US doing well in Afghanistan, claims Trump

Trump says that there are 3,000 US troops in Afghanistan and the number will be reduced to 2,800.

US Envoy Chides Afghan MPs Over Speaker Row

The US envoy questioned what message did it send to all of them about the sacrifices they had been making for this country with the new Afghan Parliament failure to resolve the ongoing dispute over the election of speaker. The US envoy also said that the Afghan Parliament failure to fulfills its responsibilities towards the people. The US envoy stuck to the point that the Afghan Parliament failure to resolve the ongoing dispute over the election of speaker indicated that some lawmakers were putting narrow interests or in some cases self-interest ahead of national interest. The US envoy said that the Afghan Parliament failure continued at a time when Afghanistan security forces bravely defended the Afghan people and families that security forces dealt with the trauma of loss and the fear that comes with having members of their families in harms.

Senior Afghan Politicians in Pakistan for Key Meeting

The conference - Former president Hamid Karzai’s office in a statement on Wednesday said that Karzai will not attend the meeting due to a limited time for preparations. Karzai thanked Pakistan for hosting the meeting and said he will visit the neighboring country at a later date. The Daily Mail quoted sources as saying that Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Qureshi will also speak at the meeting while Pakistan President Arif Alvi will host a dinner for the senior Afghan political leaders. The conference has assumed importance in view of the growing activities to press for a political solution to the Afghan conflict, the report said.

The report says that the Bhurban conference will provide an opportunity for the Afghan leaders and Pakistanis to exchange views on the peace process. The conference was organized by the Labor Center for Peace Research (LCPR) and the South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI).

The report says that at least 30 senior Afghan leaders have been invited to the conference.

Afghanistan to Face Japan in AFC U19 Championship Final

KABUL - The U20 National Football Team will face Japan in the final match of the AFC U19 Championship with a morale high, the Afghanistan national coach Abdul Wahab Mirmak said on Friday.

The match will be held in the city of Tabriz, Iran, today at 06:30pm Kabul time.

This is the first time that Afghanistan is reaching the final of the football championship.

Afghanistan has won the title two times in its history.

The two teams played a friendly match before the start of the AFC Championship, in which Afghanistan defeated Japan 6-3. “The players are in a good condition and the good news for the final match is that Ali Jafari, a good member - (More on P5.10)

Afghanistan Need Top Teams Exposure to Improve: Naib

SOUTHAMPTON - Afghanistan need regular exposure against the top teams before they can compete at the World Cup, captain Gulbadin Naib said ahead of Saturday’s match against India. Naib’s men have been the whipping boys of the 10-team tournament, losing all three match of the points table after five defeats in a row.

They could not bat out full 50 overs in any of their last four matches, a streak first finally ended in their comprehensive defeat by England on Tuesday.

Afghanistan’s spin-bow attack struggled on pitches that did not offer any turn, their batting lacked battling genuine pace and their overall inexperience showed in their second World Cup appearances.

“When we play against teams like Scotland, we’re doing well. But we need to improve our game, so we should play strong teams like India, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan”, Naib said at Hampshire Bowl on Friday.

“We should play a lot of series with the top five ranked teams. If we play - (More on P5.10)

UN to Taliban: Direct Talks with Kabul

The United Nations has hailed consultations among countries that are leading initiatives for a political settlement between the Afghan government and Taliban.

Addressing a Security Council session, UN Assistant Secretary General for Afghanistan and Tajikistan Tadamichi Yamamoto urged all parties to “begin an intra-Afghan dialogue as soon as possible.”

“Taliban to intensify efforts towards this goal,” Yamamoto urged. Ultimately, how- ever, he acknowledged that there was no substitute for the Afghan people taking ownership of and advancing their inclusive dia- logue on a peace process.

Germany and Qatar were working to organize an intra-Afghan dialogue, he said, adding direct talks between the US and Tal-iban continued with broad inter- national support.

“Afghanistan and some of its international partners, in particu- lar Germany and Qatar, are preparing for an intra-Afghan dialogue,” he was quoted as saying in a statement from UNAMA.

“Altmann has engaged in an enduring commitment to choosing their political leader- ers through elections in the face of threats and adverse security conditions,” Yamamoto said.

Altmann said that the presidential election issue was noted progress in finalising an operational plan.

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