



Top US Senators Step up Fight in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - Afghan government only controls 57% of the country's territory. A year ago, the Kabul government controlled 72% of Afghanistan. Two of the most senior senators in the US Congress have called on the Trump administration to fight the insurgency threat to Afghanistan with the same urgency as its war against Daesh terrorism in the Middle East and the world. If the US involvement in Afghanistan is not intensified the current stalemate in the Afghan government's battle against the Taliban and other terror groups could "slide into failure", warned senators John McCain, chairman of the US



senate's armed services committee Lindsay Graham, a member of the same committee. In an opinion article at the Washington Post, one of the most influential newspapers in the US, the senators pointed out that the current Afghan government only controls 57% of the country's territory. A year ago, the Kabul government controlled 72% of Afghanistan. "This month, two simultaneous suicide attacks by the Taliban in Kabul killed at least 16 people and wounded more than 40. In northern Afghanistan, the Taliban overran another district. These setbacks ... (More on P4)...(7)"

Don't Mix Business and Politics, Islamabad Urged

KABUL - Pakistani and Afghan business representatives have called for the immediate reopening of Torkham and Chaman border crossings. The closure was hurting economic and social relations between the neighbours and resulting in massive financial losses and trust deficit, they said. After a spate of terrorist attacks that killed more than 100 people in Pakistan last month, Islamabad unilaterally blocked the border. It alleged the attacks were planned in Afghanistan. On Monday, a delegation

of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) met with representatives of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI). The six-member team also held talks with the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) on the early restoration of bilateral and transit trade. In a statement, the joint team noted with concern the border closure for five times during the last eight months since June 2016. Both sides cited figures ... (More on P4)...(9)

Peaceful, Stable Afghanistan is in Pak's Interest: Aziz

ISLAMABAD - Adviser to the Pakistani Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz received an Afghan media delegation comprising representatives from leading print and electronic media. The Adviser briefed the delegation about Pakistan's continuous efforts towards peace and stability in Afghanistan stressing that a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan was in Pakistan's interest. He emphasized the need of comprehensive bilateral engagement between the two countries to strengthen



trust and confidence and for deepening mutually beneficial cooperation in the areas of security, counter-terrorism, border management, trade, transit and voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees. The Adviser also highlighted the role of media in formulating ... (More on P4)...(10)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)	
Procurement Entities	NPA on behalf of Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
Funded By	Government of Afghanistan.
Item Description / Ref No.	Legal Advisory Services for TAPI Project NPA/MoMP/96/Cs-1607/QBS
Deadline for EOI Submission	April 05, 2017 by 15:00 Hours (Local Time).
Address for EOI Submission	National Procurement Authority; Administrative Office of the President Pashtunestan Wat, Kabul, Afghanistan
Website	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 , ahmad.noor@aop.gov.af , and obaidalmas@gmail.com , tapi.coordinator@gmail.com .

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	
Procuring Entity	National Procurement Authority (NPA) on behalf of Ministry of Finance (MoF)
Funded By	Afghanistan Government, MOF
Item Description	Forensic Audit of Government Payroll Distribution in Afghanistan
Reference No	NPA/MOF/96/CS-1563/QCBS
Deadline for Submission of EOI	8 April 2017, 04:00 PM (Kabul Local Time)
Address for Submission of EOI	Request for Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail): Attention: Mr. Aziz Ahmad Obaidi National Procurement Authority Administrative Office of the President Pashtunestan Watt, Kabul, Afghanistan Email: aziz.obaidi@aop.gov.af copy to wais.rahimi@aop.gov.af , malik.ghanizada@aop.gov.af , ajmal.sami@yahoo.com and tshahimy@hotmail.com
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Constructions Along Durand Line Unacceptable: Liwal

