Electoral Reform Commission Swings Into Action

KAUL - As the Electoral Reform Commission formally started its work on Wednesday, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah said the panel would not be a symbolic body because the unity government remained committed to electoral reforms. Electoral reforms are a major point of the互通of agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on a national unity government. Four months back, lawmaker Shukria Barakzai was appointed by President Ghani to head the electoral reform panel but the CEO disagreed with her appointment. On the eve of Tuesday, President Ghani denied establishing the commission and appointing its members.

Addressing the panel’s maiden meeting, Abdullah said the past 14 years experience showed the Afghan consult InputStreamReader reform process in a priority basis and launch of work by the commission was a major step in this regard. He said the unity government had a strong political will to introduce electoral reforms. More on P. 7

Ceasefire High on Agenda in Next Talks

KAUL - Presidential advisor and member of the Afghan government peace negotiating delegation, Haji Diri Mohammad, on Wednesday said more Taliban leaders were expected to attend the next round of peace negotiations. Diri Mohammad, a powerful tribal elder in eastern Nangarhar province, told Pajhwok Afghan News in an exclusive interview in Kabul that a collective agreement would be high on the agenda in the next meeting between. More on P. 7

Umri Assures Public

KAUL - The National Security Forces (NSF) are in the driving seat and there is no threat that any province will fall to insurgents. Speaking at a press conference in Kabul, Umri said officials will be able to stop a permanent threat to any province and that Afghan security forces are able to foil any type of attack if properly equipped. More on P. 7

Haji Mohammad Moheb

ISIS Recruiting Fighters in the Outskirts of Kabul

KAUL - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group has started recruiting in the outskirts of Kabul province, Mohammad Moheb, the Second Deputy to Chief Executive Officer, has said in an interview with Voice of America Afghan TV. Moheb said based on the information they have received the ISIS has started recruiting salaries up to $1,000 along with a monitory.

He said the group has been deployed around 700 to 800 fighters in the country and warned that the group poses a serious threat to Afghanistan. Moheb further added that the group will fight the Taliban militants in the first step as witnessed in eastern parts of the country where they have captured some villages. Moheb also added that the ISF forces have also started persecution of Hazaras and Uzbeks where they burn ed 31 Hazara passengers in Zhari, and some others were kidnapped by the group between Jagehoo and Qareqoq. He said ISIS militants also abducted two women which was rare during the past three decades of war in the country. This comes as Moheb called on his supporters, during the second day of Eid al-Fitr to remain alert and vigilant for threat from all sides to avoid any security situations. During a gathering in western part of capital Kabul, Moheb said the people should be alert to face any situation and should not be concerned and disappointed. More on P. 7

Trust Building

Key to Peace Talks’ Success: MPs

KAUL - Direct talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban have intensified over the past month, aiming to reach a comprehensive peace agreement. The Taliban have repeatedly threatened to resume fighting if peace talks fail to produce the desired outcomes.

The first direct talks between Taliban and Afghan government representatives took place in Doha, a meeting that was described as a breakthrough. However, the expectations for the talks have been mixed, with some analysts warning that the talks may not produce a lasting solution.

It is not yet clear whether the Taliban will agree to the government’s demands, including the release of prisoners and the recognition of the government as legitimate.

The talks have been described as a test of the new government’s ability to negotiate with the Taliban, and some analysts believe that the success of the talks will depend on the government’s willingness to make concessions.

More on P. 7

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21 Rebels Killed in Newest Military Operations

Dostum's Bodyguards Come Under Attack

JAWZJAN - First Vice President Mohammad Qasim Fahim, who is stationed here as the commander of the Afghan National Army's 20th Corps, said Thursday that his bodyguards were attacked by gunman in northern Jawzjan province on Wednesday. Officials said an attacker opened fire on the attack, killing one and injuring another. Officials also said that the attack was perpetrated by a local resident.

Two Children Killed, Wounded in Largar Blasts

PUL-E-ALAM - Two mines were killed and six were wounded when a mine went off at central Logar province. An official said on Wednesday. The incident took place in Logar's northern Ghazni district.

Local government has confirmed the blast and said 14 people were injured.

