

## Quote of the Day

All human beings should try to learn before they die what they are running from, and to, and why.  
James Thurber

## Constitution

The affairs related to municipalities are regulated by law.

Article 141

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# WB Estimates 36 % of Afghans Living Under Poverty Line

The World Bank estimates the percentage of Afghanistan population falling below the poverty line 36.

KABUL - the Bank announced to support the government of national unity plans to solve this problem.

Afghanistan is one of the most impoverished nations in Asia. With 36% of its population living below the poverty line, Afghanistan is only second to Bangladesh as Asia's poorest country.

Poverty is most heavily concentrated in the rural areas of Afghanistan. While 90% of urban households have access to electricity, only 29% of rural households do.

Additionally, 58% of urban households have access to safe water, but only 19% of rural homes do.

The lowest rates of poverty occur in Afghanistan's urban areas. The province of Kabul has a poverty rate of 29% while 36% of Afghans in rural areas and



54% of nomadic Afghans live in poverty.

The World Bank has found that "the higher the human capital endowment of the household

head, the lower the risk for the household to be poor." Thus, those who live in rural areas in Afghanistan and have less access to education have a higher

risk of living in poverty. In the meantime, the ministry of economy has started a survey to address the problems of those provinces that have more

problems.

"Many programs have been carried out in the past 13 years but were not balanced. Level of living in some provinces is very low and we are trying to make them balanced," Abdul Satar Murad, the minister of economy said.

To address the problem of poverty, Afghanistan must improve school enrollment rates. Only a minority of children are enrolled in primary school in Afghanistan.

A meager 36% of the poorest Afghans attend primary school, while 46% of the richest Afghans do. Additionally, 43% of boys are enrolled in primary school, while only 31% of girls are.

The effects of the lower school attendance rates of females are evident in women's literacy rates in ...*(More on P4)...(1)*

## Continuation of MPs Work Legal: Ibrahimi

KABUL - As debate around the MPs' tenure in Parliament rages, a num-



ber of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) members on Wednesday stated that Parliament's continuation after the end of its term is legal until the holding of the next parliamentary election.

Following strong opposition by some lawmakers who believe the continuation of work by MPs after June 21 will be illegal, Wolesi Jirga Speaker Abdul Raouf Ibrahimi said in Wednesday's session that any personal comment on Parliament's term was meaningless.

"We have gotten our legit-

imacy from the people," Ibrahimi told lawmakers. "We will continue our



work until the next elections." This comes amid rising concerns, as in the absence of parliamentary elections, there is less than two weeks left in the current Parliament's term.

Speculation however is rife among political figures and government officials of whom many suggest elections will likely be delayed for a year.

"If the election is delayed for 40 years, our work will still be legal," MP Rahman Rahmani said.

But 18 laws and inter-  
...*(More on P4)...(2)*

### 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 m<sup>2</sup> site. The facility is composed of an office building (approximately 4,132 m<sup>2</sup>) and a 30 unit guesthouse (approximately 1,163 m<sup>2</sup>). 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 m<sup>2</sup>. 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](mailto:mmacariola@worldbank.org).

## President Ashraf Ghani Kandahar Now Free from Parallel Set-Ups



KANDAHAR CITY - President Ashraf Ghani met with civil society and youth representatives in southern Kandahar province, saying parallel governments no longer existed in the province.

The president, who arrived here with a high-level delegation, addressed a huge gathering at the governor's house and later met

with civil society activists and youth representatives.

Interior Minister Noorul Haq Ulumi, Information and Culture Minister Abdul Bari Jehani, a number of high ranking officials, lawmakers and tribal elders attended the gathering at the governor's house. After the gathering, the president talked to ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

## SIGAR Sees Bigger Afghan Govt. Efforts against Corruption

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah appear to be seriously working to address graft from direct assistance spending in Afghanistan, after such corruption largely went ignored for many years, according to John Sopko, the

US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR).

Although Sopko provided a relatively gloomy picture of efforts - mostly funded by the United States - to build a stable Afghanistan, he ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

## Abdullah Meets Ban Ki-Moon

KABUL - Afghanistan's CEO Abdullah Abdullah met with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday on the sidelines of the high-level International Decade for Action "Water for Life"



conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

In a statement issued by the UN, the Secretary-General congratulated Abdullah on the realization of the transition processes in Afghanistan but underscored the need to implement a range of reforms, including the rule of law and electoral issues. Ban and Abdullah also reportedly discussed the development of a comprehensive plan of action to counter violent extremism and they ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

## Ambassador Talks of Moscow's Investment Interests in Afghanistan

KABUL - Russia's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Alexander Mantytskiy, has voiced his country's interest in re-invest-

the Soviet-era will be submitted to the Russian government.

"From now on, Russian companies are ready to jointly invest in a number of projects with the Afghan government," Ambassador Mantytskiy said on Tuesday. "An example is the interest of a Russian company in reconstruction of the Home Construction Enter-



prise." In addition, Mantytskiy also said renovating the Salang tunnel and developing methods of energy production would be viable investments.

"Russian companies are also interested in investing in electricity production in Afghanistan, as most of the electricity production projects in Afghanistan are built by Russians," the senior diplomat said. "But, these projects need the strong commitment of the Afghan government."

MoF spokesman Qader Jee-lani ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

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