

Quote of the Day

The wisest mind has something yet to learn.

George Santayana

US (Spanish-born) philosopher (1863 - 1952)

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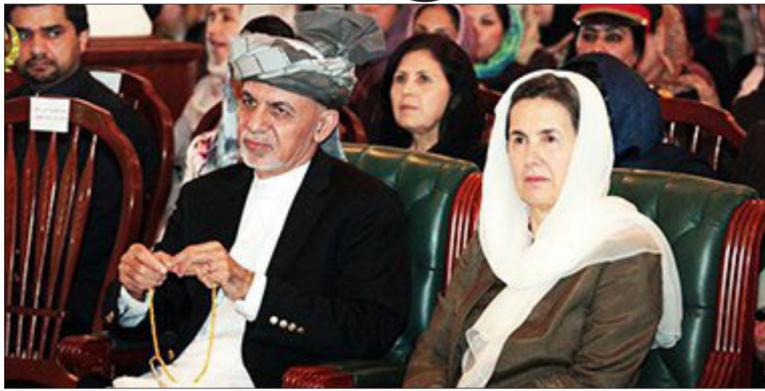
No Compromise on Constitution, Women's Rights: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday stressed women's increased role in the society and protection of their achievements made over the past more than one decade.

The president was addressing an international symposium on Afghan Women Empowerment here. Ghani made it clear that no compromise would be made on the country's Constitution.

Government officials, foreign diplomats and representatives of donor countries were among the participants who pledged continued assistance to women empowerment.

"Today is a special day, Afghan women's voice and determination is heard by the international



community. Today women in Afghanistan are in the leadership, they are ministers, ambassadors, judges, police officers and taking part

in socio-economic development of the society more than the Afghan men," he said. The president said Afghan women believed in

the country's Constitution and Islamic fundamentals.

He stressed the need for protection of women's work and achievements made in connection with their rights during the past 14 years.

"Afghan women don't want a return to the Stone Age. They want progress equal to men and an equal and multidimensional role in the country's development," the president said.

He said it was a good omen both Afghan men and women had come to the conclusion that there was no place for extremism in the society and they had rejected such thoughts.

The president called as vital women's... (More on P4)...(1)

Norway Pledges \$24mn for Humanitarian Aid



KABUL - The Norwegian government has pledged to double humanitarian aid to Afghanistan to help meet the nation's urgent needs.

Foreign Minister Borge Brende announced Saturday that Afghanistan would receive USD 200mn in humanitarian aid in 2016.

The aid is for food, water, sanitation, shelter, health care and children's schooling. It will also help

cover the costs of emergency needs for the internally displaced.

Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest countries, has experienced armed conflict for almost 40 years with more than a million people displaced by the war.

The U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says between January 1 and April 30 this year, ... (More on P4)...(2)

India Pledges US \$1 Million for Afghan School



KABUL - India has pledged US \$1 million for modernisation and teachers' training at a prestigious school in Afghanistan as part of its long-standing support to the war-torn country's education sector.

India has decided to grant the financial assistance of US \$1 million to the school over a period of 10 years, in pursuance of India's long-standing support to Habibia School in Kabul, the Indian Embassy in Kabul has said in a statement.

The school is one of the largest and most reputed schools in Afghanistan. It was established in 1904 by King Habibullah. An Indian, Dr Abdul Ghani, was the school's first principal.

The funds will be utilised for replacement of electricity transformers and related works, immediate civil repairs, modernisation programme and annual routine maintenance. To administer this assistance efficiently and in a transparent manner, a Memorandum of Understand (MoU) was signed on Wednesday between Embassy of India in Kabul, Ministry of Education, Afghanistan and Habibia High School.

