KABUL - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in an interview with TOLOnews this week that despite the violence currently noted in the country the Afghan security forces are able to handle the situation.

“We very clearly stated we had to expect violence to the Afghan forces that are able to handle the situation. The Afghan security forces are capable, very professional and they are able to respond to the attacks by Taliban and others in the professional way,” Stoltenberg stated.

His remarks come after parts of the country including Kunduz, Helmand, Urghun and Farah provinces have witnessed recent clashes in recent times. (More on pg. 10-B)

Hopes for Revival in an Afghan Palace Restoration

KABUL – After years of aban- donment, the historic Darul Aman palace in Kabul, one of the most recognizable symbols of Afghanistan’s decades of war, is to be restored in a project aimed to come to symbolize revival instead of destruction.

The aim is an ambitious one, with a war-torn country fighting the Taliban insurgency across the country, regularly hit by suicide attacks and the harsh economic situation in no better shape than the bombarded-out palace itself.

The project was launched by President Ashraf Ghani in May and Urban Development Minister Sadat Mansoor Naderi said the government hoped the site, now under new, foreign-inclined management, can become the center of a new government or parliament, as well as a tourist attraction.

For the moment, such goals remain a long way off and the most visible sign of removal is a crew working on preparing the site for the full reconstruction to come.

“In the team we’ve built here, we’ve got over 100 young graduates,” Naderi told Reuters, during a visit to the site this week.

“Twenty percent of the techni- cal engineers you see here are females,” the said.

In a country where opportunities for women to develop careers are severely limited, the restoration effort, which will depend heavily on support from foreign donators, is a showcase for young gradu- ates, Naderi said. (Pajhwok)

Air Force026

Afghan Air Force020

The Afghan Air Force020

US Hands Over 492 Humvees to Afghan Police Forces

KABUL - The Afghan National Police (ANP) forces received yesterday from the United States an offer to provide the capabilities of the police forces.

A senior official in the Min- istry of Interior, Murtaza Ra- nhi, said the delivery of 240 Humvees to the police forces northern city of Kunduz and the remaining 222 ve- hicles will be handed out at the near future.

He said the special opera- tions forces of the Afghan police, public order forces, border police forces, and the remaining areas will re- ceive the other vehicles. Rahimi further added that the Ministry of Interior will also receive 3,000 mod- ern weapons of all types. (More on pg. 10-D)

MoU on Conservation of Kabul’s Heritage Signed with AKTC

KABUL - An agreement has been signed with the Afghanistan Heritage Trust (AKTC) on the conservation of key historic sites in Kabul, the Ministry of Urban Devel- opment and Housing en- hanced on Friday.

The memorandum of under- standing (MoU) was signed by the Afghan government’s urban development minister, and Luis Monreal, general manager of AKTC, in the sidelines of the Brus- sellas Conference.

A statement from the ministry said the MoU encompassed a multi- year partnership for urban planning activities and im- plementation of several pro- jects that would protect the heritage assets of the capital city.

This public-private coopera- tion aims to further develop aspects of heritage manage- ment principles outlined in the Afghan government’s Urban National Priority Pro- gramme (UNPP).

AKTC will provide technical assistance on planning and conservation activities currently being undertaken by the government in the former Royal Palace and the remaining 222 ve- hicles will be handed out at the near future.

The program is run by the Ministry of Interior. The AKTC will also receive 3,000 mod- ern weapons of all types. (More on pg. 10-D)

Women’s Group Teaches Life Skills to Help Afghan in US

NEW YORK - Every day in Afghanistan, women’s lives are shattered. Some have been killed, others tortured or beaten. (More on pg. 10-D)

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