

Quote of the Day

It is a common delusion that you make things better by talking about them.

Dame Rose Macaulay
English novelist (1881 - 1958)

ADB Oks \$878m for Uplift Projects in Afghanistan

KABUL - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed a grant allocation of \$858 million for project financing and \$20 million for disaster reduction activities in Afghanistan for 2017 to 2020, the Ministry of Finance said on Tuesday. The grant allocation for the four-year period was discussed at the third and concluding meeting of the 11th replenishment ...*(More on P4)...(2)*

NUG Blasted for Not Introducing MoD, NDS Nominees

KABUL - A number of political and military analysts on Tuesday lashed out at the National Unity Government (NUG) for not yet introducing its choice of Minister of Defense (MoD) and head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) to parliament. This comes after President ...*(More on P4)...(3)*

India

No Plans to Stop Helping Afghanistan

KABUL - The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) said that Afghanistan represents strategic importance for New Delhi and therefore India will continue its aid to Kabul across various sectors.

India has been one of the largest donors to Afghanistan over the past 14 years and has trained hundreds of officers at their ...*(More on P4)...(4)*

Helsinki, Kabul Working on MoU to Stem Flow of Asylum Seekers

KABUL - Finland and Afghanistan are working on a draft agreement on the future of Afghan asylum seekers in the North European country, a top official announced on Tuesday.

In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Permanent Secretary to Finland's Ministry of Interior Päivi Nerg said ...*(More on P4)...(5)*

Ghani, Hekmatyar May Sign Peace Accord Soon

KABUL - Peace talks between the Afghan government and the Gubadin Hekmatyar-led Hezbi-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) are about to enter the final stages and the sides are expected to reach an agreement in less than two weeks, the High Peace Council (HPC) said on Tuesday. First a two-member HIA delegation arrived in Kabul about one and a half months ago and initiated peace talks with the Afghan government and then a few days ago another three-member HIA delegation led by HIA offices head ...*(More on P4)...(1)*



President, CEO Affirm Commitment to Media Freedom

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday characterised freedom of the press as a key principle of the democratic order in the country, pledging to protect the liberty. In his message on World Press Freedom Day, Ghani cited support for the freedom of expression and enforcement of the constitution as achievements of in the past few years. Afghanistan remained committed to supporting media organisations in accordance with the law of the land, he said. "Improving media outlets and



institutionalising the freedom of expression needs cooperation between the government and media people." Ghani added it was an honour ...*(More on P4)...(6)*

Govt. Criticized for Injustice in Selecting Salang for 500kv TUTAP Power Project

KABUL - A multi-million massive power project, Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TUTAP), will pass through Salang despite concerns raised by Second Vice President ...*(More on P4)...(8)*

Taliban Must Renounce Violence if 'Considering they are Sons of Afghanistan'

KABUL - The former Afghan President Hamid Karzai has called on Taliban to renounce violence and join hands with the other countrymen in rebuilding the country if 'they ...*(More on P4)...(9)*

MoD Aims to Increase Female Intake to 5,000

KABUL - The Ministry of Defense (MoD) is hoping to increase the number of women in the ranks of the national army to at least 5,000 in the next 10 years.

Speaking at an event on women's roles in the army, the MoD's advisor in women's affairs, Wazhma Frogh, said: "We have earmarked 5,000 positions for women and the MoD has to ensure 5,000 are appointed in different positions within the next 10 years."

The director of human rights and gender at the MoD, Zahir Azimi, stressed the need for the ...*(More on P4)...(7)*

Website

Launched to Help Women Report Crimes

KABUL - A group of female social activists launched a website on Tuesday aimed at helping women register and report complaints relating to violence against women.

The website, called "The Map of Fear", will allow women to log in, report their problems and get advice. This help will be extended to victims of abuse, sexual harassment and other forms of violence.

The women and children's rights organization, that launched the website, said their goal is to overcome sexual abuse and harassment against women in society.

"In addition to that the elimination of violence against women law has been approved by the council of ...*(More on P4)...(10)*

Afghan Journalist Conferred Free Speech Award

KABUL - The Paris-based Reporters without Borders has conferred for a second time the 'freedom of speech award' on an Afghan journalist Loffullah Najafizada, an official said on Tuesday. Raza Moini, the head of Reporters Without Borders' Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan desk, said the situation of Afghan journalists was critical as threats to them were on the increase. Najafizada was decorated with the award at a ceremony held in Paris a day earlier. Moini said different armed groups such as Taliban, Daesh, ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Delegation in Nangarhar to Assess Situation near Durand Line

JALALABAD - At the head of a delegation, Border and Tribal Affairs Minister Gulab Mangal arrived in eastern Nangarhar province to assess the security situation in the province and districts along the Durand Line, an official said on Tuesday.

