KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani attended a ceremony on the completion of the Turkmenistan section of the key pipeline project, TAPI, on Friday. Senior officials from Afghanistan, India, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan had attended the ceremony. Ghani said Afghanistan will connect South Asia and Central Asia after more than a century of separation. Afghanistan’s policy is the connectivity policy, and Central Asia after more than a century of separation. South Asia will be connected with the Central Asia through Afghanistan after more than a century of separation. “A new era of connectivity is beginning in the future. Afghanistan will play an important role in connecting South Asia and Central Asia and will lead the region to prosperity.” (More on P4)(10)

Dostum Makes Suggestions to Govt Despite Being in Exile

KABUL - The office of the first vice president said some groups and the president are pressuring Dostum from returning home. The First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum, who has been in exile in Turkey for the past six months, said on Thursday that peace with the Taliban is impossible to attain without his participation in the process. Dostum, who marked the 6th anniversary ceremony of Amir Ali Sher Naseewe by phone, said all government leaders should make peace with each other before seeking peace with the Taliban. Naseewe—also known as Nazim—was a Turkmen poet, linguist, mystic, and painter who lived in Herat in the 11th century. Dostum said he is closely following events in Afghanistan with hope. “We should make peace between each other first, if we want peace in Afghanistan... There is only one way: talk.” (More on P4)(8)

Saudi Prince Comes Out in Support of Peace Process

KABUL - The Saudi Arabian crown prince also called on all parties involved in the peace process to support Afghanistan’s efforts. The Office of President Ashraf Ghani’s National Security Adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar on Thursday said that the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman has come out in full support of the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. “Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in his meeting with National Security Adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar stressed on the need for all parties involved in the peace process to support the process to get it (back) on track,” Atmar’s office said in a statement. Meanwhile, officials from the High Peace Council (HPC) have expressed hope that the recent efforts towards peace and reconciliation helps Afghanistan achieve this goal. According to Atmar’s office, during the meeting, the Saudi prince also stressed the need for collective efforts to fight the ‘child immigration detention.’ (More on P4)(10)

EU Urged to Ban Child Immigration Detention

Ahead of a key meeting of European Union (EU) institutions and Member States on issues relating to migration and asylum, the primary UN body monitoring child rights had urged EU countries to end the detention of children in the context of migration, a statement said on Thursday.

KABUL - “EU law should not allow for child immigration detention, even as a last resort, and the reform of the Common European Asylum System is a timely opportunity to ban this practice,” said Renate Winter, Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. EU law currently stipulates that migrant and asylum-seeking children may be placed in detention, as a last resort, if it is in their best interests. However, Winter stressed that “the claim that detention is necessary to protect children from going missing, being exploited or ‘abandoning’ is misguided. Detaining children, whether unaccompanied or on the basis of their or their parents’ immigration status, is never in the best interests of the child and constitutes a violation of the rights of the child.” “There can be no exceptions to this principle,” Winter said. “All EU Member States have enshrined the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and there should be no provisions in EU law that allow for practices that violate EU Member States’ international obligations.” The Committee on the Rights of the Child further emphasized that terminating entry or stay should not be equated to the commission of crimes. According to the Committee, although the possibility of detaining children as a last resort exists in criminal law, it does not apply to immigration proceedings as that would result in the best interests of the child. When it is in the best interests of the child to remand with his/her family, the Committee highlighted that the prohibition of detention extends to the child’s parents as well. In such cases, non-custodial solutions must be found for the entire family. “More on P4(11)

Contract Signed for the Completion of Lala Residential Apartments

KABUL - A contract was signed for the resumption of the construction work of hundreds of apartments in Lala residential complex. According to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH), the contract was signed by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing Sedat Mahamoud Naderi, Minister of Finance Iklil Hakimi, and Attorney General Farhad Hamidi. The construction... (More on P4)(12)

Samangan Traffic Accident Leaves 2 Dead 2 Injured

IBAK - Two people were killed and many injured in a traffic accident in Ibak, the capital of northern Samangan province, early on Thursday, an official said. Abdul Raazaq, head of the traffic accidents department, told Pajhwok Afghan News the accident happened around 4 am on Samangan-Ibakhan area. A vehicle carrying gas to Kabul collided with a... (More on P4)(13)

KANDAHAR CITY - With their number reaching 13 after inauguration of an advanced egg processing farm, the layer chicken industry in southern Kandahar province meets 40 percent of local demand. The newly-built professional farm is opened in Daman district and it has the capacity to produce up to 10,000 eggs a day. Mohammed Aman, owner of the farm, told Pajhwok Afghan News that despite the presence of other egg farms in Kandahar, he built a professional one equipped with advanced machineries for the first time. He said he brought the machineries from China and invested more than $150,000 in the farm. “Our 40,000 live hens, my farm... (More on P4)(14)