

Quote of the Day

Don't Judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Politicians Influence Police Appointments: Jahid

KABUL - Interior Minister Taj Mohammad Jahid on Sunday said political elites' meddling in police postings and transfers was behind the force's incompetence.

Jahid, the acting spy-master and the 101 Asmai Zone police commander Brig. Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahmani were summoned by the Meshrano Jirga to brief the senators on the country's current security situation.

The security bosses were summoned days after 64 people were killed and hundreds others wounded in a devastating bombing on an elite security agency in



the heart of Kabul.

Jahid vowed to appoint deserving individuals in police force and root out cor-

ruption within six months if politicians stopped interfering.

He the enemy had failed to reach their

targets in the Omari offensive and sustained heavy losses in security operations underway in 10 provinces of the country. He said the operations were aimed at defeating the enemy and paving the ground for development.

The interior minister complained against corruption and inappropriate appointments in the ministry, saying officials hired as a result of nepotism had been unable to discharge duty with spirit and discipline.

When asked about negligence behind the dangerous attack on the VIP protection... (More on P4)...(1)

Chief Justice Seeks Women Judges' Anti-Graft Support



KABUL - The Chief Justice of Afghanistan, Sayed Yusuf Halim, has appealed to women judges to help fight corruption in the country. During his inauguration, President Ashraf Ghani pledged to fight corruption in judicial organizations. But more than 18 months later, since the National Unity Government (NUG) came to power, corruption within the

country and in the judicial system is still widespread. Talking at the third session of the Afghan Women Judges' Association (AWJA), Halim said that corruption is a shame that irks people of Afghanistan and the international community. He admitted that there is also corruption in the judicial system of Afghanistan and he asked the... (More on P4)...(2)

Senate Summons Jahid, Andarabi over Kabul Attack



KABUL - The Minister of Interior, Taj Mohammad Jahid, and acting chief of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Massoud Andarabi, were summoned to the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) on Sunday to answer questions around last week's deadly bombing in Kabul.

Insurgents detonated a truck bomb outside an intelligence service unit on Tuesday, before storming the compound and shooting staff. In total at least 64 people were killed and over 340 injured.

Although discussions with Andarabi were held behind closed doors, the second deputy speaker of the Meshrano Jirga, Hasibullah Kalimzai, said Andarabi admitted the NDS had been in possession of information regarding the planned attack ahead of time. However, security forces failed to prevent it.

"As the incident was not prevented, all security organizations are considered failed, but this failure does not mean that we have failed in all areas," said Kalimzai. ... (More on P4)...(4)

Dasht-E-Archi Cleared of Taliban, Key Hideouts Destroyed

KUNDUZ - In a well-coordinated military operation in Dasht-e-Archi in Kunduz, security forces have successfully cleared the district of Taliban and destroyed their main hideouts.

According to Hamid Saifi, the commander of troops conducting the operation, the army destroyed insurgents' tunnels and hideouts. He said insurgents tunneled their way to the district's center.

Saifi said some of the tunnels were booby-trapped with mines, as were roads and tracks to the district's main bazaar.

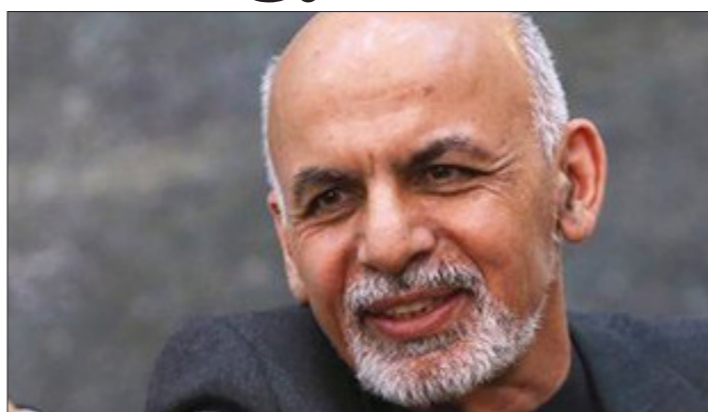
Footage released by the Defense Ministry shows that army troops cleared the outskirts of the town and then started a search of streets in the center to arrest and eliminate the remaining insurgents hidden in the area. ... (More on P4)...(5)

Ghani Expected to Outline 5-Year War Strategy in Parliament

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani is set to deliver a key speech in a joint session of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) and Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) on Monday (Today) in an effort to discuss issues of national interest with legislators.

This comes amid a surge in Taliban insurgency, an economic recession and persistent deadlocks with the much-awaited peace and reconciliation process between the government and Taliban.

Ghani's address to parliament also takes place in the wake of last week's deadly attack on a security compound in Kabul city which sparked an outcry by the public after 64 people were



killed and over 340 wounded. The president is also expected to touch on the government's stance against Taliban that was taken in the aftermath of last week's truck bombing by the Taliban. Sources meanwhile have said

that the president will inform lawmakers about a five year war strategy sketched by government, a strategy that will help the Afghan security forces to end their defensive status and take an offensive approach to militants.

