

Quote of the Day

The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906 - 1945)

Constitution

Other officials and administrative personnel of the judicial branch are subject to the provisions of the laws related to the officials and other administrative personnel of the state, but their appointment, dismissal, promotion, pension, rewards and punishments are regulated by the Supreme Court in accordance with the law.

Article 124

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Mohammad Hanif Atmar

'Afghanistan's Constitution Recognition Prerequisite for Talks'

KABUL - Terming the little known Daesh a threat to national security, Mohammad Hanif Atmar, the National Security Advisor (NSA), on Tuesday made it clear the government would hold talks only with groups that accepted the constitution of Afghanistan.

He expressed these views at a briefing to members of upper house. Atmar was summoned by the Mesharano Jirga to explain government position on Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA), peace process, and presence of Islamic State (IS) fighters in Afghanistan.



He said BSA was being implemented and since last four months Afghan security forces spearheaded command of military operations in the country.

In line with the agreement, he said, the US had been extending military, training and logistic support to the Afghan forces. "US has preformed its responsibility in line with the BSA," he noted.

He said the US and some other European countries had paid \$4.9 billion for equipment of the country's 352,000 security forces and 30,000 Afghan Local Police (ALP). ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

USAID Announces \$30m Civilian Victim's Assistance



KABUL - In a fresh development, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new \$30 million program to provide immediate and tailored support to victims of conflict.

A statement from the USAID on Tuesday said that the three-year Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP) III provides humanitarian assis-

tance to innocent civilians who have suffered losses and injuries resulting from ongoing insurgency or remnants of conflict. This includes incidents resulting from unexploded mines, munitions and other hazards.

The program, the statement said would be implemented by the United Nations Mine Action Service in cooperation with ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Afghanistan, Uzbekistan Inks Accords of Mutual Interests



KABUL - In a fresh development, Afghanistan has signed cooperation agreements with Uzbekistan in areas of energy, transport, trade, and transit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said Tuesday. MoFA spokesman Shakib Mustaghni told journalists an Afghan delegation led by Shakir Kargar, president's special envoy in commonwealth countries, travelled to Tashkent last week. Kargar had signed bilateral agreements with the minister of economy of Uzbekistan.

Mustaghni said the agreements would cease restrictions on trade and transit between the two neighboring countries and Uzbekistan would have a prominent role in assisting Afghanistan with its maiden railroad projects.

Based on agreement, Mustaghni said, Tashkent would also help Kabul in surveying Hairatan-Herat railroad and with ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Only Govt. Legitimate Representative of Afghans

KABUL - Following Taliban's demand to recognize their Qatar's office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in a guarded reaction has said the Afghan government is the sole representative of people and will not accept separate entity in foreign countries. Taliban demanded a recog-



nized office for themselves to continue the peace process in a statement that followed the two days talks in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

The conference titled "Afghan dialogue" on Saturday and Sunday was organized in Doha by a Canadian based organization, ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Obama is Nominating a Gen. Dunford as Joint Chiefs Chairman

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama is choosing a widely respected, combat-hard-



ened commander who led the Afghanistan war coalition during a key transitional period during 2013-14 as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CoJCS).

Obama plans to make the announcement at the White House Tuesday, said officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly ahead of the announcement. Dunford is expected to be easily confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Dunford's service as the commandant ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

MoI

Policemen among 48 Dead in Badakhshan Clashes

KABUL - At least 13 policemen and 35 militants, including five notorious command-



ers, were killed in clashes in the Warduj district of north-eastern Badakhshan province, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) said Tuesday.

In a brazen move, militant groups staged attacks on police check-posts in Pash, Bashand, Maktab, Zao and Sufyan villages and faced with stiff resistance by the security forces, a statement released by the MoI said.

Intense clashes left 35 insurgents, including their commanders Maulvi Hassan Atta, Maulvi Ibadullah, Qari Painda and Humayun and two others commanders, dead, the statement added.

But Taliban Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed capturing 12 posts by the fighters in Bashand district. He said 32 policemen had been killed, 19 wounded and 17 others captured during the gun battle. Also, he acknowledged two Taliban had been killed and five others wounded.

Earlier, corpses of 18 border policemen had been evacuated to different hospitals of Badakhshan from where they were shifted to their hometowns through helicopters. (Pajhwok)

Doha Talks Could Pave Way for Peace Negotiations

DOHA - The recent talks behind closed doors in Doha between High Peace Council representatives and the Taliban could spell the start of



peace talks as the "environment of the meeting was that everyone wanted to move towards peace", said Ismael Qasimyar, the global affairs adviser for the High Peace Council.

The meeting was characterized from the start as a non-official meeting where all participants were free to express their personal opinions on a non-attributive basis, said international peace initiative Pugwash in a statement Monday. The organization said that the meeting was not supposed to be any sort of negotiation.

According to them, there were several presentations and interventions by people linked to the various parties and groups of Afghanistan, to civil society people (including a few women), and to people from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Thus, the discussion represented a wide range of opinions.

Their statement read: "Let us stress again that everybody in this meeting represented only him/herself and not any institution or group. Despite the differences of opinions, the climate of the meeting was cooperative, constructive and friendly."

Among those present were Afghan representatives including Atta Ludin deputy chairman of High Peace Council, Shahzada Shahed, Attaul Rahman Saleem, Asadullah Saadati, Malalai Shinwari, Waheedullah Shinwari, Faheem Hakim, Ishaq Geelani, Anwarul Haq Ahadi, Qayoum Kochi, deputy head and acting head of human rights at UNAMA, the Swedish ambassador along with a few other political figures.

From the Taliban were Sher Muhammad Abbas Stanekzai deputy head of Taliban political committee and other Taliban representatives including Shahabuddin Delawar, Muhammad Suhail Shaheen, ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Pakistan Reiterates Support for Peaceful, Stable Afghanistan



KABUL - Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif places great emphasis on strong, stable and cooperative ties with Afghanistan under his vision for a peaceful and prosperous neighborhood.

Pakistan's state-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reports: "Such ties were mutually beneficial both for Pakistan as well as Afghanistan and would enhance regional peace, trade and economic opportunities for the people of the two countries," Dar said while talking to his Afghan counterpart Ekhlil Ahmad Hakimi in Baku on Monday. ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

India Commits to Support Rebuilding of Afghanistan

NEW DELHI - Discussions at the Delhi Policy Group underscored the commitment of India to support war-torn Afghanistan to rebuild its infrastructure and economy.

The Delhi Policy Group, an independent think-tank, presented ideas and recommendations in its annual report titled 'Afghanistan 2015: The Quest for National Unity', for maintaining peace and stability in Afghanistan. The event was attended by researchers, scholars and students, including former external affairs minister Salman Khurshid.

The conference highlighted Afghanistan's economic, political and security situation and how regional powers should cooperate to help the country in attaining peace and stability. The discussion emphasized on the presence of China and Pakistan in mediating the peace process in Afghanistan. ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

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