No Compromise on Independence: Abdullah

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Monday said Afghanistan could not tolerate its independence to be harmed and that Kabul respected Islamabad’s worries and was ready to talk. Abdullah expressed these views during a meeting with a Pakistani parliamentary delegation which called on him at the Sapidar Palace here today.

The CEO hoped the Pakistani delegation that represented all political parties would play a constructive role in improving relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

“We took serious steps for improving relations, we had missed many opportunities and we should not miss more,” he said. Talking to the delegation, Abdullah said: “I know from my past experiences that you have many concerns and the main concern may be about the Taliban’s-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and India’s presence in Afghanistan,”

Abdullah said India’s presence in Afghanistan was based on a friendship and international norms, an issue Pakistan should not worry about. He said the TTP usually lived in areas with Taliban militants who he called the enemies of Afghanistan. Afghanistan as a victim of terrorism would never support any terrorist groups, he added.

“We do not blame Pakistan for all problems in Afghanistan, but insecurity is one of the major challenges and we want Pakistan’s cooperation in this regard,” he said. The CEO welcomed the visit and goodwill of the Pakistani delegation and said Afghanistan was ready for taking every action for peace.

Hekmatyar’s Peaceful Return

Encouraging Step: UNAMA

KABUL - The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Monday said they were encouraged by progress on peace in Afghanistan in the form of Gulbadin Hekmatyar, head of his own Hizb-i-Islami, peaceful return to the country.

UNAMA supported the efforts by Afghanistan’s National Unity Government to engage all those interested in establishing an equitable peace and renouncing violence for good, the statement said. –More on P#4

Casualties Among Afghan Forces

Shockingly High: SIGAR

KABUL – Preventing the Taliban and other militants from expanding their control of the countryside will continue to be a challenge for Afghan security forces, says a US-based watchdog.

In a quarterly report on Monday, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said casualties among Afghan forces in the war against the insurgents were shockingly high.

Conflict-related casualties had hit an all-time high, with the Taliban still controlling a third of the country, where reconstruction projects had been hindered by corruption among Afghan nationals and US contractors, it added.

Talks with Afghans

Fruitious: Speaker Sadiq

KABUL - The head of a visiting parliamentary delegation from Pakistan met Afghan officials on Monday said they had forgotten the past and wanted to open a new chapter in relationship with Afghanistan.

Pakistan’s National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq is heading the delegation that arrived in Kabul on Saturday. President Ashraf Ghani welcomed the delegation and... –More on P#6

US Must Press Pakistan to Change its Afghan Policy: ICG

WASHINGTON - The United States should condition its military aid to Pakistan to force Islamabad to rethink its alleged support to the Afghan insurgency, says a report released by the International Crisis Group (ICG) on Sunday.

The transnational think tank, which provides policy inputs to the World Bank, the United Nations and the European Union, emphasised the need for... –More on P#2

MPs to Govt: Don’t Give Ex-Security Bosses New Jobs

KABUL - A number of Wolesi Jirga or lower house members on Monday critcised the suggestion of appointing two top military officials who recently resigned as ambassadors.

On the other hand, the lawmakers said the government’s security strategy had been unsuccessful and asked the government to come with an effective military strategy.

Defence Minister Gen. Ab- dullah Habibi and Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qadamullah Shah Shahn had recently resigned after a deadly attack on an Afghan National Army (ANA) base in northern Kunar. –More on P#4

Get MORE for less.

Get 1000 minutes for 200 Af.

Activate now: sms M200 to 3738

Deactivation SMS: PUspace M200 to 3378

Sild registration is mandatory. Call 0707619688 or 0707619689

www.etisalat. af

The future is yours.

Send and Receive money in minutes through Western Union Services provided by Azizi Bank. All you need is a valid passport or tazkira.

For more details please visit the nearest Azizi Bank branch.