

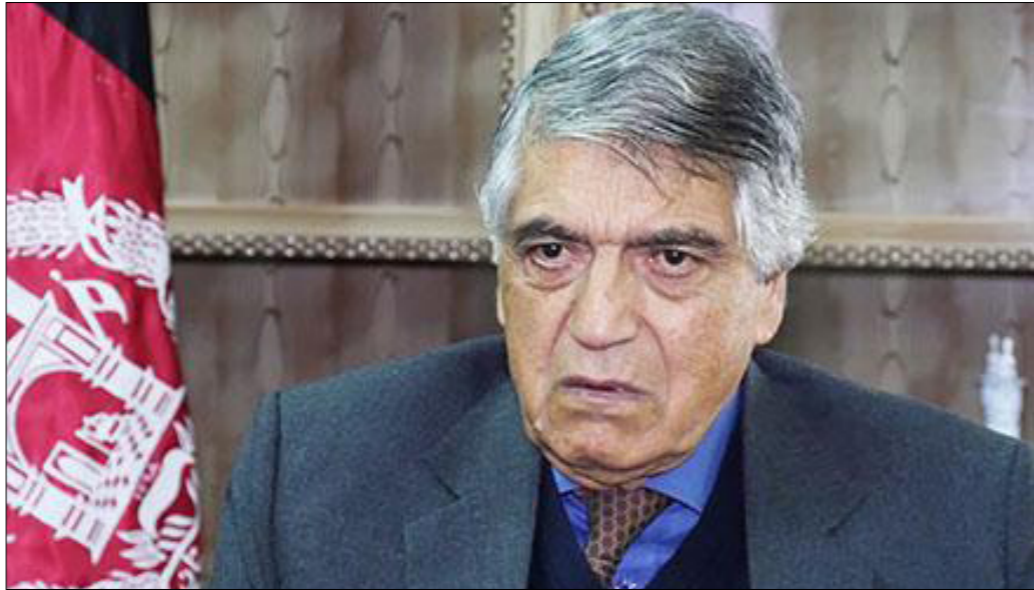
## Quote of the Day

In the truest sense,  
freedom cannot be bestowed;  
it must be achieved.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

# ICOIC Accepts Constitution Has Some Problems

KABUL - The Independent Commission Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution (ICOIC) on Sunday said there are problems with the constitution and some articles need to be clarified. ICOIC earlier said there were challenges in terms of implementing 20 articles of the constitution and as a result these had not been fully implemented. "Article seven of the constitution says that Afghanistan will implement those conventions that it has joined. This article has problems. One point is that we implement those articles as long as it is not against Afghanistan's laws. And the second point is that the meaning of "joined" should be clear. There are two things, one is



that we (sign) a convention and the other is that we (join) a convention; (join) means that government has an obligation to implement the con-

vention's values," said Mohammad Qasim Hashimzai, head of ICOIC. Lawyers however said the constitution has many prob-

lems and that there are articles which are not clear and these need to be clarified. "For instance, article 83 of the constitution, sparked

controversy about the function of parliament and elections, whether parliament can still continue its job without holding elections," said Abdul Wahid Ferozaie, a lawyer. Lawyers also said the constitution needs to be amended and some articles should be revised. "Articles related to courts, to interpretation of the constitution, to renewing elections and holding elections, need to be amended," said Ainuddin Bahaduri, executive director of Afghanistan's Lawyers Union (ALU). Despite all these problems, Afghanistan's constitution is one of the best in the region and gives Afghans more freedom than citizens get in some other regional countries. (Tolonews)

## 200,000 IDPs and Return Refugees Urgently Need Aid



KABUL - Up to 200,000 return refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, officials of the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR) said on Sunday. This has raised alarm over what could become a humanitarian disaster amid a harsh winter and ongoing violence. Statistics by these two departments reveal that last year up to one million Afghans were displaced and another one

million returned from Pakistan and Iran. The officials said many return refugees have still not been resettled in their original regions. With the surge in violence in the country over the past year, thousands of Afghans were forced to leave their homes in Kunduz, Farah, Uruzgan, Helmand, Nangarhar, Faryab, Ghazni, Sar-e-Pul, Paktia, Baghlan and Badghis. Aminullah is one Kunduz resident who fled in the aftermath ... (More on P4)...(1)

## Contract to Design Kabul Urban Master Plan Approved



KABUL - The National Procurement Commission (NPC) has approved four contracts, including one for drafting and designing urban master plan for Kabul city. A statement from the Presidential Palace to Pajhwok Afghan News said the contracts worth 460 million afghanis were signed at weekly meeting of the NPC that met Saturday evening with the president in the chair. Other contracts were about construction of roads in the 10th police district of Kabul. The contracts of Ba-

sic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) services in Kunar province were extended. The meeting contracted a company to draft and design urban master plan for Kabul city as suggested by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD). The meeting directed the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to oversee performance of BPHS and EPHS services in Kunar. The NPC also reviewed re-

## MPs Accuse Ghani of Violating the Law

KABUL - Members of Parliament (MPs) on Sunday accused President Ashraf Ghani of violating the law after he refused to accept their decision to dismiss seven ministers who failed to spend their development budget. MPs said they summoned and dismissed the ministers in order to help bring reforms and to eliminate corruption. They said government should have accepted their decision. "These ministers still sign contracts and do other work. But when they have left, what will happen to the contract. This is a problem," said Nader Khan Katawazai, an MP.



