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**NATO to Decide on Afghan Troop Question in One Month**

KABUL - NATO will decide next month whether to send more troops to Afghanistan, since it is unlikely the US will likely be asked to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Army.

NATO has said it will take a further month to respond to Washington's demands for alliance allies to send more troops to Afghanistan. During a meeting of the NATO Military Committee in Tirana on Saturday, defense chiefs from 29 members of the organisation "recognized the need to fill the current gap, temporarily according to group president group General PHD Pasquali." However, no decision will be taken until they have consulted with their respective governments, said General Joe Dunford, the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General John Nicholson, the top US commander in Afghanistan, presented their requests.

The meeting comes more than a month after Pentagon's (More on P4)...(10)

**Logar Youths Show Defiance Against Kabul Stadium Attack in an Unprecedented Way**

KABUL - Hundreds of youths from central Logar province gathered and marched towards Kabul, the capital of the country, which took place last week. (More on P4)...(9)

The youths from Logar province and political experts, reacting to recent comments of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, said his statement has proved Pakistan's support to terrorists and Taliban. Samad Haq, who is widely brandished as the father of Talibans, had said the Afghan Taliban would not fight if Pakistan colluded with the US attackers. Country leaders have graduated from the anti-terrorism he said in his seminar.

However, he added the enemy wanted to have arrogantly should review their policies and stop following the wrong path. He, however, did not name any group or individual. He added the enemy wanted to create chaos and force Afghans to fight one another. The ongoing war, (More on P4)...(10)

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**US to Expand Kabul’s Security Zone to Extend Military Presence**

KABUL - The US military is planning to expand boundaries of the Green Zone in capital Kabul in an effort not to bring nearly all Western embassies, NATO and American military headquarters within the protected area, but to prolong US military presence in the country well into the 2020s.

US military authorities recently appointed an American brigadier general to oversee the project of greatly expanding and fortifying the Green Zone in Kabul. The New York Times reported Saturday.

After the completion of the huge project, the report noted, American Embassies, (More on P4)...(20)

**Conflict in North Has Morphed Into Tribal War: Helmaty**

KABUL - The Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) chief Gulbadin Helmaty said Sunday that the conflict in northern parts of the country has morphed into tribal war.

Gulbadin Helmaty expressed the view during a meeting with tribal elders and youths from Balkh province. The delegation called on him in Kabul.

A statement from the HIA office stated that the security and stability of the country, specifically the situation in Balkh province, was discussed at the meeting. The HIA chief noted the conflict in the province had become a tribal war and a small group held the common people hostage.

**Injured Afghan soldier dies in Ghazni**

An injured Afghan soldier died in a hospital in Ghazni province on Saturday, the officials said.

Omar Aref, the director of the JIN, the grands consolidation in the

link Central Asian countries with Afghanistan and Iran. The president’s meeting with the Turkmenistan and Tajikistan presidents focused on trade relations, because we count on our trade relations with Central Asia. The Central Asian countries will be connected to Iran through a railway that will go through Afghanistan, said Menapal. A number of economic analysts meanwhile said transit... (More on P4)...(13)

KABUL - Afghanistan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) said on Saturday government plans to expand the cultivation of saffron by over 3,000 hectares of land in 2018 in a move to boost the domestic economy. Currently saffron is cultivated in 31 provinces across Afghanistan and early estimates for this year’s harvest at about eight tons. Meanwhile, a number of saffron farmers in the country welcomed the move but said government needed to provide more support to the sector.

Based on MAIL statistics, the year Afghanistan harvested almost 6.5 tons of saffron. This year we harvested nearly 65 tons of saffron, beyond our expectations after we noticed that more land had been cultivated with the herb, so we plan to increase this figure next year,” said@mail spokesman Lalitkabilir-qabi.

“Appropriate work has been done for the expansion of cultivation and marketing of saffron, we hope that more efforts are made for the marketing of saffron,” said Basanzikibli-Khabar, the owner of a saffron export company.

Currently Afghanistan exports its saffron, (More on P4)...(4)

**Herat: Aid for Women’s Capacity-Building Embellished**

HERAT CITY - Most of 80 million aid provided for capacity-building programmes for women in western Herat province has allegedly been embezzled, Pajhwok Afghan News has learnt.

Some local officials and Provincial Council (PC) members corroborated in an interview with the news agency.

However, the government has not yet confirmed the allegations. (More on P4)...(14)

KABUL - Afghanistan’s Deputy Commerce and Industry Minister Atria, the director of the JIN, the grands consolidation in the

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According to Menapal, the country has significantly in recent months andtries and Afghanistan has increased their move.

The show of defiance by Logar province’s cricket league in the country.

The move was an apparent gesture to fight one another. The ongoing war, (More on P4)...(12)

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