Balance of Trade Sees Imports Jump, Exports Drop

KABUL - Afghanistan trade deficit jumped to 95 percent in the year 2015 (2014), with the total value of trade reaching $8.697 billion USD, of which $7.970 billion USD were imports and only $717 million USD were exports.

As a country that has lost its industry and improved exports over the years, a trade deficit of $7.130 billion USD is not a good sign. Afghanistan continues to import far more than it exports, sending more currency abroad than the country is earning.

According to officials at the Central Statistics Office (CSO), last year was one of the worst economically for Afghanistan on record.

"Afghanistan is a country dependent on imports, and this shows a lack of government management," CSO Economic Director Ahmadzai Peace said on Wednesday. "The government must lay out economic plans and increase exports by using the available resources to increase social employment." (More on P6-8)

Project Educating Afghan, Pakistani Students Launched

KABUL - The US Embassy in Afghanistan (USEA) has launched two education projects benefiting more than 1,800 Pakistani and Afghan students.

As part of the Refugee Admission and Hosting Areas (RAASA) initiative, the two projects have been inaugurated in Pakistani cities of Peshawar and Taxila near Islamabad, the capital's principal.

Hope for Kunduz Residents as Troops Push Back Taliban

KUNDUZ CITY - By late Wednesday, Kunduz residents were able to breathe a sigh of relief as many started returning to their normal lives after days of fighting between security force members and Taliban insurgents.

Kunduz residents told ToloNews that they have put their faith in the security forces and were optimistic about troops being able to clear the area of the Taliban.

In addition, they said business houses were being reopened and students were returning to school. "We believe the security forces will win and our province will not fall into," (More on P6-8)

US Troops Withdrawal May Trigger More Suicide Bombings

Iraq and Afghanistan accounted for over 65 percent of the world’s suicide bombings in 2014, according to the 2014 Suicide Index report.

MOSCOW - The withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan may trigger even more suicide bombings in the country, the scene of almost a quarter of all suicide attacks in 2014, the author of the 2014 Suicide Index report said Wednesday. According to the report by the institute Chechnya Project - (More on P6-10)

Tender Notice

MTN Afghanistan invites potential suppliers to submit their proposals regarding Complete outsourcing of Call Center, SMS Registration and Archive for the Period of Three Years.

Suppliers will be required to provide information with respect to:
1. The Company Profile / FactSheet
2. Valid License from GoA (Relevant License duration should be more than one year old)

Only qualified suppliers who meet above criteria will be shortlisted for further process.

Security Deposit at the time of signing the contract
MTN AF reserves the right to request for special insurance from contractors.

Announcement Start Date
Last date & time for submission of Profiles
1600 hrs on 3rd - May -2015