

Quote of the Day

The wisest mind has something yet to learn.

George Santayana (1863 - 1952)

President to Issue third Electoral Reform Decree Soon

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani will issue a third legislative decree about electoral reforms soon after being processed by the Presidential Palace legislation committee, a statement from the palace said on Monday.

The president's first legislative decree on composition and responsibilities of the two election commissions was rejected by parliament.

A second legislative decree was also rejected by Wolesi Jirga or lower house, but approved by Meshrano Jirga or upper house.

Due to differences over the decree's approval, the issue was referred to a joint parliamentary commission that could not resolve the matter until the Wolesi Jirga rose for the summer break on July 22.

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referred to a joint parliamentary commission that could not resolve the matter until the Wolesi Jirga rose for the summer break on July 22.

The government then referred the issue to the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution (ICOIC) for a solution.

The ICOIC said the president could release and execute legislative decrees during the summer recess of parliament because the government did not require to refer decrees regarding elections to parliament in its final year of legislative term.

The ICOIC further said parliament members in their final year of legislative term could not add approval of decrees to the house agenda. Shah Hussain Murtazawi, ...*(More on P4)...(1)*



Taekwondo Athletes Win Gold, Bronze Medals



KABUL - Two Afghan taekwondo athletes have won one gold and three bronze medals in the Fifth South Asia Championship.

The games featuring South Asian countries began on August 5 and continued until August 8 in the Bangalore city of India. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan took part in the event. Islamuddin Ahmad won one gold and one bronze medal in the 63 kilograms weightlifting contest and Syed Anwar Hussaini earned two bronze medals in the 60-kg category. Hussaini told Pajhwok Afghan News: "I am very happy bringing home laurels." He beat his Bhutanese and Pakistani rivals before being defeated by his Indian counterpart. Hussaini added that they had participated in the games through Afghan Taekwondo Association (ATA). *(Pajhwok)*

Centralised Medicine Supply Strategy Approved

KABUL - The High Economic Council has approved a centralised medicine supply strategy aimed at price regulation and cuts, the Presidential Palace said on Monday.

The strategy was accorded at a meeting, chaired by President Ashraf Ghani. Public Health Minister Firozuddin Firoz said the plan would help reduce the cost and improve the quality of drugs.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said implementation of the strategy would play an important role in improving domestic manufacture of medicine. The role of the Ministry of Commerce was also discussed in detail. A procurement committee would be created to ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

First Haj Flight Carrying 600 Pilgrims Leaves Kabul Airport

KABUL - The first Haj flight carrying 600 pilgrims left the Hamid Karzai International Airport for Saudi Arabia Monday afternoon, the Ministry of Haj and Religious Affairs said.

Murtaza Hamid, the ministry spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that two more flights carrying 720 pilgrims from Kabul and Herat would depart in the next 24 hours. A total 24,000 Afghans would perform the ritual this year.

The pilgrims, including 20 percent women, would be flown to the oil-rich kingdom in one month from Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat airports by the state-owned Aryana Airlines, he concluded. *(Pajhwok)*

CEO Claims Honouring Pledges Held Out to Donors

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah said on Monday the government, having honoured the pledges held out to the international community, had made preparations for the upcoming NATO summit in Brussels.

Addressing the council of ministers, the CEO said developing the culture of accountability, strengthening the rule of law, good governance, fighting corruption, strengthening government institutions and improving the capacity of the state machinery were the promises the government had made.

He said mitigation of poverty,



women's empowerment, generating employment opportunities and conducting transparent election were other pledges held out to global donors by the incumbent

government. Abdullah reaffirmed the administration's resolve to keep its promises, saying requisite preparations for the summit had been made and ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

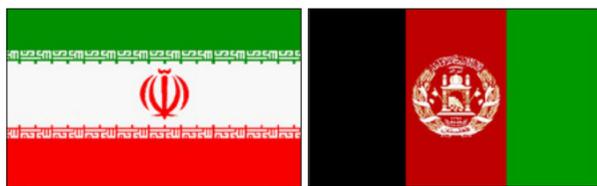
Iran Desires Consolidation of Relation with Afghanistan: Minister

KABUL - Tehran has branded the United States and Israel as the common enemies of the Iranian and Afghan nations, alleging their agents do not want security in the region.

Recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen pointed to the nefarious designs of America and its Jewish allies, Iran's interior minister was quoted as saying.

During a meeting with the Afghan National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar in Tehran on Sunday, Abdol Reza Rahmani

Fazli said Iran desired con-



solidation of relations with Afghanistan.

According to Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), he underlined the need for strengthening political, economic, security and cultural cooperation with the "brotherly and friendly" neighbouring country.

For his part, Atmar hailed friendship with Iran as a na-

tional asset for Afghanistan. He commended Iranian cooperation in the fight against terrorist groups, including the Islamic State.

Warning against distinction between good and bad terrorists, the visiting advisor called for improved coordination among regional states to eradicate the menace. *(Pajhwok)*

No Ban on Pakistani Currency in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - The Afghanistan Government has imposed no ban on holding of Pakistani currency in Afghanistan, the Finance Ministry said here on Monday.

Minister for Finance, Muhammad Ishaq Dar made a telephonic conversation with Afghan Ambassador Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal regarding the reported ban on the holding of Pakistani rupee in Afghanistan, the statement issued by the ministry said.

Negotiation Best Way Forward for Afghanistan: Olson

KABUL - Afghanistan remains split by war and division, despite billions of dollars the US has poured into supporting the struggling government in Kabul. What factors hinder the Afghan peace process? Richard Olson (Olson), US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, talked to Chinese journalists about these issues during his recent trip to Beijing.

Question (Q): Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, in an interview with Pakistani media, said the Afghanistan-Pakistan relationship is Af-

ghanistan's biggest problem as Pakistan acts as a sanctuary for terrorist groups. What's your take on this?

Olson: Pakistan has a very important role to play in the peace process. Pakistan has taken a number of actions against terrorist groups within its own territory, especially the Tehrik-i

we would encourage Pakistan to take actions



against all terrorist groups, including groups that threaten its neighbors. ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

43 ISIS, Taliban Militants Surrender to Afghan Forces in Nangarhar



JALALABAD - At least 43 militants including loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group renounced violence and surrendered to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

The National Directorate of Security (NDS) said the militants belonged to 4 groups led by militant commanders Mohammad Ayoub, Mohammad Wali and Juma Baz.

A statement by NDS said the militants were conducting insurgency activities in Achin, Nazian, and Ghani Khel districts before they surrendered to the Afghan forces.

The statement further added that the militants opted to join peace process amid ongoing operations which have considerably weakened the capabilities of the militant groups fighting the Afghan forces.

The Taliban militants and ISIS loyalists have not commented regarding the report so far.

Both Taliban insurgents and ISIS loyalists are actively operating in a number of the remote districts of Nangarhar province including the restive Achin and Nazian districts. ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Taliban Supports Afghanistan in Fight Against Islamic State



KABUL - In an interview with the Tasnim News Agency, Zabihullah Mujahid expressed the Taliban's support for the Afghan nation in the battle against foreign occupation and the presence of Daesh. The "Islamic Emirate" has launched a campaign against occupation across Afghanistan, Mujahid said, stressing that the Taliban is aware of the threat of Daesh and "in cooperation with the nation, has prevented the terrorist group from gaining a foothold in Afghanistan."

The presence of Daesh forces in Afghanistan is limited to a small area in the east and they are living in a dire situation near the border, the spokesman said, adding that most of their members are non-Afghans and "have nothing to do with the Afghan people."

No Daesh fighters are present in other areas of Afghanistan, and the Taliban will not allow such presence, he added. Mujahid also took a swipe at the Kabul government and the US for using Daesh as an excuse to overplay ...*(More on P4)...(4)*



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