

Quote of the Day

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.

Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC)

Constitution

No one can misuse the rights and freedoms under this Constitution against the independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty and national unity.

Article 59

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CEO Office

Electoral Reform Commission Awaits Presidential Order

KABUL - The chief executive's office of the National Unity Government has expressed optimism that President Ashraf Ghani will issue his decree regarding the establishment of the special electoral reform commission on Wednesday.

Pointing toward the establishment of the reform commission, the deputy spokesman for the CEO's office, Jawed Faisal, reported on Tuesday that all necessary arrangements have been completed for the formation of the commission, but are waiting



on the presidential orders to come through in order to finalize the commission.

"Preparations have been completed and the plan is in place," Faisal said. "We are just waiting on the orders of the president to conclude the reform commission."

In addition, election monitoring institutions have called on the government to take the electoral reforms seriously and begin the finalization of the commission as soon as possible as parliamentary elections are still in the air.

"Implementing ... (More on P4)...(1)

US Rules out Change in Afghan Strategy



WASHINGTON - US President Barack Obama is open to the idea of tailoring his Afghan strategy based on advice from his commanders, the White House said Monday but ruled out any change in the strategy as such.

"The strategy that the president has laid out is one that he ... (More on P4)...(2)

US Admits Pakistan's Stake in Afghan Outcome

WASHINGTON - The United States on Monday said it encourages Pakistan to support the peace process with the Taliban and noted that Islamabad has a stake in its success.

"We have long encouraged Pakistan to support (Afghan) President (Ashraf) Ghani's reconciliation efforts. We remain in support and in contact with President Ghani on these matters as well as certainly countries like Pakistan who have a stake in the outcome," the State Department Spokesperson, Jen Psaki, told reporters at her daily news conference.

The US has seen ... (More on P4)...(3)

Tokyo Vows Continued Cooperation with Kabul



KABUL - Japanese ambassador to Afghanistan Hiroshi Takashi on Monday said Tokyo would continue to cooperate with Kabul in various fields as a strong partner.

This he said during a meeting with Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah at the latter's office in Kabul, a statement from the CEO's office said.

Takashi said Japan was committed to continuously assisting Afghanistan in areas of economy, education and health, saying Japan regarded Afghanistan as a strong ally. He hoped political, ... (More on P4)...(7)

Ghani, Sharif Talk Mutual Issues over Phone



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani held telephonic conversation with Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and both the leaders discussed latest development, bilateral ties and regional situation.

A statement from the prime minister's house said that both the leaders held detailed talks in which they stressed to further intensify bilateral contacts. It has been the first contact after yet another significant visit to Kabul and meeting with Ghani by the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen. Raheel Sharif. The Afghan president also had discussion with the prime minister on the outcome of the visit of Pakistani army chief. Also, it is reported that Ghani again extended invitation to the prime minister to visit Kabul and the latter accepted but date of his visit has yet to be confirmed.

In addition, both the leaders ... (More on P4)...(5)

Akbar Agha

Taliban Finalize Peace Negotiators

KABUL - After showing a green signal for peace talks, the Taliban have likely selected their seven representatives residing in Qatar to attend peace negotiations with the Afghan government, according to a former Taliban leader.

Former leader of Taliban's Jaish-ul-Muslimeen wing, Syed Akbar Agha, told TOLONews on Tuesday that the five recently released Gitmo prisoners would also possibly join the group of Taliban negotiators.

"The Taliban have allowed



their representatives in Qatar to lead these [peace] talks, and the talks are expected to be commenced soon in coming days," Agha said. Syed Tayyab Agha and Mawlawi Shahabuddin Dilawar, who ... (More on P4)...(4)

Interior Minister Pledges Reforms in Police Force



JALALABAD - Interior Minister Noor-ul-Haq Ulumi on Tuesday said a new strategy was under consideration to upgrade the police force through capacity building and others reforms.

Speaking at a gathering of security officials and tribal elders in Jalalabad, the provincial capital of eastern Nangarhar province, he said capacity building and professionalism of police force has been given priority in the ten point reforms agenda.

However, he did not share the details of his strategy, but stressed upon the unconditional support of masses for the successful implementation of his plan. "I have started traveling to provinces aimed at seeking consultation from provincial authorities for reforms and development of police force," said Ulumi, adding that he wanted to observe the existing problems in the provinces closely. Earlier, he visited southern Kandahar province for discussing issues related to internal security. (Pajhwok)

Ghani Wants Refugees' Plight Alleviated

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday stressed the need for a proper and organized programme to resolve the problems of Afghan refugees in foreign countries.

The president was talking to officials of the Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation and representatives of donor agencies at his office, the Presidential Palace said in a



statement. At the meeting, a report about problems being faced ... (More on P4)...(6)

Kabul, Tehran and Delhi to Sign Agreement on Chabahar Port Soon



KABUL - A new trilateral transit agreement between Afghanistan, Iran and India is said to be entering the final stages of review. The Iranian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Muhammad Reza Bahrami, spoke about the agreement on Tuesday and expressed confidence that it would be completed soon.

The agreement, which will open up the Iranian Chabahar port for Afghan and Indian trade, now awaits the approval of Kabul and New Delhi, after already being signed off on by officials in Tehran. The agreement is expected to boost relations between all three countries,

but particularly trade between India and Afghanistan, which until this point, has been relegated to difficult and expensive channels through Pakistan.

"The signing of this agreement is in favor of Iran, Afghanistan and India," Ambassador Bahrami said on Tuesday.

"Insecurity has been the biggest challenge for Afghan goods, but with the signing of this agreement, this problem will be resolved and Afghan goods will make it to the markets of the region." Meanwhile, the Afghan Deputy Ambassador to India, ... (More on P4)...(8)

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