

Three Million Afghans Under Threat of Famine Due to Drought: UN

KABUL - At least eight million people are considered seriously malnourished, while another three million stand just one step from famine.

Without outside assistance, drought and a 17-year conflict will force at least three million Afghans to face famine, the United Nations said Monday, calling for immediate foreign aid.

Afghanistan's UN humanitarian coordinator, Toby Lanzer, told AFP, "Those people are surviving on less than one meal a day and in all likelihood that meal is bread and tea."

One of the highest hunger rates in the world, the UN official said that at least eight million people are considered to be seriously malnourished, while another three million stand at the famine.

"No child should be in the cold, sleeping on the ground, sheltered



by only a sheet with holes in it. But that's reality for thousands of kids displaced by conflict and drought in #Afghanistan. We're here to help, and everyone needs to step up before Winter's bite," Lanzer wrote on his personal Twitter account. Fortified flour, vegetable oils, and lentils among other supplies were sent to some 600,000 people ... (More on P4)...(1)

Af-Pak Friendship Gate Reopens after Border Skirmish

PESHAWAR - A key border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan has reopened after brief closure in the wake of a clash over fencing of the Durand Line.

The Friendship Gate in Balochistan's Chaman district was shut in the wake of a skirmish between Afghan and Pakistani security forces over fencing along the border.

Officials from the two countries, however, met on Monday and decided to reopen the border for those crossing by foot. But it will remain closed for commercial traffic.

Despite objections from the neighbouring country, Pakistan started fencing the 2,400 kilometres border in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces. (Pajhwok)

Stay Impartial in Elections, Bahrami Directs Soldiers



KABUL - The minister of defence on Tuesday said no Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier reserved the right to support any candidates in the upcoming elections.

Lt. Gen. Tariq Shah Bahrami made the remarks at a graduation ceremony for 730 commando officers, including sergeants and soldiers, in the Reshkhora area of Kabul.

"You are expected to defend the country and suppress the enemy," Bahrami told the graduates. All soldiers must work hard to ensure election security, he stressed.

He revealed Afghan Special Forces had made outstanding achievements with air support. Their operation had shown an increase of about 30 percent and visible effectiveness as well.

Ahead of the October 20 Wolesi Jirga polls, Bahrami said no ANA soldier had the right to support any candidates but they were duty-bound to ensure election security.

All MoD personnel were required to demonstrate neutrality in the election and thereby contribute to an accurate outcome of the democratic exercise, the minister concluded. (Pajhwok)

IFJ to IEC: Ensure Media Access to Polling Stations

KABUL - The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its affiliate the Afghan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA) have asked the Independent Election Commission (IEC) to guarantee media access to polling stations.

The call from IFJ comes less than a week ahead of the parliamentary and district council elections, slated for October 20. Concerns have been raised about the access for provincial journalists to polling stations.

Several provincial journalists have raised concerns with AIJA as IEC has refused to distribute 'coverage cards' for the elections. AIJA investigations found IEC officials misbehaved towards local media.



According to a statement from IFJ, IEC officials have told the journalists to go to the central office in Kabul to get their coverage cards, which is not a feasible solution.

AIJA expressed deep concern over the lack of IEC will to allow local journalists to cover the elections and noted the issue could raise concerns at transparency in the elections. ... (More on P4)...(2)

'Price of Democracy': Afghans Risking Their Lives to Vote

KABUL - From a university student to a middle-aged housewife, Afghans planning to vote in the October 20 parliamentary election say they are willing to risk their lives for democracy.

Nearly nine million people have registered to vote, but far fewer are expected to turn out on polling day due to threats of violence and expectations for massive fraud.

Six people across the war-torn country explain why their vote matters.

- Omaid, the artist - Out with the old and in with the ... (More on P4)...(3)



Afghan Forces Continue to Rely on Coalition Support: US

WASHINGTON - Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) have improved some fundamental capabilities, such as high-level operational planning. However, they continue to rely on American and coalition support to fill several key capability gaps, a US report said on Monday.

