

Quote of the Day

History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.
Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

Constitution

The State, for the purpose of monitoring the observation of human rights in Afghanistan, to promote their advancement (behdud) and protection, shall establish the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan.
Article 58

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Chief Executive Officer

National Interests to be Kept Supreme in Peace Talks

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and former vice-president on Monday stressed to protect gains achieved in the past 13 years in Afghanistan during the peace negotiation.

Speaking at a gathering to mark the first death anniversary of former first vice president Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim, Abdullah said that national interest and people's right were his government top priorities during peace negotiations with Taliban.

"The right of girls and boys education will be safeguarded in the peace talks," he said, adding that efforts for



peace negotiations were underway but it would not damage national interests.

"We don't like war and violence is the work of those who are playing others' hands," Abdullah remarked.

He said that 173 security personnel have been killed in the past two weeks during violence in the country, asking nation to fully back their security forces.

"If they accept law of the land and stop insurgency then we welcome them as it is their own country," he reiterated. (Pajhwok)

Inami Elected as Wolesi Jirga's Secretary



KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga on Monday elected lawmaker Abdul Rauf Inami as the lower house's secretary but again failed to elect the second deputy speaker.

The assembly on Saturday entered its fifth and last legislative year and voted to elect first and deputy speaker, the secretary and his deputy on

Sunday. Lawmaker from Nangarhar Syed Ikram, from Badakhshan Abdul Rauf Inami, from Zabul Abdul Qadir Qalatwal and Kuch tribe representative Hela Irshadi vied for the secretary slot in Sunday's election. But none of them could win the required of votes and ... (More on P4)... (1)

Trans-Afghan Gas Pipeline May Become a Reality: India



KABUL - Trans-Afghanistan gas pipeline connecting Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India may become a reality soon as negotiations for the ambitious project are at the final stage, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said in Lok Sabha on Monday.

Indian The Hindu newspaper reports that Pradhan told the house that discussions over installing a pipeline to bring gas from Turkmenistan to India through Afghanistan and Pakistan were at the final stage and when the project becomes a reality, the country would be free from being dependant on Gulf countries for natural gas.

Replying to a question, the Minister said government will also take a decision on a project to bring natural gas from Iran ... (More on P4)... (4)

President Suspends Top Sports Official

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has suspended Sports Department Director Karamuddin Karam after sportsmen accused him of corruption, the Presidential Palace said on Monday.

A number of sportsmen observed strikes calling for the top sports official to be removed and the issue of corruption in the sports department addressed. They warned of further protests if their demands were ignored.

The president through a decree No 880 issued late on ... (More on P4)... (2)

Glowing Tributes Paid to Late Fahim



KABUL - Marking the first death anniversary of Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim former vice-president, President Ashraf Ghani said Fahim was a giant political figure who played greater role for unity and peace in the country. Fahim 56 died of heart diseases on March 9, 2014 in Kabul.

Officials laid floral wreath on his grave to mark his death anniversary. Fahim was a famous commander of Jamiat-e-Islami during Jihad against Russia. After the fall of Dr. Najib's rule, he had served as national security advisor, defense minister, deputy for transition administration and vice-president.

At a gathering held in Loya Jirga tent in Kabul, Ashraf Ghani, former president Hamid Karzai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, Abdul Rab Rasoul Sayyaf former Jihadi commander along with other dignitaries paid rich tribute to late Fahim. The ... (More on P4)... (3)

Kandahar PC Holds Maiden Session after Strike

KANDAHAR CITY - The provincial council (PC) of southern Kandahar province on Monday held its maiden session after calling off a weeks-long strike.

Provincial councils on Sunday called off a strike



they had been observing since January 18 when the Wolesi Jirga barred them from monitoring the performance of local departments by amending the law on provincial councils.

But on Sunday, the public representatives said they had received a presidential decree reinstating their oversight authority, and thus ending their strike.

Haji Syed Jan Khakrezwal, the Kandahar PC chief, said people across the country were happy over the restoration of PCs' oversight role.

Based on the right, he said, they would review and monitor the performance of provincial and local bodies with honesty and in accordance with the law.

In their maiden meeting, the Kandahar PC members discussed and condemned a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report that accused Kandahar police chief of human rights violations.

