

Quote of the Day

The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes of mind.

William James (1842 - 1910)

Electoral Reform Commission Swings Into Action

KABUL - As the Electoral Reform Commission formally started its work on Wednesday, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah said the panel would not be a symbolic body because the unity government remained committed to electoral reforms. Electoral reforms are a major point of the US-brokered agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on a national unity government. Four months back, lawmaker Shukria Barakzai was appointed by President Ghani to head the electoral reform panel but the CEO disagreed with her appointment. On the eve of Eid, President Ghani decreed establishing the commission and appointing its members.

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.

Addressing the panel's maiden meeting, Abdullah said the past 14 years experience showed the Afghans wanted electoral reforms on a priority basis and launch of work by the commission was a major step in this regard. He said the unity government had a strong political will to introduce electoral... More on P4... (1)



Lost Kabul Bank Money Being Recovered: AGO

KABUL - The Attorney General's Office (AGO) on Wednesday said efforts were being made to recover all the money lost to the infamous Kabul Bank scandal, revealing another two accused in the case had been referred to the primary court.

Basir Azizi, the AGO, spokesman told reporters in Kabul that a formal letter had been dispatched to the authorities concerned to freeze assets of 155 Kabul Bank borrowers and ban them from traveling abroad.

He said the AGO had made it clear that not a single penny looted from the once largest private bank would go unaccounted for and that the 155 defaulters should be barred from leaving the country and their assets be frozen.

The AGO spokesman told Pajhwok Afghan News that all those small and big debtors who failed to clear their dues had been barred from leaving the country.

He added the AGO had sent letters to municipalities and Da Afghanistan Bank branches, asking them to freeze assets of the defaulters.

"The defaulters are obliged... More on P4... (2)

Din Mohammad

Ceasefire High on Agenda in Next Talks

KABUL - Presidential advisor and member of the Afghan government peace delegation, Haji Din Mohammad, on Wednesday said more Taliban leaders were expected to attend the next round of peace negotiations.

Din Mohammad, a powerful tribal elder in eastern Nangarhar province, told Pajhwok Afghan News in an exclusive interview in Kabul that a ceasefire agreement would be high on the agenda in the next meeting between... More on P4... (3)

Ulomi Assures Public

ANSF in Driving Seat Against Insurgents

KABUL - Minister of Interior Noorhaq Ulomi assured the public on Wednesday that the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are in the driving seat and that there is no threat that any province will fall to militants.

Speaking at a press conference in Kabul, Ulomi said that militants will never be able to pose a permanent threat to any province and that Afghan security forces are able to foil any type of attack if properly equipped... More on P4... (4)

Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq

ISIS Recruiting Fighters in the Outskirts of Kabul

KABUL - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group has started recruitments in the outskirts of Kabul province, Mohammad Mohaqiq, the Second Deputy to Chief Executive Officer has said.

In an interview with Voice of America Ashna TV, Mohaqiq said based on the information they have received the ISIS recruits are receiving salaries up to \$1,000 along with a motorcycle.

He said the group has so far recruited around 700 to 800 fighters in the country and warned that the group poses a serious threat to Afghanistan.

Mohaqiq further added that the group will fight the Taliban militants in the first step as witnessed in eastern parts of the country where they have captured some districts.

Mohaqiq also added that the ISIS affiliates have also started persecution of Hazaras and Shias where they abduct-

ed 31 Hazara passengers in Zabul and some others were kidnapped by the group between Jaghoori and Qarabagh.

He said ISIS militants also abducted two women which was rare during the past three decades of war in the country.

This comes as Mohaqiq called on his supporters during the second day of Eid al-Fitr to remain alert and vigilant for self defense amid deteriorating security situation.

During a gathering in western part of capital Kabul, Mohaqiq said the people should be alert to face any situation and should not be concerned and disappointed.

His remarks are followed amid growing concerns that the ISIS group is looking to gain foothold in Afghanistan as the militants in the battlefield have... More on P4... (5)



Trust Building Key to Peace Talks' Success: MPs



KABUL - Lower house members on Wednesday stressed efforts at overcoming the trust deficit between the government and the Taliban and predicted the inclusion of a woman in government delegation in future talks.

The Taliban have reportedly demanded Pakistan and China to act as guarantors for the peace talks and both the countries have endorsed their demand. The first and direct talks between Taliban and Afghan government representatives held in Murree, a tourist resort near Islamabad.

A four-member Afghan government delegation and a three-member Taliban team took part in the talks, the first confirmed contact between the two parties.

Pakistan hosted... More on P4... (6)

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