

## Quote of the Day

The quantity of civilization is measured by the quality of imagination.

Victor Hugo

## Constitution

If the state of emergency continues for more than four months, a Loya Jirga shall be called by the President for further decisions.

Article 147

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President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani

# Supremacy of Law Imperative for Stability

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said on Tuesday that supremacy of law will lead to stability in the country and speedy dispensation of justice repose trust on government. Rule of law would flourish business, agriculture and good governance, the president said this in his meeting at the Presidential Palace with officials. "There will be no stability where there is no rule of law therefore trust on you directly means reposing trust on the



country," he added. The president said: "I will celebrate the occasion when Supreme Court would ever challenge any of my decision or my cabinet decision since the Supreme Court is only entitled to implement rule of law in a state." The existence of women in judiciary is one of the great achievements and around 245 women have been working in judiciary, he added. The president said corruption-free ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Suggestions for Electoral Reforms Submitted to Govt.



KABUL - A joint working committee of political parties, civil society organisations and media has submitted a set of suggestions for electoral reforms to the unity government. The joint statement has been prepared by the working committee of more than 100 political parties, civil society and media organisations with the help of Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA). The suggestion included electoral reforms commission, population survey, distribution of electronic identity cards, convening of Loya Jirga, equipping the elections commission and reforms in the commissions. Other issues in the statement included close coordination among election ... (More on P4)...(2)

## USAID Launches \$13.3 Million Investment Climate Reform Program

KABUL - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new \$13.3 million program to make it easier for private sector firms to do business in Afghanistan. The four-year Afghanistan Investment Climate Reform Program will be implemented by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group. The program will work at the national and provincial levels to stimulate economic growth and enhance the country's competitiveness. In addition to ... (More on P4)...(4)

### Hamid Karzai

## 'If the Country Begins to Need me Back, that is Not a Good Sign'

KABUL - In an interview with The New York Times, Former President Hamid Karzai said "I have done my time. I was president for 14 years. I want this country to get younger lead-



ers, with a different vision." The former President has said he is not considering to run for the presidential election which is due to be organized in 2019. Karzai stepped down as the Afghan President after transferring power to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on 29th September last year. "If the country begins to need me back, that is not a good sign," Karzai insisted while referring to the speculations he could stand again in 2019. Karzai said he is not taking an active role in Afghan politics or governance, despite he is receiving high-ranking visitors in his house on regular basis. He also added to refrain from criticizing the government of national unity even though, as he pointed out, it still has not appointed all of its ministers 10 months after inauguration. "It will not be proper for me to express my opinion publicly," Karzai said. In the meantime, Karzai said he was concerned about President Ghani's efforts to improve relations with Pakistan while pointing towards the conclusion of a draft agreement between Afghan intelligence and Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI). (KP)

## Taliban Confirm Attending Norway Forum but Reject Talks

KABUL - Taliban on Tuesday confirmed the group was attending a peace forum in Norway but played down reports of holding talks with representatives of the Afghan government.

The Oslo Forum 2015-- kicking off today-- is co-hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

The Forum is a unique opportunity for senior conflict mediators, high-level decision makers and other major actors in peace processes to share



their experiences, identify challenges and reflect on their own and others' practice in a discreet setting and informal atmosphere. The Afghan government is represented by ... (More on P4)...(3)

## PC Head Takes Critical View of Acting Officials

BAMYAN CITY - The Bamyan provincial council head says the government's continued reliance on acting officials has affected development projects in the impoverished central province.

Tayebe Khawari, the only female provincial council chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News government affairs were disorganised and the cabinet still incomplete, as Bamyan had been without ... (More on P4)...(5)

### Russian Defense Minister

## Russia Prepares to Counter Daesh Threat

KABUL - Russia's Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said on Tuesday that the Russian military and that of Kyrgyzstan must be prepared to counter any threats to the security of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in the region in connection with the withdrawal of international forces from Afghanistan.

"We consider cooperation with Kyrgyzstan in the military sphere to be



a priority. Our cooperation is an important factor of preserving stability in the Central Asian region," Russian media quoted the minister as telling his Kyrgyz counterpart Abibulla Kudaiberdiyev, reports Pajhwok news.

The meeting took place in the framework of the Army-2015 international military and technical forum. "The armed forces of our countries must be ready for ... (More on P4)...(6)

## 3 Million Afghan Children Facing Threats: Minister

KABUL - The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled on Tuesday voiced grave concern about the situation of children in Afghanistan, saying around three million minors were under threat.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Nasrin Oryakhel, speaking at an event on child labour, ac-



knowledged working children needed utmost care. "There are 14.5 million children in Afghanistan, out of ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Pakistan Pledges "Strong Support" for Afghan President

KABUL - Pledging strong support for embattled Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Pakistan's prime minister's spe-



cial assistant Tariq Fatemi has defended intelligence cooperation accord struck recently with Afghanistan, Pakistani media reports Tuesday. "The MoU between the NDS and ISI is a proof of the distance we have covered," Dawn.com quoted Fatemi as saying in his speech on foreign policy at the Institute of Strategic Studies on Monday. The speech dwelt on the successes and challenges in external relations during the two years of the PML-N government. He said the intelligence cooperation agreement, which has been derided in Kabul for being against Afghanistan's interests, would provide a framework for much needed bilateral counterterrorism cooperation. Referring to mutual distrust and acrimony of the past, Fatemi said: "Heavy burden" of history would continue to impede progress in the relations, but it was encouraging that the leadership of the two countries was headed in the

tripping us over," he said. He said Pakistan-Afghan cooperation was not just about counter-terrorism and security. A number of economic, infrastructure and connectivity projects were also taking shape, which would bear "visible and tangible" fruits. In reply to a question about perceived political isolation of President Ghani because of Islamabad's alleged failure to meet its commitments with regard to the Taliban, he clarified that Pakistan had only promised to help with reconciliation. "We had, and may still have, some influence (with the Taliban). But we can't pick people and take them to the table and make them sign on the dotted line. We can only play a marginal role. The Afghans will have to be in the driving seat," he said. Fatemi said that although there were many who didn't want the cooperative phase in the relationship to continue, the leadership was committed to ... (More on P4)...(8)

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