Afghanistan to Become Major Copper Producer: Ghani

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani hopes Afghanistan will become a giant copper and iron producer in the next two decades, his office said on Wednesday.

At a meeting with Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry officials during his recent visit to the UAE, Ghani highlighted the enormous investment opportunities offered through his administration.

A statement from the Presidential Palace quoted Ghani as telling investment incentives in mining, telecommunications, agriculture and civilian aviation sectors. While appreciating the UAE investment in different sectors of Afghanistan’s economy, he welcomed the Arab entrepreneurs to explore more opportunities in the conflict-devastated country.

"In the next 20 years, our country will become one of the world’s leading copper and iron-producing nations," the president said on Wednesday.

UAE trade leaders expressed their willingness to invest in aviations, telecom, mining, hotel investments and agriculture sectors, according to the statement, which said both sides agreed to enhance bilateral co-operation.

A day earlier, Abu Dhabi Crown (Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud)

Amended Draft Budget to Land in Parliament Next Week

Ministry of Finance
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

KABUL - After being rejected by the Wolesi Jirga, an amended draft budget for the current fiscal year would be presented to the lower house of parliament next week, a lawmaker said on Wednesday.

Wakil Serajeddin Hadi, a member of Parliament from the United Arab Emirates, said the council would consider the budget on Wednesday.

"It is the responsibility of all Afghan lawmakers to support the security forces because our safety is not assured, we can’t practice our constituencies as well," another member named Masoom Ali Ahmadi from Pakistan.

In addition, the parliamentary government has called on the United Arab Emirates to support the defense of the country. The United Arab Emirates also reiterated the need to support the security forces.

No Safe Havens for Terrorists in Afghanistan: Campbell

KARAH - NATO’s top commander in Afghanistan, US General John Campbell, said on Wednesday that joint military and intelligence forces of the international community would continue cooperating with Afghan security forces.

Campbell was meeting with Afghan officials during a meeting with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah, the statement from the latter’s office said.

The NATO commander said they would not allow Afghanistan to become a terrorist safe haven again, urging the unity government to continue efforts for fighting counter-terrorism.

In an interview with The New York Times, he said he was "worried" about the situation and the need for a comeback unless the US and Afghan forces help pressure on them.

Campbell arrived early in May in Afghanistan.

550 Schools Stay Closed Across the Country

MAZAR-I-SHARIF - Acting Minister of Education Mohammad Qasim Nang on Wednesday said that 1,000 schools have been closed in eastern areas of the province due to insecurity concerns.

Another 500 schools still remained closed in the militancy-hit areas, he said at the opening ceremony for a professional and technical training center in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province.

Most of the closed schools are situated in 10 insecure districts, depriving 25,000 students of getting education. But reliable sources revealed that a total of 1,200 schools remained closed across the country.

For his part, Nang said Kandahar was among the provinces where the number of closed schools was high.

All of the shut schools are located in Pashtun-majority districts, he explained.

Three years back, he recalled, the number of closed schools in the province exceeded 1,500. The conflict had killed education officials and students.

Over 400 officials, including teachers, have been killed in such incidents, he said.

IS Fighters Run Training Centre, Find Footloose in Farah

FARAH CITY - Gunmen linked to the Islamic State (IS) have established a training centre in the Shahdad district of western Farah province, local officials said on Wednesday.

The district police chief, Abdul Wahab Noori, said the Pajhwok Afghan News in the IS - a group fighting in Iraq and Syria - had emerged in ...

Karimov against Withdrawal of Int’l Forces from Afghanistan

BERKE - President Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov, said the withdrawal of peacekeeping forces from Afghanistan is a serious challenge for all Central Asian countries.

It is impossible to recognize the significance of the withdrawal of forces on the foundations of international security and stability, he added.

The presidency of inter-ethnic and inter-religious confrontation, said the President.

Kabul Police Foils Massive Terrorist Attack Plan

KABUL - The police in the heavily militarized Kabul have uncovered a large plan of terrorist to carry out coordinated attacks in the city, security sources said.

At least 17 suspected terrorists were arrested last night and police intelligence and special forces raided a house in Baghlan district of Kabul, Kabul Police Chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi told TOLOnews.

"Yesterday, we were informed that the insurgents are about to carry out a series of suicide attacks in the city to carry out a campaign of attacks," Rahimi said.

The police claimed suicide bombers blew themselves up during a hearing on Wednesday, said adding several...