

Quote of the Day

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.

Evelyn Waugh (1903 - 1966)

Constitution

The authority of the judicial organ is to attend to all lawsuits in which real individuals or incorporeal including the state stand before it as plaintiff or defendant and in its presence is expressed in accord with provisions of the law.

Article 120

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Ghani Speaks of Giving Taliban a Role in Afghan Politics

NEW DELHI - President Ashraf Ghani said in India on Thursday that despite the Taliban and other insurgent groups being anti-government, they still had a right to be part of Afghanistan's organized political system.

According to him, he is ready to speak to the Taliban and allow them to partake in the politics of the country within the framework of the constitution.

He said he would not use his position to divide and conquer but to instead use it to unify all groups in Afghanistan.

Ghani said that this applied not only to the Taliban but to any other group or person in Afghanistan that has been sidelined due to differences of opinion politically.



"What is the difference between Taliban and foreign terrorist groups? The difference is that foreign terrorists do not have a place in our politics. If they are from another country and are causing instability then we must act against them in accordance with the constitution of Afghanistan. Afghanistan's constitution has a place for all the citizens of this country. But foreign terrorist groups have challenged us all," says Ghani.

"Anyone who has a political reason for being against our government must enter the political process. This is not preferred, but rather is compulsory. With the formation of a national unity government we proved that... (More on P4)...(1)

Modi May Visit Kabul to Attend the New Parliament Inauguration

KABUL - The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit Kabul later this year to attend the inauguration of the new Afghan Parliament.



According to reports, Modi was invited by the Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani during his 3-day state visit to India this week. The Indian newspapers quoting informed sources reported that the Indian side was recently informed that as elections are drawing near, the outgoing Parliamentarians

have expressed a wish to mark the end of their term from the new Parliament building. "The Central Public Works Department (CPWD), which is carrying out the work on India's behalf, has assured Afghan officials that all work will be wound up by September 30, and the... (More on P4)...(2)

USAID Launches TB Control Programme

KABUL - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Thursday launched a new tuberculosis control programme focused on five major cities of Afghanistan.



"The infectious disease kills approximately 13,000 Afghans every year," the USAID said in a statement. It said people living in crowded urban areas were particularly vulnerable to the disease.

The agency said it would work with Afghan doctors and health workers in public and private sector hospitals and clinics through the "Challenge TB project" to improve early detection of the disease and its screening as well as expanding treatment services.

The USAID said the \$15 million programme had been launched in... (More on P4)...(4)

People's Say in Budget Preparation Stressed



KABUL - The Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA) on Thursday said annual fiscal budgets should be prepared in consultations with regional representatives and civil society groups.

Iqram Afzali, IWA chief, told reporters in Kabul budgets prepared in Kabul hardly addressed people's needs and demands. ... (More on P4)...(5)

Taliban to Hold Talks with Afghanistan in Qatar

KABUL - Qatar will host talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban aimed at ending more than a decade of bloody conflict that began following the 9/11 bombings in 2001.

The deputy chief of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, Attaullah Ludin, told Reuters on Friday that an Afghan delegation will meet Taliban leaders in the Gulf state on Sunday and Monday.

The meeting was confirmed by a Taliban official in Qatar, the news agency reported.

Afghan president Ashraf Ghani was told by Pakistan



in February that senior Taliban figures were open to talks with Kabul, but this is the first time that there has been any indication that the two sides would

actually meet.

"The open discussions are based on peace in Afghanistan. There will be representatives from Afghanistan, Pa-

kistan, the Taliban and some other organisations."

Since Ghani took over over from former president Hamid Karzai at the end of 2014 he has attempted to forge links with Pakistan - long considered to tolerate if not actually support the Afghan branch of the group - and encourage them to mediate in talks with the Taliban.

In February, Afghanistan held talks with Taliban figures, after a delegation visited Beijing. Pakistan's willingness to act as a middle man was further provoked by the horrific... (More on P4)...(3)

ICRC Concerned About Rise in Civilian Casualties

KABUL - The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Thursday said it was concerned about a rise in civilian casualties in Afghanistan after the Taliban launched their spring offensive.

"We are deeply worried by the increased number of attacks in the past few weeks and the heavy toll they have taken on the Afghan population," said Dominik Stillhart, ICRC's director of operations, during a visit to Kabul.

The Taliban launched their



spring offensive on Friday last with a huge attack on northern Kunduz province, where fierce clashes still continuing.

Stillhart said the indiscriminate

nature of an attack in Jalalabad on 18 April represented an alarming trend. The attack left at least 33 people dead and more... (More on P4)...(6)

US Military Sends Fighter Jets to Kunduz Province

KABUL - The US military has sent fighter jets to northern Kunduz province where heavy clashes took place between the Afghan security forces and the anti-government armed militants.

