World Bank Pledges $200M to Protect Afghan Businesses

KARL - The World Bank Board on Friday approved a $200 million grant to help Afghanistan mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and provide relief to vulnerable people and businesses, the bank said in a statement.

The Afghanistan COVID-19 Response Development Policy Grant comprises $100 million from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank Group's fund for the poorest countries, and $100 million from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), managed by the World Bank on behalf of 34 donors, the statement added.

The Afghanistan COVID-19 Response Development Policy Grant will support the government of Afghanistan to strengthen policies that promote faster recovery and keep basic infrastructure such as water, electricity, and telecommunications afloat and running.

"The program will provide vital fiscal resources to manage the impacts of the pandemic in the context of rapidly slowing economic growth and declining government revenues," said Henry Kerali, World Bank Country Director for Afghanistan. "Policy actions supported by the program will both help mitigate the impacts of the current crisis on the poor and vulnerable and also lay critical foundations for longer-term recovery. The World Bank will continue to stand with the people of Afghanistan through this crisis."

"The grant will support changes in regulations to increase access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises, protect healthcare workers, and raise awareness on gender-based violence in schools, the statement said. It will also support plans to encourage students to return to school when educational institutions are to reopen after the COVID-19 crisis.

(TELQ NEWS)

Request for Bids
Goods
(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Publish Date: 17 June, 2020

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Finance
Fiscal Performance Improvement Support System (FSP)
Project ID: P199657
Grand No: IDA/AF
Procurement of Two 1000 KVA Generators
AF-MOF-FSP-115706-GO-RFB
1. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Fiscal Performance Improvement Support System (FSP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract “Procurement of Two 1000 KVA Generators of Ministry of Finance”.

Ref No: AF-MOF-FSP-115706-GO-RFB
2. The Ministry of Finance now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for “Procurement of Two 1000 KVA Generators”.

3. Bidding will be conducted through International approach using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank “Procurement Procedures” July 2016 edition (“Procurement Regulations”), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Finance Procurement Directorate, Mr. Nasuer Wahedi, nasuer.wahedi@mof.gov.af and inspect the bidding document during office hours 8:30 to 16:00 Kabul Time at the address given below:

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 30/July/2020 at 10:00 AM Kabul Time. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders’ designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on 30/July/2020 at 10:00 AM Kabul Time.

5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bank Security of USD 9,000 (Nine Thousand United States Dollar).

6. Financial Capability: The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement(s):
   - Annual turnover for any one year during past five years: USD 360,000 (Three Hundred and Sixty Thousand US Dollar)
   - Statement/ Liquid Asset: The Bidder shall provide Bank’s Documentary Evidence with amount equal to USD 90,000 (Ninety Thousand United States Dollar)
   - Experience: The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that it has executed and meets the following experience requirement(s):
   - The Bidder has satisfactorily completed at least one contract for supply of similar goods in the preceding five of the years of USD 200,000 (Two Hundred and Eighty Thousand United States Dollar).
   - A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be obtained by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below:

Procurement Directorates of Ministry of Finance
Contact Name: Mr. Naseer Wahedi, Procurement Officer
Address: Procurement Unit, Second Floor, DMA Admin Building, Ministry of Finance, Pakistanistan Wati, Kabul, Afghanistan.
Telephone Number: 020/92284911
Email Address: tender@mof.gov.af
Website: www.mof.gov.af

Afghanistan to Appoint Female Deputy Governors, Starting with President’s Home Province

KABUL - Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, on Friday criticized the Taliban for not ending violence in the country and thus preventing the peace process from moving forward.

KABUL - Salahuddin Rabbani on Thursday defended his stance on the peace and said that some elements are trying to manipulate him against peace in pursuit of their political agenda.

"I will not exploit the peace like them," said Rab- bani in response to his critics. Rabbani also criticized the formation of the current government under the political agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, the head of High Council of National Reconciliation.

Rabbani said it’s not clear if the current government formed by the political agreement came into ex- isis based on the elections or the political agree- ment.

