

Quote of the Day

Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well.

Mahatma Gandhi

Constitution

Contracts for the purpose of fulfilling personal needs are exception to this provision.

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Tough Time Ahead for Afghanistan: Ulomi

KABUL - Afghanistan will have six tough months ahead, but the security forces have the capacity to face these challenges and eliminate the enemy, said Minister of Interior Noorulhaq Ulomi on Sunday during an address to the Upper House.

It was the growing concern over increased insecurity in northern Afghanistan that brought Ulomi to the Senate where he addressed concerns raised by the senators, including that involving the presence of foreign fighters in the country.

He said that there is a chance that the security challenges might increase in the next six months, but that the conditions will not be critical



Ulomi said: "There will be security challenges in the upcoming six months, but the capability of security forces is very high. ANSF will destroy the terrorists and will prevent the situation from becoming a crisis," Ulomi. Another point of concern was that of local police and a number of senators criticized their performance - accusing them of violations while on duty. According to Ulomi, ongoing reviews regarding the performance of local police are being conducted. If it's found that they do not have the backing of the public, decisions will be made regarding their future, he said. "Some have complained about the local police. ... (More on P4)...(1)

US Company to Get Air Traffic Control Contract



KABUL - The head of Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority Captain Mohammad Zahir said on Sunday that a decision has been taken to award a U.S company the rights to jointly manage the country's air traffic control for two years along with the civil aviation authority. According to Zahir, it has been agreed to give the contract to the American company. "It will jointly monitor the air traffic with Afghanistan civil aviation authority," he said. It is believed the contract will kick in within the next few months. The company, Readiness Management Support (RMS), a Kansas, U.S based company, still has to sign the contract - estimated to be worth \$47 million USD, said Zahir. This is considerably less than ... (More on P4)...(2)

EA Resumes Food Distribution



KABUL - Etisalat Afghanistan (EA) resumed its Food Distribution Program to mark the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan and to emphasize charity and empathy for the needy. The program is funded from Etisalat's Commercial Charitable Fund which is operated in cooperation with Etisalat's valued customers who participate through company's loyalty program.

'Etisalat Afghanistan aims to provide the needy with over 3000 food packs during the holy month of Ramadan.' said Yasser Aboul Amayem, CCO Etisalat Afghanistan, 'It couldn't be possible without our valued customers' contributions. Using this opportunity, I would like to thank them for their generous donations. We also work with other likeminded partners/customers to deliver our projects that lead to sustained community development and other community based programs.'

Etisalat ... (More on P4)...(5)

Officials Troops Surrounded by Taliban in Baghlan

PUL-E-KHUMRI - A number of Afghan troops spoke to TOLONews on Sunday and said that dozens of military soldiers are surrounded by the Taliban at a base in northern Baghlan province.

According to the security force members, troops are surrounded by Taliban insurgents at the Ali Khaja base in Baghlan-e-Markazi district. They said no reinforcement troops have yet been sent in to help. District governor of Baghlan-e-Markazi, Gowhar Khan Baburi has confirmed these reports and said that a Taliban group attacked the base again on Saturday and clashed with security forces. A clash that lasted hours, he said. However, he did not provide any details about the current situation regarding ... (More on P4)...(3)

CEO Office Discordance between NUG Leaders behind Commission Delay

KABUL - Mohammad Khan, first deputy of CEO Abdullah Abdullah, said Sunday that although the National Unity Government (NUG) leaders were close to reaching an agreement over the electoral reform commission, discordance between the two was still something holding up the process. Khan, however, hoped the much-awaited commission would start its work soon.



"As far as I know, the president and CEO have not reached an agreement on one thing only - the head of the commission. But the discussions are in the final stage, and there is hope for the commission to start work soon," Khan said. The Special Electoral Reform Commission - considered a desperate need by Afghans after last year's presidential election ... (More on P4)...(4)

MuDA Probe Needs Time Due to Complex Nature: AGO

KABUL - The Attorney General's Office (AGO) said on Sunday that the results of its investigation into the corruption scandal involving six Ministry of Urban Development Affairs (MUDA) officials will be made public within the next two weeks.

Basir Azizi, a spokesman for the AGO, said they needed more time to evaluate the issue as it was complex by nature.

"We are working on the issue. The total amount of money embezzled in the MUDA ... (More on P4)...(6)



\$236 Million Saved in Airspace Control Contract

KABUL - The National Procurement Committee (NPC) on Sunday evaluated six different governmental contracts, approving five of them. Eng. Murtaza Noori, NPC pol-

Abdullah Abdullah. He added in the airspace control alone \$236 million was saved as compared to previous contracts. He said the previous contract was worth



Abdullah Abdullah. He added in the airspace control alone \$236 million was saved as compared to previous contracts. He said the previous contract was worth \$283 million while the new contract was more than \$47 million. Customs modernization contract with domestic companies and two projects of providing medicines to defence ministry had been extended for another six months. The NPC, headed by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani himself, has so far approved more than 146 major governmental contracts. According to NPC more than 6.9 billion afghanis have been saved in these contracts. (Pajhwok)

Senate to Grill Ariana Chief over 'Masked Passengers'

KABUL - The Meshrano Jirga, or Senate, on Sunday decided to summon the Ariana Afghan Airlines chief over allegations that one of the national carrier's planes rented by an Iranian company flew masked passengers from Iran to Iraq and Syria.

Qais Hassan, who heads the



Wolesi Jirga transport and aviation commission, claimed last month at a press conference in Kabul that the Ariana plane was used to carry masked passengers from Iran to Iraq.

The Afghan plane had been given to the Mahan Air, a private airline based in Teh-

ran, against \$10,000 per flight. Hassan had said the pilots noticed masked passengers boarding a flight in Mashhad to Iraq and that the pilots were not allowed to examine passengers or luggage.

The Ariana plane, which flew from Kabul to Mashhad in Iran ... (More on P4)...(7)

icy director, told journalists in Kabul five of the approved contracts were related to civil aviation, printing books, modernization of customs and two contracts of Ministry of Defence. Fuel contract of the Milli Bus Company was postponed for next sessions due to legal and technical issues. All the contracts, he added, were worth 6.7 billion afghanis and were evaluated in the 13th NPC meeting headed by second vice-president Mohammad Sarwar Danish and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Taliban Intensify Attacks in Uruzgan; Police Abandon 3 Posts



TIRINKOT - The Taliban have mounted group attacks on police and security forces in the Khas Uruzgan district of central Uruzgan province amid fears that insecurity would spread if reinforcements are not dispatched to the restive town. Abdul Karim Karimi, the district chief, told Pajhwok Afghan News dozens of militants stormed police check-posts, sparking a gunfight that lasted two days in Shahley Nawa district. The militants received support from Khak Afghan district but police were waiting

for back-up, he said, adding that police had retreated from three check-posts tactically. At least two policemen were killed and three others were wounded while four dead bodies of militants had been left on the battle ground, Karimi stated. The district chief warned had the security forces delayed support, scores of policemen would be killed. Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, Taliban spokesman, claimed seizing all police check posts in the district and surrendering of 18 policemen along with their ammunition to militants. (Pajhwok)

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