USAID Announces $30m Civilian Victim's Assistance

Obama is Nominating a Gen. Dunford as Joint Chiefs Chairman

Pakistan Reiterates Support for Peaceful, Stable Afghanistan

Doha Talks Could Pave Way for Peace Negotiations

May 16, 2015

Mohammad Hanif Atmar

‘Afghanistan’s Constitution: Recognition Prerequisite for Talks’

KABUL - In a fresh development, Afghanistan has signed cooperation agreements with Uzbekistan in areas of energy, transport, trade and transit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said Tuesday. MoFA spokesman Shahid Masood told journalists an Afghan-Uzbekistan agreement by Shakir Kargar, president’s special envoy in Commonwealth and transnational transport affairs, was signed last week. Kargar had signed bilateral agreements with the minister of economy of Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, the agreement would create new opportunities for trade and transit between the two neighboring countries and Uzbekistan would provide a prominent role in assisting Afghanistan with its modernized railway networks.

Based on agreement, Masood said, Tashkent would also help Kabul in creating railway lines, highways, wireless and high-speed rail and other. (More on P 5)

KABUL - Pakistan’s Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif placed great emphasis on strong, stable and cooperative ties with Afghanistan under his vision for a peaceful and prosperous neighborhood. Pakistan’s state-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported that a meeting was held on 4 October in Islamabad to discuss the current situation in Afghanistan with President Ashraf Ghani. During the meeting, APP noted that the president had received assurances from the Afghan government that it would work with the US and other international partners to achieve a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. (More on P 5)

President Barack Obama is choosing a widely respected, combat-hardened commander who led the Afghan war effort during a key 2013 battle in the US as the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Obama plans to make the announcement at the White House Tuesday and said on condition of anonymity because they weren’t authorized to speak ahead of the announcement. Dunford is expected to be confirmed by the US Senate in the next few weeks as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (More on P 5)

According to the United States Department of Justice (US DoJ), at least 35 policemen and 35 militants, including five notorious commanders, were killed in clashes in the Wardak district of north-central Badakhshan province. The Ministry of Interior (MoI) and the Ministry of National Security (MNS) said that 35 policemen and 35 militants were killed in two separate incidents. (More on P 5)

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The meeting was attended by researchers, scholars and ministers, including former external af-

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KABUL - The Taliban have demanded to recognize their Qura’s office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in a guarded manner has said the Afghan government is solely representative of people and will not accept any entity in foreign countries.

Taliban demanded a recognition of their office for themselves to continue the peace process in a statement that followed the two days talk in Doha the Taliban’s office of Qatar.

The conference titled ‘Afghan dialogue’ on Saturday and Sunday was organized in Doha by a Canadian based organisation. (More on P 5)

The meeting was attended by researchers, scholars and ministers, including former external af-

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Pakistan's latest efforts at peace talks as the "environ-

ment" of the situation are not quite suitable for people who want to receive their own, independent,peace-builders who are not affiliated with any foreign influence, the government of Afghanistan or the international community. The government of Afghanistan has not been able to recognize the Taliban’s sovereignty, which is a prerequisite for peace talks. (More on P 5)

Some macrame is reflecting the name of Homex to sell their pool-quality paint products in Afghanistan in standard packaging by illegally copying Homex trademark and package designs. Homex Classic and Buzloc are the property of Nerson Chemical Industries, Pakistan.

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Farsight

**3 Dead in Fight between Supporters of Lawmakers**

**FARAH** - Three people were killed and five others wounded on Monday in a clash between two groups of Laghman lawmakers, including the governor, his brother, and some of his staff, authorities said.

Two law enforcement officers, brothers, and a local elder, who visited the hospital, said they had been shifted to their hometowns through helicopters.

Gen. Rahmanullah Rahim, co-

"The government has not taken action to bring peace to the area," he said. (More on P.149)

**3 Smugglers Held with 700 Kg Drugs**

**JALALABAD/PA** - Three smugglers were arrested with 700 kg of drugs from Paktia province on Monday, local police said.

"The police found the drugs near the border crossing near Jalalabad," a police official said. (More on P.149)

**Nangarhar: 20% Ghor orthodox Market Closed Due to Insecurity**

**GHOR** - A senior official at the Ghor orthodox market said on Saturday that the market had been closed because of insecurity.

