

Quote of the Day

The more man meditates upon good thoughts, the better will be his world and the world at large.

Confucius

CEO Calls for Holding Wolesi Jirga, District Council Elections

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah on Tuesday insisted on the conduct of Wolesi Jirga and district council elections, saying approval of the draft election law would pave the ground for the democratic exercise. Speaking at a gathering on 'Evaluation of general suggestions for amendments to the constitution', Abdullah said one of the important points of the political agreement on the national unity government was electoral reform. He said the way for the Wolesi Jirga and district council elections had been opened after the cabinet approval of the draft election law. The cabinet approved the draft, underlining the imperative of a single-



seat system at polling stations. "Another important pledge of the government is convening a Loya Jirga, but the time is not right for it because of the upcoming elections. We hope the Jirga will be held after the elections," the CEO added. Under the 2014 agreement, the grand assembly of tribal elders was expected to convene to amend the constitution within two years, allowing Abdullah to take the post of prime minister. Abdullah said the Loya Jirga was aimed to amend the constitution. About his differences with the president, the CEO said he would meet Ghani on Thursday to discuss ways of resolving their problems. (Pajhwok)

More Mi-25s on Wish List As CoAS Visits India Next Week

KABUL - Afghanistan will ask for the delivery of more Mi-25 gunship helicopters from India as the Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) Gen. Qadam Shah Shaheem visits New Delhi next week. Sources in New Delhi have said Gen. Shaheem will hand over a wish list of Afghanistan that will include more Mi-25 gunship helicopters, small choppers and medical emergencies as well as spares for the existing Russian-origin aircraft. The Afghan Ambassador to India Shaida Abdali told Reuters regarding Gen. Shaheem's visit to New Delhi "We are grateful for the four helicopters. But we need more, we need much more. Today we are heading into a situation that is worrisome for everyone in the region including India." ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Sancharak District under Taliban Threat

SAR-E-PUL - Three villages in Sancharak district of Sar-e-Pul have collapsed to the Taliban following heavy clashes, the provincial council said Tuesday. Masjid Sabz, Topkhana and Guzar are the villages that collapsed, said officials adding that heavy clashes were also ongoing in other parts of the district. Provincial spokesman Zabiullah Amani said that reinforcements are due to arrive in the district and it is expected that air strikes will be conducted Tuesday to suppress the insurgents. According to the officials 10 local policemen and public uprising fighters have ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Kunduz PC Members in Kabul to Escape Insecurity

KUNDUZ CITY - Civil society activists in northern Kunduz province say all members of the Provincial Council (PC) have fled to capital Kabul after insecurity escalated in the province. Shahbaz Saberi, a civil society activist, told Pajhwok Afghan News all PC members left Kunduz for Kabul after militants increased their attacks in the province. He said the people of Kunduz were suffering from numerous problems and their representatives should not leave them alone in this time of trouble and work for solution to their problems. Another activist, Bashir, said people had voted the provincial council members ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Iran Ready to Build Oil Refinery in Afghanistan



TERAN - A new storage tank will soon come to stream in South Khorasan Province saying "Birjand Oil Tank Farm with a capacity of storing 100 thousand barrels of various oil products will start operation in the coming two months," the agency quoted Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) Abbas Kazemi, as saying. "Iran is capable of supplying Afghanistan's oil products demand for the next 30 years urging Afghan officials to enter into negotiations over pipeline construction," he added. Kazemi recalled that Iran has reached ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

US Cautiously Optimistic About OIC Reconciliation Initiative

WASHINGTON - The United States on Monday suggested it was cautiously optimistic about the Afghan reconciliation effort by the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), ruling out any change in end conditions. "We are ready to accept any political resolution of the conflict between the Afghan government and the Taliban so long as the outcome of any process ensures that the Taliban and other armed opposition groups end violence." A State Department spokesperson told Pajhwok Afghan News the insurgents must break associations with international ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Cabinet Oks Draft Election Law, Proposing Amendments

KABUL - The cabinet has approved in principle a draft election law, underlining the imperative of a single-seat system at polling stations for the upcoming Wolesi Jirga polls. At a meeting chaired by President Ashraf Ghani late on Monday, the election law was shared with the cabinet by 2nd Vice-President Sarwar Danish and head of the Research Committee. Danish said the draft law was placed before the Council of Ministers after participants floated their suggestions about amendments and



a full review based on international norms. A statement from the Presidential Palace said that Ghani had tasked Danish with finalizing the draft law keeping in view cabinet suggestions.

