

Quote of the Day

ART

Religion and art spring
from the same root and are close kin.
Economics and art are strangers.

Nathaniel Hawthorne

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Ghani, Abdullah Hail McCain as Afghanistan's Friend

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Abdullah have offered their condolences to the family and friends of US Senator John McCain, hailing the Vietnam war veteran as a great friend of Afghanistan.

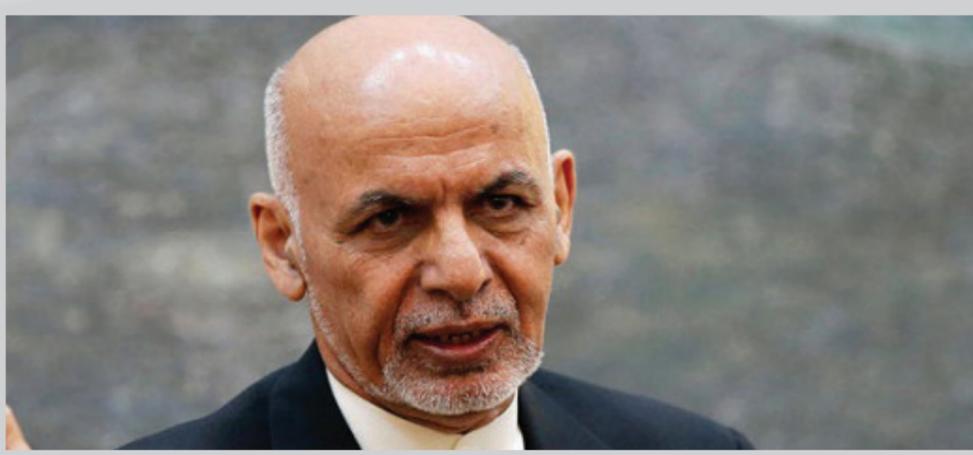
"We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Senator John McCain, who was a great friend of Afghanistan. McCain served his country honourably in uniform and his service in the Senate is truly exemplary.

"We will remember his dedication and support towards rebuilding Afghanistan," the president tweeted. Abdullah said. "We convey our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of McCain, a great friend and supporter of the Afghan nation and people over the years. In respect and appreciation, we pay tribute to his legacy. He was also a personal friend of mine. Rest in peace." A staunch supporter of the war in Afghanistan, the influential senator lost a five-year battle to brain cancer. An unsuccessful presidential runner, McCain was a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

McCain, who served Arizona for more than 30 years on Capitol Hill, died on Saturday at 81, according to a statement from his office. His wife and other family members were with him. (Pajhwok)

Afghan President Ghani Rejects Resignations of Top Security Officials

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani rejected on Sunday resignations tendered a day earlier by three senior security officials, the government said.



KABUL - The resignations from Defence Minister Tariq Shah Bahrami and Interior Minister Wais Barmak, as well as Masoom Stanekzai, the head of the National Directorate of Security, were submitted on Saturday hours after National

Security Adviser Hanif Atmar quit. Government spokesman Haroon Chakansuri said in a statement Ghani had asked the three officials to continue with their duties and "work toward the betterment of the security situation" ... (More on P4)...(1)

Afghan Leaders Meet Croatian President in Kabul



KABUL - The president and his Croatian counterpart discussed a range of issues including the war on terrorism and elections.

Afghan leaders met with Croatia President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic in Kabul on Sunday where they discussed issues of mutual interest including security and war on terrorism.

At the meeting, President Ashraf Ghani and his Croatian counterpart Grabar-Kitarovic exchanged views on a wide range of issues pertaining to the further expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries, Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace process, ceasefire, war on terrorism and the elections, the Presidential Palace (ARG) said in a statement on Sunday.

In return, the Croatian leader said that her country strongly values its relations with Afghanistan and that Croatia will continue its cooperation with Afghanistan in the fields of economy, health, social, cultural and development projects within the frame work of Resolute Support mission.

She also called on Ghani to visit Croatia along with his economic team and private sector to boost cooperation between the two countries.

President Grabar-Kitarovic also met Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah. Abdullah tweeted ... (More on P4)...(2)

German Development Cooperation with Afghanistan Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

Financed by KfW - German Development Bank



Regional Infrastructure Development Fund - RIDF

BMZ-ID 2010 66 562, 2011 65 034, 2013 65 048, 2014 67 885, 2015 67 762, 2016 67 633

Prequalification

Improving Supply Capacity, Reliability and Quality for 3 Districts in Kunduz Province

Upgrade of Sedarak Substation in Kunduz

The Sedarak Substation in Kunduz City will be upgraded by installation of a 110/20 kV, 20 MVA transformer to improve the supply capacity, reliability and quality of power supply for the districts Ali Abad, Khan Abad and Chardarah in Kunduz Province.

