

Quote of the Day

Pleasure in the job puts perfection
in the work
Aristotle

Constitution

The Minister during the course of their work cannot use their post s for linguistic, regional, ethnic, religion and partisan purposes

Article 80

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President Ashraf Ghani

No Compromise on Peace Negotiations Achievements

KABUL - Turning down concerns about sacrificing achievements for peace with the Taliban, President Ashraf Ghani assured the past 13-year gains would not be compromised in the peace negotiations. In his speech at the inauguration of the fifth and last year of the current Parliament, Ghani emphasized on the immediate start of peace talks with the Taliban, something he believed is a good opportunity for Afghanistan's peace stability. "We will decisively defend Afghanistan's gains that were achieved under the leadership of Hamid Karzai," Ghani said, ...*(More on P4)...(1)*



Afghan and Pakistani Traders to Promote Economy through Trade



KABUL - The Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) was formed to promote business and commerce relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. According to the PAJCCI, despite existing political upheavals and sensitive socio-cultural issues, the desire for economic collaboration from business communities on both sides of the border has always been explicit. The ultimate vision for the PAJCCI is to "achieve peace and prosperity through promotion of bilateral trade between Afghanistan & Pakistan. In the on-going effort to strengthen these relations, at the ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Etisalat Group CEO

UB is a Real Target to Achieve through PPPs

Access to broadband is a basic right for everyone and it can be served smartly, where needed, says Ahmad Julfar



ABU DHABI - Universal Broadband (UB) is a real target that can be achieved through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to promote greater digital, social and financial inclusion in the developing world, observed Mr. Ahmad Julfar, Chief Executive Officer of Etisalat Group. He was addressing an audience of some of the world's leading figures in telecommunications at Mobile World Summit (MWS), the premier event of the ongoing 2015 Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. Mr. Julfar also holds the position of Vice Chair of the GSMA, which organizes the annual Congress and unites over 800 telecom operators and over 250 companies that operate in the broader mobile eco system. Mr. Julfar said that the public internet needs to evolve further and this requires investment in capacity, new solutions, technologies and innovative business models. The telco sector will not be able to drive this alone, as they face the risk of a big disruption due to the shifts across the value chain. "Etisalat believes that access to broadband is a basic right for everyone ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Snowfall Again Shuts Salang Highway

KABUL - The vital Salang Highway was blocked for second time for traffic by heavy snowfall and avalanches on Saturday, an official said. Salang Highway passing through treacherous mountains in Parwan and Baghlan provinces connecting nine northern provinces with the capital Kabul. Lt. Gen. Mohammad Rajab, the highway's maintenance head, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the road was closed following avalanches in five locations last night. He said the incessant snowfall ongoing and probably the highway would be hit by more avalanches. The level of continues snow from Friday has reached to 71 centimeters on the Salang Highway. Earlier, this month the highway was also blocked for traffic by similar avalanches but was reopened last week. Traveling on the highway during winter is always dangerous for passengers due to heavy snow and cold weather. (Pajhwok)

IEC Deputy Opposes Formation of ERC

KABUL - While discussing the government's plan to for an Electoral Reform Commission (ERC), the deputy head of the Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC), Abdul Rahman Hotaki, on Friday called the plan irrational and asserted that the reform body would not have the authority to dismiss IEC commissioners. Mr. Hotaki asserted that IEC commissioners will complete their six years terms unless sufficient evidence proving His wrongdoing is brought against them. His comments echo those voiced in past weeks by those who have questioned the



merits of pursuing electoral reforms in an election year, with just a few months remaining before parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place. "The agreement was made be-

tween the two political forces before they gained power," Mr. Hotaki said, referring to the accord between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

TJCG Pushes Govt. to Prosecute Human Rights Violators

KABUL - The Transitional Justice Coordination Group (TJCG) has ramped-up pressure on the Afghan government to implement justice against those accused of human rights abuses and war crimes, including, the organization said, a number of high-ranking government officials. Referring to the recent report on human rights in Afghanistan by Human Rights Watch (HRW), the TJCG claimed only a small number of the total human rights violators still free in Af-



ghanistan were mentioned. The TJCG stressed that Afghanistan has become a safe haven for human rights violators. Specifical-

ly, the TJCG has called on the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Airport among 26 Incomplete Projects

