

Quote of the Day

An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

Constitution

The central administration is divided into a number of administrative units, each of which shall be headed by a minister.

Article 136

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Ibrahimi Stresses Parliamentary Polls Date be Specified

KABUL - The speaker of Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Monday said president had promised him that date for parliamentary elections would be specified soon.

Last week President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said electoral reforms was a necessity, calling the upcoming polls a challenge.

The unity government leaders agreed to reform poll panels, before formation of the government. The reforms commission has not started work so far and the parliamentary elections that were due to take place this month has been postponed due to lack of funds.

Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi, Wolesi Jirga speaker speaking at a general session, said: "In a meeting that I had with the president, he said that in consultation



with you we would specify a date for the elections." He urged both the leaders to specify

the date soon so that people's and representatives' concerns should be put aside.

Javed Faisal, deputy spokesman for Chief Executive Officer (CEO), told Pajhwok Afghan News: "Without reforms there will be no elections," adding that people and international community wanted electoral reforms to take place in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, some lawmakers complained that the newly-appointed ministers did not take their demands seriously.

"Those ministers, who took vote of confidence, were oblivious to the demands of people's representatives. They say that after a month our period would be over and we would also become acting lawmakers," said Abdul Rahman Rahmani.

"There are whispers that after a month the Wolesi Jirga would also become illegitimate. ... (More on P4)...(1)

Ahmad Zia Masood Wrangling Among Leaders Hampering Development



KABUL - Ahmad Zia Masood, president's special envoy for reforms and good governance, has acknowledged wrangling between leaders of unity government is leaving negative impact on development of the country. Speaking to reporters here on Monday, he said the officials were involved in distribution of resources on equal bases for the past eight months. He said in other countries there was a system in which individual changes but the system remained intact but the case was different in Afghanistan where the system witnessed great changes with the new faces coming. ... (More on P4)...(2)

DAB Fluctuation in Afghan Currency Temporary

KABUL - Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) on Monday said fluctuation in Afghan currency had external reason and was temporary, asking people not to be worried about.

After the new Afghan currency was printed 12 years ago, it saved its steady price against dollars between 48 to 52 Afghanis.

In the last two years, however,



Afghan currency has lost its value against foreign currencies, while two days back one dollar was exchanged for 60.60 Afghanis.

Khan Afzal ... (More on P4)...(3)

Heart of Asia Moot Stresses Peace, Security in Afghanistan

KABUL - Pakistan on Monday hosted Senior Officials Meeting of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process and there was convergence of views that peace, security and stability are essential for socio-economic development and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region.

"Therefore, the countries and organizations recognized the need to collectively strive for the attainment of these objectives to create a win-win situation for all," a statement from the Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The meeting was co-chaired by Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, foreign secretary of Pakistan and Hekmat Khalil Karzai, deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan.

"In-depth discussions were held on assessment of security situation in Afghanistan and the Heart of Asia Region; Afghanistan's peace and reconciliation process and role of the region in this process as well as regional priorities for economic connectivity, including regional projects like CASA-1000, TAPI gas pipeline and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor," the ... (More on P4)...(6)

MPs Concerned Over Claims Govt. Arming Civilians

KABUL - Legislators in parliament on Monday claimed that government is arming civilians in some northern regions of Afghanistan in order to help fight insurgents. According to lawmakers, the government's move could be useful in some instances but the move could also create bigger challenges for government in the long term.

In response to these concerns, the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI) has dismissed the claims saying these allegations are untrue.

"The ministry of interior doesn't



provide weapons to the individuals who do not work in the structure of police and it is not part of the policy of the Ministry of Interior. We have enough ... (More on P4)...(4)

Ministry to Consider Next Move if India Cancels Mining Deal

KABUL - If the Indian consortium cancels its investment on the Hajigak mine, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum has said that a decision will be made regarding their bank guarantee.

Officials at the Ministry of Mines have said that although



there are rumors of the consortium canceling the contract the Indian group has not officially cancelled the agreement yet.

Meanwhile, economic analysts have said that the cancellation is due to lack of work from ... (More on P4)...(7)

Obama to Mark Memorial Day but Questions Linger Over Afghanistan Troops

WASHINGTON - Proclaiming "the first Memorial Day since our war ended in Afghanistan", President Barack Obama prepared to pay an annual visit to Arlington National cemetery Monday as

questions lingered about the role of the nearly 10,000 US troops expected to remain in Afghanistan into the next year.

In March, the White House announced a ... (More on P4)...(5)

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