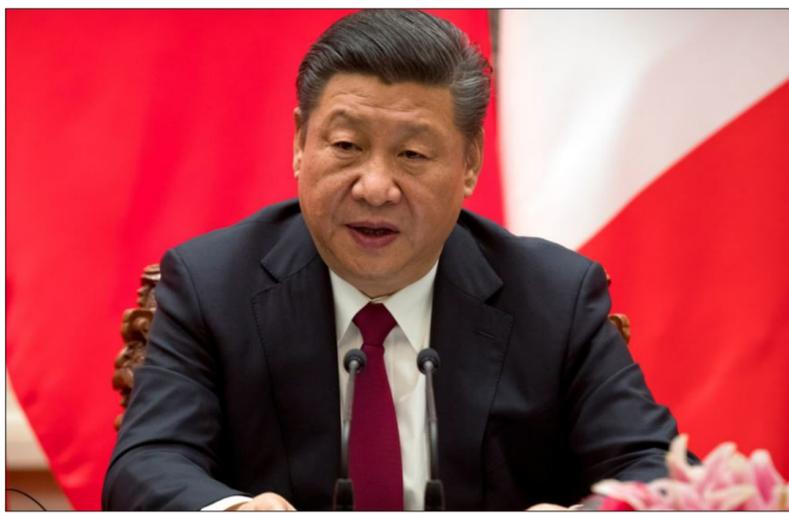


# China Proposes Dropping Term Limits for President Xi

BEIJING — China's ruling Communist Party on Sunday set the stage for President Xi Jinping to stay in office indefinitely, with a proposal to remove a constitutional clause limiting presidential service to two terms in office. The change would allow Chinese President Xi Jinping to remain in office beyond 2023. He has been president since 2013. Xi, 64, is currently required by the country's constitution to step down as president after two five-year terms. Nearing the end of his first term, he will be formally elected to a second at the annual meeting of China's largely rubber-stamp parliament opening on March 5. There is no limit on his tenure as the party and military chief,



though a maximum 10-year term is the norm. He began his second term as head of the party and military in October at the end of a once-every-five-years party congress. The announcement, carried by state news agency Xinhua, gave few details. It said the proposal had been made by the party's Central Committee, the largest of its elite ruling bodies. The proposal also covers the vice president position. "The Communist Party of China Central Committee proposed to remove the expression that the President and Vice-President of the People's Republic of China 'shall serve no more than two consecutive terms' from the country's Constitution," (VOA)

## Neighbor News

### Avant-Garde Mosque Angers Hard-Liners in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran — A newly built avant-garde mosque in the heart of Iran's capital would have hard-liners shouting from the minarets — if there were any. The architects behind the Vali-e-Asr mosque dispensed with the traditional rounded domes and towering minarets, opting instead for a modern design of undulating waves of gray stone and concrete, which they say complements the surrounding architecture and evokes the austerity of early Islam. The new structure has infuriated hard-liners, who see it as part of a creeping secular onslaught on the Islamic republic. An editorial posted on the Mashregh news website compared the curvature to that of a Jewish yarmulke, accusing authorities of "treason" for approving it. The "completely neutral" design betrays an "atheistic approach," it said. (AP)

### Turkmenistan Elected as Member of Bureau of Inland Transport Committee of UNECE

ASHGABAT - On February 22 Turkmenistan was elected a member of the Bureau of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee for the period 2019-2020 at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland, during the 80th session of the Inland Transport Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), said in the message of the Turkmen Foreign Ministry. The Inland Transport Committee (ITC) is the highest policy-making body of the UNECE in the field of transport. Together with its subsidiary bodies, the ITC has provided a pan-European intergovernmental forum, where UNECE member countries come together to forge tools for economic cooperation and negotiate and adopt international legal instruments on inland transport. These legal instruments are considered indispensable for developing efficient, harmonized and integrated, safe and sustainable pan-European transport systems. The main functions of the ITC Bureau are to monitor and ensure the implementation of the work program, decisions and recommendations during the intersessional period of the Inland Transport Committee, ensure the effective work during sessions, in full compliance with their respective rules of procedure, taking into account the guidelines, agreement on decisions and recommendations. (Trend)

