Turkey-Afghanistan Air Trade Corridor Opens

Turkey and Afghanistan on Tuesday launched an air corridor to boost bilateral trade.

Illegal Armed Men Threaten Mazar-I-Sharif Security

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Unauthorized armed persons who are associated with political parties have been spreading insecurity in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, local residents say. They say after the emergence of political tension between former governor Atta Mohammad Noor and President Ashraf Ghani, the number of unauthorized gunmen increased in Mazar-i-Sharif, giving a boost to insecurity and instability.

Hamid Safat, who heads Balkh civil society group, told Pajhwok Afghan News that security of Mazar-i-Sharif had deteriorated compared. (More on P4:17)

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Program Management Office Ministry of Public Works

Publication of Award of Contract

Grant No. and Title: 0490-AFG and 0491-AFG Preparation of CAREC Corridor 5 and 6 (Salang Corridor) Project

Contract No. and Title: SMEC/MPW/SC 01/NCB Procurement of Geotechnical Investigations (Tunnels) for Salang Corridor Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Name and Add. of Bidder</th>
<th>Corrected Bid Price</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Afghanite Shawal JV, Afghanistan</td>
<td>Afn 168,779,123.00</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>The contract is awarded to the lowest price and substantially responsive bidder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>OPD JV, Afghanistan (Omran Geotechnical Co., Diamond Geo Engineering Services and Pamir Geotechnical Company)</td>
<td>Afn 170,708,811</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>The bid was rejected based on Bidders failure to meet the technical specifications including but not limited to drilling requirements and primary mobilization method as Specified in the Bidding Documents - Terms of Reference.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Any Bidder who wishes to ascertain the grounds on which its proposal was not selected should request an explanation from the executing agency until June 08, 2018.

Iran Supporting Taliban in Form of Weapons, Funding: Pompeo

KABUL - A US Defense Department also said the US will take "all necessary steps to confront and address Iran’s malign influence in the region.

The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday said that Iran’s support to the Taliban in the form of weapons and funding is leading to further violence and creates peace and stability of the Afghan people.

"Iran, too, must end support for the Taliban and other terrorists in Afghanistan and the region, and cease harboring senior al-Qaeda leaders," Pompeo said at the Heritage Foundation, a Washington, think tank. He also demanded Iran make sweeping changes from dropping its nuclear program to pulling out of the Syrian civil war or face severe economic sanctions as President Donald Trump’s administration hardened its approach to Tehran. (More on P4:8)