Ghani Urges Afghans to Put Aside Past Differences

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday urged the Afghans to put aside their past differences and work for the country’s prosperity under the constitution. Speaking at a gathering marking the 23rd anniversary of the Mujahidin’s victory over the former Soviet Union forces, the president pledged drastic administrative reforms to improve living conditions of the countrymen in a short period of time. He said the government had adopted policies in cooperation with the international community to integrate Asia and Middle East economies through Afghanistan. The president said the cabinet would work on a 150-day plan to ensure that people felt positive change as a result of government policies. He said global terrorist networks were out to destabilize Afghanistan and reached their targets by spreading fear and threatening people. Ghani said terrorists earned bad name to Islam by staging attacks on public gatherings that resulted in the killing of innocent people. The world, he said, fortunately understood that terrorists had no link with Islam. He said the... (More on P10.)

HPC, Taliban and Mediators Set to Meet in Doha

KABUL - In a two-day meeting set for Doha, representatives from Afghanistan’s High Peace Council, the Taliban and mediators from international peace initiatives (JIPA) are expected to thrash out their perspectives on political matters, especially those relating to peace in Afghanistan. The High Peace Council’s (HPC) advisor for international affairs Mohammad Haseeb said Qanbari and the respective delegations are expected to participate in exploratory discussions on peace talks Sunday and Monday. In addition to the High Peace Council... (More on P10.)

MPs Accuse Senior Security Authorities of Neglecting Parliament

KABUL - Wali Khan Ismael (Lower House of Parliament) members on Saturday sharply criticized top security officials who failed to appear before the house to brief lawmakers on recent security incidents. National Security Advisor Mohammad Haider Amor and other senior security authorities were expected to appear at Saturday’s session over increased insurgent activities including the Kunduz battle but instead, security officials reportedly... (More on P10.)