

Quote of the Day

The only good is knowledge and the only evil is ignorance.

Socrates

Constitution

The mayor and members of the municipal councils are elected by free, general, secret, and direct elections.

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President Ashraf Ghani

Never Talked to Pakistan on Durand Line

KANDAHAR CITY - President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday said he never discussed with Pakistan the Durand Line as such discussions were not his authority.

The president, who arrived in this southern city of Kandahar with a high-level delegation, was addressing a huge gathering in the Mandigag Palace.

Local civil and military officials, tribal elders, influential figures, civil society representatives and those coming with the president



attended the gathering. In his speech, the president talked about problems in Kandahar, relations with Pakistan, the peace process and his own promises. ... (More on P4)...(2)

Abdullah Urges Regional Cooperation at High Level Water Conference

DUSHANBE - Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, on Tuesday told a high-level delegation attending the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005-2015 Conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, that Afghanistan is in a unique position both as a source, a transit point, a corridor and an estuary of water and that in line with this the government wants to use its position to maximize the usage of water at home and in the region. He said: ... (More on P4)...(1)



THE WORLD BANK GROUP

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI) FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE WORLD BANK KABUL

REI No. 15-0518

The World Bank Group (World Bank) invites REI to pre-qualify general contractors (GC) for providing Construction Works for the World Bank Kabul.

Scope

Construct a new off grid (ready for future grid connection), blast resistant facility, on a 5,300 m² site. The facility is composed of an office building (approximately 4,132 m²) and a 30 unit guesthouse (approximately 1,163 m²). The facility is three floors above grade and two floors below grade; and a monumental art wall. Total building construction area of approximately 5,295 m². The scope includes, among others, reinforced concrete structure, fit out finishes, blast resistance walls/windows/doors, access control, demolition and removal of existing structures including providing appropriate documentation as required for project Environmental Certification (for example LEED). Duration of the project is estimated to be 24 month or sooner. For details, please refer web-site indicated below.

REI 15-0518 will be for distribution to interested GC from June 15 to 25, 2015. The last day for submission of the REI is on July 7, 2015.

To be considered as eligible to participate, firms must meet all the mandatory business criteria outlined in the World Bank Corporate Procurement Web-site under 'Business Opportunities'. For details, please visit <http://go.worldbank.org/XDFTL7G250> and click Administrative Procurement and search for REI No. 15-0518.

For further information or questions please contact Manolo Macariola via e-mail at mmacariola@worldbank.org.

Efforts Underway to Extend MPs Tenure

KABUL - Wolesi Jirga Secretary Abdul Rauf Inami said on Tuesday that within the next two days, National Unity Government (NUG) leaders will meet to discuss the issue of having the MPs tenure extended.

In just under two weeks, the tenure for MPs in Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) ends. Inami said that the NUG leaders,

along with High Court members, the administrative committee of the House and the chairman of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) are scheduled to tackle the issue on Thursday. However, nothing has been said about the matter of parliamentary elections.

"On Thursday a political meeting will be held, where the 83rd Article of the ... (More on P4)...(3)

Taliban Overrun 14 Villages in Sar-i-Pul

SAR-I-PUL - Local officials on Tuesday said the Taliban had captured 14 villages in the Sozma Qala district of northern Sar-i-Pul province.

Hayatullah Hayat, the Sozma Qala district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News the villages fell to the Taliban on Monday.

"These 14 small and big villages were captured by Taliban under a deal with two local police commanders," he said.

He did not name the police two commanders, but said if the government did not take immediate action the district centre would also fall to the insurgents.

But Noor Habib Gulbahari, Sar-i-Pul police chief, said the villages had not fallen due to the war.

"Based on consultations with people, the local police had surrendered their weapons to the government not to the Taliban," he said. The ... (More on P4)...(5)

Regional Threats Discussed with Neighbours: MoFA

KABUL - Afghanistan has discussed emerging regional threats with its neighbours, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said on Tuesday.

Talking to reporters about Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah's ongoing trip to Tajikistan, MoFA spokesman Ahmad Shakib Mustaghni said Afghanistan had shared its concerns about



the emergence ... (More on P4)...(4)

Etisalat 8th Annual Quran Recitation Contest Concludes



After the competition among reciters from across Afghanistan, the 8th annual Quran recitation contest came to an end on 8th June. To mark the closing of the contest, a ceremony was held in Kabul and was attended by dignitaries from ministry of Hajj and Islamic affairs, VIPs from Afghanistan government, MPs, Etisalat and Ariana TV management, media representatives, friends and families of participants.

Speaking on the closing ceremony, Yasser Aboul Amayem, CCO of Etisalat Afghanistan said, 'The Etisalat Telecommunication Company gives a significant priority to Islamic culture and has always considered promoting and sponsoring programs that will help strengthen Islamic culture amongst the people of Afghanistan, especially amongst the youth.' He further added, 'Etisalat has been committed to supporting educational causes in or-

wish the people of Afghanistan a very fruitful and blessed Ramadan.'

Mr. Yasser also congratulated the winners of the contest and presented them with certificates and cash prizes.

'As an Islamic company, Etisalat has always served Afghans and promoted cultural values within Afghanistan. I would like to thank Etisalat for organizing Quran contest and giving us this unique opportunity to participate and demonstrate our skills,' said Imamudin winner of the first position of Etisalat Quran Contest.

The yearly contest is organized by Etisalat to mark the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan and to promote Islamic values among youths.

According to program format, preliminary selection round starts in all zones concurrently and once the participants qualify for the next rounds, they come to Kabul to compete for the title of 'Best Qari'.

The event is projected as the biggest such show ever in Afghanistan's recent history, and is believed to play a role in bringing Afghan youth closer to their rich heritage. The contestants are judged based on memorization, Tajweed rules and melodic recitation of the Holy Quran. At the end of the contest, top five Qaries receive certificates along with cash prizes.

This year, the commencement of 8th annual Quran contest coincided with Etisalat's 8th anniversary in Afghanistan. Etisalat first launched Quran contest in 2008 which turned into one of the most watched TV program in the country. Etisalat annual Quran contest, hosts a huge number of youths from across Afghanistan every year.

The contest has proved to be very useful in introducing top reciters to Afghan society, as the winners of previous seasons were

able to represent Afghanistan in Dubai International Quran Competition in UAE.

Viewers can watch this season of Quran contest on Ariana Television, before Iftar during the holy month of Ramadan.



About Etisalat Afghanistan:

Etisalat Afghanistan is part of Etisalat Telecommunications Group, headquartered in UAE, one of the largest telecommunications groups in the world. Etisalat Afghanistan launched their services in 2007 and has rapidly become the fastest growing telecommunications service provider in the country with an active base of 4 million subscribers. The company aims to be at the forefront of its market based on quality, innovative services and competitive pricing, with unsurpassed coverage in every province in the country. Since 2007, the company has invested US\$ 300 million in Afghanistan and is the first telecom company to launch 3.75G services in Afghanistan.



der to provide the young generation of Afghans with the much needed opportunities where they can develop and demonstrate their hidden talents. I would also like to take this opportunity to