

Quote of the Day

Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change
Stephen Hawking

UNAMA's New Head to Serve as Neutral Peace Mediator

KABUL - The UN mission's incoming head has promised serving as a neutral peace mediator to ascertain the measures that could bring peace to Afghanistan. Japanese diplomat Tadamichi Yamamoto pledged in an interview on Friday to make untiring efforts to create an enabling climate for frank talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Yamamoto, the third Japanese to serve as the secretary-general's special representative, told NHK security in Afghanistan had worsened after most international troops departed in 2014. Set to take up his assignment in June, the UNAMA's new head called for sending a clear message to the Taliban that they could not score a military victory. The Afghan security personnel must cope with the situation with the assistance of the international community, said the diplomat, who will replace Nicholas Haysom of South Africa. (Pajhwok)

MoE Terms High Illiteracy Rate a Serious Challenge

KABUL - The Minister of Education, Assadullah Hanif Balkhi, said on Saturday the high rate of illiteracy in the country was a serious challenge. He said that special inclusive literacy programs through media will be launched soon to tackle the challenge. He said that the Ministry of Education (MoE) is working on a national mechanism to fight illiteracy. "Efforts are underway to eliminate literacy and specific programs are being included to the national strategy [against illiteracy]," Balkhi said. A number of journalists and media experts said due to weak management and widespread corruption, the MoE has wasted millions of dollars in international aid. "Unless our education curriculum is



not effectively designed, our students have not received quality education and our education system is not updated, we cannot effectively work for literacy in our society," said Nazari Pariani, a journalist. The journalists believe that media can play an effective role in raising public awareness. "Whatever has been done so far is the work ... (More on P4)...(1)

Hakimi

NPC Saves Afs 14b in 725 Contracts in A Year

KABUL - Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi on Saturday said the National Procurement Committee (NPC) had made 40 percent of major contracts up to the required standard and work on the remaining 60 percent was underway. The minister was testifying before the Wolesi Jirga after being summoned along with other members of the NPC to answer lawmakers' questions on key points and transparency in the commission's affairs. NPC members Hakimi, Justice Minister Abdul Basir Anwar and Ismael Rahimi were present at the house to brief lawmakers about NPC perfor-



mance. Some lawmakers claimed the NPC caused corruption and delayed some projects. But Hakimi said the NPC had scrutinised 900 contracts in one year, ... (More on P4)...(2)

Obama Acknowledges Civilian Fatalities in Drone Strikes

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Friday admitted that innocent civilians were killed at times in drone strikes in different parts of the world, but said caution was being exercised to avoid such fatalities. At the end of a Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, the president told reporters: "I think there has been legitimate criticism that the legal architecture around the use of

drone strikes or other kinetic strikes wasn't as precise as it should have been..." CNN quoted Obama as saying civilians fatalities should not have been. Over the last several years, he said, the US had worked hard to prevent civilian casualties from drone attacks. "In situations of war, we have to take responsibility when we are not acting appropriately ... (More on P4)...(4)

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India Provides \$1m for Treatment of Children

KABUL - India on Saturday promised providing financial assistance of \$1 million over a period of five years for the treatment of Afghan children suffering from congenital heart disease (CHD).

The assistance would be provided to the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), a statement from the Indian embassy said. ARCS received the first ... (More on P4)...(3)

Circles within Govt. Hindering Peace Process: HEI

KABUL - The Hizb-e-Islami (HEI), Afghanistan's second largest militant group after the Taliban, has said that certain elements within the structure of the Afghan government are dealing with political power as their war trophy, an approach the party believes is aimed at sabotaging the peace process. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's group, Hizb-e-Islami, has been in an armed confrontation with the Afghan government and foreign ... (More on P4)...(5)

German FM Supports Afghan Peace Negotiations

KABUL - German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has supported early peace parleys between the Afghan government and the Taliban to the end the 15-year-old conflict in the landlocked country. "We support negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban, as the situation in the region depends on their results," Steinmeier told a joint conference with his Kyrgyz counterpart Erhan Abdydalyev in Bishkek. AKI press quoted ... (More on P4)...(6)



Funding opportunity for civil society organisations

under the Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities

The Delegation of the European Union to Afghanistan has launched a call for proposals under the Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA).

The overall amount made available under this call for proposals is EURO 1 900 000.

The global objective of this Call for Proposals is to co-finance actions to strengthen organic civil society coalitions, including through sub-granting schemes, and promote a broad-based and inclusive civil society in Afghanistan, which is capable and willing to engage with communities and government authorities at all levels of policy, economic and social issues, with an aim to promoting dialogue, the accountability and transparency of state entities.

The proposed actions are expected to achieve the following key objectives:

- To strengthen the collective voice and participation of grassroots civil society, including through community-based monitoring, demanding transparency and accountability from the government;
- To develop capacity of CSOs on good governance practices, policy reform, networking and collective advocacy on reform, transparency and accountability;
- To enhance responsiveness and accountability of local authorities to deliver services and promote the rights and entitlements of communities and citizens.

Download the full guidelines

The full guidelines for applicants are available for consultation on the following website:

http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/afghanistan/grants_tenders/grants/index_en.htm

For the first time, applications to this call must be submitted online via PROSPECT

(<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prospect>) following the instructions given in the PROSPECT user manual.

At this link:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/4li1dkn1x4rwp4/EL_PROSPECT_APPLICATIONS_EN.pdf?dl=0 you can

download a video tutorial on how to use PROSPECT.

With PROSPECT, you can submit your application online, saving paper, time, and resources! You will also be able to verify the

status of your application and receive official communication via PROSPECT.

**Apply latest
23 May 2016**

The deadline for submission of concept notes is 23 May 2016 at 23:59 hrs. Kabul time.

Want to know more?

An information session on this call for proposals will be held on 12 April 2016 at 14.00 hrs. at the premises of the Delegation of the European Union to Afghanistan in Kabul.

For security reasons, those interested in attending this session are required to confirm their participation in advance by sending an email with the name of each attendee and their affiliation to the following email address: delegation-afghanistan-tenders@eeas.europa.

Welcome to the European Union in Afghanistan. The European Union Delegation to Afghanistan functions the same way as an embassy does; it is a diplomatic mission representing the EU in Afghanistan together with its 28 Member States. It performs a variety of tasks aimed at enhancing relations between the EU and Afghanistan. The Head of Delegation is also the European Union Special Representative. The EUSR monitors and reports on political, constitutional and security developments in Afghanistan. He also ensures synergies between foreign policy, development and security components of EU engagement. Together the European nations invest more than €1 billion a year in Afghanistan. The EU development activities in Afghanistan focus on four areas: "Agriculture and Rural Development", "Health", "Policing and Rule of Law" and "Democratisation and Accountability". The most important beneficiaries of our development aid are the Afghan people, to whom we are committed through a long-term partnership.