

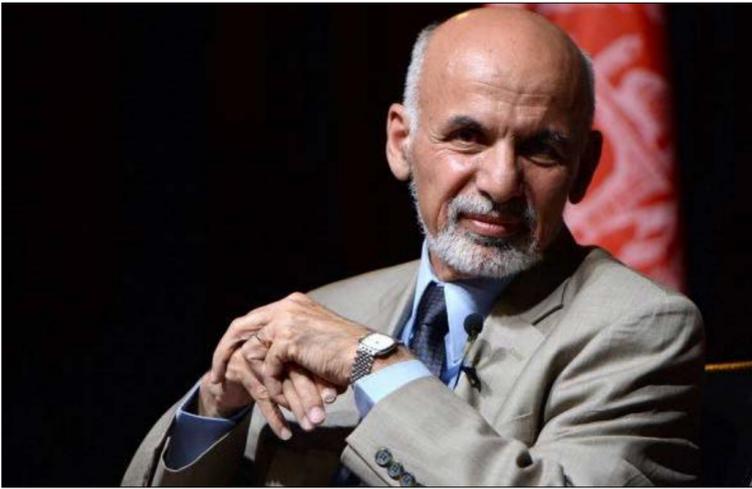
Quote of the Day

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.

Thomas Fuller

Ghani's Assurance over Polls Next Year Sparks Backlash

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission (IEC) on Sunday reported that President Ashraf Ghani has assured donors that parliamentary elections will be held next year, something election observers and monitoring groups believe is not possible. The election commission has drafted a proposal about elections and will soon share it with government in order to confirm the timeframe for parliamentary elections, said IEC spokesman Gula Jan Abdul Badi Sayyad. Observers and election monitoring institutions have responded to Ghani's assurances with dismay, saying that it would be impossible for the



IEC to conduct the poll next year due to technical issues and a slow "working pace". "We have dispatched our recommendations to government and they will decide on it and will pick one of the proposals - either on the single-seat constituency system or (they will) make electoral districts a bit smaller or (they will) go with previous electoral districts where provincial borders were the electoral zones; then we will be able to announce the timeline of elections," said Sayyad. Election watchdogs say that the first step the IEC needs to finalize is the voter lists, which have a significant impact on the ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Watchdog Concerned over Violations of the Law by Police



KABUL - The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Sunday said at a national meeting on "Human Rights and Police" that some police force members discriminate against people while doing their jobs and also misuse their authority. AIHRC held a seminar in

Kabul in which police commanders from different districts of the country attended so as to learn about human rights and deal with people respectfully. Police forces are the implementer of the law, but the Human Rights Commission said some police actions are shameful. ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Nangarhar Residents Call on Ghani to Build Airport As Promised

JALALABAD - Nangarhar residents and provincial council members have called on the National Unity Government (NUG) to implement its promise to build an airport in Nangarhar. Residents and council members said that the establishment of a civilian airport will not only be beneficial for residents but will also generate revenue for government. President Ashraf Ghani has acknowledged the local community's request but work on the airport has not started. "Nangarhar is a populated province and also a community center for residents of three surrounding provinces and the establishment of an airport is needed for

all of them and we want the government to take action," said Wasim Karimi a resident. "An airport in Nangarhar would play a key role in travel to provinces and other countries and will open up facilities for us," said Noorullah, another resident. Meanwhile, Nangarhar local officials said that budget has been allocated for the construction of an airport in Nangarhar and construction could start in the new solar year. "Last week a delegation from the finance ministry and civil aviation authority came to Nangarhar and the delegation also visited some areas where the airport (could be built) and soon a suitable ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Millions of Dollars Still Owed to Kabul Bank



