Af-Pak Cultural Event Gets Under Way in Islamabad

PESHAWAR - Stronger people-to-people contacts will help cement relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, speakers told a cultural event on Friday.

The three-day Pak-Afghan Culture Programme got under way at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PACA) in Islamabad on Friday. Music shows and traditional "Onam" were highlighted.

Chinese Rebels among 7 Insurgents Badakhshan Offensive

KABUL - Seven rebels, including two Chinese militants, have been killed and 13 others injured during clearing operation in northeastern Badakhshan province, a statement from Shomsh Behram Military Corps said on Saturday. The Khakva-Uhl operation which is part of Grand Nustan offensive was conducted in the Mirwais Rahgat locality on Friday; the statement said.

The dead were Chinese militants deputy head Mustanga and another Chinese national. The statement did not provide more details about Chinese militants dead in the operation. Earlier, Afghan government said that as many as 13 Chinese were functioning in Afghanistan among them are East Turkistan Chinese rebel group. (Pajhwok)

Mafia Groups within MoI Pocket Privileges of Deceased Soldiers

Some `mafia` circles in the Ministry of Interior (MoI) recruit teenage boys in police ranks by forking them out. They got killed within a short period of their job due to no combat experience, the mafia then pocket the privileges in the deceased`s name, Pajhwok Afghan News has learnt.

13 Girl`s Schools Closed in Paktia Province

Paktia education officials say efforts are under way to reopen these schools.

KARUL - The provincial governor said talks with tribal elders and the Taliban have been under way for a long time. Paktia local officials said that in the past four years 13 girls` schools were closed down due to insecurity across the province. The provincial education department said the schools closed due to "marginal threats and the spread of insurgency."

"The security problems have caused some girl students to stop going to school or being absent often," said Kochai Zainul Ahmad, director. Meanwhile, Paktia governor Shamin Kazwani said that efforts are under way to reopen these schools.

Ministry Working to Reform Water Management System

KABUL - Minister of Energy and Water says the water shortage problem will be resolved once dams are completed across the country.

As concerns rise over a shortage of water across the country, the Ministry of Energy and Water says required reforms will be brought to management of water zones across Afghanistan. In an interview with Duloz news, Water and Energy Minister Ali Ahmad Ussafi stressed the need for better implementation of big projects to control Afghanistan`s waters.

"We have started reforms in three areas in order to improve work on our projects," he said. "Making the contract process easy for contractors, making it easier to get permits, and making it easier to get loans are part of our plans."

An economic analyst, Arif Hossaini, says government should have a clear policy on water management and it should accelerate hydropower dam projects across the country. "Government should make bigger plans to control Afghanistan`s waters. These plans should be implemented in the framework of a clear water policy," Hossaini said. (Tolo news)

Child Among 4 Indians Killed in Afghanistan Air Raid

The provincial education director.

In Uruzgan, No Safe Home for Victims of Violence

KABUL - Seven rebels, including three members of a family, have been killed in Afghanistan`s south. A media report says. From the Kandargh area of the southern Uruzgan province, the four people travelled to the eastern Kunar last year and joined the Islamic State group. The Hindu quoted a police official as saying over 100 people were killed in a bomb attack by US forces in Afghanistan. But there is no official confirmation yet. "What we have come to know is that the dead include Shabaz, his wife and their child besides another man. We are awaiting details," said the official.

Evidences are available how the mafia circle caused some girl students to stop going to school or of being absent often," said Kochai

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"What we have come to know is that the dead include Shabaz, his wife and their child besides another man. We are awaiting details," said the official. Eddy Vincent, step mother of two missing Kerawis who were suspected to have joined the IS, received a message the people four were killed a few days earlier. "The dead were identified as Mohammad Mansad, Shahab, his wife and their child."

The message was sent by Ashraf Mirza Mehran Vincent, his account. (Pajhwok)

KARUL - The Afghan civil law regards under 18 years old as children. The Afghan government should defend children`s rights and prevent their recruitment in armed forces. Baloch, son of Erfanullah was below the legal age recruitment in armed forces."

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Political Stability will Put Pakistan Even Better

Lahore: Federal Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday reiterated that even Afghanistan would power ahead of Pakistan in the near future of political stability is not brought in the country.

Bemoaning that the government`s mandate was not respected, the minister said, "If we did not bring political stability in the country, Afghanistan would surpass us as President Hamid Karzai had complained has taken time and now President Ashraf Ghani was on the others," he added.

While addressing at an event titled "Think and Grow" held under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC) organised in Lahore, he recalled that prior to 2013, the world looked at Pakistan as a safe haven for terrorists. He went on to say that frequent suicide bombings and let suicide bombs live, there was a fear of civil strife due to the energy crisis and the GDP was growing at a mere 0.7 percent. "The Pakistan Muslim League- Nawaz (PML-N) privileged over the energy crisis and executing CPEC after receiving a mandate from the people," the minister said.

Ahsan stated that with the start of CPEC, the world started to look at Pakistan through different lens. "In 2013, when the idea of CPEC was proposed, we were invited to make it a reality. Now it is proving to be a game changer. Development projects worth more than $100 billion have been added to the pipeline now," Ahsan added, stating that the first phase of the project was promised on revamping national energy projects and opening up the economy.

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