Afghanistan Sets New Record in Opium Production

In SIGAR’s latest report to Congress, it was noted that opium production increased by 43 percent last year, despite billions spent to fight the scourge.

Graft Hampers Afghanistan’s Development: EU

KABUL - The European Union (EU) on Tuesday said the Afghan government, taking major steps in the fight against corruption, needs to do more to curb the menace.

“Corruption fuels the insurgency and will erode the ability to progress towards peace – something this war-torn country is desperately longing for,” the EU’s Special Representative said.

Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin said: “Corruption fuels the insurgency and will erode the ability to progress towards peace – something this war-torn country is desperately longing for,” the EU’s Special Representative said.

Government Approves Contracts worth 6 Billion and 290 Million Afghanis

KABUL - The Afghan government has approved several contracts worth six billion and twenty-nine million Afghanis.

The Office of the President, ARG Palace, said a meeting of the National Procurement and Contract Commission was organised in the presidential palace on Sunday evening which was chaired by President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani.

A statement by ARG Palace said the meeting approved thirty six contracts worth six billion and two hundred and thirty million Afghanis.

The statement further added that the contracts approved during meeting include road construction, Information Technology projects, maintenance

Congressional Bill Seeks 2,500 New Visas for Afghans

KABUL - An additional 2,500 visas for Afghan interpreters who worked alongside the US military will be issued under a bill negotiated by lawmakers on the weekend.

A US newspaper reported the bill, if passed, would benefit hundreds of Afghan policemen who have been tough working for American troops during the war.

Introduced in 2009, the special immigrant visa (SIV) programme seeks to let Afghan who had helped the US-led coalition to find their way to US, according to the Huffington Post.

Earl Blumenauer, architect of the programme and Adam Kinzinger a pilot who served in Afghanistan, urged Congress to include the same level of visas in the omnibus as were included in their legislation.

In a statement on Monday, Blumenauer said: “We need to bring our faithful allies –

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Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Money Services

Ref No. AF17-0640

02 May 2017

The International Organization for Migration, Mission in Afghanistan on regular bases uses services of Service Providers in provision of money services in Kabul and Provinces of Afghanistan.

IOM now invites eligible Service Providers to indicate their interest in provision of the services. Interested Service Providers must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (e.g. brochures, description of similar assignments, number of ongoing projects and clients, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). The provided information must be sufficient for IOM to evaluate the Service Provider’s capability and eligibility to participate in the bidding and eventually undertake the assignment. Expressions of interest should contain the following information:

- Core business and years of experience in Afghanistan
- Qualification in the field of assignment – money services
- Brief technical and managerial structure of the firm and offices
- General qualifications and number of key staff
- Valid Government License

The Service Provider should be entity registered under local law and may associate with other firm to enhance their capacities and qualifications.

A Service Provider will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the IOM Procurement Manual EN/168 rev. (1). Only pre-qualified Consultant Firms shall be provided Request for Proposal (RFP) and invited to submit proposal.

EoI with required information must be delivered by hand or email before 10 May 2017 at 16:00 hours, or seven (7) calendar days after this advertisement.

IOM Afghanistan

Attn: Vladimir Maslarov – Procurement Officer (Ref. No. IOM AF17-0640)

Street No.4, House No. 27, Ansari Square, Shahr-e-Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan

E-mail: iomkabulprocurement@iom.int

Afghan Media Shows Courage, Determination in Facing ‘Insolent’ Challenges: UN Envoy

KABUL - Afghan media professionals, who continue to work against immense challenges, are to be commended for their courage and determination, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan said in a Kabul event marking World Press Freedom Day.

“Freedom of speech, particularly the freedom of press, is what I consider to be one of the most important features in a mature, open society,” said Tadzio Sendi, a UN envoy.

Obama Placed U.S. Strategy to Combat Heroin Production ‘on Hold’

WASHINGTON - The American government planned a revised version of the U.S. counter narcotics strategy in Afghanistan a year ago, but cultivation of illicit opium and its deadly heroin derivative had reached historic levels in the war-affected nation, reports a watchdog agency. In its latest quarterly report to Congress, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) stated that the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conduct an annual survey with financial contribution.

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Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.
Martin Luther