

Quote of the Day

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.
Diogenes Laertius

Constitution

Observing the provisions of the Constitution, obeying the laws, adhering to public law and order are the duties of all people of Afghanistan.

Article 56

Reg: No 352

Volume No. 2951

Thursday February 26, 2015 Hoot 07, 1393

www.outlookafghanistan.net

Price: 15/- Af\$

Decision on Troop Adjustment Soon: John Kerry

WASHINGTON - The US President, Barack Obama, would soon make his decision on troop adjustment, the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, told lawmakers Tuesday ahead of the US visit of the Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

Kerry told lawmakers during a Congressional hearing that "the President is on the right track (on his withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan). The evaluation that is going on now with respect to the adjustment on the troop is appropriate. And the president will make his decision shortly." "Do you support a conditions-



based withdrawal in Afghanistan, of our military forces?" Kerry was asked by Senator Thad Cochran. Such a statement from the US Secretary of State comes in the wake of repeated requests from the new Afghan President Ghani, that the US should reconsider its decision on complete withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2016.

During his maiden trip to Afghanistan, the new US Defense Secretary, Ashton Carter, said that he would consider on the pace of drawdown of troops from Afghanistan based on conditions on the ground. A day ... (More on P4)...(1)

1 Released of 30 Kidnapped Zabul Passengers



QALAT - Officials in southern Zabul said that only one individual among 30 passengers kidnapped by unidentified gunmen was released on Wednesday.

A day earlier, gunmen abducted 30 passengers from a 303 model bus on Kabul-Kandahar Highway in Shajoi district of Zabul. Local officials had ... (More on P4)...(2)

Musharraf

Kabul Must Share Power with Taliban Group



ISLAMABAD - The former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has said that the Afghan government must share power with the Taliban militants group in a bid to bring peace and stability in the country. Musharraf has also said that the government of Afghanistan must block Indian influence in the country if it wishes to see peace.

Speaking during an interview with The Wall Street Journal Musharraf insisted that both Pakistan and India must stay away from proxy war in Afghanistan. Musharraf admitted that the Afghan conflict was fed by the involvement of India and Pakistan ... (More on P4)...(4)

Provincial Councils Salvage Evaluation Rights



Independent Directorate of Local Governance
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in a cabinet meeting granted the provincial council members the right of evaluation of performance of local departments. Tawab Ghorzang, spokesman of the Independent Directorate of

Local Governance (IDLG), said that the decision was made during a meeting of cabinet held on Wednesday. The presidential decree in this connection would soon be released, he added. Some days back, the lower house de-

cidated provincial councils did not reserve the right to assess the performance of local departments. Nearly two dozen provincial councils (PCs) had closed their offices to protest the decision of the Wolesi Jirga. (Pajhwok)

AIHRC Urges Consideration of Gains during Peace Talks

KABUL - Emphasizing on lasting peace and stability, Afghanistan Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has urged the government to consider the gains in human rights in the peace talks with the



Taliban.

Following the Taliban's green signal for peace talks and President Ashraf Ghani's ongoing peace efforts, which have topped headlines nowadays, the AIHRC commissioner Rafiullah Bedar emphasized on the protection of the advancements made in the past years. ... (More on P4)...(3)

New Kabul Bank Also Faces \$50m Losses: Watchdog

KABUL - The Integrity Watch Afghanistan on Wednesday said the New Kabul Bank was also facing losses after the government failed to take stern action against individuals involved in the Kabul Bank scandal.

The former Kabul Bank plunged into deep crisis after a run on deposits in 2010 when reports surfaced \$935 million had been stolen from the bank by its chief executives and stakeholders.

The then President Hamid Karzai government was forced to bail out the country's then biggest bank, which was later re-launched as the state-run New Kabul Bank.

So far only about a third of the



\$935 million stolen has been recovered, according to the receivers.

The two former heads of the bank, founder Sher Khan Ferozi and former Chief Executive Haji

Khalil Ferozi, had been convicted in the initial inquiry of taking \$810 million of the stolen money and were both sentenced to jail for five years. Their jail terms were tripled in November ... (More on P4)...(5)

72 Dead in Avalanches, Death Toll May Rise



PARAKH - As many as 72 people were confirmed dead after huge avalanches buried more than 100 people alive in their homes in central Panjshir province, an official said on Wednesday.

Of the 106 people, 18 were rescued and as many were still missing after snow avalanches triggered by days of snowfall hit several villages since last night, the acting governor said.

Abuld Rahman Kabiri told Pajhwok Afghan about 30 people were killed by avalanches in the Arghach area in Abdullah Khel Dara region of Paryan district and 13 people lost their lives near Parakh, the provincial capital. The dead included women and children.

Another three people were killed in the Kojan area of Paryan district after five people were buried by snow in their home. The remaining two were still missing, the governor said.

Another 10 people among a group of 35 people buried in snow were frozen to death in the Hessa Awal district last ... (More on P4)...(6)

Japan Contributes \$14.2m for Emergency, Humanitarian Assistance

KABUL - The government of Japan has provided \$14,175,000 from its 2014 Supplementary Budget to UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS, WFP, and IOM for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, a statement from the Japanese Embassy said on Wednesday.

The statement said that this contribution will allow these humanitarian agencies to address the emerging situation of refugees returning from Pakistan, other returnees, food insecurity and malnutrition, and other vital needs, benefiting approximately 520,000 people in total.

The contribution responds to requirements under UNOCHA's 2015 Strategic Response Plan.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - \$2,100,000, with the funding from the government of Japan, UNHCR will focus on supporting the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan, fostering sustainable reintegration of returning Afghan, providing humanitarian support to IDPs and delivering emergency ... (More on P4)...(7)



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