

Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labour the body.

Senecaw

The participation of nomads in these councils is regulated by law.

Article 140

President Ashraf Ghani

Heritage Sites Valuable Assets

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said on Sunday historic relics and sites were Afghanistan's assets and the Afghans felt pride over their existence.

The president said this while talking to a delegation of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at his office, a statement from the Presidential Palace said.

The delegation has arrived in Afghanistan to attend the ceremony that officially marked Bamyan City, the capital of central Bamyan province, as the cultural capital of SAARC for the year 2015.

President Ghani thanked SAARC for courtesy and giving Bamyan City the privilege to serve as the cultural capital of regional countries, the statement said. He said Afghanistan enjoyed historic relations with SAARC countries



and hoped the status of Bamyan City as the cultural capital would further strengthen the relations.

The president said invaders had historically failed to occupy Afghanistan, but pushed the country into darkness

and ignorance. He recalled 2,000 years back Afghanistan had been the centre of trade between goods and services. Ghani condemned the destruction of the two Buddah statues and termed it an attack on the assets of Afghanistan.

He pledged the government would rehabilitate the damaged parts of the historical relics.

The president also sought SAARC countries help in shifting historic monuments to ... (More on P4)...(1)

Govt. Monthly Saving \$9.7m in MoD Oil Deals



KABUL - The National Procurement Committee (NPC) on Sunday said the government was saving \$9.7 million per month in short-term oil contracts of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) as compared to the earlier contracts.

After taking office, President Ashraf Ghani scrapped oil contracts of the MoD, suspended the ministry procurement of

officials, banned them from travelling abroad and ordered thorough investigations.

A committee, tasked with probing the matter, in its findings had said the oil prices for MoD were \$100 million more expensive than the original market prices and \$5 million had been embezzled in the contract.

Yama ... (More on P4)...(2)

Meshrano Jirga Approves Amended Acting Law

KABUL - The Mesharano Jirga or Senate on Sunday approved fresh amendments to the Acting Law, binding acting officials to obtain a trust vote from the lower house before joining office.



The upper house law commission presented the amended bill before the house for approval in one chapter and eight articles.

Maulvi Muhiuddin Munsif, the

panel head, said the changes had been approved by the Wolsi Jirga after landing there in February. He said the lower ... (More on P4)...(4)

Taliban Capture 12 Police Posts in Uruzgan

TARINKOT - The district chief of Gizab district in central Uruzgan province said that 12 police posts have been fallen to Taliban militants, warning security forces would lose control of the entire district if urgent support did not arrive on time.

Gizab district chief Abdullah told Pajhwok Afghan News that hundreds of Taliban rebels had launched attacks on several security posts from the past few days. He warned that the district would likely be captured by rebels today as 12 posts have already fallen to insurgents.

"I am frequently asking provincial headquarters since two days to support me and fight rebels, but I did not receive any help so far," he said.

The police posts were active in nine villages of the district but now police have retreated from them, he added.

Abdullah said that 10 militants and two policemen and 12 rebels wounded during firefights.

Telephone communications have also been cut by rebels in the district.

The incident occurs at a time when harsh fights between ... (More on P4)...(5)

Over 2,000 Religious Clerics Declare Support for ANSF

KABUL - Over 2,000 religious clerics (Ulemas) gathered in western Herat province to declare

support for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). The clerics hailing from Herat, Ghor, Badghis and Farah provinces, said they support the activities of the Afghan security forces and hailed them for leading the security responsibilities after taking over the lead from the NATO forces almost a year ago.

The clerics were mainly prayer leaders in mosques who called on other religious clerics to take practical steps in supporting the Afghan security forces. A prayer leader in one of Herat mosques ... (More on P4)...(3)



Source

Taliban Talks in Dubai Constructive

KABUL - The two-day conference held between the Afghan officials and the Taliban representatives in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) was constructive and helpful towards paving the way for formal talks, a source told TOLONews.

The Taliban delegation included Shahabuddin Delawar, Sohail Shaheen, Sayed Rassoul, Abdul Salam Hanafi and Mawlawi Naik Mohammad.

The officials who represented Afghanistan in the meeting were Mirwais Yasini, Qayum Kochai, Qutbuddin Helal, Wahidullah Shahrani, ... (More on P4)...(6)



Iran Confirms Talks with "Moderate" Afghan Taliban



BAKU - Esmail Kowsari, a member of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, confirmed that a delegation from the Afghan Taliban group has visited Iran last month.

The delegation, which visited Tehran, belongs to a branch of Taliban who believe on settling issues through "negotiation," the senior Iranian MP said on Sunday.

Earlier, Marzieh Afkham, the foreign ministry's spokeswoman said that the ministry is not informed about the visit of the delegation.

"We have no information on the issue," Afkham said, adding the sources which have disseminated the information should be found. Kowsari further said he can't disclose the details of Iran's negotiations with the Taliban delegation headed by ... (More on P4)...(7)

ANSF Retake Area in Zabul after over a Decade

KABUL - Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have pushed back Taliban from Tabakhsur Tapa area in the capital of southern Zabul province after 13 years.

Officials say Tabakhsur Tapa which is located in the northern part of Qalat is strategically an important location for

militants from where they could conduct their supply to four northern districts.

Tabakhsur Tapa was in the hands of Taliban for 13 years and this area was also a hideout for the militant group. Asif Khan Tokhi, commander of police operations in ... (More on P4)...(8)

Kabul Students Pay the Price for Teachers Strike



KABUL - Thousands of students from Kabul schools lost yet another day of lessons on Sunday as teachers in the capital entered the seventh day of their strike. Dozens of teachers from around Kabul have gathered for the past week at Habibi

High School, where the strike initially started - in protest over what they call President Ashraf Ghani's failure to fulfill his promises to teachers.

Last year in a ceremony marking teacher's day in Kabul, ... (More on P4)...(9)

Kuchi Elders Urge Govt. to Probe Drone Strike

KHOST CITY - Kuchi tribe elders on Sunday held a protest gathering to condemn Friday's drone strike that killed several people attending a funeral prayer in southeastern Khost province.

Officials had said the drone targeted the burial ceremony for a slain Taliban commander in the Bati Thani area of the Alisher district near the Pakistani border, killing 34 militants.

But residents, including a Kuchi tribe representative in the national assembly, said the funeral was for a tribal elder and the strike killed a total of 15 people, all civilians.

Khost deputy governor Abdul Wahid Patan had earlier said the dead included some civilians, but militants were

in a majority. He said the drone had targeted the funeral ceremony of a Taliban commander.

But lawmaker Haidar Jan Naeemzoi and some Kuch tribe elders insisted the killed persons were Kuchi tribesmen.

They were hit while returning from the funeral in two pick up vehicles, said participants of the protest gathering.

Salim Khan Naeemzoi, the son of Naeem Kuchi, told Pajhwok Afghan News nine of the victims belonged to two families.

"We want the president to dispatch a delegation to investigate whether the slain individuals were Taliban or peaceful citizens," he said. The ... (More on P4)...(10)

Advertisement for Huawei Ascend Mate7 featuring a smartphone, a coffee cup, and the Huawei logo. Text includes 'MAKE IT POSSIBLE | 4G LTE', 'HUAWEI Ascend Mate7', 'Live Once, Live Life', and contact information for Khalid Lemar.