KABUL - The Ministry of Border and Tribal Affairs (MoBTA) on Tuesday expressed concern over the rocket shelling from Pakistan into eastern provinces and said constructions along the Durand Line were unacceptable to the Afghans. MoBTA acting minister Abdul Ghafour Liwal told a press conference here that residents on both sides of the Durand Line continued to suffer from the conflict. "Unfortunately areas along the Durand Line are still targeted with heavy weapons, people across the border are also not safe from the same shelling," he said. Liwal expected construction of facilities along the Durand Line and said any building if constructed against the desire of Afghans would not last longer. ... (More on P4)...(13)

Kandahar: Poppy Growing up in Areas under Taliban

KANDAHAR - Poppy cultivation has increased in volatile areas and decreased in comparatively secure parts of southern Kandahar province, officials said. Local officials, who talked to Pajhwok Afghan News, said the central government should carry out strong military operations against militants instead of eradicating the poppy crop. They said the operations would help bring under government control remote areas where the illicit plant was grown. Counternarcotics chief for Kandahar Gul Mohammad Shukran told Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview that poppy cultivation had decreased in the province as compared to the past. "The crop is least grown in areas where there is security ... (More on P4)...(14)

UN Chief Women Empowerment Must be Key Priority

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday said women's empowerment must be a key priority in a male dominated world. Addressing the 61st session of UN Commission on the Status of Women, Guterres said empowerment is about breaking structural barriers for women in all walks of life. "We are all better off when we open doors of opportunity for women and girls: in classrooms and boardrooms, in military ranks and at peace talks, in all aspects of productive life," he said. Guterres also said women should be recognized as equal at workplace and should be promoted on that basis. "Our world needs more women



en leaders. And our world needs more men standing up for gender equality," he added. The Commission on the Status of Women is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The ... (More on P4)...(8)

Taliban Keeps Grip on Paktia Mine to Finance its War: Locals



KABUL - Local officials in Paktia province on Monday expressed outrage over what they described as years of domination by the Taliban insurgents of the chromium mine in the Janikhail district. Powerful local elements are coordinating with the Taliban in the illegal extraction of Chromite, they said. "Those who extract chromite for the state are doing so in the national interest and that is to be welcomed. Anyone doing so illegally are criminals," said Zalmay Wesa, the provincial governor. While the Taliban controls the

chromium mine in the district, illegal extraction continues, said Sharifullah Sarhadi, Janikhail's district governor. The mine is located in the Khadan area and valuable stones are under Taliban control," said Sarhadi. Local residents in Paktia have said that after extracting chromium from the mine, the Taliban sends it to Pakistan to finance their war machine. "Taliban are dominant on those areas and with the help of some people, the Taliban control those mines," said Eid ... (More on P4)...(11)

Farah Downgraded to War-Hit Province: Report

KABUL - The security status of Farah province in the country's west has changed from an insecure to a fully war-hit province, a report by TOLONews reveals. Except for Khaki Safed, Gullistan and Bakwa districts - which are main strongholds of the Taliban - seven other administrative areas, including the central city of the province, are insecure and war-hit. Officials in Fa-

rah admitted they are more concerned about maintaining government offices in every district of the province than ending Taliban's dominance in many parts of the province. "The war is not a war of weapons and gunpowder, it is an intelligence war, a cultural war. Sometimes you will see that the game is bigger than this. It means that ... (More on P4)...(12)

Security Forces Advance in Helmand Operation



KABUL - Joint Afghan security forces are advancing in Helmand's Maiwand 17 operation which started a week ago, officials say. The advance started from the Lashkargah city PD 3 area to retake parts of Nad Ali district. Local officials said that security forces have cleared PD 3 of Lashkargah city of insurgents and have reopened the route to Nad Ali which was closed for nearly six months.

Security forces are now in the Nadi Ali district center and they are trying to reopen the Marja district route too. PD 3 is located in the South West of the Lashkargah city and is one of the key locations that connect routes of Nad Ali and Marja districts. Security forces said that due to Taliban land-mining the area, the operation is progressing slowly. The added that ... (More on P4)...(15)