

## Quote of the Day

A peasant and a philosopher may be equally satisfied, but not equally happy. Happiness consists in the multiplicity of agreeable consciousness.

Samuel Johnson

## Constitution

In every province a provincial council is to be formed.

Article 138

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### MoD Leads Offensive in 16 Provinces

KABUL - Ministry of Defense (MoD) said Saturday they have large-scale military offensives currently underway in 16 provinces - operations that have resulted in high casualty figures among insurgents.

MoD deputy spokesman Dawlat Waziri told TOLONews that almost 100 armed insurgents have been killed over the past 48 hours in these offensives.

He said nine Afghan soldiers had lost their lives over the same period.

According to Waziri, the operations are aimed at suppressing the Taliban and other militant groups. He said that no mercy was being shown for insurgents.

The operations are being carried out in Herat, Badghis, Ghazni, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Paktika, Daikundi, Kandahar, Sar-e-Pul, ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

### Defence Minister-Designate Introduced to WJ

KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga speaker has said government has formally introduced Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai as defence minister-designate to the house.

Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said Stanikzai was introduced formally through a letter to the house on Wednesday, urging the government to immediately present his educational documents to them for evaluation.

Last week President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani appointed Stanikzai as acting defence minister.

Currently, the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Supreme Court, Attorney General Office and 22 provinces are taken care of by acting officials. Ibrahim also urged the government to introduce governors of the provinces in order to put an end to the problems of security and corruption.

Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai, the defence minister-designate, is the son ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

### President Ashraf Ghani

## Women Rights to be Protected in Peace Talks



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Saturday reiterated that women rights would be protected during peace talks.

The president expressed these views

during a meeting with members of the Afghan Women Network (AWN), a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

The Afghanistan's 1st lady Rula Ghani

was also present on the occasion, the statement said, adding members of the AWN thanked president for enhanced women participation in the cabinet and bringing ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

### Ghani Reportedly Sent List of Security Demands to Sharif

KABUL - In a confidential letter to Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, President Ashraf Ghani has set out a list of demands in terms of bridging the neighboring divide and ending extremism in the region - with the primary focus being on Afghanistan's security.

Ghani's letter, of which TOLONews has a copy, calls for: "An official declaration by the political leadership of Pakistan condemning the launching of the Taliban offensive, operation; a directive by the military leadership that sanctuary will be denied to the Taliban and effective measures by the security forces and civil



authorities that the directive is carried out." According to a source from within the Presidential Palace, the letter was sent to Sharif by Ghani recently - a letter that reportedly needs to be responded to within the next two weeks.

"If this does not happen, the window of opportunity will be closed," said the source. The letter meanwhile goes on to state that "A directive to extend the counter-terror campaign ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

### Hekmat Khalil Karzai Pak-Afghan 'Undeclared War' Has Been Going on for 20 Years

KABUL - The Deputy Afghan Foreign Affairs Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai, has said Afghanistan and Pakistan have been involved in an 'undeclared war' for the past 20 years.

In an interview with Pakistan's The Express Tribune, Karzai said "An undeclared war between Pakistan and Afghani-



stan has been going on for 20 years. Pakistan has agreed with this concept."

He said Kabul has now opened a door to bridge the ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

### US Efforts to Shore up Afghan Economy Foundering, Watchdog Finds

WASHINGTON - The Defense Department's business stability task force operating in war-torn Afghanistan has overlooked obstacles to a plan for a natural gas-powered automobile industry as well as commercial exploitation of the country's vast underground wealth of minerals, an inspector general found.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Ash Carter released Friday, John Sopko, special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, sought details on construction of a \$43 million single com-



pressed natural gas station with disappointing results for the troubled country's quest for economic growth. The IG said problems with the pro-

ject executed by Vestige Consulting LLC and aimed at Afghanistan's second largest city, Mazar-e-Sharif, include: The scant ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

### 3 Senior MUDA Officials Missing after Corruption Charges

KABUL - At least three of the suspended officials from the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA) are missing after President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmad suspended them on corruption charges last week. An informed source within the Ministry said the missing officials include Mohammad Aminullah Qani, Head of Apartments Cohesion, Ahmad Nawaz Bakhtyar, Director of Housing Enterprise, and Syed Aman Sadat, Manager Finance Apartments Cohesion.

The source further added that the Afghan Attorney General Office ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

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