"The president is expected to deliver a speech at the joint session of the national assembly tomorrow (Monday) to discuss issues of national interest with the representatives of the people (MPs) with the main focus on the current situation and the future of war," deputy presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazavi said.

In recent months pressure however has mounted on the government over the fragile security situation in the country with a number of Afghan political forces asking the government to define the terms friend and enemy.

Ghani is also expected to highlight the importance of good governance... (More on P4)...(3)

HIA to Continue Peace Effort: Qazi Hakim

KABUL - The second high-level delegation of the Gulbadin Hekmatyar-led Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan that arrived in Kabul on Saturday said they would continue their efforts for peace if factors of the war and forces undermining Afghanistan's independence were removed.

The three-member delegation headed by Dr. Qazi Mohammad Hakim Hakim appeared at a press conference in Kabul. Dr Ghairat Baheer and Ustad Ali Ansari were other members of the delegation.

"Afghanistan has been burning in flames of war over the past four decades. Many of our youth were martyred, our sisters widowed and our children orphaned. As part of the Ummah, it is our responsibility to save

and bring peace to our country," Hakim told reporters. "We know what is going on in the country and what problems we face, but we will continue our peace efforts which are allowed in Islam," he said.

He said the war had been imposed on Afghans and the HIA had already started its political efforts and would accept the process of next elections.

"We need peace but the factors which create war should be removed and we should struggle for independence of our country," he said.

The head of the first delegation of HIA, Eng. Mohammad Amin Karim, said if the government wanted an end to the war in Afghanistan, it should bring back Afghan... (More on P4)...(6)

UNDP to Launch Report on Population Trends on 26th

KABUL - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said on Sunday it would launch its new Asia Pacific Human Development Report in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The report, entitled "Shaping the Future: How Changing Demographics Can Power Human Development," analyses population trends in Asia and the Pacific.

It will present the "9 Actions for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific" that help address the key ageing-related challenges, according to a



UNDP press release. The demographic change - particularly ageing - that took over a hundred years in Europe is happening in the Asia-Pacific within 30 years. The risk is that countries in Asia-Pacific will grow... (More on P4)...(7)

Severe Food Shortages Hit Badakhshan Residents

FAIZABAD - A number of residents from the mountainous region of Pamir in Badakhshan province, who traveled for 27 days to get to Faizabad city, said conditions are so bad in their area that residents are forced to eat grass as they have no food. These residents said

they are in desperate need of help and appealed to aid organizations to assist them. They said if nothing is done, they will face a humanitarian crisis in their districts along the border with China, Pakistan and Tajikistan. "Grass is... (More on P4)...(8)

80 Insurgents Killed, ounded in Ghazni Operation: Governor



HAZNI CITY - Local officials on Sunday claimed 80 militants have been killed during an operation codenamed Shafaq by Afghan security forces in southern Ghazni province.

Governor Mohammad Aman Hamim said residents firmly stood beside security forces. He said told reporters the Taliban could not fight against the security forces and hence their resort to propaganda that they had captured some areas.

"I assure the people they would be protected by security forces," Hamim said, adding at least 80 mili-

tants had been killed and wounded. Twelve notorious Taliban commanders were among the dead, with security forces suffering eight casualties.

Provincial police chief, Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel said large areas of Ghazni City and districts had been recaptured from the militants, who suffered heavy casualties during the operation. The rebels' resistance had weakened, he continued.

He urged the people to continue supporting their security forces so they could further improve the situation in the... (More on P4)...(9)

Air Pollution Forces Traffic Officer to Resign



KABUL - A well-known traffic officer in Kabul, who was also honored for his honesty, has been forced to give up his job because of a pollution-induced respiratory illness.

Saboor Sherzad said he hopes one day to return to his job, but doctors will not allow him to walk or even talk a lot - due to his asthma. Kabul's high levels of pollution is a major cause of respiratory illness in the city. Sherzad said his illness has resulted in him having to spend most of his pension on medication each month. He said he does not have enough

to live on even though he lives in a house he inherited from his father.

According to him, doctors have ordered Sherzad, 55, to remain indoors so as to prevent his asthma from getting worse.

He said that he is ready to return to duty and fight corruption in the country.

"If it was not for asthma, I would not have any other illness. Even when they were paying our salaries late, I was making bricks. I used to prepare the clay at night and make bricks early in the... (More on P4)...(10)

Civil Society Calls for Checking Fundamentalism in Seminaries



KABUL - The Afghanistan Youth Civil and Cultural Society (AYCCS) have expressed deep concerns over the lack of attention by the government towards the internal administration of religious seminaries and alleged that these institutions converted into the centres of religious fundamentalism. Humera Saqib, head the Women Coordination Network, and member of the AYCCS told a gathering here from the past few years Afghan youth had been the victims of Talibanisation and they had been taught the Taliban ideology in reli-

gious seminaries. The gathering was organized on Youth Role in fight against violent extremism and fundamentalism where civil society activist and analysts were present.

She expressed her worries in this regard and said: "Human rights organisations and civil socie-

ties should play a role to prevent the brain washing of Afghan youth who have been used by foreign element for their strategic goals in Afghanistan." She asked the Afghan youth to demand fight against extremism with one voice from the government. Saqib also... (More on P4)...(11)