

## Quote of the Day

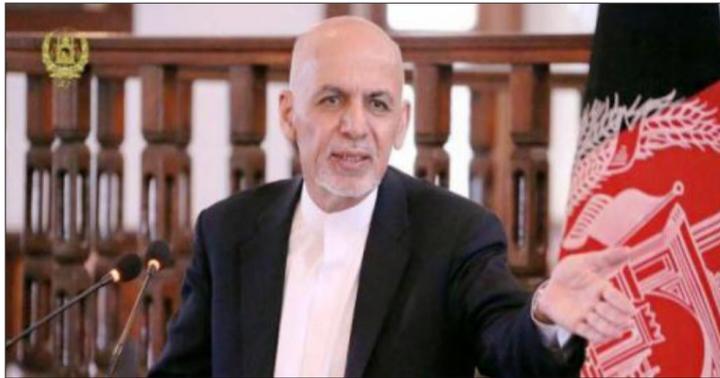
Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship.  
Buddha

# Ghani Orders Acceleration of Preparations for Elections

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has directed the institutions concerned to accelerate preparations for the long-delayed Wolesi Jirga (upper house) and district council elections, an official said on Tuesday.

A source in the Presidential Palace told Pajhwok Afghan News that the directive came at a meeting attended by the chief executive officer (CEO), the second vice-president and parliament speakers.

The meeting was aimed at to hasten arrangements for the parliamentary and district council elections, the source said, adding the issue was also discussed at



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a National Security Council (NSC) session on Monday.

"The NSC decided to create a team led by the Ministry of Interior to ensure security of elections and another delegation headed by the Ministry of Finance to arrange the requisite cash resources," the official revealed.

The NSC also reaffirmed the government's commitment to conducting the elections, reviewed the preliminary security plan and ordered the relevant organs for early finalisation of the plan.

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) has already announced the polls would be held on October 15, 2016 in a free and fair manner. (Pajhwok)

## Rula Ghani Inaugurates First Women's University



KABUL - First Lady Rula Ghani on Sunday officially inaugurated the first women's educational complex in Kabul in an effort to help Afghan female students pursue education in a number of key fields including medical science, computer technology and management.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Rula Ghani said that the establishment of the complex, which includes a college and university, will help boost women's educational capabilities and help female students who are not able to join co-educational institutions. Moora is the first all-girls educational and training complex in the country.

"The establishment of Moora at this juncture is a key step to facilitate those female students who because of certain problems are not allowed by their families to continue their education at other institutions," Rula Ghani said. "It is a unique institution for females ... (More on P4)... (6)

## Labour Officials Criticise new Employment Plan

KABUL - A number of provincial labour and social affairs departments' officials say the posts they hold have been announced to be filled through a competitive exam, bypassing the civil service law.

The officials say the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoL-SAMD) has announced 22 posts under a newly-created program "Capacity Building for Results (CBR)" without considering the civil service law.

The protesting officials add



officers on the 22 posts had been appointed through the Independent Administrative Reform & Civil Service Commission (IARCSC) and with president's orders.

Abdul Ghani, labour and social affairs director for

northeastern Badakhshan province, said: "I was appointed four years ago as director of the labour and social affairs through a transparent process."

He said he had been able to ... (More on P4)... (1)

## 118 Militants Killed in Helmand: Official

LASHKAR GAH - More than 100 armed militants have been killed in Taliban stronghold the southern Helmand province and scores of others injured over the past three days as fierce fighting has been continuing in parts of the restive province, provincial governor Hayatullah Hayat said on Tuesday. "A total of 118 Taliban rebels have been killed, 73 injured and 11 others made captive over the past three days," Hayat told reporters in a press conference here. Fierce fighting has been going on in Nahr-e-Saraj, Nad Ali and Gereshk districts, the

official admitted. The clash has been intensified amid concerns among locals that some areas may fall to the Taliban militants if the government overlooks the sensitivity of the situation there.

Governor Hayat, however, didn't mention the number of casualties suffered by the security forces.

However, the governor said that reinforcements would soon be deployed in sensitive areas to dislodge militants. Meantime, an official on the condition of anonymity said that nearly 90 security personnel had been killed and injured elsewhere in Helmand ... (More on P4)... (2)

## Number of IDPs Double in 3 Years



KABUL - The number of Afghans who have fled violence and internally displaced has dramatically doubled over the past three years, the Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

In a new report, the rights group said 1.2 million people were internally displaced in Afghanistan, a dramatic increase from 500,000 in 2013. Some 2.6 million Afghans are living beyond the country's border.

