

## Quote of the Day

The truth is more important than the facts.

Frank Lloyd Wright

# NUG Leaders Reject IEC Secretariat Head Candidates

KABUL - A source has told TOLONews that the National Unity Leaders (NUG) recently rejected three candidates chosen for the position of secretariat head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC).

According to the source, the NUG leaders said the three candidates were not qualified for the position and urged the IEC to send the shortlist of candidates for them to assess.

Imam Mohammad Warimach, former member of IEC media commission, Ahmadullah Archiwai Head of Public Outreach of IEC, and Popal Habibi were the three candidates rejected by the NUG leaders.

The institutions overseeing the election process also said



the selection of the three nominated candidates by the IEC was not conducted

transparently. "IEC does not carry out its activities transparently and

it paved the way for government interference. One (example) of interference is that

government did not show its agreement with the three ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

## IMF Calls on Int'l Community to Assist Afghanistan



KABUL - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) called on the international community to assist Afghanistan with the financial burden caused by the influx of refugees.

"While the Afghan government works to strengthen internal coordination and strategic planning, the international community also needs to play a vital role in providing financial and humanitarian support to avert a crisis and limit the damage to

Afghanistan's already challenging social and security conditions, and development prospects," IMF said in a statement on Thursday.

Afghanistan is seeing a surge in returning refugees, with absorbing more than 700,000 returnees from Pakistan, Iran and Europe.

Analysts have predicted that up to 2.5mn returnees will follow over the next 18 months, which will add nearly 10% to the present 33mn population of the ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

## HPC Calls for Immediate End to War



KABUL - Members of the High Peace Council (HPC) Thursday called for a swift end to the ongoing war and violence in Afghanistan, saying the Afghan people were tired of conflict.

They said restoration of peace and stability was among the topmost priorities of the HPC.

"Today, the people of Afghanistan are in dire need of peace and an end to war," the HPC deputy chief Mohammad Karim Khalili said addressing a ceremony paying tribute to the late HPC chairman Sayed Ahmad Gailani.

"We should find a full stop to the war. Neither the people nor government will be able to achieve any success in war," he added.

The HPC officials meanwhile paid tribute to Gailani's efforts which led to a peace accord with Hizb-e-Islami ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

## Afghan Migrants in Serbia Urge EU to Open Borders



KABUL - Several hundred migrants, including Afghans, stranded in freezing weather in Serbia staged a protest on Wednesday, urging Europe to open its borders.

Holding banners, migrants gathered outside an old customs warehouse in central Belgrade that has been a make-shift shelter for hundreds of men and boys from countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan.

One banner read "Freedom of movement" while another pleaded "open borders please".

Ahmed Osmani from Afghanistan said the borders should be opened because many people in the shelter are ill and all the other camps are full.

Osmani spoke about his fear of being deported back to Macedonia, and said migrants avoid certain ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Hanif Atmar

## Afghan Nation will Never Forget Indian Nation's Cooperation

KABUL - The Afghan nation will never forget the aid and cooperation delivered by the Indian people and government, Afghan National Security Adviser (NSA) Mohammad Hanif Atmar said Thursday.

In his statement released on the occasion of the Republic Day in India, Atmar said "On this auspicious occasion and important day, let me convey my best wishes and happiest moments for the government and people of India."

Atmar further added "This day reminds us our strong commitment for an evergreen friendship, cooperation, countering terrorism and getting rid of ex-



tremism."

"It makes us remember the hardships and sorrows the Great Mahatma Gandhi has tolerated for the sovereignty of this great nation," he said, adding that "We all have to

follow him, for peace, for prosperity, for the welfare of our people and for the harmony of whole mankind." According to Atmar "Afghanistan and India for centuries have very strong ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

## Afghan Health Care Faces Many Challenges: SIGAR

KABUL - The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) on Thursday said the war-torn country's health care sector faced several challenges.

The US government's oversight body on Afghanistan's reconstruction in an audit report noted that the Afghan government lacked funds to operate and sustain its health care facilities.

The report said hospitals in Afghanistan were unable to

provide adequate care while health care facilities lacked qualified staff, with corruption throughout the system remaining a concern.

The SIGAR report said the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has obligated nearly \$1.5 billion in assistance to develop Afghanistan's health care sector.

The agency publicly cited numerous achievements, but it did not ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

## Canada Stands by Aid to Afghanistan



KABUL - The Canadian government is standing by its commitment to increase the number of Afghan children and girls in school as the World Bank investigates whether aid funds earmarked for the country's largest national education program were misappropriated, ac-

ording to Ottawa Citizen a Canadian newspaper. "We have to wait for the results of the investigation to better understand the scope of the problem," said International Development Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau in a phone interview Wednesday. The ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## British Minister Confirms Increase in Support to Afghanistan



KABUL - Britain's increased support to Afghanistan is already helping the country to build a more secure and stable future, British Armed Forces Minister Mike Penning has announced. Speaking on his first visit to Afghanistan the Minister reaffirmed the UK's enduring commitment to the country.

Britain stepped up its support to Afghanistan this year, increasing by 50 the number of personnel in the country. They join personnel in country who are helping to train Afghan officers, advising the fledgling Afghan Air Force and working as advisors in the Afghan Security Ministries. While UK and ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Pakistan, Afghanistan Have to Go Through Extreme Vetting Process Before Entering US

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump has indicated that both Pakistan and Afghanistan will be among the countries whose citizens will have to go through an "extreme vetting" process before entering the United States. In an interview to ABC News, Mr Trump also said he was going to sign an order placing a ban on people from seven Muslim-ma-

jority countries entering the US on Wednesday but it was delayed, apparently because of a huge public backlash. The interview, broadcast on Wednesday night, was his first to a television channel since he took oath as president on Jan 20 and covered a wide range of subjects, from Obamacare to immigration and war against terrorists. Reports ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

## UK Pledges More Scholarships for Afghan Students

KABUL - The United Kingdom (UK) has said educated youth could play vital role in the future



leadership of Afghanistan and the Chevening scholarship provided an opportunity for the youth to prepare themselves for the challenge.

The view was expressed by the UK envoy to Afghanistan Dominic Jermey in a welcoming event arranged in the honour of Chevening scholarship holders who completed their studies and returned back to Afghanistan. He said the scholarship award was determination of UK long-term support for the people of Afghanistan. The event was held at the UK diplomatic mission here.

"We are happy to see that some educated youth completed their one year master programme in the UK universities and returned back to their country," said Jermey. He said ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

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