

Quote of the Day

Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.

Albert Einstein

Loya Jirga be Convened to Amend Constitution: CEO

KABUL - A spokesman for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on Thursday announced support to a decentralized system and demanded holding of a Loya Jirga to amend the Constitution.

Deputy spokesman for the CEO, Javid Faisal, speaking at a press conference here stressed implementation of the political agreement on the national unity government, including change in the political system.

"The aim of decentralizing the current centralized system is to devolve the power to people, so government services are delivered to people fast and quickly," he said.

Based on the political agreement, a Loya Jirga, or grand assembly, was expected to be



held within two years of the September 2014 election to amend the Constitution and

create a prime ministerial post for Abdullah. Faisal said extreme authority

in the center was one of the problems local governments faced, but it could be resolved

if governors and local administrations were given more powers. "Governors currently do not have the authority of finance and employment, government operations would accelerate and local officials would become more responsible towards people if the system is changed," he said. He said the CEO was demanding the holding of a Loya Jirga on the Constitution in order people could decide about the creation of a prime minister post. He said the Loya Jirga would help clarify authorities and determine power and pave the way for effective solution to people's problems. "Two backgrounds are available for holding the Loya Jirga, the first is electoral reform that has ... (More on P4)...(1)

High Level Huddle Discusses Wolesi Jirga Polls

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday said the government has strong will to implement comprehensive reforms and hold the Wolesi Jirga elections. A statement from the Presidential Palace to Pajhwok Afghan News said the president chaired a meeting attended by Independent Election Commission (IEC)

commissioners, the UN special representative and a number of foreign envoys. CEO Abdullah Abdullah also attended the meeting that discussed preparations for holding the parliamentary and district council elections. IEC chief Najibullah Ahmadzai presented his report ... (More on P4)...(2)

Russia, Iran Undermine US, NATO Interest in Afghanistan: US

KABUL - US and NATO forces commander in Afghanistan and Senator John McCain have accused Tehran and Moscow over arming and funding the Taliban and working against interest of Afghan government and the US.

Both Gen. Nicholson and other Senators alleged that Russia

and Iran were trying to undermine US and NATO efforts in Afghanistan.

"When we look at Russia and Iranian actions in Afghanistan, I believe that in part there, to undermine the United States and NATO and prevent the strong and partnership that ... (More on P4)...(3)

Trump Speaks with Ghani, US Commander Calls for More Troops

WASHINGTON - US President Donald Trump and his Afghan counterpart discussed security in a phone call on Thursday, officials said, hours after the top US commander in Afghanistan said thousands more troops were needed to break a stalemate with the Taliban.

Trump and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani also spoke about opportunities to strengthen ties, counterterrorism cooperation and economic development, the White House said in a statement.

It said Trump also emphasized the continuing importance of the U.S.-Afghanistan ... (More on P4)...(4)

Russia Offers to Cooperate with US, NATO over Afghanistan

KABUL - Russian president's special envoy to Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, has said that Russia is ready to restore cooperation with the U.S. and NATO on the settlement of common tasks in Afghanistan, a media report said on Friday. "We, for our part, are ready to restore cooperation with the US and with NATO countries to settle our common tasks in Afghanistan," Russia's TASS reported Kabulov as saying. According to the report, Kabulov said Moscow had not yet held official contacts with the Donald Trump Administration regarding the ... (More on P4)...(5)

Ghani Calls Katib Father of Afghanistan's Modern History

KABUL - Speaking at the ceremony of remembering the 86th death anniversary of Faiz Mohammad Katib, an Afghan historian, President Ashraf Ghani said Katib was the founding father of Afghanistan's modern history and one of the hard working historians in the country.

He said Katib's Siraj-ul-Tawarikh is one of the most credible books of the country's history.

The book will define the Afghan history to the next generations of the country clearly and in an explicit manner, Ghani added.



"When we compare the masterpiece of Faiz Mohammad Katib with other people before him and

the people after him who wrote the history and analyzed his outstanding job, ... (More on P4)...(6)

Both Republicans, Democrats Support Afghanistan: Kaine

KABUL - Former Democratic vice-presidential candidate Tim Kaine has said both major political parties of his the United States are supportive of the mission in Afghanistan.

