

Quote of the Day

Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment.
Baltasar Gracian

Illegal Mining of Precious Stones Ongoing in 8 Provinces

KABUL - A new study has found that the illegal extraction of about 10 types of precious and semi-precious stones still continues in eight provinces in Afghanistan. These stones are smuggled first to Pakistan and then they are sent on to international markets. According to the report by a reputable organization that asked not to be named, lapis lazuli is mined illegally in Kiran Manjan district in Badakhshan and then it is smuggled to Pakistan. Emeralds are extracted in Panshjur province and then smuggled abroad.



Rubies are illegally mined in Surobi district in Kabul and smuggled out of the country - mainly to Pakistan. Agate is extracted from Helmand while Jade is extracted in Kunar and Nangarhar and sent to Pakistan, but Chinese companies are their main customers. Marble is mined in Nangarhar and Helmand provinces and sold mostly in Pakistan. Nangarhar officials confirmed the smuggling of a number of types of stone through and from the province, saying that ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

Illegal Afghans Get One-Week Deadline to Leave Jamrud



PESHAWAR - Afghan citizens without proper residency documents have been given a week's deadline to vacate their houses in Jamrud tehsil of Khyber Agency, a local official said on Tuesday. A source in the Jamrud political administration confided to Pajhwok Afghan News that a crackdown would be launched on the illegal Afghans after expiration of the deadline. The move is driven by the security situation. Backed by tribal chieftains, administration officials made announcements through mosque loudspeakers, telling the Afghans to leave the area if they. A day earlier, Assistant Political Agent Saiful Islam told journalists they had been ordered to take action against illegal Afghans if they did not return to their country voluntarily. "We will do whatever we can to ensure no illegal foreigners stay in Jamrud after the deadline runs out," the area administrator added. He urged elders to support the campaign against illegal Afghans. *(Pajhwok)*

Afghanistan Sends 46 Aviation Personnel to India for Training



KABUL - The Afghan government has sent a group of 46 aviation personnel to India to participate in technical and professional training.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority Qasim Rahimi has confirmed the deployment of 46 aviation personnel for training to India.

Rahimi further added that the aviation personnel will resume their work in the airports of the country once they complete their training in India.

He said the Afghan government is looking to boost the capacity of the aviation personnel since they have taken over the responsibility of the Afghan air space from the US forces six months ago.

India has played a key role in the capacity building of the Afghan government personnel, specifically the security personnel since the fall of the Taliban regime.

Hundreds of Afghan National Army (ANA) cadets have completed their studies in India besides the country has provided thousands of scholarships for the Afghan university students. Since 2002, the Government of India has committed USD 2 billion dollars to the socio-economic rebuilding of the Afghan state and society in accordance with the development priorities of the Government and the people of Afghanistan. *(KP)*

Azerbaijan, Afghanistan Mull Creation of Joint Enterprises

BAKU - Azerbaijan and Afghanistan discussed the creation of joint enterprises to produce food products, said Azerbaijani Economy Ministry in a message.

The discussions were held during the meeting of Azerbaijan's Economy Minister Shahin Mustafayev with Afghanistan's Ambassador to Baku Mohammad Taqi Khalili.

Economic cooperation between the two countries and other issues of mutual interest were also discussed during the meeting. It was noted that there is

great potential for cooperation in transportation, logistics, agriculture, trade and other fields between Afghanistan and Azerbaijan.

The parties also exchanged views on construction of a cement plant in Afghanistan and the joint production of cotton.

Trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Afghanistan was \$23.47 million in H1 2016, according to Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee, and the entire amount accounted for the export of Azerbaijani goods to Afghanistan. *(Agencies)*



USAID Supported "Made in Afghanistan" Exhibition Launches in India

KABUL - As many as 40 Afghan companies would showcase their products at a "Made in Afghanistan" event in New Delhi, India supported by USAID. The event would raise awareness of Afghan goods and foster business ties between Afghanistan and India, a statement from the USAID said on Tuesday.

