No Safe Havens for Terrorists in Afghanistan: Campbell

KARUL - NATO’s top commander in Afghanistan US General John Campbell on Wednesday day did not insist on trying the security forces because the sector of citizens’ safety is totally on their shoulders. Meanwhile, Afghanistan’s Youth Union also came forward to announce solidarity with the security forces. (More on P6)

Afghanistan to Become Major Copper Producer: Ghani

KARUL - President Ashraf Ghani hopes Afghanistan will become a major copper producer in the next two decades, his office said on Wednesday.

At a meeting with Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry officials during his recent visit to the UAE, Ghani highlighted the enormous investment opportunities offered his administration.

A statement from the Presidential Palace quoted Ghani as telling his visitors that exploration and production in the mining sector is a top priority.

While appreciating the U.S. investment in different sectors of Afghanistan’s economy, he worried the Afghan entrepreneurs to explore more opportunities in the conflict-devastated country.

In the next 20 years, our country will become one of the world’s leading copper and iron-producing nations," the president told his interlocutors. "UAE trade leaders expressed their willingness to invest in aviation, tourism, mine exploration and agriculture sectors, according to the statement, which said both sides agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation. A day earlier, Abu Dhabi Crown (More on P6)

Amended Draft Budget to Land in Parliament Next Week

KARUL - After being rejected by the Wolesi Jirga, an amended draft budget for the current fiscal year was presented to the lower house of parliament next week, a lawmaker said on Wednesday.

Wolesi Jirga’s Finance Commission head Amir Khan Sayal said the amendments made to the draft by the Ministry of Finance included a 45 per cent increase in the national budget and funding for 445 incomplete projects.

The general spending for 2015 was worth 272 billion afghans and for development spending 150 billion afghans – projections that were fully rejected on the floor of the house on Dec 24. The lawmakersjected the draft unamended and unbudgeted. The list of incomplete projects has been added and another 445 schemes that had been excluded have been brought back to the revised versions, "varied explanation. The new draft will be linked for voting on Monday.

PM Tartrah said the draft had not been approved by parliament yet, but some 45 billion afghans had already been taken for salaries of the chief executive office personnel.

Saleh Zada Nili, another lawmaker, said the government needed to clarify the administrative structures of the newly established offices of the chief executive and special representatives on good governance and reforms. (Pajhwok)

Karimov against Withdrawal of Int’l Forces from Afghanistan

BOISHAN - President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov said that the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan is a serious challenge for all Central Asian countries.

It is impossible not to recognize the significant expansion of the range of threats to international security and stability, the prevalence of local and international convulsion, increasing geopolitical competition for control over natural resources, and communications, the erosion of state sovereignty, technology and weapon of mass destruction, the activation of the forces of international terrorism and extremism, the aggravation of internal- and inter-ethnic and inter-religious confrontation, said the president.

(Kabul: More on P6)

Kabul Police Foils Massive Terrorist Attack Plan

KARUL - The police in the heavily fortified capital Kabul have foiled a huge plan of terrorists to carry out coordinated attacks in the city, security officials said.

At least 17 suspected terrorists were arrested last night after the city police, fire and intelligence forces broke into a house in Baghram district of Kabul, Kabul Police Chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi told Pajhwok.

"Yesterday we were informed that the insurgents are about to distribute the suicide vests in the city to carry out a series of attacks,” Rahimi said.

Rahimi added that the suicide bombers blew themselves up near the Kabul Police Headquarters, adding several (More on P6)

550 Schools Stay Closed across the Country

MAZAR-E-SHARIF - Acting Minister of Education Mohammad Nafq on Wednesday announced that 1,900 schools banned in 12 districts on Saturday due to security reasons have been reopened.

Another 550 schools still remain closed in the militancy-hit areas, he said at the opening ceremony for a professional and technical studies complex in Mian拥抱, the capital of northern Balkh province.

Most of the closed schools are situated in 17 insecure districts, depriving 20,000 students of getting education. Reliable sources revealed that about 1,200 (more than 1,000) schools remained closed across the country.

For his part, Nafq said Kandahar was among the provinces where the number of closed schools was high. All of the shut schools are located in Taliban-dominated localities, he explained.

Three years back, he recalled, the number of closed schools stood at more than 1,600. The conflict killed 22 teachers and 119 students.

