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Robert Ingersoll

General Abdul Rashid Dostum We will Take Revenge

SHEBERGHAN - The First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum said at a meeting on Tuesday with security forces in Sheberghan city in Jawzjan province that the enemy has suffered a heavy casualty toll across the country in clashes with security forces but that he will see to it that insurgents pay for what they did to the people and security forces in Kunduz. "We are aware of what the cowards [the Taliban] did in Kunduz and we will take revenge," Dostum told the gathering. Dostum who arrived in Jawzjan on Tuesday met with troops in a bid to boost morale and called on them to keep the Afghan flag flying high. "We are with the security forces of the



country. I am supporting you and I am with you," he added. "We will take revenge of the blood of our soldiers who were shot dead," he said. He said the international community has pledged to help the Afghan security forces - including the air force - to stand on their own feet. Referring to US President Barack Obama's decision to delay troop draw down, Dostum said: "The US is standing with us [Afghanistan] after 2016." In addition he called on troops in Ghormach district in Faryab province to not lose hope and said reinforcements will reach them soon. Dostum ... (More on P4)...(1)

MPs Seek Military Help for Ghormach District

KABUL - MPs from northern Faryab province on Tuesday said that at least 30 police force members have been killed and captured following the fall of Ghormach district to the Taliban on Sunday. Among those captured is Abdul Majid Glimbaf, the district's security chief. The MPs urged government to send in reinforcements before a local army base falls to the insurgents. "After the fall of the center of Ghormach to militants, at least 100 soldiers fled to the mountains. The government failed to equip and help them due to bad weather, therefore the Taliban launched a heavy clash where 20 or 30 soldiers were shot dead in one check post and their bodies are still there," said Naqibullah Fayiq, an MP from Faryab. "At least 19 other police force members including the police chief for Ghormach - who has sustained an injury to his shoulder - have been captured by the militants and there is no information about them so far," he added. Local officials in Faryab meanwhile said an army base - comprised of 100 soldiers - has been under siege ... (More on P4)...(2)

Afghan-Iran Private Sectors' Trade Turnover to Hit \$3bln in Post-Sanction Era



TEHRAN - Iranian and Afghan private sector businessmen in a joint meeting in Kabul decided to improve the volume of bilateral trade from its current \$2 billion to \$3 billion after the anti-Iranian financial sanctions are annulled in the next two months. "After signing contracts with the Iranian investors from the service and construction sectors, who are present in the meeting, the annual bilateral commerce will hike from \$2bln to \$3bln," Executive and Financial Deputy Chair-

man of Afghanistan's Chamber of Commerce Ahmad Taufiq Davari announced in the meeting on Tuesday. Meantime, Iranian Embassy's Commerce Attache in Kabul Mohammad Reza Karimzadeh announced that Iran will pay extra attention to the Afghan economic activists after removal of sanctions. "There are mutual opportunities and vast capacities before investors from Iran and Afghanistan which will be activated through calculated ... (More on P4)...(4)

Dissident Commanders Meet to Choose Rival Afghan Taliban Leader

KABUL - Weeks after the Afghan Taliban's biggest battlefield success since 2001, dissident commanders unhappy with their new leader Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour are meeting to choose a rival, they told Reuters on Tuesday. Analysts say the recent brief occupation of the northern

city of Kunduz has cemented Mansour's power, boosting his reputation among foot soldiers and causing the U.S. government and NATO to slow plans for withdrawing their troops. But in the opaque maneuvering around the Taliban leadership, it is unclear whether the ... (More on P4)...(5)

ERC Works Contrary to President's Decree: IEC

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission (IEC) criticized the performance of Election Reforms Commission (ERC), saying that the ERC is working contrary to President Ghani's decree. President Ashraf Ghani in a legislative decree accepted seven of 11 proposals for electoral reforms and has assigned responsible agencies to provide practical steps for the implementation of the proposals and to take action in this regard. IEC noted that decisions to be taken against the decree of President Ghani by ERC would not be supported by



the election commission. "The ERC's decisions are at odds with the president's decree. We will not accept any illegal action by the Electoral Reforms Commission," spokesman of IEC, Noor Muhammad Noor said. Officials in IEC demanded President Ghani to do not allow electoral reform commission to work in contrast to his decree. "We are cooperating with Electoral reforms commission but we do not accept any illegal reforms. ERC ... (More on P4)...(3)

Former Taliban Deputy Minister Detained in Dubai

DUBAI - A former deputy minister of the regime of Taliban has been detained in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Reports suggest that Abdul Rahman Zahid, the deputy foreign minister of Taliban regime, was arrested after landing at Dubai International Airport last month. According to reports, Zahid was not directly involved in the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan but had contacts with the group's political office in Qatar and some other Taliban commanders in Paki-



stan. UAE government has said that Zahid, who also had international links, might have held meetings without prior permission. An official has told Pajhwok news agency on the condition of anonymity Zahid had increased interaction with the Afghan government and his arrest might be a joint effort of the spy ... (More on P4)...(6)

Military Operation Launched to Retake Ghormach from Taliban: MoI

KABUL - A military operation has been launched by Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to retake Ghormach district of Faryab. Taliban seized control of the district about three days ago, but officials in the Ministry of Interior announced today that they have launched military operations to clear anti-government militants and to retake the district. Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said on Tuesday that Afghanistan's First Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum has also travelled to Faryab to participate in the operation in order to encourage Afghan forces. According to the officials in the MoI, during the last 24 hours Taliban militants have also intensified attacks over Nad Ali, Musa Qala and Nawzad districts in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan, but Afghan forces struggles seriously to push these attacks back. Sediqi says Afghan forces have killed at least 27 Taliban fighters during the last 24 hours. At the same time he claims Taliban takes students to religious schools in Pakistan to train them suicide attacks. MoI says currently nine districts are under SECURITY THREATS in Kunar, Nangarhar, Uruzgan and Helmand provinces, but Afghan security forces try to halt all threats across the country. (ATN)

Civil Society Calls for Further Equipment to ANSF



KABUL - The Afghan civil activists on Tuesday said that the Special Forces of the country had done effective efforts to retake Kunduz from insurgents. The armed Taliban by launching attack on Kunduz couldn't reach to most of their goals and to capture the whole province, as they faced with harsh defeat by Afghan security forces. Praising Afghan security forces sacrifices especially in recent Kunduz operation, the civil activists called on the government and World Community to equip and fund Afghan forces till they can fight successfully against the insurgency activities. "I demand the government to provide more facilities to Special Forces and make a proper place for martyrs of security forces," Nasratullah Falak, civil activist said. After completion of process of transferring of security responsibility from international forces to Afghan security forces Taliban had planned to collapse a number of districts and establish safe havens inside of Afghanistan so that to reach their ominous goal. But the army officers promised to Afghan people to prevent any terrorist activities. Although, concerns over security situation exists in the country, but political experts believes that further attentions should be paid for equipping Afghan security forces with modern equipment ... (More on P4)...(7)

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