Nearly 300 Attorneys Protest Ghani’s Tests

2,500 Hectares of Poppy to be Eradicated

Pakistan to Register Nearly 1 Million Unregistered Afghans

Russia Ready to Invest in Transport, Housing Sectors

HPC Says it’s Unaware of Fresh Reconciliation Initiative

Afghan Govt., Taliban Poised to Hold Direct Talks: Report

President Orders Release of Photographer Held in 2006

UAE Urged to Help Resolve Shelkh Zayed University Problems

Constitution

The government consists of the ministers who work under the Chairmanship of the President. Ministers are appointed by the President and shall be introduced for approval to the National Assembly.

Article 71

President

KARUL - The World Bank (WB) country director for Afghanistan on Wednesday called for greater assistance to help the war-torn country. At a meeting with Deputy Chief Executive Officer Soren Fog, Mohammad Khan, Bob Sam pledged long-term support for the country’s health, education, training-agricultural and livestock sectors.

KARUL - The WB’s sustainable support, Khan said, would focus on the development and investments that had been backed down because of insecurity. The bank has supported Afghanistan in various fields through hard times and the country expected more support to stabilize different sectors, Khan added. (Pajhwok)

WB Vows Sustainable Assistance to Afghanistan

World Bank

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24 Civil Servants Complete Training

AYBR - At least 24 civil servants have completed training at the National Revenue Department in tax laws and regulations of procurement, different types of taxes and the principle of accounting.

The training was organized by the German Cooperation Office on Wednesday that dur- ing the training, professionals were provided with information as to how to manage, finance, efficiently, finances in their workplaces. The training was organized by Samagam Revenue Department's, and financial assistance from German government at the cost of over 80,00,000 Afgh.

Seeking Release, Ex-Bank Officers on Hunger Strike

KARL - Seven former Panjshir bank employees on Monday went on hunger strike in the Public Relations department in Kabul to call for the release of former employees who were arrested on charges of embezzlement. The senior officials and Col Mohammad Karim Talib told Panjshir Af-

Insurgents Kill 3 Abducted Civilians

KARL - Militants have killed three civilians in southern Panjshir province in a confrontation with government forces on Tuesday. The officials confirmed the killing of the civilians and confirmed that three civilians were detained in a government office.

2 Kidnapped AIP Members Found Dead

ALP - Two members of the Afghan Independent People's Party were killed Monday in a confrontation with the Taliban in the Shish Talj district of southern Zabul province. The officials confirmed that two AIP members were killed in the confrontation with the Taliban. The officials also confirmed that two AIP members were detained in a government office.

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)

Although everyone may appear to be getting along, you'll feel a sense of isolation. Then, you'll feel as if everyone is feeling the same as you. Even so, you may not be the best judge of events, so don't make a big deal out of the situation.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21)

You might feel a little被判, although you'll be able to keep your emotions in check. Perhaps you realize that you can't single-handedly change the current events. You do not need to invest a lot of energy in trying to fix the situation.

Gemini (May 22-June 21)

The situation around you may appear a little adrift, but you're probably not as affected as you think. Sometimes, all you do want to share is the fact that you have no idea what's going on. The only thing you want to do is make it clear to others that you have no idea what's going on. However, a stormy emotional component is all the more complex. The situation is even more complex now. You're tired of the lightning and strike with unexpected brilliance and force.

Cancer (Jun 22-July 22)

You're growing tired of the emotional turmoil now, but you don't want to let your emotions show. Even so, you may find yourself letting your emotions show, especially if you find it difficult to express yourself.

Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22)

You're growing tired of the emotional turmoil now, but you don't want to let your emotions show. Even so, you may find yourself letting your emotions show, especially if you find it difficult to express yourself.

Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22)

You're probably more impulsive today. Perhaps you're more emotional today, and you find yourself thinking more than you usually do. You're more emotional than usual, and you may feel more out of control. You find it difficult to express yourself.

Sagittarius (Dec 22-Nov 21)

You're probably more impulsive today. Perhaps you're more emotional today, and you find yourself thinking more than you usually do. You're more emotional than usual, and you may feel more out of control. You find it difficult to express yourself.

Scorpio (Sep 23-Oct 22)

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Pardoning Photojournalist Earned President Apology

A photojournalist was pardoned by the Afghan president...
The Afghan delegation arrived in Islamabad on Sunday amid claims that Pakistan has frozen relations with Kabul. The talks began on December 20, with both sides expressing optimism about the progress being made.

The two sides have been meeting in separate rooms, with the talks expected to last for another three days.

The Afghan delegation comprised three members from Afghanistan and four from Pakistan. The talks were expected to focus on all the issues, including security, economic cooperation, and regional stability.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Tariq Mahmood, while the Afghan delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Murtaza Hamed.

The talks ended on December 22, with both sides expressing optimism about the progress being made.

A source close to the negotiations said that both sides had agreed to continue the talks in Pakistan on the third day.

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U.S. Slaps Sanctions on Ukrainian Rebels, Russian Bank

WASHINGTON — The United States on Wednesday placed sanctions on eight Ukrainian rebels who were accused of trying to destabilize the war-torn country, an indication that after months of quieting, the tension between the West and Russia is rising.

The sanctions signal, Washington is rewarding Russia for fixing a day after accusing Russia of sending tanks and heavy military equipment into Ukraine, which was met with a strong retort from Kremlin spokesman Peskov.