The militants launched a major offensive recently in parts of Kunduz province and over-



run government checkpoints close to the main city.

A US military spokesman confirmed to Reuters the jets had been dispatched to the area and said they were on a mission outside regular operations.

"We can confirm there were U.S. jet aircraft flying in the Kunduz area in the past 72 hours, no munitions dropped," the official said.

The combat mission by the NATO-led coalition security forces formally concluded last year.

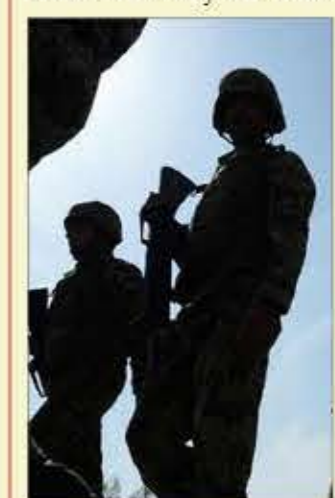
Only a small contingent of around 1,800 U.S. counter-terrorism troops are still involved in combat operations.

In the meantime, Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, said Tuesday that the security forces are moving forward in the fight against insurgents in Kunduz province. Sediqi further added that the backbone of Taliban has been broken after their commander Mullah Mustafa was killed with his group in Imam Sahib Distric... (More on P4)...(10)

222 Taliban Insurgents Killed in a Week

KABUL - At least 222 Taliban insurgents were killed during the past seven days throughout the country - with most of the Taliban casualty resulting from Kunduz battle.

Kunduz governor's media office said in a statement that only in Kun-



duz, 190 Taliban militants were killed and more than 125 others wounded during the period.

Over 30 security forces also sustained injuries during the ongoing battle, the statement added.

The Kunduz battle started a week ago when scores of militants, who Kunduz officials said included Daesh and other militants from neighboring provinces, carried out coordinated attacks in Imam Sahib, Qalai Zal, Ali Abad and some other districts.

The situation, which many feared could cause to Kunduz's collapse, is now under control after the security forces launched a massive ground operation backed by air support.

Meanwhile, a six-hour long clash between security forces and militants in eastern Khost left 25 insurgents dead and 21 others wounded.

The clash started Friday midnight in Ali Shir district when a group of 50 Taliban insurgents laced with light and heavy weapons carried out attacks on several villages.

According to provincial police, two police were killed and five others were wounded in the fighting.

In addition, eight other Taliban insurgents were killed and seven others were wounded in a separate skirmish between forces and militants in eastern Laghman.

The Taliban, however, are yet to comment on the casualties. (Tolonews)

Interior Minister Suggests Insiders behind Northern Violence

KABUL - The recent wave of militant violence in northern regions of Afghanistan prompted Interior Minister Noor-ul-Haq Olomi on Friday to assert that individuals within the government are complicit in the insurgents' gains.

Mr. Olomi refrained from naming any particular officials, but he stressed that while foreign circles and militants have been able to make advances in some parts of the country, in the north, insider double-dealing



was to blame. "The southern parts of the country became insecure because of the armed opposition, but

northern regions were made insecure by friends inside the system pursuing personal motives," ... (More on P4)...(7)

Analysts Support Continued U.S. Strikes Against Taliban

KABUL - U.S. forces stationed in Afghanistan have continued to conduct strategic missions targeting Taliban commanders in addition to remnants of al-Qaeda in the months following the end of the NATO combat mission. According to U.S. officials and independent analysts, the strikes are allowed within the framework of



the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA), which allows for flexibility in adapting to conditions on the ground.

According to officials, over the past three months, U.S. forces have conducted nearly 128 air strikes on middle-ranking Taliban commanders. The Commander of the U.S.' Resolute Mission, General John Campbell, said this week that the attacks have targeted Taliban leaders who pose the biggest threats to the Afghan forces and the remaining U.S. troops heading up training and advising in Afghanistan. General Campbell suggested that the strikes, while clearly a form of combat, are part of a kind of grey-area in the BSA signed between the Afghan government and Washington. "Combat and war and transition, ... (More on P4)...(9)

U.S. Dumps \$8.4b in Afghanistan to Fight Drugs, but Opium Production Jumped

WASHINGTON - A years-long, \$8.4 billion U.S.-funded effort to eradicate drug production in Afghanistan has failed miserably and now the war-torn nation is the world's "global leader" in opium cultivation and production, according to a federal audit.



A new report from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) revealed Thursday that opium production in Afghanistan is at

a 12-year high. "The U.S. has provided \$8.4 billion for counter-narcotics efforts in Afghanistan, and the coun-

try is the global leader in illicit opium cultivation and production," the quarterly report concluded. ... (More on P4)...(8)