

Quote of the Day

Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.

Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955)

Constitution

Proposals for amendments of the electoral law cannot be included in the working agenda of the assembly during the last year of the legislative period.

Article 109

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Gen. Murad Ali Murad

Efforts Underway to Ensure Durable Peace, Stability

Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Murad Ali Murad on Sunday pledged to simultaneously fight decisively against elements posing threat to national security and go for negotiations in larger interests of the country.

KABUL - Speaking at the graduation ceremony of 700 junior graduated army officers at the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTTC), he said security forces would chase those creating law and order situations.

The unity government already conveyed to militants, neighboring and regional countries about the roadmap of peace process, he added. "Our wish for peace should not be taken as our weakness rather it is the reflection of our desire for stability of the country and nation." Murad said the government



efforts to engage rebels in peace process would continue, but no one would be allowed to target security forces.

Since one year, he recalled Afghan forces took security responsibility of the country and there was no reason left for insurgents to fight their brothers and sisters by carrying out suicide attacks and roadside explosions.

The 13-year combat mission by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) formally ended in 2014 and the Resolute Support (RS) mission started including training and ... (More on P4)...(1)

Protesters Want Kidnapped Passengers Early Recovery



KABUL - A number of civil society activists and family members of 31 abducted Hazara men staged a protest in front of the 1st Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostam's residence in the capital Kabul and demanded early recovery of captives.

The protesters chanted: "We want justice and im-

mediate release of kidnapped men. The unity government should expedite efforts to release abductees from the militants' captivity."

They demanded the 1st voice president should take personal interests to help release the men.

Earlier, masked gunmen abducted 31 passengers ... (More on P4)...(2)

President Attends Memorial Ceremony at Palace



KABUL/BRUSSELS - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani attended the memorial ceremony for late Farkhunda at a mosque in Presidential Palace on Sunday.

An angry mob beat 27-year-old Farkhunda to death on March 18 before setting her body on fire. She was accused of burning a copy of the holy Quran, a charge rejected by the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs.

The 2nd Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, former president Hamid Karzai, chief of the Grand Ulama Council Qayamuddin Kashaf, Wolesi Jirga members, officials and family ... (More on P4)...(4)

CEO Stresses Consensus on Farkhunda's Issue

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah suggested a broad based joint meeting with the participation of religious leaders and civil society activists to evolve consensus on Farkhunda's brutal killing to overcome the differences.

A statement from the CEO office said that Abdullah expressed these views after meeting with civil society activists late Saturday. During the course of meeting, members of the civil society organizations demanded protection of women rights.

They demanded the CEO to nab the killers and perpetrators of those involved in Farkhunda's killing.

Abdullah reassured the delegation that their concerns would be addressed ... (More on P4)...(5)

Gen. Todd Expresses Optimism about Decreasing Corruption

U.S officials expressed optimism about progress in curtailing corruption among Afghan security institutions this week.

KABUL - Major General Todd Semonite, the Deputy Commanding General of the Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan, told TOLONews on Saturday that corruption in contracts and public spending in recent months has seen declines from the past.

In an exclusive interview with TOLONews, the American general has said that documented assessments indicate a positive change in corruption trends among military institutions in Afghanistan.



A day after the inauguration of the national unity government, General Semonite had called corruption one of the biggest enemies of Afghanistan, call-

ing on international troops to help fight corruption, in addition to equipping and advising Afghan security forces. ... (More on P4)...(3)

Parliament Blasts Support to KSA Intervention in Yemen

KABUL - The Parliamentarians strongly blasted the government for announcing its support to Saudi Arabia's involvement in Yemen crises, something which has already followed serious reactions from the people and civil society groups.

Calling the government's stance on Yemen war against the national interests, the lawmakers on Saturday's session asked the government to dis-



patch its foreign police outline to the Parliament for approval. "We cannot solve even our single problem, and now we are touching a foreign issue which

is against the national interests, prestige and honor of our country," MP Ghulam ... (More on P4)...(7)

Saudi Officials Meet Balkh Governor

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Sheikh Saud Altanin, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's deputy work and labor affairs minister, held a meeting with acting governor of northern Balkh province, and they exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

Also, Saudi Arabia Special Envoy Ustad Khalid was also present in the meeting. Atta Mohammad Noor, the governor of Balkh, thanked his guests for their country's all out support for Afghanistan.

Munir Farhad, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the meeting took place Saturday afternoon in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital. Work and Social Affairs Minister Dr. Hassamuddin, Wolesi Jirga member and other Afghan officials were also present during the meeting.

Noor said every Muslim had great regard for the holy land and the kingdom. The visiting dignitaries reassured that the kingdom would offer more work opportunities to the people of Balkh.

The Saudi Arabi delegation termed their visit to Balkh productive and said the ... (More on P4)...(8)

Khost Observes 3-Day Mourning after Carnage

KHOST CITY - Three-day mourning has been announced in southeastern Khost province on Sunday to mourn the devastating suicide attack. The shops and business centres remained close to observe the mourning period and remember those killed and wounded in the widely condemned attack. A mammoth



congregation would be held in the central Khost mosque to offer prayers for the departed souls and swift recovered of the ... (More on P4)...(6)

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Japan to Provide \$3.5M for Counternarcotics Programme



KABUL - The government of Japan will provide a total amount of \$3,500,000 of assistance to Afghanistan through United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for its comprehensive counternarcotics programme to respond to the urgent needs of tackling narcotics related issues in the country.

A statement from the Japanese Embassy on Sunday said that the narcotics issue needs the cross-cutting approaches and the programme is planned to conduct several activities as follows such as strengthening of the border management for the domestic inter-agency cooperation and cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries.

In addition, it would be used for capacity building of the national institutions in anti-

corruption, development of the agriculture value chains of cotton and rose and the income generation facilitation, and provision of the comprehensive drug treatment and rehabilitation services especially for the female addicts including trainings for the service providers.

Similarly, the statement said that the fund would help capacity building for the Afghan authorities for counternarcotics responses at provincial level and improvement of the cooperation between member states in prevention of drug trafficking and international organized crime by establishing a Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Center.

It merits mention that the narcotics issue has been a great concern ... (More on P4)...(9)