

Quote of the Day

The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, as in what direction you are moving.
Oliver Wendell Holmes

Constitution

The government, while preserving the principle of centralism, shall - in accordance with the law - delegate certain authorities to local administration units for the purpose of expediting and promoting economic, social, and cultural affairs, and increasing the participation of people in the development of the nation.

Article 137

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Taliban Capture 50 Security Force Posts in Uruzgan

TRINKUT - At least 50 Afghan security force posts have been captured by Taliban over the past few days in Uruzgan province, local officials said Thursday. A Meshrano Jirga (Upper House) senator Mohammad Hanif Hanafi confirmed the incident said the outposts were seized by the Taliban during attacks in Deh Rawud and Khas Urozgan district of the province. Hanafi said that at the moment ten other posts - with more than 50 security soldiers in them - are under attack by the Taliban. According to Hanafi a number of soldiers from the posts have committed suicide out of fear of being taken hostage by the Taliban. In addition, at least 37 Afghan security force members, including soldiers and police, were earlier reported to have switched sides and joined ...*(More on P4)...*(4)

ARC

Police in Collusion with Drug Peddlers

KABUL - The Afghanistan Reform Council (ARC) on Thursday said drugs were being sold in capital Kabul openly, alleging that police was in connivance with those involved in the illicit business. Sayed Rahmatullah Nahzatyar, ARC head, said police and other influential figures were cooperating with drug sellers in Kabul. "Drugs are being sold few steps away from police checkpoints in public." In a statement issued by ARC, the government has been urged to curb this grave social issue. Rehabilitation of addicts in Kabul, specifying drug production centres, detaining the sellers, and supporting rehab centres were some of the demands made in the statement. Mohammad Ayub, one of the addicts, said they received drugs from ...*(More on P4)...*(5)

Ghani for Atmosphere of Trust between NDS, ISI



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani said an atmosphere of trust should be created between the premier spy agencies of Afghanistan and Pakistan, asking parliament to appoint a delegation to evaluate a controversial agreement between the two agencies. A statement from the Presidential Palace said the president met with Wolesi Jirga members, including Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahimy, last night. The president explained the political and overall situation of the country and progress so far made in connection with international ...*(More on P4)...*(1)

Rabbani Urges OIC to Support Stable Afghanistan



KABUL - Afghan Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani has said Muslim countries should re-double their efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Addressing Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'s foreign ministerial meeting in Kuwait on Wednesday, Rabbani said Muslim countries needed ...*(More on P4)...*(2)

Rula Ghani Avoids Politics, but Tackles Women's Issues Head on

KABUL - First Lady Rula Ghani has said that her involvement in her husband's administration is not a sign of her interest in politics, but rather emblematic of her desire to serve Afghan women and demonstrate their courage and determination. In an exclusive interview with the Associated Press (AP), Mrs. Ghani expressed her optimism about a prosperous future for ...*(More on P4)...*(3)

FDCS Afghan Drug Production Grew 50-Fold since US Invasion



MOSCOW - Illegal drug production in Afghanistan has increased by a factor of 50 and continues to rise since a US-led operation was launched in the country in 2001, the Russian Federal Drug Control Service (FDCS) chief said Thursday. The amount of land being used in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan hit a record number of 224,000 hectares last year. "The drug production in Afghanistan is the major ...*(More on P4)...*(6)

China, Russia, India Consult on Afghanistan

BEIJING - Chinese, Russian and Indian diplomats met in New Delhi on Thursday to discuss helping stabilize Afghanistan, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson revealed on Friday. Hua Chunying said the trilateral meeting was chaired by India's Deputy National Security Advisor Arvind Gupta, and attended by Assistant Chinese Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao and Deputy Secretary of Russia's Security Council Yevgeny Lukyanov. All three sides agreed the future development of Afghanistan is closely related to regional peace and se-



curity, and vowed to play constructive roles to support its reconciliation and reconstruction, according to Hua. The spokesperson said they will aim for closer coordination on the issue and give full play to the Shanghai Cooper-

Greece Arrests Dozens of Afghan Migrants

ATHENS - Greece officials on Thursday announced that up to 1,200 Afghan and Syrian asylum seekers have been arrested in the past two days while attempting to cross through Greece to other European nations. Greece is considered a hub of Afghan asylum seekers from where the migrants try to reach other European countries. However the plight of migrants in this country is worrying as they do not have access to basic living necessities, said one Greek official. Human smugglers receive thousands of dollars from the migrants to travel through Turkey and Greece to reach other ...*(More on P4)...*(8)

New Minister Pledges 4-Time Faster Internet Speeds

KABUL - Newly-appointed Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Abdul Razaq Wahidi on Thursday presented his ministry's 100-day plan, pledging four-time faster internet speed and end to connection breakdowns. Explaining the first 100-day plan at a conference here, Wahidi promised he would work in coordination with the



departments concerned to improve the telecom sector, ensure transparency and offer quality services. He also said the capacity and speed of the Internet would be increased by four times and offered at the lowest price to users. "The current Internet speed which is STM16 will be increased to STM64 through the ...*(More on P4)...*(9)

Ghani Suspends 6 Officials of MoUDA

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has ordered the suspension of six officials from the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MoUDA). Those suspended are:
1. Ahmad Shah Hemat
2. Mohammad Amin Amin
3. Ahmad Nawaz Bakhtyari
4. Gul Rahim Ziarnal
5. Syed Amanullah Sadat
6. Mohammad Amin Qane ...*(More on P4)...*(10)



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Survey Almost 60% Americans Support Drone Strikes Overseas

KABUL - About 60 percent of Americans support the use of drones to kill terrorists in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen despite concerns that they endanger innocent civilians, a new poll found Thursday. However, respondents were not asked whether civilian casualties affected their approval, US media reports. According to the poll, which surveyed 1,077 people, roughly six in 10 Americans are in favor of using drone strikes to target and kill individuals who belong to terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaeda. The majority of support for the strikes was recorded among both Democrats (close to 60 percent) and Republicans (72 percent), while 45 percent of independents voiced their support. Only 13 percent of respondents opposed drone strikes. Some 24 percent were unsure. The survey also found that a large majority of Americans - almost 75 percent - believe it's okay for the government to target and kill American citizens who are members of terrorist organizations. If a strike could potentially kill innocent Americans, though, respondents were much less likely to back a targeted attack. About 47 percent said the strike would still be acceptable in that case. Of all the people who first said they ...*(More on P4)...*(11)