EU Distressed over Afghan Situation, Urges NUG Leaders to Unite

WASHINGTON - Europe's Special Representative for Afghanistan Franz Michael Skipik Melloni on Wednesday raised deep concern over the ongoing turmoil in Afghanistan, saying the Afghan political leaders to settle their disputes and unite for the sake of the nation. He also reiterated EU's long-standing cooperation to Afghanistan in the years ahead. I think it is very important that there is a strong united Afghanistan, all Afghans have to work together in this time of crisis, there is a very difficult political, economic, and security situation, some of these outside the control of the Afghan government, but certainly national unity, political unity something in the hands of the Afghan themselves and political leadership on the ground, I really think that there is a need to take their responsibility," said Melloni. Joining the EU diplomat, some Afghan lawmakers have also said that with in the political leadership was not in the interests of the country. "Continuation of these disputes - (More on P4)...(9)

We Want Good Ties with Pakistan: Abdullah

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday said Afghanistan wanted good and positive relations with Pakistan. He stressed good relations and civil society activists from both the countries, said the grouping was aimed at maintaining relations between the two countries and the group stressed improved ties between the two countries and the joint group through visits and gatherings was trying to find solution to problems, the neighbours, Abdullah expressed gratitude to the joint group's efforts and said Afghanistan and Pakistan need to be countries with positive ties with Islamabad. He said good relations and all neighbouring countries define his support to the bilateral joint group. "We appreciated the need to a threat to Afghanistan and Pakistan but to the entire region, said Abdullah, stressing a joint and sincere effort by the two nations to improve the region against terrorism." (More on P16)

German Cabinet Backs Continued Military Mission in Afghanistan

BERLIN - Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation of Germany's deployment to Afghanistan through the end of 2017, a government spokesman said. The decision, which must still be approved by parliament, came less than a week after armed Taliban militants stormed the German consulate in the northern Afghan city of Mazar Sharif and killed at least four Afghans and wounded more than 100 people. With up to 980 soldiers, the German army will in future support and maintain Afghanistan security services," said the government in a statement. Germany, which backs the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, has its soldiers stationed on the outskirts of Mazar Sharif, and another 150 soldiers are stationed in Kabul. The Nato mission includes a total of 32 (More on P16)

Soldiers among 32 Released from Taliban Captivity

KABUL - The US-led International Development (USAID) has announced a three-year extension of the Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program (CHAMP), implemented by the non-profit organization Smith said. USAID Mission Director Herbert Smith noted that added nearly $16 million to the project's previous budget of $66 million. USAID Mission Director Herbert Smith noted that more than 80 percent of Afghans make their living in agriculture. "Development of the agriculture sector is critical to the continued effort of USAID and the government of Afghanistan to increase economic growth and improve the lives of the Afghan people," Smith said. CHAMP, implemented by the non-profit organization Roots of Peace, has facilitated the export of 813 million of fruits and nuts by aggressively targeting new markets. (More on P16)

All three Ministers Survive MP's Vote of Confidence

WASHINGTON - America's Special Representative for Afghanistan Richard Holbrooke on Tuesday, leaving a question mark on the future of the Obama administration in Afghanistan. He brought strong support for the US-led military and civilian effort in Afghanistan and the recent announcement that the US president will support the next US general commanding Afghanistan. "I have been the US ambassador to Afghanistan and the Secretary of State, there is a statement. There has been no announcement yet of Olsten's replacement. A decision on future of the position has been left to the Trump administration, which will start working on January 20, 2017. Mr. Richard Holbrook was the first SRAF. "He (Olsten) has played an invaluable role in consolidating the progress Afghanistan has made over the past 15 years including the pursuit of an Afghan-led solution. (More on P16)

USAID Expands Support for Afghan Agricultural Exports

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Quote of the Day

Abdullah expressed gratitude to the joint group’s efforts and said Afghanistan and Pakistan need to be countries with positive ties with Islamabad. He said good relations and all neighboring countries define his support to the bilateral joint group. “We appreciated the need to a threat to Afghanistan and Pakistan but to the entire region, said Abdullah, stressing a joint and sincere effort by the two nations to improve the region against terrorism.” (More on P16)

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