

# Iraq's 'Will to Fight' At Issue after IS Takeover Ramadi: US

WASHINGTON - The Islamic State group's takeover of the Iraqi city of Ramadi shows that Iraqi forces do not have the "will to fight," the U.S. defense secretary says—the harshest assessment yet from a high-ranking Obama administration official about Iraqi fighters.

Iraqi forces outnumbered their opposition in the capital of Anbar province but failed to fight and pulled back from the city in central Iraq, Defense Secretary Ash Carter said on CNN's "State of the Union" TV show, which aired Sunday. The Iraqis left behind large numbers of U.S.-supplied vehicles, including several tanks.

"What apparently hap-



pened is the Iraqi forces just showed no will to fight. They were not outnumbered," Carter said. "In fact, they vastly outnumbered the opposing force. That says to me, and I think to most of us, that we have an issue with the will of the Iraqis

to fight ISIL and defend themselves." The fall of Ramadi last Sunday has sparked questions about the effectiveness of the Obama administration's approach in Iraq. That strategy mixes retraining and rebuilding the

Iraqi army, prodding Baghdad to reconcile with the nation's Sunnis and bombing Islamic State group targets from the air without committing American ground combat troops.

Carter defended the use of U.S. airstrikes as an effective part of the fight against the Islamic State group but said they are not a replacement for Iraqi forces defending their country.

"We can participate in the defeat of ISIL," he said, using another acronym for Islamic State. "But we can't make Iraq ... a decent place for people to live — we can't sustain the victory, only the Iraqis can do that. And, in particular in this case, the Sunni tribes to the west." (AP)

# Voting Starts for Presidential Run-Off in Poland



WARSAW - The second round of presidential election kicked off in Poland Sunday with a fierce race between incumbent President Bronislaw Komorowski and opposition challenger Andrzej Duda.

Duda, a representative of the major opposition party Law and Justice, won the first round of voting by a narrow margin, scoring 34.76 percent of the vote.

Komorowski, supported

by the ruling Civic Platform Party, got 33.77 percent of the vote.

As none of the candidates won over 50 percent on the May 10 elections, Duda and Komorowski, are set to launch a close contest in the run-off on Sunday, when more than 30 million eligible voters can cast their votes at polling stations across the country from 7:00 am until 9:00 pm.

The National Election ... (More on P4)...(21)

# Iraqi Forces Repel IS Attacks in Western Province

RAMADI - Iraqi security forces on Sunday clashed with Islamic State (IS) militants and repelled their attacks in Iraq's western province of Anbar, provincial security source and an official said. The security forces and allied Sunni tribal fighters repelled two attacks by dozens of IS militants and five explosive-laden vehicles, including a booby-trapped armored vehicle, on a residential compound, which is adjacent to the town of al-Baghdadi, some 200 km northwest of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, leaving at least six IS militants wear-

ing explosive vests killed, a provincial security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The attacks also targeted the nearby military airbase of Ain al-Asad, which houses hundreds of U.S. Marines, but the troops repelled the attackers, the source said without giving further details. Ain al-Asad military airbase is used by Iraqi military forces, as well as roughly 300 U.S. Marines as military trainers and advisers. Separately, the security forces and allied Shiite and Sunni militias, known as Hashd Saabi, or ... (More on P4)...(22)

# 261 Syrian Soldiers Killed By Terrorist Groups in Jisr Al-Shughour Battles

DAMASCUS - As many as 261 Syrian soldiers have been killed since the al-Qaida-linked militants unleashed their wide-scale offensive on the northwestern city of Jisr al-Shughour in Idlib province a month ago, a monitor group reported Sunday. Ninety of the killed during the attacks of the Nusra Front and likeminded groups were officers, said the Syrian Ob-

servatory for Human Rights. The UK-based watchdog group said the death toll include all those killed between April 22 and May 23, the day when tens of government forces managed to escape the National Hospital of Jisr al-Shughour, the last military position in that key city near the Turkish borders. After the Syrian soldiers made their escape ... (More on P4)...(23)

# IS Kills 400 Syrians in Palmyra City

DAMASCUS - The Islamic State (IS) militants killed about 400 people since they stormed the ancient city of Palmyra on central Syria last Wednesday, the official Syrian TV reported Sunday. Most of those killed in that millennia-old oasis city were women and children, the TV said. Last Wednesday, the IS militants took full control of the ancient city of Palmyra in central Syria. Both the resi-

dential parts and the historic parts, which host 2,000-year-old monuments and temples, of Palmyra have fallen to the IS group, according to a London-based monitor group. An airbase, a central prison and the intelligence headquarters are all in IS hands now, said the monitor group. The IS offensive against Palmyra started on May 13. The group has since captured the towns of ... (More on P4)...(24)

