

## Quote of the Day

Knowing others is wisdom, knowing yourself is Enlightenment.

Lao Tzu

### President Ashraf Ghani

# Violence Against Women Stems from Ongoing War

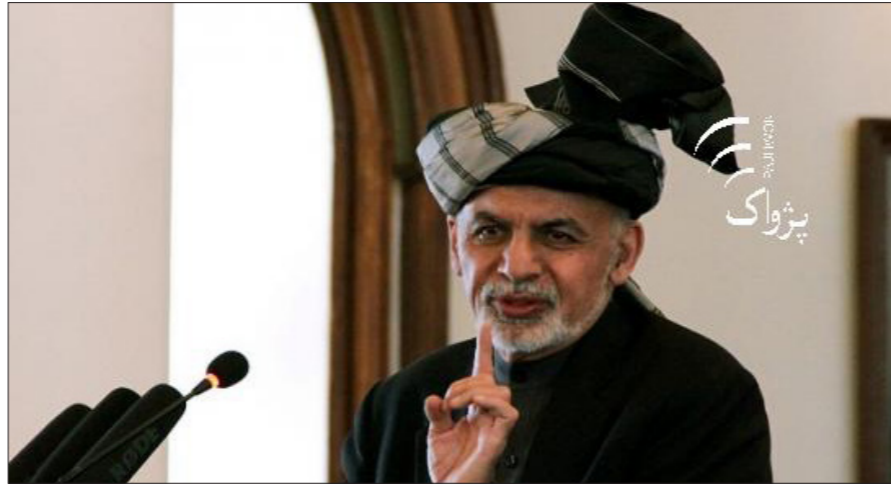
KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has said the violence against women in Afghanistan stemmed from the ongoing war and the migration of large number of Afghans to foreign countries.

The president was addressing a programme titled "Afghan Women's Skills Development from Islamic Perspective" at the Presidential Palace on Monday evening.

According to a statement from the Presidential Palace, the programme was participated by a number of religious scholars, women and civil society activists.

Shahla Farid, director of the Afghan Women's Skills Development Center, briefed the participants about her organization's activities.

Mulavi Danishjo on behalf of other religious scholars supported the



government's programmes about women from Islamic point of view and said violence against women was condemned in Islam.

A resolution letter about woman's

position in Islam and eliminating violence against women was also read out at the event.

After hearing speeches from the participants, President Ghani appreciated

organizers of the conference and said the conceptual framework of the Afghan society was based on Islamic values.

"The programme helps us take a big step and understand women's rights, we will discuss with women and scholars implementation of the resolution's contents," he said.

The president said Islam held in high esteem the dignity of women and added that the, violence against women in Afghanistan was fueled by the ongoing war and migration of Afghans.

The president said ulama and civil society institutes should work together for recognising women's problems and creating awareness about violence against them.

Ghani said the Afghanistan's Constitution ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Kabul, Tehran Confer on Issue of Afghan Migrants

KABUL - Kabul and Tehran have held fresh negotiations on the issues facing Afghan migrants living in Iran.

Minister of Refugees and Repatriation Hussain Alami Balkhi met Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Qashqavi on Monday.

During the meeting in Tehran, IRNA reported, Balkhi said Iran and Afghanistan shared many historical and cultural bonds.

The contact came on the eve of the 3rd Iran-Afghanistan consular cooperation meeting. Both hoped the meeting



would be fruitful.

About three million Afghans are currently living in Iran, which wants Kabul to prevent its citizens from entering into Iran illegally. (Pajhwok)

### Iran FM

## Anti-Terror Fight Needs Multifaceted Strategy

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says fight against terrorism requires a multifaceted strategy.

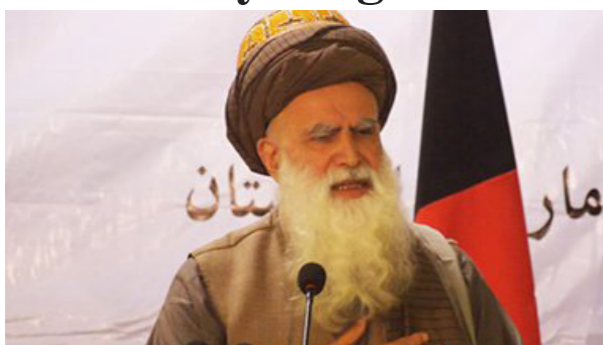
"We need a multifaceted strategy. It may need a military dimension because now Daesh and [the al-Qaeda-

linked] al-Nusra [Front] have become a military threat," Zarif said in an address to a public lecture dubbed "Paradigm Shift from a Zero-Sum Game to a Win-Win Situation" in Singapore on Tuesday.

"But at the same time, it needs an ... (More on P4)...(2)

### Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf

## Taliban War Un-Islamic, it Destroys Afghanistan



KABUL - Former Jihadi leader Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf on Tuesday once again blasted in strong words Taliban's so-called Jihad in Afghanistan, calling the war in opposition to Islam and against the will of people of Afghanistan.

Addressing a ceremony in Kabul commemorating the second death anniversary of former Vice President Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim, Sayyaf stated that Taliban's war was neither Jihad nor in the interest of the country. "They [Taliban] think they fight for the country but in fact ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Abdullah Demands Immediate Halt to Cross-Border Shelling

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Tuesday demanded a halt to the cross-border shelling along the Durand Line, saying those not supporting the war against the Taliban were losing their credibility in the eyes of their own nation.

