Govt., Partners, Highlight the Results of Fortified Staple Food in Afghanistan

KABUL - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in Afghanistan released the implementation results of a two-year food fortification project throughout the country.

The document, released during a stakeholders’ workshop, highlights the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned during the life of the project.

USAID's $9.7 million commitment aimed to increase availability and access to essential vitamins and minerals—also known as micronutrients—through fortified edible oil, wheat flour, and isolated salt by laying a strong foundation for a sustainable fortification program.

More than 70 percent of the energy needs of Afghans is transmitted, and an average Afghan consumes around 400 grams of wheat flour daily—three times (More on P6.2)

Self-Governing ‘Islands of Power’ Must End: Hekmatyar

KABUL – Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of Hizb-e-Islami on Sunday, said that he described as “independent islands of power” in the country, saying this situation has to end.

“In today’s day, the sovereignty of islands of power in the country. Everyone who has made their way to the provinces and departments has established a sovereignty of power of their own. This trend must come to an end,” Hekmatyar told supporters in Khost province on Sunday.

According to Hekmatyar, the practice has diminished opportunities for some other ethnicities and has caused a gap between them and the government. He also said (More on P6.4)

Counternarcotics

Chief Among 8 Held Over Moral Corruption

BAMYAN CITY – The counternarcotics director and five other individuals have been arrested on moral corruption charges in central Bamyan province, officials said on Sunday.

Two including a security official were arrested for selling a Russian tank, provincial crime branch head Lt. Col. Najibullah, Bamyan’s counternarcotics director, and six other people accused of drinking alcohol and asking a girl from Kandahar to dance, the official said.

The director had brought the girl – named Fatima – from Kabul for dancing. Cases against the detainees have been sent to the Bamyan public prosecutor's office. Wasiq said 23 cases in total are being handled.

KABUL – Members of Afghanistan’s Senate on Sunday strongly condemned the recent move by the US president Donald Trump to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, saying that the decision has angered the entire Islamic world.

“People are deeply concerned about the recognition of the first Qibla of the Muslims as the capital of the Israeli invader,” said one senator Tahir Sayyid.

“Trump’s decision means the US will be in a permanent war with the Muslims,” said senator Haweeshullah Kumizai.

Senate chief, Mohammad Alam Esaizay, said Trump’s decision was against the spirit of democracy and is a negative move against the Islamic world. (More on P6.9)

UNAMA Welcomes Afghanistan’s Progress in Protecting and Promoting Human Rights

KABUL – Minister of Human Rights and Emigration and Refugees Syed Daud Hosseini came to Kabul on Sunday and met with Interior Minister Abdul Rashid Dostum.

The meeting came amid the United Nations World Human Rights Day celebrations.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) underscores the enduring importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and welcomes Afghanistan’s renewed commitments to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

At an event held in Kabul, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, Tadamichi Yamamoto, expressed congratulations to the Government of Afghanistan and the newly elected members of the Human Rights Council.

“This membership recognizes the achievements reached in past years and should encourage our continued collective work toward the full realization of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights in Afghanistan,” he said. “The challenges remain daunting, but the United Nations remains steadfast in working closely with all Afghan institutions in overcoming them.”

The United Nations encourages the fulfillment Afghanistan’s broad-ranged pledges to promote human rights and security in its protection system, which includes human rights education, complaint mechanisms, judicial reform (for them) in capital Kabul.

“...If my honour stands in solidarity with Afghans victims and add my voice to their call for accountability; and reparations for victims. “It is my honour to stand in solidarity with Afghans victims, and add my voice to their call for accountability; and reparations for victims.” (More on P5.6)

Protecting and Promoting Human Rights

Hekmatyar

End: Trump’s Action Endangers Global Peace, Stability: Senate

“Trump’s move on Jerusalem was wrong, adding that such a policy will have consequences for relations between the United States and the Muslim world.”

“The president appreciated the security forces for their sacrifice in the fight against militant groups and stressed the need for improved cooperation among, (More on P6.3)

KABUL – Minister of Human Rights and Emigration and Refugees Syed Daud Hossein called on Battling Terror

Sharif Yaftali has underlined the need for international cooperation on combating the scourge of terrorism.

Speaking at a paving-out parade at the Officers Training Center (OTC) in Gaya, a tribal attraction in Bihar state, he slammed Pakistan and commended India for the constructive role in Afghanistan.

While seeking strategic depth, Pakistan’s military establishment continued to use Afghan Taliban, he alleged, questioning the neighbourhood’s reluctance to help promote intra-Afghan peace negotiations.

The Times of India - (More on P6.8)

 Gen. Yaftali Stresses Regional Cooperation on Battling Terror

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