Taliban Envoys in Islamabad amid Peace Push

KABUL - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Tuesday announced postponing the second Kabul Process conference for almost three weeks in order to make better preparations for the summit. The ministry officials said the UN Security Council (UNSC) postponed to hold a ‘special meeting’ about Afghanistan in near future. Naeem Ahmad Andisha, deputy foreign minister, while presenting a report about the ministry’s last year’s achievements, told reporters that the second meeting of the Kabul Process had to be delayed for 20 days. MoFA

3 Suspects Held after Rocket Attack on Diplomatic Quarter

KABUL - Three suspects have been arrested in connection with a missile attack on a sensitive area of the capital, an official said on Tuesday. Nasrat Rahimi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, told Pajhwok Afghan News an hour after the incident, three suspects were arrested by police on Monday night. Rahimi did not disclose the identities of the detainees, seeing further information would be shared with the media later on.

The attack happened at around 9.10pm. One of the rockets struck near 14 of the Wazir Akbar Khan diplomatic quarter. The Indian embassy building was attacked and damaged by a second rocket, which did not cause injuries, he said. An investigation is ongoing to determine where the rockets were fired from. (Pajhwok)

Agricultural Project Rolls out in Western Afghanistan

KABUL - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), launched the Promoting Value Chains-West project on Tuesday.

The project promotes inclusive growth and job creation in the agricultural sector by strengthening the linkages of producers and private enterprises to effectively link Afghan farmers to domestic and international markets. Improving agricultural value chains provides great potential for economic growth.

This three-year project will support sustainable agribusiness and livestock development by increasing what productivity, improving production and profitability of high value crops, enhancing technology utilization in the front-end industry, and building the institutional capacity of provincial and district government. (MoFA, Pajhwok)

Turkish Aid Agency Opens Sports Hall in Afghanistan

KABUL - The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) opened a sports hall for Afghan police at Hamid Karzai International Airport in capital Kabul on Tuesday. In a written statement, TIKA said an idle building at the airport had been turned into a sports hall that could host up to 80 people.

The hall includes a gym, a gym area where employees could relax, gymnastic apparatus and a cabin.

Turkey praised the two nations’ historic friendship and thanked Turkey for its support. TIKA. (MoFA, Pajhwok)

Rashid Khan is Back on IPL Auction List for New Season

KABUL - The Afghan National Cricket Team leg-spinner Rashid Khan is on the list of 36 top players for 2018 Indian Premier League (IPL) which will take place on January 27 and 28.

The reserve price for Rashid Khan and 35 other players will reportedly be about $130,000 USD. While no official announcement has been made by organiser, the final list of players for the auction will be finalized once all eight franchise teams submit the names of players they will be holding for, reported Express Koh.

The IPL early this week announced that a total of 1,122 players, including the likes of Chris Gayle, Yuvraj Singh, Irfan Pathan and Nasir Jamshed have signed up for the upcoming auction. According to Espncricinfo Rashid is abroad. (MoFA, Pajhwok)

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