ZARANJ - Up to 26 important projects, including the provincial airport and a big hospital, could not be completed due to budget paucity in southwestern Nimroz province, an official said on Saturday. Nimroz Economy Director Khanistan Munawar told Pajhwok Afghan News of 38 sanctioned projects worth \$32 million, only 12 had been completed. The incomplete World Bank-funded projects included asphaltting of roads connecting districts with the provincial capital, buildings for health clinics, government offices and the airport. He said 60 percent of construction work on the airport had been completed, but the rest remained incomplete due to a budget shortage. The airport was being built on international standards at the Chagni area 20 kilometers from the provincial capital, Zaranj, at a cost of 650 million afghanis funded by the Ministry of Aviation ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Abducted Passengers Possibly in Zabul Mountains: MPs

KABUL - A number of MPs from southern Zabul said that the 30 Hazara passengers who were abducted about three weeks ago on the Kabul-Kandahar highway by armed masked men may have been transferred to the mountainous areas of Khak-e-Afghan area of the province. The military operation that was conducted to release the hostages has led to the arrest of a female foreign insurgent leader who is being used in negotiations with the insurgent group.



"There no communication or service in Khak-e-Afghan, but we can say that the armed men took the hostages to the nearby caves," Zabul MP Hamidullah

Tokhi said. "The talks between the tribal elders and the insurgents failed." The rescue operation that was ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Taliban Reject Hand in Kidnapping 30 Passengers

QALAT - Taliban insurgents have rejected hand in kidnapping 30 passengers of two buses in southern Zabul province. A statement issued by Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi states that the kidnapers are not connected to their group. "We prefer to announce that Mujahideen do not have hand in the kidnapping of our countrymen" states Taliban statement. A group of unidentified gunmen who had their faces covered kid-



napped 30 passengers of two buses on gun point about 10 days before on Kabul-Kandahar

highway and the fate of whom are still unknown. The ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

'Media to Have Full Access to Information'



KABUL - The Security Council in a recently held decided that a responsible official in each province should provide information to journalist, a source in the Presidential Palace said on Saturday.

Earlier, officials in several provinces said they had been told by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) not to share information with media outlets. That officials' stance sparked anger among journalists with the Afghanistan Independent Journalist Association (AIJA) in a statement said that Security Council barred provincial officials from sharing information. The statement said that the Ministry of Interior had been directed to issue media with information on security related issues in future. But sources close to Presidential Palace said that official had denied slashing ban over the release of security related information to the media. MoI Spokesman Sadique Sadiqui said: "We have public affairs officials in provinces who are tasked to share information with media on regular basis." MoI wanted to regulate release of information to media in a proper way to ensure that journalists got credible information ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

More Rebels Join Peace Process

AIBAK - As many as 15 insurgents have renounced violence and joined the government-initiated peace process in northern Samangan province, an official said on Saturday. Speaking at a gathering, Governor Khairullah Anosh said the group was earlier involved in insurgent activities in the Ti Khok locality bordering Baghlan province. He said the government would take necessary steps for the rehabilitation of those who returned to normal life and renounce violence. The governor informed that rebels surrendered 14 weapons to the government. He said the return of this group to normal life would leave positive impact on security situation of the restive province. He also praised the role of peace committee for convincing insurgents to join the nascent peace process. The Group's Commander Mullah Abdul Haq said: "We had carried out insurgent activities in the province for six years and now decided to join peace process in larger national interests." (Pajhwok)

5 killed, 6 Injured in Kabul Shrine Attack

KABUL - At least five people were killed and several others wounded when gunmen attacked a sufi shrine before making their escape good in the central capital Kabul late Saturday, an official said. Deputy Ministry of Interior spokesman Najib Danish told Pajhwok Afghan News the attack took place in the limits of the 5th police district at 6pm. He said it was not immediately known how many attackers were involved in the assault that left five people dead and six others wounded. The gunmen sprayed with bullets the followers of the Sufi tradition when they were worshipping in their centre and then fled. Danish said security forces had reached the scene and were searching for the attackers. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. (Pajhwok)