The report from US Government Accountability Office on Afghanistan Security found the Department of Defense lacked reliable information on how well Afghan forces operated and maintained

this equipment.

It added the department had little direct contact with front-line units that made up about three-quarters of the Afghan forces.

A copy of the report was sent to the House Armed Services Committee. The US has allocated about USD84 billion for Afghan security in the 17-year from 2002 through 2018.

"Since Resolute Support began, the ANDSF have improved some capabilities ... but face several capability gaps that leave them reliant on coalition ... (More on P4)...(4)



Correction to the Request for Bids Goods

(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: **Afghanistan**

Name of Project: **Modernization of Afghanistan State Owned Banks (MASOB)**

Contract Title: **Procurement of Licenses for PB**

Grant No.: **D2830-AF**

RFB Reference No.: **MASOB/AF/G-39**

- The Ministry of Finance has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Modernization of Afghanistan State Owned Banks (MASOB), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract¹ for Procurement of Call Center System Infrastructure Upgrading (Hardware & Software)
- The Ministry of Finance now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for **Procurement of Licenses for PB (24 Licenses Plus Implementation and Warranty)**.
- Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 edition ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Finance Procurement Directorate, Mr. Mohammad Tamim Shahimy, tshahimy@hotmail.com and inspect the bidding document during office hours 8:00 to 17:00 Kabul Time at the address given below
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **04/12/2018 at 10:00 Kabul Time**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **04/12/2018 at 10:00 Kabul Time**.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **USD 25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand US Dollars)**.
- The address(es) referred to above is (are):

Procurement Directorate of Ministry of Finance

Contact Name: Mr. Mohammad Tamim Shahimy, Procurement Senior Specialist
Address: Procurement Unit, Second Floor, DM Admin Building, Ministry of Finance, Pashtoonistan Watt, Kabul Afghanistan
Telephone Number: 0093 (0) 202924031
Facsimile Number: 0093 (0) 795558401
Email Address: tshahimy@hotmail.com
Website: www.mof.gov.af

Notification of Award of Contract

Project: Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study and Detailed Engineering for: Preparation of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridors 5 & 6 (Salang Corridor) Project, Independent Proof Check (IPC), Contract No. AFG – SC-2

Awarded Bidder			
No	Name of bidders	Total Points (Technical + Financial)	Status of the Proposal
1	BERNARD Ingenieure ZT GmbH	866.62	Contract Awarded

Rejected Proposals: Bid Evaluation stage (Technical and Financial)			
No	Name of bidders	Total Points (Technical + Financial)	Status of the Bid
1	Pini Swiss Engineers SA (SWI)	809.20	Qualified
2	Tetra Tech (USA)	753.05	Qualified
3	D2 Consult International GmbH (AUT)	-	Non-responsive proposal
4	SWECO International (SWE) SWECO (GER)	-	Non-responsive proposal
5	Dongsung Engineering Co., Ltd (KOR)	-	Non-responsive proposal

Summary of contract Award:

Awarded to: M/S "BERNARD Ingenieure ZT GmbH,
Address: Apartment No. 7, 4 floor, Kabul plaza, district No: 4, Kabul Afghanistan,
license Registration No: I-58054"

Contract amount: EUR 991,514.15 (nine hundred ninety-one thousand, Five hundred fourteen point one five ERU)

Project: Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study and Detailed Engineering for: Preparation of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Corridors 5 & 6 (Salang Corridor) Project, Independent Proof Check (IPC).

Project duration: Services to be completed within 15 Months.

Note:

This notification does not mean the award of the subject contract. In case of any dissatisfaction, the legal entities and individuals are able to submit their written complaints along with their reasons to the ministry of public works within seven calendar days after the publication of this announcement. The contract will be awarded after the aforementioned periods and the passing of legal process.