From where does the legitimacy of this govern- ment originate from? The election results or the po- litical agreement? If the basis of its legitimacy comes from the election results, then what answers do you have for the people about what you said and what you had done before the elections?" said Rab- bani about the Ghani-Abdullah national political agreement. Rabbani said that he does not want a new war to break out under the name of peace and he never op- posed the presence of... (More on PAG)
Pakistan Terrorist Among 2 Killed in Paktiyan Province of Afghanistan: MoD

The Ministry of Defense (MoD) in a statement said the security forces killed the terrorists during an operation in South-eastern Paktiyan province.

MoD also released the National Identity Card of the slain Pakistani terrorist who has been identified as Jawed Ali.

The anti-government armed militants including Taliban have not commented in this regard so far.

Pakistan is among the relatively volatile provinces in South-eastern parts of country, bordering the porous areas along the Durand Line which borders Afghanistan.

Asia Cricket Cup Postponed to June 2021

Karaul - The Asia Cup cricket tournament that was supposed to be held in September has been postponed to June 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) announced on Thursday.

"From the outset the Board was keen on organizing the tournament as per the original schedule. However, travel restrictions, quarantine requirements, functional health risks and social distancing mandates have posed as substantial challenges to the..." (More on P4-08)

KANDAHAR CITY - A widow from southern Kandahar province says the ongoing conflict has taken away her family and that she continues to hope for a better future.

While eagerly awaiting the glad tidings of peace in her brightnessed homeland, she wants the warring parties to put an end to more than four decades of hostilities and thereby contribute to the betterment of the Afghan people.

Helmand, 3 lives in a torturing house in limits of the 3rd police district of Kandahar City. She has a widowed daughter, three sons - aged - (More on P4-08)

KABUL - The Ministry of Defence confirmed that representatives for Afghanistan met Taliban's co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar as well as other Taliban diplomats.

The meeting reportedly took place on the sidelines of an international conference in Moscow.

Heraat - Artists at a Heraat theater company on Thursday announced that they have stopped working on a comedy-drama which is aimed to push against social issues and media impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be broadcast on television locally in Heraat.

"The coronavirus has left a significant impact on the psyche of the people, so we decided to make this comedy-drama," said Farahoud Falakpour, the head of the Heraat theater group.

The comedy-drama will have 20 episodes.

"We have not had a theater for the past several years, so if there’s no cinema, the artists aren’t being supported, and the majority of the artists and actors are disappointed and have left acting," said Mohammad Yaqubzada, artistic director.

"The government should listen to cinema and theater, so the national businesses should be supported so that television can make films and dramas," said Shahid Ghamian, a theater artist.

Meanwhile, female actors who are supposed to act in the comedy-drama have said that some social taboos are still hindering them from demonstrating their abilities in cinema.

"Some women come and work in cinema and theater, but they have always criticized the government for not investing in the arts. (TOLO KEWAP)

German Envoy, Baradar Discuss Reduction in Violence

Heraat: German envoy to the Afghan government and the coordinator for the implementation of the US-Taliban peace agreement, Ambassador Markus Potzel, met with Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban's top political leader, in Heraat.

The meeting reportedly took place on the sidelines of an international conference in Moscow, where Afghanistan peace talks were discussed.

Potzel said that Afghanistan is important for Germany and the world community.

"We have not had a theater for the past several years, so if there’s no cinema, the artists aren’t being supported, and the majority of the artists and actors are disappointed and have left acting," said Mohammad Yaqubzada, artistic director.

"The government should listen to cinema and theater, so the national businesses should be supported so that television can make films and dramas," said Shahid Ghamian, a theater artist.

Meanwhile, female actors who are supposed to act in the comedy-drama have said that some social taboos are still hindering them from demonstrating their abilities in cinema.

