

Quote of the Day

The secret of a good life is to have the right loyalties and to hold them in the right scale of values.
Norman Thomas (1884 - 1968)

Constitution

Proposal for the promulgation of a law can be initiated by the government, or members of the National Assembly, and in the domain of regulating the judicial affairs through the Supreme Court by the government.
Article 95

IS Emergence in Afghanistan Worries UN, Russia

KABUL - The United Nations and Russia on Wednesday voiced their concerns at the emergence of the Islamic State in Afghanistan and its efforts to unite insurgents there. UNAMA head Nicholas Haysom expressed his apprehension while briefing the Security Council on the current situation in Afghanistan. He also touched on renewed efforts to revive the peace drive. Attempts were ongoing to broker an end to 13 years of conflict in the country, where a UN-mandated combat mission ended in December 2014, the diplomat said. Haysom informed the 15-member body: "It is UNAMA's assessment that the group's presence is of concern, but



that ISIL's significance is not so much a function of its intrinsic capacities in the area..." However, he explained, the group's potential to offer an alternative flagpole to which otherwise isolated splinter groups could rally. In his report, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said a handful of Taliban commanders had declared allegiance to Islamic State. "There is no indication of widespread or systematic support for ISIL in Afghanistan." UN Secretary General's Special Representative and the head of United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said that significant developments in Afghanistan have brought ... (More on P4)...(1)

Afghanistan, Kazakhstan Could Become New Global Rare Earth Metals Centers



KABUL - Afghanistan and Kazakhstan may become new global centers of rare earth metals production during the next several years with Kazakhstan government recently approving a state plan that involves a significant increase of production and development of the countries of rare and REM fields during the next four years. Afghanistan's Rare Earth Elements have been valued at around \$1 trillion despite being one of the poorest nations in the world. According to a survey report by US scientists, Afghanistan may be sitting on one of the richest troves of minerals in the world, loaded with minerals deposited by the ... (More on P4)...(2)

Accord Reached on Reviving Af-Pak Peace Jirga

KABUL - The Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government and Afghanistan have agreed that the refugees living in Pakistan will not be forcibly repatriated to their home country. The two sides also agreed on reviving the Pak-Afghan Peace Jirga, involving government officials, tribal elders and public representatives from the neighbouring countries. The first such forum was held in 2008 in Kabul. A mechanism to boost bilateral trade and provide better health facilities to Afghan patients was also agreed, said ... (More on P4)...(3)

Not to Pull Troops out of Afghanistan, Nagl Warns Obama

A former US military leader says he blames president Barack Obama personally for failing to deal with Islamic State and warns that the US president is about to make a similar mistake in Afghanistan. WASHINGTON - A former US military leader says he blames president Barack Obama personally for failing to deal with Islamic State (IS) and warns that the US president is about to make a similar mistake in Afghanistan. "That's because my friends have gotten killed as a result, and more of my friends are going to die in the efforts to push ISIL out of Iraq," Dr John Nagl said. Dr Nagl has advised the US defence review panel, served in both the 1991 and 2003 Iraq wars, and was asked by US general David Petraeus to write the handbook on counterinsurgency. He said the Obama government's decision to withdraw troops ... (More on P4)...(4)

Obama Consulting Aides on Pace of Drawdown

WASHINGTON - US President Barack Obama is consulting his national security team and military leadership on the pace of the military drawdown from Afghanistan, the White House said on Monday. "The president has been closely consulting with his national security team and with his commanders on the ground ... about the proper pace of that military drawdown," the White House press secretary said. Josh Earnest told reporters at his daily news conference the US military personnel con-



tinued to serve in Afghanistan - to carry out some counterterrorism missions that protected the American people and the Afghans. The American personnel are also engaged in an effort to train, advise and support Afghan security forces as they have taken security responsibility for their country. He ... (More on P4)...(5)

Protestors Want Kidnapped Passengers Freed

GHAZNI CITY - Residents on Tuesday staged a protest demonstration in southern Ghazni province against the abduction of 31 bus passengers, asking the government to take serious steps for their safe release. The passengers were snatched from two buses on the road between southern Kandahar province and Kabul in the Shahjoi district of southern Zabul province on Feb. 23. The men were returning from Iran when masked gunmen, believed to be members of the so-called Islamic State group, kidnapped them at gunpoint. Officials and residents of ... (More on P4)...(6)

Rula Ghani

Afghanistan Becoming Good Place for Women

KABUL - Turning down concerns about the future of Afghan women, First Lady Rula Ghani said the country was becoming a good place for women who have suffered various types of violence for years. "It's no longer a place you can say, oh, what a pity this girl was born in



Afghanistan," the First Lady told Fox News. "Afghanistan is starting to ... (More on P4)...(7)

Iran Reiterates Full Support for Establishment of Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan

Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York Gholam Ali Khoshrou underlined Iran's determination to do its best to promote peace and tranquility in neighboring Afghanistan.

TEHRAN - "The Islamic Republic of Iran, with its deep cultural and historical ties with Afghanistan, has always supported peace, stability, security and socio-economic development in Afghanistan. To us, security in Afghanistan is tantamount to security in our borders and in the Region," Khoshrou said in an address to the meeting of UN Security Council ... (More on P4)...(8)



Iran, Afghanistan Sign MoU on Cultural Cooperation

KABUL - Iran and Afghanistan have signed a memorandum of understanding to expand their cooperation in cultural affairs. The MoU was signed by Iranian Cultural Attache in Kabul Nasser Jahanshahi and Head of Higher Education Institute in Daykundi Province Mohammad Hamta. According to the MoU, the two ... (More on P4)...(9)

Security Up in Mazar-I-Sharif for Nawroz Festival



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Security officials on Tuesday assured that tight security measures would be put in place for celebrations of the Nawroz festival commencing from March 21 in Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital of northern Balkh scheduled. Balkh acting police Chief Col. Abdur Razaq Qaderi, while deploying a security unit at the Hazrat Ali Mausoleum, told ... (More on P4)...(10)

700 Arrested on Drug-Related Charges in a Year



KABUL - During the outgoing solar year, 24,000 litres of alcoholic beverages and 13 tonnes of other narcotic substances were seized and 700 people arrested on charges of trafficking drugs, a special attorney said on Tuesday. Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) Director Yar Mohammad Hussain Khel told a news conference that 712 drug-related cases had been registered with the department. Referred to courts, most of the cases have already been decided. Hussain Khel said the detainees included 729 including ... (More on P4)...(11)

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