# US 'Deeply Troubled' By Russia's NGO Law

WASHINGTON - The United States said it was "deeply troubled" after Russian President Vladimir Putin officially enacted a controversial law banning what Moscow deems to be "undesirable" non-governmental organizations. Under the highly controversial law, passed by the Russian parliament this week, authorities can ban

foreign NGOs and go after their employees, who risk up to six years in prison or being barred from the country. The move has been widely condemned by human rights groups, and critics have said that the vague wording of the law could also allow officials to target foreign businesses working in Russia. "We are ... (More on P4)...(25)

# Putin Signs Russian Law to Shut 'Undesirable' Organizations

WASHINGTON - The United States said it was "deeply troubled" after Russian President Vladimir Putin officially enact MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin signed a bill into law Saturday giving prosecutors the power to declare foreign and international organizations "undesir-

able" in Russia and shut them down. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have condemned the measure as part of an "ongoing draconian crackdown which is squeezing the life out of civil society." he law is part of a Kremlin campaign to stifle ... (More on P4)...(26)

# Neighbour News

## Iran Agrees to "Managed" Inspections to Military Sites for Nuclear Deal: Negotiator

TEHRAN - Iranian negotiation team has accepted inspections into Iran's military sites in talks with world powers for a possible nuclear deal, Iran's senior nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday, according to semi-official Fars News Agency. The Iranian negotiation team has accepted an enclosed protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which allows "managed inspections" to its military sites, Araqchi said, stressing the inspections should be strictly managed by Iranian authorities. However, the Iranian negotiators have not accepted the talks and interviews with the country's nuclear scientists, he said. The remarks by Araqchi were made in the closed-door

meeting of Iran's Majlis (parliament) on Sunday following the conservative lawmakers' recent questions to the Iranian negotiation team about the developments of the nuclear talks ahead of June 30 deadline.

On Wednesday, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tehran would not allow inspections into any of its military sites by foreigners under the pretext of a possible nuclear deal.

Also, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Thursday that Iran would never sign a nuclear deal that would allow foreign access to the country's scientific and military secrets. Iran and world powers concluded latest round of negotiations on Friday in a run to finalize an accord on the country's nuclear issue. (Xinhua)

## Chinese Ambassador to Thailand Urges Severe Punishment for Zero-Fare Tours

BANGKOK - Chinese Ambassador to Thailand Ning Fukui said Sunday that responsible agencies of China and Thailand should strengthen punishment for travel agencies that continue to organize zero-fare tours despite complaints, including by blacklisting them. China and Thailand have taken some measures to resolve the issue of zero-fare tours, which have proved effective to a certain extent, but failed to eradicate the practice, Ning said. The practice of "zero- or negative-fare tours" refers to tour services sold by travel agents at or be-

low cost in order to attract travelers, who are later forced to purchase goods or tip agents during their tours. There have been frequent reports of Chinese tourists visiting Thailand being troubled by such practices.

The Chinese Embassy in Thailand has begun to forward a list of travel agencies, against which Chinese visitors have filed a lot of complaints, to Thailand's tourism departments, in hopes of deterring the practice by beefing up punishment for one or two of the agencies, according to the ambassador. (Xinhua)

## UK Offers Assistance to Pakistan Probing IT Scam

KARACHI - The United Kingdom government has offered its assistance to Pakistani authorities probing the biggest IT scam that was exposed by New York Times last week, Pakistani media reported on Sunday. Geo News, one of the leading Pakistani news channel, quoted UK home department as saying that if Pakistan would seek their assistance in the fake degree issue, they would extend all their help in that regard. Unnamed official of the UK home department further said that the UK government would not allow anyone to violate the laws or commit fraud. The report further said the UK had taken action against 850 companies since 2010 and businesses were shut for violating rules. The New York Times

had reported that Pakistani IT company Axact was involved in a massive racket of selling fake educational degrees and minting money from across the world. Axact, which was about to launch the Bol television channel, strongly denied the charges, and its chief executive Shoaib Ahmad Shaikh, in different interviews accused rival television channels of concocting the story against his company. On Saturday Pakistan's interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan indicated a broader investigation into the Axact scam, saying that assistance had been sought from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Interpol beside approaching the United States and the United Kingdom governments. (Monitoring Desk)

