

Quote of the Day

That man can interrogate as well as observe nature was a lesson slowly learned in his evolution.

Sir William Osler

Dostum Warns Taliban to Surrender

MAIMANA - First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum on Tuesday warned Taliban to surrender and join reconciliation process otherwise be ready for dire consequences. Addressing a gathering of Afghan security forces in the volatile Qaisar district of northwestern Faryab province, Dostum warned militants to shun violence in larger national interests. The area is infested with Taliban who often stage attacks on security forces and other state installations. During his speech, Dostum rejected reports of creating his own militia to fight resurgent rebels. Being the 1st vice president, he said that Afghan security forces were under his command and there was no



need for creation of private militia. He had been in Faryab following directives by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and National Security Council (NSC) to assess security situation on the ground and resolve problems. He said situation in Faryab could further deteriorate if security forces did not stop Taliban attacks in the province. According to him, as many as 4,000 Taliban were planning to mount spectacular attacks in Faryab and capture the province. He said he was aware about the death of Taliban's supreme leader one year ago when most of the Taliban did not know their leader was dead. He alleged Taliban continued fighting Afghan forces ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Tehran, Kabul to Launch Joint Committees on Security, Border



KABUL - Iran and Afghanistan have planned to set up joint committees to follow up security, border and law enforcement issues between the two countries, media reports on Tuesday. Media said that the announcement was made in a meeting of senior security officials presided over by Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Brig. Gen. Hossein Zolfaqari in

Tehran. The joint Iran-Afghanistan committees would follow up security and border problems of the two countries' nationals. In February, Iranian and Afghan border guards' officials inked a security agreement to expand their cooperation and coordination in administering border-related issues. In a meeting between ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Officials Attended Omar's Mourning Ceremonies be Prosecuted: CEO

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah has said those government officials attended the mourning ceremonies of late Mullah Mohammad Omar be prosecuted. Speaking at a cabinet meeting on Monday, Abdullah urged security organs to take necessary steps against officials in the government whose actions were giving a psychological boost to the enemy. "Despite all challenges and deteriorating security situa-



tion, the unity government is in a best position to suppress the enemy. It is a fact that a serious part of the problem is in us," he remarked. He stressed discussions regard-

ing peace process should be transparent and there should be clear policies and stance in order to defend the masses and fight the enemy. "We should also adopt a clear policy ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Afghans Have to Define Their Interest: Peace Negotiator

KABUL - Peace talks with the Taliban will end up in smoke if the Afghans themselves do not define their national interest, a presidential advisor and member of the government's negotiating team warned on Monday. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Haji Din Mohammad, who has actively pursued reconciliation efforts over the years, said the peace process had been a complicated issue with several dimensions. Some countries, which have been engaged in the process over the past decade and a half, want their views to be given due consideration.



Some of them argue they have invested a lot of blood and treasure in Afghanistan and their demands be met. The advisor, who attended the Pakistan-sponsored Murree meeting, also touched on foreign meddling and mentioned this famous anecdote: "A man caught fire, shouting for help. Another

man asked him to let him light his cigarette before the fire is put out." He stressed the interest of the Afghans, whose country was in flames, must be prioritized. Din Mohammad referred to the multiplicity of suggestions, agendas and strategies for peace in the country. Many people are trying to get projects in the name of reconciliation, he said. "To me, my brother and I are unhappy. We should reconcile, each forgiving the other. This is the most important strategy." He claimed he and his relatives had been sup ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Kicks off in Malaysia Kuala Lumpur



KUALA LUMPUR - The 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting opened here Tuesday, drawing foreign ministers and representatives from 10 Southeast Asian countries to focus on the establishment of the ASEAN Community by the end of this year.

The ten-nation bloc is in its final spurt to realize the goal of establishing a single community by the end of 2015, which involves a plan to create a common economic, political-security and socio-cultural region. "This ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

India Praised for Playing Key Role in Afghanistan's Reconstruction

KABUL - Residents of Western Herat province went to the Indian consulate on Tuesday and thanked them for playing a key role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Local musicians sang Indian songs and presented flowers to workers of the Indian consulate for its role in rebuilding the country particularly the Salma dam which is the biggest project of the Indian government in Afghanistan. India is spending \$300 million on this project which is expected to produce 42 megawatt of electricity and water nearly 75,000 hectares of farmland. The filling of its reservoir that is 20 kilometers long and 3 kilometers wide started last month ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Ministry Herat Airport Expansion Work to Start Soon

HERAT CITY - The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation on Tuesday said expansion work of Herat Airport to be started soon. Transport Minister Mohammadullah Batash told a press conference that "we presented our plans to the governor of the province. We have more than \$32 million dollars in hand for expansion of the airport." With the expansion of the southern part of the airport, Batash said, the international flights would resume once again from the province. Governor Mohammad Asif Rahimi welcomed the plan and said that ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

'Thousands of Children Die of Malnutrition, other Diseases'



KABUL - Minister of Public Health Dr. Firozuddin Firoz on Tuesday said over 100,000 children died annually due to malnutrition and others deadly diseases in the country. He expressed these views during a gathering on World Breastfeeding Week. The motto of the gathering was "Working Mothers Can Also Feed Their Babies." The World Breastfeeding Week is observed globally in most of the countries from August 2 to 7 annu-

ally. The minister said that with breastfeeding the newborn babies could get a healthy life, which was important for a healthy society. He stressed on mothers to continue feeding their babies for at least two years because breastfeeding saved babies from multiple diseases. He said feeding other milks to babies was dangerous and could cause disabilities among kids. According to Fairouz, it was ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

'Pakistan Needs to Clear Stance on Mullah Omar Death, Peace Talks'



KABUL - Pakistani Chairman Senate Raza Rabbani asked the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs, Sartaj Aziz, to take the upper house into confidence about questions related to the death of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar as well as the fate of the stalled Afghan reconciliation talks, Pakistani media reports.

Senator Rabbani, the Express Tribune reports issued instructions for a briefing by Sartaj Aziz a few days after his colleague in the upper house, Farhatullah Babar, had demanded a clear-cut statement over the death of Taliban's top leader. Though the Afghan government claimed that Pakistan ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

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