

Quote of the Day

The most useful thing about a principle is that it can always be sacrificed to expediency.

W. Somerset Maugham

Talks Postponed But Not Derailed: Pakistan

KABUL - Speaking on the floor of lower house or National Assembly, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif made it clear the second round of talks, which was scheduled to take place on July 31 in Pakistan, was postponed at the request of the Afghan government and the Taliban leadership.

Afghan Taliban supremo Mullah Omar neither died nor was buried in Pakistan, Pakistan's Dawn.com quoting him as saying. The defence minister refuted Afghan spy agency's claims that the Afghan Taliban supremo died in a hospital in Karachi, "He was neither in Karachi nor in Quetta," he said.

"Whether he died now or two years



ago is another controversy which we do not wish to be a part of," Asif added.

Further, Asif said Pakistan is only playing the role of a mediator in talks between Afghan Taliban and the government in Kabul.

"We do not accept that we have a control on Taliban, we are only playing a role of mediator," the defence minister said, adding that US and Chinese officials are participating in the Pakistan-brokered peace talks as observers.

He reiterated the government's desire for peace talks to continue.

The fate of the nascent Afghan peace process hangs in the balance following the confirmation of death of Taliban supreme ... (More on P4)...(1)

UNAMA Asks Taliban to Cease Attacks in Civilian Populated Areas



KABUL - The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in a statement on Saturday called on all anti-government armed groups, including the Taliban, to stop attacks in civilian-populated areas. The statement came after Kabul saw three deadly attacks on Friday, two of which claimed by the Taliban, causing over 400

casualties in a single day. The Friday's casualties were "the highest number of civilians killed and injured in one day since UNAMA began systematically recording civilian casualties in 2009," said the statement.

"Those responsible for suicide and complex attacks in civilian-populated areas can no longer ... (More on P4)...(2)

Ministry of Interior 50 Dead, Wounded in Friday Night's Suicide Attacks



KABUL - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Saturday confirmed over 50 civilians and security personnel were killed and wounded during two separate attacks in

the capital Kabul on Friday night.

According to a statement, the MoI said that the first suicide attack was occurred in front of ... (More on P4)...(3)

Int'l Community Urged to Earnestly Focus on Peace Process

JALALABAD - Urging Taliban to resume the stalled peace process, a number of civil society activists in eastern Nangarhar province have asked international community to closely monitor the peace process to make it resulted-oriented.

Human Rights and Eradication of Violence Organization (HREVO) organized a press conference and demanded reforms and a proper policy for peace talks.

Dr. Naimatullah Hamdard, director HREVO, asked Taliban to announce ceasefire before commencement of peace talks which should be successfully ended with security of ... (More on P4)...(4)

US Hopes Taliban will Pursue Genuine Peace with Afghan Govt.

WASHINGTON - Condemning in strongest possible terms the suicide attack in Kabul, the White House

on Friday hoped that the new Taliban leadership would pursue a genuine peace effort with the Afghan government.



The United States condemns in the strongest terms last night's bombing in Kabul, which reports indicate killed

more than 15 people, and wounded as many as 400 civilians, including women and children, the White House Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, told reporters at his daily news conference.

"This heinous attack demonstrates once again the ever-growing gulf between extremists and the people of Afghanistan and it certainly shows the blatant disregard for human life on the part of those extremists," he said. Earnest said that "the fact is ... (More on P4)...(5)

'Intelligence Networks Hold Keys to Foment Violence, Initiate Talks'

KABUL - First Deputy Speaker Haji Zahir Qadeer has said that regional intelligence networks have the keys to either foment violence or initiate peace talks.

He expressed these views after donating blood for victims of yesterday devastated bombings that rocked capital Kabul. Around 70 ... (More on P4)...(6)



Hundreds Displaced as Taliban Seize Villages in Kunduz: Officials

KUNDUZ CITY - Hundreds of residents in northern Kunduz have reportedly been displaced after the Taliban launched coordinated attacks and seized 10 villages.

Two civilians were killed and eight others injured as a result of Taliban attack, local officials told TOLOnews. The clashes between the security forces and militants, which broke ... (More on P4)...(7)

Taliban Destroy Historical Sites in Badakhshan: Officials

FAIZABAD - Officials say that militants have damaged five historical sites of Nasir Khusraw in northeastern Badakhshan province.

Fazal Karim Ahmadi, director of Agha Khan Development Network (AKDN), said that Taliban have damaged the historical sites after they captured Yamgan district about two months ago.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News that militants have set the gate of the Nasir Khusraw ... (More on P4)...(8)

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