

## Quote of the Day

Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open.  
Elmer G. Letterman

# Senate Approves Presidential Decree on Electoral Reforms

KABUL - The Mesharano Jirga -- or upper house of the parliament -- on Tuesday approved by a majority vote President Ashraf Ghani's legislative decree on election commissions' restructuring.

Earlier, the Wolesi Jirga -- lower house -- had rejected the decree. Bringing reforms to the country's electoral system was the basic point of the agreement on formation of the unity government and a key promise held out to the people.

Article 100 of the constitution says: "In case the decision of one house is rejected by another house, a combined committee composed of equal



members of each house is formed to resolve the disagreement. The decision of the committee is enforced after its

approval by the president. In case the combined committee cannot solve the disagreement, the defeated resolution

is considered void. And, if the resolution is approved by the Wolesi Jirga, it can be approved in the next session of the Wolesi Jirga by the majority of its members. This approval is assumed as enforceable, after it is signed by the President, without submission to the Mesharano Jirga.

If the disagreement between the two houses is over legislation involving financial affairs, and the joint committee is not able to resolve it, the Wolesi Jirga can approve the draft by the majority vote of its members. This draft is assumed as enforceable without submission to the Mesharano Jirga after it is signed by the President. (Pajhwok)

## Japan, UN Assure Afghanistan of Continued Assistance



KABUL - The Japanese ambassador has promised Afghanistan continued support, with a new UN representative announcing strengthened relations with the country.

The diplomats met President Ashraf Ghani at his office here on Tuesday. Ghani thanked Japan for its cooperation in urban and agriculture development, reconstruction of the Kabul airport and providing scholarships to Afghan students. Ghani claimed his government had made significant headway, particularly in urban development and reforms in the municipality. The creation of Capital the Development Zone had accelerated urban development, he said.

Ghani said the first industrial park would be created in the Barik Aab area of Kabul in the near future. The president hoped Japan would continue its cooperation with Afghanistan, particularly in urban development and agriculture areas.

"A meeting will be held soon on technical cooperation between the Ministry of Urban Development, Capital Development Zone, Kabul municipality and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)," he said.

Ambassador Hiroshi Takahashi said Afghan students in Japan could be a tool of development for Afghanistan. He assured the president of continuing scholarship ... (More on P4)...(2)

## Hekmatyar Criticized for Rejecting NUG's Peace Deal



KABUL - A number of critics on Tuesday criticized Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of Hizb-e-Islami, for rejecting the peace deal with the National Unity Government (NUG).

Hekmatyar said in a message that he wanted peace with Islamic government of Afghanistan, not with the NUG.

He argued that the NUG is not acceptable to most Afghans. As a result, the peace efforts with current government are now deadlocked.

"As far as I am aware, the peace talks are ongoing and there is optimism on both the sides. I am not convinced that the remarks, attributed to him, are from Hekmatyar," said Iqbal Safi, member of Hizb-e-Islami.

Other conditions in the peace deal, from the NUG's point of view, were that the Hizb-e-Islami should accept the bilateral security agreement signed between Kabul and Washington.

"If the Afghan government is ignored, the concept of government will not have any meaning and no negotiation will be possible. At present, it appears, there is no environment of trust between the two sides," said university lecturer Tahir Hashemi.

"The recommendations made by Hizb-e-Islami are similar to recommendations made by Taliban during Hamid Karzai's government," he added.

"There were a number of improvements in talks between government and Hizb-e-Islami, but there are a number of interest groups that see war in Afghanistan swinging in their favor," said Gul Ahmad Azami, member of Mesharano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament).

The peace efforts between Afghan government and Hizb-e-Islami started three months ago. During that period, the two sides prepared a 25-article draft agreement. Analysts said they believe that the battlefields will be tougher if the Hizb-e-Islami rejected the peace deal with the state. (Tolonews)

## Over 50 Districts Face Severe Security Threats, MOI Admits

KABUL - More than 50 districts in the country are facing serious security threats, nine of them are currently out of government's control, says the Mol.

The districts out of government's control include Nawzad, Dicho, Baghran and Musa Qala districts in Helmand, Wardooj and Yumgan districts in Badakhshan, Kohistanat district in Sar-e-Pul, Nawa district in Ghazni and Khak Afghan district in Zabul province.