Over 4,000 officials, including teachers, have been killed in the past seven years, the acting minister said. (Pajhwok)
Pakistan Fedders Close Scrutiny of Seminaries' Funding

KAROL — in an effort to effectively enhance national security against terrorism, Paki-
stan is correlating the scrutiny of funding of seminaries, a media report on Wednesday.
The complex issue of seminary funding through unconventional means came up for dis-
cussion at a meeting chaired by Prime Min-
ister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad late on Tues-
day. Sharif reported that most of Pakistan-based
religions schools receive funds from Middle East.

KAROL — Government officials and political analysts criticized the Ministry of Religious Affairs for
not implementing its intended cabinet directive in terms of funding seminaries. The direc-
tive, argued that the President should not fund any institution that carried a territorial,
nationalist or violent agenda. The directive was aimed at bringing fundamental and
secular principles into the executive branch but
failed to do so because they prioritized politics over effective govern-
ance, analysts said.

The head of the Department of Strategic Studies, a position in the Ministry of Religious
Affairs, told Dawn that it was and should remain
that dentists require among the primary profes-
sions to be regulated in the country.

There was no immediate response from the
Minister for Religious Affairs (Pakistan).

In light of Interior Minister Tariq Fariq's
request to the Interior Secretary to keep a
close watch on the seminaries, the Ministry
does not have a clear policy on how to
implement the directive in the absence of a
fixed policy.

Heraat Shooting Leaves Tribal Elder Dead
HERAT CITY — Uniden-
tified gunmen killed a tribal elder in western
Herat province, police of-
ficials said on Wednesday.
Now, Goor, who was a
district council member,
was critically injured and
died on the spot, police of-
ficials said.
The tribal elder suc-
ceded in his bid to
survive the attack, but
on his way to hospital,
his vehicle was targeted
by unidentified men.
Dawn had reported that
peace talks were under
way in Herat.

The Interior Minister said that
the government was taking
all possible measures to
prevent such incidents.

An Interior Ministry offi-
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The Interior Ministry has
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January 15, 2015

The Plight of Afghan Women

Regarding the violence against women in Afghanistan, there is a bizarre paradox. On one hand, the recent increase in the number of women who have registered to vote in the last few months is a testament to their resilience and determination. On the other hand, the ongoing violence and neglect of women's rights continue to be a major concern. The contradiction is evident in the way women are expected to participate in politics and simultaneously face significant obstacles.

Women have always been the backbone of the society. Their role is not just limited to the domestic sphere but also extends to the economic, social, and political aspects. However, the persistent violence and neglect of women's rights have made it difficult for them to fully realize their potential. The violence against women is not just limited to physical harm but also includes emotional and psychological abuse. The lack of access to justice and support services further exacerbates the situation.

The Afghan government has made significant efforts to address the issue of violence against women. Various laws and policies have been enacted to protect women's rights. However, the implementation of these laws is often compromised by the lack of enforcement and the influence of traditional values.

Women's organizations and activists have been at the forefront of advocating for women's rights. They have played a crucial role in raising awareness about the issue and pressing for changes. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed, and there have been some positive developments. However, the journey towards women's emancipation remains long and challenging.

In conclusion, the situation of women in Afghanistan is a matter of concern. Their rights and well-being are intertwined with the broader issue of peace and stability. The international community and the Afghan government must continue to work together to ensure that women have access to their fundamental rights and freedoms.

By Asmatyar

Lonelessness – A Spiritual Vacuum

By Hajjatullah Zia

Continued from yesterday

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In the midst of the chaos and confusion, a lone figure stands steadfast, their presence a beacon of hope. This person, with their unique perspective and experiences, delves into the realm of lonelessness, a concept that is both universally understood and deeply personal. The exploration of lonelessness does not collapse into despair but rather opens a gateway to understanding the intricacies of human experience.

The ability to connect with others is a fundamental aspect of human nature. Social interaction provides a sense of belonging, support, and understanding. Yet, the journey towards authentic human connection is not always straightforward. Challenges such as cultural differences, personal growth, and societal pressures can create barriers to genuine connection.

Lonelessness is not just a lack of companionship but a deeper sense of disconnection from oneself and the world. It can manifest in various forms, ranging from feeling alone in a crowd to experiencing a profound sense of isolation in the presence of others.

