

Quote of the Day

The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.

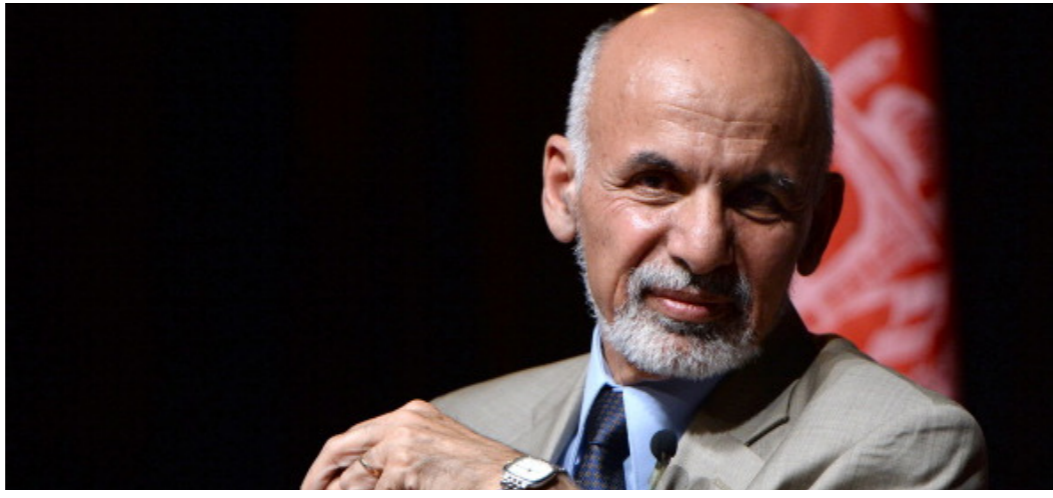
Confucius

Ghani Vows to 'Bury' Islamic State Franchise

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has vowed to "bury" the Islamic State group's affiliate in Afghanistan, a report said, after Washington granted the US military legal authority to strike the jihadists in the country.

The group, which controls territory across Syria and Iraq, has made alarming inroads in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, as the country grapples with a resurgent Taliban insurgency.

IS jihadists claimed responsibility for a deadly gun and bomb



siege targeting the Pakistani consulate in eastern Jalalabad city on January 13, the group's first major attack in an Afghan city.

In recent months Afghan forces backed by US drones launched a scorched earth offensive to beat back IS in Nangarhar, where the group's rein of terror has displaced thousands of people.

"This could be a point of no return for Daesh -- we will bury Daesh," Ghani told BBC in an interview released Monday, using the Arabic acronym for IS. "Afghans ... (More on P4)...(1)

President Ashraf Ghani Governors to be Consulted on Police Chiefs' Appointment



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Monday said provincial governors would be consulted prior to the appointment of provincial police chiefs in future. The president said this while talking to a number of provincial governors through a video conference from the Presidential Palace, a statement from the palace said.

The governors from Bamyan, Faryab, Khost, Laghman, Farah, Badakhshan and Nimroz provinces attended the video conference ... (More on P4)...(2)

Selection Committee Urges Govt. to Determine its Fate



KABUL - After the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) rejected a presidential decree, the Electoral Commissions Selection Committee has stopped its activities.

Members of the committee said that more than 400 people have sent in their applications and based on the mechanism of the committee, it should assess the applications.

But after the presidential decree was rejected by the Wolesi Jirga, they stopped their work.

"We were in the phase to assess documents of the applicants. However, the constitutional presidential decree was rejected by Wolesi Jirga and we are in a legal vacuum now. We stopped our work and asked government find a solution to this legal problem," said Fahim Dashti, a member of the committee. He added that there is no solution to the problem in sight so far. ... (More on P4)...(3)

Afghan Army Being 'Rebuilt' for Taliban Battle: Gen. Shoffner

KABUL - After months of ferocious fighting, Afghan army units battling the Taliban in southern Helmand province are facing major restructuring and leadership changes, with several key commanders being replaced, a U.S. military official said Monday.

