Projects worth 36m Afghans Completed in Samangan

AIBAK - More than 3,000 people would benefit from development projects worth 36.2 million Afghans, which have recently been completed in northern Samangan province, an official said on Tuesday.

Rural Rehabilitation and Development Director Mohammad Ali Daulat Shah said the projects were executed in 19 villages and in Aibak, the provincial capital. They cost 36.2 million Afghans, which had been provided by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development under the National Solidarity Programme (NSP).

The projects included buildings for nine social centres, four water reservoirs, retaining walls measuring 76 metres, a 400-metre irrigation canal, a 1,060-metre stream and 13 wells.

Residents of the areas expressed happiness over completion of the projects. (More on Pg.02)

Karzai Meets, Advises Successor “Almost Daily”

KARUL - Afghanistan’s retired president, Hamid Karzai, met his successor almost every day and advised him on key policy issues, he said in an interview, a role that could raise concerns in the West over ties with Kabul. The former leader’s relationship with the United States deteriorated sharply towards the end of more than a decade in power, but any hope foreign governments had of Karzai stepping quietly into retirement would appear to be misplaced. (More on Pg.01)

Deeper Pak-Afghan Ties to Help Tackle Challenges: Aziz

ISLAMABAD - Pak-

NATO Awards Montenegro Troops in Afghanistan

Montenegro's unit in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan has been awarded a NATO medal for its "outstanding contributions" to the allied operation, which has ended after 13 years.

KARUL - Montenegro’s contingent in the NATO-led ISAF operation in Afghanistan was awarded on Tuesday in a ceremony held at an ISAF base in northern Afghanistan.

“NATO medals have been awarded to members of the armed forces in recognition of the commitment and successful fulfillment of the ISAF mission’s tasks,” Montenegro’s Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

The unit of 15 members will end its six-month stint in Afghanistan on Wednesday. (More on Pg.03)

75 Norwegian Troops to Stay on: Envoy

KARUL - Seventy-five Norwegian troops would remain in Afghanistan post-2014 as part of NATO’s new mission to “train and support” Afghan forces, the country’s ambassador to Kabul said on Wednesday.

Moreover, Afghan army and police will take charge of their country’s security as the United Nations Security Assistance Mission would conclude. (More on Pg.02)

Afghanistan, Ukraine Dominate NATO Agenda in 2014

BRUSSELS - Thirteen years after its creation, NATO’s combat mission in Afghanistan, called the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), ends officially today and will be replaced by NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

The new non-combat mission will consist of about 12,000 troops focused on assisting, training and building Afghan National Security Forces. The 28 NATO members and 44 partner nations will contribute to the mission in different ways.

Besides Afghanistan, the conflict in Ukraine overshadowed the 28-nation Alliance’s... (More on Pg.01)

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