Pakistan's Isolation is not in our Interest: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said Saturday that Pakistan is in a state of isolation and its seclusion is not in Afghanistan's interest.

During a meeting at the Presidential Palace, the president urged elders from Lany Kandahar to support the government and its key policies.

Tofan Waziri, Senator Mohammad Hamid Hanafi and Gulardin Achakzai spoke on behalf of the elders, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

Despite insecurity and threats, they acknowledged President Ashraf Ghani's success in achieving economic development, region cooperation and foreign policy.

They called the intra-Afghan negotiations the only viable way to achieve peace, saying the Afghans could no longer afford to remain in poverty and war. They urged peace talks with all rebel groups.

Ghani welcomed the elders' support for the peace process, saying a key demand of the war-weary people, according to the statement.

He remarked: "Peace is our main demand. To achieve this goal, we need to work together, public support, patience and flexibility."

Successful parleys had been conducted with the Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan based on sincerity, a strong will, justice and legality. As a consequence, he added, his administration was more interested in reconciliation.

He appreciated the people of the Khak-i-Zamani district of southern Zabul province for driving terrorist groups from their areas - a good omen for Afghanistan's peace, stability and progress.

Ghani observed: "Today Pakistan is in isolation but it is not in our interest. As a government, we should eventually make peace with Pakistan, which should be convinced to stop aiding terrorists."

The government was committed to improving the situation of all people, including women, and will provide essential facilities for them based on law. (Pajhwok)

ACCI Lays down Conditions for Pakistani Exporters

KABUL - Pakistani businessmen have suggested to the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) that they will provide suitable facilities, formulated foods at reasonable prices if Afghan traders start importing their goods once again, said the ACCI deputy head Khurram Shahzad.

He said Afghan businessmen have in the past low prices and have cut back on importing goods. According to him, the ACCI has told Pakistani businessmen that they will consider purchasing their goods on condition that Pakistani traders bring their products to the Torkham and Spin Boldak crossings.

The products mainly include flour, rice, and ghee among others. Pakistan says that they will. (More on P6)

New Appointments at MoI Hailed as 'Timely Action'

KABUL - Military analysts on Saturday said recent appointments in the Ministry of Interior (MoI) were 'an appropriate step'.

Exactly a week back, 13 individuals were appointed on high positions in the MoI in line with the ministry's suggestions and approval. (More on P6)

Hekmatyar, Karzai Stress Intra-Afghan Dialogue

KABUL - Hezb-i-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and former president Hamid Karzai on Saturday met in Kabul and both the leaders stressed intra-Afghan dialogue to achieve peace in the country.

Karbalei's adviser Shahrada Masoud told Pajhwok Afghan News that Hekmatyar and other members of HIA were guests of Karzai at his residence in Curtis.

At the meeting, both the sides centered on Afghanistan's current situation and efforts at peace and its importance. They emphasized on the need of unity among the Afghans who they believed. (More on P6)

Government Blamed for Delay in Parliamentary Polls

KABUL - Head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC), Ismael Mohammad Warticos said government is killing time in holding the upcoming parliamentary and district council elections therefore the parliament polls will not be held this year.

Warticos told TOLOnews that government has not managed to prepare the election budget and meanwhile it has not assured the IEC of upcoming polls' safety.

The commission is serious in this respect and it is concerned about losing the time. Unfortunately, decisions are not made on time and seriously, he stated.

Meanwhile, the Presidential Palace said government is committed to ensuring (More on P7)

Kabul Attack

TALQCQAN - A number of policemen in northeastern Taluqan province on Saturday complained about problems they faced in line duty, but hoped things would improve with the passage of time.

There are about 250 police personnel in Taluqan. One of them, Gul Nasir, who joined police more than 10 years ago, (More on P7)

Over 750 Daesh Rebels Killed in US, Afghan Forces Operations

KABUL - Afghan and US counter-terrorism forces have killed over 750 terrorists of the IS-Khorasan also known as Daesh in Afghanistan since March this year, a statement from the US forces in Afghanistan said late Friday.

These operations would continue until IS-K is defeated in 2017, the statement said.

Since early 2016, Afghan and US counter-terrorism forces have put relentless pressure on IS-Khorasan in Afghanistan.

Their territory and fighting strength had been reduced by two-thirds. In the last nine months alone, Afghan and US counter-terrorism forces have killed the (More on P7)

Taliban Launch Three-Pronged Assault on Ghazni City

KABUL - Taliban fighters launched a three-pronged attack on parts of the Ghazni province overnight, driving a Humvee packed with explosives into the entrance of a district governor's compound during the assault, police said on Saturday.

The assault on Ghazni, the entrance of a district governor's compound during the assault, police said on Saturday. (More on P7)

Eshchi Rejects Dostum’s Reasons for Leaving Kabul

KABUL - Ahmad Eshchi, former deputy head of the National Islamic Movement, on Saturday rejected reports that First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum has left Afghanistan for Turkey for medical reasons.

Dostum has been staying unofficially, due to a number of considerations by government aimed at preventing from challenges (in answering Dostum case) as well as investigating his (Dostum's) case properly and ensuring justice in this respect," he said.

Sources meanwhile have said Dostum made the move after Afghan government asked Turkey to provide Dostum with. (More on P8)

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