

Quote of the Day

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
Mahatma Gandhi

Afghanistan Remains High on NATO Agenda: Stoltenberg

WASHINGTON - Afghanistan remains high on NATO's agenda despite the challenges posed by the Islamic State in different parts of the world, the alliance secretary-general said on Monday. "Afghanistan is high on our agenda. Afghanistan is our biggest military operation ever," Jens Stoltenberg told reporters during a brief media appearance with President Barack Obama at the White House. The military operation in Afghanistan was a direct response to the 9/11 terrorist attack in the United States, he said, adding European and Canadian soldiers had fought together with American soldiers in



Afghanistan for many years. Obama remarked NATO continued to be the lynchpin, the cornerstone of collective defence and US security policy. "We had an excellent conversation about Afghanistan, in which NATO obviously has been an extraordinary partner with the US." The coalition continued to focus on assisting

the government and the Afghan security forces, building up capacity, pushing back the Taliban and helping Afghans provide security for their own country, he said. The president hoped the Afghan government would be able to arrive at some sort of a political settlement that would end decades of conflict and violence in that country. "We are grateful for the sacrifices that NATO countries have made -- their men and women fought alongside US troops. They have fought together and they have died together," Obama concluded. (Pajhwok)

Gen. Nicholson Fighting Taking Toll on Afghan Forces' Training

KABUL - NATO's new mission to train Afghan security forces has been put behind schedule by fierce fighting and record casualties, America's top commander in the country has said. General



John Nicholson said in an interview: "This intense period of combat interfered with the glide slope we were on. The assumptions we made about our timelines, we have to re-look based upon the high casualties they took." Apart from suffered high casualties, the Afghan forces had to stop training to fight against the insurgents for much of last year, Gen. Nicholson told Reuters. As a result, NATO's projections in terms of the growth and increasing proficiency of the Afghan army and police

were put behind schedule. A month into his latest assignment, Nicholson will share his appraisal of the conflict in Afghanistan with leaders in Washington in June. He would not comment on his recommendations for future troop levels. In 2015, the general said, 5,500 Afghan forces were killed in action and more than 14,000 wounded. "This would be an enormous shock for any army, (including) a young army that is still growing. Yet they did not break. (Pajhwok)

Stanekzai

Forces' Retreat in Helmand Should Help Battle Taliban



KABUL - The surprise withdrawal of Afghan forces from parts of Helmand province may leave large areas under Taliban control, but it should bolster the defenses of the volatile southern region, the country's top defense official said. Acting Defence Minister Masoom Stanekzai said it made little sense to spread forces across sparsely populated districts like Musa Qala and Naw Zad, where government troops pulled out in February. "We needed reorganization. There was a lot of pressure in different parts of Helmand," he told Reuters in Helmand, where he met local tribal elders and commanders of the Afghan... (More on P4)...(1)

Govt. Asked to Send Decree to Wolesi Jirga for Approval

KABUL - The Meshrano Jirga or Senate asked the government on Tuesday to send the second presidential legislative decree on electoral reforms to the lower house for approval in order to pave the way for parliamentary polls. Earlier, the Wolesi Jirga, or lower house of parliament, had rejected a previous presidential decree endorsing suggestions of the Electoral Reform Commission (ERC). President Ashraf Ghani had decreed seven suggestions of the ERC and called for urgent measures to provide legal cover to the proposals aimed at reforming the electoral system. The proposals include registration of voters, making the election bodies accountable



and the presence of two foreigners on the Independent Election Complaints Commission (IECC). Also, the panel had suggested the reservation of one Wolesi Jirga seat for the Hindu minority and identification and shrinking of constituencies. Other proposals are distribution of computerised identity cards, 25 percent representation for women on provincial and district

councils and invalidation of the current voter cards. In line with Article 14 of the election law, if there is a need for amendments, the issue should be referred to the Independent Election Commission (IEC) Senator Gul Ahmad Azimi told the house that the second presidential decree should land in the lower house as soon as possible so that... (More on P4)...(2)

Afghan Taliban Appoint Mullah Omar Relatives to Senior Jobs

KANDAHAR - A senior figure in the Afghan Taliban says a brother and son of their late founder, the one-eyed Mullah Mohammad Omar, have been appointed to leadership positions in the insurgency. Mullah Gul Rahman Saleem said on Tuesday that Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, Mullah Omar's son, has been named to lead the Taliban military commission for 15 provinces. Mullah Omar's brother, Mullah Abdul Manan, has been

appointed head of religious affairs, Saleem, a member of the Taliban's ruling council, says. The move consolidates the positions of both men as the new head of the Taliban, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor seeks loyalty from dissidents to shore up his own position. Yaqoob and Manan had opposed Mansoor's ascension after it was revealed last summer that Mullah Omar had died more than two years earlier. (AP)

