Govt Urged to Ensure Transparency in Appointment of New Commissioners

The Electoral Support Group (ESG) in an open letter congratulated the Afghan people on their commitment to democratic process, as demonstrated at the 2018 parliamentary elections.

KABUL - The US special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation has discussed intra-Afghan dialogues with civil society leaders and the High Peace Council (HPC) officials. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad is on a new trip to several countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, to push the Afghan peace initiative.

“Excellent event with society leaders today, women have been key drivers of progress over the last two years,” Khalilzad tweeted after the meeting.

“Women’s voices must be heard, rights respected and progress sustained. We stand with them, and their inclusion is essential for inclusive intra-Afghan dialogues,” the US diplomat met HPC Secretary and President Ashraf Ghani’s Special Envoy Umar Daudzai on Monday.

A planned consultation by USAID was called a meaningful opportunity to produce an inclusive team with consensus on positions.

Swedish Student Fined for Plane Protest Against Afghan’s Deportation

STOCKHOLM - Elin Ersson received a £250 fine for refusing to take her seat on a plane to Sweden last year. A Swedish police officer who witnessed her protest against the deportation of an Afghan asylum seeker last year has been found guilty of violating Sweden’s aviation laws and fined £250.

Elin Ersson, 22, avoided a prison sentence at Göteborg Landvetter airport after Ersson refused to take her seat on a flight to Stockholm. A convicted criminal, who was ultimately deported from the country, had been found guilty of violating Sweden’s aviation laws last year, down from a peak of 21,500 asylum applications in 2016.

The ESG expected the selection process of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) and Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) to be transparent and unequivocally aimed at strengthening the independence and integrity of the electoral institutions and re-instating the Afghan people’s trust and confidence in the electoral process.

The group strongly urged political parties, civil society organizations, presidential candidates and the Government to discharge their responsibilities in good faith by nominating and selecting qualified, non-partisan and professional individuals with integrity, electoral and management management.

Politically Distanced Illegal Alcohol Distillation Plant in Kandahar City

KABUL - The police have hence discovered and dismantled an illegal alcohol distillation plant in southern Kandahar city.

Police say the plant was dismantled during an operation which was conducted in the vicinity of the MoC police district of the city.

The police further added that the plant was legally operating in a residential area.

According to Gen. Tadin Khan, the security forces also confiscated more than 150 bottles of alcohol during the operation and an individual has been arrested in connection to the operation of the plant.

LASHKARGAH - The residents of Nal Ali district in southern Helmand province on Monday walked to demand the government to encourage the government to start peace negotiations and talk to the Taliban for peace and reconciliation.

The residents had walked 20 kilometres from their district to Lashkar, the provincial capital this morning.

Sayed Jalal Ashraf, a participant of the walk, said: “We need Afghan forces to start peace negotiations in order to explore an end to the ongoing conflict.”

The people of Afghanistan had been suffering casualties in the both sides of war, thus the ongoing war needs to be stopped, he added.

Quatralullah, another proponent said: “They themselves took the initiative of walk as drugs have been troubling the society and want peace in the country.”

Bamyan: Lack of Medicine at Warah Hospital Claims 5 Lives

BAMYAN CITY - Residents on Monday allege five people, including two children and a woman, died recently due to the lack of medicine at a hospital in the Warah district of central Bamyan province.

Inhabitants of the Legani, Pajandar and Chur district of the district claimed at least five people, including two children and a woman, had lost their lives this past week due to negligence of hospital officials and a shortage of medicine.

However, officials of the hospital told Pajhwok Afghan News there had enough medicine but were faced with problems in transporting drugs to certain locations due to the closure of the view of Afghanistan’s fragile economic climate, it is a tough task for the country to repay the amount, adding that most part of the amount was invested in projects which do not benefit the people’s needs.

Billions of dollars were raised in aid to Afghanistan by the international community in the past nineteen years, according to economic experts.

Afghanistan Receives $1.3b in Foreign Loans in Nearly Two Decades

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