

# IS's Defeat in Palmyra Start of Group's Collapse: Syria

DAMASCUS - The General Command of the Syrian Army said the defeat of the Islamic State (IS) in the ancient city of Palmyra is the start of a further collapse of the militant group, the state news agency SANA said on Sunday.

"Recapturing Palmyra is a strong blow to the IS terrorists and will usher in a further collapse of the morale of that terrorist group and the beginning of its defeat and collapse," the Syrian army said in a statement. Re-



taking Palmyra, the statement added, "is a sign that our army in cooperation with the friends is the only power capable of eradicating and rooting out terrorism." The military statement said the re-

capture of the ancient city took place with the help of the Russian and Syrian air force.

Meanwhile, the state-run Alekhabria said the three-week battles in Palmyra have killed over 600 IS militants, while the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the troops have killed over 400 militants. Activists also said the battles killed 180 Syrian soldiers. Meanwhile, a military source told Xinhua that the IS withdrew from the ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Neighbor News

### China Calls for Reform of Science and Technology Associations



BEIJING - Science and technology associations in China should better serve scientific and technological workers, the national strategy of innovation-driven development as well as the government and the general public through reforms, said a document publicized on Sunday. The general office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee recently issued a plan for deepening reforms in science ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

### Finland, Russia Agree on Combating Illegal Immigration Despite EU Sanctions

HELSINKI - Russian assurance of curbing unauthorized entries into Finland and the signing of an understanding on combating illegal immigration have been seen in Finland as an indication

of a new phase in Finnish-Russian relations. Announced during the meeting of Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow last week, the ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

### Nigerian Air Force Vows to Sustain War on Terrorism

LAGOS - The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) on Sunday said it will expand its platforms in the restive northeast states toward speedy response in counter-insurgency operations. This is will help to improve the

aerial bombardments of terrorists targets, Nigeria's Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadiq Abubakar said in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital. He told military formations in ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## U.S. Drone Strikes Kill 11 in Southern Yemen

ADEN - About three air strikes carried out by U.S. drones in Yemen's southern province of Abyan, killing eight al-Qaida members and three beekeepers, a military official told Xinhua on Sunday. The U.S. drones launched two air raids and destroyed a training base for the Yemen-based al-Qaida branch in the mountainous area of Mahfad in southern Abyan province late on Saturday night, killing eight terrorists, the local military official said on condition of anonym-



ity. The third U.S. drone air raid pounded an area used by civilians near the al-Qaida hideout in Mahfad area, killing about

three beekeepers and injuring several others at the scene, the military source said. Local residents told Xinhua that huge

blasts rocked the area after the U.S. drone attacks that apparently destroyed arms depots inside the al- ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

### Israeli PM Softens Tone Against Soldier Shooting Unarmed Palestinian Attacker

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu softened his stance on Sunday against a soldier accused of killing a Palestinian attacker at point blank while lying wounded on the ground. Netanyahu said that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) "maintains high ethical values" and rejected those who challenge "the IDF's morality," at the beginning of the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday, according to a statement from his office. "Any challenge to the morality of the IDF is

outrageous and unacceptable," Netanyahu said. He also said the soldiers are dealing with "blood-thirsty murderers," talking about Palestinian attackers, and added that the military's investigation of the incident should take into account the "difficult operational conditions" the soldiers are facing. "I am certain that... the inquiry takes into account all conditions. We must all support the IDF and our soldiers who safeguard our security," ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

**RFP Issue Date:** March 27, 2016  
**RFP No.:** NPA/DABS/1394/ICB/W-1128

**RFP Title:** SEPS Completion 110kV Transmission Lines in One Lot

**AFG No.:** 830021

1. Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has received funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the completion of a 110kV Transmission Lines system under the Southeast Power System (SEPS) Completion Project. The project is expected to be executed in one lot.

2. DABS ("the Employer"), is inviting sealed bids from eligible bidders for the engineering, procurement and construction of the 110kV Transmission Lines system, in one lot. Bids should cover all incidental expenses thereto as described in Section 4, Section 6 and elsewhere in this RFP and as noted below:

Place/Places of Delivery	Description	Bid Security (USD)
Kandahar Province, Afghanistan	Kandahar East to Kandahar Breshna Kot and on to Pushmul and Maiwand Transmission Line	USD •• 400,000
Kandahar Province, Afghanistan	Breshna Kot Transmission Line Tap	
Kandahar Province, Afghanistan	Pushmul Transmission Line Tap	
Kandahar Province, Afghanistan	Maiwand Transmission Line Tap	
Helmand Province, Afghanistan	Sangin North Transmission Line Tap	
Helmand Province, Afghanistan	Sangin North Transmission Line to Kajaki Switchyard	

3. The estimated price of this bid is in the range USD 20 million. This estimated price is inclusive of security costs. This estimated price includes a contingency of USD 1 million. This estimated price is for five fully functional transmission lines that fulfill the requirements of the bid documents. See Section 2, ITB 18.1, page 2-4.