KABUL - The office assigned to recoup money owed to Kabul Bank said on Sunday they have faced numerous challenges and some debtors refuse to repay the money owed. According to information provided by the office, more than \$407 million USD had been owed to the bank and only some of the money has been recovered. Kabul Bank however refused to comment on how much money they had collected so far. "Some debtors have signed

agreements with us to pay their debt, but recently some of them have not paid their debts. A small number, one to two people, who did not respect the agreement have only paid 20 percent of their debt," said Abdulwahid Khurasani, head of the office of Kabul Bank reconciliation. Meanwhile, Nasir Timori, a researcher for Integrity Watch Afghanistan, said since the establishment of the National Unity Government (NUG), only \$29 million ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Steps Taken to Combat Corruption in Military Institutions: MoD

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Sunday said that it has authorized special military courts to investigate alleged involvement of military personnel in corruption schemes and embezzlement. The investigations by military attorneys will also take in violation of professional rules, misconduct, misuse of official authorities and embezzlement. The number of corruption cases relating to military personnel is estimated to be more than 1,000 cases, said



a defense ministry spokesman Mohammad Radmanish. "According to my information, these cases are related to soldiers including generals and the number of

these cases are more than one thousand cases, we have achieved significant results from fighting corruption," said Radmanish. According to MoD, some high ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Anti-Daesh Offensive Kicks off in Nangarhar



JALALABAD - Afghan security forces backed by US air support on Sunday launched a military operation codenamed 'Shaheen-25' against Daesh or Islamic State militant group in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said. On the day one of the operation, provincial government and military spokesmen briefed media persons about the objectives of the operation in Jalalabad, the provincial capital. Afghan National Army's 201st Selab Military Corps spokesman Maj. Shirin Aqa Faqiri said the operation was started from Kot and Haska Mena districts and would be gradually extended to other districts. He said the operation involved police and army personnel and they would be provided air support by US forces if needed. He said it was unknown when the operation would be wound up, but it would continue until the IS threat was eradicated. Nangarhar's governor

spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, told Pajhwok Afghan News on the sidelines of the press conference that the newly-launched operation was different past operations. He said efforts were being made to protect areas where security was maintained with people's help. He said NATO forces would provide air support if required. Public uprising members would be armed and equipped with the help of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) to keep security for areas to be cleared of the IS, he said. Khogyani said local people had promised to help the government protect their areas and ensure security. Meanwhile, provincial police spokesman Hazrat Husain Mashriqiwal said the police would strongly cooperate with the Afghan National Army during the operation. He said the provincial police headquarters would also establish checkpoints for ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Jihadi Parties to Meet Soon on Current Political Situation

KABUL - A grand meeting of two major jihadi parties will be held soon to discuss the country's political landscape and evolve a joint future strategy, the groups announced on Sunday. The second meeting of the Herat and Suban and the Jihadi Council would be chaired by leading religious scholar Prof. Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, a joint statement from the parties said. It added the participants would discuss the current political situation, explore



ways of ensuring a more prosperous future for the country and the protection of the supreme national interest. At the meeting, continued cooperation in areas of common interest for the Jihadi Council and Herat and Subat Council would be

stressed. Both parties renewed their commitment to upholding Islamic principles and protecting the national interest, implementation of reforms, war on corruption, empowerment of institutions and strengthening the rule of law. (Pajhwok)

Sartaj Aziz

Efforts on to Sort out Differences with Kabul



PESHAWAR - Islamabad is making sincere efforts to resolve all its differences with Kabul, Pakistan's top diplomat has said. Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz recalled contacts at high levels between the neighbors. Speaking in Karachi on Saturday, he referred to the Pakistan-brokered peace talks between Afghan government and Taliban representatives. However, the July 2016 parleys in the picturesque town of Murree were derailed by the disclosure of Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar's death.

Aziz said Afghan refugees had become a security threat, as more than 70,000 people had been killed in Pakistan. He also held the refugees responsible for ecological damage of 150 billion dollars to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Russia and China would

play a vital role in bringing about regional changes. "Our relations with Russia and China have improved markedly." The advisor acknowledged Pakistan still had differences with the US on Afghanistan, but working groups were trying to sort out the rows. (Pajhwok)

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