"Government violates the law and the issue of dismissed ministers is a live example," said Abdullullah Mohammadi, another MP. "To respect the constitution and par-

liament, the president should introduce seven new ministers to empower rule of law," said Abdul Raouf Ibrahimy, speaker of the house. Ministry of ... (More on P4)...(2)

## Ariana Airline Posts Annual Profit for the First Time

KABUL - Helped by Hajj operations and government support, Afghanistan's only national carrier - Ariana Afghan Airline (AAA) - reportedly earned \$4.5 million USD from last year's Hajj operations which was previously handled by private airlines. According to some Ariana officials, in addition to the record profit from the Hajj operation, Ariana also made a \$2 million USD savings on expenditures - the first in recent years. "If you assess the previous ten years record of this company, this company always operated at a loss, but this is the first time that the company showed a profit," said Ahmad ... (More on P4)...(5)

## Proliferation of Gunmen Leaves Takharis on the Edge

TALOQAN - The number of irresponsible gunmen has been on the rise in northern Takhar province, causing a variety of social and security problems, officials and residents say. Governor Mohammad Yasin Zia confirmed to Pajhwok Afghan News, that the number of willful gunmen had been on the increase in the province. The armed men are divided into three categories. "The first category is within the government structure that does unlawful things; the second group is Afghan Local Police (ALP) backed by government officials. The third category includes outlaws." Zia admitted the increasing number of gunmen had left people worrying. Delegations from the Presidential Palace and the CEO Secretariat were also sent to the province to resolve the issue, but they failed, he said. "Except for security forces, anybody who carries a gun causes terror and ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Afghanistan Signs \$205m Road Construction Project with a Chinese Firm



KABUL - A major road construction project was signed with a Chinese firm in the presence of President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday. The project road project, Dara-e-Suf to Yakawlang, was awarded to a Chinese firm after its bid of \$204.9 million was approved by the government and was signed by Public Works Minister Mahmood Baligh. The signing ceremony was also attended by the head of the Asian Development Bank and some other high level government officials in ARG Palace. Minister Baligh said the contract was awarded to the Chinese firm after it completed all the stand norms and conditions for the project by offering the lowest price of \$204.9 million. He said the Chinese firm along with a Turkish company had participated in the latest tender which was offered two years after the contract was cancelled due higher prices offered by the previous bidders. According to Minister Baligh, the award of the project to the Chinese firm helps reduce the construction cost by almost \$50 million as compared to the previous bids. In his part, the Director of the Asian Development Bank in Afghanistan, Thomas Panella, said the contract will play a vital role in developing the economy of the country by helping the internal transport in Afghanistan. The head of the Chinese construction firm promised continued support to Afghanistan and the award of the contract to their company is the first step to participate in the reconstruction of the country. (KP)

## Amarkhel People to Help Improve Ghazni Security

GHAZNI CITY - The police chief Sunday said people had promised him cooperation with security forces in improving security situation of southern Ghazni province. Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News said militants would not be able to destabilize Ghazni. He recently visited Giro, Zanakhan, Andar and some other districts and met local residents. Amarkhel said Taliban militants had tasted defeat in many areas of Ghazni. "If the central government provides me two helicopters, I will make Ghazni a hell for Daesh and Taliban," he said. He said Daesh or Islamic State (IS) fighters had recently emerged in Giro district of Ghazni and Khak-i-Afghan district of neighbouring Zabul province, an issue he said needed attention of government leaders.

"I will take harsh action against those who run kangaroo courts in Ghazni," Amarkhel said. A provincial council member, Abdul Jamay Jamay, told Pajhwok security situation could improve if police were provided needed equipment. He said people were already ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Afghan Ski Team Departs for South Korea



KABUL - The ski federation established a year ago within the structure of National Olympic Committee. This is the second time that skiers travel abroad for training. The Afghan ski squad left Kabul for the South Korean capital Seoul on Sunday where they will pursue a two week exercises under the supervision of some technical and professional coaches in Korea. Meanwhile, skiers representing Afghanistan in the national team have the coming training in Korea will help them to participate in international ski events with a better experience and potential. "The trainings would be quite supportive to us, because we are going to learn new things, I expect that our team learn more and more and achieve titles for our country in the future," said one of the skiers Fariba Ahmadi. "Previously we pursued our ski training in Paghman, Panjsher and Salang areas. But we ... (More on P4)...(8)

## Mariam Ghani Visits Afghanistan to Support Dar-ul-Aman Palace Documentary



KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani's daughter Mariam Ghani has visited Afghanistan to support a documentary on the historic Dar-ul-Aman Palace being renovated under the supervision of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing. Mariam Ghani visited the palace to review the construction work of the Palace together with the Minister of Urban Development and Housing Syed Sadat Mansoor Naderi. Mr. Naderi hailed the team's efforts currently working to renovate the Palace which was destroyed during the devastating civil war.

He called the renovation work of the place a major step to supervise and preserve the high culture of civilization in the country. The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing said it aims to produce a documentary regarding the place and its renovation work. President Ghani's daughter, Mariam, who is actively working in filmmaking, promised to support the making of the documentary. She has already prepared a documentary regarding the Palace and said she is optimistic regarding the renovation ... (More on P4)...(4)

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