



Law on Licensing Mass Media Outlets Amended

KABUL - The Cabinet's legislative committee on Monday approved a suggestion of the Afghan media community amending the law governing establishment of mass media enterprises. Shah Hussain Murtazawi, a spokesman to the president, said the cost of license and bank guarantee for media outlets had been decreased by 90 percent in some cases. For example, he said, license for nationwide and local television channels was 50,000 afghanis in the past, but now it had been decreased to 10,000 afghanis and for a local TV channel to 3,000 afghanis. He said a meeting of the legislative committee chaired by



second vice-president, Sarwar Danish, approved the suggestion and decided to present the draft amendment to a Cabinet meeting for ratification. Fahim Dashti, head of Afghanistan Journalists Association (AJA), welcomed the amendment to the mass media regulation and asked the Cabinet to approve it. Based on the regulation enforced in November 2015, all media institutes are obliged to renew their licenses and pay a specific amount to the government in return. Media activists in the past too had asked the president during meetings to amend the regulation. The president had promised action. (Pajhwok)

France Offers 61.5m Euros in Aid to Afghanistan

KABUL - The French government donated 61.5 million euros to boost agriculture and energy generation in Afghanistan, an official said Monday. A contract for the assistance was signed between Finance minister, Eklil Hakimi and French Ambassador François Richier in Kabul. Hakimi said: "Agriculture, energy and health sectors are

a priority for the Afghan government's efforts to boost the economy and offer effective services. "The Afghan government is working to improve these sectors and the country's economy," he added, thanking France for its cooperation in different areas. The donation would pave the ground... (More on P4)... (11)

Goal Should be Winning the War in Afghanistan: Mohib

WASHINGTON - The goal of the international community in particular the United States led by the President Donald Trump should be to win the war against terrorism in Afghanistan and not how not to lose in the country, a top Afghan diplomat based in the US told a Washington audience on Monday. "We need

to shift the mentality from not losing in Afghanistan to winning there. We must win," the Afghan Ambassador to the US Hamdullah Mohib told a Washington audience at an event organized by the New America Foundation, a top US think-tank. "Win is only way forward. This... (More on P4)... (12)

Roots of Ongoing Violence in Afghanistan Lie Outside, Afghan Envoy Tells UNSC

KABUL - The roots of ongoing violence in Afghanistan lie outside the country, the Afghan envoy to the United Nations said during a meeting of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Nazifullah Salarzai Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of Afghanistan, was speaking during the meeting "Threats Caused by Terrorist Acts - Protection of Critical Infrastructure". "The ongoing cycle of violence in Afghanistan is not, by any means, a homegrown phenomenon. Its roots lie elsewhere, outside Afghanistan," Salarzai said. Salarzai further added the roots of violence are emanating from a strategic design crafted from within our re-



gion to advance an ill-fated political agenda, which serves no one, defies international law and constitutes a blatant violation of the very spirit and tenets of the UN Charter, including relevant counterterrorism resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council. According to Salarzai, the fight against international terrorism stands at a crossroads. "At this critical juncture, a refined global effort is

needed to combat this menace with greater precision and accuracy. In this context, we welcome the efforts of the new Secretary General to strengthen the UN counterterrorism architecture, including his decision to create the Office of Counter Terrorism (OCT), and appointment of an Under-Secretary General to head that office," he added. Salarzai also added that "Despite Afghanistan's difficult security environment, we are a nation that is making steady progress towards lasting stability and Self-Reliance." "The National Unity Government is working, in greater cohesion and coordination, on tackling a difficult set of challenges facing our people. In... (More on P4)... (13)

Collecting Old Banknotes in 1 Month is Impossible: Moneychangers

KABUL - The Afghanistan central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), announced last week that shabby banknotes would no longer be valid start of the coming solar year 1396 and called for collecting them from the market in one month. However, moneychangers believe the period given was too short. According to moneychangers, people are obliged to exchange the old notes against reduced rate—a process that is inflicting financial damage on the people.

Around 500 branches of the government and private banks have been tasked countrywide with collecting banknotes from people. DAB's deputy head Mohammad Qasim Rahimi said the collected unusable banknotes would be torched in front of the media after March 21. The central bank has so far collected 25mn worth of old banknotes since February 1. Every year, the bank torches and exchanges 3.3bn old banknotes and it requests people to handle banknotes with care... (More on P4)... (14)

Rights Group Pakistan Forcing Afghan Refugees Home



PESHAWAR - In a scathing indictment of Pakistan's treatment of Afghan refugees, a human rights group charged Monday that the country is forcing hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees back to their homeland, which is still beset by war and crush-

ing poverty. It also said that a \$400 stipend the United Nations refugee agency gives to refugees who return to Afghanistan is tantamount to a bribe to convince reluctant Afghans to leave Pakistan. "The exodus amounts to the world's... (More on P4)... (16)