Helmand has been a fierce battleground since last fall, with fighting taking place in 10 districts. At times, the insurgents have laid siege on army bases and threatened to overrun large chunks of territory. Local officials have called for help from central authorities and complained publicly over corruption that includes siphoning off salaries, food, fuel and equipment.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, the head of public affairs for the U.S.-NATO mission, told The Associated Press that the Afghan army corps in Helmand is now being "rebuilt" and that senior officers are being replaced.

The reasons for the changes in the Afghan army's 215 Mai-

wand Corps "are a combination of incompetence, corruption and ineffectiveness," Shoffner said. The corps' commander has been replaced, along with "some brigade commanders and some key corps staff up to full colonel level," he said.

Helmand is a strategic region for the ... (More on P4)...(4)

Europol Launches European Counter Terrorism Center

MSTERDAM - The new European Counter Terrorism Center (ECTC), officially launched Monday in Amsterdam, will focus on fighting foreign fighters, sharing intelligence and expertise on terrorism financing, online terrorist propaganda as well as illegal arms trafficking, Europol announced.

"Our ambition is for the ECTC to become a central information hub in the fight against terrorism in the EU, providing analysis for ongoing investigations and contributing to a coordinated

reaction in the events of major terrorist attacks," said Mr. Rob Wainwright, director of Europol, at the launching ceremony.

The ECTC will be led by Manuel Navarrete Paniagua, a high ranking officer of the Spanish Guardia Civil who is already head of the counter terrorism unit at Europol. Between 40 to 50 experts on terrorism work in the ECTC, said Mr. Wainwright.

The new ECTC has been set up within the current organizational structure of Europol that is ... (More on P4)...(5)

46 Land-Grabbers in Nangarhar Referred to Prosecutors



JALALABAD - Forty-six people detained on land-grabbing charges have been referred to the attorney general office (AGO) in eastern Nangarhar province, officials said on Monday.

Attallah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News efforts had been stepped to reclaim the lands grabbed by some individuals in different parts of the province. He said around 2,000 acres of land in Nangarhar had been taken back from illegal occupants and 46 individuals detained. The suspects have been introduced to the

attorney office. On the other hand, police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said a campaign against land-grabbers was underway in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, Rodat, Kama, Shewa, Surkh Rod and Behsud districts.

The drive would extend to other areas too, he promised, saying the governor's house was in coordination with security and judicial organs, as well as other government offices.

Col. Mashriqiwal appreciated the performance of different government organs against ... (More on P4)...(7)

Doha Meeting Calls for End to Military Confrontation

KABUL - A two-day meeting on peace and stability in Afghanistan in Doha has called for an immediate end to military confrontation must via political cooperation within a legitimate framework.

Organised by the Canadian Nobel Peace Award-winning NGO Pugwash, the non-official event on January 23-24 was attended by approximately 55 participants, who discussed the shared goal of peace and reconciliation.

All participants expressed appreciation for the government of Qatar for allowing the meeting to take place and providing support in this regard. There was a consensus that these meetings should continue on a regular basis.

Discussions showed that there were many shared concerns, areas of commonality that can create opportunities for progress. Given below is an 18-point statement issued by the Pugwash secretary-



general:

1. Peace is an urgent need. Decades of war that have been imposed on Afghanistan, have had a devastating impact on all Afghans. People are waiting impatiently for peace. If progress is not made soon, many fear the country may face other threats that might further complicate the process.

2. Military confrontation must end. The sovereignty of Afghanistan and the desired peace and stability will ultimately be achieved via political cooperation within a framework of legitimacy es-

tablished by an appropriate constitution. Foreign troops must eventually leave Afghanistan.

3. Some participants believe that the Constitution should be amended, while others believe that the constitution should be substantially rewritten. Concrete proposals should be discussed in detail in future meetings.

4. Outside forces should not control the politics of Afghanistan. Instead, international technical, economic and cultural cooperation should be promoted.

5. The ... (More on P4)...(8)

Kabul Rejects Taliban's 'Preconditions' for Peace Talks



KABUL - The Afghan government on Monday said that it could not accept the Taliban's preconditions for the resumption of stalled peace talks, urging that the negotiations will move forward only in line with the decision of the quadrilateral agreement, referring to a recent meeting of senior

officials from Afghanistan-Pakistan-China and the US in Kabul where the four nations agreed to outline a comprehensive roadmap for talks with the insurgent group.

