

Quote of the Day

Power never takes a back step only in the face of more power.

Malcolm X

Ghani Orders Creation of Mir Ali-Shir Nava'i Award

KABUL - Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Monday ordered the creation of a new official medal to be named after Mir Ali-Shir Nava'i (1441 -1501), a Central Asian poet, writer, politician, linguist, mystic and painter. "It is our duty to benefit from the books and articles of our former academic and culturist figures and to pay respects to them," the president told an international symposium held to remember the services of Nava'i on the occasion of his 575th birthday anniversary. Also known as Nizam-al-Din, Nava'i wrote poems in Dari, Turkic and Uzbek language.



He was born in western Herat province, when the province was ruled by Timurid Empire and got his pri-

mary education in Khorasan and Samarqand cities. He was a schoolmate of Husayn Mirza Bayqara who

later became the ruler of Herat and later served as a public administrator and advisor to the sultan. Nava'i is consid-

ered to be the founder of early Turkic literature. Many places and institutions in Central Asia are named after him.

Among Ali-Shir's most famous constructions were the mausoleum of the 13th-century mystical poet, Farid al-Din Attar, in Nishapur (north-eastern Iran) and the Khalasiya madrasa in Herat.

He was one of the instrumental contributors to the architecture of Herat and under the pen name Nava'i, Ali-Shir was among the key writers who revolutionized the literary use of the Turkic languages. During...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Crippled Economy, Bad Governance Seen Behind Mass Immigration



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - A recent survey shows many Afghans have opted for migrating to Europe and other countries due to the deteriorating security situation, weak economy and bad governance.

Funded by Germany, the survey was conducted by a human rights organisation in northern and northeastern parts of the country, including Balkh, Jawzjan, Baghlan

and Takhar provinces. Hayatullah Jawad, head of the organisation, told Pajhwok Afghan News with young people interviewed as part of the study complained of poor law and order, fragile economy and bad governance in the country. Abdul Saboor Qairi, head of the refugees and repatriation department, said as many as 150,000 Afghan youth had left...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Kabul, Islamabad to Collaborate in Higher Education

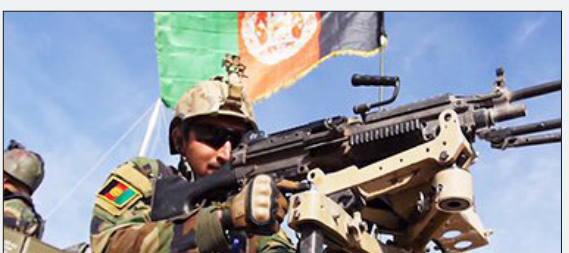


PESHAWAR - Afghan and Pakistani officials, agreeing on collaboration in the area of higher education, have signaled their intention to work on a joint venture that will be finalised with the approval of both countries.

Afghan Ambassador Omar Zakhilwal and Higher Education Commission Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed reached the agreement during a meeting in Islamabad on Sunday, according to the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency.

Dr. Ahmed briefed the delegates on HEC's initiatives and achievements over the last 13 years, saying the government's commitment to promoting higher education and a considerable increase in funding had brought remarkable changes to the sector...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Ministry of Defense Afghan Forces to Strengthen in Coming Fighting Season



KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) said Monday that the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces (ANDSF) will appear stronger in the coming fighting season as there have been major changes in their abilities and equipment this year.

The ministry said the Afghan security forces conduct more than 10 raids a night nowadays and that through this insurgents have suffered heavy losses through winter.

"Militants do not have the morale they had in the past. We incurred heavy casualties to them during the [last] winter and no province will fall to them anymore," said MoD spokesman Dawlat Waziri. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi commended the U.S troops' role in the fight against Taliban - particularly in air raids against insurgents. "Their [U.S forces'] role is very crucial [in fight] against the Taliban and there is a need for an...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Hindus, Sikhs Mark 318th Vesak Day in Nangarhar

KABUL - A number of Hindu and Sikh residents in Nangarhar province on Monday marked the 318th Vesak festival - also known as Buddha Day. Their festival of music and dance was also attended by other residents in the province.

Held in Surkhrod district, non-Hindu and non-Sikh residents in attendance said they were there in solidarity with them.

"You are in this country for a long time and you have obeyed every rule of Afghanistan so far," said Ikram, a tribal elder in Nangarhar, who attended the event.

Another tribal elder, Barikzai, said: "All the tribes are with you [Hindus and Sikhs]. We are ready to do any kind of help with you. We have tried to keep safe this place...*(More on P4)...(9)*

Abdullah Surprised by Politicians' Comments on Govt. Tenure

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah on Monday deplored that some politicians were unaware of the importance and tenure of the deal on the national unity government.

Addressing the Council of Ministers, Abdullah said during US Foreign Secretary John Kerry's flying visit to Kabul, bilateral issues and continued cooperation were discussed. He added Kerry reiterated US support for the incumbent government, its security forces, rehabilita-



tion, as well as good governance and development initiatives. Global support remained critical to the government's survival. "Comments of some political figures who are yet to act as an opposition re-

garding the government's tenure are surprising," the CEO remarked, calling the ruling coalition's creation an important event in Afghanistan's history and its political stability. Kerry's observations

Chabahar Port Called Ideal Route for Iranian Exports to Afghanistan



KABUL - The Chabahar in Sistan-Baluchistan province is the ideal route for the export of Iranian goods to landlocked Afghanistan, a trade leader has said.

Haji Saeed Khatibi, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and industries head for western Herat province, said the port provided hassle-free access for his country to free waters.

