

Quote of the Day

Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment.

Baltasar Gracian

Constitution

The ministers can participate in the sessions of each one of the two houses of the National Assembly.

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Dr. Abdullah

No Election Unless System Reformed

KABUL - The Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah has warned that as long as the electoral system has not been reformed, the government would not hold any election.

In an interview with the Voice of America, President Ashraf Ghani's partner in the unity government noted that electoral reform was the only option to prevent fraud in the elections.

Pointing to the delay of upcoming Parliamentary and district council elections, Abdullah cleared that no election would be held until profound reforms are not brought to the system.

"As long as ... (More on P4)...(1)



Another Week Delay to Introduce Remaining Cabinet Picks to Parliament



KABUL - Leaders of the National Unity Government (NUG) are expected to introduce the remaining 16 cabinet nominees to Parliament next week after repeated delays, Second Deputy Muhammad Nazeer Ahmadzai said on Friday.

The news that President Ghani or one of his Vice Presidents would likely present the nomi-

nees to Parliament next Wednesday comes after officials had suggested the nominees would be introduced earlier in the week. Reportedly the assembly of documents for Parliament's evaluation was cause for the most recent delay. Lawmakers aren't expected to receive the review materials until Saturday.

"The ... (More on P4)...(2)

Ghani Discusses Taliban Threat, Afghan Development



KABUL - Delivering a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York on Thursday, President Ashraf Ghani outlined the frontline issues and challenges currently facing the country. He said that following the presidential elections the Taliban tried to collapse the new government, as has happened in countries like Yemen, but the Afghan security forces were able to thwart the Taliban's attempts.

Drawing in references to the crisis in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, President Ghani stressed that the worsening situations such countries has had a ripple effects in Afghanistan. He went on to point out his hopes and plans ... (More on P4)...(6)

Abdullah Notes Positive Change in Pakistan's Tone

WASHINGTON - There is a visible change in top Pakistani leadership's tone with regard to counterterrorism measures, but ground realities in terms of safe heavens and support to militants remain unchanged, Chief Executive Dr Abdullah said on Thursday.

"We have not seen evidence that the Taliban are not receiving support in Pakistan," Abdullah told reporters at a news conference at the conclusion of the Afghan leader's visit to Washington.

However, he did note a change in Pakistan's tone during interactions in the past few months between civilian and military leaders from the two countries. He welcomes the Pakistani Army chief's statement that the enemy of Afghanistan was their enemy as well. However, he hastened to add they had not yet seen any ... (More on P4)...(9)

Afghans, Coalition Forces Meet on Bagram Operations

KABUL - Coordination and synchronization efforts for future security operations came up for discussion at a meeting in the Bagram district of central Parwan province, the US military said on Friday.

Bagram district's administrative head Abdul Qadusi, police chief Col. Masoom Farzai and village representatives were in attendance, a statement from the military said. Discussions focused on how to decrease force protection threats, the status of current projects in the Commander's Emergency Response Programme, resourcing issues and future partnered operations. ... (More on P4)...(3)

NATO Welcomes Obama's Decision of Slowing Drawdown



WASHINGTON - NATO Secretary, General Jens Stoltenberg, announced the alliance's support of U.S. President Barack Obama's decision on slowing the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. "I welcome President Obama's decision to extend the period where US forces will remain close to 10,000 troops in Afghanistan," Stoltenberg told reporters.

He noted that the decision was a sign of strong commitment of the United States and NATO to Afghanistan. The NATO statement came after Obama assured in a ... (More on P4)...(4)

Ghani on Pakistan: We will Swim, not Sink, Together

WASHINGTON - As a result of Pakistan's military operation in the tribal region of North Waziristan, more than 200,000 refugees have crossed the border into Afghanistan, President Ashraf Ghani said on Thursday.

"This year, Pakistan is going to have its own season of fighting, and that changes the dynamic," the visiting Afghan leader told an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York soon after his arrival in Washington.

"We've already had 200,000 refugees flowing into Afghanistan as a result of the military operations. The great network



of terrorism that was centered in North and South -- from Al Qaida to Chechens, to Uzbeks and others -- is being dislocated," Ghani said.

"On Pakistan, I'm cautiously optimistic that we began a process of fundamental trans-

formation. We defined the problem -- that Pakistan has been in an undeclared state of hostilities with Afghanistan for 13 years.

"Fortunately, they've accepted this definition. We are working ... (More on P4)...(5)

Ban Ki-moon

UN Remains Committed to Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - President Ashraf Ghani met UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Thursday, agreeing on stronger ties Afghanistan is building in the region.

"The discussion focused on the stronger ties Afghanistan is building in the region, as well as the importance of trade and economic development," a UN



statement said after Ghani's first visit to the UN as president.

Consideration was given to the

need to respond to humanitarian challenges regarding displaced persons and refugees ... (More on P4)...(8)

John Boehner

Obama's Troop Level Decision "Arbitrary Political Deadlines"

WASHINGTON - The U.S. House of Representatives Speaker, John Boehner, called President Barack Obama's decision on troops' level in Afghanistan "arbitrary political deadlines," and urged for the protection of hard-won gains in the war-torn country.



After the complete transfer of security responsibilities from US-led NATO troops to the Afghan forces in 2014, ... (More on P4)...(7)

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Plan to Cut Troop Numbers by 2016 Unchanged: White House



WASHINGTON - While the pace of drawing down troops has been slowed down, there is no change in the plan to reduce the military footprint in Afghanistan at the Embassy

level by the end of 2016, the White House said on Thursday.

"What the (US) president determined is that he lengthened the ... (More on P4)...(10)

Delegation Reaches Uruzgan to Negotiate Hostage Release

TIRINKOT - A delegation has arrived in Kajran district to negotiate with Taliban militants the release of 20 kidnapped truck drivers and their helpers, an official said on Friday.

Drivers of the food-laden trucks were seized on their way from Kandahar City to Kajran three days ago. They have reportedly been taken to the Charchino district of Uruzgan.

Dost Mohammad Nayab, spokesperson for the acting governor, said that a 10-mem-

ber team of local elders and influential figures, had been sent to Kajran for talks with the militants on

He claimed the captors were ready to negotiate on the fate of the truckers and cleaners. He also confirmed the delegation was in contact with the captives. Baloch and Hazara community members are among the captives.

But Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, the Taliban spokesman, denied the captives were in their custody. ... (More on P4)...(11)



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