Wais Sulaiman said, adding the importers to return the low-quality oil. But the traders said they placed orders for the import of “diesel 50” before the start of 2014, and their tankers could not reach the border in time due to... (More on P5-01)

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