The MoU was signed by Ambassador of India Manpreet Vohra, Minister of Education Assadullah Hanif Balkhi and Principal of Habibia School Sayed Shah Lala Bakawly. Under this assistance, electrical works including ... (More on P4)...(5)

Indian Envoy

Salma Dam to be Inaugurated Soon



KABUL - Indian ambassador to Afghanistan, Manpreet Vohra, during his visit to Salma Dam in Cheshat district on Saturday said that construction work has been completed and the dam will soon be inaugurated by Afghan and Indian leaders.

He said that this one project cannot resolve all the problems, but more projects are needed to be implemented.

"One single project will never solve all problems, but it's an important project, which solves an important issue in this part of Afghanistan which is the provision of electricity and provision of irrigation potential. We hope that with economic development, with progress there would be even stronger stakeholders in this region," Vohra said. Construction work at the dam was expected to be completed in 2014, but due to insecurity it was not built in time.

According to Deutsche Welle, Salma Dam is the biggest infrastructure project designed during Daud Khan's period and 25 percent of construction was completed during this time, but was stopped after the wars.

After the Taliban were ousted in 2001, the new government termed Salma Dam its first construction project. The dam took almost nine years to complete. (Tolonews)

Lawmakers Urge Early Approval of President Decree

KABUL - A number of lawmakers on Saturday expressed concern over the unknown fate of a presidential legislative decree on the composition, duties responsibilities and powers of the two election commissions, stressing a prompt approval of the decree.

Under the decree, the selection committee, tasked with nominating members of the two electoral bodies, would be



comprised of as members heads of both houses of parliament. Others members would Supreme Court judge and representa-

Afghan, Croatian Leaders Discuss Insurgency, Bilateral Ties

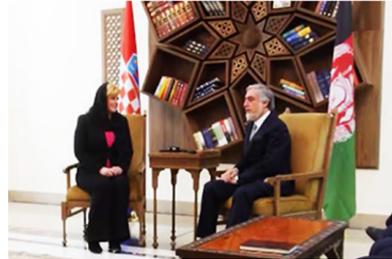
KABUL - Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović and Afghanistan's Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah held talks Saturday in Kabul over key issues of common concern, including war on terrorism, Croatian-Afghan ties and the Afghan forces and their struggle against insurgents on the battlefields.

Grabar-Kitarović hailed Afghan security forces for their strong commitment to fighting the Taliban and insurgents and said that she has strong faith in their abilities to foil plots by the terrorist groups.

In addition, the Croatian leader reaffirmed her country's continued support to a politically stable Afghanistan, calling on the international community to reconsider the presence of international forces in Afghanistan without consider-

ing a calendar.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah hailed the presence of Croatian troops in Afghanistan within the structure of NATO. ... (More on P4)...(4)



50 Afghan Prisoners Released in Pakistan



KABUL - The authorities in Pakistan have released at least 50 Afghan prisoners from a prominent jail in Rawalpindi, thanks to efforts by the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad.

The Afghan Embassy in Islamabad in a statement said the embassy was able to get released another 27 prisoners from Adiala Jail last week after having released 22 prisoners last month.

A source in the Embassy told Pajhwok Afghan News after the appointment of Omar Zakhilwal as the new Afghan ambassador, many issues of Afghan prisoners had been resolved and efforts at facilitating them launched.

A lot of Afghans were recently arrested in Pakistan for lacking legal stay documents and were sentenced to three years in jail. The Afghans were arrested in Islamabad, Murree, Texala and Rawalpindi cities, the source added.

The Adiala Jail didn't give permission to anyone to meet prisoners but the Ambassador with permission from the Pakistan Ministry of Interior entered the jail and met with prisoners, the source said.

He said the Afghan Embassy also provided the prisoners with blankets, clothes and other necessary things. (Pajhwok)

Citizens Urged to Help Improve Kabul-Islamabad Ties

KABUL - A number of civil society activists and political analysts from Pakistan held a debate at the Peshawar Press Club where they called on citizens of Pakistan and Afghanistan to help improve Kabul-Islamabad relations.