Kaine, who was chosen as running mate by Hillary Clinton in the presidential election, expressed the views during a meeting the Afghan ambassador to the US. Ambassador Hamdullah Mohib said he had sought

support from both political parties of America for Afghanistan. He urged Kaine to play an active role in this regard.

Afghan security forces should be fully supported to defeat terrorist groups like the Taliban, Daesh and others, he said, adding backing the Afghan Air Forces would play a significant role in winning the war on terror. Mohib said Tim Kaine assured ... (More on P4)...(7)

IEC States Elections will be Scheduled for Next Solar Year

KABUL - The Independent Election Commission (IEC) spokesman said on Friday parliamentary and district council elections will be held either in the spring of the next solar year or in fall.

According to Abdul Badi Sayyad, spokesman for the IEC, the National Unity Government (NUG) leaders met

with the head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), IEC commissioners and ambassadors and urged the IEC to hold elections in the next solar year. "The Independent Election Commission has been ordered to announce the election schedule by next year ... (More on P4)...(8)

Snowfall to Boost Agriculture, Economy: Cabinet

KABUL - The cabinet, approving five international agreements and a new state medal named after Amir Ali Sher Nawai, hopes recent snowfall in the country would help agriculture and boost the country's economy.

At a meeting chaired on Wednesday evening un-

der the chairmanship of President Ashraf Ghani, the cabinet tasked Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah to coordinate emergency assistance, a the Presidential Palace said on Thursday.

The CEO would coordinate aid delivery with Ministries of ... (More on P4)...(9)

Pakistan Army Chief Pledges to Take Action against All Terrorist Groups

WASHINGTON - Pakistan army chief Gen. Qamar Bajwa during telephonic conversation with US defence Secretary Gen. (rt) James Mattis has reiterated Islamabad commitment to take action against all terrorist groups within its territory, the Pentagon said on Friday.

Chief of the strong Pakistani army reaffirmed his commitment at a time when Resolute Support (RS) mission Commander Gen. Nicholson has expressed concern over continuation of terrorist safe havens inside Pakistan.

"Gen. Bajwa reiterated Pakistan's commitment to counter all militant groups operating in its territory," said the Pentagon Spokesman Capt Jeff Davis.

"Mattis recognized the significant sacrifices the Pakistan ... (More on P4)...(10)

Taliban Leaders Enjoy Freedom of Action in Pakistan: Nicholson

WASHINGTON - Top NATO and US forces commander in Afghanistan Gen. John Nicholson on Thursday said Taliban and Haqqani network leaders enjoyed 'freedom of actions' in safe havens in Pakistan.

"The Taliban and Haqqani network are the greatest threats to security in Afghanistan. Their senior leaders remain insulated from pressure and enjoy freedom of action within Pakistan safe havens," Gen Nicholson told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during a Congressional hearing on Afghanistan.

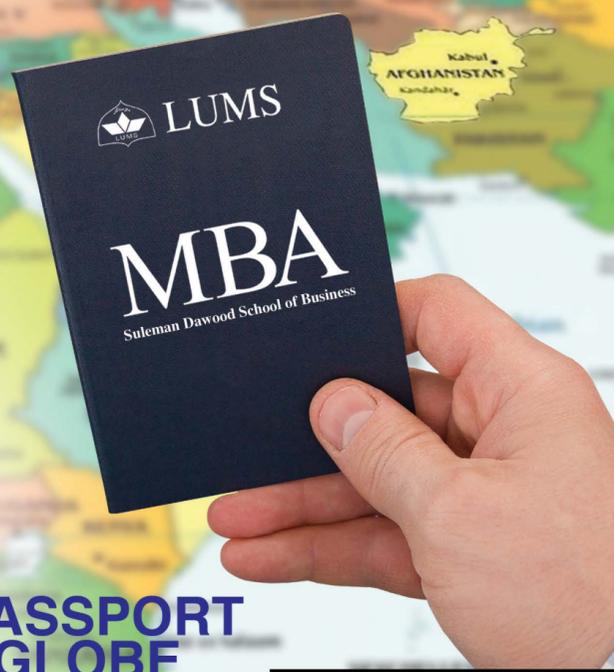
He said as long as militants enjoyed external enablement, they had no incentive to reconcile, calling elimination of external sanctuary the primary factor to enable success. He underscored the need to address the challenge of terrorist safe havens in Pakistan. Nicholson said Russia ... (More on P4)...(11)



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