

Quote of the Day

Nothing is more conducive to peace of mind than not having any opinions at all.

Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

Ghani Calls for Jihad to Fight Corruption



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday strongly condemned corruption and called for a national Jihad to fight the scourge that has gripped the country.

Speaking at a press conference at the Amani High School, in Kabul, Ghani spelled out in no uncertain terms that certain sectors are under scrutiny and sweeping changes will be brought in a

bid to fight the problem.

Ghani said that if corruption turns into an organized phenomenon it becomes like a "cancerous lesion" that can threaten the essence of the nation.

During his speech he urged the Ulama Council to assist and launch Jihad against corruption.

But in rooting out the problem he said efforts have ...*(More on P4)...*(1)

Pakistan Rejects US Accusations over Haqqani

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's National Security Advisor, Sartaj Aziz, on Tuesday rejected claims by the US National Security Advisor Susan Rice that his country had failed to act against Haqqani Network.

Speaking after a meeting with German Foreign Affairs Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Aziz said Pakistan has ousted the insurgent group but added that Haqqani had simply moved across into Afghanistan - where they are now based.

"The infrastructure of the Haqqani Network in north Waziristan, which included IED (improvised explosive device) factories and a number of other facilities including communication [centers] has been destroyed, so what is left here may be very limited compared to the capacity they have in Afghanistan."

This comes after Rice called on Pakistan Monday, during a visit to Islamabad, to stop terrorist networks from carrying out attacks on Afghanistan from within its borders.

Meanwhile, the German Foreign Minister on his visit Tuesday to Islamabad asked Afghanistan and Pakistan to set aside their differences and put an end to past conflicts.

"We stand a chance to leave the strains of the past behind us, and if we can take President (Ashraf) Ghani's word, after ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

Terrorist Sanctuaries in Pakistan Undermine Afghan Stability: US



WASHINGTON - Contrary to the latest Pakistani claim that the Haqqani network no longer exists inside its territory, the Pentagon on Monday said terrorist safe havens in that country undermined the stability of Afghanistan.

"We have expressed our deep concern to the government of Pakistan about terrorist sanctuaries inside its border that continues to undermine Afghanistan stability and US and coalition forces in Afghanistan," the Pentagon spokesman

said.

Capt. Jeff Davis told reporters at an off-camera news conference the US had urged Pakistan to redouble its commitment on counter-terrorism cooperation with Afghanistan against all groups that posed a threat to long-term security of both nations.

Davis said the Haqqani network clearly posed a threat to US forces in Afghanistan and that was why the US continued to work with the government of Pakistan to ensure ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Kabul Ready to Host RECCA Summit

Kabul, 3-4 September 2015

RECCA

The Silk Road through Afghanistan

10th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan

KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Tuesday said it is ready to host the sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) which is scheduled to start on Thursday.

Ministers from 30 countries and representatives from 40 international organizations will attend the two-day summit.

MoFA officials said the main topics of discussion

over the two days will include economic projects, transit and trade cooperation, customs systems, employing of Afghan workers in Gulf countries, connecting Afghanistan with regional countries and an alternate transit route.

Officials said focus will also be given to strengthening ties with regional countries, adding that they will leave no stone unturned in a bid to ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

Dostum Returns to Kabul, Calls for Russia's Help

KABUL - The First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, who returned to Kabul on Monday after taking part in a month-long military operation in northern Afghanistan, has called on Russia to provide Afghan National Security Forces with military hardware including aircraft. Speaking at a press conference in Kabul late Monday night, Dostum said

that "they [Russia] should not be silent. Our security forces need aircraft, helicopters and equipment. A lot of our equipment is already from Russia. They should help our security forces," he said.

In addition, he raised the issue of Daesh and said the group is not only a threat to Afghanistan but a threat to the entire region.

"Everyone knows that Afghanistan is not the only country on their [Daesh] plan. If their plan was only Afghanistan - what are Uzbek and Chechen [insurgents] doing here," Gen. Dostum asked.

"The [Daesh] plan is the Caucasus Mountains, Russia and central Asia. You are watching Syria and Iraq being ...*(More on P4)...*(7)

Talks Between Pakistan, Afghanistan Likely to Resume This Week

KARACHI - Talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan are likely to resume this week when Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Adviser on Foreign Affairs and National Security Sartaj Aziz leaves for Kabul to attend the sixth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA).

According to the Dawn, a senior diplomat said that they were thinking over an invitation to RECCA conference. Two RECCA conferences



will be held followed by a ministerial meeting, on September 3 and 4.

A meeting between Pakistani and Afghan officials is expected to take place on the sidelines of the events, to discuss issues that have disturbed the process of normalisation of ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

ASCEN Floats own Suggestions on Electoral Reform



KABUL - The Afghanistan Civil Society Elections Network (ASCEN) on Tuesday rejected some of the Electoral Reform Commission (ERC)'s proposals about electoral reforms and presented its own suggestions.

Talking to reporters here, Taimour Hakimyar, a member of the ASCEN, demanded the reform panel consider their 11-article suggestions to strengthen the country's electoral regime.

He claimed people's participation in the reform process had been weak

and most people in provinces had not been asked about their views.

Hakimi said ACSN was against extravagant election costs and suggested government machinery should be used in electoral process.

The group also suggested that judiciary should also investigate electoral complaints and stressed the production of election materials inside the country.

Hakimi said the government should include elections-related awareness ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

Clinton's Emails Indicate Mullah Omar was Shielded by ISI



WASHINGTON - Taliban leader Mullah Omar was saved by Pakistan's spy service ISI, says an email of former secretary of state Hillary Clinton. The email was made public by the US State Department on Monday.

While the email gives no further information, it does indicate that Clinton was aware of necessary intelligence information. Mullah Omar reportedly died at a hospital in Karachi two years ago.

However, Pakistani authorities strongly refute reports of direct links between ISI and Mullah Omar. Officially, the US too insists it has no such evidence. But one of the emails written to Clinton on August 25, 2010 indicates otherwise. "I'm sure you know the

facts in this well-informed piece, how Mullah Omar was saved by ISI, for example, but the idea of Afghanistan as an aspect of Indo-Pak war is the best and overarching strategic concept," Clinton was told in the email, in which the full name of the writer has been redacted.

This is written on top of an article "The military and the mullah", written by William Dalrymple in New Statesman. The writer says the Pakistani state has a long history of nurturing Jihadis as a means of dominating Afghanistan and undermining India.

According to the article, ISI gave refuge to the leadership of the Taliban after it fled Afghanistan in 2001. "Mullah Mohammed Omar was ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

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