Abdullah said this while addressing gathering marking the second death anniversary of Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim, the first vice-president during former



president Hamid Karzai's government. At the anniversary

held at Marshal Fahim Military University, the CEO said Fahim's place could not be filled in the contemporary period when the countrymen faced multiple challenges.

He said Fahim always stressed the need for national unity and co-existence and he was a person who served the country his entire life.

The CEO said: "Mujahideen did not get their right place in the ranks of armed forces. I acknowledge that mistakes but ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Pakistan Pledges to Prioritize Afghan Peace Process

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan has assured visiting British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond that Islamabad is still supporting a fragile peace process in neighboring Afghanistan.

His comments on Tuesday came days after the Taliban announced that they would not participate in proposed peace talks with the Afghan government until foreign forces stop attacking their

positions and leave the country. The Taliban announcement was seen as a setback to efforts made by Pakistan, Washington and Beijing to arrange face-to-face talks this month between Kabul and the Taliban in Islamabad.

A government statement says Khan made his comments Tuesday during a meeting with Hammond, who arrived here after holding talks with the Afghan leadership. (AP)

## Hammond Wants Kabul, Islamabad to Jointly Combat Terror



PESHAWAR - Islamabad is hopeful of the Afghan peace process starting in coming days despite Taliban's refusal to talk to representatives of the government in Kabul, a top Pakistani diplomat said on Tuesday.

Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said: "Under the concept of shared responsibility, Pakistan, China and the US have to persuade the Taliban to join negotiations."

At a joint news conference with ... (More on P4)...(6)

## UK Committed to Promoting Afghan Women's Rights



KABUL - Celebrating International Women's Day in Kabul, the British Embassy on Tuesday said the UK government remained steadfastly committed to working with the government of Afghanistan and civil society to promote Afghan women's rights. On the occasion, British Ambassador to Afghanistan Dominic Jeremy said the women of Afghanistan had suffered terribly during years of conflict.

"The contribution they are now making to society would have been unthinkable when I was last here in 2002. But so much more needs to be done to advance the position ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Afghan Women's Radio Returns after Taliban Attack

KABUL - Six months after fleeing a Taliban assault on her city, the owner of an Afghan radio station devoted to women's rights is back home and returning to the airwaves.

Zarghona Hassan is a lifelong activist and the founder of a radio station in Kunduz that until last year reached hundreds of thousands of listeners across northern Afghanistan, where the vast majority of women are illiterate and largely confined to their homes.

Radio Shaesta - Pashto for "beauty" - had sought to educate women about their rights and address taboo subjects like reproductive health and domestic violence.

A program called "Unwanted Traditions" took a critical look at centuries-old Afghan customs, like the forced marriage of young girls in order to resolve disputes. "Introducing Elites" featured interviews with women who have succeeded in politics and activism, and those who have helped other women in their communities.

"We have had an enormous impact on the lives of women, raising their awareness of their rights, of what they ... (More on P4)...(8)

## Afghan Forces Recapture District, Cleanup Operation Continues: Police



PUL-E-KHUMRI - Afghan security forces, following fierce fighting, recaptured Dand-e-Shahabudin district outside Baghlan provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri on Tuesday.

Zabihullah Sheja, police spokesman in the province, said the security forces have been chasing militants to ensure lasting peace in the region, 160 km north of Kabul.

"The security forces finally recaptured Dand-e-Shahabudin area forcing Taliban rebels to flee," Sheja told reporters here. Three Taliban militants were killed and eight others injured over the past few hours, the official said.

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

#### ICB

Procurement Entities	Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP)
Funded By	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Item Description	Procurement of Works for Rehabilitation, re-entry, Deepening, Testing and Completion of Two Existing Wells (31& 37) of Yatimtaq Gas Field in Sheberghan.
Ref. No	NPA/MOMP/94/W-1073/ICB
Bid Security	The Bids must be accompanied with Bid Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee provided in the Bidding Documents at the amount of <b>US\$300,000 (Three hundred thousand only)</b> and valid for <b>148 days</b> after the bids submission deadline.
Deadline for Bid Submission	<b>19 April, 2016 at 10:00AM hours (Local Kabul Times)</b> , Electronic submission of Bid is not allowed. Late bid will be rejected.
Address for Bid Submission	National Procurement Authority, Civil Procurement Directorate (NPA/CPD) 5 <sup>th</sup> floor of Administrative office of the President Kabul, Afghanistan.
Website	A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders free of cost by downloading from the NPA website <a href="http://www.npa.gov.af">www.npa.gov.af</a> or in a CD from NPA office (Address given above). The IFB may be obtained from the MOMP website, <a href="http://www.mom.gov.af">www.mom.gov.af</a> and ADB website, <a href="http://www.adb.gov">www.adb.gov</a> . In case of any difficulty in downloading from website, interested bidders may contact at e-mail address: <a href="mailto:zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af">zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af</a> , <a href="mailto:khalil.hamedi@aop.gov.af">khalil.hamedi@aop.gov.af</a> copied to : <a href="mailto:noori.abdullah16@gmail.com">noori.abdullah16@gmail.com</a>