



# Migration Isn't a Danger, It's a Challenge for Growth: Pope

ROME - Pope Francis, who was reunited Friday with one of the Syrian refugees he brought home with him from Lesbos, Greece, said migrants don't pose a danger to Europe's culture but rather a challenge for societies to grow. Francis made the comments during a visit to the Roma Tre university, one of the main public universities in the Italian capital. There, he met with Nour Essa, who along with her husband and child flew back to Rome with the pope after his April 16, 2016 trip to Lesbos. Since then, Essa has won a government scholarship to finish her biology studies at Roma Tre and has become something of an activist for refugee rights in her new country. During a question-and-answer



session in a courtyard at the university, Essa asked Francis about fears expressed by many Europeans that Syrians and Iraqi migrants threaten Europe's Christian culture.

Francis responded by noting that his native Argentina is a country of immigrants, and that ending wars and poverty would trim migration flows. "Migration isn't a danger, it's

a challenge to grow," he said, adding that European countries must not only welcome migrants but integrate them into society. "They bring to us a culture,

and also they have to receive our culture and there has to be an exchange of cultures," he said. "Respect. And this removes fear." (AP)

## Taliban Envoys Barred from Entering UAE



KABUL - The United Arab Emirates has barred two Taliban members who wanted to attend the prayer ceremony for the late UAE ambassador to Kabul, Juma Mohammed Abdullah al-Kaabi, from entering Abu Dhabi. The UAE ambassador died of injuries sustained in an attack in Kandahar province last month. Media reports indicate that the two Taliban representatives, Mullah Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai and Mawlawi Madaniwere, were assigned by the Taliban's Qatar office to attend the prayer ceremony of the ambassador. "Behind the most of the terrorist attacks in Afghanistan are Taliban. The group is a threat to the regional countries and the world. We hope

all the countries increase pressure on Taliban," Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman of the Ministry of Interior said. The two envoys were also assigned to deny the Taliban's involvement in the Kandahar attack, reports have indicated. The UAE government however refused the two Taliban members entry into the country, reports added. The attack in Kandahar killed 12 people, including five UAE diplomats and the ambassador. UAE was the first country recognized by the Taliban, but now military analysts believe that Taliban's relationship with Gulf countries is deteriorating. "It shows distrust between Taliban and Gulf states and ... (More on P4)... (9)

## Pakistan Also Lifts Sanctions on Hekmatyar

KABUL - After the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Pakistan has also announced lifting sanctions on Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan leader (HIA) Gulbadin Hekmatyar. Having fought against the government over the past decade and a half, the HIA recently signed a landmark peace agreement with the administration of President Ashraf Ghani. Under the deal, HIA embraced the Afghanistan constitution, dismantled its armed wing and severed ties with all militant groups. Subsequently, the UN removed its sanctions on Hekmatyar and allowed him to travel freely. Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad said Pakistan too had dropped curbs on the HIA leader. A statement from the ministry said it had sent letters about their decision to all relevant institutions. (Pajhwok)

## Afghan Refugees Remain in Pakistan Extended to End of 2017

KABUL - The Minister of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi on Friday said Pakistan agreed not to link the refugees issue to political differences between the two countries. Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) met on Wednesday evening and agreed that those Afghan refugees who have a registration cards, could remain in Pakistan till the end of this year. "UNHCR told the meeting it did not have enough money to pay the returnees. If many of refugees returned early, they would not receive the same amount given to those refugees who arrived back the last year," Alemi said. Because the political tensions have increased between Kabul and Islamabad, concerns have been raised that Pakistan may mistreat Afghan refugees. "Pakistan officials have agreed not to treat Afghan refugees politically and we hope they keep their promise," Alemi said. Currently more than one million registered and over 700,000 ... (More on P4)... (14)

## Hekmatyar in Good Health, Hasn't Gone Abroad: HIA

KABUL - Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) leader Gulbadin Hekmatyar is in good health and is living in the country, the party said on Thursday. Rumours about the deteriorating condition of the ex-jihadi leader and his treatment in Turkey are baseless and far from true, a statement from HIA said. Earlier, a newspaper reported that Hekmatyar was in Turkey for medical treatment, but HIA insisted its leader was in fine fettle and had not travelled abroad in the past 16 years. "HIA wants to inform the people of Afghanistan that