"We have been working with the United States on the situation in Ukraine," Peskov said. "We have been in contact with them for some time, and they have offered us help in providing security assistance." The White House had previously announced that it was considering imposing sanctions on Russia over its support of rebels in Ukraine, which had been given some leeway by the administration.

The sanctions come as the United States and its European allies are trying to reduce their dependence on Russian gas and oil. They also come amid growing concerns about the potential for a conflict in the region, with tensions rising between Ukraine and Russia over Crimea.

"We are committed to working with our partners to ensure a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Ukraine," said Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a statement. "We will continue to pressure Russia to withdraw its forces from Ukraine and to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine." The sanctions target eight individuals and two entities, including pro-Russian separatists and military leaders. They include individuals associated with the Crimean peninsula and the Donetsk region.

The sanctions were announced by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which administers and enforces economic and trade sanctions and export controls. The sanctions are designed to deter further Russian aggression in Ukraine and to support Ukraine's transition to a democratic and prosperous future.

"These sanctions are part of our broader strategy to deter further Russian aggression in Ukraine and to support Ukraine's transition to a democratic and prosperous future," said Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in a statement. "We are committed to working with our partners to ensure a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Ukraine." The sanctions will prevent the individuals and entities from conducting transactions with U.S. persons and from accessing the U.S. financial system.

U.S. slaps sanctions on Ukrainian rebels, Russian bank

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Wednesday sanctioned eight members of the military and security forces in Ukraine for violating international law and supporting Russian aggression.

"These sanctions are part of our broader strategy to deter further Russian aggression in Ukraine and to support Ukraine's transition to a democratic and prosperous future," said Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in a statement. "We are committed to working with our partners to ensure a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Ukraine." The sanctions will prevent the individuals and entities from conducting transactions with U.S. persons and from accessing the U.S. financial system.

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Iran to Increase Imports of Turkish Goods

ASRABAD — Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said on Thursday that his country would increase its imports of goods from Turkey, in a move to diversify its economy.

"We will increase our imports of goods from Turkey," Rouhani said in a speech to the nation. "This is a strategic decision that we have taken to diversify our economy." The move comes after a month of tensions between Turkey and Iran over the latter's support for the Shia-led government in Iraq.

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Residents Benefit from NSP Welfare Projects

MAZAR-E-CHOBE: The execution of another 10 welfare projects in northeastern Balkh province would resolve the problems of residents to a large extent, an official hoped on Wednesday.

Farid Ahmad Sadat, a senior National Solidarity Programme (NSP) official, told Pajhwok Afghan News the schemes had been completed in Char-bolak district. The projects include three social centres, buildings, 23 water wells, graveling of 4.3 kilometres of roads and construction of 48 small bridges.

He put the cost of the projects at 56,600,000 afghani provided by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), with 10% contribution from local residents. So far 162 villages have been covered by the NSP projects in the province, where 2,544 families have been completed while the remaining 90 welfare schemes are in progress. (Pajhwok)

Current Military Operations Prepare ANSF for Summer Offensive

KABUL - Ministry of Defense deputy spokesman, Dawlat Waziri, said that the recent Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) operations are preparing the forces for the summer offensive.

Currently, the ANSF are operating their clearing missions in the provinces of Farah, Zabul, Kandahar, Helmand, and Nalkhoo. (More on P6,12)

3,000 Passports Being Issued Daily: Official

KARUL - A senior official of the passport department said on Wednesday his office had expelled signs and 3,000 passport copies were issued on a daily basis.

Maj. Gen. Khan Aqil Safi, technical assistant, told Pajhwok Afghan News the passport distribution process had been expedited recently. Ten month back, he recalled, only 1,000 passports were issued in a day. "The main factor behind the surge in passport issuance." (More on P6,12)

US Special Representative Praises Pakistan’s Role in Afghanistan

US Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Daniel Feldman praised Pakistan’s role for peace and stability in Afghanistan, ISPR reported on Tuesday.

NABAR: Feldman called on army Chief General Qamar Bajwa at the Gorkh, where regional security was discussed during the meeting.

Pakistan had signalled its willingness to support the process of reconciliation in Afghanistan as reports swirled about the Afghan Taliban negotiations opening dialogue with US officials in the Qatar capital of Doha.

"Pakistan in all sincerity will support the process... [it] reconciliation between the Afghan government and the Afghan Taliban... as peace in the region," ISPR said in a new statement on the prospects of peace in the neighbouring country.

"Pakistan has always supported such a process, and re-emphasises it to be absolutely transparent. Afghanistan and Pakistan have an important role in the peace process," ISPR said in a new statement on the prospects of peace in the neighbouring country.

30pc of Women Suffering from Anemia: Minister

KABUL - About 30 percent of Afghan women lack vitamin D and 40 percent are suffering from anemia, Minister of Public Health, Dr. Fawzia Fawzia, said on Wednesday.

Addressing a gathering on International Women’s Day in Kabul, she said 40 percent of Afghan women suffered from a deficiency of red blood cells and 64 percent lacked vitamin D.

A 2011 survey by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) says 107 in 1,000 expectant mothers lose their lives during childbirth. The maternal mortality rate was 403 in 100,000 births in 2008.

Fawzia recalled, saying 37 percent of women were victims of violence, 17 percent of sexual abuse and 32 percent of beatings. He added information from (More on P6,12)

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