**Abdullah Stresses Closer Afghan-US Military Cooperation**

KARUL - Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on Sunday underlined the need for closer cooperation between the armed forces of Afghanistan and the United States. During a meeting with Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Abdullah thanked the US for continued support to Afghanistan.

A statement from his office said the CEO called for greater cooperation on the fight against terrorism, and establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Abdullah said Afghan forces were the symbol of pride and honor of Afghanistan that sacrificed in the war against terror.

Abdullah said Afghan forces should defend the motherland and give a befitting response to terrorists with the support of the people and government, as well as the backing of the international community.

Gen. Dunford thanked the CEO and lauded the commitment of the Afghan army and security forces in the war on terrorism. He reaffirmed... (More on P4, 5)

**Surge in Child Marriages Concerns AIHRC**

KARUL - Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commissions (AIHRC) has again expressed major concern over the rise in child marriages in the country.

The commission on Sunday strongly criticized the absence of effective mechanisms in tackling an increasing trend and called on the government to serve justice on thousands of cases.

On Sunday, a joint seminar between the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, the AIHRC, the Ministry of Labor and social affairs was held in Kabul where the participants discussed strategies to overcome the problem of child marriages.

Seminar participants said that insecurity, some traditions that dominate society, absence of rule of law, evasion of the law, and a culture of impunity in the particular causes of the surge in child marriages.

According to the AIHRC report, 225 cases of child marriage were recorded in 1982, in 1993, 225 cases reported and 235 cases were recorded in 2014.

“The cases which have been resolved by the intervention of the commission, only become resolved the caseload of the justice system. The main unresolved issue is that parties who sell the girl, those who buy the girl as well as the persons who endorse the marriage contract, need to be investigated. The problem of organs probing these transactions do not have the ability...” AIHRC chairman Sima Samar... (More on P4, 5)

**Obama Vows to Help Afghanistan in Fighting Terrorism**

WASHINGTON - The United States President Barack Obama said on Sunday that he is committed to cooperate with Afghanistan and other countries in fighting terrorism.

He told a gathering of ambassadors at the White House the US and its allies will eliminate Daesh.

“Path to be determined. We will not relent,” Obama said. “We are going to be after Daesh leaders and Daesh fighters in Syria and Iraq. We’re going to keep stealing with our partners from Africa to Afghanistan and we are going to destroy this vile terrorist organization...” Obama did not explain... (More on P4, 5)

**Uruzgan Province on Brink of Collapse: Local Official**

KARUL - A local official in Afghanistan’s central province of Uruzgan warned on Monday that the entire province is in danger of falling to Taliban militants. Governor Dost Mohammad Naderi, a member of Uruzgan provincial council, said the province is facing terrorist attacks from all faiths, including Muslims... (More on P4, 5)

**Nangarhar Elders Demand Decisive Action Against Daesh**

JALALABAD - Ten of Nangarhar tribal elders and politicians have called on government to take serious action to eliminate Daesh in the country. A gathering on Saturday, they expressed their concern about the presence of Daesh in Nangarhar.

They emphasized the need for the government to take decision and act decisively to eliminate this terror group in Nangarhar. “If government wants help from the people, form Nangarhar residents in particular, we must be ready to sacrifice our lives should...” six members of the Taliban and one Afghan soldier were killed in a firefight in Nangarhar province as they were being transported back to Kunduz province from a staging area near the river Panjshir, the Afghan security forces said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

**Turkey Coup Bid Won’t Affect Afghan Mission: Nicholson**

KARUL - The bailed coup plot in Turkey would have no impact on the US-led campaign to support Afghanistan in the war against the Taliban, the top American military commander in Afghanistan said on Monday.

In an interview with the Associated Press in Kabul Monday, the NATO mission in Afghanistan included more than 500 Turkish soldiers. But he hailed the... (More on P4, 5)

**Obama Repeats Vow to Help Afghanistan in Fighting Terrorism**

WASHINGTON - The United States President Barack Obama said on Sunday that the US would not relent in its fight against terrorism.

“Standing with our partners and allies, we are going to keep taking...” Obama said. “We are going to keep taking out Daesh leaders and Daesh fighters. We are going to keep degrading Daesh. U.S and its allies will eliminate Daesh. We are going to keep pushing back Daesh,” Obama said. “We are going to keep...” (More on P4, 5)

**Narcotics, Observers, Public Slam MPs over Election Reform Deadline**

KEHRAN - A local official in Afghanistan’s central province of Uruzgan warned on Monday that the entire province is in danger of falling to Taliban militants. Governor Dost Mohammad Naderi, a member of Uruzgan provincial council, said the province is facing terrorist attacks from all faiths, including Muslims... (More on P4, 5)

**Deadline for Registration of All Couples Looms Near**

KABUL - The deadline set for couples to register their marriages is looming near.

The marriage law in Afghanistan states that couples should register their marriage within 60 days of the wedding ceremony.

However, the registration deadline for the district of Pul-e Khumri in Baghlan... (More on P4, 5)

**Narcotics, Observers, Public Slam MPs over Election Reform Deadline**

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**Uzbekistan: Businessman Arrested on Illicit Drug Charges**

KUNOUSH - A businessman has been arrested on charges of smuggling and trafficking drugs.

The suspect, identified as Mustafa Mamedov, was arrested in the capital city of Kunouz on Saturday. He is accused of smuggling and trafficking drugs... (More on P4, 5)

**President Ghani: ‘Ivory Trade Is a Crime’**

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has condemned the ivory trade and called for its eradication.

“Trade in ivory is a crime...” Ghani said. He added: “Ivory trade has ended. I know I speak for all of us...”(More on P4, 5)

**Nepal: Seven held for possession of wildlife parts**

KATHMANDU - The Kathmandu Metropolitan Police has arrested seven people for possession of wildlife parts.

The arrests were made in a raid conducted by the police headquarters of the capital and in the nearby districts of Lalitpur, Bagmati, and Sunsari.

During the raids, police seized... (More on P4, 5)