

## Quote of the Day

Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.

Herbert Henry Asquith (1852 - 1928)

## Constitution

The period, following the adoption of this Constitution, until the date of inauguration of the National Assembly, is deemed as a transitional period.

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# US to Partner with Afghanistan to Defeat Terrorists: Obama

WASHINGTON - US President Barack Obama said his country would partner with nations like Afghanistan in building their security forces to defeat and disrupt terrorist networks.

"We'll continue to also partner with nations, from Afghanistan and Nigeria, to build up their security forces. We're going to work day and night with allies and partners to disrupt terrorist networks and thwart attacks and to smother nascent ISIL cells that may be trying to develop in other parts of the world," Obama told reporters on Monday at Pentagon after his meeting with national security team on challenges being faced by ISIL.

Following the meeting, Obama acknowledged that ISIL has been particularly effective at reaching out to and recruiting vulnerable people around



the world, including here in the United States. "And they are targeting Muslim communities around the world. Numerous individuals have been arrested

across the country for plotting attacks or attempting to join ISIL in Syria and Iraq," he said.

Obama said ISIL's recent losses in both Syria and Iraq prove that ISIL can and will be defeated. "Indeed, we're intensifying our efforts against ISIL's base in Syria. Our airstrikes will continue to target the oil and gas facilities that fund so much of their operations," he said.

"We're going after the ISIL leadership and infrastructure in Syria, the heart of ISIL that pumps funds and propaganda to people around the world. Partnering with other countries, sharing more information, strengthening laws and border security allows us to work to stem the flow of foreign fighters to Syria as well as Iraq and to stem, obviously, the flow of those fighters back into our own countries," said the US President. ...*(More on P4)...*(1)

## CEO Pledges Army Brigade to Bolster Kunduz Security



KUNDUZ - Expressing concern over security situation in northern Kunduz, Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah on Tuesday announced an army brigade to be deployed to the province soon to beef up security of the volatile region. Earlier in the day, Abdullah flew to Kunduz to assess security situation of the province for

himself. Abdul Malik Sediqi, deputy chairman Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG), Lawmaker Mirwais Yasini and Fazel Ahmad Manawi, former head of Independent Election Commission (IEC) were accompanied the CEO. Abdullah said the government was aware of security of Kunduz and ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

## Nicholas Haysom

### Afghanistan Justly Proud of its Civil Society and Media

KABUL - The top United Nations envoy in Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom, met on Tuesday in Kabul with leading civil society activists and journalists to hear their concerns over threats they have recently received from external armed groups.

"Strong and independent journalism, as well as a flourishing civil society is critical for the health and survival of a democracy," said Nicholas Haysom.

"Afghanistan can be justly proud of its civil society and the media sector, but this achievement needs to be safeguarded. The authorities need to take all proper steps to protect those professionals who are subject to threats and intimidation. It should ensure that this vital democratic space is not subject to the chilling effect that threats to freedom of expression will inevitably have. Those that make ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

ISLAMABAD - A delegation of Afghan leaders, including Hikmat Khalil Karzai, the political deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and Haji Din Mohammad, a powerful tribal leader and the former Governor of Nangarhar province, have traveled to Islamabad in order to commence peace talks with the Taliban. A source close to the matter has told TOLONews on condition of anonymity that the talks started

## Kabul Delegation Meets Taliban for Peace Talks



on Tuesday and that the Afghan government delegation's first priority is negotiating a ceasefire. News of the talks in Islamabad came suddenly, after months of speculations and false starts, including a preliminary sit-down in Oslo, Norway, last month. Marking the first official meeting between Afghan government officials and the Taliban in Pakistan, the talks this week were said to be set in ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

## 2,500 Families under Siege of Taliban in Faryab

MAIMANA - Provincial council officials of north-western Faryab province said around 2,500 families were under siege by Taliban in Almar district of the province, which could spark a huge humanitarian crisis if the government failed to ameliorate the situation.

Security officials had said that hundreds of Taliban militants had arrived from Badghis, Ghor, Sar-i-Pul and Jawzjan provinces and started attacking parts of Qaisar, Almar and Pashtun Kot districts of Faryab.

Officials claimed inflicting heavy casualties on Taliban but rebels claimed other way round.

Provincial council head Sayed Abdul Baqi said Taliban captured 20 villages in the three districts of Faryab and the residents and upraising members of the villages have been displaced to Qarayee area of Almar district.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News around 2,500 families were living in Qarayee area, which was currently under siege of militants.

Qarayee is a strategic area and its capture by Taliban would also cause seven districts to fall to rebels, he said.

An Afghan Local Police (ALP) in Almar district Khairullah ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

## Concerns about Daesh a Priority for Shanghai Cooperation Meeting

KABUL - Concerns over the growing presence of Daesh in Afghanistan for the first time, this week, topped the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) meeting agenda.

The Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, Cheng Guoping, has said that Daesh activities in Afghanistan are a major concern for Beijing and Moscow. Thus, he explained, leaders from the respective countries, which dominate the SCO, are expected to lend a great deal of time to discussion of the issue at their upcoming gathering in Russia.

"Due to the spillover effect of the Islamic State's terrorist activities, Afghanistan now faces a grim security situation," Cheng said, according to the Shanghai Daily.



SCO leaders "will certainly have in-depth discussions on the Afghan issue," he added.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization's two-day meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday in Russia, with delegates from its six member countries - Russia, China, Kazakhstan,

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan - in attendance. In addition, leaders from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and India are also expected to attend the conference. "Shanghai cannot be considered a military power, but as a big organization, it can help Afghanistan reach ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

## Ghani Urges Meshrano Jirga Members to End Strike

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has assured lawmakers his ministers would appear before them to answer their questions, the Meshrano Jirga or upper house secretary said on Tuesday.

Senate members have boycotted attending sessions from the last two days in protest against the fast worsening inse-



curity in the country and the killing of 24 Afghan Local Police (ALP) men in the Jalrez district ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

## 155 Kabul Bank Defaulters Barred from Leaving Country

KABUL - The Attorney General Office (AGO) on Tuesday made it clear not a single penny from Kabul Bank would go unaccounted and that 155 Kabul Bank defaulters have been barred from leaving the country and their assets frozen. The AGO said that the defaulters would be quizzed. The decision has been taken

following court's ruling and President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's deadline for debtors to pay their dues in three months and a week time.

Basir Azizi, AGO spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News small and big debtors were barred from leaving the country after ...*(More on P4)...*(7)

## Industry Leaders Frustrated after Two Months without AISA Leadership



KABUL - After two months without a new director appointed for the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA), the country's only organization that issues licenses to investors and focuses on supporting investments, industry leaders on Tuesday criticized the national unity government for failing to do more to address Afghanistan's

pressing economic needs. Economic experts have warned that Afghanistan will likely witness more capital flight and diminished investment unless the government adjusts its policies.

"Not appointing a head of AISA is a clear example of the government's neglect in this regard," Afghanistan Industrial ...*(More on P4)...*(9)

## Iran Nuclear Deal in Afghanistan's Interest: Iranian Ambassador

KABUL - The Iranian nuclear deal which is likely to be concluded with the West is in the interest of Afghanistan, the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan Mohammad Reza Bahrani has said.

He said the deal would help boost the economy of Afghanistan once the economic sanctions have been lifted; besides the deal would have a positive impact over the security situ-

ation. In an interview with the Associated Press, Bahrani said the cancellation of sanctions would help boost the foreign trade of Iran which would be better for the economic situation of Afghanistan.

He said the economic growth would help to improve the security and stability of Afghanistan. According to Bahrani, ...*(More on P4)...*(10)

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