



Ousted Afghan Governor Returns to Office in Defiance of Presidential Orders



Atta Muhammad Noor, who governed northern Balkh province for 13 years, has from the outset rejected his dismissal as illegal, questioning whether President Ashraf Ghani had the power to do so unilaterally.

MAZAR-E-SHARIF - Afghanistan governor returned to his office Saturday and chaired an official meeting in violation of a presidential decree that ousted him from his post earlier this month. The escalating political uncertainty comes as the

United States and its allies step up military efforts in support of Afghan forces as they try to counter the Taliban insurgency and the Islamic State group plots fresh deadly suicide bombings in the war-torn country. *...(More on P4)...(10)*

MPs to Grill IEC Officials over Polling Stations' Relocation

KABUL - A number of Wolesi Jirga members on Saturday said many polling stations have been specified in areas which are out of government's writ, saying the act was aimed at 'engineering elections'. Based on a recent report, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) has assessed and relocated

7,355 polling stations in 34 provinces across the country. June 7, 2018 has been announced as the date for Wolesi Jirga and district council elections; but according to some reports needed preparations have not been yet taken for the upcoming polls. Mohammad Iqbal Safi, a lawmaker from central Kapisa at the Wolesi

Jirga, while referring to the polling centers specified by the IEC during Saturday's session of the house said: "Many polling places chosen in Kapisa province are located in areas which are not under government's control." "This act is aimed at engineering polls in order they IEC officials are able to full ballot boxes of votes for their own *...(More on P4)...(11)*

US Plans to Buy 7 Armed AC-208s for Afghan Air Force

KABUL - Orbital ATK would deliver seven armed Cessna AC-208 Caravan aircraft to the Afghan National Army under a pending US Air Force contract award, the US armed service says. According to flightglobal.com, an acquisition notice posted by the Air Force late on 27 December invites comments on a plan to award the contract to Orbital ATK without a competition.

Any responses with alternative options must be submitted to the Aeronautical Systems Center by 12 January. Bids from non-American companies are excluded due to security requirements, the Air Force notice says.



If finalized, the deal would add to the seven AC-208s to 208 more aircraft that the Department of Defense supplied to the Afghan military and police between 2007 and 2016, according to a 10 August report by the US Govern-

ment Accountability Office. Flightglobal.com reported that the Afghan Air Force and Special Mission Wing already operate the unarmed version of the C-208 turboprop as a cargo and utility *...(More on P4)...(12)*

Imports from Pakistan Drop by 80pc this Year



MAZAR-I-SHARIF - As its trade with Central Asia states has been on the rise, Afghanistan's imports from Pakistan have declined by 80 percent, say traders in northern Balkh province. Due to commerce and transit issues between Afghanistan

and Pakistan, businesspeople in the province say imports through the Torkham port have precipitously fallen. Meanwhile, officials of the customs department say their revenue in 2017 had increased by 16 percent over last year, thanks *...(More on P4)...(13)*

Extend Afghan Refugees' Stay, Islamabad Urged

PESHAWAR - Civil society activists have urged the government to take a decision on extending the stay of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Beyond Boundaries asked the government to let Afghan refugees stay in Pakistan until December 31 and thereby end the uncertainty about their fate. Any delay in extension would only expose the refugees to avoidable excesses and harassment by relevant departments and agencies, warned the Pak-Afghan track 1.5/II initiative. The cabinet has already ap-

proved extending the validity of the proof of registration cards of 1.3 million Afghan refugees and documentation of Afghan nationals. It has also given the go-ahead to the adoption of a national refugee law and a visa regime for different categories of Afghan citizens. The government was requested to swiftly implement a new visa regime, a step that will generate goodwill, help overcome angst and clear uncertainty regarding the fate of refugees. (Pajhwok)

Diplomatic Enclave to be Constructed in Kandahar City

KANDAHAR CITY - The governor of southern Kandahar province has said a separate township for diplomatic missions of foreign countries would be constructed in Kandahar City, the provincial capital, a statement from the governor house said on Saturday.

Governor Maj. Gen. Zalmai Weesa expressed the view during a meeting with Indian Consulate General Madan Singh Bhandari and Iranian Consulate General Syed Saeed Qaderi.

Weesa said in coordination with the centre the provincial government planned to construct a separate township for diplomatic missions here. He asked the consul generals to present their demands in this regard. The Indian and Iranian diplomats expressed happiness over the construction of diplomatic enclave and added they would share the development with their countries. Weesa ordered Kandahar City Mayor Roshan Walsam and Foreign Affairs director Zahir Alko to visit the sites along with Iranian and Indian diplomats where the new township is planned to be constructed. Besides Indian and Iran, Pakistan also has consulate in Kandahar City. (Pajhwok)

Award Notification

Scope of Contract:	Consultancy Services for Study of Afghanistan Financial Management Information System Development and Implementation	Minimum Qualifying Technical Score:	75
Consultants' names	Zwak Media & Advocacy Network (ZwankMAN)	JMR Infotech Middle East (FZC)	Afghanistan Contemporary Technology Services
City/Country	Afghanistan	UAE	Afghanistan
Status:	Awarded	Evaluated Consultant/Firm	Evaluated Consultant/Firm
Technical Score	93.96	70.1	87.71
Criteria			
Price as read out	331707 USD	NA	357472 USD
Final Negotiated Price	309,8877.22 USD		
Rank	1	3	2

Other Shortlisted Consultant(s)/Firm(s) (these will be all that "Proposal submitted = no")

Consultants' names	Amiri Technologies		
City/Country	Afghanistan		
Proposal Submitted:	No		