Human Rights: EU Acknowledges Afghanistan Progress

The European Union (EU) acknowledged progress made by Afghanistan in areas concerning human rights, good governance and migration.

KABUL - The EU reaffirmed its continued support providing advice in both politically and in terms of financial assistance. "Under this agreement both sides had a frank dialogue about important topics related to human rights, good governance and migration," said Rivest.

Local officials confirmed the UN action; a facility for the masses election process in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. The EU side recognized the ongoing efforts being made by the government of Afghanistan to ensure the "(UN...)." Rivest added.

Reluctance in Registration a Challenge for Election: Envoy

KABUL - Canadian ambassador to Kabul, Francois Rivest, in an interview with ToloNews said people’s reluctance in the registration process is a challenge for the upcoming elections. The voter registration process was launched 22 days ago and according to the election commission, over one million voters have registered their names so far. Rivest said if less people go to register, it definitely will be a challenge. "It’s been a challenge and we know that the government is focusing very on this issue, the international community is supporting the government in providing advice in this respect. We know that the IEC is very focused on this issue and it is looking at ways to improve the level of registration," said Rivest.

While the institutions overseeing the election process have been blunting the IEC over poor management, Rivest said they want a transparent election to be held in Afghanistan and the international community have "It’s our hope. A lot of effort has been made by the government of Afghanistan and by the IEC with the support of the international community for the election to take place this year," Rivest added.

Both people and government are concerned that people’s interests have decreased in registering their names. "Ahnes (on P.29)"..."(More on P4)...(12)

Distribution of Old ID Cards Begins in 5 Herat District

HERAT CITY - In a national identity cards (NIC) locally-called tanzinahs, has been kicked off and is being distributed in five districts of western Herat province, an official said on Sunday.

Local officials confirmed the launch of NIC distribution for the masses ahead of the upcoming Wolesi Jirga and district council elections, scheduled for October this year.

Ahmad Ali Fayyazi, the Pushash district chief, said the process would continue over the next four months in Herat City. He added residents of Shindand, Zer, Zerkhah, Zausal and Pushash could get their old NICs in Herat City, the provincial capital. Fazel Ahmad Anjari, in charge of the tanzinahs distribution in Pushash, said: "People are interested in and are happily receiving their tanzinahs. We have also set up mobile teams to help residents get their identity documents. Meanwhile some residents of Pushash district, who visited to the sites to get their tanzinahs, acknowledged several facilitation had been provided for applicants in the provincial capital, where the old cards are being issued.

Faisal Ahmad, a resident of the area, said: "I am really happy that the government has created this facility for the people of Herat. Inhabitants of these five districts have been facing insecurity," he added. The masses might not take part in the polls if security was not provided, (Pajhwok)

JALALABAD: Minister of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) on Sunday announced a special security unit would be created to prevent illegal extraction and ensure transparency in the mining sector.

Ahmad Qadir Mulla, the MoMP spokesman, made the announcement at a media briefing in Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province.

"The mine was under threat of illegal extraction. So far illegal miners had been secured, the official claimed.

All mining contracts signed previously were marred by flaws that paved the ground for smuggling and illegal extraction. That is why the ministry has suspended the signing of new contracts or extending the old ones. We submitted the government that the country’s natural resources are a national wealth and the government is in touch with the international community to prevent smuggling and illegal extraction," he said.

Civilian killed in Faryab roadside bomb

MAIMANA - At least seven civilians were killed and an eighth wounded as the vehicle they were traveling in, was attacked with a roadside bomb in northern Faryab province on Sunday.

Police spokesman Abdul Karim Khwaja Alwan told Pajhwok News the bomb planted by the Taliban ripped through the vehicle, which was carrying farmers in Almar district, he said.

Seven individuals were killed and one wounded, he said, adding an investigation had been launched into the explosion, which targeted a farming cooperative. "This event is a capital criminal, also confirmed the attack and casualties. (Pajhwok)

Women Showcase Products, Handicrafts in Kabul Exhibition

NEW DELHI - The Indian government to Afghanistan authorities to ascertain the whereabouts of the Indian nationals abducted in Afghanistan on Sunday, an official said. "We are aware of the abduction of Indian nationals from Baglan province in Afghanistan. We are in touch with the Afghan authorities and further details are being ascertained," an official spokesperson said, responding to reports of the abduction.

According to Afghan police, unknown armed men abducted six foreigners and their Afghan driver in Khwaja Abas area outside Afghanistan’s northern Baglan province’s capital Pul-e-Khumri on Sunday. "All the abducted foreigners were working for a substitute of a power supply company in Khwaja Abas area when the incident happened today morning," police spokesman Zabihullah Shua told reporters. "The Afghan side has yet to confirm the nationalities of the abducted, but blamed Taliban militants for the abduction, saying ‘Taliban commander Mullah Shabir is behind the crime.’ (Xinhua)

India in Touch with Afghan Gov’t on Abducted Nationals

In an interview with TOLOnews, however, alleged workers of the company who participated in the exhibition said they were interested in importing their products and handicrafts to the people. "This exhibition was effective for us. (Ahnes (on P.29))"..."(More on P4)...(11)

Ghazi-Pulkaika Highway Closed as Clashes Underway

GHAZNI CITY - Ghazi-Pulkaika highway has been closed for traffic following fierce clashes between the Afghan forces and Taliban in Andar district of southern Ghazni province, officials said.

Ghazni governor’s spokesman, Mohammed Arif Noori, told Pajhwok Afghan News that clashes were ongoing between the Afghan forces and insurgents in parts of Andar district since three days.

He said that 14 Taliban militants and an Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier were killed and eight ANA soldiers wounded during a clash last night. Clashes started today but it probably start again, he said, adding Taliban forces have closed Ghazi-Pulkaika highway for traffic.

"Taliban destroyed an asphalt road yesterday. The road closure is a matter of Afghan government’s concern so do not touch Afghan forces and leave the battleground,” he said.

He said that Afghan forces were trying to reopen the road for traffic. (Pajhwok)

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Indian forces kill 12 armed in Ghazni: MoD

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