

Quote of the Day

Establish an Independent Electoral Commission.

Article 159

Constitution

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Article 159

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Dr. Abdullah Abdullah

Govt. Making Sincere Efforts for Peace

LASHKARGAH - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Saturday said the unity government had launched realistic and sincere efforts at achieving peace in the country. Abdullah was addressing a gathering in southern Helmand province. The gathering was attended by the provincial governor, local officials, former jihadi commanders, provincial council members and tribal elders. The CEO said the government was committed to sincerely advancing the peace process and expected the same from the armed opposition. "The war is no solution to ending problems. Peace is in the interest of both the



sides and the people of Afghanistan." About Helmand, Abdullah said, local officials had provided incorrect reports about the situation in Helmand as he

heard from local people that the situation was heading in a negative direction. He asked local security and civil officials to benefit from advices of former jihadi leaders in maintaining security and foiling plans of the insurgents. "Mujahideen are a solid capacity which should be utilized. Those who say the era of mujahideen is over are mistaken. Mujahideen still hold sway among the masses." He blamed the trust deficit between the government and the people on widespread administrative corruption, lack of coordination among security organs, the prolonged stay in office by officials in the previous government and no governance in districts. ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Afghan Forces Overmatching Fight Season: Campbell



KABUL - NATO's Resolute Support Mission commander Gen. John F. Campbell on Saturday said the Islamic State (IS) not only threatened Afghanistan but the entire world. However, he was confident the Afghan forces would emerge successful from the ongoing fighting season. Speaking at a press conference in Kabul, Gen. Campbell spoke in detail about recent activities of the IS, which controls large swaths of land in Iraq and Syria, and the capacity of Afghan security forces. He said the situation in Afghanistan had changed as compared to the previous year since foreign forces had turned trainers. ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

WJ Urges Taliban to Declare Ceasefire during Talks



KABUL - A number of Wolesi Jirga or lower house members on Saturday said that Taliban should declare ceasefire during peace talks with Afghan government. Zahir Qadir, the first deputy speaker, asked Taliban to announce ceasefire before peace talks to build peace in Afghanistan. "If Taliban really want peace in Afghanistan, they should stop violence, otherwise peace talks during violence will not yield positive results," he informed. Fawzia Kufi, representative from Badakhshan, said that their red lines in peace talks were clear

and ceasefire was one important that must be agreed upon. She added there were different groups in Afghanistan fighting but it was not clear how much of them were Taliban. In ceasefire, people would understand that how much of fighters were Taliban and the people would know how much this group was powerful, she remarked. Her colleague from Kabul, Nazifa Zaki also aired same reservations by saying: "Ceasefire is mandatory. We lose a large number of security personnel everyday and talking about peace ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Dand-I-Ghori Locality in Baghlan Falls to Taliban

PUL-I-KHUMRI - The Dand-i-Ghori locality in northern Baghlan has fallen to Taliban insurgents, an official said Saturday. Bismillah Atash, provincial council member, said Pul-i-Khumri faced security threats after Taliban insurgent's overrun last security post in Dand-i-Ghori. He told Pajhwok Afghan News security ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

8 Billion Afghanis Saved in Procurement Contracts

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said on Saturday the purpose behind scrutiny of defence ministry related procurement contracts was to ensure provision of more facilities and better services to security forces. The president expressed these view during a weekly meeting of National Procurement Commission (NPC) in which contracts of public health, finance defence ministries, hajj commission and new Kabul Bank were scrutinized. Some of the procurement contracts were approved and some others need more deliberations to make them transparent, a statement from Presidential Palace said. As many as 196 million have been saved in the defence ministry contracts



during a meeting held on Saturday, the statement said, adding that a total 1.5 billion Afghanis had been saved in the defence ministry contracts after its procurement administration was handed over to civilians officials. A total of eight billion Afghanis ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Minister Claims Corruption in Stipends to the Disabled

JALALABAD - Labour and Social Affairs Minister Nasrin Oryakhel on Saturday said corruption was being committed in stipends to families of martyrs and people with disabilities. Oryakhel, who arrived in eastern Nangarhar province, was addressing a gathering at the Governor's House ...*(More on P4)...(6)*



Arms Being Distributed Illegally in Badakhshan

KABUL - Some members of lower house of parliament or Wolesi Jirga from northeastern Badakhshan province on Saturday alleged unlicensed weapons were being distributed in some stable districts of the province. Zekria Sauda, a lawmaker from Badakhshan, told the house some officials from the government had hand in distribution of weapons. "The arms are being distributed in the districts bordering Tajikistan despite people's reservations." Darwaz, Ashkashem, ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

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