

## Quote of the Day

Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.  
G. K. Chesterton

## Constitution

The state shall devise and implement effective programs for balancing and promoting of education for women, improving of education of nomads and elimination of illiteracy in the country.  
Article 44

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# ISIL Receiving up to \$1bn Annually from Afghan Heroin

According to head of Russia's Federal Drug Control Service, ISIL terrorist organization is receiving upwards to \$1 billion in profits annually for deliveries of Afghan heroin.

MOSCOW - The Islamic State (IS) terrorist organization is receiving upwards of \$1 billion in profit annually for deliveries of Afghan heroin, the head of Russia's Federal Drug Control Service (FSKN) said Friday. "According to our figures, the IS is receiving up to \$1 billion annually for delivering Afghan heroin," Viktor Ivanov said. In November, the FSKN stated that half of all heroin delivered to Europe through destabilized Iraq and some African countries is being transferred by IS militants. Drug smuggling is a



renewable source of funding for the insurgent group, the watchdog suggested. In addition, drug routes across the Gulf of Aden to the African continent have encouraged the organization of numerous pirate gangs, the FSKN said in the same statement. The Islamic State, a Sunni extremist group, has fought against the Syrian government, capturing large areas in Syria and Iraq. The group is notorious for numerous human ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Gen. Campbell Stresses Foreign Presence in Afghanistan



KABUL - The U.S. Forces Commander in Afghanistan Gen. John Campbell stressed to the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee that the threat of Daesh is surfacing in the country, adding that Afghanistan will need financial and military support from Washington

and NATO in the coming years. Campbell, who has been asked to appear in front of the committee twice in less than a month, added that the battle strategy of the Taliban is not strong enough to topple the government, but calls the ... (More on P4)...(2)

## Mohammad Karim Khalili Abducted Hazara Passengers are Alive



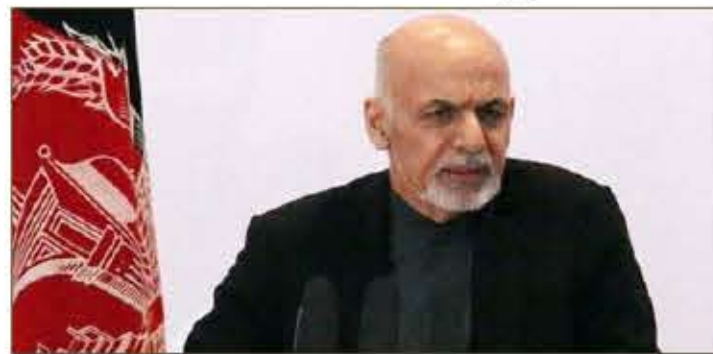
KABUL - As the fate of abducted passengers has remained unknown for almost two weeks, the former vice president Mohammad Karim Khalili said on Friday that the abductees were alive. Khalili, the leader of Hizb-e-Wahdat Islami Afghanistan, called upon the government to put every effort for the immediate return of the passengers. His remarks came in a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of Shaheed Abdul Ali Mazari attended by Second Vice President Sarwar Danish, former president Hamid Karzai and other high-profile officials and dignitaries. "I am glad that today we had news that all these 31 people are alive," Khalili said. "Sarwar Danish, President Ashraf Ghani and all the security forces should strive for sound return of the passengers." Meanwhile, Danish told the participants, most of them Hazaras, that the government was using "every option" for the release of passengers. "The government has so far used every option, as an example, the launch of massive military operation in Zabul," Danish said, expecting the return of abductees in near future. Karzai, who also touched on the incident, asked the government for immediate release of the abductees, calling the act against the human morality. "Let the innocents to return their homes otherwise the history will never forget you," Karzai mentioned the perpetrators. At least 31 passengers belonging to Hazara ethnic ... (More on P4)...(4)