In past presidential elections, there was only one polling station in the entire country. In parliamentary polls, each province had its own polling station. However, under the single-

seat election system, provinces are divided into polling stations based on their populations. At each polling station, votes are cast only for candidates from the relevant area. (Pajhwok)

Govt. Yet to Tackle Caretaker Issue As Brussels Summit Looms

BRUSSELS - As the Brussels Summit on Afghanistan looms, the Afghan government has to meet a number of commitments made to the international community ahead of the crucial meeting - one of them being that related to the practice of using caretakers in senior positions. Hadi Meeran is one such caretaker who serves as the director of public relations in the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. He returned to Afghanistan three years ago after years of living in Europe. Meeran looked for a job for



almost two years until landing his current caretaker position. But he still faces an uncertain future as he has not been appointed as official head of department - despite passing the

Independent Public Administration and Civil Service Commission exam as required. "I have obtained a bachelor's degree in social sciences and a ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Education and Geography Hold Key to Gender Equity in Afghanistan: Study

KABUL - For women, education and for men, where they live may be key for the future of female leadership. Research findings indicate higher education would possibly catapult women into the leadership of Afghanistan in the future. In this regard, men's perceptions of women's role in society also may be affected by levels of education, but is even more drastically different depending on the region in Afghanistan

they live. That is to say, men in one part of Afghanistan are much more likely to support women in leadership roles than in other regions, regardless of their education. AREU and SCA jointly conducted the research from July 2015 to January 2016 in Kabul, Nangarhar, Takhar and Bamyan provinces. Two hundred women and 200 men were interviewed by the researchers. The study The Other Side of Gen-

der Inequality: Men and Masculinities in Afghanistan asked respondents whether they disagree with 20 statements related to the perceptions of masculinity; attitudes towards equality, power and control; and opinions about violence. This analysis focuses on responses to the statement: "Respondent's opinion towards the view that 'Men are better leaders than women.'" ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Conflict Leaves Many Helmand Schools in Ruins

LASHKARGAH - The ongoing conflict in southern Helmand province has left in ruins 26 schools in three districts, depriving 42,000 children of an education. For the past three weeks, fierce clashes between security forces and Taliban militants have been underway in various districts and areas near the provincial capital, Lashkargah. Helmand education director Abdul Matin Jaffar told Pajhwok Afghan News on Tuesday that 26 schools

in Garamser, Nawa and Nad Ali districts had been caused damage in the conflict and all equipment had been taken away by unknown people. He said of the damaged schools, 11 were in Nawa, nine in Garamser and six in Nad Ali district, adding 42,000 children studying in these schools had been affected. "The ruined schools have been turned into bastions," said Jaffar, who claimed ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

AISS Releases Research Paper on Afghanistan Constitution

KABUL - The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) on Tuesday released its latest research report "Afghanistan's Constitution and the society in transition". In a statement, the institute said the study's major objective was to assess the public level of awareness on the Constitution's content and major provisions and getting the reforming and ad-

justing views and recommendations for possible amendment. Ten provinces including Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyan, Ghazni, Ghor, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz and Nangarhar were chosen for the study due to their political and social importance in four main zones. The research was launched in early 2016 ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

'Medicines to be Purchased from Reliable Companies'

KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on Tuesday said all required medicines for the public health and security sectors would be purchased from authentic national and international companies totally costing up to \$180 million annually. Dr. Waheed Majrooh, the Public Health Ministry spokesman, told a press conference here that based on a centralized medicine supply

strategy approved by the High Economic Council on August 7, from now on all the needed medicine for the ministries of public health, higher education, defence and interior would be purchased under a transparent and accountable mechanism in order to ensure good quality and pave the way for domestic production of medicines. He said the strategy ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Anti-Corruption Justice Center Opens for Business

KABUL - After weeks of delays, the Specialized Anti-Corruption Justice Center officially started its work on Tuesday with Afghanistan's Attorney General Farid Hamidi reiterating calls to Afghans to cooperate with the organization in its bid to curb corruption in the country. Hamidi reaffirmed their commitment to fight corruption resolutely and without taking pressure from any one.

"We will fight seriously, all opportunities for transparent and fair trials will be considered in the process. Anyone accused or convicted will be provided with his basic rights," said Hamidi. The opening of the specialized corruption justice center has drawn widespread reaction from the Afghan public. Analysts have said that the center needs to fight corruption at all levels regardless of a ...*(More on P4)...(11)*



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