Meanwhile, the Afghan High Peace Council (HPC) has said that this is not the first ... (More on P4)...(6)

MoD Dismiss Pakistan Claims



KABUL - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's claim last week that certain circles in Afghanistan are helping insurgents infiltrate Pakistani territory to conduct attacks was on Monday rejected by the Afghan Ministry of Defense.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense (MoD) on Monday rejected the allegations by Pakistan that certain elements in Kabul support insurgents to operate in Pakistani soil, terming the claims groundless.

"This is quite laughable," Dawlat Waziri, a defense ministry spokesman said on

Monday referring to Pakistani PM's allegations.

"Taliban and al-Qaeda operate in Pakistan. Osama and Mullah Omar were found in Pakistan. The Quetta Council, Peshawar Council, Haqqani Council and Meeran Shah Council exist there in Pakistan. How can Pakistan dare to say that certain groups in Afghanistan are involved in instability in Pakistan?"

This comes at a time that Pakistan has long been criticized by the Afghan government and other countries for its deliberate support of militant ... (More on P4)...(9)

Agro Products on Show in Berlin International Green Week

KABUL - Fruits of Afghanistan were put in the exhibition of foods and agricultural products in the International Green Week Berlin, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) said on Monday.

Afghanistan has showcased its fresh and dried fruits, including pistachio, almond, pine, sesame, pulses, raisin, pomegranates and grapes at the world's biggest fair in Berlin, a statement from the ministry said.

In 26 exhibition halls, about 1,500 national and inter-

national traders from 70 countries presented typical regional produce and services from Jan. 14 to Jan 24, 2016. Afghan products attracted many visitors, especially Germans, the statement added.

Agriculture Minister Asadullah Zameer also participated in the expo and facilitated the signing of some contracts with traders on the export of pistachio, almond, raisin, dried mulberry, saffron and woolen shawls.

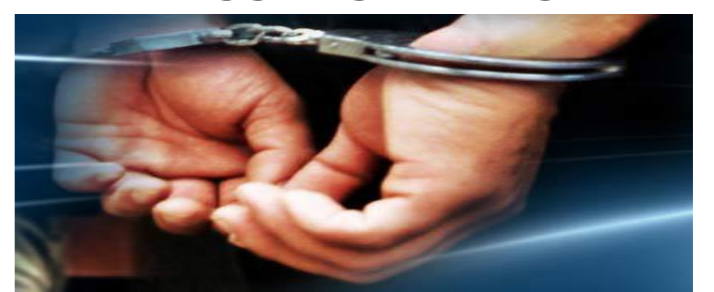
Khan Jan Alokzai, deputy head of the Afghanistan

Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), welcomed such fairs and contracts to promote exports. Afghanistan's annual exports stand at more than \$500 million and imports at \$8 billion. The International Green Week Berlin is one of the oldest fairs held annually in the German capital.

The exhibitors present agricultural products from all over the world to visitors and the public alike. Visitors can sample international cuisine and stock up on treats to take home.

(Pajhwok)

CJTF 32 Detained on Drug Smuggling Charges



KABUL - Thirty-two individuals have been arrested by police in 14 provinces, including central Kabul, on charges of drugs and alcoholic beverages smuggling, the task force said on Monday.

A statement from the Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) said the accused had been detained in Kabul, Herat, Uruzgan, Zabul, Parwan, Helmand, Nangarhar, Faryab, Paktia, Kapisa, Logar, Kunduz, Jawzjan and Sa-

mangan provinces. The detainees were subjected to CJTF trials, the statement said, without identifying the time period in which the drug traffickers had been detained.

More than 168 kilograms of heroin, 354 kg of opium, over 5.5 tonnes of hashish, 5 tonnes of chemicals used in making drugs, 3500 litres of alcohol, 23 vehicles and 33 telephones had been recovered from the smugglers, the statement said. (Pajhwok)