

Quote of the Day

To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.

Winston Churchill

Govt. Criticized for Not Revealing Smart City Details

KABUL - The team tasked to investigate the controversial Smart City housing contract said Tuesday that it sent its report to President Ashraf Ghani one month ago but the Presidential Palace has not made public its details so far. The findings of the team reveal that the president's former legal adviser Abdul Ali Mohammadi, Kabul Bank's former clearance manager, the Ministry of Urban Development Affairs and Housing (MUDA) and a number of other organizations were involved in the signing of the controversial contract with Khalilullah Frozi, convicted Kabul Bank defaulter. "The probe into the Smart City case ended one month ago. In our



report, we mentioned a number of acts that were against the law," said Chairman of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC) Mo-

hammad Hussain Fakhri. He said findings of the HOOAC show that most government officials involved violated the procurement law, the anti-corruption law and the Constitution in signing the Smart City contract. Meanwhile, the president's deputy spokesman Sayed Zafar Hashemi said they have received the report and that they will make it public soon. "The Presidential Palace has received the report on the details of the signing of the Smart City contract. We will share its details with the media at the end of this week," he said. According to reports, the total debt amounted to \$900 million USD when the Kabul ... (More on P4)...(1)

Turkey Russia's Actions in Syria Repeat USSR Path in Afghanistan



ANKARA - Turkish Prime Minister of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu has compared Russia's actions in Syria with military operations in Afghanistan, the Turkish TRT Haber TV channel reported Feb. 9. He said that sooner or later, the forces that carry out military operations in Syria, will leave it in the same manner as

they previously left Afghanistan. The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in late December 1979 in support of the Afghan communist government in its conflict with anticommunist Muslim guerrillas during the Afghan War (1978-92) and remained in Afghanistan until mid-February 1989. Despite having ... (More on P4)...(2)

Protestors

Top Officials Use CBR to Recruit Relatives



KABUL - Government employees rallied in Kabul on Tuesday, seeking a halt to the Capacity Building for Results (CBR) programme that they alleged was being used by top officials to recruit their relatives and friends to vacant posts. Launched in 2012, top government posts are announced through CBR against better salaries from government support funds and the national budget programme. Tens of government employees on Tuesday staged a protest in front of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, calling for the programme to be brought to a halt. Hasamuddin Taluqani, head of the labour rights, work and ... (More on P4)...(3)

Kabul to Seek UN Action against State Sponsors of Terror

WASHINGTON - Afghanistan is preparing a set of proposals for action against state actors violating the UN Security Council resolution on the Taliban and Al Qaeda and aiding terrorism in the war-torn country.

In an exclusive interview, a top diplomat told Pajhwok Afghan News: "There are people within state structures, in particular within the security apparatus, who believe in the use of violence in pursuit of political objectives." Afghan Ambassador to UN Mahmoud Saikal said: "I feel that the UN resolutions are not strong enough to target



these people and to really stop them from what they are doing." Saikal, who was in Washington DC last week to meet senior US administration officials, said both UN Security Council and General Assem-

bly resolutions allowed chasing the Taliban leaders. "But certain individual within the state structure, who orchestrate the biggest show of terrorism in our region and around the world, are let free," Saikal said. By state

he meant countries that he refused to identify. "And also some of the retirees, who are probably twice as active as those in office, do what they want. They appear in London, they appear in Washington DC and they call on audiences to clap for the success of the Taliban. "If this is what they do publicly, only God knows what they do in secret," he said, referring to supporters of the Taliban in the region and their activities. The UN Security Council and General Assembly resolution goes close to taking action against such people and organisations, but they ... (More on P4)...(4)

Ghani Approves Law on Mass Media

KABUL - The Mass Media Commission on Tuesday welcomed President Ashraf Ghani's move to approve the law on mass media, saying that it has made clear the formation and structure for creation and activities of media organizations in Afghanistan. According to officials, the law has four chapters and 41 articles. "The law has two parts: First the process of establishment and activity of mass media, and second all the rights and privileges of reporters or journalists," said Khpulwak Sapai, chairman of the Mass Media Commission. A number of journalists meanwhile welcomed the move by the president and called for its implementation. "I welcome the approval of the law by the President [Ashraf Ghani]. Journalists have ... (More on P4)...(5)



Tender Notification call for expression of interest:

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing Technical Cooperation measures on behalf of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

GIZ Office in Kabul now invites experienced and financial solvent Bidders for the Support to MOLSAMD on National Priority Plan on Women's Economic Empowerment- NPP-WEE to submit their expression of interest letter to participate in the bidding process.