Pakistan Refutes Allegations in HRW Report on Afghan Refugees

KABUL - Questions have been raised about a recent report by the Human Rights Watch concerning Afghan refugees that has also been reported in the media. The report lacks objectivity. The assertions made therein are misplaced and removed from facts and realities on ground. Exaggerated contentions and baseless allegations

of coercion are particularly disappointing and irresponsible, being counter-productive to the objective of harmony and goodwill between the refugees and the host communities as well as the shared goal of dignified voluntary returns. It is regrettable that on the whole, the report is devoid of the larger perspective and the... (More on P4)... (18)

Russia Hits Back at Top US General in Afghanistan

KABUL - Moscow has hit back at US and NATO Commander in Afghanistan Gen. John Nicholson, who recently accused Russia of supplying arms to the Taliban. Appearing before the US Senate Armed Services Committee this week on the current situation in Afghanistan, the general blasted Russia for un-

dermining America's mission. "We took note of yet another fit of conspiracy-theory fever hitting Gen. Nicholson, who claims that Russia has been supplying arms to the Taliban to undermine the US and NATO positions..." the Russian embassy here said. In a statement on Tuesday, the embassy... (More on P4)... (19)

Pakistan to Ask ECO States for Joining Mega Project

PESHAWAR - Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) member states, including Afghanistan, will be asked to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Islamabad has indicated. Pakistan would hold out the offer at the 13th ECO summit, which Islamabad is to host from Feb 26 to Feb 28, an official told Pajhwok Afghan News on Tuesday.

At a meeting that he chaired on Monday, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif gave go-ahead for close collaboration with ECO countries on the mega project -- seen a game-changer that can significantly boost regional connectivity. Leaders of all ECO countries, who have promised participating in the three-day summit, are expected to hold talks with Sharif and senior officials of his administration on joining the multi-billion project. 'Connectivity for Regional Prosperity' is... (More on P4)... (15)

Taliban Subject Passengers to Biometric Screening

KUNDUZ CITY - Taliban militants have subjected passengers on the Khanabad-Aliabad highway to a biometrics screening in northern Kunduz province, local officials said on Tuesday.

Hayat Lala Amiri, the Khanabad district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News that the insurgents stopped a passenger bus going from Takhar province to Kabul at 6.00am.

He said the rebels conducted a biometric check on passengers and their mobile phones. The apparent objective was to determine whether there were government officials aboard the bus.

Amiri added the security forces at a checkpoint in the area fired at the Taliban and forced them into fleeing. Although no one was captured, the incident had scared the people, the official said. Meanwhile, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah... (More on P4)... (17)

300 Crime Suspects Arrested in Kabul Last Month

KABUL CITY - Kabul police on Monday said they had arrested 295 people accused of various crimes during the past one month in the central capital.

The 101st Asmayee zone police commander, Lt. Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi, told in a press conference here that the suspects were arrested in different areas of Kabul province.

He added the detainees included 17 alleged murderers, 80 robbers, 57 accused of moral crimes, 27 of hurting, nine of possessing illegal weapons, four of attacking social workers and two of disobedience.

Of the detainees, 58 suspects faced drug smuggling charges, 44 criminal charges, seven cheating, three counterfeiting and three people of having fake bank accounts. The Kabul police also seized... (More on P4)... (20)

جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان
ریاست عمومی اداره امور ریاست جمهوری

د افغانستان اسلامی جمهوریت
د جمهوري ریاست د چارو اداري لوی ریاست

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Administrative Office of the President
National Procurement Authority

اداره تدارکات ملی
ریاست تسهیلات تدارکاتی
آمریت تدارکات امور ساختمانی

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
ICB**

Procurement Entities	Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat "DABS"
Funded By	Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Item Description	Procurement of Plant, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 220/20 kV Substation in Bamyan and Expansion of 220/20 kV Doshi Substation
Ref. No.	NPA/DABS/95/W-1467/ICB
Bid Security	The Bids must be accompanied with Bid Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee provided in the Bidding Documents at the amount of USD \$750,000 (seven hundred and fifty thousand) and valid for 180 days after the bids submission deadline.
Deadline for Bid Submission	10 April, 2017, 10:00 hours. (Kabul, Local Time) , Electronic submission of Bid is not allowed. Late bid will be reject.
Address for Bid Submission	National Procurement Authority, Procurement Facilitation Directorate (NPA/PFD) 5 th floor of Administrative office of the President Kabul, Afghanistan.
Website	A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders free of cost by downloading from the NPA website www.npa.gov.af and IFB, from the websites of www.dabs.gov.af and www.adb.org . Or may be obtained in a flash memory from the NPA office (Address given above). In case of any difficulty in downloading from website, interested bidders may contact at e-mail address: suliman.saleh@aop.gov.af , rohullah.sahil@pmo.dabs.af , mukhtar.sadat@pmo.dabs.af