Companies Evading Tax Will Face Serious Action, MoF Warns

KARUL - The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on Monday said at a meeting in Kabul that large companies evading tax will face serious consequences.

At the same time, officials from the ministry honored eight companies for continuously paying their taxes on time.

The eight companies honored for prompt payment were Afghan Wireless, Saladin Security Company, Afghan International Bank, Kam Air Company, Emirate Construction Company, Alokseey International Trade Company, Alokseey Beverage Company and Amin Tobacco Company.

“Aiding the last, first inform the taxpayers to pay their taxes. If they do not pay them within 60 days, the companies will face tax evasion cases including travel bans on owners and seizing property. Although we have carried out such acts against taxpayers, we will keep trying to implement the law,” said Shahidullah Qanibadi, Finance minister. He also said in future they will freeze bank accounts of large companies that fail to pay tax.

The ministry did not on Monday name the companies that evaded tax nor did they disclose the amount of money owed to them.

However, according to information provided by the ministry, currently around 400 large companies are registered taxpayers and that last year more than 18 billion Afghani in taxes was collected from these companies - which made up 12 percent of the total national revenue.

“We have implemented good plans in collecting taxes from large taxpayers and these plans surely have encouraged taxpayers in paying their taxes,” said Abdul Hadi, director of the ministry’s large taxpayers department.

Officials from the Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) also said in problems with the tax collection process is a reason why they’re on P4.

UK May Deploy More Soldiers to Afghanistan

KABUL - The United Kingdom may deploy more troops to Afghanistan under a NATO plan to step up its military presence in the war-devastated country, a British newspaper said on Monday.

The alliance is mulling over a plan to increase the number of Resolute Support forces personnel beyond the current level of 13,800, the Guardian said, soon after US marines returned to Helmand.

Currently, the British service members are 1,715, all of whom are conscripts, are mostly deployed to provide military support to the US-led coalition and protect the capital Kabul. The British Ministry of Defence has not yet confirmed any plans for a new British contingent deployment to Afghanistan.

Taliban in No Mood to Reconcile: CEO

KARUL - Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdul Abdullah said on Monday that the Taliban had never been sincere to the peace process, as he referred to the group’s launching of spring offensives codenamed “Manipur.”

He also said problems with the tax system would continue to worsen.

“Mr. Hekmatyar returns.”

Pakistan Spy Chief to Visit Afghanistan

KARUL - Pakistan’s spy chief is expected to visit Afghanistan later this week for talks with counterparts in Kabul on bilateral anti-terrorism and security cooperation, officials said Monday.

The director general of the latter Services intelligence, Lt. General Asad Durrani, is likely to discuss the fate of the lists of militants wanted on both sides and to address other related issues, explained Aziz Sayad, the speaker of the lower house of parliament, or National Assembly.

Sayyaf Warns Insurgents Against Being Deceived

KARUL - Former Jihad leader and head of the Council of Protection and Stability of Afghanistan Abdul Hadi Raufi Sayyaf on Monday said at a gathering to mark the 20th anniversary of 8th of Sarar that insurgents should not allow themselves to be deceived by their Muftis and that insurgents are not carrying out Jihad.

Sayyaf said to insurgents that if suicide was allowed in Islam why were some of the suicide bombers in Afghanistan?

Sayyaf said the real Jihad is by the security forces fighting insurgents and asked that security forces freeze bank accounts of large companies that fail to pay tax.

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HA Prisoners Release Postponed at Last Minute

KARUL - The government on Monday postponed a joint ceremony of release for the first group of prisoners belonging to the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) for unknown reasons. The first group of 11 prisoners was expected to be set free but it was delayed due to some concerns.

Afghan delegations and media representatives went to the Pul-i-Charkhi prison on eastern outskirts of Kabul to attend the release ceremony of HIA prisoners, but the ceremony was postponed at the last minute on Monday morning.

Dr. Nadir Afghan, member of HA media group, told Pajhwok Afghan News the release or 68 prisoners had been promised with them and the HIA rejected the release of 35 prisoners instead of 68.

Nadir said the president had signed the decree releasing the release of 55 prisoners, some thing against the agreement signed between the HIA and the government. “The executive council will take a final decision in this regard,” Nadir said.

HIA spokesperson, Qaleh Rabab Afghans said, told Pajhwok Afghan News that until the issue of releasing 68 prisoners was not resolved, the group would suspend negotiations with the government. “The HIA spokesperson is a spokesperson for the joint government-HIA agreement implementation commission,” the HIA spokesperson said. He confirmed the president had approved the release of 55 HIA prisoners.

World Bank Announcement

The World Bank Afghanistan Country Office (WB) is interested in disposal of about (274) numbers of old laptops, docking stations & IT equipment’s in working condition when dismantled.

The sales would be made on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and No claim would be entertained regarding condition of the IT stuff after the sales.

The IT equipment would be sold in lots, which will be displayed for inspection on 11 May 2017 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon in the WB office. List of lots along with its reserve price for each stuff will be provided on the day of inspection.

Interested bidders can submit their sealed bids for one or more lots (Total 274 lots).

The bid should accompany earnest money deposit (EMD) of $300 or AFN 20000 for each lot bid and be submitted to the WB office before 4.00 PM on 11 May 2017. Bids will be opened and names of the successful bidders will be announced on a date specified by the World Bank. EMD would be payable in Cash at the office for which bidders should collect the receipt and attach a copy with their bid. EMD would be refundable for unsuccessful bidders after finalization of the sale process. The World Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids.

The successful bidder shall have to pay full money, less EMD, within 2 working days of the award of the contract and take the laptops at his cost by end of the next working day.

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