

Civilization is a method of living, an attitude of equal respect for all men.

Jane Addams (1860 - 1935)

The National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as the highest legislative organ is the manifestation of the will of its people and represents the whole nation. Article 81

Tens of thousand Commemorates Mazari

By Our Correspondent

KABUL - Tens of Thousands of People on Friday commemorated the 20th martyrdom anniversary of Abdul Ali Mazari with respect and honor.



the parliament representatives and other well-known Jihadi personalities, scholars, clergymen.

Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq has believed the useful thoughts of martyred Abdul Ali Mazari is the solutions for all the problems in Afghanistan.

While talking regarding the 31 kidnapped Hazara passengers, Haji Mohaqiq confirmed contact between government officials and representatives of the Taliban and another group for the release of kidnapped ...

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Pakistan Seeks to Cement Ties with Afghanistan



KABUL - Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has said that building stable and cooperative relations with all countries in the region, including Afghanistan, is part of his vision for a peaceful neighborhood.

Sharif said this while talking to Syed Husain Alam Balkhi, the Afghan minister of refugees and repatriation, the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad said on Thursday. With the change of leadership in Afghanistan, the two countries have commenced a historic new phase in bilateral relations, agreeing to overcome the past and build a forward-looking relationship based on mutual trust, he added.

The prime minister said his focus was on enhanced political engagement, security and counter-terrorism ...



Eyeing Islamic System, Taliban Say no Contact with Govt.



KABUL - Rejecting reports regarding talks with the Afghan government, the Taliban said on Friday they had neither contacted the authorities nor asked anyone else to carry forward the task.

Earlier reports said the government and the Taliban were preparing to hold face-to-face talks within the next few days, thanks efforts by Pakistan and other stakeholders.

Reports said the two sides had been in contact but it was the first time they would sit across negotiating table to discuss the ...

Taliban Eager for Peace Negotiations, Claims Massoud

KABUL - Ahmad Zia Massoud, the president's special representative for reform and good governance, on Thursday said the Taliban had shown eagerness to sit with the government for peace talks.

Massoud said the government was also prepared for negotiations and expressed optimism that developments in this connection would likely take place in a month time. He added members of the unity government were of ...

Civilian Casualties Decreased by 53 %

KABUL - Officials of Maidan Wardak province say that civilian casualties have been decreased by 53 % in this province.

Officials say looking at the information collected there is 53 % decrease in the civilian casualties in the year 2014 compared to 2013.

According to Maidan Wardak ...

Extremists Exploiting Local Grievances: US Official

KABUL - The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has long exploited local grievances in the region near Durand Line to sustain itself, a senior US official has said.

America's undersecretary for civilian security, democracy and human rights said extremists in Pakistan's tribal badlands also blamed weak and unpopular governments for creating feelings that encouraged terrorism.



Sarah Sewall, in a presentation on the long-term US strategy for combating terrorism, said over

the past 13 years violent extremist movements had proliferated ...

Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq

Efforts Must be Made to Prevent Religious War

KABUL - Second Chief Executive Officer of Afghanistan, Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq, stressed that terrorists are trying to spread a religious war that must be prevented as, he claims, is slowly spreading in the northern parts of the country.

While speaking at the 20th death anniversary of Abdul Ali Mazari held in Mazar-e-Sharif at the tomb of Shaheed Mazari, Mohaqiq emphasized that a



religious war is beginning to surface in the country. "There are propagandas being spread throughout ...

Afghan Educator "Top 10 Finalist" for Global Teacher Prize

KABUL - Azizullah Royesh, an Afghan educator, has been named one of the top 10 finalists worldwide out of 5,000 nominees for prestigious Global Teacher Prize of Varkey Foundation.

The award will be presented



by the former U.S. president Bill Clinton on March 16 at Global Education and Skills Forum in Dubai.

The one-million dollar award is a prize given each year by the foundation to a very special teacher, from around the world, who has made an extraordinary impact on their students and community.