In times of profound lonelessness, one might seek the comfort of spiritual practices, meditation, or solitary reflection. These practices offer a means to connect with one's inner wisdom, fostering a sense of peace and inner strength.

As human beings, we are inherently social beings. The desire for connection and belonging is a universal trait. The experience of lonelessness, though challenging, can also be a path towards personal growth and self-discovery.

By Asmatyar

Asmatyar is permanent writer of Daily Afghan Outlook. He can be reached at asmatyarilyan@gmail.com

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Al Qaeda Claims French Attack.

DUBAI (AP) - A new Al Qaeda group claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing Wednesday in which 16 people were killed in a Paris restaurant, saying the attack was in retaliation for French support of Israel.

"The facts show that the French government is an accomplice of the Israeli regime," said the statement posted on a website used by Al Qaeda. "The French government, led by the neo-Nazi Sarkozy, is responsible for these terrorist attacks..."
Syrian Opposition Groups Will Lose Out By Missing Talks: Russian

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday that Syria opposition representatives were missing an opportunity to play a “constructive role” in peace efforts if they do not participate in talks mediated by Russia, the United States and Turkey. “The refusal of the Syrian opposition to participate in the talks in Geneva, particularly by Asma al-Assad, is an attempt to push the conflict in Syria further, and their absence is a loss for the search for a solution to the conflict,” he told a news conference. “We all know that there is a risk that this conflict will develop into something that is worse than a civil war,” Lavrov said at a news conference. “We all hope that this will not happen, but we must realistically assume that the conflict will develop into something that is worse than a civil war.”

States, Donors Must Do More to Tackle Rising Disaster Risk: U.N.

Barcelona — As an economic slowdown in the oil-producing world and rising food and fuel prices pose a threat to the survival of millions of people, the United Nations chief said on Tuesday that the world must do more to tackle the increasing risk of disaster.

Germany Change ID Law to Combat Terrorism

BERLIN — The German government on Tuesday changed a law that requires citizens to carry an identity card or passport, in an effort to combat terrorism.

The law was accused of posing a threat to the German government’s efforts to prevent the spread of terrorism.

The law is a step towards a more integrated approach to counterterrorism, according to the German government.

S.Korea Uses DPKF Again to Denounce North

SEOUL — South Korea on Tuesday urged the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) again to respond to its statement that the government was willing to discuss matters of mutual interest with North Korea.

The South Korean government said it would not reinitiate talks with the North unless it received a positive response.

Italian President Quits Before End of Second Tenure

ROME — Italian President Giorgio Napolitano resigned on Tuesday, just over three years into his second five-year term, after the Senate rejected the government’s request for a confidence vote. Mr. Napolitano had been under pressure for months to resign after the collapse of his center-left government in March, which had failed to win support in a key vote.

The President of the Republic of Italy, Giorgio Napolitano, who will serve as a senator for life after his resignation, had been in office since 2006. He was chosen by Italy’s political parties to succeed the country’s long-serving president, Sandro Pertini. Mr. Napolitano’s resignation leaves the field open for a new election, with the prospect of a centre-left candidate emerging as the favourite.

Nehemiah News

Iran Says Possible Sanctions to Jeopardize Ongoing Nuclear Talks

TEHRAN — Any possible international sanctions against Iran could jeopardize the ongoing nuclear talks, Iran’s top nuclear negotiator said on Wednesday. “We can reach a good agreement with the West if the West offers it,” said Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran’s atomic energy organization. “The West also needs to consider the results of the last round of talks, because if the West does not accept the agreement, it will be in a position to impose sanctions against Iran.”

U.S. Hopes Russian Effort on Syria Will Succeed: U.N.

GENEVA — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed hope on Thursday that Russia’s overtures to Syria indicated a new willingness on Moscow’s part to support a political solution in Syria that would involve all sides. “There is an urgent need for a political solution to end the conflict in Syria,” Mr. Ban said in a statement. “The international community is fully aware of the gravity and urgency of the situation in Syria.”

