

Quote of the Day

The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts.

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus

Constitution

The structure, authority, and activities of the Attorney's Office are regulated by law. Discovery and investigation of crimes related to the armed forces are regulated by a special law.

Article 134

Reg: No 352

Volume No. 3020

Saturday May 23, 2015 Jawza 02, 1394

www.outlookafghanistan.net

Price: 15/-Afs

President Ashraf Ghani

Parliamentary Elections a Serious Challenge for the Government

KABUL - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani told delegates attending an International Contact Group meeting at the Presidential Palace early Thursday that the task of holding parliamentary elections was a serious challenge for the National Unity Government (NUG) and that government needed time in which to bring about electoral reforms.

The cornerstone to Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah's



NUG agreement was the condition of fundamental reforms in the electoral system.

However, Ghani said: "This is a must. We have a consensus on it. We can be fairly certain the 2019 presidential elections would meet all the critical requirements on transparency and accountability," he said.

Parliamentary elections are a very ... (More on P4)...(1)

Whereabouts of 12 Remaining Hostages Still Unclear



KABUL - The whereabouts of the 12 remaining hostages kidnapped almost three months ago while traveling along the Kabul-Kandahar highway is still unknown -

14 days after the release of 19 of the 31 bus passengers. A number of the families of the 12 hostages are still however camped out at ... (More on P4)...(2)

Ghani Names Stanekzai as Defense Minister Nominee

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday announced his nomination for

sue.

In addition, he said he had interviewed numerous people for the positions of High Court judges and that he would make an announcement on this soon.

Ghani also spoke about the importance of action by the Cabinet and said government was headed up by professional people who need to make sure actions follow promises.

He also promised a transparent presidential election in 2019. After announcing Stanekzai as ... (More on P4)...(4)



the post of Minister of Defense - Masoom Stanekzai. Speaking at the opening of the International Contact Group meeting at the Presidential Palace early Thursday, Ghani also spoke about the importance of appointing provincial governors but said appointing the right person was critical to this is-

Over 4,000 Hindus and Sikhs Granted Indian Citizenship

NEW DELHI - Over the past one year, the Narendra Modi-led government has granted Indian citizenship to over 4,200 Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan and Afghanistan which is nearly four times the number of the preceding five years.

Figures at the end of April 2015 showed that the BJP government approved citizenship for 4,230 Hindus and Sikhs from the two countries who have sought refuge in India. This was in stark contrast to the 1,023 granted by the Congress-led UPA-II. BJP had declared its aim of positioning India as a refuge for Hindus fleeing persecution anywhere in the world and the increase in these grants seem to fall in line with their aims.

In its election manifesto for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had declared India as "a natural home for persecuted Hindus" who "shall be welcome to seek refuge". "The numbers of those granted citizenship are minuscule as compared to the country's population. Government has taken a call resolve the problems being faced by people of Indian origin who in anyway were staying in the country for long," a home ministry spokesperson said. As the home ministry steps up efforts to expedite long-term ... (More on P4)...(6)

Salahuddin Rabbani Afghanistan Still Faces Daunting Challenges

KABUL - Minister of Foreign Affairs on Thursday said security challenges had overshadowed all major achieve-

ments of Afghanistan in recent years. Speaking at 16th meeting of International Contact Group (ICG) here in Kabul, Salahuddin Rabbani expressed



ments of Afghanistan in recent years. Speaking at 16th meeting of International Contact Group (ICG) here in Kabul, Salahuddin Rabbani expressed

gratitude for international community's investment and sacrifices in Afghanistan. He said Afghanistan was

passing through a critical juncture in history and many challenges had successfully been completed amid security transition and a democratic power transfer. Rabbani said Afghanistan passed through challenges with the help of friends who remained committed to their promises for lasting peace, stability and independence of the country. Rabbani's comments came after a two-day NATO foreign ministers conference in Turkey's Antalya decided the alliance would stay in Afghanistan beyond current mission after 2016. Rabbani said Afghanistan had many achievements in the last decade in education, economy, health care, human rights, improvement of women's situation and governance, but it was the challenge of insecurity that had ... (More on P4)...(5)

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NSC, NDS Work in Tandem to Preserve National Interests

KABUL - The National Security Council (NSC) and the National Directorate of Security (NDS) on Thursday categorically dismissed the allegations regarding disagreements between the NSC Advisor Haneef Atmar and the NDS General Rahmatullah Nabeel.

"Rumors are running on some national and international media outlets, quoting dubious, unidentified sources, alleging disagreements between the National Security ... (More on P4)...(3)

President Ghani Calls for Regional Cooperation

KABUL - Addressing the 16th meeting of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan, President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday called for cooperative efforts to combat threats emerging from Daesh militants in various parts of the country. In the same turn, however, the president sought to assure the gathering that Afghanistan would not devolve into a conflict of the kind seen in Iraq and Syria.

Focusing around the security theme of the meeting, Mr. Ghani expressed confidence that no province or districts in Afghanistan would collapse into the hands of Daesh-affiliates. "Daesh has come out for a rivalry with al-Qaeda. However both groups are determined to create



instability in the world," Ghani told the assembled crowd of ambassadors and ... (More on P4)...(7)

Official No Intelligence Deal Signed with Pakistan

KABUL - A senior government official on Thursday said Afghanistan had not signed any agreement with Pakistan in area of intelligence, but the draft of such a deal had been prepared. Voices of concern were raised after the Afghan spy agency, the National Directorate of Security or NDS, and the Pakistani spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence or ISI, concluded a memorandum of understanding on intelligence cooperation last week. Najibullah Manali, media and culture advisor at the National Security Council



Manali, who added if the answer was in negative, the government would not further ... (More on P4)...(8)

Nangarhar Residents Voice Concerns over Security Issues



JALALABAD - A Nangarhar tribal chief Shan Pachah Shinwari said on Thursday evening that most of the province has come under Daesh control and government is being accused of ignoring the problem. In addition, it emerged that serious clashes have been the order of the day for at least a month and that out of 22 districts, only five or six are still under government control. The rest are now controlled by Daesh. This grim picture emerged during Shahpoor Bakhtyar's Tawde Khabare (Hard Talk) current affairs show that was broadcast Thursday night at 10pm.

The guests on the show were all Nangarhar residents and included Shinwari, Zabiullah Izdari a member of the provincial council, Noor Agha Zwak a civil society

activist and Qazi Ismael Azad another civil society activist. All four guests concurred that Daesh has emerged as the strongest insurgent group in the province. However, contradicting statements emerged with Izdari saying that Daesh mistreats the locals and kidnaps them but Shinwari disputed this, saying Daesh is actually treating the people well. According to Shinwari, Daesh has told the locals that they are not targeting government employees or civilians but only Pakistani Intelligence Services (ISI) agent. He said Daesh also claims that the Afghan National Army troops are not being targeted. Shinwari said because of this, Daesh is attracting large ... (More on P4)...(9)

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