As part of the event, the companies would display leading Afghan exports, including fresh fruit, dried fruit and nuts, marble and onyx, saffron, gemstones, and handicrafts, and meet with a number of Indian buyers to create business linkages.

India was the second largest importer of Afghan products (after Pakistan) and Afghanistan's products, especially the country's pomegranates, apricots, apples, grapes, raisins, and nuts, were sought after in India for their excellent quality.

"Afghanistan and India have always been exceptional trade partners," said Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock Assadullah Zamir. "This event will help to further increase awareness of Afghanistan's



quality products among Indian buyers and create additional profitable business relationships between the two countries."

"Made in Afghanistan" was result of the collaboration between USAID and its Indian and Afghan partners organized as a part of the "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process" which encouraged cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbors in expanding regional trade.

Three USAID projects in Afghanistan - the Afghanistan Trade and Revenue Project, the Regional Agricultural Development Program-South, and the Commercial ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

Kabul Municipality to Computerise Licence Issuance Process

KABUL - The Kabul municipality's licence issuance process is being computerised with the financial support of the United States and Democracy International (DI) to increase revenue and prevent corruption, an official said on Tuesday.

A contract for the project was signed between acting Kabul Mayor, Abdullah Habibzai and DI representative Zekeria Barzai. DI is operating in different countries support law enforcement, good governance and people's rights.

Barakzai said Advancing Effective Reforms for Civil Accountability (ERCA) activity was sponsored by USAID. He added the project was aimed to check corruption by providing better services for the people. Based on the contract, DI would cooperate with the municipi-



ality in providing equipment and tools, training, technical consultation and simplification of documents, Barakzai explained. The organisation will launch surveys to hear people's demands and problems and would share them with the municipality. Municipality official Masihullah

Mahboobsaid computerising licences was important to prevent corruption, increase revenue and accelerate tax collection. The municipality collected more than 122 million afghanis from licences last year. Acting Mayor Abdullah Habibzai called low staff capacity, complex and ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

Badakhshan Troops Criticized for Defensive Strategy Against Insurgents

FAIZABAD - A number of provincial council members and civil society activists in Badakhshan on Tuesday criticized the security forces' war strategy against insurgents in the province.

They argued that the troops in Badakhshan are in a defensive mode and that they have

no plans to eliminate the insurgents.

According to the provincial council members, Yamgan district has been under the control of the Taliban for the past six months and that more than 60 percent of areas in Jurm, Raghistan and a ...*(More on P4)...(4)*



260 Militants Give up Fighting

AYBAK - A total of 260 Taliban militants gave up fighting in the northern Samangan province and handed over their weapons to local authorities on Tuesday, provincial police chief Mohammad Baqir Masoud said. "A total of 260 Taliban fighters including three key commanders namely Mullah Faisal, Raes Ibrahim and Mullah Almas in a ceremony held in Dara-e-Suf Payan district surrendered to government and handed in their weapons to police," Baqir Masoud told Xinhua.

In the ceremony attended among others by ranking civil and military officials, commanders of the former rebels vowed to defend peace and security from now on. The former militants were active against government over the past couple of years, the official said, adding with surrendering these people to government, peace and security will be further improved in Samangan and the ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

80 Badghis Insurgents Renounce Violence, Join Peace Process

BADGHIS CITY - About 11 militant groups, including 80 fighters, on Tuesday laid down their arms and joined the peace process in Badghis province, local officials said.

The militants had been operating in Jawand district in the province for the past eight years, officials added. One of the fighters who was previously loyal to Taliban said: "People from different groups were among the Taliban. Their acts were completely against what they said and preached. Everyone was working for their own interests. Jihad and fighting for Islam were just by name," said Mawlawi Ahmad, a former member of Taliban.

Another member of the Taliban, Mullah Asif said: "When I was with the Taliban I saw that everything is under the control of Pakistan's intelligence agency [Inter-Services Intelligence] and that they [Taliban] don't have any authority to make decisions on their own. Their leadership is also under ...*(More on P4)...(6)*