



# First Lady Calls on Insurgents to End War, Respect Women

KABUL - Afghanistan's first lady Rula Ghani has called on armed insurgents to end the ongoing violence in the country and to choose a life of peace. Addressing a gathering on the eve of International Women's Day, Rula Ghani said on Monday this year the message of the women in Afghanistan to the armed opponents is a message of peace and a call to end the war. The Afghan people have suffered tremendously because of the fallout of the war imposed on them. Thousands of civilians have been killed as a result of violence and war, Rula Ghani said. "The women of Afghanistan and I humbly appeal to them (the insurgent groups) to stop the war. They should not exploit the interests of this

great nation for their own, they (insurgents) should not add further pain to this nation," said the first lady. She said that violence against women is against the human ethic, adding that Islam has considered a special status for women. Ghani also called on men to respect the rights of women and treat them with kindness. "Islamic principles teach us to deal with women with kindness, because the women are the main builders of the society," she said. The Minister of Women Affairs Dilbar Nazari also called on the Afghan families to allow the women to obtain an education. "We need to raise the issue of literacy among men and women from a national plat-



form. This is a national obligation and it is our responsibility, women and men in Afghanistan will not learn about their genuine rights unless all of them are educated," said Nazari. The remarks were made in the western province of Herat. "Unfortunately, do-

## 8 Police Defect to Taliban in Ghazni's Gilan

GHAZNI - Eight policemen including a post commander have surrendered to the Taliban in Gilan district of central Ghazni province, an official said on Monday. Ghazni police spokesman, Fahim Amarkhail, told Pajhwok Afghan News the policemen and the post commander also took away their weapons. He said police were trying to find the missing cops. A local resident named Mohammad Sharif confirmed some policemen had defected to the Taliban in Gilan district. "The policemen were from Kandahar, they were here for two years but they surrendered to Taliban today". The Taliban also confirmed the incident. "Commander of Bakhtyaro police post joined the Taliban along with his seven subordinates and 12 ... (More on P4)...(6)

## Kabul Hosts Regional Karwansara Music Festival



KABUL - A three-day music festival 'Karwansara' opened in Kabul on Monday with the participation of artists, poets and singers from India, Afghanistan and Pakistan where they demonstrated cultural commonalities between the three nations. Organizers of the festival have said that such festivals would prove a step forward to promote friendship and peace between the nations in the region. Writers participating in the festival have said that holding such an event will revive common values between the regional countries which have been massively damaged during decades of wars. "If we truly believe in a common humanity, then we must struggle ... (More on P4)...(7)

## Kandahar: Sole Woman Prosecutor with Big Caseload

KANDAHAR CITY - Despite the increasing registration of cases of violence against women, only one female prosecutor works in the attorney office in southern Kandahar province. Kandahar's Women Affairs Department and activists expressed serious concern on the issue, saying it was difficult to address a legal case relating to females. Women Affairs Director Ruqia Achakzai, in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, said only one female prosecutor and one defence lawyer were working in Kandahar. However, there is not even a single female in the provincial

judiciary. One prosecutor and lawyer could not cope with too many cases, she argued, saying it was difficult to probe the cases fairly. Women could not reveal all their secrets and sentiments to men, Achakzai said. On the other hand, they can share straight up all information about their cases with women officials. Achakzai explained women accused of different offences were not bad at heart but they were somehow pushed into crimes by hard living conditions. A female prosecutor or a judge could better appreciate the emotions of a woman, she added. ... (More on P4)...(8)

## Jobless Kunduz Youth Warn of Swelling Taliban Ranks



KUNDUZ CITY - A number of youth in northern Kunduz province complain of rising unemployment, warning of leaving the country or joining Taliban ranks if job opportunities are not created for them. Abdul Sattar Shamal, Kunduz representative in Youth Parliament, told Pajhwok Afghan News the number of unemployed young people had risen in recent years, while the government had failed to provide them jobs.

"There has been no work for youth and students continue graduating from universities. Also there is no factory in the province. The unemployed youth are a huge challenge." He claimed unemployment was resulting in youth's involvement in illicit acts such as kidnapping, mugging or joining Taliban ranks. Youth constitutes the major part of a community's active and influential populace. But unemployment has been a huge ... (More on P4)...(10)

## Low Wages Cause Anger Among Workers in Kabul's Industrial Parks

KABUL - Laborers in Kabul's industrial parks complained on Sunday they are paid 200 Afs as a daily wage despite working 12 hours a day. They said that unemployment has forced them to work for only 5000 Afs a month. Some factory owners have conceded that because of growing unemployment,

firms and factories are hiring the laborers for little money and exploit workers' rights in doing so. Alongside economic hardships, unemployment is one of the key reasons forcing the laborers to work for less money. Abdul Rahman is a laborer who ... (More on P4)...(11)

