KABUL - First Vice President Dr. Abdul Rashid Dostum vowed to redress the taekwondo protestors in the ensuing weeks. "We will solve this issue no matter what," Dostum told the protestors, who numbered at least 300 on Thursday. "We are ready and I would like to repeat that we are responsible..." (More on P4, 12).

President Orders Investigation into Deh Mazang Murder

KABUL - A former police chief has been sed as a suspect in the murder of Shehla Atta, a former parliamentarian of the National Umma Party. She was kidnapped and later found dead near Zarnegar Park of Kabul on Thursday. "We will solve this issue no matter what," President Ashraf Ghani said at a press conference. "We are ready and I would like to repeat that we are responsible..." (More on P4, 12).

NSC Calls Torture Unacceptable; Seeks End to Traffic Jams

KABUL - The National Security Council (NSC) on Thursday called for an end to torture and the adoption of traffic rules. "We need to address these issues and bring about a change," the NSC said in a statement. (More on P4, 12).

Hundres of Zabul Residents Rally Against HRW

QALAT - Hundreds of residents of southern Zabul province, at a protest meeting, on Sunday rejected the latest Human Rights Watch (HRW) report on the province. The HRW report was presented by the NSC, a state agency of the Presidential Palace. (More on P6, 14).

Preemptive Steps Urged to Stop IS Emergence

KABUL - The dead body of Shabbi Atta, a former parliamentarian and presidential runner, was found in Kabul on Thursday. "We need to address these issues and bring about a change," the NSC said in a statement. (More on P4, 12).

Civil Society Wants Buddha Statues Repaired

BAMIYAN CITY - Condemning the destruction of Buddha statues during the Taliban regime, a number of social society activists held a rally in central Bamyan province for their rehabilitation. The two Buddha statues, having a 1,600 years old history, were dynamited by the Taliban during their regime. They had been a major draw for tourists. State statues with 15 metres height and Shambana — 35 metres tall — were built in a mountain in the northern part of Bamyan City, the provincial capital. Elder Mohammed Nabi Ali Zada said: "Monuments have a cultural and historical value for the country, unfortunately, Talibak took the extreme step of blowing up cultural historical statues." Fourteen years on, the government is yet to rebuild the statues. He urged the government to direct the departments concerned to show the way in which would attract more tourists.

Former Lawmaker Shabbi Atta's Body Found in Kabul

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Three Die: Afghanistan's Strongmen and the Legacy of Impunity

KABUL - During the contact, three Afghan security forces were killed in crossfire. The reports were confirmed by the National Security Council (NSC) on Thursday. "We need to address these issues and bring about a change," the NSC said in a statement. (More on P4, 12).

Lack of Progress on Peace Talks Raises Questions

KABUL - Despite initial optimism surrounding the announcement of possible talks with the Taliban, the ensuing weeks have seen little to no progress made, with no delegations, no location and no date selected for any such negotiations as of yet, according to comments made by representatives of Chief Executive Abdullah Abdulah.

Acser Warns Against Politicising Electoral Reforms

KABUL - The Afghan Civil Society and Electronic Network (ACSEN) on Thursday warned precipitation in electoral reforms would damage the credibility of the electoral process. ACSEN said the public, civil society networks and donor countries had attached high expectations with the unity government to embark on electoral reforms without further delay. "We need a light," ACSEN said, head of the organization, in a statement. "People would lose trust in the elections process and the number of voters would decline in future." (More on P4, 12).

Dostum Vows Redress for Taekwondo Protestors

WASHINGTON - US President Barack Obama on Thursday held a video conference with his Afghan counterpart Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah. During the contact, they discussed the current situation in the country and efforts to improve Kabul-Mashhad, especially with regards to security. "The president commended Ghani and Dr. Abdullah on their leadership in promoting Afghan peace process and urged the conflict and their initiative to improve Afghanistan-Pakistan relations," White House Deputy Press Secretary Eric Scherer said. The leaders discussed the ongoing..." (More on P4, 12).

Preventive Steps Urged to Stop IS Emergence

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Buddha Statues Repaired

KABUL - The eight men named were the sources of police and security across the county. The reports were confirmed by the National Security Council (NSC). The HRW report released on March 3 calls on President Ashraf Ghani and government to prosecute officials and commanders “whose serious human rights abuses have gone long unpunished.” The HRW report released on March 3 calls on President Ashraf Ghani and government to prosecute officials and commanders “whose serious human rights abuses have gone long unpunished.” The reports were confirmed by the National Security Council (NSC) on Thursday. (More on P4, 12).

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Obama Commends Afghan Leaders’ Peace Initiative

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