

## Quote of the Day

Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration.

Thomas A. Edison

## Constitution

For approval of the amendments, a Loya Jirga shall be convened by the decree of the President in accordance with the provisions of the Chapter on the Loya Jirga. When the Loya Jirga approves an amendment by a majority of two-thirds of its members, it shall be enforced after endorsement by the President.

Article 150

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# NATO Confirms Planning Follow-Up Afghan Mission

KABUL - At the end of the defence ministerial meeting in Brussels, NATO on Thursday confirmed its commitment to a civilian-led presence in Afghanistan after the Resolute Support mission to further develop Afghan security institutions.

"This is a time of changes and challenges, both for Afghanistan and for NATO," Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said, adding they took stock of the progress made since the launch of Resolute Support in January.

"We discussed the evolution of the mission and looked at how we will continue to support the Afghan National Security Forces. How we will do that also in the longer term." Now six months since the Afghan forces took full ...*(More on P4)...(1)*



## Ghani Mulls Pilot Phase to Roll out ID Cards



KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Friday met with various ministers, mission representatives and advisers from local and international organizations over the issue of electronic ID cards and appears to be considering the possibility of a pilot phase rollout campaign in Kabul.

In a statement issued by the presidential palace, consensus was reportedly

reached that a pilot phase be rolled out so that major problems can be identified and ironed out before a national rollout campaign is launched.

Advisers suggested that equipment and systems be tested during such a phase so as to ensure that data captured is not lost due to any possible system breakdowns, read the statement. ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

## UN

### Record Afghan Opium Output Prompts Cheaper US Heroin Supply

Opium cultivation and production in Afghanistan have reached record levels, triggering "a large increase" in cheaper heroin supply in the US, the United Nations said on Friday.



KABUL - Afghan poppy fields covered some 224,000 hectares (553,500 acres) in 2014 -- a seven-percent rise from the 209,000 hectares the previous year, according to a new study by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

As the world's largest opium producer, Afghanistan's steady increase has had a direct impact on global opium cultivation, which with 310,891 hectares is now at its highest since the late 1930s, UNODC noted in its annual World Drugs report.

Estimated global production of opiates meanwhile doubled in two years from 3,700 tons in 2012 to 7,554 tons in 2014.

Afghanistan accounted for 85 percent of the global output.

As a result, "we have been seeing signs in the US and the UK of a large increase of supply," UNODC research branch chief Angela Me told AFP.

"In the US there's been an increase in heroin-related deaths and also signs of more and cheaper heroin available. The same goes for the UK where heroin-related deaths have increased recently."

Me noted that while drug-related deaths in the US had primarily ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

## Analysts

### Over 2,000 Illegal Mining Sites in Afghanistan

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Advisers suggested that equipment and systems be tested during such a phase so as to ensure that data captured is not lost due to any possible system breakdowns, read the statement. Ghani asked that a working ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

## Increasing IS, Taliban Influence Causes Concern: Putin

KABUL - Russia is seriously concerned about increasing influence of Islamic State and Taliban in Afghanistan, President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday during talks with former Afghan president Hamid Karzai, Sputniknews reports. During the meeting, Karzai told Russian president that Daesh or the Islamic State was posing serious threat to the peace and stability of Afghanistan and the entire region, a statement from the former president said. Putin said that Taliban has boosted



its operations in Afghanistan after NATO ended its International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in late 2014 and launched a non-combat mission in the country.

"We are witnessing processes that cause serious concern... Taliban is actively spreading its influence, controlling a large part of [Afghan] territory, many border crossing points. What is ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

## Afghan Government Prepares "Map of War"

KABUL - To overcome the ongoing war in Afghanistan, the government has prepared a "Map of War", President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said.

While in a meeting with members of Wolesi Jirga President Ghani said that all of the districts have been ranked as per their security importance.

He added that three types of military operations have been planned, clearance, special and durable military operations.

President Ghani has also said that the coming four months are landmark for the country, adding that the government has intentions of tough military operations but these actions will be taken sporadically.

The news comes as security con-



cerns have been increasing in the country. Till recently, the biggest terrorist groups fighting the government were Taliban and Haqani network but now the name of Daesh is also emerging from parts of the country.

Known for their brutality, Daesh or the Islamic State which controls large swathes of land in Iraq and Syria few months before announced the province of Khorasan in this region. Khorasan is the old name of Afghanistan which includes large areas of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Iran. (KP)

## US, China Support Peaceful, Stable Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The United States and China on Wednesday pledged their support for a peaceful, stable and unified Afghanistan. The two countries said this in a joint statement at the conclusion of their annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue.

"The United States and China continued their close cooperation in support of Afghanistan's government of national unity, economic development, and security forces," the statement said.

To advance this vision, US and Chinese counterparts agreed to continue convening a trilateral consultation with Afghanistan, and the two sides agreed to launch new joint training programs for Afghan medical and veterinary professionals, the joint statement said.

In his remarks, the Secretary of State, John Kerry, said on Afghanistan, US and China share a mutual interest in supporting efforts by the government ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

## Ministries

### Northern Parts of Country are in a Better Position

KABUL - A Ministry of Interior spokesman said on Thursday that large-scale battles are underway in Chahar Dara and Dasht-e-Archi districts of this province in order to re-take control of seized districts from the Taliban.

More troops have been sent in to help, they said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defense and Interior have called the unity of political movements in the north of Afghanistan and its support of the security forces effective.

Security institutions have sent further troops to Kunduz and Baghlan provinces in order to re-take districts there that have been seized by the Taliban.

The Ministry of Defense has said that major battles in these provinces are being conducted by foreigners. They said that fresh ANSF troops have been deployed to eliminate them.

This ministry emphasizes that at the moment security forces around the country are fighting eight operations in total. In these operations, the forces have gone from being defensive to offensive and will destroy their targets.

"Foreigners are leading the battles in the northern provinces of the country, and you, the nation, media and everyone else knows who supports them. General Murad Ali Murad is among one of the prominent generals and is the Deputy Chief of Army Staff who is currently in Kunduz to review the situation," says Dawlat Waziri, spokesman for the Ministry of Defense.

Earlier, an army base in Chahar Dara district of Kunduz, named Ghulam Ali was surrounded by the Taliban. But the MoD said that the base is not surrounded anymore and more troops are fighting side by side with the troops there.

While in the neighboring province of Baghlan, the deputy governor of Taliban was reportedly killed. The Baghlan police commander said that the ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

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**\$335mln USAID Investment in Danger of Being Wasted in Afghanistan**

KABUL - A \$335 million U.S. Agency for International Development Office (USAID) investment in the Tarakhuil Power Plant in Kabul, Afghanistan is in danger of being wasted or severely underused, according to a release from the office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). The letter outlined concerns that the Afghan government remains unwilling or unable to maintain the power plant, particularly during emergency situations such as the several avalanches in February that created electrical shortages throughout Afghan provinces and killed hundreds.

"[T]he blackouts and lack of power throughout Kabul resulting from the avalanches raises questions regarding the efficacy of those actions and the commitment and ability of the Afghan government to operate the Tarakhuil Power Plant as needed or when absolutely necessary," John Sopko said in his letter to USAID administrator Alfonso Lenhardt. The letter cites a June 2014 in ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

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