4. Time to complete the plant and services from the effective date specified in Article 3 of the Contract Agreement for determining time for completion of pre-commissioning activities is 20 months (expected six (6) months for design and preliminary procurement and expected 14 months for construction and pre-commissioning; bidder to determine their own schedule, but the time to complete is set by these bidding documents). Bids offering time for completion in excess of these specified time requirements shall be rejected. See, also, Section 3 Evaluation and Qualification Criteria, Paragraph 1.2.2 Time Schedule, page 3-2.

5. Bidders shall quote for the full quantity of goods and construction services specified under each lot on a single responsibility basis. All quotes shall be inclusive of the security costs. Bids that are not compliant with the terms of this RFP will be considered non-responsive and will not be eligible for consideration for award.

6. Section 5: The Grantor Requirements of the RFP provide guidance on available tax exemptions for USAID-financed projects. Available tax exemptions include, in summary: an exemption for (1) taxes on income; profits or property of all non-Afghan organizations, on non-Afghan employees of both Afghan and non-Afghan organizations, and on non-Afghan individual contractors and grantees; including social security taxes and taxes on the property, personal or real, owned by non-Afghan organizations or persons and (2) customs duties; import taxes and other levies on all goods and equipment imported by both Afghan and non-Afghan contractors for use on the project. The Grantor Requirements section also contains other important limitations on the goods and services that can be financed by USAID. **All bidders are advised to review Section 5 in detail.**

7. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure specified in the Public Procurement Law and Circulars, and is open to all Bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

8. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the below mentioned address and also from the Procurement Unit, DABS and may inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9:00 hours to 15:00 hours on any working day from Saturday to Wednesday.

9. A complete set of bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders by contacting at e-mail address [shekiba.hajizada@aop.gov.af](mailto:shekiba.hajizada@aop.gov.af), [zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af](mailto:zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af) and copy to [tenders.dabs@dabs.af](mailto:tenders.dabs@dabs.af). Standard Bidding (RFP) Documents in English are available for free download in electronic data room hosted by NPA and DABS which are [www.npa.gov.af](http://www.npa.gov.af) and [www.dabs.af](http://www.dabs.af). Requests for access to the electronic data should be sent to the following email address - [shekiba.hajizada@aop.gov.af](mailto:shekiba.hajizada@aop.gov.af), [zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af](mailto:zabihulrahman.rahmani@aop.gov.af) and [tenders.dabs@dabs.af](mailto:tenders.dabs@dabs.af) -stating the name and address of party making the request. The clarifications and amendments if any will also be posted in the PDF format for free download in the same websites. Bidders are urged to regularly check the NPA and DABS procurement website for RFI responses, possible amendments, pre bid meeting schedule and other tenders announcements.

10. A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at **10:00 Hours** (local time) on **April 11, 2016** at the NPA Headquarters in Kabul at the address below. All interested bidders are encouraged to attend. Interested bidders should monitor the NPA website ([www.npa.gov.af](http://www.npa.gov.af)) and DABS Procurement website ([www.dabs.af](http://www.dabs.af)) for possible change of venue, date and/or time of this pre-bid meeting. The next day there will be a tour of the DABS storage facilities in Kandahar where the government furnished equipment is stored. The ACSR is the GFE for this transmission line project.

11. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00 Hours** (local time) **April 30, 2016**. Electronic bids will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline of bid submission, at the same place of bid submission in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person.

12. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount specified under Paragraph 2 above that will remain valid for 28 days over and above the validity period of the bids, that is, the bid security is to be valid for 148 days (i.e. up to September 28, 2016). A Bid Security Declaration is not acceptable. Copies of the Bid Security documentation shall be included in the original and in the copies of the Technical Bid packages. The original Bid Security document shall accompany the original Technical Bid package.

13. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

Pashtonistan wat,  
Geodesy & Cartography Authority,  
First Floor  
Conference Room of National Procurement Authority  
City: Kabul City, District 2  
Country: Afghanistan  
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