Security Officials Defend Drone Strategy as Necessary, Effective

KABUL - Despite the controversy that has surrounded them, U.S. drone strikes in Afghanistan and across the border in the Pakistani tribal belt have been crucial in weakening militant groups and reducing their safe havens in the more inaccessible parts of the region, Afghan security officials have said.

U.S. drone attacks have been running for years, serving as the main arm of the U.S. counterterrorism mission in Pakistan.

Afghanistan Wastes 36 Percent of Water Resources Annually

KABUL - Officials from the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) on Tuesday reported that a startling 36 percent of the country’s annual water supply flows into neighboring Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan without being utilized for the benefit of the Afghan public. Experts, meanwhile, have stressed that

Indo-Afghan Trade Likely to Touch $3b Soon

KOLKATA - Afghanistan is considering to open a consular office in west Bengal city of Kolkata to boost trade ties with the region while pitching to make Minar-e-Sharif in Afghanistan a sister city of Kolkata, Afghanistan’s ambassador to India said.

Speaking to reporters at a meeting organized by The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, Jama Mohammadi said: “I have suggested to my government to open a consular office in Kolkata. It is likely to boost trade relationship between Afghanistan and Robert in eastern India.”

Afghanistan’s economy has been facing a number of challenges in recent times, and the government is working hard to promote economic growth and development.

Mechanism to Deal with Droughts Being Evolved

KABUL - With drought gripping at least 14 districts in the country, the government is working on a mechanism to reach out to the hardest-hit areas with relief activities, said the president’s special representative on good governance and reforms on Tuesday.

After forming a gathering of representatives of foreign NGOs in Kabul, Ahmad Zia Massoud said insufficient rain and snowfall this year could threaten crops in many areas.

He said Afghanistan was in need of a mechanism that would help in providing assistance to drought-affected areas.

Wardak FC Fails to Appoint Administrative Board

MAIDAN SHARAH - The provincial council members of central Maidan Wardak province could not appoint the administrative board due to absence of some council’s members, officials said on Tuesday.

Dr. Naseeruddin Wardak, director Independent Elec-
tions. (More on P6, 4)

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