**Quote of the Day**

Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the general progress of the human mind.

- Thomas Jefferson

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**Norway Hosts Afghan Officials, Taliban Talks**

KABUL - A senior member Afghani delegation will hold face-to-face meeting with Taliban in Oslo, the capital of Norway, a source prior to the development revealed on Monday.

A government official wishing not to be named told Presswerk Afghan Times that deputy foreign minister for political affairs Hameed Khalil Karzai led the government delegation. The president tasked Hameed Karzai to talk directly about peace with Talibans, he added.

Former vice president Yousuf Qureshi, deputy chief executive officer Mohammad Muqaddam, former commerce minister Dr. Ansar-ul-Haq and Abdu, former minister of women’s affairs Hassan Bano

**Presence of Lawmakers Legal Until Parliamentary Elections Held: MPs**

KARUL - MPs in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) on Monday reiterated their stance saying their continuation in Parliament does not need to be authorized by any one organization and was legal until parliamentary elections are held as they were authorized by the public to hold office at the first place. This comes amid mounting concerns over the matter as their term effectively ended on June 22. But the MPs state they will stay on until parliamentary polls are held.

**Australia to Invest $50m on New Counter-IED Kit to ANSF**

KARUL - The government of Australia will invest up to $50 million on a new kit for the Afghan national security forces to counter the threat of the deadly improvised Explosive Device (IED).

Developed by the Australian defense scientists and defense companies, the new system is in a low-cost version of sophisticated electronic countermeasures which jammed insurgent radios. (More on P6-6)

**Kabul Hosts First Ever Afghan-EU Joint Session on Human Rights**

KARUL - The first ever joint session on human rights was held between Afghan officials and European Union (EU) representatives in Kabul on Monday.

Addressing delegates at the meeting, European Union Ambassador to Afghanistan, Francesca Michael Malbon, voiced his concerns over human rights violations in the county and said the country’s political system needs to be reformed. (More on P6-6)

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**WJ Approves 100% Tax on Import of Tobacco Goods**

KARUL - The Wolesi Jirga (O) or lower house of parliament on Monday approved a bill seeking 100 percent tax on importing tobacco goods. Back in 2013, the Wolesi Jirga slammed a ban on smoking tobacco.

IntraHealth, a non-governmental organization, called for the taxing of tobacco goods but the matter was rejected by the Wolesi Jirga. (More on P6-6)

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**CJMS**

Delay in Parliamentary Polls to Harm Democracy

KARUL - The Civil Movement for Social Justice (CMS) on Monday alleged the government planned to postpone parliamentary elections in order to cover up its expected future failures.

"Some members of the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament - have pressured the government to specify a date," (More on P6-8)

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**UNAMA Helps Create Northern Network to Address Electoral Issues**

KARUL - More than 100 people gathered in Monte-Bahari, Ruband province this week to discuss election issues and form a new regional civil society network designed to address them.

Participants at the event, initiated by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), established the regional network to connect civil society groups from five northern provinces with government officials at the provincial, regional and capital levels.

The meeting brought together provincial council members, academics, civil society representatives, human rights activists and journalists to identify the most effective ways NGOs can contribute to electoral reform while encouraging.

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**100 Etisalat Employees Voluntarily Donate Blood**

KARUL - The second phase of Etisalat Blood Donation program started on 20th June 2015 in the main office building of Etisalat Afghanistan to mark 15th June - the international blood donation day. After the evaluation of potential donors and testing for diseases that can be transmitted by a blood transfusion and making sure that the donation is not hazardous to their health, more than 100 Etisalat employees voluntarily donated blood as an act of charity.

"We believe in working towards improving the quality of life of members of our community through caring, sharing and supporting individuals," today, we donate blood to help those in need of blood transfusions and spread the message of peace and love," said Salab Zargarlani, CEO of Etisalat Afghanistan. (More on P6-6)

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