Objective:

Development of a NPP on Afghan Women's Economic Empowerment

Expected Outcome:

1. A unified, results-based and Finalized National Priority Plan on Afghan Women's Economic Empowerment in Afghanistan that enables a sound context for various initiatives to improve the economic situation of Afghan women and their role in society.
2. A Monitoring and Evaluation System which enables/ensures effective NPP-WEE implantation.

Qualifications required

This assignment requires committed and qualified national and international consultants with insight knowledge of international best practices and experiences in the field of gender and economic development Working Experience within Afghan Ministries to develop is needed. Therefore the experts should fulfill the following requirements:

Consultancy firm:

- A team with
- minimum Master Degree or PhD in social sciences including development studies, governance, gender and M&E issues.
- A liaison assistant to coordinate and support from the MOLSAMD- WEE unit.
- Experience in working together with Afghan government organizations and international organizations especial Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MOLSAMD) and Ministry of Women Affairs is required
- Proven record and expertise in gender related issues
- Excellent understanding of social perspectives especially on cultural and political situation of Women in Afghanistan
- Proven understanding of women economic situation in Afghanistan.
- Excellent experience and proven network to donor/international community on national level and to align with various other national stakeholders
- Proven Experience with developing national action plan or national priority plans is essential
- Familiar with Afghan government strategic and country-wide priorities (NPPs, SMAF, etc.)

To claim the tender documents for the bidding process, please send us your interest letter with the reference number (83222201) to tenders-afg@giz.de latest until 15.02.2016.

Corruption in Customs Offices Affects Businesses: ACCI



KABUL - The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) on Tuesday complained the complex tax system, bureaucracy and corruption in customs offices badly affected private sector businesses. ACCI first deputy head Khan Jan Alokozay told a news conference that the complex system of issuing licenses, col-

lecting taxes and auditing commercial goods by several government organs and corruption in customs offices were the main problems discouraging the private sector. In presence of Finance Ministry officials at the press conference, Alokozay said commercial goods were checked separately by governor's offices, .. (More on P4)...(6)

Projects worth Afs 220m to be Launched in 13 Provinces

KABUL - Fifty-five uplift schemes would be launched in 13 provinces by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development with financial support from the World Bank (WB), an official said on Tuesday. Contracts for the projects were signed on Tuesday between Minister of Rural Rehabilitation Nasir Ahmad Durrani and community development councils of the 13 provinces.

Durrani said the projects including the construction and renovation of retaining walls, canals, water heads, roads and bridges were part of emergency services for victims of natural disasters. More than 150,000 man-day work opportunities will be provided for thousands of people in rural parts of Balkh, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Panjsher, .. (More on P4)...(7)

Japan Provides \$1,110,000 for 2 Demining Projects

KABUL - The Japanese government has pledged \$1,110,000 for two demining projects in northern and central regions of Afghanistan. An agreement was signed between Japan's Ambassador Hiroshi Takahashi, Farid

Homayun, Country Director of HALO Trust and Kefayatullah Eblagh, Chairman and the Founder of Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) in the Embassy of Japan in Kabul on Monday. Through.. (More on P4)...(8)

Danishi Kunduz City Outskirts under Taliban's Control

KUNDUZ CITY - Acting governor of northern Kunduz province admitted on Tuesday, his last day in office, the outskirts of the provincial capital were under Taliban's control.

During a farewell meeting with elders, provincial council members and civil society activists, Danishi said he had good memories of interacting with locals.

The outgoing acting governor said he had tried his best to improve the security situation in Kunduz, but senior government officials did not cooperate with him.

"I suggested repeatedly an all-out offensive in areas on the outskirts of Kunduz City, but no one paid any attention to my calls," he alleged, warning the militants were becoming more powerful.

Danishi warned that Kunduz City would face worse violence than what had happened on September 28, 2015 if a clearing operation was not launched promptly.

Kunduz City fell to the Taliban militants on September 28 after heavy fights between the rebel group and Afghan forces. But the city was recaptured from the militants during a two weeks clearing operation.

Before taking control of the city, the Taliban were active in eight kilometers of the provincial capital, but now they are active from one to five kilometers ... (More on P4)...(9)