د کھو دیا رغونې او پراختیا وزارت
وزارت اسیا واکشاف وکتابت

د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
MINISTRY OF RURAL REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT

6th April 2016

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF "NATIONAL SUPERVISION CONSULTANTS" (ENGINEERING FIRM)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved funding of US \$ 56.66 million under the Grant NO: G0411 (ADF) & G0412 (AIF) and the Project No: 48326-001-AFG: Northern Flood-Damaged Infrastructure Emergency Relief project (N-FIER) in October 2014 (to be implemented over 3 years) to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA) to support the worst-affected provinces in the Northern Afghanistan during the severe flood from March to June 2014. The project is to assist the government's efforts in the rehabilitation of damaged irrigation and rural road infrastructure. The project is rehabilitate (i) small-scale irrigation and rural road infrastructure in 27 and more worst-affected provinces based on the damage and needs assessment (DNA) undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and (ii) larger-scale irrigation system infrastructure in three provinces based on the DNA undertaken by the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW). The executing agency is the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the implementing agencies are **Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD) and Ministry of Energy & Water (MEW).**

N-FIER-PMO-MRRD, invites eligible "National Supervision Consultants" (Engineering Firm), with qualified Engineers, having "experience in Rural Infrastructure of Irrigation, Road and Bridges Projects" to submit their "Expression of Interest" (EOI) for "Supervision and Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Infrastructure Projects of Irrigation, Roads and Bridges" in 27 provinces of Afghanistan for a period of 16 months (June 2016 – September 2017). The Expression of Interest (EOI) should be submitted online only through <http://cms.adb.org>. Please also visit MRRD and National Procurement Authority (NPA), websites for the advertisement of EOI. **The deadline for submission of EOI is 5th May 2016; by 1:00PM; Afghanistan Time.** PMO-N-FIER-MRRD will not accept any hard or soft copies of EOI, if not submitted through <http://cms.adb.org> website. For the complete REOI and TOR, please download the attachment from <http://cms.adb.org>.

If any further queries needed in this regard, please do write an email to: Jeevanand.kumar@mrrd.gov.af and qudoos.akbari@mrrd.gov.af

Nilu Bagh Street, Darulaman Road, District 6, Kabul, Afghanistan; email: info.rp@mrrd.gov.af; web: <http://www.mrrd.gov.af>; Tel: +93 020 25220428

Political Crisis Stems from Traditional Electoral System

KABUL - A member of the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC) on Tuesday said the current political crisis in Afghanistan stemmed from the traditional electoral system. AECC commissioner Azizullah Aryafar told a press conference here that people in Afghanistan did not try to address root causes of a problem. He said no basic change had come to the minds and hearts of Afghan poli-



ticians and they did not use new methods which had good results in other countries. "We have the crisis and instability like a big tree, but we are trying to remove a branch of the tree and say we have brought reforms. There would be no reforms

if we don't root out a problem," he said. He said if changes were brought to the electoral bodies and still the whole system did not accept internal and external values, there would be no transparent, desirable and acceptable... (More on P4)...(3)

MoF Names 2 Eligible New Kabul Bank Buyers

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Tuesday identified two 'eligible buyers' of the New Kabul Bank and asked the companies, including a local firm and a Pakistani bank, to submit their technical proposals in the next four months. Once the country's largest lender, the Kabul Bank plunged into deep crisis in 2009, when it lost \$987 million in fraudulent property deals, huge off-book loans and credit to fake corporations. The big-time scam prompted the government to take over the bank's affairs and change rename it as New Kabul Bank. Later, the government announced a \$825 million bailout plan for the bank, whose scandal soon came to be the talk of the town. The scam angered international donors besides generating a heated debate in Parliament. Of \$987 million stolen, the government claims having recovered \$437 million. Twenty-four defaulters returned their debts until July, 2015. Mohammad Aqa Kohistani, treasure department director at the Ministry of Finance, told a... (More on P4)...(4)

Sedqi Afghan Militants Still Armed and Financed on Other Side of Border

KABUL - The Afghan anti-government armed militant groups are still receiving support as they use safe havens on the other side of border. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) spokesman Sediq Sedqi told reporters in Kabul that the militants still receive financial support and are being equipped outside the country. Sedqi further added that the militants continue to their insurgency activities using the safe havens located on the other side of the border. He did not elaborate further regarding the safe havens of the Afghan militants located outside the country but the Afghan officials have long been criticizing Pakistan for allowing the Afghan militants to use their soil for planning and coordinating attacks in Afghanistan. The Taliban group's council based in Quetta as well as the notorious Haqqani terrorist network are believed to have shelters in Pakistan. ... (More on P4)...(5)