

Quote of the Day

A great city is that which has the greatest men and women.

Walt Whitman

Constitution

For the purpose of the implementation of the provisions, and ensuring the values of this constitution, the state shall establish the required departments.

Article 141

Reg: No 352

Volume No. 3037

Saturday June 13, 2015 Jawza 23, 1394

www.outlookafghanistan.net

Price: 15/-Afs

Ghani Asks UN Agencies to Shun Ineffective Plans

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said on Thursday UN-affiliated organisations should improve transparency in their activities and avoid repetition of ineffective programmes. The president expressed these views at a meeting with representatives of UN agencies, a statement from the Presidential Palace said. Agriculture Minister Asadullah Zamir and officials from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Office for Crimes and Drugs (UNODC) were present at the meeting.



The president advised organizations working under UN charter to ensure transparency in their activities and eliminate ineffective programmes from their agendas. He asked the UN agencies to hire more Afghans as their employees and develop links with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and other government departments concerned.

Ghani said the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should execute projects according to people's wishes and for this purpose, surveys should be conducted in major cities to get public opinions about projects they needed. The president said the elimination of polio and other deadly diseases was his government priority and urged the WHO to work in this regard and share its report with the government of Afghanistan. He asked the representatives to help train Afghans and enable them to perform important tasks when foreign experts leave Afghanistan. He asked them to remain cooperative with Afghanistan in times... (More on P4)...(1)

Inactive NGOs Being Closed: Minister



KABUL - Economy Minister Abdul Sattar Murad said on Thursday licenses of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in covert activities and performed weak would be cancelled. He told Pajhwok Afghan News his ministry had recently started evaluating the performance of NGOs. Of 1,900 NGOs registered with the Economy Ministry, some 200 to 300 have been operational in the country and activities of others are not visible.

The minister said the majority of NGOs were either inactive or they had not submitted reports about their activities to the ministry. "We have decided to cancel licenses of inactive NGOs and a final decision in this regard will come after the scrutiny process is over." He did not name these NGOs, but said some foreign NGOs were among those involved in clandestine activities. Murad said up to 50 per cent others are not visible. (More on P4)...(2)

Donors End Funding for Afghan Parliamentary Elections

KABUL - Afghanistan's failure to set a date for postponed parliamentary elections or act on promised reforms has prompted foreign aid donors to cut short a multi-million-dollar project to fund electoral bodies, diplomats have told Reuters. The country is headed for another political crisis after last year's fraught presidential vote because the parliament's five-year mandate expires on June 22 and elections scheduled for April have been delayed. The decision to end the United Nations Development Programme-run project before it runs out in December shows a new readiness by do-



notors to cut money to projects that are falling short. Afghanistan has received billions of dollars in assistance since the Taliban were ousted by a U.S.-led invasion in 2001. "Donors and UNDP decided the

best course of action would be to wind down ELECT II," a Western diplomat told Reuters, adding that the lack of progress on reforms prompted the decision. "In the hiatus,..." (More on P4)...(3)

Ghani Seeks Constitutional Solutions as End of Parliament's Term Looms

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has started a series of consultations geared toward resolving the legal question facing Parliament and its term limit under the Afghan Constitution, Deputy presidential spokesman Syed Zaffar Hashimi said Thursday. Many lawmakers in Parliament and independent legal experts have weighed in on the debate over whether or not the legislature will be divested of its authority come



June 22 on account of the term limit provisions of the Constitution. Without a new round of elections, which were originally scheduled for May... (More on P4)...(4)

Rebels Trying to Bring Govt. to Terms: Mangal



JALALABAD - Borders and Tribal Affairs Minister Gulab Mangal said on Thursday the insurgents had intensified their attacks in an attempt to bring the government to terms.

Addressing a gathering of tribal elders in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, Mangal said militants had increased their attacks to have a greater say in the peace talks. He said a strategy had been put in place to unite all tribes who would bring about peace to the country in real means. He said durable peace could not be achieved without cooperation of tribal elders. The minister said the unity government had launched efforts to bring peace and stability to the country. (Pajhwok)

Afghan, Turkish Journalists Hold Joint Seminar

KABUL - Afghan and Turkish journalists on Thursday discussed reporting terrorism at a day-long joint seminar held in Kabul bringing together journalists, their supporting organisations and officials for a series of debates. Speaking on the occasion, Information and Culture Minister Abdul Bari Jehani said gaining the freedom of speech and independent media was a major achievement of the Afghan government during the last decade, asking reporters to be more responsible in filing their reports. "When the unity and security of the country is in danger, then media should defend the national interests," Jehani added. "The news that fuels the war and undermines the Constitution should not be broadcasted. Damaging the situation is in no one's interest." The seminar titled "Terrorism and Media" was jointly organised by Tasamuh, a Turkish cultural and academic association, NAI, an organisation that supports free media and Afghanistan National Journalists' Union. The conference was attended by dozens of journalists from Turkey and Afghanistan. Karim Balji, a Turkish journalist, said the abundance of violence and terrorism-related stories had a negative impact on people's minds and should be avoided. "When terrorists attack somewhere their main aim is to spread terror and cause panic. For that they have no choice but to use journalists to show their actions to a wider audience." Sediqullah Tawhidi, NAI director, ... (More on P4)...(7)

