Abdullah Talks Poverty, Militancy at UN Summit

NEW YORK - Addressing The 2010 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations in New York on Saturday, Abdullah Abdullah, the Chief Executive Officer of National Unity Government (NUG) reaffirmed Afghanistan’s strong commitment to implementing long-term development projects across the country after 2013. In his remarks, Abdullah highlighted the gains made by Afghanistan over the recent years, but said poverty still remains one of the biggest challenges in the country.

Abdullah also touched on the issue of peace and security in Afghanistan and added Chinese leadership to one

Afghan Police May Face Shortage of Winter Clothing

WASHINGTON - Afghan forces could face a shortage of more than 30,000 coats this winter, which may affect their ability to fight Taliban, a US government watchdog said.

In a letter to the Pentagon dated Sept. 16, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) John Sopko said the shortage could affect even the next year. (More on P4) (G)+

Mass Exodus of Youth from Country Called a Huge Loss

KABUL - The All Afghanistan Federation of Trade Unions (AATTU) head voiced his grave concerns over the mass exodus of youth calling it disastrous threat to the country’s future. During an exclusive interview, Dr. Laqat Aalad told Pajhwok Afghan News the departures of educated and vandalized Afghans from the country had increased due to lack of work opportunities. (More on P6)

Soybean Growers Demand Processing Mill in Kunduz

KUNDUZ CITY - Farmers in northern Kunduz province have asked the government to establish a soybean processing factory following 10 tons increase in the protein-rich commercial crop over last year’s produce.

Soybeans is a grain which contains 36 percent of protein, 39 percent of lipid which could be used in more than 300 types of products including artificial milk, cheese, biscuits, chocolate and others. The crop is good for children to protect them from malnourishment and is effective for heart disease. It is also good for fertility due to its vitamin. (More on P4)(G)

Ghani Praises ANSF, Assures Full Support

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said on Saturday that international community has pledged to fully support Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

During a meeting with officials of security forces the president said the needs of armed forces would be accomplished on permanent bases. A statement from the Presidential Press said that Afghan... (More on P4)

Officials Concerned Over Increase of HIV Cases in Kandahar

KABUL - The Public Health Department in Kandahar said that at least 91 cases of HIV have been reported in central and other parts of the southern province.

According to local officials, the virus has taken lives of nearly 17 people in Kandahar over the... (More on P5)

Taliban Make Millions from Pistachio Yields

KARUL - Majority of the area that has pistachio fields in western Badghis province are under the control of Taliban that managed to facilitate the collection of nearly 30,000 tons of pistachio, said provincial officials.

Pistachio production at Badghis is estimated at 30,000 tons annually, Badghis agriculture director Hafizullah Sialti told TOLOnews.

This year, the Taliban has earned 540 to 550 million USD from pistachio fields, he added.

In addition, the provincial council members also acknowledged the above statements and said the Taliban insurgents purchase acres and exploiters of pistachio money.

The insurgents get benefits from the... (More on P3)...