

Quote of the Day

For in the final analysis, our most basic common link, is that we all inhabit this small planet, we all breathe the same air, we all cherish our children's futures, and we are all mortal.

John F. Kennedy (1917 - 1963)

Constitution

The government consists of the ministers who work under the Chairmanship of the President.

Ministers are appointed by the President and shall be introduced for approval to the National Assembly.

Article 71

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Nearly 300 Attorneys Protest Ghani's Tests



KABUL - Roughly 300 attorneys were called to the Presidential Palace to be tested on their knowledge of the law on President Ashraf Ghani's decree, which

has been determined as a way for the president to bring reforms in the judicial institutions. The attorneys protesting before the Pres-

idential Palace on Wednesday refused to appear for the tests, saying it was disrespectful to them as they claimed to have practical ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

WB Vows Sustained Assistance to Afghanistan



KABUL - The World Bank (WB) country director for Afghanistan on Wednesday called for grant assistance to help the war-torn country. At a meeting with Deputy Chief Executive Officer Eng. Mohammad Khan, Bob Sam pledged long-term support for the country's health, education, training, agricultural and livestock sectors.

Praising World Bank's sustained support, Khan urged the organization to focus on the development of insecure areas, which had been backward because of insecurity. The bank has supported Afghanistan in various fields through hard times and the country expected more support to stabilize different sectors, Khan added. *(Pajhwok)*

AUAF International Women's Day

KABUL - Celebrating International Women's Day, Afghan and foreign dignitaries gathered at the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF) this week to discuss the role of women in governance and security in Afghanistan. AUAF Rector Mark English also spoke at the event, and highlighted the university's role in educating and empowering Afghan women. "This semester, 15 percent of the incoming classes were women," English said. "We are preparing women to be in positions of leadership in Afghanistan and the American University of Afghanistan also provides a safe environment for women and a level playing field for all of them to excel alongside their male classmates." One of the founding fathers of AUAF, Sharif Fayezi, also spoke at the event. He discussed the historic role of women in Muslim societies, condemning the extremist ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Police Chief to Cooperate with PC on Security Issues



KHOST CITY - The police chief for southeastern Khost province on Wednesday promised supporting the provincial council's efforts for resolving security problems. Brig. Gen. Faizullah Ghairat, at a meeting with provincial council members at the end of a month-long strike, said he would take measures to improve the security situation in the province. About one and a half month back, the Wolesi Jirga barred the councils from monitoring the performance ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Officials Pakistan to Register Nearly 1 Million Unregistered Afghans



ISLAMABAD - Pakistan will register around 1 million Afghan refugees, Pakistani and Afghan officials said on Tuesday after talks in Islamabad. Besides the unregistered Afghan, Pakistan still hosts 1.61 million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the UN refugee agency said. The registered Afghans have Proof of Registration (PoR) cards to stay in Pakistan till Dec. 31 this year. Afghanistan Minister for Refugees and Repatriation, Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi, led his nine-member team in bilateral talks ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

2,500 Hectares of Poppies to be Eradicated

KANDAHAR CITY - Poppy cultivation has considerably declined as a result of improved security in many areas of southern Kandahar province, an official said on Wednesday. Counternarcotics Director Gul Muhammad Shukran told Pajhwok Afghan News poppies had been planted in Zherai, Panjwai, Maiwand and Shah Wali Kot districts this year. But the cultivation of the illicit crop has fallen under the Food Zone programme, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), according to the official. He added the provincial authorities ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Afghan Govt., Taliban Poised to Hold Direct Talks: Report



KABUL - The Afghan government and the Taliban are reportedly preparing to hold face-to-face talks in the next few days as a result of efforts by Pakistan and other stakeholders, Pakistani media reported on Wednesday. The Express Tribune reported the two sides had been in contact but it was the first time that they would sit across the negotiating table to discuss the future of Afghanistan. It report added Daniel Feldman, the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, on Tuesday held crucial talks with Pakistan Army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif in Rawal-

pindi and "appreciated Islamabad's positive role in bringing peace and stability to Afghanistan." The US would not be part of the upcoming talks, but it has fully backed the fresh moves for the political solution, said the

report. The report added that efforts were being made to arrange the talks in Kabul in an effort to show that the process is Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. "All sides are very much ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Russia Ready to Invest in Transport, Housing Sectors

KABUL - Russia's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Zamir Kabulov, on Wednesday said entrepreneurs from his country were eager to invest in Afghanistan's transportation and housing sectors. The Russian diplomat expressed these views during a meeting with President Mohammad



Ashraf Ghani in Kabul, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

Ghani said: "We have formulated our foreign policy ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

HPC Says it's Unaware of Fresh Reconciliation Initiative

KABUL - The High Peace Council (HPC) on Wednesday claimed matters related to the panel were being tackled by the president personally and it was being kept unaware about fresh developments. Maulvi Abdul Hakim Mujahid, deputy chairman of HPC, told Pajhwok Afghan News the council had not played any role in convincing the Taliban to sit across the negotiating table with government representatives. President Ashraf



Ghani himself was in charge of the initiative that reportedly involved Pakistan and some other Muslim countries, the of-

ficial added. He said the president had decided to reshuffle the peace council, ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

President Orders Release of Photographer Held in 2006



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday signed orders for the release of Afghan photographer Najibullah Musafir, the presidential spokesman said. Aajmal Abid told Pajhwok Afghan News Musafir would be released after the required formalities were met. The spokesman, however, would not ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

UAE Urged to Help Resolve Sheikh Zayed University Problems



KHOST CITY - Mohammad Rasool Bawari, the chancellor of Sheikh Zayed University (SZU) in southeastern Khost province, says the institution is making progress but needs donor assistance for further fast-track improvement. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Bawari said the university was facing with number of problems, specifically in academic, administrative and construction areas. If international organizations did not take action to resolve the ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

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