## U.S. Embassy Trains Tajikistan's Law Enforcement Officers

DUSHANBE - Seven participants from Tajikistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Drug Control Agency and the General Prosecutor's Office graduated from the course on "Police Media Relations" sponsored by the U.S. Embassy's Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program. According to the U.S. Embassy in Dushanbe, the Police Media Relations course focused on promoting and supporting human rights as a part of the daily functions of a police department. They also learned how

to establish productive relations with the media and to use social media effectively. This course also taught law enforcement Public Affairs Sections how to conduct effective press conferences and briefings, as well as manage media interviews. Assistant Regional Security Officer (ARSO) Trey Howerton stated that the course is the second of four ATA courses planned in 2015 for Tajikistan's law enforcement agencies, sponsored by Diplomatic Security's ... (More on P4)...(27)

### Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD) National Solidarity Program (NSP) REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REoI)

For

#### National Individual Consultant Program Advisor for Agricultural Development

to the H.E Minister

(Reference # MRRD/NSP III/CN/108)

**Country:** Afghanistan  
**Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD)  
**Type:** Individual (National) Consultant  
**Project:** National Solidarity Programme Phase Three (NSP III)  
**Project ID:** P117103  
**Grant #:** ARTF (and/or other grants as may be available)  
**Issue Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2015  
**Closing Date:** 06<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

#### I. General Introduction:

The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) was established to develop and implement programs promoting responsible social and financial growth in rural areas, primarily in the non-farm sector. It has employees in all 34 Provinces of Afghanistan, and delivers a wide range of programs funded both by the Ministry itself and the International Community. MRRD aims to reduce poverty amongst the approximately 80% of Afghans who live in rural areas by implementing a made-in-Afghanistan "Pro-Poor" growth strategy which calls upon the government and civil society to address the macro economic constraints, the small size of the formal private sector, and the realities of rural poverty in order to implement realistic poverty reduction and development strategies. MRRD, given its wide reach across rural communities in Afghanistan, has been requested by the President's Office to contribute towards agricultural development and to collaborate with other relevant line ministries to realize the government's vision of an agricultural transformation that leads to greater food security and decreases the reliance of imported food.

#### II. Specific Roles/ Responsibilities Expected of the Consultant Position:

##### Summary of duties:

The National Advisor for Agricultural Development will be responsible to support the MRRD Minister and his office in contributing to national and inter-ministerial discussions, planning and implementation of program activities that aim to increase agricultural productivity and growth. The National Program Advisor will work closely with the Senior Advisor of the Minister and consider how various programs can contribute to the agriculture sector in light of MRRD's current portfolio of program and commitment to donors.

##### (a) Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Contribute to the operationalization of MRRD's mandate in terms of its contribution to agricultural development that will support the agricultural transformation agenda of the GoA
2. Liaise, build productive relationships, and collaborate with other relevant line ministries, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL), in terms of planning and strategy to arrive at common and complementary approaches to accelerate agricultural development.
3. Complete ToR is available in ARDS, ACBAR and NSP Website.

#### III. Qualification Requirements

##### Academic Qualifications:

Master's in Agricultural Development, Agronomy, Agricultural Economics or Economic Development or closely related field with 4 years of relevant experience and / or a Bachelor's experience in the same field with 8 years of relevant experience.

- Practical knowledge of rural development issue and specialist knowledge in one or more of the following areas: agriculture, food security, natural resources, sustainable rural development, and regional development. Demonstrated understanding of rural poverty, social, political and economic marginalization in Afghanistan.
- Complete ToR is available in above Websites.

##### Time Schedule:

Duration: The assignment is expected to start in early July 2015 and is for a period of 12 continuous months, with possibility of extension on mutual agreement by both parties and at the same contractual terms.

##### Duty Station and Reporting Requirements:

Duty Station: The duty station shall be the Office of the Minister for Rural Rehabilitation and Development located within the MRRD Compound in Darul Aman, Kabul, Afghanistan.

**Reporting Requirements:** The consultant reports to the Minister of Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development all work related issues.

##### Submission of Expression of Interest:

The NSP/MRRD now invites eligible Individuals-Afghan Nationals ONLY ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant (IC) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 08:00-16:00hrs Saturday to Wednesday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **06<sup>th</sup> June, 2015**.

##### Address of Focal Person for Enquires and Submission of EoIs:

Attn: Saleem Suha Sr. Procurement officer, Procurement Department, National Solidarity Program (NSP), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Afghanistan  
Tashkilat Street, Darul Aman Road, Kabul, Afghanistan

E-mail to: [s.saleem@nspafghanistan.org](mailto:s.saleem@nspafghanistan.org)

Website: [www.nspafghanistan.org](http://www.nspafghanistan.org)

CC to: [a.dabzakwal@nspafghanistan.org](mailto:a.dabzakwal@nspafghanistan.org)