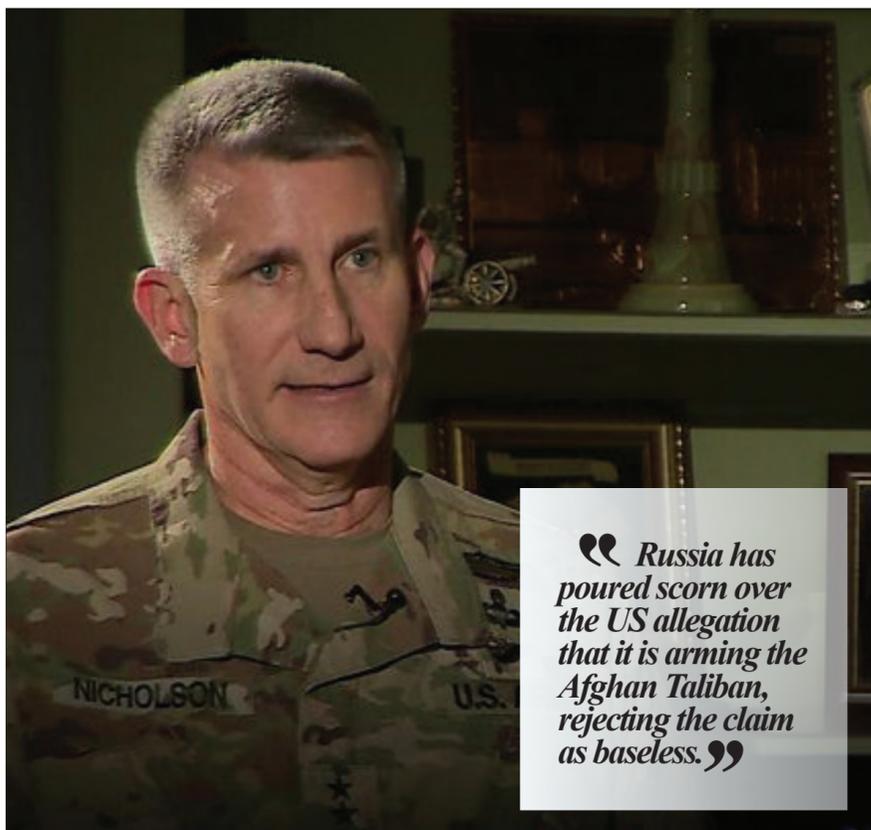




Arming Taliban: Russia Scorns Nicholson's Allegation



“Russia has poured scorn over the US allegation that it is arming the Afghan Taliban, rejecting the claim as baseless.”

KABUL - In an exclusive interview with the BBC last week, the Resolute Support Mission commander blamed Russia for its “destabilising activity”.

Gen John Nicholson claimed Russian weapons were smuggled across the Tajikistan border to the Taliban. “We know that the Russians are involved.”

On Sunday, the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Kabul said such serious allegations should be backed up by irrefutable evidence. “But US government representatives are constantly allowing themselves to publicly express

idle gossip. Once again, we insist such statements are absolutely baseless,”

In a statement, the embassy asked US officials not to “talk nonsense”. The embassy said it was surprised by the content of the story based on Nicholson’s interview.

“In addition to unfounded accusations, the author of the article thought up a new lie, as absurd as all previous insinuations,” the statement added.

Russia also scorned the claim that it shared some intelligence data with the Taliban. It also rubbished the correspondent’s allegation that “the Russian Foreign ... (More on P4)...(6)

Rashid Creates History, Completes Century of ODI Wickets

KABUL - Afghanistan spin sensation Rashid Khan on Sunday emerged as the youngest-ever bowler to claim 100 One Day International (ODI) wickets.

As the 19-year-old sent back to the pavilion West Indian batsman Shai Hope in the final of the ICC World Cup Qualifier in Harare, he won the distinction.

Before the all-important encounter began, Khan needed just one scalp to break the record of Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, who had reached the milestone in the 52nd match.

But the exceptionally-gifted



spinner from eastern Nangarhar province accomplished the record in 44 ODIs. The spin prodigy, averaging 14.12, has a strike rate of about 21.4 in ODIs.

His economy rate of 3.94 adds to

the glory of Rashid’s distinction. A third of his wickets have come against Ireland. While playing against Zimbabwe, he has notched up 40 wickets.

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

1.5 Million Saplings Being Planted in Bamiyan

BAMYAN CITY - Around 1.5 million baby trees would be planted this year in central Bamiyan province besides distribution of five types of new potato seeds among farmers, officials said Sunday.

The plantation of 1.5 million seedlings, part of the “Green Revolution campaign,” was

announced by provincial officials on Sunday while celebrating the national farmer’s day in Bamiyan City, the provincial capital.

Agriculture director Abdul Wahab Mohammadi told Pajhwok Afghan News that under a presidential order some tractors would be freely provided ... (More on P4)...(5)

In Zurmat District, 13 Schools for Girls Stay Shut

GARDEZ - More than a dozen schools for girls closed by Taliban in the Zurmat district of southeastern Paktia province are yet to be reopened, depriving thousands of children of education, officials said on Saturday.

