

Quote of the Day

Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard.
H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

Constitution

Every Afghan has the right to travel or settle in any part of the country except in the regions forbidden by law.
Article 39

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Human Rights Watch

Afghanistan Must Prosecute Govt. Officials Who Violate Rights

KABUL - The United States and other aid donors should press Afghanistan to prosecute government and security force officials guilty of serious human rights violations, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Tuesday.
Holding powerful individuals accountable should be a top priority, the rights group said in a report, as impunity fuels support for the Taliban and raises concern about efforts to train and supply Afghanistan's security forces.
"The United States, which helped install numerous warlords and strongmen after the overthrow of the



Taliban, should now lead an international effort to support the new government to remove serious human rights abusers from their ranks," said the group's deputy director for Asia, Phelim Kine.
The report entitled "Today We Shall All Die" focuses on abuses committed in eight provinces and lists the police chief of Kandahar province as among those who should be prosecuted for extrajudicial killings.
Kandahar's police chief, General Abdul Raziq, told reporters last July he had ordered his men to kill "terrorists" ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Emergency Power Lines to Kabul Being Set up



KABUL - The Afghanistan Brishna Shirkat (ABS) on Tuesday said it was working to set up emergency power supply lines to capital Kabul within in the next two or three days.
ABS spokesman Wahid Tawhidi told Pajhwok that engineers and other officials were working to set up three emergency lines to supply 170 megawatts to Kabul.
The cables carrying electricity from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were damaged by recent snowstorm in northern Salang area of Baghlan province nine days ago.
The reconnection would end 80 percent of load-shedding in Kabul, Tawhidi said, but added the entire system would take another three weeks to be repaired due to icy conditions and difficult terrain.
Three ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

mHawala Electricity Batch Bill Payment, Simply Better for Businesses



KABUL - Etisalat mHawala in cooperation with DABS launched the Electricity Batch Bill Payment services for the first time in Afghanistan. Batch Payment is a more efficient way of paying electricity bills simultaneously by uploading them in a portal, provided by Etisalat, and sending it to respective finance department to pay the amount via mHawala portal.
With mHawala Electricity Batch Bill Payment portal, businesses will spend less time writing cheques or making hundreds of individual electronic payments.
Etisalat Afghanistan is the first company to register and start paying its electricity bills via this service.
'mHawala Batch electricity bill Payments is a secure and reliable way ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Pak, Afghan Ties Moving on Path to Progress: MoFA

KABUL - Praising Pakistan's support to Afghan peace overture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Tuesday said that relations between Kabul and Islamabad were moving on path to progress and stability.
MoFA spokesman Shakib Mustagni told reporters that recent meetings of Afghan Ambassador Janan Mosazai with Pakistani officials had demonstrated remarkable improvement in bilateral ties.
He however said that improved relations with Pakistan would never affect the country's ties with other countries. *(Pajhwok)*

PCs Want Presidential Decree Enforced

KABUL - The Provincial Councils coordination commission on Tuesday warned to launch a series of protests if a presidential decree empowering PCs was not implemented.
On January 28, Wolesi Jirga—or lower house of the parliament — barred the provincial council members from overseeing the performance of local departments.
Earlier, the council of ministers headed by the president decided to take back the overseeing and evaluation powers of provincial councils.
In addition, the Independent Directorate of Local Govern-



ance (IDLG) and provincial councils' commission agreed upon development of a draft with regard to their new powers.
Sayyed Abdul Rahman, the head of provincial councils, told reporters that President Ghani had issued decree empowering the provincial councils. He alleged that individuals did not allow implementation of the decree. Earlier, a source ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Official Underlines Importance of Chabahar Port for Afghanistan

TEHRAN - A Kabul official stressed the importance of the Southern Iranian port city of Chabahar for the transit of Indian goods to Afghanistan.
Deputy Head of Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Azarakhsh Hafezi underlined that the capabilities, capaci-



ties and unique location of Chabahar have prepared a suitable ground for transit of goods, specially from India, to Afghanistan.
"India contributed a sum of 3,000 tons of foodstuff to Afghanistan, but Islamabad did not allow the same goods to be transited to Afghanistan due to India-Pakistan differences," Hafezi said.
The Port of Chabahar is a seaport in Southeastern Iran. Its location lies on the border of the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to ocean. The port was partially built by India in the 1990s to provide access to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.
Iran's Chabahar port, which is located 72 kilometers ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Watchdog Reports ANA Lost 20,000 Personnel in 2014

From January to November 2014 Afghan military shrank from 190,000 to roughly 169,000 members. Most of the losses appear to be desertions, while smaller percentages are ordinary discharges. More than 1,200 soldiers perished in combat last year.

MOSCOW - The Afghan Army lost more than 20,000 fighters in 2014 mostly due to desertion, discharge and combat deaths, a report provided to The New York Times by an American government watchdog agency revealed Tuesday.
From January to November 2014 Afghan military shrank from 190,000 to roughly 169,000 members, the Special Inspector



General for Afghanistan Reconstruction report states. Most of the losses appear to be desertions, while ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Rescue Operation Launches in Zabul to Free 30 Hazaras

QALAT - The Afghan military forces launched a rescue operation in southern Zabul province on Monday night to free the 30 Hazara passengers who were kidnapped by unknown masked men, an Afghan security official, on condition of anonymity, said.
The operation was launched in Khak-e-Afghan district of Zabul and is still underway. So far, 36 insurgents have



been killed and 50 others injured. Leading the operation is Kandahar Police Chief Gen. Abdul Raziq, Military Commander of ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

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NSP Completes Over 4,300 Welfare Projects

HERAT - The National Solidarity Program (NSP), which works within the framework of Afghanistan's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), has implemented more than 4,354 development projects worth 4,608,703,166 AFN.
The projects have helped address various problems of the community in the transport, water and sanitation, irrigation, power, livelihoods, and education sector. Thousands of residents have reaped benefits from these projects.
Recently, the Program funded 20 infrastructure projects in Anjil, Ghorriyan and Shindand districts of Herat province. The projects were completed at a cost of more than 26,637,000 AFN, with 10% contribution from the local communities.
According to NSP Provincial Manager in Herat province, these development projects include the construction of water supply networks, kariz (underground canals), an embankment, a retaining wall, social centers, culverts, irrigation canals and ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

5 'Save the Children' Workers Kidnapped

TARINKOT - Unidentified gunmen abducted five workers of 'Save the Children' NGO in central Uruzgan province, an official said Tuesday.
Gul Agha, chief for the first police district in Tarinkot, the provincial capital, told Pajhwok Afghan News that employees of the organization had traveled to Surkhah to visit their project when Taliban militants picked them.
The organization, he said had implemented deep well projects for providing potable water for the residents of Surkhah district. Police had launched investigation to locate the employees.
Zubaida Akbar, spokesman ...*(More on P4)...(9)*