Gen. Raheel Meets Afghan Leaders, Discusses Bilateral Ties, Terrorism

KARUL - Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Gen. Raheel Sharif on Sunday held talks with President Ashraf Ghani and his special and national security advisor Abdullah Abdullah on bilateral cooperation between the two countries, counter-terrorism and peace in Afghanistan.

According to a source close to Ghani, the president and Sharif reportedly discussed three issues - Afghanistan-Pakistan security, peace talks and counter-terrorism initiatives. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said that Sharif had hoped to visit Kabul before the Heart of Asia Summit, but that the trip was postponed due to heightened tensions between the two countries.

However, a welcome thaw has recently surfaced between the two countries. Relations between Kabul and Islamabad improved somewhat after Ghani attended the Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad last month where Pakistan signaled its willingness to help reviving stalled peace talks between Afghanistan and the Taliban. Reports however indicate that Washington asked Sharif to visit Kabul in order to ease the tension that overshadowed ties between the two neighbors. Meanwhile, Afghanistan’s High Peace Council (HPC) has reiterated its calls to Pakistan to step up efforts and break purposeful peace negotiations with the Taliban.

"We are delighted to see more interaction and trips between Afghanistan and Pakistan. But we ask Pakistan to ensure these trips are constructive so that sustainable peace and security is restored to Afghanistan - which can also secure the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan," spokesman for the HPC Shabana Baluch said.

In the past, Pakistan has had different... (More on p.12)

TAPI Helps to Create 15,000 Job Directly: Saba

KARUL - Makhama Jego (upper house of the parliament) on Sunday submitted a Bill to invest billions in TAPI and energy projects. Makhama Jego, who is the managing director of Afghanistan's TAPI project, said the country needs an additional $15 billion for the project to be fully implemented. He added that the project will create 15,000 jobs directly and Afghans will benefit from TAPI in the long run.

Security officials in Afghanistan have stated that despite security challenges, they are ready to provide security for the project. Davood Shah Sayah said he has faced many challenges here, particularly from the Taliban, which has created chaos for security forces fighting the Taliban in the eastern part of the country, and he has expressed his optimism on TAPI's potential to get all the issues resolved.

DAUDZAI Pressures Ghani on Security Crisis

KARUL - Political horse-trading over appointments in Afghan police and army committees has created chaos for security forces fighting the Taliban in strategic areas such as Nangarhar province, Umer Dadash, a former interior minister said. Umer Dadash, member of a new opposition group, said the power-sharing arrangement at the heart of President Ashraf Ghani's National Unity Government was... (More on p.12)
Kunduz Still Insecure Despite Ongoing Operations

KARUL - Kunduz in- dian officials have appealed to government forces to carry out a large-scale operation to clear insurgents from their battle-wary por- vince and called for two weeks suspension of fighting. Indian officials say there comes two months after security forces regained the city from the Taliban but have been unable to eliminate the insurgents entirely. Afghan security forces however have been able to push the Taliban group back to the Districts in the northern and southern parts of the area. However, this has been denied by the Afghan government who responding to the appeal for the complete operation by 23 December, claim that the Taliban had signed a truce with the Taliban fighters in the last two weeks. (TELEX/AFGHAN YAR)

Kabul to Host Iran's Specialized Trade Exhibition

TIHRAN - Iran's specialized trade exhibition will be held in Kabul from 20 to 24 November. The second specialized trade exhibition in the city, which is to be held in the Republic of Iran will be held in Afghanistan in conjunction with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) from March 14-20, 2020. It was the event's executive director who expected commercial turnover worth 500 million dollars to be signed on the sidelines of the exhibition. Mehr News Agency re- ported that the exhibition will serve as a venue for discussions as well as present opportunities for investment. It was also called that trade agreements worth 50 million dollars were signed last year. "Afghanistan's import trans- port of 85 billion dollars is 40 percent of the neighboring country's trade," added TPO's director. He said, "In the last two months, Afghanistan's import goods mar- ket is an affair further pointed out that the composition of Afghanistan's imports in the last year has changed and is in the past. (Mohre on P.18)

Afghan Militia Beheads Four Fighters

KABUL - Taliban militia members loyal to a powerful Afghan law- maker beheaded four his- tocratic State fighters and placed their heads on the side of a road in a flash assault in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province. The Taliban said in a statement that its fighters carried out the attack yesterday. "In a flash assault in the southern part of Helmand province, four State fighters were beheaded. In this flash assault, the heads of four State, fighters were placed on the side of a road," the Taliban said in a statement. (Mohre on P.18)

