



AGO Suspends 17 Officials of Kabul Directorate of Rights

KABUL - The Office of the Attorney General of Afghanistan (AGO) on Tuesday announced that it has ordered the suspension of at least seventeen members of the Kabul Directorate of Rights, under the Ministry of Justice, over their misuse of authority. The AGO has also announced the suspension of three employees from the Pashtany Bank. The AGO stated that these officials were suspended pending an investigation but gave no details. "Seventeen officials of Kabul's Directorate of Rights, including their chairman, along with three employees from



Pashtany Bank have been suspended over their connection with a case," said AGO spokesman Jamshid Rasuli. According to Rasuli, complaints had been filed about these individuals a few weeks ago. "Kabul Directorate of Rights was not putting court orders into effect. Also several employees of Pashtany Bank were not undertaking their duties in the right manner; they all are under investigation," he added. Corruption has been one of the major challenges for the Afghan government. Several institutions have however started anti-graft campaigns. (Tolnews)

4 Human Traffickers Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison

JALALABAD - A court in eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday announced sentencing four human traffickers to 12 years in jail. Judges Fazal Haq and Qaisur Rahman handed down the jail sentences to the traffickers at the end of a hearing and due legal process. A statement from the court said the jail terms were awarded to the accused in line with Article 6 of the human trafficking and smuggling law. A Corolla car and weapons recovered from the accused would be surrendered to the state, according to the ruling, which could be challenged in the appellant court. Kidnappings and human-trafficking incidents have lately increased in Nangarhar. Dr. Mohammad Hanif Hashimi, member of the Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA), welcomed the decision. The governor's spokesman, Attaullah Khogyani, said security forces had ... (More on P4)...(8)

Commander Vows to Purge ABP of Corruption



JALALABAD - Col. Mohammad Ayub Hussainkhel, Afghan Border Police (ABP) commander in the eastern zone, says an anti-corruption drive has led to the arrest of some service members and transfers of 30 others. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, he said since his takeover as commander a month, strict measures had been taken to control corruption, strengthen the moral of border guards and improve the overall situation. "I have visited a string of border posts in Dangam and Sarkano districts of Kunar province, as well as Goshta, Lalpura and Momand Dara district of Nangarhar. I also paid a visit to border areas of Nazyan district. "During my trips, I met policemen at the Shamshad post and commended their services," Hussainkhel said, claiming he had resolved equipment and logistic-related problems facing the force. He vowed to prepare ABP personnel to deal with possible aggression and give a befitting response to the aggressor. More than 30 ABP members, including four high-ranking officials who served more than three years at single duty station, had ... (More on P4)...(10)

Return Refugees in Nangarhar Appeal for Govt's Help

JALALABAD - A number of Afghans in Nangarhar province, who recently returned home from Pakistan, said they are living in very bad conditions, with little shelter against the harsh winter. The return refugees, who gathered outside the Refugees and Repatriation Directorate in the province on Tuesday, appealed to government to address their problems. They said government promised them shelter; however, this has not been delivered. "We returned [from Pakistan] five months ago, but nothing has been done for us so far. We are living with many problems," said Mohammad Mir, a return refugee. "We cannot go to our village; therefore we have rented a house here [in Jalalabad city]. Government vowed to provide us with land, but has not delivered on its promise," said Babrak, another return refugee. Meanwhile, Tayeb Atta, a member of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House of Parliament) from Nangarhar, called on government to address the refugees' problems. "Newly returned Afghans from Pakistan are faced with a lack of water, health-care services and many other problems; government should assess and address their problems. However, government has not taken any steps in this respect," Atta said. The head of Refugees and Repatriation Directorate in Nangarhar, Wali Mohammadullah Yar, said they have started building a township on 700 hectares of land for return refugees. "At least 6,000 families have returned to the country from Pakistan so far. Now we want to build a township for them on 700 hectares of land in order to overcome their housing problems," he said. He added: "We will also build other townships." The Ministry of Refugees and ... (More on P4)...(11)