### Sridevi, Bollywood Leading Lady of '80s and '90s, Dies at 54

NEW DELHI — Sridevi, Bollywood's leading lady of the 1980s and '90s who redefined stardom for actresses in India, has died at age 54. The actress was described as the first female superstar in India's male-dominated film industry. She used one name onscreen, like many leading ladies of her generation, and was known for her comic timing and her dancing skills, a great asset in the song-and-dance melodramas that are a staple of

mainstream Indian cinema. Sridevi died Saturday in Dubai due to cardiac arrest, her brother-in-law Sanjay Kapoor confirmed to Indian Express online. She had been in Dubai to attend a wedding in her extended family. Indian political leaders and entertainers posted condolences and recollections of her work, with many colleagues and fans expressing shock at the sudden news. (AP)

WASHINGTON — Two weeks after President Donald Trump blocked the full release of a classified Democratic memo, the House intelligence committee published a redacted version of the document that aims to counter a narrative that Republicans on the committee have promoted for months — that the FBI and Justice Department conspired against Trump as they investigated his ties to Russia. The Democratic

### Congress Releases Redacted, Declassified Democratic Memo



memo's release on Saturday was the latest development in an extraordinary back and forth between Republicans and Democrats about the credibility of not only the multiple inquiries into links between the Trump campaign and Russia, but also about the integrity of the nation's top law enforcement agencies. (AP)

### Iraq's Ethnic, Religious Groups Fragmented as Elections Near



BAGHDAD — Long beset by toxic divisions, Iraq seems to be growing even more fragmented ahead of national elections scheduled for May, with Iranian influence set to grow and the minority Sunnis seething as they fend for themselves in areas of the country shattered by the three-year war against the Islamic State group. The Sunnis, many of them in displacement camps, bore the brunt of the war's destruction and have been left so bereft that many don't even have the papers needed to register to vote. If they don't end up feeling the vote was fair, that could badly undermine the international community's goal of bringing about the more inclusive government critical to maintaining a unified state and avoiding a repeat of the IS disaster. Adding to the volatile mix are the Iranian-backed Shiite militias, now even more politically involved, which are allied with but not controlled by the Shiite-led Baghdad government, and appear set to gain influence that would alarm many in the region trying to check the power of Shiite, non-Arab Iran. Sunnis are worried that the Shiite influence mainly of the Iran-backed militias will grow in their areas if the Shiite-backed Sunni candidates win, and that will make it hard for them to come together in the future. (AP)

### Tajik President to Visit Azerbaijan

DUSHANBE - Tajik President Emomali Rahmon will pay an official visit to Azerbaijan, Tajik ambassador to Azerbaijan Rustam Soli said at an event held on occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Tajik Armed Forces in Baku on Feb.24. The ambassador noted that Rahmon is expected to visit Azerbaijan this year. "Preparations for the visit of the president are underway. This visit will open a new page in the Azerbaijani-Tajik relations," he noted. However, the diplomat did not disclose the exact date of the visit. The legal framework between the two countries exceeds 35 documents. Azerbaijan's trade turnover with Tajikistan amounted to approximately \$2.04 million in 2017, almost \$47,400 of which accounted for imports of Tajik products, according to the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is interested in exporting agricultural products to Tajikistan, organizing export delegations of Azerbaijani businessmen, as well as participation of Azerbaijani companies in the projects in Tajikistan to expand economic cooperation between the two countries. Tajikistan, in turn, expresses interest in the supply of goods to international markets through the Caspian Sea, creation of joint ventures in the sphere of processing agricultural products, cooperation in the field of tourism. (Trend)