40 Development Projects Completed in Bamyan Province

KABUL - National Solid- ity Organization of the Ministry of Culture and Develop- ment on Thursday said that 40 development projects in Bamyan province were completed. According to NSO Provincial Manager in Bamyan province Mohammad Waheed, 30 projects were constructed to assist the reconstruction of the district, while the 10 others are being at- tended a newsreleas- ation or newsletter at a later date in 2022. In the area, a projec- tive Annual Report will be gained access to basic human needs upon completion of these projects. According to NSO, the 40 projects were evaluated, completed, and executed 1,709 infrastructure projects in different regions of the province. (Mohre on P.18)

Afghan security officials inspect the site of a bomb blast that targeted a police vehicle in Kabul, in a suburb of Kabul city, the capital of Afghanistan, on Sunday December 27, 2020. At least three people were killed including two policemen and a bomb blast in Kabul on December 27, 2020. (AP Photo/WAKIL KOHSAR)
The views and opinions expressed in the articles are the authors', and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.
**Ukraine Parish Turns into Battlefield Amid Conflict with Russia**

The Ukrainian army against pro-Russian separatists in the eastern Ukraine has sharply escalated its campaign, lifting a schism among churchgoers in a village of around 1,000 people. The conflict has gripped the entire region, with the separatists attacking Ukrainian forces.

**Nigeria**

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China Adopts First Counter-Terrorism Law in History

REDDING - China's top legislature on Sunday adopted the country's first counter-terrorism law, said to be the latest attempt to address terrorism at home and abroad.

Lawmakers approved the legislation on Sunday afternoon at the end of a week-long plenary session of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee.

A new chapter in China's anti-terrorism struggle started on Sunday, as an official with the Premier's Office said on Sunday's press conference, China is fully prepared to fight the "war on terrorism."

Terrorist attacks have caused heavy losses of people's lives and properties, posing a serious threat to our security, stability, economic development and ethnic unity," he said.

The new law, which will enter into force in January next year, will provide legal support to the country's counter-terrorism activities as well as collaboration with the international community.

The much anticipated counter-terrorism law passed a national testing organ for counter-terrorism work, which will be responsible for identifying terrorist activities and personnel, and investigate money and other terrorist work.

The state will provide necessary financial support. (More on p.5)

Daesh Leader Urges Mosque Attacks in Israel

RAGHAD-

Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the leader of Daesh, called for an uprising in Saudi Arabia and pledged to attack Jewish people on the anniversary of Israel's creation in November, which the Jewish community considers a momentous occasion.

The 34-minute recording was posted on a terrorist website seven months ago, during which Daesh has been waging a war in Iraq and Syria.

But Al-Baghdadi also called on foreigners to "register" with the group to authenticate that it was Baghdadi speaking, but the voice appeared to match previous recordings of the Daesh leader.

And it was not clear when the recording was made, as it referred to a "March of Imam Al-Mahdi and Islamic State" in Baghdad and books of bodies in the province asked them not to speak to the media without going through the government's offices. (More on p.5)

It's up to Muslims to Correct Islam's Image: Rouhani

DUBAI - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that Muslims must improve the image of their religion, which has been tarnished by the violence of extremist groups such as al-Qaeda.

"It is a duty for all Muslims today to correct the image of Islam and to publicize Islam," Rouhani told a conference in Tehran about the spread of state-based terror.

His remarks were aimed at those who have advocated that Muslims should not be labelled as terrorists.

Rouhani, who is attending the conference called "The Role of the Muslim World in Strengthening Dialogue and Understanding in the Middle East," said: "We don't have to be afraid of our religion or of our beliefs. And we should not let a small group of people define our religion."

And added: "We should not be afraid of our religion. And we should not let a small group of people define our religion."

Instead of a small group from within the Islamic world, who are using the language of violence, we should promote a message of peace and understanding to the world," he said.

While so-called "radical Muslims" are labelled as a threat, Rouhani stated that "radical Islam" is not the same as "extremist Islam." Instead, it is a misunderstanding of the religion.

Rouhani also stressed the importance of dialogue and understanding among different religious groups.

"The world is watching us, and we must show the world that Islam is a religion of peace and understanding," Rouhani said.

The Islamic Republic has been working to promote a message of peace and understanding in the world. Rouhani has been actively engaging with leaders from around the world, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and understanding in resolving conflicts.

German Politicians Slam Greece over Handling of Refugee Crisis

BERLIN - Germany's Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble and a senior German politician criticized Greece on Sunday over the way in managing the crisis of refugees and migrants since World War II.

"The German government has acted with great discretion," Schaeuble said. "The German government has acted with great discretion."

But he said Greek authorities have been dealing with the crisis in a "very, very brutal" manner.

"We have been very, very much involved in helping Greece. But the Greek authorities have been very, very brutal," Schaeuble said. "We have been very, very much involved in helping Greece. But the Greek authorities have been very, very brutal."