Titled 'My Children Will Die This Winter': Afghanistan's Broken Promise to the Displaced, the report highlights the country's forgotten victims of war who have fled their homes but remain displaced within their homeland.

"While the world's attention seems to have moved on from Afghanistan, we risk forgetting the plight of those left behind by the conflict," said Champa Patel, South Asia director at Amnesty International. Patel added: "Even after fleeing their homes to seek safety, increasing numbers of Afghans are languishing in appalling conditions in their own country, and fighting for their survival with no end in sight." Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Afghanistan continued to lack adequate shelter, food, water, health care and opportunities to pursue education and employment, the report noted.

Mastan, a 50-year-old woman living in a camp in Herat, was quoted as saying: "Even an animal would not live in this hut, but we have to. I would prefer to be in prison rather than in this place, at least in prison I would not have to worry about food and shelter." ... (More on P4)... (4)

## Afghanistan, Pakistan Lack Common Plan to Fight Common Enemy: Musazai

KABUL - Afghanistan ambassador to China, Janan Musazai, has said Afghanistan and Pakistan face common enemy but the two countries lack a common plan to fight it.

"We want a close relationship with Pakistan. We have common interests in more areas than we can count. We are facing numerous common challenges especially from terrorism and extremism," Musazai told Global Times, a Chinese media outlet.

The diplomat said Afghanistan supported the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and would like to link up with it and facilitate the linking of Central Asian countries with the corri-



dor. "Perhaps it is time for us to enhance cooperation in areas that can benefit our people. One missing element in the region is that we are facing a common enemy, namely terrorism and extremism, but we lack a common plan to fight this common enemy." He said Afghanistan, Paki-

stan and China through their constructive and positive engagement could find solutions to some of the vexing challenges they faced. Taliban leader Mullah Mansour's death Musazai said Mansour, who was recently ... (More on P4)... (3)

## MPs Slam War Strategy after 60 Troops Die in Helmand



KABUL - MPs in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Tuesday slammed the Afghan government for

its war strategy on Helmand after Taliban fighters conducted a heavy offensive and inflicted a high casualty toll against embat-

tled Afghan security forces. Reports have surfaced that up to 60 Afghan security personnel have so far been killed in the past few days in fierce fighting in the province.

This has sparked outrage among Afghan lawmakers who believe that government's war strategy has failed in Helmand.

MPs also sharply criticized security forces and cabinet for not focusing on the security of Helmand.

It is said that some police force units have been under siege by the Taliban for several days. Fierce fighting broke out ... (More on P4)... (5)

## Herat Prepares to Welcome Afghan, Indian Leaders

HERAT - Herat residents have started preparing their province by erecting banners with pictures of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Afghan leaders to welcome them for the inauguration of the power and irrigation project, Salma Dam.

"Fortunately, it is a good opportunity for us. We can use both power and water generated by the dam," said Fazel Ahmad Hanifi, a resident of Herat. Another resident, Abdul Razaq said: "The power generated by Salma Dam is our own; it is not related to neighboring countries."

Meanwhile, Herat governor spokesman Jilani Farhad said they will use all possible efforts and facilities to welcome the Indian prime minister to inaugurate the Salma Dam within the next five days. "A special commission comprised of senior officials has been assigned to take all measures for celebrating the inauguration of the power and irrigation project," he added.

Meanwhile, 14 megawatts of power was connected to Herat power system in a probationary phase on Sunday night, ... (More on P4)... (7)

## Commando, Strike Forces Reach Lashkargah: Hayat

LASHKARGAH - Commando and strike forces have reached Lashkargah, the capital of southern Helmand province, the governor said on Tuesday, claiming nearly 200 militants suffered casualties during the past three days.

Hayatullah Hayat told a security meeting here that security forces had also suffered casualties in various parts of the province during the past 72 hours. During the period, he said, 118 militants were killed and 73 others wounded and 11 more captured alive. He said fresh forces had arrived to recapture areas lost to the insurgents and a massive ground and air operation would be launched if necessary. He said security officials who had committed negligence leading to casualties among security forces and abandoning check posts would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

He said security forces had suffered casualties during three days of clashes with insurgents, but he did not reveal exact figures. But yesterday, a senior security official said 58 security personnel had been killed, mostly police, during the clashes with Taliban militants. Governor Hayat rejected speculations that Lashkargah could fall into the hands of insurgents, saying commando and strike forces from southern Kandahar province had reached the provincial capital and elaborate security measures had been put in place. Deputy commander of the 215 Maiwand Military Corps in Helmand, Gen. Faiz Mohammad, ... (More on P4)... (8)