



Companies Evading Tax will Face Serious Action, MoF Warns

KABUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Monday said at a meeting in Kabul that large companies evading tax will face serious consequences. At the same event, officials from the ministry honored eight companies for continuously paying their taxes on time. The eight companies honored for prompt payment were Afghan Wireless, Saladin Security Company, Afghanistan International Bank, Kam Air Company, Emtiaz Construction Company, Alokozay International Trade Company, Alokozay Beverage Company and Automotive Service Company. "According to the law, we first inform the taxpayers to pay their taxes. If they do not pay the taxes, then there are options including travel bans



on owners and seizing property. Although we have carried out such actions against taxpayers, we will keep trying to implement the law," said Shafiqullah Qarizada, acting finance minister. They also said in future they will freeze bank accounts of large companies that fail to pay tax. The ministry did not on Monday name the companies that

evade tax nor did they disclose the amount of money owed to them. However, according to information provided by the ministry, currently around 490 large companies are registered taxpayers and that last year more than 18 billion Afs in taxes was collected from these companies - which made up 12 percent of the total national revenue. "We have implemented good plans in collecting taxes from large taxpayers and these plans really have encouraged taxpayers in paying their taxes," said Abdul Habib, director of the ministry's large taxpayers department. Officials from the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) meanwhile said problems with the tax collection process is a reason why ... (More on P4) ... (7)

US, NATO Reaffirm Support for Afghan-Owned Peace Process

KABUL - The United States on Monday hailed the Afghan government's steps to fulfill its obligations in implementing the peace agreement with Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA). "Continued, successful progress towards this vital goal was most recently demonstrated by the return of Gulbadin Hekmatyar to Afghanistan," the US Embassy said in a statement. It viewed the step as clear evidence of the Afghan government's commitment to restoring peace and stability in the country, which would ultimately benefit the people. "It is evident that Afghans overwhelmingly yearn for peace, and this agreement will provide an opportunity to bring Afghans together and ensure the safety and security of all sides." The ... (More on P4) ... (8)

UK May Deploy More Soldiers to Afghanistan

KABUL - The United Kingdom may deploy more troops to Afghanistan under a NATO plan to step up its military presence in the war-devastated country, a British newspaper reported on Monday. The alliance is mulling over a plan to increase the number of Resolute Support mission personnel beyond the current level of 13,000, the Guardian said, soon after US marines returned to Helmand. Currently, the British service members, include commandos, are mostly deployed to provide security around the capital Kabul. The British Ministry of Defence has not yet received any formal request for a surge. (Pajhwok)

Pakistan Spy Chief to Visit Afghanistan



KABUL - Pakistan's spy chief is expected to visit Afghanistan later this week for talks with counterparts in Kabul on bilateral anti-terrorism and security cooperation, officials said Monday. The director general of the Inter-Services intelligence, Lt. General Naveed Mukhtar, is likely to discuss the fate of the lists of militants wanted on both sides and to address mutual concerns, explained Ayaz Sadiq, the speaker of the lower house of parliament, or National Assembly. Sadiq spoke in Islamabad shortly after his 15-member parliamentary delegation returned from a two-day official visit to Kabul. "Only concerned [Pakistani security] departments are authorized to discuss matters related to the lists [with Afghan officials]. And, God willing, they will go and do so. I think tomorrow or the day after our D.G. ISI is traveling there [to Kabul] and the discussions [with regard to ... (More on P4) ... (10)

NATO Decision on Troop Surge by June: Stoltenberg



KABUL - NATO is weighing the deployment of additional military personnel to Afghanistan and extending the timeframe of its mission in the country, the secretary-general says. The additional troops are likely join the Resolute Support mission, which is training, assisting and advising Afghan security forces in combat against insurgents and extremist outfits. Jens Stoltenberg said in an interview the decision on the troop surge would be taken by June this year. He indicated a new prolonged deployment procedure could also be approved. He told the German newspaper Die Welt the alliance would prolong the mission for a "longer term" instead of extending it every year. In addition to the training responsibility, NATO could also widen its role in the war on terrorism. "We already do it to some extent, for example, in Afghanistan and Iraq but we have a potential to do even more. In such a way, we make them capable of stabilising their land on their own. It is better than sending NATO troops that have then to defend those countries." (Pajhwok)

