

## Quote of the Day

The best way to keep children home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant--and let the air out of the tires.  
Dorothy Parker (1893 - 1967)

## Constitution

In case the decision of one house is rejected by another house, a combined committee composed of equal members of each house is formed to resolve the disagreement.

Article 100

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President Ashraf Ghani

# Sustainable Peace Remains our Key Goal

CAMP DAVID - President Ashraf Ghani on Monday refrained from making any commitment on peace talks with the Taliban, as the United States extended its full support for an Afghan-led process.

"Sustainable peace is our goal. I'm not committing to any announcements and you will be pleased when it's made," Ghani told reporters at a news conference at the end of day-long talks with top American leadership.

Secretary of State John Kerry, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and



other senior US officials met the visiting Afghan delegation at this presidential retreat.

On peace efforts, Kerry said the US believed the surest way to stability in Afghanistan and the region was for reconciliation to take place. "We believe that reconciliation should be Afghan-led, Afghan-structured, and we support the president's very important, courageous effort to try to see if that reconciliation can take place. The United States will support that in every way that we possibly can." Kerry said there were three conditions ... (More on P4)...(1)

## MoF Reports 7% Shortfall in Revenue Collection

KABUL - Despite the national unity government's previous assertions of redoubled efforts to better collect and manage public revenue streams, in the first three months of this fiscal year, the Ministry of Finance (MoF) reported rates falling seven percent behind - or two billion AFN short of - its original projections. However, ministry officials have maintained their optimism that progress in the mining and agricultural sectors will allow the government to compensate for the early lag later on in the year.

"The negative impacts of the year 1393 can still be seen on the revenues of the current year," MoF spokesman Abdul



Qader Jeelani told TOLONews on Tuesday. "We are trying to meet the remaining goal using agricultural products and mine extraction to increase our revenues."

Jeelani added that the public revenue stream seen in the first three months this year was still significantly more than what was seen in the same period last year, which bodes well for its overall ... (More on P4)...(2)

## No Plan to Dismiss Attorneys, Senators Informed



KABUL - Giving a test to hundreds of attorneys is in no way tantamount to sacking them, the Attorney General Office (AGO) said on Tuesday. More than 200 AGO staffers were examined earlier in the month and five percent of them without the required level of professionalism will be referred of the Administrative Affairs Office. But the move has come in for flak from the Afghanistan Lawyers Association, which rejected on March 15 the test as unacceptable. But authorities argue AGO staff should sit the test to ascertain their academic and professional abilities. Briefing lawmakers on ... (More on P4)...(3)

## India Extends Support to Afghan Think-Tanks

NEW DELHI - India is a successful partner of Afghanistan in helping the think-tank organizations for strategic thinking and planning. India is helping Afghanistan think-tanks in bringing real change in the lives of the people. The idea is to exchange experiences, share the challenges and bring about a change in social development. The Centre for Civil Society is a Delhi based think-tank which has partnered with Afghanistan think-tanks and is helping them in improving their livelihood. CCS partners with a large network of think-tanks called the Atlas network which brings ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Kerry Unveils \$800m New Development Partnership

CAMP DAVID - US Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday announced the launch of a \$800 million New Development Partnership with Afghanistan and re-launch of the Bilateral Commission and the Security Consultative Forum, as part of the effort to give a new direction to the bilateral relationship.

A series of announcements aimed at achieving this goal were made by Kerry following day-long discussions with the visiting Afghan delegation led by President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah at Camp David.

"The depth of our discussions



today reflects the critical nature of this moment, with Afghanistan's government of national unity now fully responsible for the security of its people and moving ahead on a reform agenda of its own design," Kerry told reporters. At the center

of the bilateral relationship was a shared commitment to security and peace and a desire to promote prosperity and social progress throughout Afghanistan, he said, adding the goals were outlined in the ... (More on P4)...(5)

## 13 Passengers Shot Dead on Kabul-Ghazni Highway

KABUL - At least 13 civilian passengers including a woman have been reportedly shot dead by unknown gunmen Monday



night on Kabul-Ghazni highway, local officials told TOLONews.

Two other civilians were critically injured in the shooting when unknown armed men stopped vehicles of passengers and opened gunfire on them in Haft Asyab area of Sayed Abad district of central Maidan Wardak province, acting governor's spokesman Abdul Majid Khogyani said.

"After the shooting, the security forces arrived in the area and began clashing with the insurgents," Khogyani said. "One of the insurgents was killed while the rest fled the area." He ... (More on P4)...(8)

## List of 16 New Cabinet Nominees Sent to Parliament

KABUL - The House of Representatives received the list of 16 new cabinet nominees on Monday, after President Ashraf Ghani squeezed in the last minute announcement that he would form a complete government just before departing for the United States for his official visit last week. According to lawmakers



in Parliament, the educational and other background documents associated with the nominees have not yet been ... (More on P4)...(6)

## MPs Raise Concerns about Daesh Presence

KABUL - The House of Representatives summoned top security officials on Monday to raise questions about security conditions around the country, including the voicing of growing concerns about the influence of Daesh in Afghanistan.

"The Taliban in Badakhshan are going to turn into Daesh members, which is very concerning," Badakhshan MP Zekria Sowda told the security officials, which included the Minister of Interior and the



acting heads of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and Ministry of Defense (Mod). "What steps will the government of Afghanistan take in

this regard?" The representatives were eager to dispel with the inconsistencies security officials have shown in their ... (More on P4)...(7)

## HRW Wants Ghani, Obama to Sideline Abusive Strongmen



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani and his US counterpart President Barack Obama should make human rights issues a key agenda item during meetings, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Tuesday.

Over the last decade, the US has provided billions of dollars to arm and equip Afghan forces, some of whom have engaged in human rights abuses, alienating local communities and fueling the insurgency. John Sifton, Asia advocacy director at HRW, said: "For more than 13 years, the US and Afghan governments have attempted to achieve security at the expense of human rights, and the effort has failed." Referring to its repeated warnings of the shortcomings of US

security strategy in Afghanistan, the group called on US and Afghan authorities to sideline abusive strongmen.

It urged the US to support Ghani's effort by tailoring aid commitments to motivate Afghan security bureaucracies to hold perpetrators accountable. The US should tie security assistance to improvements in security forces' accountability. "Violence against women remains endemic in Afghanistan, with an estimated 87 percent of women experiencing abuse in their lifetime. Obama should urge Ghani to take steps to enforce the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW Law)." HRW called the murder of 27-year-old Farkhanda by a ... (More on P4)...(9)

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