The schools had been closed for the past four years but government officials say efforts are being made to reopen the schools. Provincial authorities have taken up the issue with the militants.

Progress in this regard, however, remains elusive.

Governor Shamim Khan Katawazi said on the side-

lines of Saturday’s ceremony marking the commencement of the new academic year, they held negotiation with the Taliban through tribal leaders to ascertain reasons the closure of the schools.

Addressing the ceremony, Katawazi said tribal elders had been asked for mediation to resolve the issue. Simultaneously, the governor explained, the provincial administration was also taking steps to reopen the schools.

District educational head Abdul Rashid Usmani told Pajhwok Afghan News they had talked ... (More on P4)...(7)

Taliban Leader Kills Defiant Badakhshan

FAIZABAD - A local Taliban commander kidnapped a 26-year-old woman from her home in northeastern Badakhshan province overnight and shot her dead for refusing to marry him, police in northeastern Badakhshan said Sunday.

Badakhshan police spokesman Sanauallah Rohani told Pajhwok Afghan News the incident took place in Hawaran village of the Arghanj Khwa district on Saturday night.

The slain woman, Qurban-Bibi, had been engaged to the Taliban’s group leader Mullah Yaqub against her consent. Yaqub forcibly took the woman out of her house at around 10pm Saturday night and killed her in an area under Taliban’s control.

Arghanj Khwa district chief Rustam Raghai said the Taliban harassed Hawaran residents and in other areas of the district. He confirmed the woman was killed last night by Mullah Yaqub.

The Taliban have not yet spoken about the incident. (Pajhwok)

Four Members of One Family Killed in Helmand Blast

LASHKARGAH - Family members of Helmand suicide explosion victims said government must do something to prevent such attacks in the future.

Four members of one family were killed and seven others wounded in Friday night’s suicide bombing outside a stadium

in Lashkargah city in Helmand.

Relatives of the victims blasted government and accused the leaders of not being able to maintain security.

The explosion that took place when people were leaving a wrestling match claimed the

lives of 16 people and wounded at least 35 others.

On Sunday, prayer ceremonies were held in 15 mosques in the provincial capital, where victims’ families said government must maintain security and prevent such attacks.

“We ... (More on P4)...(8)

At Least One Dead in Blast Near Mosque in Afghan City of Herat

HERAT - A suicide attack near a Shi’ite mosque in the Western Afghan city of Herat killed at least one person and wounded eight others, police and health officials said on Sunday.

Militant group Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack, which followed another

blast that was claimed by the group in Kabul last week and killed about 30 people near a Shi’ite shrine as the city celebrated Nawruz, the Persian new year.

Deputy police chief Aminullah Amin said that two bombers had tried to enter the mosque

but were challenged by security guards who opened fire on them.

“Our Shi’ite brothers were praying in the mosque when two suicide bombers entered the mosque compound. Fortunately, the bombers were identified by ... (More on P4)...(9)

PROCUREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ICB

Procurement Entities	Ministry of Telecommunication and IT
Funded By	Government of Afghanistan
Item Description	Procuring of 40MHz Bandwidth from ABS-7 Satellite For 120 Site of (TDF) Salam Network
Ref. No	NPA/MOCIT/97/NCS-2039/ICB
Bid Security	The Bids must be accompanied with Bid Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee provided in the Bidding Documents at the amount of US 30,000 (US Dollar Thirty Thousand) and valid for 148 days after the bids submission deadline.
Deadline for Bid Submission	25 April 2018; 10:00 AM hrs, Kabul Local Time , Electronic submission of Bid is not allowed. Late bid will be reject.
Address for Bid Submission	National Procurement Authority, Procurement Facilitation Directorate (NPA/PFD), 1 st floor of NPA Building, Kabul, Afghanistan.
Website	A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders free of cost by downloading from the NPA website www.npa.gov.af and IFB, from the websites of www.mcit.gov.af , Or may be obtained in a CD/Flash Memory from the NPA office (Address given above). In case of any difficulty in downloading from website, interested bidders may contact at e-mail address khalil.hamedidi@aop.gov.af ,copy to: naim.hashemi@afghantelecom.af ,

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Procuring Entity	National Procurement Authority (NPA) on behalf of Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Corporation (AUWSSC).
Funded By	Afghanistan Government
Item Description	Consultancy Service for Distribution of Drinking water using shahtoot dam & collection, treatment and reuse of the generated wastewater
Reference No	NPA/ AUWSSC/97/CS-2069/QCBS
Deadline for Submission of EOI	15 April, 2018 at 16:00 hrs. (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: Zabihulrahman Rahmani Procurement Manager (Infrastructure Sector Department) National Procurement Authority Administrative Office of the President Pashtunestan Wat, Kabul, Afghanistan Email: zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af copied to wais.rahimi@aop.gov.af , asadullah.haidari@aop.gov.af , hedayat.hashimi@auwssc.gov.af
REOI is available at	www.npa.org.af Interested Consultants may download the REOI from our website. In case of any problems in downloading, may obtain the same by sending e-mail at the address given below: Email : zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af , asadullah.haidari@aop.gov.af