Royesh, who is the founder of Marefat High School of Kabul, is leading a school which had about 4,000 students in 2011, 44 percent of which were girls. He has been teaching both boys and girls with new educational system and methods, leading a number of students get scholarships abroad for higher studies.

"I think you cannot change the perspective regarding girls' education," Royesh said who is widely known for his efforts for girls' education. "Boys follow their father's principles but they are girls who can bring ...

Senator Blames Corruption in MoPW for Salang Highway Deterioration

KABUL - The Chair of Parliament's Upper House Complaints Commission, Zalmi Zabuli, on Wednesday accused top officials at the Ministry of Public Works (MoPW), including Acting Minister Noorgull Mangal, of corruption, and demanded an immediate investigation by the Attorney General's office.

Senator Zabuli's comments came during a visit to Salang highway, which is the main transit route used to connect north and south Afghanistan. He went so far as to call the acting minister and his deputies "thieves" for stealing public money from the budget Parliament allocates for the construction and maintenance of the Salang highway every year.

"We have found the most corrupt people in the public works ministry, every year they take the budget for construction of the Salang highway, but instead of going into construction the money goes into their pockets," Zabuli said on Wednesday. "We will refer them to the Attorney General and they must be interrogated. We will tell the president that 'your public works minister along with his deputies are thieves.'"

In response to the Senators comments, Acting Minister of Noorgull Mangal has rebuffed the allegations and calmly painted the heat from Parliament as an expression of personal views. He suggested the money from the budget was in fact used for the highway, but that potentially the system of maintenance could use some improvement. "Whatever he analyzes and evaluates is his personal view; annually, we spend millions of dollars on Salang highway in order to make it possible to drive," he told TOLONews. "We know these expenses are non-economic, but until we find a more efficient solution for the road and for its reconstruction, there is no alternative." ...

Govt. Yet to Explain Electoral Reform Strategy: Nuristani

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission (IEC) chief on Thursday said 160 key positions remain vacant, as the government is yet to explain its reform strategy.

President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah agreed prior to forming the unity government to establish a commission for reforming the electoral panels.

But six months on, there is no clear sign of the proposed panel being set up by an administra-



tion that has repeatedly asserted its commitment to cleaning up the electoral system. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, IEC

Chairman Ahmad Yusuf Nuristani said the sitting commissioners could not be fired for six years. They ...

Industrialists Back Bribes Hurting Business

KABUL - Manufacturers and factory owners based in Kabul accused the Afghan National Police (ANP) guarding entry points into the capital of extorting truck drivers carrying equipment and raw materials needed for industrial operations. They claimed that unless they paid bribes, their trucks would not be allowed to enter the city.



Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has rebuffed the accusations and asserted that heavy load trucks have been barred from the city by the National Security Council in light of their common use by militant and terrorist groups. However, truck drivers and business owners have maintained the new regulation on load size and entry into the capital has simply opened up opportunities for corruption. According to a number of drivers, if one pays a 20,000 AFN bribe, then police will allow their truck to enter the city, regardless of its load.

"If the vehicle owner gives them money they are allowed to enter the city, otherwise, trucks are stopped here for days," one truck driver named Abdul Majid said. ...

Several Parliamentary Panels Get New Heads, Deputies

KABUL - A number of Wolesi Jirga commissions have held elections for appointing their administrative board chiefs, deputy heads and secretaries, an official said on Thursday.

On Saturday, the assembly entered its fifth and last legislative year and voted to elect the first and second deputy speakers, the secretary and his deputy.

Abdul Zahir Qadeer was elected as first deputy speaker, Nazir Ahmad Ahmadzai as second



deputy speaker, Abdur Rauf Inami as secretary and Irfanullah Irfan as deputy secretary. Based on the house rules of busi-

ness, lawmakers have to vote every year to elect heads, deputy heads and secretaries of the 18 ...