

## Quote of the Day

Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the general progress of the human mind.

Thomas Jefferson

## Constitution

The provincial council elects one of its members as Chairman.

Article 138

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### Students Among 38 Poisoned in Samangan

AIBAK - At least 34 students and four teachers have been poisoned at a girls' school in Khuram Sarbagh district of northern Samangan province, an official said.

Thirteen of the students are reportedly in critical condition. A similar incident had also taken place in two schools ten days back in the district.

Qari Abdullah Mujahid, the administrative chief for Khuram Sarbagh district, told Pajhwok Afghan News 34 students and teachers were poisoned.

He added unlike previous incident that white powder was found sprayed at school's yard, they could not find any evidence. "Maybe it was some kind of gas."

Mujahid said the students were taken to two health clinics in the district, but the 13 others with critical condition were shifted to the Aibak Civil Hospital.

Qari ... (More on P4)...(2)

HERAT CITY - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Monday made it clear his government would not hold talks with Taliban under duress or from a position of weakness.

During his visit to western Herat province, Ghani expressed these views in his meeting with officials of the Zafar Military Corps in Shindand district on Monday.

War in Afghanistan was a foreign war and was imposed on Afghans, he added. "The enemies of Afghanistan do not want the country to stand on its

## President Ashraf Ghani Govt. Won't Talk Peace from a Weak Position



own feet. Enemy wants us weak but we are negotiating from a position of strength," Ghani added. The president praised

achievements of Afghan security forces during their operations.

Heading a high-level delegation, President

Mohammad Ashraf Ghani met with residents and evaluate overall governance in the province, an official said. Ehsanullah Hayat, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the president held detailed meeting with officials of Zafar Military Corps this morning.

Ghani, he said would also meet with a 16-member delegation of tribal elders from Shindand district to hear their problems and grievances.

Ghani is accompanied by Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, Mines Minister Daud ... (More on P4)...(1)

### HPC to Make Conditional Demand on UN

KABUL - The High Peace Council (HPC) on Sunday said it would urge the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to remove names of some Taliban leaders from its blacklist once the Taliban agreed to arrive at the negotiating table.

It was stated by Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar, the HPC international relations head, at a peace gathering in Kabul. The gathering, organised by the Border and Tribal Affairs Ministry, was attended by tribal elders from a number of provinces.

At the end of the gathering, the HPC official said they would ask the UN to remove from the blacklist names of the five Taliban leaders, who were set free from the Guantanamo Bay prison last year, on temporary basis under an international monitoring.

He said if the five Taliban leaders had the authority of holding talks with the Afghan ... (More on P4)...(3)

## National Interests Not to be Compromised: Abdullah

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Monday said his country would not sign any agreement in contravention to national interest.

Chairing meeting of council of ministers, the CEO said government would reject every deal, which was posing threat to national security.

Earlier, reports said that Af-



ghanistan and Pakistan intelligence agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for sharing information, training of Afghan spy service members and fight anti-state actors on both sides of Durand Line.

He said the issue spread uproar among people and everyone was worried but the ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Campbell Afghan Forces Subdue Rebels on Their Own

KABUL - NATO top commander in Afghanistan Gen. John Campbell on Sunday said the Afghan security forces had subdued insurgents in very corner of Afghanistan on their own and the latest operations showed their extraordinary capability.

The ... (More on P4)...(5)



## Revenue Up By 7 Percent: Wolesi Jirga Told

KABUL - Finance Minister Ektil Hakimi on Monday told Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament that revenue collected from taxes has increased and measure have been taken to ensure transparent collection of taxes.

The Wolesi Jirga summoned finance minister to brief the house about his absence in

the meetings of economic commission, recent increase in taxes and decline in government revenue and value of Afghani currency.

Hakimi termed reports about decline in government revenue as baseless and said that there was seven percent increase in revenue in the 1st five ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Pledges Made with Afghan Leaders to be Materialized: Islamabad

KABUL - Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman Qazi Khalilullah said on Monday Islamabad was committed to materialize all pledges made with the Afghan leadership, Pakistani media reports.

The Jang newspaper quoted

the spokesman as saying that Pakistan knew about Afghan president's letter addressed to Pakistani leaderships through media.

He reiterated Pakistan would continue maintaining good neighboring relations with Ka-

bul. Two days back, a well-placed source in the government told Pajhwok Afghan News that the president had dispatched a letter to civilian and military officials of the neighboring state.

Another source said that the president had demanded Pakistan to initiate eight steps against Taliban in the next three weeks and demonstrate sincerity to move the stalled Afghan peace process forward. ... (More on P4)...(6)

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