Nestlé to start direct operations in Afghanistan

KABUL - Nestlé, a Switzerland-based global food and beverage company announced it had started operating directly in Afghanistan by establishing a new entity named Nestlé Afghanistan Limited. The company has established its head office in Kabul. Ali Sadarri, President, Nestlé Afghanistan Limited, upon its commencement stated: “Our decision to operate directly and invest locally indicates our growing confidence in the region’s economic opportunities. This is the beginning of Nestlé’s long-term relationship with local consumers. We are very excited to contribute to the quality of life of people in Afghanistan by offering healthy and nutritious products that Nestlé is known for across the world.”

The company’s first phase of setting up import and co-manufacturing food products in collaboration with its strategic distribution and manufacturing partners The Habib Gulband Group before further development. During this phase, the company will continue to offer the products that the local consumers are already familiar with. Establishing a company locally, will allow us to be closer to the consumers. It is also indicative of growing confidence amongst the international business community to do business directly with Afghanistan. This trend will bring investment, direct and indirect employment (PR).

Security Bosses Apologize Over Deadly Attacks

KABUL - Security bosses in Sunday apologized to the nation over their failure to prevent recent deadly attacks in the country and said their resignation would not resolve the concerns.

Interior Minister Wais Barmak sought apology from the nation over recent the attacks and pledged to implement immediate reforms in the security sector.

The death toll from Saturday’s ambulance suicide bombing in Kabul rose to 103 with 235 more inured, said Barmak.

The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the deadly attack that took place in front of the Min’s previous building and in the vicinity of Jamiat Hospital at around 1:00pm.

The injured have been shifted to Jamiat Hospital, Emergency, Wazir Akbar Khan and National Directorate of Security (NDS) bosses.

Kabul on Edge as IS Gunmen Launch Fresh Attack on Military Compound

KABUL - Gunmen and suicide-bombers launched a pre-dawn attack claimed by the Islamic State group on a military compound in Kabul Monday, killing 11 soldiers in the third major assault in the Afghan capital in recent days.

The series of assaults, including one of the deadliest bombs in Kabul in recent years, have left already war-weary citizens grief-stricken and angry as the Taliban and its escalated their offensive.

Monday’s attack on an Afghan army battalion killed at least 11 soldiers and wounded 16, a defense ministry spokesman said. (More on P4)

President

Taliban Must Choose Between Slam and Terrorism

Addressing a joint press conference with his Indonesian counterpart, the president said the Taliban must separate itself from barbarism.

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Peace in Afghanistan Long-Term Objective: EU

The European Union, commending Pakistan’s role in the fight against terrorism, says Islamabad needs to do more to make the region secure and prosperous.

KABUL – Jean-François Cautain, EU ambassador to Pakistan, said on Monday the EU was pleased with the role played by the Pakistani government as it worked to curb terrorism and extremism in the region.

In an interview published on Monday, the diplomat said Pakistan’s stability was closely intertwined with peace in Afghanistan. The war on terror and an inclusive reconciliation process would pave the way for the region’s economic development, he added.

The envoy urged Pakistan to make the best use of its capacity to reach out to relevant stakeholders within and outside its territory to contribute to peace and stability in the region. The ambassador said Pakistan must also lower the use of its territory for terrorist acts anywhere in the region. “We have to understand that,” he added. (More on P4)

KABUL - An Afghan intelligence agency—the National Directorate of Security (NDS)—has cotton to Pakistan.

Officials at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry confirmed Pakistan has enforced new regulations on the cotton industry and has imposed strict import conditions for accepting imports of cotton to Pakistan. (More on P4)

Pakistan Closes Border to Cotton Exporters

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Noor Warns of Civil Action if No Agreement is Reached

KABUL – Noor also dismissed Khalilzad’s recent remarks where he stated he would be a mediator on Noor’s part to challenge the international community.

Afza Mohammad Noor, the ousted governor of northern Balkh province, said on Sunday that he would constitute a new entity named Jamiat-e-Islami and the President’s National Unity Government to end the tensions has only increased the rifts between Noor and the National Unity Government.

Meanwhile, Amrullah Saleh, the former chief of Afghanistan intelligence agency—the National Directorate of Security (NDS)—wanted to create chaos in the country. (More on P4)

Govt Failed to Identify Spies within the System: Critics

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