One of them, Zarghona Kakar, said those serving their people and society were accused of crimes instead of appreciating them.

She said the Kandahar police chief had been fighting against militants to provide security to people and defend the country.

At the end of the session, prayers were offered for the soul of late Marshal Mohammad Qasim Fahim, a former first vice president, on his first death anniversary. (Pajhwok)

Senate Chairman Blasts Ghani's Hasty Peace Initiatives

KABUL - Chairman of the Meshrano Jirga (Senate) has criticized what he believes President Ashraf Ghani's hasty decisions for initiation of peace talks with the Taliban.

Fazl Hadi Muslimyar expressed on Sunday that the Taliban would never renounce violence, and would continue their insurgency under the name of Daesh.

The head of the Upper House of Parliament declared that the Taliban ... (More on P4)... (5)

Afghan Delegation in Islamabad for Talks on Refugees

KABUL - An Afghan delegation led by minister for refugees and repatriation arrived in Islamabad to hold wide-ranging talks with Pakistani officials on the issue of Afghan refugees, an official said on Monday.

Headed by Sayed Alimi Balkhi, representatives of Afghan refugees held meetings Balkhi and shared their problems.

In addition to their meetings with Pakistani officials, the delegation was scheduled to discuss the issues with officials of the United Nations High



Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Following a tragic attack on Army Public School in Peshawar in which militants slaugh-

tered 150 students, Pakistan security forces started harassment and detaining Afghan refugees. Pakistani authorities ... (More on P4)... (6)

92% Afghans Support Electoral Reforms: Survey

KABUL - In a new survey conducted by Democracy International, almost 92 percent of Afghans said electoral reforms should be implemented before the parliamentary elections scheduled to take place before June. When asked if they trusted in the credibility of the national election commissions, just 19 percent of respondents said they did.

The survey results also indicate that corruption, insecurity and weak governance were consid-



ered the biggest problem areas in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, educational opportunities, partial security and road construction were recognized as major

achievements among respondents. However, still 63 percent of Afghans polled expressed frustration over the living standard ... (More on P4)... (7)

Wolesi Jirga Urges Hazara Passengers Urgent Rescue

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Monday asked the government to take essential steps to ensure the safety and release of 31 kidnapped Hazara passengers from their captors, saying the abduction was aimed at fueling sectarian tension.

The individuals were returning from Iran and travelling by buses on the road between western Herat province and Kabul when they were kidnapped by



masked gunmen believed to be members of the so-called Islamic State group. The abduction took place in

the Shajoy district of southern Zabul province on the Kabul-Kandahar road on Feb. 25. Local ... (More on P4)... (8)

Ziaul Haq Sarhadi Improvement of Peshawar Dry Port Needed to Promote Pak-Afghan Trade



PESHAWAR - Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Vice Chairman All Pakistan Customs Agents Association, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi on Monday met with Director Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and apprised him regarding the problems faced by stakeholders of Pak-Afghan trade.

Ziaul Haq Sarhadi said that Export Development Funds has enough money to utilize for up-gradation of Peshawar dry-port adding the exporter are facing difficulties due to unavailability of dry-port. He said that the exporters are now using Karachi dry-port for custom clearance and GD file to export their shipment to other countries due unavailability of facility at Peshawar. He also demanded to review the new agreement of Afghan Transit Trade and urged TDAP to play its role in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, TDAP Director Nauman Bashir assured his cooperation to remove the concerns and reservations highlighted by Ziaul Haq Sarhadi. ... (More on P4)... (9)



The Franco-German Award was established in 2014 to honor the women of Afghanistan who have contributed in their country's development and strengthening women in the professional fields.

Mansoori was recognized for her ability in empowering women through capacity building, providing an opportunity to work, and teaching.

She is the director of Abdullah Moslem Company, which was established in 2011, that aims at importing and exporting materials such as saffron to Dubai, India, and Iran. Her company also exports handicrafts and carpets woven by women to other countries.

Currently, she is in the process of contracting with companies in Turkey and China to expand her products. The German Embassy hosted Sunday's award ceremony with the presence of Afghanistan's First Lady

A distinguished jury of nine, including the ambassadors of both embassies, chose Mansoori. (Tolonews)