"Some women come and work in cinema and theater, but they have always criticized the government for not investing in the arts. (TOLO KEWAP)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)
Jul 11, 2020 - You're likely to face a choice that may conflict with a force that's asking you to focus your heart. Try not to take things too seriously. Note: This is the key to maintaining a level head throughout the day. Do things with passion and take care of any detective work that needs to be done. There are important facts coming to you from unexpected sources.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 20)
Jul 11, 2020 - You may get pushed around by two very powerful competitors today, Taurus. Since you’re the kind, diplomatic, and sensitive one, you make the perfect host for these two. Don’t feel too bad about being deceived.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
Jul 11, 2020 - You may be seduced by fantasies today. Gemma’s voice gives you strength to your ego and self-confidence. Use this time wisely.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)
Jul 11, 2020 - A good time for you today would be to convert your inner motivation into a positive action. There’s a great deal of energy at your disposal, Cancer, so don’t waste it. Be aware that this is one of those times when in the smallest comment or insight could set off a huge chain reaction of emotions or battles. People are quite emotionally charged, so be careful with your words.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Jul 11, 2020 - It’s a good day for taking action and reporting today. Leo. Information may be critical to the success of the project. Be on guard. Be patient. The day may bring opportunities for advancement.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sep. 22)
Jul 11, 2020 - You may be seduced by fantasies or promises that other wonderful things and careful moves, but beware of anything with lots of bells and whistles, Virgo. There may be a lot of information out there that is not as well substantiated as the world enjoys. Don’t be surprised if people with whom you’re close are stepping up to put in their two cents about how you should run your life. Don’t forget who’s who.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)
Jul 11, 2020 - It’s a good time to focus your energy at your disposal and work on the problems you’re facing. There are a lot of opportunities.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec. 21)
Jul 11, 2020 - You’re a voice of authority today and the people seem to be listening. You’re able to communicate your ideas and your vision to others in a way that makes sense.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Jul 11, 2020 - You’re likely to face conflict today, Capricorn. It would be wise to be on the lookout for something that could seriously go wrong. You might be inclined to be careful with your words today. Take the time to think before you say anything.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb. 18)
Jul 11, 2020 - You’re likely to experience an emotional, climactic point right now, Aquarius. It may be hard for you to control your emotions today. Your feelings may be extreme.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)
Jul 11, 2020 - You’re likely to experience an emotional point right now, Pisces. It may be hard for you to control your emotions today. Your feelings may be extreme.

The Role of United Nation in Peace and Security In Afghanistan

By: Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Unfortunately, no eastern or western powers and organizations have ever taken up their commitment and humanitarism responsibilities ending the inhuman and conflict years of the country. Although all of the mentioned powers have overtly acknowledged that they have not come here for peace, rather they have come to Afghanistan for recognition between rival groups through its special economic and political conditions. And the United Nations, the war of the Islamic Emirate was a civil war and so the United Nations Security Council did not consider it as a “true” civil war. As a result of this negligence, the five sought to resolve the Afghan issue through compromise and negotiation. This neglect has led to the Afghan war and the establishment of an Islamic Emirate. In short, as Talibanic Sharia belong to one certain ethnic group, their monopolization in which their votes should be counted and their will matter. The masses and ethnic groups support democratic government and the establishment of a comprehensive government in Afghanistan. The meeting and expansion of Taliban representatives with the special status of United Nation in Pakistan has further strengthened the op-positions but the big Talibanic summit in Kunduz which was held by them in the face of the Afghan government and new order destroyed any hope for the future. The Taliban has overtly denied any talks with the Mojahedin but the United Nations did not break its silence. Even if it did not negotiate with any faction of Afghanistan, the Afghan government and the CGO, US and other Western countries did negotiate with some, especially the Hazaras in Mazarr and Yawalang and the US has even supported one of their leaders. But the United Nations was indifferent to the Talibanic actions and the Talibanic government in Pakistan was not interested in putting an end to this serious political and economic pressure on the Taliban. The economic, political, and military sanctions which later prevented the group’s entrance to Afghanistan and its withdrawal from the US and Afghanistan has not only influenced the peace and security of 25 million people in Afghanistan but also affected the world’s politics and security. Many regional and world countries have been affect- ed by the aggressive war but the united nation has even failed to take a firm stance against the Soviet military occupation or to adopt a serious and practical resolution about Afghanistan. According to historic records it condemns those actions of aggression without naming the aggressor.