Taliban Take Control of Several Villages in Herat



HERAT - Scores of armed insurgents have launched a massive attack on Keshke-Kohna district of western Herat, taking control of five villages, according to provincial officials. The coordinated attack carried out Friday morning from three parts of the district has also resulted in collapse of four police posts, the district governor told TOLONews. Militants from Badghis, Herat and Faryab provinces have taken part in the attack they were planning for more than a month, he added.

Meanwhile, the provincial council members warned if the security forces fail to push the insurgents back from the five villages currently under their control, the entire district would likely fall into Taliban hands. "We had already raised our concerns about the Taliban threats to the local security officials of Herat," Provincial Council member Abdul Rasool Jamsheedi said. "Today, they [Taliban] attacked the district, took control of five villages and fighting is still underway..." (More on P4)...(6)

'Remaining Governors to be Named in 10 Days'

TARINKOT - The Independent Directorate of Local Governance chief on Thursday said the remaining governors would be appointed over the next ten days. Ghulam Jillani Popal was addressing local elders and officials in Tarinkot, the capital of central Uruzgan province. The elders criticised local government officials, saying they merely visited districts and rarely fulfilled any commitment. Haji Ahmad Shah, one of the elders, said officials had repeatedly promised to start construction work on the Uruzgan-Kandahar highway, but nothing happened. He said the lone 50-bed hos-

pital in Tarinkot could not meet people's needs. Abdulbaqi, another elder, blamed acting officials for insecurity and urged Popal to appoint a new governor for Uruzgan. Popal said the president had sent him to Uruzgan to discuss with local residents and officials problems they faced and immediately address them. He said the acting governors would be replaced over the next ten days. Popal also said the insurgents had increased their attacks to force the government into accepting their conditions for the peace talks. (Pajhwok)

Massoud Talks Corruption at Top Levels of Govt.

KABUL - Corruption at the highest levels of the Afghan government remains a systemic issue, according to Ahmad Zia Massoud, the President's Special Envoy for Reform and Good Governance. Massoud told TOLONews on Thursday that top officials, not just local administrators, were responsible for stealing money from the Afghan government, likely millions of dollars worth. "Without taking into consideration legal matters, our

civil administration employees are harming the general interest for their personal interests," Massoud said. "Even our major political figures, or in other words, those in high ranking positions, have stolen millions of dollars in the past 13 years." Touching on broader issues of good governance, Massoud said he believes meritocracy is under attack in the national unity government because the appointments process has become so politicized. "These days, deputy minister..." (More on P4)...(5)



WB Approves Extra \$21.50m for Afghan Customs

THE WORLD BANK
Working for a World Free of Poverty

KABUL - The World Bank (WB) on Friday approved an additional \$21.50 million grant to improve the effectiveness of customs clearance at border crossings and inland clearance depots (ICDs) in Afghanistan. The additional grant from the bank's International Development Association (IDA) will build upon and expand the progress being made under the Second Customs Reform and Trade Facilitation Project (SCRTE) being implemented by the Afghanistan Customs Department (ACD) since May 2010, the bank said in a statement. Since 2002, customs collections in Afghanistan have grown dramatically, rising from some \$50 million in 2002-03 to more than \$1 billion in 2012, contributing more than 35 percent of revenues in 2014-15, the statement said. Since 2012, however, the unprecedented political, security, and economic transition have affected Afghanistan's economic growth. Domestic revenues, which had risen from three percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2002 to 11.6 percent in 2011, fell to 8.5 percent in 2014; customs collections too stagnated over the last few years. The project has helped computerize 14 customs offices so far, with the Khost office becoming operational recently. The additional grant will help finance costs associated with the continuation of existing project activities, supporting reform progress, and strengthening the prospects for... (More on P4)...(8)

Iran, Afghanistan Discuss Mutual Cooperation Plan

TEHRAN - Deputy Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Saeed Iravani conferred with Afghan foreign minister on a

between the two countries. 'Iran is keen to cooperate (with Afghanistan) on completing the remaining parts of plans and agreements ap-



proved between Kabul and Tehran,' he explained. He went on to say that positive steps have been taken to finalize the comprehensive plan of mutual cooperation. Rabbani, for his part, expressed the hope that the agreements on all areas are finalized as soon as possible. 'Once the roadmap is finalized, the grounds would be set more than before for Iran-Afghanistan cooperation to tackle common challenges,' he added. The roadmap is a pact on mutual cooperation between Tehran... (More on P4)...(9)