Outlook Horoscope

Leha (Sep 23-Oct 22)

This is the time to take the initiative. You have a great idea or concept. If you act quickly, you can take it to a whole new level. As long as you're not too hasty in your actions, you can succeed.

Gemi (Jun 21-Jul 22)

A wonderful period. You'll be able to give gifts as you can put them to a whole new level. You'll also be able to receive gifts in return. As long as you're not too hasty, you can make this period a very positive one.

Virago (Aug 23-Sep 22)

This is the time to take the initiative. You have a great idea or concept. If you act quickly, you can take it to a whole new level. As long as you're not too hasty in your actions, you can succeed.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan19)

This is the time to take the initiative. You have a great idea or concept. If you act quickly, you can take it to a whole new level. As long as you're not too hasty in your actions, you can succeed.
Women Suppressed and Unvoiced!

By Asmaaniullah

The frequent tales of bloodshed, aggression, exploitation, and violence that have been reported from Afghanistan are not unheard of. It is said that the situation has worsened, and the plight of women in Afghanistan is particularly distressing. Women's rights have been severely curtailed, and they are subjected to various forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual violence, and forced marriage.

The situation is exacerbated by the Taliban regime's policies, which have led to the marginalization of women in all aspects of life. Women are denied access to education, healthcare, and political participation, and their rights are systematically violated.

The Afghan women's movement has been advocating for their rights for decades. However, the current situation is dire, with the Taliban's rise to power threatening to reverse decades of progress. Women's voices are silenced, and their rights are under constant threat.

The situation is not unique to Afghanistan, as women across the world face similar challenges. The global community must come together to support the Afghan women's movement and ensure that their rights are protected.

Too Late for Peace Talk

By Hujjatullah Zia

The Taliban's recent announcement of a peace deal has sparked hope among some, but many remain skeptical. The past attempts at peace talks with the Taliban have been met with little progress and have failed to address the core issues.

The Taliban's latest offer to engage in peace talks is a significant development. However, the details of the negotiations and the Taliban's commitment to fulfilling their obligations are crucial. The international community must ensure that the peace process is inclusive and that the rights of all Afghans, including women, are protected.

The Afghan people have suffered enough, and the time for meaningful peace talks cannot be delayed any further. The international community must work together to bring an end to the conflict and achieve lasting peace for Afghanistan.
Partisan Rivalry in Kabul

The Afghan government and the Taliban began a new round of negotiations in Kabul on Tuesday, with both sides determined to reach a peaceful resolution to the country's decades-long conflict. The talks, which were mediated by the United Nations, are seen as a critical step toward ending the conflict and stabilizing the country.

The Afghan government, led by President Ashraf Ghani, and the Taliban, under the leadership of its political chief, Mullah Baradar, have been engaged in talks with the aim of reducing violence and bringing about a political solution. The latest round of talks comes after a previous round in Doha, Qatar, which ended without a breakthrough.

Both sides have made some concessions in previous rounds of negotiations. The Afghan government has agreed to release Taliban prisoners, and the Taliban have signaled a willingness to engage in talks.

The talks are being held in the backdrop of a mounting COVID-19 pandemic, which has strained resources and testing capabilities in both countries. However, both sides have indicated a commitment to continuing the talks despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The talks in Kabul are expected to focus on key issues such as reducing violence, prisoner releases, and the formation of a transit government. The sides are also expected to discuss the future political structure of Afghanistan.

The outcome of the talks will be closely watched by the international community, which has long expressed a desire to see an end to the conflict. The talks are also expected to have a bearing on the upcoming presidential election in Afghanistan, currently scheduled for April 2021.

The Taliban have been fighting a long war against the government, with the conflict having roots in the country's history. The latest round of talks in Kabul marks a significant development in the quest for peace in Afghanistan.

The talks are being held under the aegis of the United Nations, which has been actively involved in mediating the Afghan peace process. The UN has expressed its support for the talks and has called for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
China Plays Important Role in Iran Nuclear Talks, UN Chief

BEIJING - U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter and his Chinese counterpart Hatim Saleh met in Beijing on Wednesday to discuss the possible nuclear talks that could lead to a historic deal with Iran. Saleh said he was concerned about the possibility of a nuclear deal, noting that more than 450,000 military personnel are deployed in the Middle East.

