

## Quote of the Day

We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing.

R. D. Laing

# President to Youth Beaware of Terrorist Designs

KABUL - In his message on the eve of International Youth Day on Wednesday, President Ashraf Ghani has warned that terrorists want to use youth as a tool to promote their nefarious designs.

The presidential message was read out by Sayed Muzghan Mustafavi, deputy information and cultural affairs minister, in a gathering organized by the ministry.

A number of high ranking officials, political analysts and youth were present on the occasion.

The president congratulated Afghan youth on the day and said youth were the backbone of a society and this period of life provided a career making opportunity.

He said youth suffered as well due to violence, social injustice and discrimi-



nation. Information Minister Abdul Bari Jahani said: "Our youth has extraordinary talent and qualities which

have proved over the period of time." Ahmadzia Massoud, the president's special envoy for reform and good gov-

ernance, said the country witnessed fast paced changes in the past 13 years and today "we ... (More on P4)...(1)

## NDS Blames Pakistan for Recent Kabul Bombings



KABUL - The National Directorate of Security (NDS) - the Afghan intelligence bureau - on Wednesday blamed the recent Kabul bombings on Pakistan's military. Addressing a press conference in Kabul, NDS spokesman Haseeb Sediqi said the explosive materials used in the recent deadly Kabul bombings

were of military grade and were not available to the general public. "Suicide bombers are still being trained in Pakistan to be used against Afghanistan," Sediqi said in the wake of the recent barrage of attacks against Kabul, which killed over 50 people and injured more than 400 civilians alone. ... (More on P4)...(2)

## Etisalat Signs Cricketing Superstars as Brand Ambassadors



KABUL - Etisalat on Wednesday has signed an exclusive agreement with the national

level cricketing superstars Hamid Hassan and Muhammad ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Taliban Kidnap a Dozen Civilians on Way to Ghazni City

GHAZNI CITY - Taliban gunmen kidnaped 12 residents of the Jaghori district of southern Ghazni province, officials said on Wednesday.

Shafiq Nang, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the people were traveling in two cars from Jaghori district to Ghazni City, the provincial capital, when militants abducted them in Qarabagh.

Two of the abductees were released but the rest are still in Taliban's custody. Jaghori district chief Zafar Sharfi confirmed the incident and said all abductees were civilians ... (More on P4)...(4)

## High-Powered Afghan Delegation Due in Islamabad Today

KABUL - A high-powered Afghan delegation is scheduled to visit Islamabad today (Thursday) for in-depth talks with Pakistani officials in the backdrop of recent terrorist attacks in Kabul, an official said on Wednesday.

Sayed Zafar Hashimi, deputy presidential spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabani, Acting Defence Minister Masoum Stanikzai, and



chief of National Directorate of Security (NDS) Rahmatullah Nabil would leave for Islamabad for comprehensive talks with Pakistani officials.

The Afghan delegation would present the Pakistani officials with a decisive action plan to uproot militants' hideouts and sanctuaries who enjoyed safe heavens in Pakistan, he added.

However, the spokesman did not give more details but some Pakistani media reported that Afghan delegation would ask Pakistan to arrest and hand them over ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Education Ministry Fails to Spend \$134m Fund

HERAT CITY - Minister of Education Dr. Asadullah Hanif Balkhi on Wednesday said because of officials' inefficiency the ministry failed to spend \$134 million assistance of international community to improve the country's vital sector.

Speaking at a gathering attended by students and officials in ... (More on P4)...(6)



## Ahmad Zia Massoud Pakistan Not Serious, Talks an Exercise in Futility

KABUL - Ahmad Zia Massoud, president's special representative for reform and good governance, claimed on Wednesday that Pakistan was not serious about genuine peace talks and wanted to deceive the Afghans with false promises.

Addressing a meeting on International Youth Day, Massoud said the peace process should not be trusted anymore because ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Michael McKinley US Backs Kabul's Pakistan Policy Shift

KABUL - The United States on Wednesday said it backed Afghanistan's stance against Pakistan after a recent wave of attacks and assured the Afghan government of Washington's and international community's full support in the war against terrorism.

This was stated by the US Ambassador to Afghanistan, P. Michael McKinley, during a meeting with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah ... (More on P4)...(8)

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