

## Quote of the Day

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

Lao Tzu

# Lawmakers Divided Over TUTAP Route

KABUL - As a dispute continues to rage over the suggested change in the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUTAP) power transmission route, members of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) remain divided in their opinions.

A number of parliamentarians said the project should be implemented through Bamyan, while others want the power transmission line to go through Salang. "500 kilovolt power, which was expected to go through Bamyan, is the right of people and it is clear," said Khudadad Urfani, one MP.



"The issue of 500 kilovolt electricity is a human issue, it is not tribal issue, nor an issue which only belongs to Bamyan,

but it belongs to all the people of Afghanistan," said Ghulam Hussain Naseri, another lawmaker.

Other lawmakers stressed that the project should be implemented through Salang.

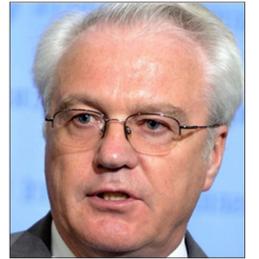
"When the electricity was expected to be generated from coal then it was said that it should be transmitted through Bamyan, now that electricity generation from coal is not possible, there is no discussion of Bamyan anymore," said Shenkai Karokhel, a lawmaker.

"Now that the implementation of the project is being hindered, do you know that World Bank or Asian Bank will accept (that the power line goes through Bamyan). Allah forbid, ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Russian UN Envoy ISIL Expanding its Activities into Libya, Afghanistan, Europe

MOSCOW - ISIL is uncontrollably expanding its zone of activity into Libya, Afghanistan and Europe, Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin said at a United Nations Security Council meeting on the situation in Iraq.

According to the Russian diplomat, increased activities of ISIL militants give grounds to doubt the efficiency of the US-led anti-ISIL coalition, TASS reported. "We completely support the Iraqi government's efforts against ISIL and note certain progress but the upsurge in



terrorist activities, especially in Baghdad, makes us grow wary and question the efficiency of the activities of the coalition which has been calling itself 'global' in the recent time due to some reason. In the ... (More on P4)...(2)

### Report

## 161 of 162 Articles of Constitution Have Been Violated



KABUL - A study by Freedom House has found that out of 162 articles of the constitution, 161 of them have been repeatedly violated over the past 13 years.

According to the findings the constitution is mostly violated by the Presidential Palace, ministers, high ranking officials and governors.

The report shows the only article that has not been violated is article 21 which states that Kabul is the capital of Afghanistan.

"Those in the Presidential Palace, high ranking officials, ministers, governors, deputy ministers, commanders and strongmen are the top violators of the constitution," said Ali Aqa Mazidi, a senior researcher at the organization.

Findings of the study shows that of 113 laws suggested by the constitution, only 45 of them have been created and this issue has paved the way for corruption.

"Other laws are very important to be created. For instance, the lack of laws over the authorities of ministers has led to an increase in corruption and bureaucracy," Mazidi added.

Although the Presidential Palace did not come up with a clear response to the finding of the study, it did stress on government's efforts to strengthen rule of law ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Afghanistan to Receive 12 MD-530s Upgraded with Rocket Pods from US



KABUL - The Afghan Air Force (AAF) will receive 12 additional MD-530 helicopters from the United States upgraded with the rocket pods.

According to the AAF officials, the delivery of the helicopters will begin in next month and will be completed over a period of 3 months.

The commander of the Afghan Air Force General Abdul Wahab Wardak said four helicopters will be each months from June to August.

The US army reportedly awarded a contract worth \$13.2 million to add the seven-tube M260 launcher for the 70mm (2.75 inch) rockets to MD-530Fs to be supplied by the United States to the Afghan Air Force.

According to the reports emerging in mid-2015, 19 helicopters in total will have the rocket system added to the Mission Equipment Package (MEP) that already features twin FN Herstal 12.7 mm (.50 cal) Heavy Machine Gun Pods (HMPs).

MD-530F helicopters are designed for high altitude and/or hot weather operations to provide close-air support to the ground forces.

Meanwhile, the AAF officials said they have so far received 9 A-29 Super Tucano fixed wing light attack aircraft from the United States as well as surveillance unmanned aerial vehicle which are expected to further boost the capabilities of the Afghan forces. (KP)

## Govt's Failure to Eliminate Militants a Historical Mistake: Rabbani

KABUL - Minister of Foreign Affairs Salahuddin Rabbani lashed out at government on Saturday for its failure to eliminate insurgents.

Speaking during a trip to Badakhshan, Rabbani said government's negligence in the war on terror was a historical blunder.

Rabbani urged people to mobilize against terrorists. He described the situation in Badakhshan as shocking and warned that if the National Security



Council does not take timely action to suppress militants, it will be a big mistake. "If the central government does not take action against

terrorists in Badakhshan, it would be a great mistake. However, I assure you that the central government is also ready to defend this province and I will take your complaints to the National Security Council," he added.