On the contrary, the United Nations has even made more efforts after the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. In fact, it worked harder to implement the policy of the Genoa summit. It was even in the process of negotiations between Najib govern- ment and Pakistan because the Genoa summit had not only influenced the peace and security of 25 million people in Afghanistan but also affected the world’s politics and security. Many regional and world countries have been affect- ed by the aggressive war but the united nation has even failed to take a firm stance against the Soviet military occupation or to adopt a serious and practical resolution about Afghanistan. According to historic records it condemns those actions of aggression without naming the aggressor. But the United Nations has worked harder to implement the agreements of the Genoa summit. It was even in the process of negotiations between Najib govern- ment and Pakistan because the Genoa summit had not only influenced the peace and security of 25 million people in Afghanistan but also affected the world’s politics and security. Many regional and world countries have been affect- ed by the aggressive war but the united nation has even failed to take a firm stance against the Soviet military occupation or to adopt a serious and practical resolution about Afghanistan. According to historic records it condemns those actions of aggression without naming the aggressor.

In the Sharia Law with the Taliban’s interpretation, one will be discriminated on the grounds of their caste, color, or creed. A democratic society officials are less likely to be able to capitalize on religious tenets. According to the Talibanic, however, religion, coupled with poli- tics, has not only influenced the peace and security of 25 million people in Afghanistan but also affected the world’s politics and security. Many regional and world countries have been affect- ed by the aggressive war but the united nation has even failed to take a firm stance against the Soviet military occupation or to adopt a serious and practical resolution about Afghanistan. According to historic records it condemns those actions of aggression without naming the aggressor.

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind

Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida
Editorial and Opinions

By: Syed Tahir Khashi

Trump’s Pulling out US From WHO is Sad for Global Health and Bad for USA

By: Syed Tahir Khashi

The US has sent a letter officially notifying the United States’ withdrawal from the World Health Organization, starting the formal process of withdrawal that Trump was threatened in April when he halted funding to WHO. President Donald Trump and his administration have for- merly threatened to pull the US out of the WHO. The US’s move to the World Health Organization after months of accusing it of ineffici- encies and corruption.

To leave the organization, the US is supposed to give a one-year notice and pay current dues, according to law. This will mean that the US added to the WHO constitution when it joined the treaty in 1948. As of June 30, the US owed $398 million in unpaid membership dues.

The President had announced his intention to withdraw his country back in May after saying that “it failed to make the requested and greatly needed reforms”. The President has also criticized the organization as being in the “total control” of China and encouraging misinformation in the early days of the coronavirus.

On May 29, he announced his decision to leave the organ- ization by the end of the year. The US pulled out from the WHO on May 31, 2020.

While Trump promised that he would be “redirecting those funds to other worldwide and deserving urgent global public health needs.” Many legal scholars have questioned whether the US could actually unilaterally pull out from the United States from WHO without congressional approval. According to an item from Sean Bob-Monett of the Daily Ut- lack OutLook, President Trump had signed a presidential direc- tion on Tuesday: “To call President’s response to COVID-19 pandemic as he did it in public. This is not pres- ent American lives or interests – it leaves Americans sick & America alone,” he wrote.

Several experts have been schooled by doctors, diplomats and the global health community. President Trump, who first threatened to pull the US out of the WHO over a year ago, has been criticized. Jeffrey Sachs, an economist at Columbia University, said in a letter to the WHO on Wednesday: “It is not possible to address global pandemics by withdrawing from WHO. It is not possible to address global pandemics by withdrawing from WHO. It is not possible to address global pandemics by withdrawing from WHO." President Trump has said the money the US would have contributed to WHO is needed for fighting the coronavirus. In a letter to Congress dated June 30, 750 experts in global health and international law said that “withholding US funding will have significant negative consequences for WHO’s ability to control the pandemic.”

But in a letter to Congress dated June 30, 750 experts in glob- al health and international law said that “withholding US funding will have significant negative consequences for WHO’s ability to control the pandemic.”

The withdrawal may also jeopardize US access to lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines, said Linda Wiley, a law professor at American University. “Given that our vaccine manufactur- ing capabilities within the US are limited, to withdraw from the WHO will mean that the US would lose its seat on the board of directors, which is where the US can help shape the WHO’s priorities and efforts,” she said.

Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Moh. Reza Huwaida
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Phone: 00930901817777
Website: www.outlookafghanistan.net

The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.
Johannesburg — The coronavirus storm has arrived in south Africa. COVID-19 — the new epicenter of the country’s outbreak, Gauteng province, home to the power centers of Johannes­burg, Gauteng province, home to the power centers of Johannesburg, is a new global hot spot with 238,339 cases of COVID-19 wards the sound is less of a roar than a rasp.

The government has transferred power wires to its own needs and to monitor access to this fiber optic,” said Gada. “The lower the consumption, the less of a roar than a rasp. The government will start the process of releasing of the in-kind proposal, the government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal. The government will start the process of releasing the in-kind proposal.
**Middle East and Africa**

**India**

**Singapore**

**China**

**Pakistan**

**Israel**

**Zimbabwe**

**Kyrgyzstan**

**UNESCO, Turkmenistan May Jointly Implement Projects in Digital Sphere**

**UNESCO**

**OSCE Donates Supplies to Various Government and Civil Society Partners Across Tajikistan in PPE Drive**

**SOUTHASIA**

**Kazakhstan**

**Australia**

**Sydney**

**Melbourne**

**Neighbour News**

**Iran, Iraq Stress Expansion of Trade, Economic Coop**

**ENTEBBE -** The ambassador to Austria Abbas Alihakani met with the Austrian Deputy Minister for Digital Affairs Michael Urban and the chairman of trade and commerce for the two countries, Deutsch, reporting citizens. During the meeting, the high-level representatives held the two countries' ministers of commerce, Austria and Uganda. In addition, it was decided to work on the following groups established under the Uganda road map for identifying and combating terrorism.

**Russia Registers 6,635 New Covid-19 Cases, 174 Deaths in Past 24 Hours - HQ**

Moscow reported 6,635 new coronavirus infections and 174 deaths in the past 24 hours, the coronavirus response headquarters said in a statement on Friday. "Over the past day, 6,635 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in 85 regions of Russia, including 2,671 active over the year (25.1%), the headquarters reported. Thus, the total number of new cases registered by Russia over the past 14 days has reached 28,925, including 11,977 deaths and 49,916 recoveries. The number of patients discharged from hospitals in the past, but does not have intelligence to confirm it did not affect attacks against Americans as it is not reported that it was used to launch military attacks."

**Russia’s Lavrov: U.S. Domestic Issues Behind Speculation of Moscow’s Ties with Taliban**

MOSCOW - An internal political fight in the United States is behind “unsubstantiated” speculation of Moscow’s alleged ties with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency on Friday. A top U.S. general said Thursday that the United States believed Russia has given support to the Taliban after Taliban spokesmen discredited an anonymous American as it is not reported that it was used to launch military attacks.

**Hundreds Gather for Funeral of Palestinian Shot by Israeli Troops**

SALFIT, West Bank - Hundreds of people gathered in the occupied West Bank on Friday for the funeral of a Palestinian man shot by Israeli soldiers earlier in the week. The Israeli army said troops opened fire after the Palestinian and another man started throwing stones at a guard post near a West Bank town. People at the funeral carried a banner reading “Mohammed Alshita, Aker” or God is greatest. Terrorists have been high in the West Bank in recent weeks and have kidnapped a nurse in the West Bank. (More on P16) (12)

**Hundreds Gather for Protest in Against Election Chief Nomination**

KATHMANDU - Nepal’s cable and satellite television providers have stepped up their efforts against “objective” content broadcast abroad amid a political fight in the United Arab Emirates. (More on P16) (12)

**Nepal Bans Private Indian Channels for Airing ‘False Propaganda’**

SINGAPORE - Voting in Singapore’s election was extended on Friday, after coronavirus infection control measures long to queueing up for six hours in order to vote. Voting is mandatory in the affluent city-state, but many forgot to line up for as long as an hour to cast their votes at the top of their agenda as the pandemic threatens to cast a shadow over the election. The People’s Action Party (PAP), in power since independence in 1965, is expected to win the election. The prime minister has already flagged the likelihood of a tight election. They lined up in masks for as long as an hour to vote. (More on P4) (18)

