

Quote of the Day

Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.

Douglas Adams (1952 - 2001)

Constitution

The sessions of the National Assembly are open unless the Chairman of the assembly, or at least ten members of the National Assembly request their secrecy and the assembly accepts this request.

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Peace Talks Possibly in Afghanistan: HPC

KABUL - Speaking of an agreement on a general framework for the peace talks, the High Peace Council (HPC) members have declared that the proposed peace talks with the Taliban would likely be held in Afghanistan.

The HPC adviser for international affairs, Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar, hoped on Sunday that the Afghan government and the Taliban would come to the negotiation table "without any preconditions."

"There has been an agreement over the framework; first that both the sides would lead the talks freely and in a peaceful environment in Afghanistan, and secondly none of them would come for negotiations with any precondition," Qasimyar said.

The peace talks with the Taliban were to start in early days of March after the pro-



cess was stopped during former president Hamid Karzai's government who opposed Taliban's Qatar office; however, the month of March is coming to an end but still there is no report of development in the process. The Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, however, insisted in an exclusive interview with TOLONews that a woman would also include the panel of negotiators from Afghan government.

"It is the demand of people of Afghanistan, and as women make half of the society, they have the right to have a representative in these talks, and this will be an advantage for us," Abdullah emphasized.

But the delay in the initiation of peace talks is making the Afghan people more disappointed, a nation that is still eyeing for stable peace ... (More on P4)...(1)

Kabul Electricity to be Restored within Five Days: Breshna



KABUL - With about a month gone by since Kabul's electricity was cut down, the Breshna Company, the city's primary provider, has not been able to fix the line issues in Salang that have caused the power shortage. Nevertheless, the company's officials have said the problem should be fixed within a week.

"We need five business days - with good weather it can be done in three business days, and in the next two days we can do the wiring," Breshna spokesman Wahidullah Tawhedi said. "We will have electricity in the next five business days."

Meanwhile, officials at the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries said that Breshna had promised to reconstruct the electricity lines ... (More on P4)...(2)

Farkhanda Called Embassies before Being Lynched: MPs



KABUL - Some lawmakers on Sunday claimed that Farkhanda had contacted foreign embassies before being killed, but officials denied the assertion as groundless.

Farkhanda, 27, was killed and burnt by a mob in front of Shah Du Shamshera shrine in the heart of Kabul after she was accused of burning the Quran. Ministries of Hajj and Interior, as well as a fact-finding committee, say they have not come across any evidence of the young woman desecrating the holy book ... (More on P4)...(5)

Call to Ensure Swift Justice in Woman's Murder Case

KABUL - Fatima McKinley, the spouse of the US ambassador to Afghanistan, on Sunday asked Afghan women to seek justice for the family of last week's Kabul lynching victim.

An angry mob beat Farkhanda to death on March 18 before setting her body on fire. She was accused of burning the holy Quran - a charge rejected by the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs.

Speaking at a gathering arranged to mark the Nawroz and ... (More on P4)...(6)

Balkh Protestors Call for Crackdown on Extremism

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - University students and civil society activists on Sunday staged a protest in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital of northern Balkh province demanding drastic changes in policy of the Hajj and Religious Affairs Ministry.

The protestors condemned the killing of Farkhanda and asked the ministry to crack down on extremism and the use of religion for violence. The rally started from the RTA building and ... (More on P4)...(3)

220,000 People Killed in "War on Terror" in Afghanistan

KABUL - Following the 9/11 attacks in the United States 220,000 people have been killed during US-led War on Terror in Afghanistan.

A conservative report recently published jointly by Physicians for Social Responsibility, Physicians for Global Survival and the Nobel Prize-winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War states that in the War on Terror including 220,000 in Afghanistan approximately 1.3 million people have been killed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and



Iraq. According to the report the figure "is approximately 10 times greater than that of which the public, experts and decision

makers are aware of and propagated by the media and major NGOs. "[A]t a time when we're ... (More on P4)...(4)

Ministries Flouting Rules in Awarding Scholarships

KABUL - The acting minister of higher education on Sunday accused authorities of awarding scholarships to sons and relatives of influential people on basis of personal relations and in violation of established rules and regulations.

Muhammad Usman Babari, who was summoned by the Meshrano Jirga (Senate) to update lawmakers on the recent university entry test and award of scholarships, blasted several ministries for flouting rules. Stressing the need for complete



transparency in the entry test to uphold merit at all levels, Babari told the upper house that

lawmakers and government officials should not interfere in ... (More on P4)...(7)

LCCI Chief Points to Great Scope in Afghan Trade

LAHORE - Afghanistan is the largest export market for Pakistan after the United States, European Union and China, the president of the Pakistan's Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) noted in remarks to a delegation of Afghan journalists paying a visit



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to the LCCI on Saturday. A press release from the LCCI reported Ijaz A Muntaz as saying the potential for trade between the two countries is unlimited, and new venues have opened with bilateral trade gradually moving away from the informal to the formal sector in recent years.

Citing an example, he said Pakistan's formal exports to Afghanistan shot up to \$2.33 billion in 2010-11, from \$140 million in 2000-01.

However, with smuggling remaining a long-standing issue hindering two-way trade, the two countries must look for new channels for expansion of their formal trade, he said.

He suggested joint ventures involving Pakistani and Afghan businessmen for Pakistan to be enabled to benefit from Afghanistan's huge untapped natural resources.

Muntaz also pointed out that Afghanistan is the only country allowed by Pakistan to export its goods to India through the Wagah border, the press release said. (Agencies)

Rising Human Trafficking Fuels Concerns

TALOQAN - Human trafficking of youth and children to Iran has escalated because of poverty and government's inability to control the wrenching practice in northern Takhar province, residents complained on Sunday.

Khawja Aain, hailing from Char Toot village, said smugglers often lured boys into trafficking narcotics to Iran. People aged between 14 and 18 were used for illegal activities, he said, blaming the local smugglers for having links with cartels.

The smugglers promise them handsome cash, cars and palatial houses in return for trafficking drugs in their bodies to Iran. "Smugglers have their enablers who made group of five to 10 people for trafficking heroin, opium, hashish and other drugs to Iran."

A number of drug smugglers have been arrested in Afghanistan and put in Pul-i-Charkhi jail, according to the 60-year-old, who said scores of ... (More on P4)...(8)

Call to Ensure Swift Justice in Woman's Murder Case

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Speaking at a gathering arranged to mark the Nawroz and International Women's Day at the US Embassy in Kabul, Mrs. McKinley said: "Let's come together and seek justice for the 27-year-old Farkhanda."

The people behind her killing must be brought to justice, she stressed, saying: "Together we can fight more effectively against violence and prej ... (More on P4)...(9)

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