

Quote of the Day

We teach people how to remember, we never teach them how to grow.

Oscar Wilde

Constitution

The President, Vice Presidents, Ministers, Head and members of the Supreme Court, Head of the Central Bank, National Security Directorate, Governors and Mayors cannot engage in any profitable business contracts with the government or individuals during their term of office.

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Security Chiefs Answer MPs Questions

KABUL - Afghanistan's Minister of Interior Noorulhaq Olomi said on Saturday in parliament that Pakistan's military operation to oust insurgents from Waziristan was having a detrimental effect on the country's security as these insurgents were simply being driven across the border. He said that the Waziristan operation has resulted in "most of the insurgents coming into Afghanistan". Olomi's statement was made during a Question and Answer session in parliament on Saturday. He was among a group of senior security officials summoned by MPs to answer questions on the country's deteriorating security situation.



In addressing MPs he raised the issue of ongoing battles in the north of the country between insurgents and security forces. He said that although security forces were eliminating these insurgents, extra militants were being sent in straight away to replace those killed. On the issue of last week's parliament attack, Olomi praised security forces and said that government had been aware of a planned attack. But he said they had not known when or how the attack would take place. He said this was not the first time that an attack had been planned on parliament but that security forces had managed to ... (More on P4)...(1)

Gen. Shahim Taliban Want to Capture Areas before Talks

JALALABAD - Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qadam Shah Shahim on Saturday said the Taliban wanted to capture some areas before entering a political dialogue with the government, but the Afghan forces had the ability to defend their soil. Gen. Shahim was addressing the Afghan National Army's 201 Selab Military Corps on a military base in the Gambir desert in Laghman province during a visit to the eastern zone. The army chief apparently visited the troops to praise them for recapturing the Want Weigal district of eastern Nuristan province after being overrun by Taliban insurgents. Hundreds of armed militants ... (More on P4)...(2)



3.8m Afghan Refugees Have Returned Home from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - The head of the UN refugee agency has called on the international community to redouble its engagement with Afghanistan to help bring an end to the world's largest protracted refugee situation.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres pointed out that reinvigorated and continued engagement was critical to support Afghanistan's nation building and reconciliation processes at a time of dwindling resources and expanding humanitarian needs worldwide. "Robust development initiatives aimed at creating long-term incentives for durable return and conditions conducive for sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan are vital to create pull factors and allow for inclusion, participation and active contribution of returning Afghans, particularly the youth," he said. Guterres was speaking at a joint press conference with Pakistan's ... (More on P4)...(5)

Over \$200m Fraud Detected in Civil Aviation Contract

KABUL - In latest revelation, over \$200 million fraud has been detected in civil aviation and transport contract, a statement from the President Palace said on Saturday. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani headed a meeting of National Procurement Commission (NPC), which was attended by Mohammad Sarwar, second vice president, Abdullah Abdullah, Chief

Executive Officer (CEO), interior minister, transport, finance, agriculture and education ministers. During the course of meeting, the contracts of the civil aviation and transport ministry were evaluated in detail. The NPC decided to publish three million books worth 62 million afghanis, which would benefit 2.1 million students. However, an irregularity was detected ... (More on P4)...(3)

Ambitious 10-Year Healthcare Plan on the Cards

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday said the Ministry of Public Health's role was crucial in overseeing and assessing activities of organisations working in the health sector. A statement from the Presidential Palace said the president was addressing a gathering aimed at improving the situation of healthcare services in the country. Public Health Minister Dr. Ferozuddin Feroz, senior health officials, World Bank country director, USAID officials and the European Union ambassador to Afghanistan were present at the gathering. The gathering discussed how to improve the situation of health services in the country including bringing into effect an ambitious 10-year drive to provide better healthcare services ... (More on P4)...(4)



Karzai Advises U.S to Seek Russian, Chinese Help in Fighting Terror

KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai has said that Washington is suffering setbacks in the war against terrorism in Afghanistan, therefore the U.S must seek support from countries such as Russia and China to fight insurgency in Afghanistan. Speaking at a press conference in the Russian capital Moscow, Karzai criticized the deteriorating ... (More on P4)...(6)



AIHRC Reports Millions Embezzled Through 'Ghost Schools' in Ghor

KABUL - Officials from Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission's (AIHRC) office in Ghor province have reported findings that fraudulent school statistics have allowed commanders of illegal armed groups operating in the area to embezzle millions of Afghanis intended for teachers salaries. Upon investigation, AIHRC officials say there are dozens of so-called "ghost schools" in Ghor province, meaning schools that exist on paper and receive funding, but in reality do not exist or are not operating. The funding intended for these schools is said to line the pockets of local powerbrokers and militant leaders. While ... (More on P4)...(7)

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