

Quote of the Day

If you don't make mistakes, you're not working on hard enough problems.

Frank Wilczek

Afghanistan's Independence, a Milestone in History

KABUL - Afghans around the country celebrated the 97th anniversary of Independence on Thursday - a day marked each year on August 18.

Although Afghanistan was never part of the British Empire, it gained its independence from Britain after the signing of the Anglo-Afghan Treaty in 1919 - a treaty that granted complete neutral relations between Afghanistan and Britain.

Despite Afghanistan never having been part of the British Empire, Britain fought three wars in the country.

The first Anglo-Afghan War (1839-1842) led to the defeat of the entire British-led Indian invaders by Afghan forces under Abdur Akbar Khan. The second Anglo-Afghan War (1878-1880) first saw the British defeated in the Battle of Kan-



dahar only for them to emerge victors - which led to Abdur Rahman Khan becoming the new emir. This ushered in a new era of friendly British-Afghan

relations. Following this war, the British were given control of Afghanistan's foreign affairs in exchange for protection against the Russians and Persians.

In 1901 Abdur Rahman Khan's son, Habibullah, succeeded him.

Habibullah was a relatively reform-minded ruler who attempted to modernize his country. During his reign he worked to bring modern medicine and other technology to Afghanistan and worked to put in place progressive reforms in his country. He was assassinated while on a hunting trip in Laghman Province on February 20, 1919. His brother Nasrullah Khan briefly succeeded him as emir and held power for a week before being ousted and imprisoned by Amanullah Khan, Habibullah's third son. *(More on P4)...(1)*

Modhi Greets Afghanistan on Independence Day



NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted the people of Afghanistan on the country's Independence Day and said India deeply values the strong and enduring ties with it.

"Wishing the people of Afghanistan on their Independence Day. India deeply values the strong & enduring ties with Afghanistan," he tweeted.

Afghanistan celebrates its Independence Day on this day to commemorate the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919, which granted a complete neutral relation between Afghanistan and Britain. *(Agencies)*

Sharif Greets Afghanistan on Independence Day



KABUL - Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on Thursday greeted Afghans on the occasion of the 97th independence day. In a statement, Pakistani prime minister said that on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan and on my own behalf, I wish to convey our heartfelt felicitations to the fraternal people of Afghanistan on the 97th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Islamic republic of Afghanistan. He further added that the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are rooted in the centuries old ties of common faith, history, geography, culture and people to people contacts. Our common resolve towards peace and prosperity of our region further cements these ties. I am confident that through our cooperative endeavours and mutual trust we will be able to realize the vision of sustained peace and development in the region, he added. *(PR)*

NUG Urged to Implement Pledges, Resolved Difference

KABUL - The Afghanistan Political and Jihadi Parties High Council (APJPHC) on Friday stressed over the distribution of computerised identity cards, conducted of Wolesi Jirga and district council election and asked the unity government to resolved differences.

APJPHC Spokesman Syed Hamid Gilani expressed the view at a press conference here. He said the council agreed over the inception of unity government set up in order to avoid political turmoil.

He, however, said some parties within the council showed strong opposition to the unity government formation two years back.

He asked the unity government leaders to realise their responsibilities, give preference to the national. *(More on P4)...(2)*

Civilians Paying High Price as Helmand War Continues

LASHKARGAH - Displaced people in Chah-e-Anjir in the war-weary province of Helmand said Friday that they are tired of war and just want peace.

In the past three weeks heavy battles have been ongoing in Helmand between security forces and Taliban.

As a result more than four thousand people have fled their homes and mostly converged on the provincial capital, Lashkargah.

"I came from Nawa district and there was a battle. Our children are still there; no body from government has helped us. Half my family is here and the other half is stuck there and all my belongings were left behind. Now we are living here with nothing," said Khan Zaman, one of the displaced residents. Chah-e-Anjir's displaced people have... *(More on P4)...(4)*

Strategic Pact Key for Afghanistan Mi-35 Deal: Russian Analyst

KABUL - A prominent Russian analyst has said the state of the art Mi-35 gunships should be handed over to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) based on bilateral strategic cooperation agreement between Kabul and Moscow.

