SIGAR Warns Against Further Afghan Drawdown

KABUL - The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has warned current plans to reduce the number of American troops in Afghanistan could leave Afghan forces with "capability gaps in a number of areas." The US government watchdog in its quarterly report on Friday said the steps could threaten the success of reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. It said a number of major challenges continued to burden efforts of the US and its allies at strengthening the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) and further troop withdrawal would likely exacerbate the situation. "The US ability to influence operational outcomes on the ground is constraining, while (that of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces) has not correspondingly risen," the report said. It said the US lost much of its ability to directly observe the capabilities and effectiveness of Afghan forces since troop reductions last year, calling it one major challenge. Uncertainty over Afghan troop numbers is also a concern, as the Afghan government is working to properly manage US financial aid to support the military and police. SIGAR said the U.S. is currently scheduled to draw down from 6,500 troops in Afghanistan to about 3,500 by the start of next year. This reduction, SIGAR said, could result in "insufficient in air support, signals, intelligence and other." (More on P.5)

Karzai Speaks of Afghan National Army's Strength

KABUL - The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has warned current plans to reduce the number of American troops in Afghanistan could leave Afghan forces with "capability gaps in a number of areas." The US government watchdog in its quarterly report on Friday said the steps could threaten the success of reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. It said a number of major challenges continued to burden efforts of the US and its allies at strengthening the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) and further troop withdrawal would likely exacerbate the situation. "The US ability to influence operational outcomes on the ground is constraining, while (that of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces) has not correspondingly risen," the report said. It said the US lost much of its ability to directly observe the capabilities and effectiveness of Afghan forces since troop reductions last year, calling it one major challenge. Uncertainty over Afghan troop numbers is also a concern, as the Afghan government is working to properly manage US financial aid to support the military and police. SIGAR said the U.S. is currently scheduled to draw down from 6,500 troops in Afghanistan to about 3,500 by the start of next year. This reduction, SIGAR said, could result in "insufficient in air support, signals, intelligence and other." (More on P.5)

Economic Decline Blamed on Foreigners

Soon: Rabbani

Provincial Health Budget Plan Approved

KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on Saturday reported that cabinet has approved the much-awaited provincial health budget plan. Health directors from all 34 provinces will discuss the plan at a three-day seminar in Kabul. In the run-up to the approval, the MoPH said in a statement that "Health services are provided in various provinces through provincial health directorates and health institutions in provinces, and coordination with the ministry of health. The budget is aimed to upscale the number of health directorates in 34 provinces, with the ministry's approval. According to the statement, provinces from 34 provinces are expected to provide financial support to health directorates in provinces in which they will discuss the budget of the province. According to the statement, the ministry will be allocated to each province. The ministry will boost the capacity of health directors in the provinces. This seminar will be an effort to come up with more energy and development while providing health services and to develop the health system in the provinces." (More on P.5)

Ulema Conference on Peace in Afghanistan

KABUL - The religious council of Afghanistan and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) said on Sunday that the amended draft law is now with the law commission while the final draft of the law will be soon referred to parliament for debate. The statement comes just weeks after the law was finalized by the parliament for debate. (More on P.6)

Labour Rights Being Trampled on Afghanistan: AAFU

LASHKARGAH - In a ruling announced on Sunday, Helmand Court Convicts a ruling that sparked labour rights violations in Afghanistan. Labour rights are trampled and employers are made to return to their country after committing a crime. "Youths are returning to their country and the government should act on their ability," said, Adel. (More on P.6)

Afghanistan's Penal Code Revised: Officials

KABUL - The Ministry of Justice said on Sunday that a draft law for a new penal code was under the agenda of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) would be arranged soon in a meeting to discuss and support the stability of Afghanistan. The ministry added that a new penal code was needed because peace efforts could not succeed without input from the people, as observed. Rabbani said that Ulema conference would be arranged soon in a meeting to discuss and support the stability of Afghanistan. The ministry added that a new penal code was under the agenda of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) would be arranged soon in a meeting to discuss and support the stability of Afghanistan. The ministry added that a new penal code was under the agenda of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) would be arranged soon in a meeting to discuss and support the stability of Afghanistan. The ministry added that a new penal code was needed because peace efforts could not succeed without input from the people, as observed. Rabbani said that Ulema conference would be arranged soon in a meeting to discuss and support the stability of Afghanistan. The ministry added that a new penal code was under the agenda of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) would be arranged soon in a meeting to discuss and support the stability of Afghanistan. The ministry added that a new penal code was needed because peace efforts could not succeed without input from the people, as observed. The ministry added that a new penal code was under the agenda of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) would be arranged soon in a meeting to discuss and support the stability of Afghanistan. The ministry added that a new penal code was needed because peace efforts could not succeed without input from the people, as observed. (More on P.6)

A new penal code for Afghanistan has been approved. The head of the commission, Mr. Muhammad Ashraf Kashef, said that they had revised and amended some articles of the law. "We need to review Afghan Criminal Law. For instance, some issues remain without a solution from the past which now are not part of principles of international law," Rabbani added. Meanwhile, Justice Minister Abdul Basir Anwar said the move by the cabinet will help to facilitate the creation of a new penal code. (More on P.6)