Sayyaf Warns Insurgents Against Being Deceived

KABUL - Former Jihadi leader and head of the Council of Protection and Stability of Afghanistan Abdur Rab Rasoul Sayyaf on Monday said at a gathering to mark the 25th anniversary of 8th of Saur that insurgents should not allow themselves to be deceived by their Muftis and that insurgents are not carrying out Jihad. Sayyaf said to insurgents that if suicide was allowed in Islam why then were there no Mufti suicide bombers? Sayyaf said the real Jihad is by the security forces fighting insurgents and added that security forces are

fighting slaves and strangers. "I assure the security forces that they are on holy duty and fighting against slaves and the message for the opposition is if wearing suicide vests was (allowed in Islam) did any Mufti of the opposition wear the suicide vest and detonate himself?" Sayyaf said. Sayyaf however welcomed the joining of the peace process by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-i-Islami and said: "It is a positive sign for peace that Mr. Hekmatyar returns." But ... (More on P4) ... (9)



Taliban in No Mood to Reconcile: CEO

KABUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah on Monday said the Taliban had never been sincere to the peace process, as he referred to the group's launching of spring offensive codenamed 'Mansouri.' Chairing a meeting of the Council of Ministers, Abdullah welcomed Gulbadin Hekmatyar's reconciliation and urged all other militant groups to follow suit. "Hekmatyar's joining of the peace process is a good and positive step and we want other militant groups to follow the path of peace." The people of Afghanistan had rendered huge sacrifices in the war against terrorism and could not afford more bloodshed. Referring to the Taliban's spring offensive, the CEO said the group had never been sincere to the peace process and did not want to reconcile. (Pajhwok)

HIA Prisoners Release Postponed at Last Minute

KABUL - The government on Monday postponed a planned ceremony for the release of the first group of prisoners belonging to the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) for unknown reasons. The first group of HIA prisoners was expected to be set free but it was delayed due to some concerns. An HIA delegation and media reporters went to the Pul-i-Charkhi prison on eastern outskirts of Kabul to attend the release ceremony of HIA prisoners, but the ceremony was postponed at the last minute on Monday morning. Dr. Nadir Afghan, member of HIA media group, told Pajhwok Afghan News the release of 68 prisoners had been promised with them and the HIA rejected the release of 55 prisoners instead of 68. Nadir said the president had signed the decree ordering the release of 55 prisoners, something against the agreement signed between the HIA and the government. "The HIA executive council will take a final decision in this regard," Nadir said. HIA spokesperson, Qarib Rahman Saeed, told Pajhwok Afghan News that until the issue of releasing 69 prisoners was not resolved, the group would suspend negotiations with the government. Ahmad Farzan, a spokesperson for the joint government-HIA agreement implementation commission, confirmed the president had approved the release of 55 HIA prisoners. (Pajhwok)

World Bank Announcement

The World Bank Afghanistan Country Office (WB) is interested in disposal of about (274) numbers of old laptops, docking stations & IT equipment's in working condition when dismantled.

The sales would be made on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and No claim would be entertained regarding condition of the IT stuff after the sales.

The IT equipment would be sold in lots, which will be displayed for inspection on 11 May 2017 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon in the WB Office. List of lots along with its reserve price for each stuff will be provided on the day of inspection.

Interested bidders can submit their sealed bids for one or more lots (Total 274 lots). The bid should accompany earnest money deposit (EMD) of \$300 or AFN 20000 for each lot bid and be submitted to the WB office before 4.00 PM on 11 May 2017. Bids will be opened and names of the successful bidders will be announced on a date specified by the Bank. EMD would be payable in Cash at WB office for which bidders should collect the receipt and attach a copy with their bid. EMD would be refundable for unsuccessful bidders after finalization of the sale process. The World Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids.

The successful bidder shall have to pay full money, less EMD, within 2 working days of the intimation of the award and take the laptops at his cost by end of the next working day.

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