**Singapore Extends Voting Hours as Pandemic Slows Poll**

Three days after the 2016 general elections, the Prime Minister of Singapore has extended the voting hours to 23.00 on July 11, 2020. In addition, it was decided to work on the following groups established under the Uganda road map for identifying and combating terrorism.
US Defense Sec. Esper Was Briefed on Russian Bounties

WASHINGTON - US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper on Thursday confirmed that he had been briefed on information about Russian payments to the Taliban in Afghanistan, apparently acknowledging that Russia’s support for the Taliban group is not “false.”

The Pentagon chief also made clear that he had not seen intelligence that corroborates claims that American troops were killed as a result of the “bounty” payments. The US Defense Secretary initially told lawmakers that he did not recall a briefing that included the word “bounty,” according to a report by CNN, but less than one hour later he clarified that answer when pressed by a Democratic member of the panel.

At that time, Esper explained that his response to Turner’s question had been tailored to address whether the word “bounty” had ever been included in any briefing he had received and that he had refrained from elaborating further at the time in an effort to avoid politicizing the issue, CNN reports say.

He went on to tell lawmakers that he had seen intelligence about “...more on P4...”

Addressing Widespread Corruption Crucial for Sustainable Peace

KABUL - The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has said addressing widespread corruption was crucial for sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan, according to a statement on Friday.

“Any explosive anti-corruption efforts, as documented by the recently published UNAMA annual anti-corruption report,” the statement said.

The upcoming peace talks required all parties to demonstrate their commitment to integrity, accountability and the rule of law by concrete actions rather than polarization through mutual accusations of corruption practices.

“Continued delays in establishing the strategic and institutional Anti-Corruption Framework are of serious concern,” the statement said.

The lack of effective investigations and prosecutions, in particular of high-level suspects, is also worrisome and we urge thorough investigation of the multiple allegations of misuse of public funds.

The statement added that addressing widespread corruption is crucial for sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and that the upcoming peace talks require all parties to demonstrate their commitment to integrity, accountability and the rule of law by concrete actions rather than polarization through mutual accusations of corrupt practices.

Delivering on these assurances, by committing to tangible targets, such as empowering the Supreme Audit Office and swiftly establishing the Anti-Corruption Commission.

While relying on an interim document to fill immediate gaps, within one year the government should adopt a genuine anti-corruption strategy building on a thorough assessment of the previous strategy through an inclusive consultation process. We also expect substantial progress on prosecution and enforcement of court orders and warrants, particularly in high-profile cases.

Afghanistan Coronavirus Updates: 34,194 Cases, 971 Deaths

KABUL - The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has jumped to 34,194 with 971 deaths in Afghanistan. According to daily Coronavirus updates released the Public Health Ministry, 266 new Coronavirus cases have been registered in the past 24 hours.

The cases were recorded in Kabul 83, Herat 81, Balkh 9, Nangarhar 5, Kandahar 4, Baghlan 3, Badghis 3, Logar 2, Kunduz 2, Farah 2, Dukhundi 16, Wardak 3, Laghman 1, Panjsher 2, and Ghir 3.

Meanwhile, 12 COVID-19 patients have died in the past 24 hours. The death cases were reported as follows: Kabul (1), Herat (2), Maidan Wardak (1), and Takhar (1).

The Health Ministry said that “...more on P4...”

Strong and Positive Signal Needed in Afghanistan’s Anti-Corruption Efforts: Donors

KABUL - International donors on Thursday expressed deep concern about the slowdown in Afghanistan’s anti-corruption efforts, as recently reported by the United Nations.

The Ambassadorial Anti-Corruption Group in a statement said that addressing widespread corruption is crucial for sustainable peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and that the upcoming peace talks require all parties to demonstrate their commitment to integrity, accountability and the rule of law by concrete actions rather than polarization through mutual accusations of corrupt practices.

They said that lack of effective investigations and prosecutions, in particular of high-level suspects, is also worrisome and urged thorough investigation of the multiple allegations of misuse of public funds.

The statement said “...more on P4...”