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“We are pounding [Daesh] every single day,” Obama said. “Our air strikes are doing extraordinary work with the support of all the other service branches, and we’re providing training, assistance and support to the long security forces on the ground.” (More on PA-7).

Current Peace Mechanism Requires Reform: Ghani

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said that the current peace mechanism in the country requires reform. While talking to local elders from Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Helmand, Nimruz and Farah provinces in Presidential Palace, President Ghani said that the environment in Afghanistan has changed. He said most countries have confirmed their stance for peace as rightful, adding that Mullah Omar’s death has brought changes in the situation.

President Ghani further said that a national consensus is required in order to bring potential reform in the current mechanism of peace process. At the end of the meeting, President Ghani requested these elders. (More on PA-6).

MPs Split over E-NIC, Blame Foreigners for Delay

KABUL - Legislators in parliament on Saturday said if government has reservations about the national identity card it should order it to the Welfare Department so that the legislative body can consider necessary amendments.

Parliament speaker Abdul Rashid Talash referred to the concerns that exist amongst the legislators about the present delay of the roll out of the national electronic identity cards (e-NIC) and said that there was no... (More on PA-6)

Senior Officials Behind Insecurity: MPs

KABUL - Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) members on Saturday pointed fingers at some government ministers, governors and local security officials who they accused of being party to the insecurity in the provinces, claiming these officials support, protect and co-operate with only the Taliban and Daesh as well.

The MPs said that Taliban and Daesh insurgents are being transferred between provinces with the help of officials. (More on PA-6).

Massoud Insists on E-University Entrance Test System

KABUL - Massoud Ahmadzai, the winner of the 2016 presidential election, has insisted on the new system of electronic university entrance examination as opposed to the old system of physical examination.

During a meeting with Ministry of Higher Education officials here, Massoud asked the ministry to work on... (More on PA-6).

India to Help Treat 4,000 Afghan Kids with VSD

KABUL - The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) on Saturday said 4,000 Afghan children with a hole in the heart called Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) would be treated over the next five years with support from India.

A contract worth $1 million was signed between Indian Ambassador to Kabul Amritpal Singh and ARCS chairman Fatima Ghani. After signing the contract, Fatima said VSD was a serious disease in Afghanistan, but was common in many Asian countries.

She thanked the Indian government for its support in the treatment of children suffering from VSD, saying that they had also encouraged her pilgrims to contribute at least 1,000 Afghanis each to the action fund in this regard.

Under the agreement, India (More on PA-6).

Terrorism Threats Remain in Region, Also in Afghanistan

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IDB Pledges Fresh Aid to Afghanistan

KABUL - The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) announced Friday that it’s working closely with the Afghan government on a four-year plan aimed at providing assistance to boost the agriculture sector in the war-torn country.

The IDB officials said that the bank was willing to provide long-term Islamic development loans to Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan government.

Underlining the factors playing a key role in Afghanistan’s economic growth, IDB officials said that the Afghan economy was vastly relying on agriculture, a key point that motivates IDB to consider fresh financial aid to Afghanistan.

“Besides agricultural development, there is a need to establish more industries and agricultural products should be added in a way to compete in the market,” said Ayub, deputy chairman of IDB told TOLOnews on Friday.

He said on the request of Afghanistan (More on PA-2).

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