IRNA reported that Khatibi, in a meeting with Chabahar Free Trade-Industrial Zone of-

officials, called the transit of Afghanistan's exports through the port economical and time-saving. A recent visit of Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah to Iran spotlighted the cordial relations between the neighbours, including trade cooperation. Firms from several world countries, including China and India, have evinced a keen interest in using the port, where Chinese investors want to build an industrial...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Experts Holding Loya Jirga, Creating PM's Slot Impossible



KABUL - Political experts doubt the creation of the prime ministerial position, asking the ruling coalition partners to resolve their differences and thereby preclude the possibility of foreign interference in Afghanistan's affairs.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, during a surprise visit to Kabul on Sunday, said the unity

government would complete its five-year term as the political agreement signed between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah did not set an expiry date. Under the agreement, a Loya Jirga, or grand assembly of tribal elders, was expected to convene to amend the constitution...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Protesters Accuse Paktia Lawmakers of Corruption

KABUL - Residents of southeastern Paktia province on Monday staged a protest demonstration against their representatives in the Wolesi Jirga and the provincial council and accused them of being corrupt and irresponsible.

The protesters, numbering around 100, gathered at the central square in Gardez, the provincial capital. They accused lawmakers and local representatives of meddling in the provincial government's affairs and corruption in contracts of development and reconstruction projects.

Farid Ahmad Taskin, one of the protesters, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "We are not happy with our representatives in Wolesi Jirga and provincial council."

He alleged the public representatives had appointed relatives in government departments and used to force officials into accepting their demands.

He said lawmakers representing the people of Paktia were busy promoting their own interests and had forgotten people's problems. Another protester Hamidullah Zazi said: "We will never vote for the sitting lawmakers in the next Wolesi Jirga elections and we will persuade other people about it."

Taj Mohammad Mangal, a member of the provincial council, said he and his colleagues were trying their best to resolve people's problems. "We spend most of our time hearing and addressing people's issues," he said. (Pajhwok)

Orchards Being Planted on Over 1,000 Acres of Samangan Land

AIBAK - Orchards of different fruits are being planted on 1065.5 acres of land in northern Samangan province this year, officials said on Monday.

National Horticulture and Livestock Programme (NHLP) head for Samangan, Eng. Abdul Majeed Kharkhwa, told Pajhwok Afghan News the orchards would be established with financial support from the World Bank as part of the spring tree plantation campaign in the province.

Each orchard would cost 6,000 afs and half of the expenses would be paid by farmers, he said. An official of the programme, Eng. Qambar Ali, said orchards would be established on 1065.5 acres of land for farmers in the provincial capital, Aibak, and six districts of the province. Of the 1065.5 acres of land, 434 acres will be used to plant grape orchards, 362.5 acres apple orchards, 180 acres almond orchards, 50 acres for planting apricot orchards, 20 acres for cherry, 8.5 acres for peace and 11.5 acres for pear orchards, he said.

Hundreds of saplings with prices ranging from 35 afghanis to 150 afs each would be purchased from the union of the nursery owners and would be distributed to farmers, he said. In addition to the saplings, 40 to 60 kilograms of DAP and six kilograms of seed of alfa alfa would be also distributed to the farmers and for grapes orchards, the department would give improved quality melon seeds to farmers instead of Alfa Alfa, he said. (Pajhwok)

Daesh Expands Activities in Afghanistan: Noor

KABUL - Acting Balkh governor Atta Mohammad Noor, who attended the opening ceremony of a high school in the province on Monday, said that Daesh militants are becoming stronger day-by-day and that they are being sent to destabilize Afghanistan.

"Daesh is not only in Afghanistan but in other countries as well. The insurgent group is sent into Afghanistan to make it insecure [for its residents]," he said.

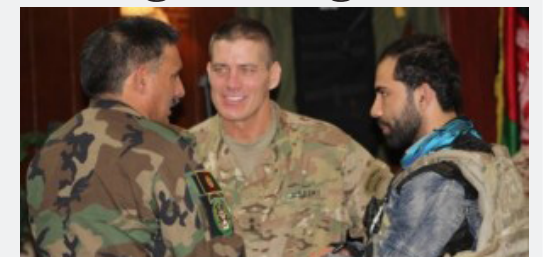
He said it is not true that some people say Daesh is only in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces.

"I want to tell you that Daesh has been placed in different parts of Afghanistan," he said.

Meanwhile, referring to Taliban activities, and said: "This year, the Taliban has a plan to make some Uruzgan and Zabul districts as their main hubs."

He said the war has been pushed into the north which has affected...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Kabul Event Brings Together EODs From Throughout Afghanistan



KABUL - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians from the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and National Directorate of Security convened for a five-day meeting to exchange ideas and discuss best practices for combating explosives throughout Afghanistan.

The Resolute Support and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Directorate joined more than 120 EOD technicians from throughout the country for the first joint meeting of its kind last week. CSTC-A deputy commander U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Paul Ostrowski provided opening remarks at the inaugural gathering...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Charikar Druggies Taken to Rehab Centre with Limited Capacity



CHARIKAR - A drive to collect drug addicts from Charikar, the capital of central Parwan province, kicked off on Monday, officials said. The campaign will be extended to districts soon.

At the beginning of the campaign, 27 junkies were picked up from different parts of the city and taken to a 20-bed rehabilitation centre, Counter-Narcotics Director Abdul Munir Rahimi told Pajhwok Afghan News.

"Although poppy cultivation has been reduced to zero, there are still hundreds of druggies in the...*(More on P4)...(11)*