## Operation to Rescue Hazara Passengers Delayed

QALAT - A rescue operation to free 30 Hazaras who were taken hostage by militants in Zabul province two weeks ago was delayed for 24 hours on account of unfavorable weather, local officials said on Thursday. The operation was set to launch in the Kahk-e-Afghan district of Zabul, where officials believed the 30 Hazara hostages seized from a bus traveling on the Kabul-Kandahar highway were being held, Mohammad Harif Rahmani, a member of the delegation investigating the incident said. "The Afghan security forces launched the military operation on Tuesday, but due to weather problems the operation was delayed for a day and sources say the captives are still alive," Rahmani said. The abductions were carried out by unknown assailants who were speaking an unidentifiable foreign language, according to eyewitnesses. However, officials have suggested that the masked men were likely part of a Daesh affiliate group in Zabul. In response to the calls from the victims' families for action, local tribal elders sought out the abductors and tried to convince them to free their captives, but were ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Ghani Comes Hard on Nepotistic Hiring

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Thursday ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to sack officials appointed on the basis of nepotism. A detailed Pajhwok Afghan News report last Sunday found most of the diplomats and senior officials at the MoFA were family members and relatives of government officials and lawmakers. It found that their appointments appeared to be based on nepotism and against rules and merit policy. Sons and other close relatives of government officials and members of parliament have been appointed on key posts



in Afghanistan's embassies abroad, where a number of embassy staff have sought political asylum. Speaking at a ceremony arranged to mark the International Women's Day on Thursday, the president said: "Our mes-

sage is clear in partnership. If you want deputy, governor and ambassador positions we have no problem but the appointments must be based on merit policy." Ghani informed he had directed ... (More on P4)...(3)

## Rabbani Vehemently Criticizes HRW Report



KABUL - Calling the latest Human Rights Watch (HRW)'s report on human rights violation as baseless and personal views of some individuals, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani acknowledged that bringing reforms in the Afghanistan government structure though facing challenges. Rabbani said that the HRW did not consider international standard and released the report against Afghanistan jihadi commanders. The HRW report released Tuesday (March 3) calls on new ... (More on P4)...(7)

## AHRC Dubs HRW Report as Unauthentic



KABUL - Afghanistan Human Rights Commission (AHRC) chief on Thursday said the latest Human Rights Watch (HRW)'s report on human rights violators in Afghanistan "is not authentic." The HRW report released Tuesday (March 3) calls on new President Ashraf Ghani and his government to prosecute officials and commanders "whose serious human rights abuses have long gone unpunished." AHRC chief Lal Gul told Pajhwok Afghan News the HRW report about Afghanistan's civil war criminals was different when compared to the watchdog's previous reports. He said there were many others human rights violators in Afghanistan and mentioning only the eight persons raised questions. In its reaction to the report, the Chief Executive Office had been prepared based on inaccurate investigation methods. Meanwhile, some Facebook users said many human rights ... (More on P4)...(9)

## Abdullah Orders Inmates beyond Jail Terms Freed

KABUL - Chief executive officer Abdullah Abdullah on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to take measures for releasing prisoners whom jail sentences had expired but they continued to languish. Abdullah, who chaired a meeting of the High Council on Prisons and Rehabilitation Centres, directed the ministries of interior and public health to implement the protocol under which the responsibility of providing healthcare services to prisoners



would be gradually transferred from the public health ministry to the interior. Interior Minister Noorul Haq

Utumi, who is member of the high council on prisons, told the meeting that a lack of proper ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Protests if Decree Not Executed: Kunduz PC



KUNDUZ - The Provincial Council members of northeastern Kunduz province warned to hold protest rallies if a presidential decree empowering PCs was not implemented in letter and spirit. On January 28, Wolesi Jirga— or lower house of the parliament — barred the provincial council members from overseeing the performance of local departments. Earlier, the council of ministers headed by the president decided to take back the overseeing and evaluation powers of provincial councils. Anruddin Wali, deputy provincial council head, told Pajhwok Afghan News that he and his colleagues could not attend any security meetings because they were in protest against non-implementation of presidential decree. The Provincial Councils coordination ... (More on P4)...(8)

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