

## Quote of the Day

A strong positive mental attitude will create more miracles than any wonder drug.  
**Patricia Neal**

### Senate

# No Cooperation with Lower House Until Polls

KABUL - The Senate on Tuesday called the newly-established Electoral Reform Commission as "illegitimate", saying the upper house or Meshrano Jirga would not cooperate with the lower house until a parliamentary election date was specified. Electoral reforms are a major part of the unity government deal brokered by US Secretary of State John Kerry between then presidential election candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah after last year's disputed ballot. About four months back, lawmaker Shukria Barakzai was

appointed by President Ghani to head the electoral reform panel but the CEO did not approve her appointment. On the eve of Eid, President Ghani through a decree established the commission and appointed its members. According to the decree, Shah Sultan Akefi is the head, Sediqullah Tawhidi his deputy, Kawoon Kakar, Mohammad Ali Amiri, Abdul Qadeer Karyab, Bashir Farooq, Asadullah Sadati, Faizullah Zaki, Saleh Mohammad Regestani, Shah Mahmood Mia Khail, Sabrina Saqeb, Dr. Alema, Abdul Majid Ghanizada and

Tadamichi Yamamoto are members of the panel. Some Meshrano Jirga members on Tuesday said the unity government had no intention to conduct the parliamentary elections, which were constitutionally due on June 22. They said the upper house would not cooperate with the lower house or Wolesi Jirga until the government set a date for the elections. Fazl Hadi Muslimyar said: "We had earlier decided that if the election date is not specified (as of today), we won't cooperate with the Wolesi Jirga."

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## Ghani Orders Probe, US Forces Regret ANA Losses

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani appointed a delegation to investigate an airstrike involving two US helicopters that bombed an Afghan National Army outpost in central Logar province, killing at least eight soldiers and wounding six others. Officials in Logar said the helicopters targeted the ANA checkpoint in the Baraki Barak district's Chaltan area at about 6am.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said President Ghani expressed his deep concern over the incident and appointed a delegation to investigate the airstrike.

Ghani insisted foreign troops should exercise utmost care during their operations to avoid harming Afghan forces and civilians.

The president extended his condolences to families of the slain soldiers and prayed for early recovery of those wounded in the incident.

Meanwhile, US forces confirmed their involvement in the incident that resulted in the death of seven and injury of five Afghan National Army soldiers.

In a statement, the coalition said that on behalf of General Campbell, the NATO and US forces commander in Afghanistan "we deeply regret the loss of Afghan National Army soldiers in this incident." "We offer our deepest condolences to those impacted by this... More on Page 4... (2)

## Dostum Opposes Militia Force Idea

JAWZJAN - First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, speaking during a visit to his home province, has opposed the creation of militia forces in the country. However, he stressed the need for a public uprising against the Taliban - a move that began about two years ago in southern Ghazni province. In a meeting Tuesday with the elders and security officials

of Jawzjan in his guesthouse - called Dostum Palace - the former warlord praised the sacrifices of security forces and promised to address their concerns.

"I am the first Vice President and I came here upon the request of elders. How can we conduct arbitrary operations and how can we build militia forces?" Dostum said in Sheberghan... More on Page 4... (3)



Turkey's Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu (R), accompanied by his wife Sare Davutoglu (C), visits wounded survivors of the bomb attack at Sanliurfa hospital on July 21, 2015 (AFP Photo/Halil Sagirkaya)

## US Yet to Decide Pace of Withdrawal from Afghanistan: Spokesman

KABUL - A spokesman for U.S. military forces in Afghanistan said that the pace of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan by the end of 2016 has yet to be determined and will be decided in the autumn after an assessment of the capabilities of Afghan government forces. The spokesman, Colonel Brian Tribus, made the remarks in an interview with RFE/RL. Tribus said U.S. General John Campbell, the current commander of the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan and U.S. forces in the country, would make recommendations after his assessment and the White House

would then decide on the pace of the 2016 withdrawal.

Tribus said the growing number of militants who claim allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) militant group was a concern to both the United States and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, but did not appear to present "an existential threat" to Ghani's government.

He said some Taliban militants were rebranding themselves as IS, probably to try to get resources, while there also are cases of Taliban militants fighting against the IS group. (Monitoring Desk)

## HPC Prepares for Second Round of Taliban Talks

KABUL - The Afghan High Peace Council (HPC) on Monday evening announced that preparations are now underway for the second round of peace negotiation talks with the Taliban, which are expected to begin in ten days.

According to HPC spokesman Maulavi Shahzada Shahid, an executive committee has been appointed for the purpose of finalizing the agenda of the talks in consultation with lead-

ers of the national unity government, political figures and top government officials.

Last month, an Afghan government peace delegation officially met with representatives of the Taliban for the first time just outside Islamabad, Pakistan. Sparking renewed hope in the possibility of reconciliation, the two sides agreed to continue talks after Eid. (Tolo News)

## US Spent \$14.7M on Building That It Never Used: SIGAR

WASHINGTON - The U.S. government spent \$14.7 million to construct a warehouse for a Pen-



tagon agency in Afghanistan that was never used as intended because of delays, a report by Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) indicated.

"If the facility had been completed on schedule, [the Defense Logistics Agency] would have been able to use it for more than two years before the agency's mission in Kandahar ended in 2014," according to a 15-page report released Monday by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. In 2009, the Army started the process to construct a warehouse facility in Kandahar, Afghanistan, for the Defense Logistics Agency, which provides supplies and services to U.S. forces around the world. At that time... More on Page 4... (4)

## Logar Airstrike Perpetrators Be Tried: MPs



KABUL - Some senators on Tuesday strongly condemned Monday's airstrike by American forces on an Afghan National Army (ANA) outpost in central Logar province, calling it intentional and demanded the perpetrators' prosecution.

Local officials said eight ANA troops were killed and another half a dozen were wounded in the early morning airstrike involving two US helicopters in the Baraki Barak district.

Some Meshrano Jirga or upper house of parliament members condemned the incident during Tuesday's general session and called for the perpetrators to be punished.

Chairman Fazl Hadi Muslimyar said the incident was forgivable had it occurred on the battlefield, but it hit a permanent outpost hoisting the national flag.

"American forces had also come under insider attacks, but the Americans had killed them instantly. We want the same reaction," he remarked.

First deputy chairman Mohammad Alam Ezediyar said the reason behind the incident, the third of its kind, was not clear as yet. He added the latest incident should be thoroughly investigated.

Senator Saifullah Hashni said it was an unacceptable excuse that the incident was a mistake. "The Americans martyr our troops on Eid, which is strongly condemnable... More on Page 4... (5)



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