

## Quote of the Day

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.

Pablo Picasso

# ERC Recommends Short-Term Electoral Reforms to Expedite Process

KABUL - The Electoral Reform Commission (ERC) on Monday recommended that the National Unity Government consider implementing a number of near-term electoral reforms in the next month, a move that would expedite a process that has, until recently, been marred by gridlock and delays.

According to ERC members, the short term reforms should be pushed ahead through a legislative order by President Ashraf Ghani, given that Parliament is currently on its summer recess. Even if the legislature was in session, however, the ERC says lawmakers would not have the authority to vote on the reforms because their constitutionally mandated terms have already expired.

"If we are not able to go through



with the recommendations in the period mentioned, in that case, we will need six months, and the Independent

ent Election Commission will also need the same time period, which will delay the parliamentary elections for another

two years," ERC member Sabrina Saqib warned on Monday. "Considering such a ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Haleem Sworn in as Chief Justice



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Monday officially announced the appointment of Sayed Yousaf Haleem as the Chief Justice of Afghanistan after legislators endorsed his appointment by casting a vote of confidence for him a few weeks back. The oath taking ceremony was conducted at the Presidential Palace on Monday and was attended by a number of senior officials from the National Unity Government (NUG) including Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, Ghani, Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish, Justice Abdul Rashid Rashid, former acting chief justice of the Supreme Court and members of the High Council of the Supreme Court. Speaking at the ceremony, ... (More on P4)...(2)

## AGO Still Grappling with Two Major Corruption Cases

KABUL - The Attorney General's Office (AGO) has yet to conclude investigations into the remaining debt owned by Kabul Bank defaulters and the alleged embezzlement of millions of dollars by Ministry of Urban Development & Housing Affairs officials.

The Kabul Bank still has 55 defaulters for whom the government has issued travel bans, but remain at large, without having paid back what they owe. However, ... (More on P4)...(3)



## Governors Urge Govt. to Increase Strength of Border Police

JALALABAD - The governors of eastern Nangarhar, Laghman and Kunar provinces have said they have improved coordination among local departments to eliminate threats posed from the border areas.

Lack of security personnel for border protection, insecurity on highways, occasionally power lines cut and need for reforms in the local governance was

major issues in the eastern provinces. A coordinated meeting attended by the governors of the eastern zone and 201st Silab Military Corps commanders and other security officials was held in Jalalabad city, the capital of Nangarhar, today to discuss current situation of the eastern zone. The meeting stressed in ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Saudi Arabia Hosts Clandestine Taliban-Govt Talks

KABUL - Following crucial face-to-face talks in Murree, a tourists resort close to Islamabad, a clandestine meeting was held between a two-member Taliban delegation and Afghan government officials in Saudi Arabia, a well-placed source said on Monday.

Representatives of Taliban's Qatar office were also in attendance, a senior Afghan official familiar with the development told Pajhwok Afghan News. The Saudi Arabia contact took place soon after the peace talks in Pakistan. The ground-breaking in Murree were also attended by observers from China and United



States. The parties agreed to meet again after Ramadan, probably within a week, either in Pakistan or China. Wishing anonymity, the official said Saudi authorities had invited the two-member delegation soon after the Murree talks to the oil-rich kingdom, where detailed discussions regarding the peace process were held. ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Dr. Abdullah Salma Dam Vital to Agro, Energy Sectors

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on Monday expressed satisfaction with the completion of parts of the long-awaited Salma Dam in western Herat province. The dam, he hoped, would help resolve the problem of



a shortage of energy and power besides strengthening the agriculture sector in the western zone. Earlier, the Consul General of India in Herat announced the project passed a critical stage on Sunday with the closure of the diversion tunnel ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Details Surrounding Peace Talks Still Sketchy

KABUL - The Afghanistan High Peace Council on Monday said that details surrounding the second round of peace talks, scheduled for Friday between the government and the Taliban, are still not clear but that Pakistan wants

to host the initiative. The HPC said that it is possible that the second round of talks will be held in Pakistan, adding that the issue of a ceasefire was an essential part of the talks. The council said that Pakistan

was adamant it wants the talks to be held in their country. The HPC adviser for international affairs, Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar said negotiations are underway to determine delegation ... (More on P4)...(7)

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