Economic Projects
Safety Part of Security Plan: Ghani

President Ashraf Ghani, chairing a meeting of the High Economic Council (HEC) on Sunday, said ensuring security of economic projects was part of the five-year security plan.

The meeting also centered on the value chain of the fuel sector and the contract on leasing out cement factories and Karkan Dostum coal mines in Baghlan province.

MCIT minister Shahzad Arazchi first presented his ministry’s scheme with regard to setting up, on Monday. (More on P4:01)

Committee to Select New Commissioner for IEC

KABUL - IEC will send a shortlist of three names to Ghani to finally appoint the new head of the electoral commission.

The Independent Elections Commission (IEC) on Sunday said the commissioner's selection committee has resumed its work and will select a new commissioner for the electoral commission in the near future.

IEC spokesperson Abdul Badi Surraya said president Ashraf Ghani issued a decree on Saturday and ordered the selection committee to start its work to select a commissioner to head up the electoral commission.

The Presidential palace, in its decree, has asked all the eligible members and those interested in working in IEC to submit their documents to the secretariat of the selection committee no later than Tuesday.

According to Surraya, the selection committee resumed its work on Monday. (More on P4:02)

Afghanistan, Uzbekistan Transit Route to Open Soon

KABUL - Afghanistan and Uzbekistan will start transiting goods across the border in the near future, officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries said, adding that delegations from the two countries are working to make this happen.

Spokesman for the ministry, Musafir Qoqandi, told TOLOnews that Afghan goods will be sent by train from Uzbekistan to other parts of the world. The two countries signed dozens of agreements and contracts during the recent trip of Ashraf Ghani to Uzbekistan. (More on P4:02)

Disabled Vendors Protest

Removing their Roadside Stalls

KABUL - A statement from the Presidential Palace said the HEC meeting at the president’s office discussed the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MoFIT)’s plan about establishing the Real Time Data Management (RTDM) system.

MoU Signed on Modernising Postal Services

KABUL - A three-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed to modernise postal services throughout the country.

The MoU has been signed among the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MoFIT), Capital Region Independent Development Authority (CRIDA) and Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Signing of the MoU on improving the postal services was announced at a press conference at the Government Media and Information Centre (GMIC) in Kabul on Sunday.

The MoU allows the creation of post offices with modern IT and other mechanisms. (Pajhwok)

KABUL - Legislators in Afghanistan have summoned their colleagues of the IEC to try and impede the minister of interior’s decision to deploy Ali Ahmad Osmani over his poor performance in the construction of dams and his failure to achieve the spending targets of the 2016 fiscal budget.

Some other lawmakers opposing the impendency said they have accused their colleagues of comprising the move against Osmani after he refused to accept their illegal demands. MPs who insist on the impendency, argue that the spending of less than 40 percent of the budget and poor performance in the construction of dams were among key reasons that the lawmakers decided to call the minister.

"The first reason for impendency relates to the unspent budget allocation as he has failed to meet the index which may have been determined by the parliament. The second reason is lack of work in the construction of the dams which has angered the representatives of the people," said Mohammad Nazir Ahmadzai one of the MPs.

Other lawmakers say that a number of the parliament have complained against the minister.

"There are certain circles which are trying to create a confusion and instability among the media groups which have not been able to bring about the results because their tactics have been annulled by the presidential palace," said another MP Ghulam Farooq Majroh. (More on P4:02)

1900 Civilians Killed and Wounded in Helmand in One Year

Local officials in the province have blamed the Taliban for most of the fatalities among the civilians.

KABUL - The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Sunday said that over 1900 civilians have been killed or wounded in the southern province of Helmand last year.

All the victims were killed or wounded as a result of the war, including explosions and terrorist attacks, AIHRC site office in Helmand said in a statement on Sunday. Meanwhile residents in Helmand have called on the warning factions to ensure the safety and security of civilians during the conflict. From the figures, over 200 civilians killed and 1700 others wounded, said the AIHRC site office. “Helmand has had two bloody years. The number of civilian casualties, among women and children, have been higher and we are very concerned about it,” said Alifa Maroof, AIHRC site office chief in Helmand. “Both sides..." (More on P4:03)

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