"We are very worried about our safety," he said. (More on P.149)

**Outlook Horoscope**

"Your high level of competence can trick you into underestimating the trouble you could face. People, particularly the young, are not as much under your spell as they could be. Be careful with your words and actions, and don't let your guard down." (More on P.149)

**Taurus** (May 21-Jun 20)

"Your friends are likely to come into your life, offering you support and guidance. Make sure to keep them close to your heart, as they could be a source of strength and comfort." (More on P.149)

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20)

"You are feeling a bit anxious about your future. Taking some time to reflect and plan your next steps can help you feel more in control. Remember, things will work out, and you'll be happy with what you've planned." (More on P.149)

**Capricorn** (Dec 21-Jan 19)

"You're eager to get started on something new, but you might want to make sure you don't rush into it. Take your time to plan and think through all the details, and you'll be on the right track." (More on P.149)

**Aquarius** (Jan 20-Feb 18)

"Your confidence is soaring, and you're ready to take on new challenges. Keep pushing yourself to new heights, and you'll see great progress." (More on P.149)

"You might want to explore some new interests or hobbies, as this could help you relax and enjoy yourself more. Be open to trying new things, and you'll find yourself enjoying the process." (More on P.149)
The Qatar Peace Dialogue

Afganistan peace activists and Taliban representatives have gathered in Qatar to try and make progress on ending the war. Pakistani officials have also urged the Taliban to cease its ongoing offensive and start negotiations with the government of Afghanistan. The two-day "peace dialogue" on peace in Afghanistan is coming on the heels of a tense and delicate environment in the region. According to the reports, the gathering took place in a private location in Qatar. The talks were attended by representatives from both sides, including leaders from the Taliban and the Afghan government. The Taliban was represented by its political chief, Suhail Shaheen, while the Afghan government was represented by its negotiator, Zabihullah Mujahid. The talks were aimed at finding a political solution to end the war, which has caused untold suffering and loss of life in the region.

The Taliban's efforts to end its bloody fight on the ground have gained leverage in future peace talks with the government of Afghanistan. However, the reaction to the talks has been mixed. The Taliban has been hailed as a potential peace broker, while the Afghan government has been criticized for giving in to the Taliban's demands. The Afghan government has been under pressure to make meaningful progress in the peace process, but the talks have not yielded significant results. It is hoped that the talks will pave the way for future peace negotiations and lead to a lasting solution to the conflict in Afghanistan.
international affairs

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international

EU Seeking Closer Security Cooperation with China: Mogherini

BEIJING—Europe aims to carve a greater role in Asia's defense cooperation with China as Mogherini, the European Union's foreign政策 chief, takes part in a three-day visit to the country, sources say.

The next stage of Europe's security cooperation with China, which has been increasing in recent years, will see its focus shift from trade and investment to defense, sources say.

Mogherini's planned visit comes amid growing tensions between Europe and China over issues ranging from trade disputes to human rights concerns.

During Mogherini's visit, the EU and China are expected to discuss ways to strengthen their security cooperation, including the possible establishment of a joint working group on defense and security issues.

The visit will also pave the way for the EU-China High-Level Dialogue on Security, which is expected to be held in the near future.

Other issues on the agenda include human rights, climate change, and economic cooperation.

Mogherini is expected to meet with Chinese officials and business leaders during her visit and to hold a press conference on the last day of her trip.

The visit is seen as a further step in the EU's efforts to deepen its ties with China, which is the EU's second-largest trading partner and a key player in global affairs.

EU officials see the visit as an opportunity to discuss how Europe and China can work together more closely to address global challenges, including climate change and security.

The visit will also provide an opportunity for Mogherini to reinforce the EU's commitment to human rights and democracy in China, which has been a source of tension between the two sides.

Mogherini is expected to stress the importance of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in China, while also recognizing the country's economic progress and achievements.

The visit is expected to take place from 19-21 March and will be the first high-level visit from the EU to China since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The EU is keen to reinforce its relationships with China as it seeks to build a more resilient and diversified supply chain in the wake of the pandemic.
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4. Minimum three years relevant experience
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