**NPCI Approves 20 Contracts worth 2.3b Afghans**

**KABUL** - The National Procurement Commission (NPC) on Monday approved 20 contracts worth 2.3 billion afghans, a statement from the Presidential Palace’s media office said.

The NPC that met under President Ashraf Ghani’s chairman discussed and approved requests for award of the contracts, the statement said.

The meeting approved a procurement contract for a water supply network in Gardez city, the capital of southeastern Paktia province. Another procurement contract for constructing an eight-kilometer road in Charkar, the provincial capital of central Parwan province, was endorsed at the meeting.

A procurement contract for purchase two types of fuels for the Ministry of Finance was among the contracts approved.

The contract to purchase IT equipment for public health departments of all the 34 provinces was also approved.

The meeting also amended the price of the 100-bed hospital’s equipment for public health department of the 34 provinces.

**Terror Blast Likely to Discourage Afghan Voters**

After a suicide bomber killed 57 and injured more than 100 in Kabul, Afghanistan’s Independent Election Commission fears insecurity might discourage people from participating in the upcoming parliamentary and district elections.

The Afghanistan Ministry of Interior confirmed.

Maazullah Dawlati, said insecurity will demoralize voters and disrupt the democratic process.

At least 16 security force members died in two separate attacks in western Badghis province on Sunday night.

VOA. “If we see that security forces are not able to prevent such threats, the commission would talk with the government leadership to find an answer, and things would get clear in the future.”

Last Tuesday, Taliban fighters forcibly took away three civilians in Charikar, the provincial capital of central Parwan province, they were released after local elders mediated.

The Afghanistan Ministry of Interior confirmed.

**UN Chief Condemns Kabul Suicide Bombing**

KABUL - The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday night condemned the attack on a population registration center in Kabul city that killed 57 people.

Guterres said in a statement that the culprits must be brought to justice.

“They must not be allowed to succeed in derailing Afghan citizens from carrying out their constitutional right to take part in forthcoming elections.”

He extended condolences to the families and expressed solidarity with the Afghan government.

This comes after a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the center where dozens of people had been waiting to get ID documents.

In addition to the 57 killed, more than 100 people were wounded.

Officials said the casualties were all civilians – many of them women and children.

Exact figures on how many people had been waiting were not available but officials said that particular office had in recent days been processing about 100 (100) applications a day.

By Sunday mid-day, there had been five attacks in less than a week against the election process.

Two hours after the Kabul bombing, an explosion rocked Pul-e-Khumri city in Baghlan.

This explosion happened close to a voter registration center in the provincial capital, officials confirmed.

**4th EU Anti-Corruption Conference Today**

KABUL - The European Union (EU) anti-corruption project would be held today (Tuesday) at Palace which will discuss corruption risks in development, private sector and aector, and a statement from the EU mission in Kabul said on Monday.

The conference would address these three themes, discussing the impact of corruption and the possible remedies, the statement said.

“The EU Delegation anti-corruption campaign once again reaffirmed the attention on corruption in Afghanistan and advocated for a persuasive money in response to this threat that adds to the many challenges the country is already facing.”

“The rampant climate of violence makes it even more deplorable that some individuals take advantage of their position to indulge in corrupt practices. These who combat corruption need to be saluted and encouraged.” said the EU ambassador to Afghanistan, Pierre Mayaudon.

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, the European Union Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon and the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko would give the opening speeches at the conference.

(Pajhwok)