## NPC Approves 8 Contracts worth 25bn Afghanis

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani presided over a meeting of the National Procurement Commission (NPC), approving eight contracts worth 25 billion Afghanis, the Presidential Palace said on Monday. The palace in a statement said the contracts were about construction of the third phase of Kamal Khan Dam in Nimroz province, designing and construction of Dahna Dara Dam in Pashonkot district of Faryab province and implementation of Mehtarlam ring road project in the capital of Laghman province. The Sunday's evening meet-



ing at the Presidential Palace also approved contracts for construction of the Afghanistan embassy complex in Islamabad and fuel contracts for the Administrative Office of the President. Extension of CASA-1000 project line was also ap-

## Trump Administration Committed to Continued Support Afghanistan: Miller

WASHINGTON - The new US administration led by President Donald Trump is committed to continued support to Afghanistan, the acting US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Laurel Miller has said. She reaffirmed the US support to the Afghan government and people during a meeting with the Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. "Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of the Is-

lamic Republic of Afghanistan today met with Ms. Laurel Miller, the US Acting Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan in his office at the Sepidar palace," according to a statement released by the Chief Executive's Office. The statement further added that the latest military-political developments of the country, Afghanistan's regional relations, peace process and mutual cooperation of the ... (More on P4)...(12)



## Corruption, Narcotics Behind Helmand Insecurity



LASHKARGAH - Security officials blame growing insecurity in southern Helmand province on administrative corruption and drug trafficking. Brig. Gen. Abdul Rahim Chakhansouri, 505th Bust Zone police commander, said besides militants, corruption in government departments also contributed to insecurity in Helmand. The police commander said this while addressing a graduation ceremony for hundreds of policemen who completed their course. Without going into details, Chakhansouri said drug traf-

ficking, corruption and illegal activities were main factors behind insecurity in the restive Helmand. He said individuals who snatched police force privileges or were involved in drug and weapons smuggling should shun the illegal acts if they wished security in the province. Chakhansouri said reforms had been launched to resolve corruption and smuggling related issues. He informed around 2,000 police were under training in Helmand and of them 233 completed their training on Monday. (Pajhwok)

## Afghanistan Violates Treaty on Border River: Iran

THERAN - Sources in the Iranian Energy Ministry said the Afghan government has failed to meet its commitments under the 1973 treaty with Iran. During the water year 1395-1396 (2016-2017), Iran has not received the amount of water from the border river stipulated in the treaty, sources said. According to a treaty that was concluded in 1973, Afghanistan is committed to share waters of the Hirmand River with Iran and supply it with 26 cubic meters of Hirmand water per second or 850 million cubic meters per annum. Afghanistan's failure to abide by the agreement has accelerated an environmental disaster in southwestern Afghanistan and eastern Iran. The annual 850 million cubic meters of water for Iran has been initially allocated for drinking and irrigation of farmlands, which falls far short of the minimum flow required to feed Hamoon wetlands, which straddle Iran-Afghan common border and are fed by Hirmand river. In 1950, Iran and Afghanistan created the Hirmand River Delta Commission tasked with measuring and ... (More on P4)...(13)

## Pakistan Summons Afghan Diplomat over Cross-Border Attack

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Monday summoned a senior Afghan diplomat and lodged protest over a recent cross-border attack that killed at least five Pakistani soldiers. The army said earlier that terrorists launched attacks on three checkpoints in Mohmand Agency on late Sunday. Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a splinter group of the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, claimed the attacks. Pakistani officials insist that Ahrar, which is blamed for several deadly attacks in the country, "operates from the Afghan side of the border." In this regard, the deputy head of Afghan mission was called to the Foreign Office Monday to learn Pakistan's grave concern over the incident, said Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement. The statement said the Afghan government was urged to thoroughly investigate the incidents and take firm action against the terrorists operating from its soil to prevent recurrence of such incidents. "It was further ... (More on P4)...(14)

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

<b>Procurement Entities</b>	NPA on behalf of Ministry of Higher Education, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
<b>Funded By</b>	Government
<b>Item Description / Ref No.</b>	Consultancy Services for Design of Master Plan for Lugar Higher Education MoHE including: Utility Services (Civil works, Sewerage networks, Water supply & Electricity distribution Networks) and design of Education faculty Building, Agriculture faculty building, Masjid- e-Sharif, Gymnasium building, Central laboratory Building, Guest house for teachers & Campus Entrance Gate design. NPA/MoHE/95/Cs-1588/QCBS( Re-Bid)
<b>Deadline for EOI Submission</b>	March 27, 2017 by 15:00 Hours (Local Time).
<b>Address for EOI Submission</b>	National Procurement Authority; Administrative Office of the President Pashtunestan Wat, Kabul, Afghanistan
<b>Website</b>	www.npa.gov.af : Interested consultants may download the complete REOI from our website. In case of any problem in downloading, may obtain the same by sending e-mail at the address aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af copied to wais.rahimi@aop.gov.af, n.wahedi@aop.gov.af, hikmatullah.asad@aop.gov.af and jalilrahmaty@gmail.com