

## Quote of the Day

If indeed you must be candid, be candid beautifully.

Kahlil Gibran

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# 73pc of Afghans Threatened by Malaria: Minister

JALALABAD - Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz on Saturday said 73 percent of people lived in malaria endemic areas across Afghanistan, mostly in eastern Nangarhar province.

The minister was addressing a ceremony marking International Malaria Day in the capital of Nangarhar province. He said his ministry would pay special attention to reducing malaria cases in the country this year.

Malaria is a potentially life-threatening disease caused by Plasmodium parasites, which are transmitted through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.



The minister called distribution of mosquito protection nets and cheap treatment of people infected by malaria

through mobile health teams among his ministry's high priorities. "Nangarhar is a major malaria-affected

province where 71 percent of its residents are threatened by the disease, but we would decisively fight against the problem," the minister said.

Nangarhar public health director Dr. Najibullah Kamawal said 73,000 malaria cases were registered in the eastern zone last year. He said they started distributing mosquito protection nets to people in Jalalabad and 12 districts on Saturday.

Nangarhar Governor Salim Khan Kunduzi said malaria cases existed on a high level in Nangarhar and his own son was suffering from the disease. ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

## Kabul to Declare Stance on Pakistan Attacks Soon



KABUL - Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qadam Shah Shaheem on Thursday said the Afghan government would use the Afghan National Army (ANA) in responding to rocket attacks from Pakistan if other options did not yield any results. On April 23, local media reported that Pakistani forces fired nearly 300 rockets at two Afghan security posts in

a border district, killing one Afghan security personnel and injuring two others. Speaking a joint press conference with Ministry of Interior, National Security Council (NSC) and Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) officials, Gen. Saqem said Pakistan did not maintain good neighborhood with Afghanistan. About ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

## Ministry Drugs Funding Part of Afghan Insurgency



KABUL - Ministry of Counter-Narcotics said Saturday that drug production and trafficking are a key source of financing terrorism and insurgency in the country, calling for a wider military campaign to eradicate poppy fields.

The statement comes as the opium sapping process starts in various regions of the country where opium is cultivated particularly in Helmand province, a hub of drug production and smuggling in southern Afghanistan.

According to the ministry of counter-narcotics, the government so far has failed to overcome the issue of drug production and smuggling in the country, terming security threats and the rising scale of wars as two important aspects of the failure.

"Security threats are the biggest challenges, because the security forces are busy with war and it has undermined our programs for fighting opium production and eradicating the poppy fields," said Hanif Danishyar, a spokesman for the ministry of counter narcotics.

"Drugs are a funding source of terrorism. With this they (insurgents) can disrupt the stability of any region they want. They (insurgents) also force people to cultivate opium so that they can finance part of their war expenditures," Abdul Khalil Bakhtyar, head of the police anti-drug operation department at MoCN said.

Meanwhile, critics have slammed government's counter-drug policy. ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

## Pakistan and China Hold Talk to Revive Afghan Peace Process

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China have agreed to continue to work closely with the Afghan government to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The agreement over the issue was reached after a meeting between Prime Minister's Advisers on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing, according to a statement issued by Pakistan Foreign Office.

It said that the two sides realised



the importance of promoting the Quadrilateral Consultative Group (QCG) in facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconcilia-

tion process. The Foreign Office said the Chinese Foreign Minister praised Pakistan's action against terrorist groups and its sacrifices to counter terrorism. Earlier, it was reported that a three-member delegation of Afghan Taliban is in Pakistan to discuss issues of Afghan refugees and release of Taliban's prisoners. The delegation may likely explore during this visit the possibility of reviving the peace process. (WAM)

## Massoud Calls for National Resistance against Pakistan's Interference

KABUL - A top aide to President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has called for the establishment of a national resistance against the interference of Pakistan in the country, insisting that the Taliban group and other terror groups fighting in the country are slaves who are fighting for the interests of the outsiders. Ahmad Zia Massoud, the presidential envoy for better governance, said the current year will most probably be the end of the fighting for the Taliban group in the country.

He was speaking during a gathering in capital Kabul to mark the 24th victory of Mujahideen against the Soviet-backed regime in the country.



