

Quote of the Day

It is natural to give a clear view of the world after accepting the idea that it must be clear.

Albert Camus

Constitution

The provisions of adherence to the fundamentals of the sacred religion of Islam and the regime of the Islamic Republic cannot be amended.

Article 149

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State Bank Announces \$200m Loan Scheme for Industrialists

KABUL - In an attempt to support investment in Afghanistan, the state-owned bank - Banke Millie Afghan - has pledged to provide about \$200 million USD in loans to Afghan industrialists. Officials from Afghanistan Industries Agency (AIA) said that loans to industrialists will be granted in order for them to purchase raw materials and industrial machinery. Banke Millie Afghan's pledge comes after a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the bank and AIA in Kabul on Sunday. The AIA officials, who wel-



comed the move, said access to such loans was vital for the improvement and development of industries, products and investment in the country. "Banke Millie Afghan decided to award loans to Afghan industrialists through two processes, Islamic banking system and common banking systems. They will also help them to get loans," said Sakhi Faiman, the head of AIA. Banke Millie Afghan officials said they hoped to become a leading supporter of industries in Afghanistan through this initiative. ...*(More on P4)...*(1)

Senators Warn Against Expansion of Daesh Fighters



KABUL - A number of Afghan senators on Sunday voiced concerns over the deteriorating security situation involving Daesh insurgents in some districts of eastern Nangarhar province. According to the senators, Daesh fighters are operating in 15 districts in Nangarhar but they say the entire eastern section of the country is vulnerable. Senators warned that the security scenario of the province is deteriorating and government must act fast to overcome the fragile situation. They say that Daesh has beheaded two people in Nangarhar recently. They also called on government to take steps to prevent Daesh from recruiting new soldiers in the province. "Daesh associated fighters practically operate in 15 districts of Nangarhar province," senator Lotufl-

lah Baba said. "Expansion of Daesh fighters must be curbed, otherwise the consequences will be catastrophic," another senator Farhad Sakhi warned. On the issue of the government's anti-terror strategy, the senators asked leaders of the National Unity Government (NUG) to also tackle the security issues posed by Daesh on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway. "We need to come with a comprehensive plan and talk directly with the US and Pakistan about the issue. Because we face threats from two sides including Daesh and the Taliban, I don't understand what is really happening," senator Zalmay Zabuli said on Sunday. In addition, senate speaker Fazel Hadi Muslimyar called on the Afghan National Security Forces ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

Afghani Loses Value While Central Bank Awaits New Chairman

KABUL - The absence of a chairman for the Central Bank of Afghanistan (CBA) has caused a decline in the value of the Afghani currency, according to the Association of Kabul Money Changers.

These past few days has seen the Afghani drop



to a dismal 60.80 Afghani to the US dollar - a 4 Afghani decline in value over the past month. The money changers believe the lack of leadership at the Central Bank has led to inadequate measures being taken to safeguard the value of the Afghani currency against foreign currencies, especially the U.S. dollar.

"The problems are concerning," association member Mohammad Yousuf said on Saturday. "The government must act and prevent the dollar from rising; weekly banking operations of the Central Bank have declined from \$35 million USD to \$100 million USD," he added, referring to the cash injections the bank has made in order to prop up the Afghani currency. Meanwhile, Khan Afzal Hadawal, the acting governor of the Central Bank, defended the current monetary policy. "The value of the dollar has risen against all currencies, not only against the Afghani currency," he told TOLONews on Saturday.

"We sell dollars in the open market in accordance to our national programs and raise or decline its value; because our budget spending is less at the moment, ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

Future Scope of RSM to Dominate Defence Ministerial Meeting

KABUL - As defence ministerial meeting in Brussels will take place on coming Wednesday, the ministers are expected to agree to task the military authorities to start planning for the future scope and size of the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan.

Christopher Chambers, civilian spokesman of the NATO senior civilian representative (SCR) to Afghanistan, told Pajhwok Afghan News on Sunday.

Maj. Gen. Daulat Waziri, deputy spokesman of the Ministry of De-



fence (MoD), told Pajhwok Afghan News that acting Minister of Defence, Masoom Stanakzai would

represent Afghanistan at the ministerial. Chambers said that the defence ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

Computerized ID Cards Project Faces Fund Shortage

KABUL - Rejecting claims that majority employees have been sacked, project head of computerized Identity (ID) Cards on Sunday confirmed that contracts of some staff could not be extended because of fund crunch.

Earlier, reports circulated as many as 1,000 regional and central employees of the computerized ID cards project had been fired. But Humayun ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

Salamat Azimi Poppy Cultivation Linked to Increased Insecurity

KABUL - The Minister of Counter Narcotics Salamat Azimi on Sunday said that insecurity has mostly increased in districts where poppies are cultivated.

Speaking at a function - attended by a number of dignitaries - ahead of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on June 26, Azimi called on the international community to help fight the prob-



lem. He said: "Terrorism, drug trafficking networks and insecurities are a phenomenon that join forces and result in increased killings and the smuggling of drugs."

In calling on the international community to help fight this scourge he also said that according to recent statistics, 11% of the population use drugs. He also said that help for addicts was another ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

Operation Underway to Retake Chahar Dara

KUNUZ CITY - Security forces have launched a joint operation to retake the Chahar Dara district of northern Kunduz, which fell into the hands of the Taliban on Saturday evening, officials said Sunday.

Dozens of armed insurgents stormed the district on Saturday, killing 12 soldiers and injuring 16



others, according to initial reports by provincial council members. "About 70 other soldiers are surrounded by ...*(More on P4)...*(7)

Alarm as Taliban Advance on Key Northern City

KUNDUZ - Taliban insurgents advancing on the capital of a northern Afghan province have captured a key adjoining district, officials said Sunday, sparking renewed alarm

radic fighting still ongoing between the Taliban and pro-government forces.

The fall of a provincial capital would be a major setback for the Afghan government,



among residents who fear the fall of the besieged city.

The Taliban launched their annual summer offensive in late April with a brazen assault in Kunduz province, coming close to overrunning the provincial capital and sending civilian casualties soaring in outlying districts.

The capture of the worst-affected Chardarah district - at the edge of Kunduz city - on Saturday reignited concerns over its potential fall as insurgents escalate their annual summer offensive.

"The district has fallen to Taliban after hours of fierce fighting. Twelve Afghan forces have lost their lives and 17 have been wounded," Chardarah district chief Mohammad Yousuf Ayubi told AFP.

The militants are now as close as three kilometres to Kunduz city, increasingly hemmed in by the insurgency, with spo-

which has been fighting a resilient Taliban insurgency since the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

Deputy Afghan army chief General Murad Ali Murad said at least 70 security forces were surrounded by Taliban insurgents in Chardarah.

"We are going to start a military operation to retake the district on Sunday evening," he told AFP.

Abdul Sabour Nasrati, the police chief of the province on the border with Tajikistan, said the government was rushing reinforcements to Chardarah. Civilians are bearing the brunt of a large-scale insurgent offensive in Kunduz, the keystone of the Taliban's summer fighting season which is expected to be the bloodiest in a decade.

The province is facing a humanitarian crisis, with thousands ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

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D-100 - 116, 4th Floor, Gul Bahar Center, Malik Asghar Square, Kabul, Afghanistan