

## Quote of the Day

New Year

*In my heart you are the mirthful ray  
You are the caring, though my companions they  
Happy is the world with the Nowruz and with the Eid  
You are both my Eid and my Nowruz today*  
Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi



### Newborn Dies in Baghlan Hospital Due to No Oxygen

PUL-I-KHUMRI - A father in northern Baghlan province claims his newborn son died at hospital due to non-availability of oxygen, but doctors rejected his claim.

The father, Abdul Hakim, told reporters in the Civil Hospital in Pul-i-Khumri that his newborn baby died last night soon after his birth as there was no oxygen in the state-run hospital.

"When he was born, he needed oxygen, first the doctor on duty was not available but when he came, there was no oxygen gas which was desperately needed, and as a result my child died," he said.

But Dr. Mirajuddin, in charge of the children section of the hospital, said the baby was born two days back and he was not in normal condition since his birth.

"His weight was less than what it should have ... (More on P4)...(3)

### Afghanistan Exports to Reach \$1b Mark This Year: Ministry



KABUL - Afghanistan's exports would exceed the volume of one billion dollars this year, when several acres of land would be distributed to industrialists in different industrial parks, an official said on 20 March.

Sameer Rasa, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, told reporters here that the increase in exports of the country, encouraging foreign investment and creating work environment and job opportunities were among the ministry's top priorities this year.

He said Afghanistan's exports reached \$875 million during the outgoing solar year and would reach one billion dollars until December.

"For this purpose the government will cooperate with industry owners, farmers, expand air corridors and encourage local production." According to Sameer, 6,200 tonnes of goods have been exported via air corridors to European ... (More on P4)...(4)

# UN Family Extends Warm Regards to Afghans on Nowruz

*The United Nations family extends warm regards to all Afghans on Nowruz as the country marks the beginning of spring and a new year.*



KABUL - "The United Nations family joins Afghans in their celebrations and shares the hope of all Afghans that the new year will bring peace across the country," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the

UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). "An inclusive peace process that ensures the representation of

all Afghans is the way towards ending the conflict." The United Nations, he said, will remain firm in its commitment to supporting the Afghan people. Nowruz Mubarak!(PR)

### Paktika Gathering Backs Afghan Forces, Stresses on Intra-Afghan Talks

*Hundreds residents in southeastern Paktika province on Thursday admired Afghan security forces for their role and sacrifices and called for intra-Afghan talks to end the almost two decades of war in Afghanistan.*



SHARAN - Addressing a gathering marking Nawruz, the first day of new solar year, Yaqub Khan Manzour, head of the Paktika Mailma civil and media organisation, said security forces

were the guardian of the country therefore the people of Paktika supported them. He said Afghan forces had been picked

from within the people and there was need for the enforcement of law therefore on the occasion of Nawruz Afghan forces had been praised and conferred with flowers.

Tribal elder Haji Sardar also announced his support to Afghan forces and asked the resident of Paktika want parties to the conflict to give preference to peace instead of fighting.

He also called on international community to support intra-Afghan talks and peace process which ensure protection, honour and independence of the people of this country. (Pajhwok)

### Ghani Stresses on Timely Elections as He Celebrates Nawroz

BALKH - President Ashraf Ghani who addressed a big crowd at the ceremony of Nawroz celebration in Balkh said presidential elections are one of the most important happenings in the New Year and that the process should not face a further delay.

The election commission on Wednesday announced September 28 as the new date for the presidential elections.

"No more delay in the presidential election is acceptable," Ghani stressed.

"The people of Afghanistan should decide what kind of future they want," Ghani said. Based on the previous timeline, the elections were supposed to be held on July 20.

Addressing a press conference, IEC Chairperson Hawa Alam Nuristani said the new amendments to the election law and some other issues are behind the decision to postpone the elections.



The ceremony in Mazar-e-Sharif city was attended by President Ghani, government officials, Afghanistan's Head of Ulema Council, Qayamuddin Kashaf, diplomats from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

### Trump Will Not Accept Bad Deal with Taliban: Us Official



WASHINGTON - According to the official, Trump will not accept any ignorance of the achievements, especially human rights and women rights, made in Afghanistan in the past 18 years during the peace negotiations.

"We are certainly prioritizing peace efforts in Afghanistan. But as with all negotiations that involve vital US national security interests, we have contingency plans. The president has indicated he hopes for the best in these peace talks, but he will also not accept a bad deal," the official told reporters at the White House on Wednesday. The Whitehouse official has warned that if the peace talks with the Taliban fail, US has other options to use, including the military option. "He also recognizes that we have vital terrorism interests in Afghanistan and he certainly is focused on keeping American safe. So we will do what we have to do to ensure those vital national security interests are protected," the official said. ... (More on P4)...(2)

### EU Gives Afghanistan €27m in Humanitarian Aid



KABUL - The European Commission on Wednesday announced releasing €27 million in humanitarian assistance for people in need in Afghanistan following devastating floods.

The amount will assist the most vulnerable families affected by devastating floods in early March which continue to affect large parts of the country. "In Afghanistan civilians continue to face the consequences of decades-long conflict and natural disasters. Our new funding will help get emergency assistance to those most in need," said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides in a statement from the EU's Civilian Protection and Humanitarian Aid Office, ECHO.

He said the new funding will provide emergency assistance for most vulnerable families across the country affected by the conflict and the drought, with a particular focus on internally displaced and returning Afghan refugees. "This includes providing food, emergency shelter, water and sanitation, protection, and medical care for the victims of war," he explained, adding the EU will also continue to provide education for children who have had to leave their schools. (Pajhwok)