

Quote of the Day

Kind deeds often come back to the givers in fairer shapes than they go.
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NUG Criticized for Not Appointing Ministers in Key Portfolios

KABUL - A number of MPs and analysts on Saturday raised the issue of key government positions being run by caretakers, including the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, which according to them is critical in leading the country towards self-reliance.

Critics urged the National Unity Government (NUG) to address the issue and end the caretaking trend.

"At least nine ministries are run by caretakers, according to the Wolesi Jirga's [Lower House of Parliament] information. And these are among key and important



ministries. These are the ministries which can affect the [overall] budget spend process," MP Fawzia Kofi said.

She added: "An acting minister or an acting deputy minister is not as committed as a minister or a deputy minister."

"A big part of the problem is because of the political approach in selecting officials for key posts. Personal matters are prioritized compared with merit in selecting figures for senior positions," said Hadi Miran, a political commentator. ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Mullah Haibatullah Replaces 24 'Shadow' Officials

ISLAMABAD/PESHAWAR, Pakistan - The leader of the Afghan Taliban recently replaced "shadow" governors in 16 of the country's 34 provinces, as he sought to consolidate his influence over the insurgency, senior figures in the movement said this week. A list seen by Reuters, and confirmed by the Islamist militant movement's main spokesman, names another eight provincial-level officials, including one whose job will be to offer technical support for major attacks on



urban areas. Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Boroujerdi Calls for Boosting Iran-Pakistan Cooperation to Help Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi called on Tehran and Islamabad to expand their cooperation to help the political trend move forward in neighboring Afghanistan. "Iran and Pakistan could play a more important role in helping Afghans to deal with the ongoing crisis in that country," Boroujerdi said.



The senior Iranian lawmaker pointed to the ongoing efforts for ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Conference Held on Improving Access to Justice

KABUL - A number of human rights organizations, along with representatives from the Supreme Court and the Attorney General's Office (AGO), on Saturday attended

a conference in Kabul to discuss how access to justice for people can be improved. According to those present, insecurity, corruption and delays ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Matin

Daesh Sneaking into North through Ghazni

GHAZNI CITY - Daesh or Islamic State (IS) fighters have been sneaking into northern provinces through unstable districts of southern Ghazni province, the governor claimed on Saturday.

Abdul Karim Matin told a press conference in Ghazni City, the ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

MoI Raises Concerns over Misuse of Authority

KABUL - The Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Saturday said a number of influential people are abusing their authority by using police force members for their own purposes, including that of bodyguards adding that this is against the law. Currently 157,000 police officers are employed by the ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

UN Reaffirms Commitment to Afghanistan, its People

KABUL - The UN assistant secretary-general for political affairs Miroslav Jenca has called on President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah and stressed the need for peace talks to resolve a decade long Afghan conflict.

Mr. Jenca also held meetings with Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, the recently appointed electoral commissioners, government officials, women leaders, and the diplomatic community.



During his meetings in Kabul, Mr Jenca discussed the complex security situation in Afghanistan and its broader regional context. He stressed the imperative need to use peaceful negotiations to resolve the conflict

through political processes. He echoed the call by Secretary-General António Guterres to make 2017 a year for peace and make full use of preventive diplomacy. Mr Jenca further discussed the ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

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