The provincial governor, Faisal Begzad, meanwhile said that al-Qaeda is orchestrating the war in Badakhshan.

"Al-Qaeda is leading the war in Badakhshan and the group is trying to bring insecurity to the province. ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Mohaqiq, Nabil Meet Ata Mohammad Noor



KABUL - Deputy CEO, Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq and the former Afghan Intelligence Chief, Head of the National Directorate of Security, Rahmatullah Nabil met with Balkh acting governor Ata Mohammad Noor on Friday.

The meetings discussed ongoing situation of the country, expressing concerns regarding the latest upheavals and deteriorating situation.

Mohaqiq warned to halt cooperation with the government if the 500kV TUTAP power project is implemented through Salang which was originally expected to pass through central provinces including Bamyan. Both Noor and Nabil earlier slammed the government for changing the route of the project insisting that the balance and justice should be considered in ... (More on P4)...(5)

## US Panel Endorses Bill to Withhold \$450m

WASHINGTON - A US congressional panel has endorsed a draft bill that seeks to block \$450 million in aid to Pakistan for failing to take action against Afghanistan's militant Haqqani Network.

The National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2017, approved last week by the House Armed Services Committee, questions Pakistan's commitment to stopping militants from using its territory for conducting attacks. Through an amendment to the original draft, the panel limits the amount available for

reimbursement to \$1.1 billion, of which \$900 million would be for Pakistan. The provision, however, has to go through several other channels, including the Senate and a joint session, before it is adopted. The amount is separate from the \$742m the US State Department is seeking for Pakistan as foreign assistance. Part of this amount is considered reimbursement of the money Pakistan spends on monitoring the Afghan border. Congress had withheld \$350m from last year's defence authorisation, ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Critics Push Ghani to Start Implementing His Promises

KABUL - Political commentators on Saturday said that Afghanistan is changing under President Ashraf Ghani, arguing that he has failed to deliver on campaign promises he made to the nation during elections.

They termed the president's economic, security and peace policies as awful, calling for more robust and practical steps be taken to tackle national challenges.

These statements come as the nation grapples with severe insecurity, an economic recession, inflation, unemployment and illegal

migration. Critics say that Ghani has been very weak in terms of governance and that he spends too much time at unnecessary public events - which, they say, as president, he does not need to attend. Critics have said he should instead spend more time in his office attending to issues of critical importance.

In over 18 months, since the establishment of the national unity government, both Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah have failed to deliver on most promises ... (More on P4)...(8)

## Wolesi Jirga Seeks End to Acting Official Culture



KABUL - Seeking an end to the culture of officials serving in acting capacity, the Wolesi Jirga on Saturday asked the government to introduce the acting heads of security sectors to the lower house for a vote of confidence as soon as possible.

Two days earlier, Gen. Abdullah Khan was appointed as acting defence minister and Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai as acting National Directorate of Security (NDS) chief.

Stanikzai was nominated as defence minister-designate last year, but he failed to win a trust vote from the lower house and then reappointed as acting defence minister.

Wolesi Jirga's deputy speaker Irfanullah Irfan told reporters that he hoped the acting officials would be introduced

soon to the house for a vote of confidence and the culture would be brought to an end.

He said it would be a matter of concern for the parliament and the people if the security organs' heads continued in acting capacity.

The Afghan forces would definitely fight with a higher morale once bosses obtained a vote of confidence from parliament, he added. Mirdad Khan Najrabi, who heads the Wolesi Jirga commission on internal security, meanwhile, asked the government to translate into action its slogans on meritocracy.

He also asked the president to introduce his nominees for heads of key security organs to the Wolesi Jirga for a trust vote. (Pajhwok)

## Coalition Forces Supported Afghan Troops in RS Role in Raid on Taliban Prison

KABUL - The coalition security forces supported the Afghan Special Forces during a raid in southern Helmand province which resulted in release of over 60 hostages from a Taliban-run prison.

"Afghan Special Security Forces liberated over 60 prisoners from an illegally run Taliban prison in Bar Now Zad Village in Now Zad District of Helmand Province last night," a statement by the NATO-led Resolute Support mission said. The statement further added that the Ktah Khas, Afghanistan's national-level counter-terrorism unit, and an Afghan Army Commando unit jointly



conducted this successful mission. "Coalition Forces supported their Afghan partners in a Train, Advise and Assist role."

The raid occurred during the cover of darkness via helicopter assault, conducted by the Afghan Special Mission Wing (Unit 777), in an effort to disrupt Taliban activities, the al-

liance said. It also added that two insurgents were killed during the operation, and numerous were wounded and detained. "The liberated prisoners were safely transported to Kandahar where they were turned over to the appropriate Afghan authorities. The Afghan Special ... (More on P4)...(9)