Millions of Afghans Mourners Mark Ashura

Imam Hussein’s revolution is a global message: Ghan
Ashura is a great lesson for Afghans to not accept defeat: Abdullah

KARAL - Millions of Afghans on Saturday commemorated the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and third Shia Imam. Ashura Processions across Afghanistan concluded on by paying tribute to the greatest sacrifices of Hazrat Imam Hussein (A.S) and his companions who laid down their lives to preserve the uprightness of Islam in Karbala.

Ghani and Stoltenberg Discuss NATO’s Future in Afghanistan

KARAL - President Ashraf Ghani and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday had a telephone conversation over NATO’s future in Afghanistan. “I commended the bravery of the Afghan National Security Forces who are leading security efforts across the country in a very challenging environment,” said Stoltenberg in a statement.

During the conversation, the NATO Secretary General also expressed that they will continue to support the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. They also discussed the security situation in Afghanistan and the (More on P4)....

Action Against Afghan Taliban and Talks Can’t Go Together: Nawaz

WASHINGTON - Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Friday said he had told Afghan President Ashraf Ghani that Pakistan was prepared to assist with peace talks but could not bring the Afghan Taliban to the negotiating table “and he asked to take action against them at the same time.”

Pakistan has no reason to want any violence in Afghanistan. The attacks on the Afghan government, and indeed on Pakistan, emanated from the vast areas in Afghanistan now under Taliban control,” he said while addressing the United States Institute of Peace (USIP).

Pakistan’s priority is to defeat the TTP, which has also found bases on the Afghan territory. Peace written Afghanistan will enable (More on P4)...

USIP Chief Raises Concerns over Waziristan Operation

KARAL - Stephen John Hadley, the head of the US Institute of Peace (USIP) and former national security advisor to President George W. Bush, said Pakistan’s military operation in northern Waziristan had directly resulted in the increase of insecurity in Afghanistan – especially in northern Afghanistan. Addressing a press confer-
ence late Friday, Hadley said terrorist groups have entered Afghanistan from Pakistan where they carry out acts of war. Hadley also raised concerns over the spread of Daesh. (More on P4)...

Kerry, Lavrov Discuss Organizing talks Between the Syrian Govt. and Opposition

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke on Saturday about organizing talks between the Syri-
an government and the opposition, the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement. In a telephone conversation held at the request of the U.S. side, the minis-
try said on its website that the two men had (More on P4)...

Russian Envoy ISSS and Taliban Competing for Leadership in Afghanistan

KARAL - The Russian ambassador to Talo-

ban Jirg Lyudm-Fedorov has said the reli-
bance of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are competing with the Talib-

an for leadership among the extremis-
groups operating in Afghanistan. Lyudm-Fedorov quoted in local media reports said “The relations between the Taliban movement and ISIS in Afghanistan can cur-
rently be characterized as rivalry.”

Ambi concerns regarding growing number of ISIS militants in Afghanistan, Lyudm-Fedorov said “They have different views on the future structure of the country.” He was apparently pointing towards the ter-
ror groups’ intentions to expand their activi-
ties by considering the territory to be a part of a large state.

Our remarks are followed by the Russian General Staff’s report earlier in October sug-
gesting that the number of ISIS militants in Afghanistan had reached 3,000 people.

This concern as (More on P5)...

Iran, Afghan Officials Discuss Joint Security Pact

KARAL - During a meeting between Iranian Ambassador to Kabul, Mohammadbehzad Bah-
nam, and Afghanistan’s National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar, the two sides discussed security agreement. In a meeting on Thursday, the two officials stressed that the deal of the security pact which will be ready by the next Iranian month (starting Nov. 22).

A Afghan security and economic delegation will head to Iran during this Iranian calendar month (starting Oct. 23) to confer bilat-
eral agreements between the two countries in fields of security and economy.

Iran and Afghanistan have decided to sign a joint cooperation agreement to boost long term cooperation in various fields. (FIN)