The meeting came as the United States and China work to secure a nuclear deal with Iran. Saleh acknowledged that China has played a major role in the negotiations and that it has been helpful in the discussions.

EU Disburses Euro 600mn Assistance to Ukraine

BRUSSELS - The European Commission has approved an executive body of the European Union (EU), designed to provide €600 million in financial assistance to Ukraine. The commission has released this $600 million aid package to Ukraine, according to the plan outlined by the commission.

The first installment of the aid will include €600 million for emergency security assistance, according to the commission. The package will also provide €600 million for other measures, including €600 million for political support to Ukraine, and €600 million for EU trade and visa liberalization.

27 Killed in Clashes, Air Strikes against 15 Militants in Iraq

RAMADI, Iraq - At least 27 militants were killed and 14 wounded on Monday in air strikes and an attack involving a suicide bomber on a police station in the city of Ramadi, a provincial security officer said.

Heavy clashes have been reported since late Sunday in areas of Anbar province, where the security forces have been battling militant groups.

At least 12 extremists were killed and 20 wounded in the fighting, according to the source.

The provincial security force said it was working to secure the area and prevent further attacks.

Sri Lanka Hails Resolution of Iran Nuclear Issue

COLOMBO - The Tamil government has hailed the resolution of the nuclear issue through dialogue, the country's foreign minister said in a statement on Wednesday.

The statement came after the success of the country's Communist Party in the election, he said, adding that the government was committed to the resolution.

The country's Foreign Minister said he was pleased with the resolution, which was reached through dialogue with the Tamil community.

Kia - Ukraine vowed on Wednesday to continue its mission in the region and its withdrawal from the country, the ministry said in a statement.

The statement came a day after Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko announced that the country would remain in the region.

The Ukrainian government said it would continue to support the country, which has been struggling to maintain its independence.

Un Security Council Condemns Deadly Terrorist Attack in Turkey

UNITED NATIONS - The Security Council on Wednesday condemned the deadly attack in Istanbul, in which at least 75 people were killed and 47 others injured.

The statement, which was adopted unanimously by all 15 members of the council, condemned the attacks and expressed its deep concern.

The council called upon all States to seek peaceful solutions to the conflict, to respect human rights and to ensure the protection of civilians.
US-Pakistan Reaffirm Shared Afghan Peace Desire

WASHINGTON/KARUL - In the midst of the most round of talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government, the United States and Pakistan on Tuesday reaffirmed their shared desire for achieving lasting peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.

KARUL - A US-Pakistan joint statement was released Tuesday after a series of high-level talks between the two countries' respective delegations.

"We reaffirm our commitment to a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan," the statement said.

The talks were held last week on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The US delegation was led by Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Olson, while Pakistan was represented by Foreign Secretary Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

The joint statement praised the "significant progress" made by both sides and expressed determination to continue the engagement process.

The two sides also agreed to support the Geneva peace talks, which have been held between the Afghan government and the Taliban since September.

"We continue to support the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process," the statement said.

Both countries also reiterated their commitment to addressing the root causes of Afghan instability, including terrorism, narcotics, and insurgency.

Furthermore, the joint statement expressed support for the implementation of the US-Taliban agreement signed in February 2020.

The joint statement also reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation in addressing the Afghan crisis, and stressed the need for the international community to provide sustained support for the Afghan peace process.

"We call for sustained support for the Afghan peace process," the statement said.

KARUL - A top US diplomat has reaffirmed the country's commitment to the peace process in Afghanistan.

US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Olson said in a statement that the US continues to support the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.

Olson said that the US is working closely with Pakistan and other regional partners to achieve a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

"The US is committed to continuing to support the Afghan peace process," Olson said.

KARUL - A senior US official has reiterated the country's support for the Afghan peace process.

A statement by the US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan said that the US is working closely with Pakistan and other partners to achieve a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

The official noted that the US continues to support the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process.

"The US is committed to continuing to support the Afghan peace process," the statement said.

The statement came in response to a recent statement by Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who said that Pakistan and the US were committed to supporting the Afghan peace process.

"We support the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process," Qureshi said.

The statement emphasized the importance of a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan, and the need for the international community to remain engaged and provide support.

"We call for sustained support for the Afghan peace process," the statement said.