Govt. Approves 9 New Contracts worth 360 Million Afghans

KABUL - The Afghan government has approved nine new contracts totaling a value of around three hundred and sixty million Afghani. The Office of the President, ABG, Palace, said the new contracts were approved during a meeting of the national procurement commission chaired by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani. The new contracts approved during the meeting includes rehabilitation and construction of shops for the manufacturing of prefabricated building materials and units, repair and reinforcement work related to Pul-e-Charaki mosque after the design of the work has been fully assessed, purchase of consuming items for the radiology department of the ministry of public health. The other contracts approved during the meeting includes purchase of 20 thousand high-density sets for Pul-e-Charaki hospital. All contracts were signed in terms of 12 financial units of the ministry of finance. (More on P.4)

Herat Power Cut

PHOTOS

HERAT CITY - Local officials said thousands more of families were affected by electricity cuts after militants destroyed another power pole in western Herat province on Tuesday. Caravans’ s. spokesman, Jalani Farhad, told Pajhwok Afghan News militants blew up the power pole carrying electricity from Qandahar to Herat this morning. “Thousands of people are plurality of families after the militants destroyed two lines transferring electricity from Turkmenistan and Iran in two days,” he said.

On Sunday night, the Taliban also blew up a power pole near the Kuhl Sangi district of the province. Former officials said technical teams were on the site to fix the issue.

A resident of Herat City, Jamil said, “We are without electricity for three days, we need to solve many problems like no water for cooking this hot weather.” (Pajhwok)

Media Professionalism at Slow Pace: Sancharkari

KABUL - “Fundamental and practical steps based on the London Meeting’s agreement should be taken by Pakistan and the third party should comprehensively and impartially examine the process in order results achieved by both the countries are achieved,” Ghani told visiting Pakistani Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua.

The president asked Janjua to share Afghanistan’s concerns with her country’s new leadership, a statement from the President’s Palace said. It said President Ghani raised concerns about Afghanistan’s security and rocket shelling from across the Durand Line during his meeting Janjua, asking her to convey the worries to the leadership of her country. Ghani, referring to territories, said “There should be no distinction between good or bad terrorism because terrorists in a serious and common threat to people of both the countries.” Janjua for her part said Pakistan. (More on P.4)

Matts Says Withdrawal, Contractors Still Options

WASHINGTON - Mattis repeated the White House and Pentagon were “very close” to finalizing a new strategy to present to President Trump. Mattis, along with Secretary of State Tillerson and National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster have worked for months to craft strategy options for President Donald Trump. Mattis said both withdrawal and a private contract formed one by one under consideration. “The strategic decisions have not been made,” Mattis said. “It’s part of the options being considered.”

Military Times previously reported on Trump supporter and CEO Erik Prince’s efforts to ensure the now 16-year Afghan war to private contractors, including offering a personal air force for Afghanistan. Military Times also reported that Gen. John Nicholson, commander of US Forces-Afghanistan, has refused to meet with Prince. It is not clear whether that refusal has frustrated Trump.

According to NBC News, Trump has asked both Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mattis to meet with Prince. (More on P.4)

Attacks in Rural Surat, 50 Dead

At least 50 people were killed after Daesh and Taliban stormed the Mirzavalang valley in August 5. Security forces recovered the bodies from the graves with the help of local people. Most of the corpses had marks bullet and some were beheaded. Syed Ahmad, a religious scholar, told Pajhwok Afghan News the two mass graves contained 26 and 11 bodies respectively and they included the remains of children and women. Syed Moea, whose son was among the dead, said his son had been killed mercilessly because he was not. He said his son never took arms in his entire life. The Taliban have denied being in the massacre in Mirzavalang area. (Pajhwok)

Education Ministry Receives $7m in Assistance

KABUL - Several international and national organizations on Tuesday provided $7 million in aid to the Ministry of Education for development of education system in nine provinces of the country. A statement from the MoE said the Norwegian Committee donated $47.7 million, Save the Children Humanitarian Aid Programs for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA) $54,000, ZOWA $263,000 and National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan $263,000 to the ministry.

A statement added that $167,000, Shirou E-Uran $1.4 million Afghan, Islamic Relief, a Canadian aid organization, 1.2 million Afghan and another international organization $72,000 to the MoE, the statement said.

Agreements of the aid and on relevant projects implementation were signed today between Education Minister Dr. Asadullah Hanif Balkhi and other international organization.

Balkhi said the aid would be spent to provide education opportunities to 64,210 students who had returned to Kandahar, Kunar and Laghman.

Education courses for women would be arranged in Balkh and Faryab provinces as part of the aid program, he said. The aid would also be used for construction of schools as well. (More on P.4)

Indian Company Wins Tender for Casa-1000 in Afghanistan

Energy and water minister says construction of Casa-1000 project in Afghanistan will cost $443 million, 20 percent of which will be paid by the Afghan government.

KABUL - Officials from the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) on Tuesday said construction of the $2.2 billion project was completed last year. The project will be inaugurated on the same day, he said. “Fortunately, we have established good cooperation and coherence with the Afghani government,” the minister said.

The project will be inaugurated on the same day, he said. “Fortunately, we have established good cooperation and coherence with the Afghani government,” the minister said. (More on P.5)

Azizi Bank is one of the largest banks in Afghanistan serving the nation with 75 branches, 9 Extension Counters, 57 ATMs and 2 Cash Deposit Machines across the country.