HPC Urges UN to Remove Taliban from Blacklist

KABUL - The High Peace Council (HPC), a government body tasked with bringing peace with Taliban and other insurgent groups, on Sunday said removing the names of Taliban figures from a UN blacklist would help assist the peace process.

HPC spokesman Masavi Shahzada Shahid told Pajhwok Afghan News that the council had urged the United Nations to consider removing the names of Taliban leaders from the blacklist because it could help advance the peace process. Shahid preferred the opening of a political bureau for the Taliban inside Afghanistan, but said it was not an insistence on their part. He said such an office should be opened everywhere in the country.

He called an essential step for making the peace process a success the removal of Taliban leaders' names from the UN blacklist and opening an office for the Taliban. A few days ago, two days of informal talks took place in Qatar between Taliban delegates and political and government representatives.

At the talks, the Taliban demanded the removal of their leaders' names from the UN blacklist and reopening of their Doha office. They also called for withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

UNODC, Ministry to Launch Anti-Drug Awareness Drive

KABUL - The United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Ministry of Interior and Tribal Affairs on Sunday agreed to launch awareness programs against the use of drugs in border provinces.

Director UNODC Andrew Averton and Smith Gulab Mithal, minister of interior, met at the Interior Ministry, to specify areas where they could organize awareness sessions against drugs, a statement from the ministry said.

The minister assured his complete support and said: “We can achieve the desired goals, even if we put all efforts and resources without support from the international community to discourage drugs. The international community should come to our aid.” (Pajhwok)

Uloomi Signs Security, Anti-Drug Agreement with China

KABUL - Minister of Interior Noumouhim Uloomi signed on Sunday that he had agreed to a closer working relationship with China during his first official visit to the country earlier in the week.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, Uloomi said he had met with officials and together they had signed a bi-lateral agreement to expand cooperation in the fight against terrorism and drug smuggling.

A new office was established in the Ministry of Interior. (Pajhwok)

Ghani Vows to Block Meddling in Urban Ministry

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has directed the Ministry of Urban Development to investigate all previous contracts for government townships and initiate a judicial inquiry against officials mistreating their authorities.

The president issued these directives while assessing the Urban Development Minister’s 100-day plan at the Presidential Palace, a statement from the president said on Sunday.

Uzbekistan has called on Afghanistan and China to share a common border in the central part of their country. (Pajhwok)

Taliban, Daesh Clashes Underway in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - The residents confronted with severe problems following six weeks of fighting between self-styled Daesh fighters and Taliban militants in Deh Bala, Achin, Sperghan, Nazay and Kot districts in eastern Nangarhar province, a security official said Sunday.

The official told Pajhwok Afghan News that Taliban militants and Daesh fighters were pounding each other’s positions but now fighters on both sides paused the fight.

“Taliban fighters were killed, 18 others wounded and 21 of them arrested. Seven Taliban fighters were killed, 4 wounded and six others detained in the firefight,” he added.

He said that Taliban’s shadowy governors of Achin and Deh Bala districts were killed in the interior gun battle.

Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, the governor’s spokesman, confirmed the firefight between the two anti-state groups and said his government had no information regarding fighters of civilian civilians.

Col. Shumand Hatibi, commander of the 201st Special Military Corps, also confirmed clashes between Daesh and Taliban and said: “There are Taliban commanders, including Taliban shadowy Deh Bala district chief, under arrest.” (Pajhwok)

Governor, Police Chief Involvement Alleged in Kunduz Insecurity

KABUL - The Municipality top delegation on Sunday accused governor and police chief of northern Kunduz province for having hands in recent incidents of insecurity in the province.

The delegation head alleged the two top officials for sending wrong reports about security situations on the ground.

Afghan forces are engaged in an operation against armed opposition groups, according to reports. (Pajhwok)

**Image**

Afghanistan displaced from regions where Afghan forces are engaged in an operation against armed opposition groups, according to reports. (Pajhwok)

**About the Author**

Frank Herbert (1920-1986) was an American author and publisher. He is best known for his science fiction novel "Dune" series. His work has been translated into over 30 languages and has sold over 50 million copies worldwide. Herbert was a prolific writer, and his works have been adapted into film, television, and video games. His contributions to science fiction have been recognized with numerous awards and honors. (Source: Wikipedia)