### Georgia Grants Uzbekistan Discount on Transit of All Types of Cargo Via Railway

TASHKENT - Georgia granted Uzbekistan a 50-percent-discount on the transit of all types of cargo via railway through its territory. According to the Uzbek Ministry for Foreign Trade, these agreements were reached within the visit of the working group led by the country's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Saifnazarov in Tbilisi on February 22-23, 2018. Following the meeting with the management of the Georgian Railway JSC, the sides agreed on further development of cooperation in the field of railway transport, effective use of international transport corridors and increase in the volume of transit goods transported via railways of both countries. "One of the results of these negotiations was the provision of the Georgian side with a 50-percent-discount on the transportation of all types of Uzbek cargo," Saifnazarov added. Moreover, the Uzbek delegation held meetings in Georgia's other state and commercial organizations. For example, the issues of holding another meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation in Tbilisi were discussed within the negotiations in the Georgian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development. Following this meeting, the sides intend to conclude specific agreements and contracts, in particular, on cooperation in transport and logistics, the use of transport corridors passing through Georgia and opening of a joint trade house in Tbilisi. (Trend)



جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان  
ریاست عمومی اداره امور ریاست جمهوری

د افغانستان اسلامي 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

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
**ICB**

Procurement Entities	<b>Ministry of Public Works "MPW"</b>	
Funded By	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	
Item Description	Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Qaisar to Dar-i-Bum Road Project	
Ref. No	Package 1: NPA/MPW/97/W-2010/ICB Section of Bala Murghab to Dara-i-Bum (50Km) Package 2: NPA/MPW/97/W-2011/ICB Section of Khawajah to Bala Murghab (40Km) Package 3: NPA/MPW/97/W-2012/ICB Section of Qaisar to Khawajah (61KM)	
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 described in below schedule, the bid security shall be <b>valid for 208 days after the bids submission deadline.</b>	
	Section	Bid security amount
	1- Section of Bala Murghab to Dara-i-Bum (50Km)	US\$1,300,000.00
	2- Section of Khawajah to Bala Murghab (40Km)	US\$ 1,100,000.00
3- Section of Qaisar to Khawajah (61KM)	US\$1,400,000.00	
Deadline for Bid Submission	<b>April 11, 2018, 10:00 hours. (Kabul, Local Time)</b> , Electronic submission of Bid is not allowed. Late bid will be reject.	
Address for Bid Submission	Administrative office of the President, National Procurement Authority, Procurement Facilitation Directorate (NPA/PFD), Geodesy and Cartography Building Meeting Room, 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 <a href="http://www.npa.gov.af">www.npa.gov.af</a> and IFB, from the websites of <a href="http://www.mopw.gov.af">www.mopw.gov.af</a> . 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: <a href="mailto:suliman.saleh@aop.gov.af">suliman.saleh@aop.gov.af</a> and cc: <a href="mailto:zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af">zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af</a> , <a href="mailto:azamjawid@gmail.com">azamjawid@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:ahatam.pd@gmail.com">ahatam.pd@gmail.com</a>	

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

<b>Procurement Entity</b>	NPA on behalf of Ministry of Public Works, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
<b>Funded By</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>Item Description / Ref No.</b>	CONSULTING SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION OF THE QAISAR – DARA-I-BUM ROAD PROJECT (151 KM), LAMAN - QAISAR SECTIONS), NPA/MPW/97/Cs-2020/QCBS
<b>Deadline for EOI Submission</b>	<b>28 March 2018 by 15:00 Hours (Local Time).</b>
<b>Address for Submission of EOIs</b>	The EOI must be prepared using the on-line template in CMS. A copy of the completed EOI (as submitted to ADB including any referenced project datasheets) should also be submitted by email to <a href="mailto:aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af">aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af</a> copied to
<b>REOI is available at</b>	<a href="http://www.npa.org.af">www.npa.org.af</a> Interested Consultants may download the REOI and TOR from our website. In case of any problem in downloading, may obtain the same 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> and copy to: <a href="mailto:wais.rahimi@aop.gov.af">wais.rahimi@aop.gov.af</a> , <a href="mailto:hikmatullah.asad@aop.gov.af">hikmatullah.asad@aop.gov.af</a> , <a href="mailto:umar.sultani@aop.gov.af">umar.sultani@aop.gov.af</a> and <a href="mailto:azamjawid@gmail.com">azamjawid@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:n.wahedi@aop.gov.af">n.wahedi@aop.gov.af</a>