

Quote of the Day

When you relinquish the desire to control your future, you can have more happiness.
Nicole Kidman, in The Scotsman

Constitution

The Wolesi Jirga has the authority to set up a special commission if one-third of its members put forward a proposal to inquire about and study government actions.
Article 89

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Decision on Test for Attorneys Rejected as Unacceptable

KABUL - The Lawyer's Association on Sunday expressed its concern about President Ashraf Ghani's recent decision regarding giving attorneys a test, calling the move unacceptable. Based on the recent presidential decision, Attorney General Office staff should sit a test to ascertain their academic and professional abilities. The attorneys alleged the president's legal advisor Abdul Ali Muhammadi was behind the move and with such excuses wanted to hire his blue-eyed individuals. They claimed Muhammadi had called them "illiterate and ignorant". Lawyers' Association head Abdul



Ghafoor Ghayur said the law was clear on those seeking to become attorneys. "Criteria for becoming an attorney are lucid. He/she should be a law graduate and must have completed their probationary period..." He also criticized the president's micromangement of affairs and said he should instead focus on major national issues. If hundreds of attorneys lost their jobs, the government would face a lot of problems, he warned. The Presidential Palace, however, said there were more than 1,000 attorneys without degrees that have proven troublesome for people and judicial organs. (Pajhwok)

President, Delegation Members Perform Umrah



KABUL - After arriving in Saudi Arabia, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and his entourage performed Umrah in the holy land, the Presidential Palace said on Sunday. The president and his delegation after performing Umrah and prayers at Kabbah, prayed to Almighty Allah for durable peace, prosperity, development and stability in the world, specifically Afghanistan. Ghani and his delegation arrived in Jeddah late on Saturday. They were accorded a warm welcome by Malik Bin Abdul Aziz, the Amir of Makkah. Ghani will meet the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). During the visit the president will meet king Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, custodian of two holy mosques, on Sunday in Riyadh, the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The president was accompanied by National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Eng. Mohammad Khan, Hajj and Religious Affairs Minister Faiz Mohammad Usmani and other high ranking officials. Ghani visit to Saudi Arabia came at a time when peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban were a subject of discussion in media. Hassan Haqyar, political analyst, viewed Ghani's visit as immensely important, saying the Arabs could play a key role in Afghan peace efforts. Saudi efforts could yield positive result, ... (More on P4)... (5)

Former AG Spurns Attorneys' Exam as Indiscreet Move



JALALABAD - Former attorney-general, Abdul Jabbar Sabit, on Sunday said giving a test to attorneys was beyond the authority of the president's legal advisor. President Ashraf Ghani's legal advisor, Abdul Ali Muhammadi, has asked hundreds of Attorney General Office's staff to sit for a test to ascertain their abilities. Addressing journalists in the eastern city of Jalalabad, Sabit announced his support for the attorneys, calling the decision illegal and indiscreet. "The president's advisor summoned more than 300 attorneys for the test to ... (More on P4)... (1)

Construction Work on Almar Dam Resumes

MAIMANA - Construction work on the Almar dam in northwestern Faryab province resumed after differences between contractors were resolved, an official said on Sunday. The project, which was scheduled to be completed three years ago but only initial work could be done. The \$54 million scheme is funded by the Ministry of Water and Differences between the Khalil Zadran Company and Tajik firm Tadis caused a halt to the project. More than 30,000 hectares of land will come under irrigation with the construction of dam. Acting Governor Mohammadullah ... (More on P4)... (2)

Attiqullah Atifmal

Resolving Refugee Problems Key to Stability

KABUL - The deputy foreign minister on Sunday said resolving the problem of Afghan refugees was the key to Afghanistan's stability since they were being tooled to pressure the government. Attiqullah Atifmal, speaking during a general session of the Meshrano Jirga, said there were 7.5 million Afghan refugees living in over 52 countries. Around three million live in Pakistan and 1.5 million in Iran. According to Atifmal, the refugees were eager to return home on condition of having the opportunity to live with



dignity. "Until these refugees do not return home, we won't witness peace in the country. They are being used by these countries to pressure our government," he told senators. Minister of Refugees and Repatriation Syed Hussein Alami Balkhi told the MPs it was ... (More on P4)... (3)

King Salman Meets President Ghani

RIYADH - Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz held official talks with visiting Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani here on Sunday. During the talks, they discussed Saudi-Afghan relations and the latest Islamic and international developments, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The talks were attended by Deputy Crown Prince, Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Prince Mohammed bin Naif bin Abdulaziz and several other of-



officials, it added. The Afghan president arrived here earlier on Sunday for an official visit to Saudi Arabia aiming to push forward cooperative relations between both Muslim nations in various fields. (KUNA)

40% of New Kabul City Lands Confiscated

KABUL - The national unity government has failed to address the illegal confiscation of property previously designated for the New Kabul City project, according to Yusuf Pashtun, the president's advisor on urban development issues. Economic analyst have criticized the new government's lack of consid-



eration for the New Kabul City project, which was a major urban development project launched by the Hamid Karzai administration ... (More on P4)... (4)

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Women Remind President, CEO of Campaign Pledges



MAHMOOD RAQI - Women's rights activists in Central Kapisa and Parwan provinces on Sunday called for giving females representation in the unity government. They reminded President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah of their campaign promises to give women a proactive role in different state institutions. Parwan Women's Affairs ... (More on P4)... (6)

Tokyo Pledges \$50m in Aid to Kabul through ARTF

KABUL - Tokyo would provide \$50 million from its supplementary budget in assistance to Afghanistan through the Recurrent Cost Window of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), the Embassy of Japan announced on Sunday. The aid comes in response to an urgent request from Afghanistan, which faces severe financial constraints. The amount will contribute to the government's



operating budget to pay salaries "Japan will also provide over \$10 million to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock's ongoing National ... (More on P4)... (7)