

Quote of the Day

Sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence.

George F. Will

Constitution

Issue decrees related to the election of the President, National Assembly and local councils within six months.

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Talks Won't Slow Down Pace Counter-Terror Campaign: MoFA

KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Wednesday said the government was fully determined to achieve peace but reconciliation talks would not slow down the ongoing counter-terrorism campaign.

Addressing a press conference here, MoFA spokesman Ahmad Shakib Mustagni confirmed the government had held face-to-face talks with Taliban representatives for the first time in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

A four-member delegation of the government met three Taliban representatives in Murree - a tourist resort close to Islamabad - last night. The meeting continued on Wednesday.

Names of participants were kept under wraps but reports said Deputy Foreign Minister Hikmat Khalil Karzai, President Advisor Haji Din Mohammad



and members of the High Peace Council (HPC) represented the government

at the talks. On the other side, Maulvi Jalil, Mullah Abbas Stanikzai and Qari

Din Mohammad were representation the Taliban side. ... (More on P4)... (1)

WJ Confirms Sediq as Central Bank Governor

Taliban have not yet spoken on Islamabad talks, however, the group had earlier said that Qatar based Taliban was an authorized body for negotiations. On Daesh, Mustaghni termed the self-styled Islamic State (IS) as a global terrorist organization, which would be flushed out of the country. Anisa Rasouli.

Presenting his plans to lawmakers, Sediq said he would introduce measures to prevent crisis in banking sector and rigorously implement laws against money laundry and financing of terrorism.

Development of good banking, promoting non-cash payments, persistence in monetary policy would ... (More on P4)... (2)

MPs Endorse Yousuf Halim as Supreme Court Member

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga - or lower house of parliament - on Wednesday approved Sayed Yousuf Halim as member of the Supreme Court. On July 1, the

government introduced the nominees for Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) and the Supreme Court to the Wolesi Jirga for a vote of confidence. Halim, ... (More on P4)... (3)

Taliban and ISIS Extend News "Black Holes" in Afghanistan

KABUL - The Taliban militants group and affiliates of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are extending news "BLACK HOLES" in Afghanistan, Reporters Without Borders (RWB)/Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) said.

The France-based non-profit organization that promotes and defends freedom of information and freedom of the press, called on the authorities to do everything possible to protect journalists and media outlets in

Afghanistan. The statement further added that Taliban have been intensifying armed attacks on civilians and openly threatening freedom of information despite countries such as the United States, Iran, Norway and Qatar are "normalizing" their relations with the Taliban and certain Afghan politicians are sitting with them at the negotiating table.

"The Taliban, and now members of Islamic State, are sowing terror in several ... (More on P4)... (4)

Kabul Optimistic about Murree Talks with Taliban

KABUL - The first formal peace negotiations took place last night between official delegations of the High Peace Council (HPC) of Afghanistan and the Afghan Taliban movement in Murree, a tourists' resort close to Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

A statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Wednesday said

the two sides would hold their second meeting as part of the process after the holy month of Ramadan.

"Whilst the government of Afghanistan welcomes the official beginning of negotiations for the first time, affirms their decisions and considers it the first step toward reaching peace, it hopes the negotiations begin a process to avert fur-



ther bloodshed of innocent Afghans and destruction of the country, and pave the way ... (More on P4)... (5)

Relatives of Abducted Travelers Say Government Has Forgotten Them

KABUL - The families of the 31 travelers who were abducted along the Kabul-Kandahar highway earlier this year say they have been forgotten despite the fact that only 19 of the hostages have been released.

The families of remaining hostages, including many of those whose loved-ones have already been returned to them, still spend day and night under tents in the Parki-Zarrigar area of Kabul - just a kilometer from the Presidential Palace - demonstrating their resilience for national unity government leaders. The 31 hostages were taken by a band of foreign militants back in the month of February, and sparked outrage around the country. It wasn't until over a month later that local tribal elders were "They ... (More on P4)... (8)

Jalrez Incident be Thoroughly Investigated: MPs

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga on Wednesday appointed a panel to investigate the Jalrez carnage amidst claims by some lawmakers that those killed were "illegal gunmen."

The Taliban insurgents attacked several Afghan Local Police (ALP) posts on the night between Wednesday and Thursday, overrunning a dozen posts and killing 24 ALP members. The president-appointed delegation ... (More on P4)... (6)



China Willing to Cooperate with India, Pakistan on Afghanistan

BEIJING - As India and Pakistan are set to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), China on Wednesday said it is "willing" to cooperate with both the countries to work for the stability of war-torn Afghanistan.

"Since 2009, SCO has had many contacts with Afghanistan, and we are also willing to cooperate with India and Pakistan on the ... (More on P4)... (7)



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