The Mangal-led delegation that arrived in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, comprised of representatives from the interior, defence ministries and the spy service, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and the Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority, according to Ataulah Khogyani, the Nangarhar governor's spokesman. He ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

German Development Cooperation with Afghanistan Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)

Financed by KfW - German Development Bank



Regional Infrastructure Development Fund - RIDF

BMZ-ID 2010 66 562
2011 65 034
2013 65 048
2014 67 885

Invitation for RIDF Bidders' Conference for Construction Companies

Potential bidders are invited to participate in a Bidder's Conference if they have extensive construction work experience for mid-size infrastructure projects in the following sectors: Education (building of schools), Decentralized Power Supply, Irrigation and Flood Protection, Roads and Bridges; and Water Supply and Sanitation.

The projects are financed by the German Development Bank (KfW), in the scope of the German Development Cooperation with Afghanistan, and being implemented through the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), conditional to actual budget allocation. The average size of the infrastructure projects implemented in the six Northern Provinces Samangan, Balkh, Baghlan, Kunduz, Taloqan and Badakhshan is between 500,000 and 1,500,000 Euro. The total RIDF budget is limited and is including actually up to 3 or 4 projects per province.

Afghan and international contractors with a base in Afghanistan having a valid AISA registration, the financial capacity and experience as General Contractors in the design and construction in the specific sector(s) named above, are herewith invited to attend a one day "RIDF Bidders' Conference" anticipated to be held in between 16 - 18 May 2016 in Kabul and/or Mazar-e-Sharif depending on the number of participants.

The bidders' conference is being organized based on previous positive experience with RIDF Bidders' Conference held in 2012/2013 in Kabul to provide guidelines and information to potential bidders on the minimum requirements for the procurement of construction work contracts in the implementation of projects financed under German Development Bank (KfW). This will give potential bidders a better understanding of the procurement processes with focus on increasing the quality of submitted offers, provides opportunity to companies to determine their interests in seeking out the project and also if their company is qualified to accomplish the work.

Interested attendees shall kindly request a registration form by e-mail from: info@ridf-af.org clearly stating **Registration to RIDF Bidders' Conference** in the subject line. It is hereby emphasized that only one (1) delegate may represent their company.

The deadline for submittal of completed registration form is on 12 May 2016.

Keep Supporting Afghanistan, Obama Successor Urged

KABUL - A former Afghan diplomat has underlined the need for America's continued assistance to his conflict-devastated even after the change of the US administration.

"I think it would be detrimental if the United States withdraws or

suddenly stops being engaged in Afghanistan," Omar Samad said in an interview with a major Russian news service.

The ex-ambassador to Canada said the US role in Afghanistan would be defined by the result of the ...*(More on P4)...(11)*

Pakistan Opposes Military Solution to Afghan Conflict

PESHAWAR - During their recent visit to Pakistan, the Taliban signalled their willingness to return to peace talks with the Afghan government, a media report said on Monday.

However, the three-member delegation from Taliban's political office in Doha sought the release of some prisoners held in Pakistan and Afghanistan before direct ne-

gotiations resume.

The Express Tribune quoted unnamed Pakistani officials as saying the main faction of the Afghan Taliban led by Mullah Akhtar Mansoor could come back to the negotiating table.

Officials familiar with the discussions told the newspaper Pakistan and China had conveyed a clear ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

'Afghan Constitution Fails to Protect Right to Religious Freedom'

WASHINGTON - The Afghan constitution has failed to protect the right to freedom and belief, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) said on Monday, regretting the deterioration in the country's security. "Afghanistan's overall stability and security has deteriorated sig-

nificantly in the last year due to a resurgence of the Afghan Taliban and increased activity by other extremist groups, including the Islamic State and al-Qaeda," USCIRF said.

In its annual report to the Congress, the commission said the rebel ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

British MP, Ex-Military Officers Rally for Afghan Interpreters

KABUL - A former British field marshal has called for an immediate halt to the deportation of Afghan interpreters from the United Kingdom, a news report said on Monday.

Joined by former heads of the Royal Air Force (RAF) and then defence secretary Liam Fox, field

marshal Lord Guthrie led a furious protest against the deportation of the Afghans.

According to Daily Mail, which has been campaigning for the translators, politicians and military officers also asked Prime Minister David Cameron to review his ...*(More on P4)...(15)*