"The districts are in the northeastern, southern and also other parts of Afghanistan. The enemy has in-

creased its activities in those areas," said MoI spokesman Sediq Seddiqi. Meanwhile, a number of police chiefs have said they are trying to retake control of a number of areas that are currently out of the government's control. "We have established outposts, particularly in Khan Abad district and as well as in Angor Bagh, Shena Tapa and other areas. Security is to some extent ensured in those areas, but despite that, we need the people's cooperation. It is very important that they cooperate with security forces," said Sher Aziz Kamawal, a police commander at Spinzar 808 zone. "They



use our people, they use their houses, but we try to avoid civilians from being military targets," said Helmand police chief Aqa Noor ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Afghanistan Peace Process Hardly Moving: Gen. Campbell

KABUL - Former US-NATO forces Gen. John Campbell has stated that Afghanistan peace process is hardly moving forward, urging that both National Unity Government leaders are pushing through to revive peace process again.

Meanwhile Harasat and sabat member party has criticized the President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani efforts towards peace process.

Former US Gen John Campbell said, "Afghanistan peace process is hardly moving forward, both leaders are pushing through to revive the following process, I have no idea about the peace talks process of Afghan Government with Hekmatyar party, I hope that the following process



ends in the favor of the Afghan Government." Further he has welcomed some of the plans coming from White House for Afghanistan stability.

"What we have decided and heard will help Afghanistan, I'm encouraged with the US President Obama plans for Afghani-

stan incoming two weeks Former US Gen US-NATO forces commander John Campbell said, "Harasat and sabat party member Mohammad Omer Daudzai said, "Pakistan doesn't want peace to be ensured in Afghanistan, Taliban are being sup ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Turkmen FM Visits Provinces Bordering with Turkmenistan



BISHKEK - Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, visited Faryab, Jawzjan and Balkh Provinces of Afghanistan from June 26-28, reports the Chronicles of Turkmenistan. The Foreign Minister held bilateral cooperation talks during this visit. Taliban militants are reportedly intensively fighting in those areas. Occasional media reports inform about attacks of Taliban on Turkmen security posts in those areas, in which Turkmen border guards are killed. (AKIpress)

## Kazakh, Russian Security Councils Discussed Afghanistan



ASTANA - Security councils of Kazakhstan and Russia held a meeting in Astana under the chairmanship of President's Aide-Secretary of the Security Council Nurlan Yermekbayev and Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolay Petrushev. As the Akorda press service informs, the meeting discussed the strengthening of cooperation in ensuring national security, countering international terrorism, religious extremism

and illegal drug trafficking. The attendees evaluated the situation in regional security and discussed the acute issues of international agenda, in particular, the situation in the Middle East and in Afghanistan. Summing up the meeting, N.Yermekbayev stressed importance of exchange of information between relevant authorities of Kazakhstan and ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Nangarhar Clash Leaves Hundreds of Families Displaced

JALALABAD - More than 400 families were displaced after a five-day clash between security forces and Daesh rebels in Kot district in Nangarhar province, local officials said Tuesday. The battle started after a group of Daesh fighters attacked security forces' outposts in Kot district on Friday night. Following the attack, the security forces launched a military operation in the area where the rebels were pushed back and over 160 of the fighters were killed. Nangarhar governor Salim Kunduzi said the insurgents torched ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Media Rights Group Reports Sharp Rise in Violence Against Journalists

KABUL - A leading Afghan media rights group has reported a sharp rise in violence and intimidation against Afghan journalists in June. The Afghan Independent Journalist Association (AIJA) said on Tuesday that it had documented at least 22 cases of violence against journalists across the violence-racked country, about double the monthly level seen in the past years.



It said violent incidents against journalists were recorded in Kabul, as well as the provinces of Zabul in the south, Daikundi in the center and Logar in the east. ... (More on P4)...(6)

## 3,000 Kgs Explosives of Seized Before Reaching Kabul for Eid Attacks

KABUL - At least 3,000 kgs of explosives were seized by the Afghan intelligence operatives before the militant groups manage to transport them to Kabul for a series of attacks. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) said the explosives were packed in 50 sacks and were loaded on two trucks. According to a statement by NDS, the two trucks were identified by the intelligence operatives and were confiscated in Pul-a-Alam district of Logar province. The statement further added that four Taliban insurgents were also ... (More on P4)...(7)