

Quote of the Day

Everything happens to everybody sooner or later if there is time enough.

George Bernard Shaw

AGO un-Lists 1500 Barred-Blacklisted Individuals

KABUL - Officials at Attorney General Office (AGO) have removed 1500 individuals who were unnecessarily blacklisted and barred from the country by the Ministry of Interior Affairs, Da Afghanistan Bank, Ministry of Finance and Attorney General, the findings of the Supreme Court indicates they were unnecessarily blacklisted.

Attorney General Spokesman Jamshid Rasouli said, "More than 1500 persons who were blacklisted and banned unnecessarily in the past years by the above mentioned Governmental institutions, were removed from the list."

Attorney General Office, Ministry of Interior Affairs,



Ministry of Finance and Da Afghanistan Bank were the Governmental institutions

who illegally blacklisted the individuals, no information leaked about the 1500 person's

backgrounds yet. Officials at Afghanistan Supreme Court insisted that

efforts intentions are underway to remove some other persons who were unnecessarily blacklisted. "There were some whom were unnecessarily blacklisted, but there are some who are blacklisted which a need and must." Attorney General Spokesman Jamshid Rasouli said. Officials at Afghanistan Attorney General Office warned that no Governmental department is allowed to blacklist or to barred any individuals from now on wards, earlier several Afghan officials from the previous Government who were accused of corruption were barred it's not clear yet that whether they are removed from list or not. (Agencies)

Pir Gilani Laid to Rest in Nangarhar



JALALABAD - Religious leader and Afghanistan's top peace negotiator, Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gilani, who passed away on Saturday in Kabul, was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard in Surkh Rud district of eastern Nangarhar province on Monday.

The coffin of Pir Gilani, who spearheaded the government's body, High Peace Council (HPC), for almost one year, was brought to the district after his funeral prayer was offered at the

Presidential Palace in Kabul. President Ashraf Ghani, CEO Abdullah Abdullah, former presidents Hamid Karzai and Sibghatullah Mujaddedi and former jihadi leaders, politicians, lawmakers and government officials attended the funeral for Pir Gilani at the Presidential Palace.

Gilani's Nimaz-i-Janaza was offered in the Surkh Rud district where a number of former jihadi leaders, political leaders, CEO Abdullah and hundreds... (More on P4)... (1)

Afghan Women's Orchestra Wins Freemuse Award

KABUL - Afghanistan's first and only women's orchestra, Zohra, has been awarded the Freemuse Award 2017.

The orchestra is comprised of a group of students from the National Institute of Music (ANIM) in Kabul.

The Afghanistan music industry is currently facing tremendous challenges following years of oppression under the Taliban and decades of war, which has led to dozens of musicians having fled the country.

Music and entertainment was completely banned under the Taliban after the hardline group took over in 1995.

In addition to banning music, the Taliban also prevented women from being educated - a move that dealt a heavy blow to literacy rates among females.

But, following the establishment of the new democratic system in 2001, the Afghan music industry was revived. In 2010, Afghanistan's visionary musician Dr. Ahmad Sarmast took a new initiative to revive the music school and ANIM was founded. Empowerment of women in... (More on P4)... (3)

Pakistan Preparing for 'Tough Talk' with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani authorities are preparing for a 'tough talk' with the Afghan government officials as the country's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa is mulling to visit Afghanistan, it has been reported.

Sources privy of the development have said Gen. Bajwa will visit the country in an appropriate time with the main motive behind his visit would be to amend the fractured ties between the two nations.

A senior security official speaking on the condition of anonymity told a local newspaper that Gen. Bajwa will likely visit the country after the Trump administration announces its Afghanistan policy.

The source further added that



Gen. Bajwa will also deliver a clear message to the Afghan leadership to 'stop blaming Pakistan for your own failings'. This comes as the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the Afghan militant groups,

specifically the Taliban and Haqqani terrorist network leaderships use its soil for planning and coordinating attacks in Afghanistan. The US Department of State earlier said problem regarding the safe havens of the terrorist... (More on P4)... (2)

1,500 US Soldiers to be Deployed to Afghanistan

KABUL - The United States will deploy at least 1,500 soldiers from the Ready First Brigade to Afghanistan, it has been reported.