Massoud further added that Pakistan managed to create divisions in the country following the victory of Mujahideen and tried to establish a 'stooge' government in Afghanistan. However, he warned that the monopoly ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

## Wolesi Jirga Members Anguished by Child's Kidnap-Slaying



KABUL - Wolesi Jirga members on Saturday accused security officials of negligence in protecting people's lives and properties, asking the government to punish the kidnappers and murderers of 12 years old Abasin.

Abasin was kidnapped in the Kart-i-Naw area of Kabul about two months ago. A few days after his abduction, the kidnappers cut off one of his fingers. The boy was later killed after being severely tortured.

The kidnappers had sought a huge ransom from Abasin's family in exchange for his release. The body of the child was found in the Khak-i-Jabar district of the capital two days ago.

Gen. NazifaZaki, a public representative from Kabul, said:

"People's lives and assets are not safe even in the capital of the country. Everyday kidnapping incidents are reported from different areas. "If you cannot prevent terrorism, you can crack down on organised crimes," she said, addressing the government. All lawmakers wanted the government to try detained kidnappers and award them deterrent punishment, she added.

"Only a mother can feel the anguish of Abasin's family. Bringing up a child is very difficult but they are kidnapped and then brutally killed as result of the negligence of security forces," the woman lawmaker observed.

Fawzia ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

## NUG Slammed for Ongoing Delay in Bringing about Electoral Reforms

KABUL - The Election Reform Commission (ERC) and election monitoring groups on Saturday slammed the National Unity Government for its continued reluctance to implement the reform process in the election law.

They said that no body or individual is allowed to justify continued obstructions in the way of the reform process.

With government leaders exasperated with political strife and security threats, concerns however have also deepened among critics and



monitoring groups over the continued delay in the reform process, a process which is an important factor in the political agreement signed between President Ashraf Ghani and his CEO Abdullah

Abdullah in the wake of the controversial elections in 2014. While calls for the implementation of reforms in the electoral laws gathers fresh momentum, monitoring groups have also ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

## 'Elements within Govt. Trying to Sabotage Peace Process'

KHOST CITY - Religious scholars and tribal elders in southeastern Khost province on Saturday said some circles within the unity government intentionally wanted to sabotage the peace process. The clerics and elders attending a gathering here warned if attempts at sabotaging the peace process were not stopped, the people would launch a campaign against them.

The head of the Mujahideen Council, Maulvi Mohammad Sardar Zadran, told the gathering that elements within the government were creating hurdles to the peace process for their own interests.

He said these elements believed if peace returned to Afghanistan, they would be deprived of privileges they benefited from through the war.

"We call on circles who are trying to prevent possible peace talks between the government and the disgruntled Taliban, Hikmatyar group and other factions, if they continue making hurdles then all people will stand against them." He also expressed opposition to possible execution of death row ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Residents Least Bothered about Kabul Cleanliness: Officials

KABUL - Some officials on Saturday ticked off residents for evincing little interest in participating in municipality-arranged drives to spruce up the nation's capital.

The most polluted capital in the world, Kabul inhabitants' lack of enthusiasm to keep the city clean, vehicular emissions and an

absence of civic education are the main reasons behind growing pollution. Nisar Ahmad Habibi Ghorri, head of the cleanliness department at the municipality, said people had no interest in voluntarily taking part in cleaning drives. He also lashed out at the municipality for failing to motivate citizens.

He explained the municipality kicked off a cleanliness drive in every district on Thursdays and Fridays, but not a single person came forward to help workers.

Habibi said the municipality was facing a shortage of vehicles and other equipment used in cleaning the city. ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## Attack on MSF Trauma Center in Kunduz Not a War Crime: US

KABUL - The United States said airstrike on Doctors without Borders hospital in Kunduz last year was not a war crime, but it occurred due to human error, process error and equipment failures.

The US airstrike on a hospital

of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Kunduz in October last year killed 42 people and wounded several others.

Gen. Joseph Votel, Commander of the U.S. Central Command, said that the strike was not a war crime,

'because it was unintentional'.

The US Central Command released the report of its investigation into the strike on the trauma center on Friday.

"The air crew mistakenly believed that the trauma center was the Taliban-controlled building, which was about a quarter mile away. The investigation found that throughout the engagement that followed, the ground force commander and the air crew mistakenly believed that the air crew and air craft was firing on the intended target," said Votel. The US officials said ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

