

## Quote of the Day

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.  
Nelson Mandela

# President Ghani Addresses Nation, Blasts Pakistan

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Monday afternoon addressed the nation and made it clear that Friday's Shah Shaheed bombing in Kabul was unacceptable and that it was a game changer for the country. He said that as the Peshawar school attack had been a game changer for Pakistan, the recent Kabul attacks, targeting civilians, had also changed the face of insurgency for Afghanistan. He said the only message he was getting from Pakistan was one of war and that so long as there was bloodshed in the country, the relationship between Pakistan and Afghani-



stan meant nothing. "Pakistan still remains the venue and ground for gatherings from which mercenaries send us a message of war," he said. According to him Afghanistan can no longer stand back and witness the killing of its citizens and said he does not know why those in support of Islam are keeping quiet about the recent attacks. He went on to say that Afghanistan would not sit around the peace talks table with those at war against the country. In addition he emphasized that any moves towards peace talks in future ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Ghani, Sharif Discuss Afghan Reconciliation Process



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday telephoned Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to discuss the ongoing reconciliation process with Afghan Taliban. Both the leaders discussed matters related to mutual and bilateral interest including the regional situation, the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad said a statement. Nawaz Sharif expressed sorrow over a wave of recent attacks including one that killed 15 civilians and injured more than 400 in the Afghan capital and conveyed his condolences over the loss of precious lives. Sharif's special assistant for foreign affairs, Tariq Fatemi, had earlier stressed joint action against the Taliban groups refusing to participate in the reconciliation process. (Pajhwok)

### Deng Xijun

## China Ready to Equip, Support Afghan Forces



KABUL - Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan in his marathon meeting with National Security Advisor (NSA) Mohammad Hanif Atmar said Beijing was ready to equip and support the Afghan security forces. During the meeting held on Sunday, Chinese Ambassador Deng Xijun also expressed condolences on behalf of his government and people over recent devastating bombings in Kabul. China, he said, was ready to provide equipment and sup-

port to Afghan security forces and praised the Afghan government for taking the peace process forward. Over 50 people were killed and 500 wounded majority of them civilian in the three explosions that rocked capital Kabul a couple of days back. The ambassador said his country was in favor of peace talks and wanted all stakeholders to resolve their differences through parleys. Atmar thanked the Chinese ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Iran to Print 11,000 Books by Afghan Authors

KABUL - The government of Iran has announced plans to print 11,000 books written by Afghan authors as part of efforts to strengthen cultural and scientific ties with Afghanistan.

According official at the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), who welcomed the program, the newly printed books will be disseminated among 36 state run universities and more than a hundred private universities in Afghanistan.

Previously, Iran printed out 44 volumes of books by Afghan authors. The Iranian "Samt Publication" has taken responsibility for print the new batch of books, which include scholarship in social sciences, philosophy and arithmetic.

Iran's Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mohammad Reza Hajji Zada, on Sunday emphasized the importance of developing science education in Afghanistan.

"We have always provided cultural and scientific cooperation to our brother country Afghanistan, like in other fields," Hajji Zada said. "This time, again, we are prepared to ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Abdullah Questions Pakistan's Sincerity Towards Peace

KABUL - Chief Executive of the National Unity Government (NUG), Abdullah Abdullah, on Monday said there has been no sign of Pakistan's cooperation regarding Afghanistan's war on terror nor with peace talks initiatives in recent months.

He told a session of the Council of Ministers (CoM) that Pakistani officials say that Afghanistan's enemy is Pakistan's enemy, but asked what enemy commits crimes here and then holds meetings in Pakistan. On the subject of the Taliban's recent meetings in Pakistan, he said



such acts do not leave Pakistan in a good light and instead shows up

their insincerity. "As the Chief Executive ... (More on P4)...(2)

## Monitoring Groups Say Corruption Has Increased Under New Govt.

KABUL - After assuming office, leaders of the National Unity Government (NUG) promised that addressing corruption would be a top priority. But, after ten months, anti-corruption activists say the reality on the ground is the opposite - cor-

ruption has noticeably increased. "It was hoped that fighting corruption would be the government's top priority, but the issue has been pushed to the sidelines and an inclusive and systematic process wasn't considered," Independent

Join Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) secretariat head Ahmad Rashid Behroz said on Sunday. "Based on the complaints filed with us, corruption has been on the rise compared to last year." ... (More on P4)...(5)

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