COAS Visits London on Three-Day Official Visit

Islamabad — Pakistan’s army chief Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani was in London on Monday for a three-day official visit. The visit is part of the government’s efforts to improve relations with the European Union and the United Kingdom. During his visit, the army chief is expected to meet with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and other top officials. The visit is also expected to provide an opportunity for Pakistan and the UK to complete cooperation in various areas, including counter-terrorism and the ongoing war on terror.

Corruption Fight Needs Public Support: CCDI

BEIJING — China’s top anti-corruption watchdog said public support was crucial for the fight against corruption but it would not be enough to combat the “dual-track” corruption that has become a major problem in the country.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), which is responsible for fighting corruption, said that public support alone would not be enough to fight corruption.

The NDRC said that public support was crucial for the fight against corruption, but it would not be enough if there was no strong discipline and governance.

Japan’s Cabinet OKs Record $814 Billion Budget

Tokyo — Japan’s Cabinet on Tuesday approved a record $814 billion budget for the fiscal year starting in April, its biggest spending package in three decades, in an effort to stimulate the economy and create jobs. The budget is the largest ever for Japan, and the government hopes it will help boost the economy and create jobs.

The budget includes plans for a new high-speed railway link between Tokyo and Osaka, as well as increased spending on education and health care.

Tajikistan to Build New Textile Plant

DUSHANBE — Tajikistan was discussing the possibility of building a new textile plant in Tajikistan, with the goal of increasing the country’s production of cotton and textiles.

The project is being considered by Tajikistan’s authorities, with the aim of increasing the country’s production of cotton and textiles.

Bhutan Signs Agreement to Set Up Industrial Estate

THIMPHU — The Bhutanese government and a private company have signed an agreement to set up an industrial estate in Bhutan, with the aim of attracting foreign investment.

The agreement was signed during a ceremony in Bhutan, with the presence of government officials and representatives from the private company. The estate is expected to contribute to the country’s economic growth and create jobs.
KARUL - Some members of the tribal jirga - or lower house of the parliament - on Wednesday said majority of cabinet nominees would not be acceptable to the tribal leaders as they lacked professional experience.

Buying a handful of qualified nonsmokers among the cabinet choices would try to strike secret deals with lawmakers to win a vote of confidence, the leaders were told.

More than 90 days after its inauguration, the unity government on Monday finalized a language list of 27 ministers-designates, including the Minister of Security (NDS) and the Afghanistan Bank, heads.

Maulvi Abdul Rahman, a MP from northern Balkh province, said the cabinet picks were incompetent and non-professional. The people of Afghanistan did not wait for three months to see each face of cabinet ministers, he remarked. Government for competent and committed peace leaders, he said. All cabinet ministers and MPs did not attend council meetings, most of the ministers-designates would fail to win trust.

Qudratullah Zalj, a lawyer, from northern Nangarhar province, alleged the cabinet had been announced on secrecy lines. Many of the ministers-designates lacked professional qualifications.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi alleged the cabinet had been pushed into the tribal jirga court. He said public representatives should keep their promises, come forward and avoid cutting deals.

Insecurity Spurs Illegal Mining in Nangarhar

JALALABAD - The spike in illegal security has resulted in increased illegal mining in various parts of eastern Afganistan province, residents and officials said.

They fear if the tide of insecurity is not reversed, the time is not far when all mines in Nangarhar will be plundered.

A tribal elder in the Sherzad district, Haj Mir Mohammad, told Pajhwok Afghan News that Taliban fighters and smugglers have installed heavy weapons in most of the towns, where residents can hardly move without government's permission.

He said the government needed contracts to some businessmen in Jalalabad to deal with the situation in the Sherzad district, but those illegal miners have stopped and smuggled the number of contractors.

"Every miner is digging the minerals for himself. These illegal miners will rich and will escape the government's struggling routes," the elder said.

Another tribal elder in Maimak area of Jalalabad district, Haji Abdul Rashid, said he had observed large-scale illegal illegal mining of some precious stones in Goshka district.

He took a sample of the stone from Pakistan, but failed to sell it because he was told the stone was genuine.

"When you visit the mountains there, you will find a lot of semi-precious stones because there is no security and government cannot intervene," Ahmadzai said.

He warned the government to check the smugglers.

Projects Worth Over Af 26m Completed

CHECHIKHAN - A cost of 38,880,000 AFN, 32 projects of the National Solidary Program of the Ministry of Rural Rehabili-

[rest of text redacted]