



## Atmar Calls Moscow Talks 'a Starting Point'

Atmar says they will defend the values of democracy at the Moscow talks.



KABUL - Former National Security Advisor and presidential candidate Mohammad Hanif Atmar has confirmed that he will attend the Moscow talks along with other "leaders of the country", calling it an important step and a starting point for inclusive intra-Afghan negotiations. Documents obtained by TOLONews show that the talks were organized by Russia-based Afghan refugees union.

Former president Hamid Karzai, former vice president Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, former Balkh governor and Jamiat-e-Islami member Atta Mohammad Noor, Jamiat-e-Islami member Mohammad Ismail Khan, second deputy chief executive and Wahday party member Mohammad Mohaqiq, head of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan Sayed Hamid Gailani, former member of Taliban Abdul Salam Zaef and Zabi-

hullah Mujaddedi, son of former president Sebghatullah Mujaddedi are Afghan politicians who will reportedly attend the meeting. TOLONews also obtained a document which shows President Ashraf Ghani's former special envoy for reforms and member of Jamiat-e-Islami party, Ahmad Zia Massoud, has also been invited to attend the talks which will be held on February 5 and 6. Sources ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

## Paktia to Hire Above 900 Teachers Next Academic Year

GARDEZ - More than 900 teachers will be recruited during the upcoming academic year to resolve their shortage in southeastern Paktia province, an official said Sunday.

they showed interest. Meanwhile, provincial council members also welcomed hiring of new teachers as an important step and urged the MoE to pay more attention to



Paktia education department head Kochai Zazai told Pajhwok Afghan News another 300 teachers who had retired or died would be replaced in the province. He said teachers who were professional in relevant subjects and had graduated from the teacher training college would be newly hired. Zazai said recruiting new teachers would help students learn quality lessons. In addition 200 empty teacher posts for women and men would be filled by the Ministry of Education in future, the official added. He said girls who graduated this educational year from several districts would be hired as teachers in the provincial capital and districts through a transparent exam, if

schools' related issues. Ayub Gharwal, PC deputy head, told Pajhwok that teachers in Paktia continued to face numerous problems which should be addressed first. He said besides lack of teachers, there were many other issues hindering the education process like of lack of textbooks, teaching equipment, school buildings, surrounding walls, libraries, laboratories, professional teachers, female teachers and others. Abdullah Hamdard, a civil society activist, told Pajhwok that the provincial education department and related institutions should to pay more attention to schools in districts rather the provincial capital. He expressed concern over what he called the bad situation of ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

## 50 Hookah Shops Sealed in Ghazni: Police

GHAZNI CITY/PUL-I-KHUMRI - Police sealed dozens of hookah shops in southern Ghazni province and separately seized more than 50 kilogram of hashish in northern Baghlan province, officials said Sunday. The 50 hookah shops were shut down based on public complaints, Ghazni police chief Brig. Gen. Ghulam Dawood Tarakhel told Pajhwok Afghan News. However, Noorullah, a resident of Ghazni City, the provincial capital, said the hookah shops would only remain closed for a few days and then reopen. He said: "Whenever a new police chief takes charge, hookah shops are closed, but later they open again." Elsewhere, Baghlan police chief Brig. Gen. Ikramuddin Sareh told Pajhwok police arrested a corolla car driver carrying 52 kilograms of hashish in Shamarq locality of Pul-i-Khumri city, the province capital, late Sunday night. *(Pajhwok)*

## 'Complex' Peace Talks Impacting Economy: ACCI



The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and businessmen on Sunday said that the complexities around the peace negotiation process has already had

a negative impact on Afghanistan's economic growth and investment arena. "In view of the current situation, investors are not interested in investing," said Mohammad Younus

Momand, deputy head of ACCI. Sayed Sultan Hussain, a car dealer in Kabul, who started his business ten years ago, said his business did well until recently. He said very few people are now buying cars. "People are now in a state of confusion, because no one is willing to invest. They can't import cars from abroad. Major investors and wealthy people have left and have invested abroad," he said. "The investors look very concerned, they don't know what the situation in Afghanistan will be. There is no assurance for the people ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## National Healthcare Accreditation Board Established

KABUL - The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) on Sunday said around 35,000 Afghans suffered from cancer in 2018, asking the people to engage in physical activities and sports and consume vegetables and fruits for prevention of the deadly disease. On the other hand, the creation of National Healthcare Accreditation Board (NHAB) was also announced today under the MoPH framework on the occasion of the World Cancer Day usually celebrated in the first week of February. The World Cancer Day was celebrated in Kabul under the



theme 'Who I am and what I can do'. Firozuddin Firoz, public health minister, speaking at the ceremony, said that around 30,000 to 40,000 people contracted cancer in Af-

ghanistan in 2018 while 15,000 of them lost their lives to the disease. He said cancer was the second deadly disease after heart diseases that took the lives of many people ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

## Some Politicians Ignore National Interest: Fazli

KABUL - Senior presidential advisor Fazal Mahmood Fazli has blamed some politicians for ignoring the national interest in quest of power. "It is regrettable that some political figures, so-called founders of a democratic transition of power and the existing system, ignore all national values because of differences with the government," he said. Ahead of the Moscow meeting on Afghanistan, the advisor revealed those politicians were ready to compromise the current political system, national sovereignty, army and fundamental national



rights in a bid to come to power. Fazli's statement comes before a meeting between Taliban representatives and political party representatives, slated for Feb 5-6 in the capi-

tal of Russia. An organizer of the meeting told Pajhwok Afghan News several politicians had been issued with visas for participation in the Moscow talks. ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

## Distrust of Polio Vaccine Plagues Afghanistan



KABUL - Many parents in rural areas suspect that polio vaccines are used for spying or contain questionable ingredients. The Taliban will not target a new vaccination campaign in Afghanistan, according to tribal chiefs and clerics. However, distrust of the vaccination programme remains rife among the populace and could hinder efforts to eradicate the dis-

ease. After a fake polio vaccination programme was used as cover to search for Osama bin Laden in neighbouring Pakistan, rumours in Afghanistan began to spread that the vaccination is used for spying and that the ingredients are not halal. In the end, the fake programme may have dealt real harm to Afghanistan's battle against polio. *(Aljazeera)*

## Work on Casa-1000 Project Faces Eight Months Delay

KABUL - Officials from Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the country's power utility company, on Saturday said work on construction of CASA-1000 power project has been delayed for eight months due to some certain reasons including that of financial. According to DABS Chairman Amanullah Ghalib, the company has not paid the 17 percent of the pre-paid money for the company which has contracted Afghanistan part of the project. Based on the timeline, work on the project was supposed to kick off by the end of 2018; however, Ghalib said the work will start by the end of 2019. "The CASA-1000 contract is related to the Tajikistan and Pakistan parts of the project," Ghalib said. "The signing of contract on installation of substations in Pakistan and Tajikistan in September, ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

