

Quote of the Day

Indeed, history is nothing more than a tableau of crimes and misfortunes.

Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

Constitution

Loya Jirga consists of the following:
1. Members of the National Assembly.
2. Chairpersons of the provincial, and district councils.

Article 110

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President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani

Steps Being Taken to Empower Masses

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said that corruption has reached to its peak in major cities and the poor continues to suffer.

Speaking at an event in Presidential Palace on citizens' rights on Tuesday, the president said it was his government top priority to empower citizens of the country.

"We have divided Afghanistan's cities and districts into five categories. Districts that are placed near the big cities, districts along the highways, districts with natural resources, and districts that border other countries," he remarked. Ghani said districts and their neighboring cities did not ... (More on P4)...(1)



6 Ministers-Designate to Present Plans to WJ



KABUL - Six ministers-designate will present their plans and strategies to the Wolesi Jirga (WJ) or lower house of parliament by coming Saturday, deputy speaker of the lower house said on Tuesday.

Irfanullah Irfan said that the religious, culture and higher education commission have verified degrees of six ministers-designate while those of ten more are being verified.

Dr Abdul Basir Anwar has been introduced as minister-designate to head the ministry of justice and Sayed Saadat Shah Mansoor Naderi, ministry of urban development. Similarly, Mohammad Gulab Mangal, minister-designate for border and tribal affairs minister and they would present their plans to lower house on Wednesday. Dr Fareeda Momand has been ... (More on P4)...(2)

Azerbaijan, Afghanistan to Mull Issues of Strengthening Co-Op

BAKU - Azerbaijan and Afghanistan will discuss the issues of strengthening the cooperation, the embassy of Afghanistan in Baku on Tuesday told Trend News Agency. The discussions will be held during the visit of Afghanistan's Minister of Mines and Petroleum Daud Shah Saba and special representative of the country's president for CIS states, Mohammad Shaker Kargar. Afghan officials will pay the visit at the invitation of Azerbaijani Minister of Economy and Industry Shahin Mustafayev. During the visit scheduled for Apr.8-10, Afghan officials will hold meetings with Azerbaijani leadership. It should be noted that the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Afghanistan stood at \$275.99 million in 2014 and this amount ... (More on P4)...(3)

'Violence against North Zone Journalists on the Rise'



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - The journalists in the north zone said media-men were under immense threats from multiple sources and the government should ensure protection for freedom of expression. In a memorial ceremony arranged in honour of late journalist Ajmal Naqshbandi in Mazar-e-Sharif, the provincial capital, journalist and civil society activist Hamid Safot said the government miserably failed to protect journalists. Journalists discharge their professional duties but they face a number of challenges to perform their work, he added. Gulab Shah Bawar, director of north zone journalists association, stated violence against north zone journalists ... (More on P4)...(9)

Etisalat Signs Partnership Agreement with AVP



KABUL - 'Etisalat signs a partnership agreement with Afghanistan Volleyball Federation for the year 2015,' said Yasser Aboul Amayem, CCO of Etisalat Afghanistan in a joint press conference with Afghanistan Volleyball Federation (AVP) on 7th April in Kabul.

As a part of Etisalat's social responsibilities, a new Partnership agreement was signed between Etisalat and Afghanistan Volleyball Federation on Tuesday, 7th April 2015. Subject to this agreement, Etisalat will be the official ... (More on P4)...(5)

All Abducted Passengers Safe and Sound: NDS

KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) rejected reports that one of the 31 abducted passengers was killed in captivity. Some media reports on Monday said militants belonging to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) had killed one abducted man.

A video clip showed two rebels killing a captive after reading a script, but a statement from the NDS said individual appeared in a video clip was an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier and had no links with abducted passengers.

It said the spy service officials had started investigations into the brutal killing of ANA ... (More on P4)...(6)

UN Claim Top Afghan Officials Involved in Land Grabbing



KABUL - The UN Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan, Mark Bowden, on Tuesday reported that senior government officials and MPs, along with lawbreakers and warlords, have been involved in illicit land grabbing estimated at hundreds of thousands of acres. According to Bowden, at

one time it was estimated that state land made up over 60 percent of new Kabul City. Now only 15 percent of that land is estimated to be state land available for distribution. In answer to the accusation the Afghanistan Independent Land Authority has said that a team has drawn up a list of over

15,000 people suspected of acquiring land illegally. The land grab issue has been a major problem for Afghanistan and to date no solution has been found. The previous government claimed to have formulated an inclusive program to prevent further land grabs ... (More on P4)...(4)

Senate to Summon Finance Minister on Tax System

KABUL - Mesharano Jirga (the upper house of the parliament) on Tuesday accused the government of creating hurdles for investors in the country and suggested to summon finance minister to brief the august house on country's tax system.



The senators stressed positive changes to tax system to woo more investors. On Monday a number of trade unions' members and shopkeepers of capital Kabul staged a protest de ... (More on P4)...(7)

... (More on P4)...(7)

AI Warns Women Being Abandoned by Government

KABUL - Amnesty International (AI) on Tuesday said women human rights defenders in Afghanistan who face mounting violence - including threats, sexual assault and assassinations - are being abandoned by their own government.

In a report titled Their Lives on the Line, which was released in Kabul Tuesday, Amnesty International states that this is despite the significant gains these women human rights defenders have fought to achieve.



Their Lives on the Line documents how champions for the rights of women and girls, including doctors, teachers, law-

yers, police and journalists as well as activists have been targeted not just by the Taliban but by ... (More on P4)...(8)

ACCI Rejects Pakistani Proposal for Joint Customs Office



KABUL - Pakistani attempts to form a joint customs clearance body to better manage Afghan trade through Pakistani ports, such as Karachi, has been repelled by the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), which voiced major doubts about the proposal on Monday.

In an exclusive interview with TOLONews, the Chairman of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Ejaz Ahmad Mumtaz, said the current challenges facing the Afghan business community in Karachi, one of the major ports of trade for Afghan businessmen, would be addressed unless a joint custom clearance body is established.

"I heard from the Afghan Minister of Finance and commerce that they are seeking the establishment of a joint custom

clearance body in Karachi port after they visited the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries," Mumtaz said.

However, ACCI officials have called the Pakistani proposal unacceptable, stressing that Pakistan has undertaken the initiative in order to leverage economic and political pressures on Afghanistan.

"Our business community isn't prepared to endorse the proposal to establish a joint custom clearance body, because already our technical committees are operational in Chaman, Torkham and Karachi," ACCI deputy Khan Jan Alokozai said. "Therefore, more powers should be provided to resolve disputes among the technical committee; we don't have joint customs in the U.S., Mexico and ... (More on P4)...(10)

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