The soldiers will serve for a period of 9 months as part of the advise, assist, and train mission to help the Afghan army and police.

With 300 already deployed to Afghanistan, the deployment of the remaining soldiers will start this month with the brigade expected to take up the mission in mid-February.

"For many soldiers, it will be their first deployment," Strong, from Syracuse, N.Y. told The Stars and Stripes newspaper. "They are very excited. Honestly, it is what a lot join the military for - to serve and defend the nation."



Before their deployment to Afghanistan, the soldiers have gone on three rotations to combat training centers during that time - to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., in June 2015 and October-November 2016 and to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., in January 2016.

The brigade and its battalions also did extensive gated train-ups leading up to all of those rotations. "As in any train-up, you've been training and you've been training, and it gets to the point where you are ready to go and do what you've been training so hard to do," Strong said. (KP)

Canada Concerned About Embezzlement in Aid Project

KABUL - The Canadian government is investigating an aid project which helps Afghan children to return to school after the results of a report pointed to alleged corruption within the Afghan Ministry of Education. A report on January 9, 2016

by Afghanistan's Tolo News stated: "Earlier this month, the Minister of Education Assadullah Hanif Balkhi said that a recent study found that only six million Afghan children are in fact at school - contrary to the 11 million as previously stated by the

former government." Providing USD 117.2mn since 2006, Canada is one of the main contributors to Afghanistan's largest national education program-Education Quality Improvement Project (EQUIP). "Canada is currently... (More on P4)... (4)

AAF Bomb ISIS Hideout in Zabul, 21 Killed

KABUL - At least 21 militants affiliated with the loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group were killed in an airstrike conducted by the Afghan Air Force (AAF) in Zabul province.

The provincial police commandment said late on Sunday that the airstrike was carried out in Dai Chupan Khak Afghan district.

According to the security officials, at least 7 ISIS militants including a commander of the group were also wounded in the airstrike. The anti-government armed militant groups including the ISIS loyalist have not commented regarding the report so far. This comes as Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said late in December last year that special military operations will kick off soon in southeastern Ghazni and southern Zabul provinces to suppress the loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group and... (More on P4)... (5)

Taliban Tells Trump to Leave Afghanistan

KABUL - The Taliban has called on President Donald Trump to withdraw US forces from the "quagmire" of Afghanistan, saying that nothing has been achieved in 15 years of war except bloodshed and destruction.

In an open letter to the new US president published on one of its official web pages, the insurgent movement said the United States had lost credibility after spending a trillion dollars on a fruitless entanglement.

"So, the responsibility to bring to an end this war also rests on your shoulders," it said. So far, Trump has had little to say publicly about Afghanistan, where some 8,400 US troops remain as part of the NATO-led coalition's training... (More on P4)... (6)

WFP Receives \$20mn from USA for Returnees in Afghanistan



KABUL - The World Food Program (WFP) has welcomed a contribution of USD 20 million from the Government of the United States of America for emergency food assistance for some 550,000 returnees and displaced people in Afghanistan. This emergency operation has already been running for five months and WFP has reached 200,000 people so far.

"With the return of hundreds of thousands of returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons flooding the borders and making their way back to their homes, if they have a home to return to, it's imperative that we help," said USAID Mission Director Herbie Smith. "Our Mission is working diligently with the World Food Programme and others to provide funding and support to those in desperate need of help, especially during these bitterly cold winter months. USAID is committed to provide as much assistance as possible to help alleviate the suffering these people are enduring."

"This generous contribution translates into three crucial areas of impact. First, it enables WFP to deliver desperately-needed food to people who have had to flee their homes. Secondly, it will help get extra nutritious food to young children who should not have to pay the price of chronic malnutrition. Finally, it will give the Afghan economy a much-needed boost... (More on P4)... (7)



Afghan army soldiers take part in their graduation ceremony in Balkh province, on Monday January 22, 2017. A total of 1045 soldiers and officers graduated after nine weeks at an army training center in Mazar-e-Sharif, capital of northern Balkh province, official said. (Xinhua/Yaqoub Azorda)

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