Main items of the project are design and construction. These include installation of the transformer, construction of 110 kV switchyard, substation control room and an administrative office building.

The project is financed by the German Development Bank KfW, in the scope of the German Development Cooperation with Afghanistan and will be implemented through the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), conditional to actual budget allocation.

Afghan contractors and international contractors with a base in Afghanistan with experience as General Contractors in the design and construction of HV/MV substations and associated structures - preferably in Northern Afghanistan - are herewith invited to apply for prequalification for the above project. International contractors are explicitly encouraged to form Joint Ventures with national/local contractors.

Tendering will be undertaken according to KfW-Development Bank's "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and associated Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries" (August 2016), which can be downloaded at <https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/Download-Center/PDF-Dokumente-Richtlinien/Vergabe-E.pdf>.

Interested contractors shall request the prequalification documents by e-mail from info@ridf-af.org clearly stating "KDZ-E-2017-01 Upgrade of Sedarak Substation" in the subject line. The request for the prequalification documents must contain the full name and address of the applicant, including contact telephone and e-mail.

Contractors fulfilling these requirements will be sent the prequalification documents via e-mail.

The deadline for submittal of the completed prequalification documents is 26 September 2018.

Joint Venture



Afghanistan Calls for Expansion of Customs Ties with Iran

Birjand - The customs office of Afghanistan is in need of more cooperation on the part of Iran to develop its infrastructures, said the visiting governor of Farah Province in Birjand, the provincial capital of South Khorasan.

'Goods should be exported to Afghanistan via a single rout so that we would be able to stop low quality goods from entering Afghanistan,' said Abdulbaser Salangi on Saturday.

Saying that the ties between Iran and Afghanistan have always been good, he stressed, 'Cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan in the resistance era is not forgettable.'

'Iran has given lots of gratuitous aids to the Afghan people,' the governor of western Afghan province.



'Despite all the problems and the war in Afghanistan, Iran has always stood by us,' he added. ((IRNA))

Killing of ISIS-K Emir Demonstrates Afghan Resolve in Fight Against Terrorism: ARG

KABUL - The Afghan government reacted at the killing of ISIS Khurasan emir during an airstrike in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. Deputy presidential spokesman Shah Hussain Murtazwi in a statement said the killing of ISIS Khurasan emir, Abu Syed Orakzai, demonstrates the Afghan government's resolve in the fight against terrorism.

Informed sources in the National Directorate of Security said the ISIS Khurasan emir, identified as Saad Arhabi, was killed in Khogyani district on Saturday night.

The sources further added that Arhabi, also famous as Abu Syed Orakzai, was killed along with nine other ISIS group members who were accompanying him.

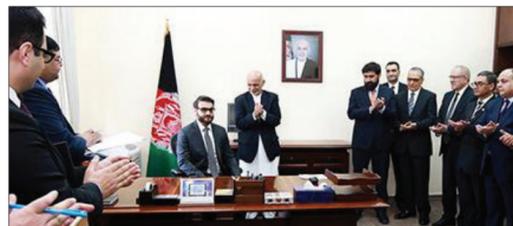
According to the sources, the airstrike was carried out in the vicinity of Jungle village of Khogyani district.

The provincial governor's spokesman, Ataullah Khogyani, also confirmed the killing of Saad Arhabi and said he was originally a resident of Orakzai Agency ... (More on P4)...(3)

Hamdullah Mohib Takes Over as New NSA

KABUL - Ghani said that he has instructed the security agencies to keep in place Hanif Atmar's security measures. President Ashraf Ghani officially introduced Hamdullah

the statement added. Addressing the officials present, Ghani mentioned Atmar and said he has ordered the security sector to ensure all Atmar's security measures re-



Mohib as the new national security advisor on Sunday morning, the Presidential Palace said in a statement.

Mohib replaces Mohammad Hanif Atmar who resigned unexpectedly on Saturday. Mohib was ambassador to Washington DC.

High-ranking officials, including the Defense Minister Tariq Shah Bahrami and Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak, attended the ceremony,

main in place.

"Accepting the resignation of a long-term friend and co-worker was a difficult decision for me, but this decision should be taken for the benefit of the country," Ghani said. Ghani also thanked Atmar for his efforts and said the country needs him, and that his expertise will still be used in the country.

"I have instructed the security sector ... (More on P4)...(4)