They said the people of both countries want improved relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and that they should leave no stone unturned to help in this regard. "We will try to first ensure security in our country and then pave the way for people-to-people talks in order to support peace in Afghanistan," said Zainab Khan, a civil society activist in Pakistan.

Another activist from Pakistan, Farman Khan, said: "The relations between the two countries have become strained at a government level and we should try to improve ties in collaboration with people from the two nations."

"Afghan and Pakistani people should cooperate in peace and security with one voice and help ensure a peaceful environment in the two countries," said Pakistani activist Alamez.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's Consul General in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Abdullah Waheed Poyan, who also attended the gathering, welcomed the move and said the consultant will spare no efforts to help this initiative. "Terrorists are not a threat only to Afghanistan; they have affected the public and activists from the two countries should try to improve Kabul-Islamabad relations and also help in boosting security in the two countries," he said.

Participants at the event urged citizens of the two countries to put all their efforts into enhancing Kabul-Islamabad ties. (Tolonews)

Officials Troops Closing in on Center of Marjah

LASHKARGAH - Security forces have captured areas close to the center of Marjah district of southern Helmand province, said security officials.

They said that Afghan forces have made tangible gains against militants in the 'Khanjar 13' military operation.

Officials at 215th Maiwand military corps said that security forces have regained control of most areas of Marjah district from the Taliban.

They said that at least 15 Taliban militants have been killed in the fighting and that Afghan forces have moved 13 kilometers forward since the beginning of the operation.

"The operation was launched two days ago and as you see we are moving forward and we have good coordination. In this operation we are trying to avoid civilian casualties," said Hanifullah Ahmadzai, an official at 215th Maiwand military corps.

Saida Jan, another official at the military corps, said that the main problem they are facing is that Taliban are using civilian houses as hideouts.

"Taliban have taken position inside civilians' houses and have planted lots of landmines, despite this we are moving forward and have inflicted heavy casualties on the Taliban," he added.

"We have moved forward and we are trying to clear Marjah district of the Taliban and we will defend our country till the last drop of our blood," said Ahmadzai, an army soldier.

"The main problem is that the Taliban have holed up inside civilian houses and they have planted landmines, that's why the pace of our operation is slow," said Siyar Ahmad, another soldier.

Security troops, who launched the Khanjar 13 military operation, have urged the Taliban to join the peace process or be eliminated. (Tolonews)

Afghan Cyclists Take Message of Peace to UN Headquarters

NEW YORK - On a round-the-world trip to promote peace, that included cycling over 11,000 km from Istanbul, an Afghan father and son ar-



rived Friday morning at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the final destination of the first leg of this epic journey.

Calling their mission, which has so far crossed three continents, "a journey of peace and solidarity," Nader Shah Nangarhari and his son Firoz Khan began their journey in July 2015.

They met with Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, presenting him with a traditional Afghan 'Chapan' coat.

"You have been sending out a strong message to many people around the world with your bicycling. It's a very powerful message. I really appreciate it," Ban told the cyclists.

The pair said they hope that their ... (More on P4)...(6)

First 4-Day Match Between ADS, HBL Ends in Draw

KABUL - The first 4-day match between Afghan Development Squad (ADS) and Pakistan's Habib Bank Limited (HBL), a visiting cricket team, ended in a draw on Saturday.

The match was hosted by Afghanistan.

The HBL team won the toss and decided to bat first. In the first inning, which continued till noon of the second day, the team managed to score 507 runs with Imam-ul-Haq making 131 runs, Noman 130 runs and captain of the team, Imran Farhat, 85 runs.

In bowling, Afghan bowler Zahir Khan Pakhtin took six wickets.

ADS, in its inning, which continued till noon on the fourth day, scored 615 runs but lost all wickets.

Naser Jamal scored 205 runs, Jawed Ahmadi 149 runs, Afsar Zazai 85 runs and Rahmat Shah 80 runs. ADS with a difference of 108 runs was in the lead. But on the fourth day ... (More on P4)...(7)