Kabul Blast
8 Dead, 400 Civilians Injured

KABUL - Wahidullah Mayer, spokesman for the Ministry of Public Health, has revised the injured toll and says eight people have died and 400 civilians were wounded in Friday's deadly truck bomb blast. Mayer said all 640 civilians and most sustained minor injuries from flying glass. However, he was unable to say whether the security forces had in any casualties. Mayer said that 400 people treated at Kabul hospitals were civilians. An Afghan security force confirmed that they had recorded injuries among their members but they would not give numbers. The full impact of Friday's deadly truck bomb blast in Kabul, was clear.

Japan Donates $2.9 Million to Afghan Refugees in Iran

Tehran - The people of Japan have contributed $2.9 million to the UNHCR in the framework of the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (59K). The regional, multi-year strategy supporting refugees, returns, sustainable reintegration and assistance to hosting countries.

Pakistan says not to involve in Afghan Taliban's Internal Rift

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told the parliament on Friday that his country does not want involvement in the controversy of the Afghan Taliban leadership. Asif further said that some Afghan Taliban leaders have expressed concerns that the group's new chief in the wake of Mullah Omar's death.

Mod Rejects Campbell's Remarks on Deserting Troops

KABUL - Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior on Thursday both rejected remarks made by General John F. Campbell, the former US Support Mission and the US Forces commander in Afghanistan, on Tuesday that at least 4,000 Afghan security forces are deserting their posts every month.

Steps Being Taken to Push TAPI Project Forward

KABUL - Pakistan and Turkmenistan are set to take a giant leap forward in executing the US-backed transcontinental pipeline project that will connect four countries in Central and South Asia, Pakistan and China.

Afghanistan Woos Indian Investment

NEW DELHI - Afghanistan's Ministry of Energy and Water has invited Indian companies to invest in the country's energy sector. Addressing the India-Afghanistan Energy Summit, organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Indian Investment (TAPI) gas pipeline, Ashgabat and French energy major are set to sign a memorandum of understanding for a service contract in the Central Asian state, says officials aware of the development.

ERC to Submit Findings of Electoral Reform Survey to Ghani

GHANZI CITY - Afghanistan's Electoral Reform Commission (ERC) is expected to submit the findings of its recent survey and recommendations on the election process reforms to President Ashraf Ghani in the very near future.

Protest Against Suicide Bomber Targets Police Academy in Kabul

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani has underlined on Friday that Afghanistan needs to develop political and religious consensus in the current state of affairs. Ghani represented these views in a meeting with a number of religious leaders, officials, politicians and tribal leaders, a statement from the President Palace said.

Sayyaf Calls Taliban's Dealings with Non-Sharia and Un-Islamic

KABUL - Abdul Rabil Sayyaf, leader of Pro-Democracy party and former Jaish leader criticized the Taliban on Friday and said their leadership and management system was "non-Sharia" and "un-Islamic" and said the insurgent group was a puppet to foreigners. He also accused them of holding the nation to ransom.

President Ashraf Ghani

Time Ripe for to Develop Religious, Political Consensus

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KABUL - Pakistan and Turkmenistan are set to take a giant leap forward in executing the US-backed transcontinental pipeline project that will connect four countries in Central and South Asia, Pakistan and China. The Pakistani newspaper Express Tribune reported that a new pipeline connecting Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) gas pipeline, Ashgabat and French energy major are set to sign a memorandum of understanding for a service contract in the Central Asian state, says officials aware of the development.

Talks with Chinese and Russian companies are also underway in order to select a consortium leader, which will finalize and implement the project.

MoMP Looks to Enforce Contract Signed with Chinese Firm for Amu River Oil Fields

KABUL - The Afghan government has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Chinese company Yuanjiang, an affiliate of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), in four areas of energy, including commercial and trade negotiations.

In the four years since its contract was signed, the Chinese National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) has reportedly conducted improper negotiations and not lived up to its agreement with the Afghan government, sources said.

A new contract has been signed with the Chinese firm.

The joint venture includes the construction of a gas field in the Amu River area.