Hekmatyar is in perfect health and reports regarding his deteriorating health are baseless," the statement added. A source in HIA's political office in Kabul told Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity that Hekmatyar was in sound condition and

that he was inside Afghanistan. Reports about Hekmatyar's treatment emerged after a delegation of the party Turkey recently visited that country for talks on political issues and participation of the Turkish president in a reception for the ex-PM in Kabul. ... (More on P4)... (10)

## US Undecided over Removal of Sanctions on Hekmatyar

WASHINGTON - The United States has said that delisting of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of the Hizb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) from the UN sanctions did not mean that the US would lift its sanctions on him automatically, an official said on Friday. At the same time, the United States supported Afghan Government's request to delist Hekmatyar from United Nations sanctions. "Although we supported the Afghan government's request to delist Gulbuddin Hekmatyar from UN sanctions, delisting from UN sanctions does not automatically mean delisting from U.S. sanctions," a State Department official told Pajhwok Afghan News in an interview. "The Afghan government's peace agreement with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is an important achievement that led to the UN delisting Gulbuddin Hekmatyar from the UN Security Council's 1267 ISIL (Da'esh) and al-Qa'ida sanctions list," the official said who spoke on ... (More on P4)... (12)

## Pakistan Hands over List of 76 Terrorists Hiding in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan army said Friday that a list of 76 terrorists who are hiding in Afghanistan has been handed over to Afghan embassy officials. The development comes following a series of recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan which have killed over 100 people and injured many more. On Thursday, a bomber killed

over 70 people and injured nearly 300 at a shrine in southern Sindh province. Pakistani security officials believed that the Pakistani militant groups now operate from Afghanistan border region and routinely launch attacks from there. The army said on Friday that terrorists attacked a Pakistani border post in Khyber Agency

from Afghanistan side Friday morning and injured two soldiers. "Pakistani forces effectively responded. There are reports of few Terrorists killed in exchange of fire," statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations said. "Afghan embassy officials called in GHQ (General Headquarters) ... (More on P4)... (11)

## Karzai, Abdullah Welcome Moscow Talks



KABUL - Former president Hamid Karzai and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Thursday welcomed the six-nation talks on Afghanistan's future in Moscow as beneficial. The talks involving representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, India and Russia held in Moscow on Wednesday. The meeting discussed cooperation of Afghanistan's neighboring countries with the Afghan government in its efforts for peace and stability. Ashraf Haidari, director-general policy and strategy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) represented Afghanistan at the talks. He said the government of Afghanistan firmly believed in peace and

had made every effort to reach reconciliation with the armed groups. He pointed out the existence of terrorist sanctuaries and policy of differentiating between good and bad terrorists hampered regional efforts in the form of Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) meetings. Former president Karzai welcomed the Russian initiative to bring together Afghanistan's immediate neighbors. He said major regional countries were required to take serious actions against extremism in the region. Meanwhile, CEO Abdullah Abdullah said the meeting in Moscow also talked about coordination among ... (More on P4)... (15)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

<b>Procuring Entity</b>	National Procurement Authority (NPA) on behalf of Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority (ACAA)
<b>Funded By</b>	Italian Government
<b>Item Description</b>	Consultancy services for feasibility study for Herat international Airport
<b>Reference No</b>	NPA/ACAA/95/Cs-1384/QCBS
<b>Deadline for Submission of Proposals</b>	17/May/2017 @ 10:30am Italian Time (14:00hrs Kabul Local Time on the same date).
<b>Address for Submission of proposals</b>	Proposals must be submitted in sealed envelopes as per instructions in the RFP to the following Address:  Attention: Aziz Ahmad Obaidi 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Consulting Services Department National Procurement Authority (NPA) Administrative Office of the President Pashtunestan Wat, Kabul, Afghanistan
<b>Eligible Countries</b>	Consultants only from Italy are eligible to participate against this RFP. The firms must submit documentary evidence to prove their incorporation or being registered in Italy
<b>RFP is available at</b>	Interested Italian Consultants may download the RFP from our website ( <a href="http://www.npa.org.af">www.npa.org.af</a> ). In case of any problems in downloading, may obtain the RFP by sending e-mail at the address given below: Email Addresses : <a href="mailto:aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af">aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af</a>