Trump's Travel Ban to Embolden Terrorists, Warns OIC

KABUL - The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has voiced concern at President Donald Trump's order banning citizens of seven Muslim countries into the US. On Friday, Trump slapped four-month restrictions on refugees' entry into the United States and temporarily barred travelers from the seven Muslim countries. A statement from the OIC Secretariat warned the move would further complicate the already grave challenges facing refugees around the globe. The grouping said: "As a result of this ban, many of those fleeing war and persecution have been adversely and unjustly affected. It added the discriminatory



act would only embolden the narrative of extremists and provide further fuel to the advocates of violence and terrorism. The OIC asked the US to reconsider the blanket decision and maintain its moral obligation to provide leadership and hope at a time of uncertainty and unrest in the world. (Pajhwok)

20 ISIS Loyalists Killed by Own Bomb in Zabul

QALAT - At least 20 loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group were killed in a premature bomb explosion in southern Zabul province of Afghanistan. Local official said late Monday that the incident took place on Sunday evening in Arghandab district. Provincial police chief Ghulam Jilani Farahi confirmed that the explosion took place in a training center of the ISIS loyalists in Khwarzangi area. He said at least 10 ISIS loyalists were also wounded in the explosion as the militants were training the newly-recruited militants. The anti-government ... (More on P4)...(9)

Bamyan Honours Female Skier Ebadi

BAMYAN - Female Afghan skier, Geeti Ebadi, was on Tuesday allotted a land plot by the provincial government of central Bamyan province in recognition of her recent achievement in the sport. Ebadi won gold medal in skiing competitions in South Korea in January. Athletes from 48 countries participated in the events. Three Afghans including two girls were among the participants. Ebadi secured first and Fareba Ahmadi fourth positions in the competitions. The Bamyan government on Tuesday granted a certificate of appreciation and a land plot to Ebadi at a ceremony to appreciate the athletes. On the occasion, 3rd municipal district chief of Bamyan City, Haji Yusuf, gave away the keys of a car to Geeti Ebadi as an encouragement gift. Bamyan Governor Mohammad Tahir Zaheer congratulated the entire sports community of the country on the achievements and hoped skiing would see further promotion in Bamyan. He said culturally and climate-wise, Bamyan was suitable for skiing development, asking the Physical Education and Sports Department to pay serious attention to the sport and introduce Bamyan as ... (More on P4)...(12)

Army Pakistan Not Involved in Afghanistan's Violence



ISLAMABAD - Pakistan country," the military spokesman said. Talking about the outcome of the security situation he said that sanctuaries of terrorists have been eliminated in the lawless tribal regions, which border Afghanistan. "Most of the terrorists were killed in the operation while the remaining managed to take refuge in Afghanistan due to non-presence of troops on the other side of the border," he said. General Ghafoor said leadership of the outlawed Tehrik-e-Talban Pakistan is hiding in Afghanistan, adding it is the stated policy of Pakistan that it will never allow its territory to be used against any other country. (Xinhua)

Bilawal in Favour of Afghan-Led Reconciliation Process

KABUL - Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said his party supported an Afghan-led peace process terming Afghan conflicts mandatory for stability in Pakistan, according to a media report on Tuesday. In his remarks at the US Institute of Peace (USIP), a top American think-tank, Bilawal said Afghanistan peace process is crucial for Pakistan's stability. Bilawal, who is the son of former Prime Minister Banazir Bhutto, said only Afghan leaders, could encourage the armed groups to talks. He



went on saying that without unity and emergence of Afghan leaders, the Afghan constitution, women, minority rights and other gains of the past over ten years were being threatened. He hit out at Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for weak foreign policy saying Pakistan did not enjoy good relations with most of its neighbours at the moment due to government foreign policy failure. "We need a strong foreign policy," he said, alleging that Pakistan's relationship with each of its neighbors have deteriorated under Prime Minister Sharif. "Leadership is lacking at the moment in Pakistan's foreign policy," he said. (Pajhwok)

20 Townships Illegally Constructed in Mazar-e-Sharif

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - There are 56 residential townships in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, and 20 of them have been illegally constructed, municipality officials say. In some of the illegal townships, land plots have been sold and even homes have been constructed and construction work on some houses is underway.

Mazar-i-Sharif Mayor Naseer Ayni told Pajhwok Afghan News several townships had been constructed during the civil war. According to him, the illegal townships lacked permit from the Urban Development Department and had been constructed arbitrarily. Municipality cultural affairs advisor, Dawood Haidari, said owners of illegal residential schemes were powerful individuals or had contacts with high ranking officials. ... (More on P4)...(13)