Dmitriy Verkhoturov in his opinion piece to RIA Novosti's Farsi service has written that the delivery of the gunships in the absence of

a strategic cooperation agreement would not yield positive results as Moscow may expect.

He has particularly pointed towards bilateral cooperation between the two countries, insisting... *(More on P4)...(7)*

Youth's Role Vital in Anti-Corruption Drive: President

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has asked the members of youth parliament to join hands together and become a pressure group against corruption in the country, the Presidential Palace said on Friday.

The president expressed the view during his address to the members of youth parliament, a statement from the palace said.

"You have trust on each other and optimistic about future. The potential among youth to perform greater tasks was admirable and key to your strength was your unity," the president said. He asked the youth to make



Afghanistan a united country and remove elements that spread differences because the strength of Afghanistan

was unity and the history proved that. He said huge ability and capacity of innovation existed

among the Afghan youth. "I am committed to serve you and be your ambassador with... *(More on P4)...(3)*

Kerry Urges Ghani, Abdullah to Resolve Difference

WASHINGTON - The US Secretary of State, John Kerry, has telephoned Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah Friday and sought to resolve their differences, the State Department said.

"The Secretary spoke with both President Ghani and CEO Thursday morning about the importance of continuing to move forward with the political and economic reforms that they're trying to enact and that all those reforms," the State Department Spokesman John Kirby told reporters at his daily news conference.



The US understood that they were hard to come by, will be key to try to get to that kind of future in Afghanistan," Kirby said amidst reports of sharp

differences between Ghani and Dr Abdullah. Responding to a question, Kirby said there can be no possible certain... *(More on P4)...(5)*

Unilateralism could Spark Political Turmoil: Mohaqiq

KABUL - Mohammad Mohaqiq, the second deputy of Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah Friday warned certain elements within government against taking a unilateral approach in dealing with national issues.

He warned that a one-sided approach could throw the nation's political establishment into a tailspin and increase the chances of a political crisis.

Speaking to a Model United Nations 2016 gathering in Kabul on



Friday, Mohaqiq said that working together was the only way to prevent a political crisis in the country. He also called for swift action to end ongoing issues facing government.

His statement comes just days after President Ashraf Ghani and his Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah held a one-on-one meeting in an... *(More on P4)...(6)*

U.S Air Force Resumes B-52h Operations in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - U.S Air Force Chief of Staff General David L. Goldfein announced that Boeing B-52H Stratofortress strategic bombers have completed airstrikes against targets in Afghanistan for the first time in 10 years.

"We got the B-52 back in the fight in Afghanistan and Iraq," he said. "We have the B-52 contributing to a significant ground effort and em-

ploying weapons in close proximity of friendly troops who are under attack [and] who are preparing the battlefield in new ways," he added.

Goldfein's news release indicated that the Air Force's B-52H detachment at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar has flown nearly 270 sorties since April, dropping over 1,300 bombs in more than 325... *(More on P4)...(8)*

US Approves Major Weapons Sale to Afghanistan Worth \$60 Million

WASHINGTON - The United States Department of State has approved a major weapons sale to Afghanistan in a bid to help the Afghan forces fight the growing menace of terrorism.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said "The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to Afghanistan for individual and



crew served weapons, equipment, training, and support. The estimated cost is \$60 million. The Defense Security Coop-

eration Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale on August... *(More on P4)...(9)*

Over 300 AAF Personnel Being Trained Abroad

KABUL - Over 300 Afghan Air Force (AAF) personnel are being trained abroad as efforts are underway to boost the capabilities of the Afghan Air Force. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) spokesman Gen. Dawlat Waziri said the Afghan Air Force plays a key role in suppressing the anti-government armed militant groups in the country.

Gen. Waziri further added that the international community has increased attention towards the rehabilitation of the Afghan Air Force as the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) took full... *(More on P4)...(10)*



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