India Receives First Shipment from Afghanistan Via Iran’s Chabahar Port

NEW DELHI - The first shipment from landlocked Afghanistan through the Iranian Chabahar port has arrived in India, marking a new beginning of trade ties between the two countries, bypassing Pakistan. The cargo arrived at the Mandira and Mundra port Wednesday morning under the TIR (“Transport Internatio- naux Routiers”) Convention that enables shipments to pass through countries without being opened at borders. “TIR will play a pivotal role in improving ease of doing business and pave the way for smoother and safer transport of goods across international borders and will help boost trade between India, Central Asia, Europe and Russia. It will act as a strong catalyst for moving goods using the....”(More on P4)...(8)

WASHINGTON - The State Department has hailed the in-progress negotiations between the United States and Taliban as the most sub- stantive talks to date “We’ve received reports back from Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad that they’ve had meaningful talks during our talks with the Taliban,” the department’s deputy spokesman said on Tuesday. Robert Palladino told a news conference in Washington the Taliban had agreed that peace would require both sides to fully address four core issues: counterterrorism assurances, troop withdrawal, intra-Af- ghan dialogue and a ceasefire. He added “In this round of talks, we were able to move to agreement in draft on the first two principles, counterterrorism assurances and troop withdrawal.” Once the draft agreement was finalized, he said, the Taliban and an inclusive Afghan nego- tiating team, including the government, would initiate a formal negotiation on a political settlement and a ceasefire. (More on P4)...(11)

Pakistan’s Minister for Petroleum Company Limited CEO Amanov, Asad Hayauddin and TAPI Pipeline project implementation has started. The agreement was signed by Pakistan’s Petroleum Secretary and TAPI Pipeline Company Limited CEO Ambassador Chakar Merov, said the country’s work is going on. (More on P6)...(11)

KABUL - At the head of a high- level delegation, President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday left Kabul for Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, to attend the 7th Global Baku Forum. A statement from the Presi- dential Palace said President Ghani would attend the Global Baku Forum and would also receive the Nazim Canerpi International Award. The statement said the presi- dent would also meet with the Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliev to discuss bilateral co- operation and regional issues. Afghanistan and Azerbaijan would also sign an agreement of cooperation in areas of in- formation technology, culture and railway. “TIR will play a pivotal role in improving ease of doing business and pave the way for smoother and safer transport of goods across international borders and will help boost trade between India, Central Asia, Europe and Russia. It will act as a strong catalyst for moving goods using the....”(More on P4)...(9)

As many as 450 guests from more than 70 countries are expected to attend the forum. The theme of the forum this year will be “New Global Foreign Policy”. “We are proud to host the “Role of big...” (More on P6)...(7)

KABUL - Acting Finance Minister and Chief Advisor on Infrastructure to the Presi- dent on Wednesday held a meeting with provincial cus- toms authorities on realizing the revenue target. A statement from the Minis- try of Finance said Deputy Minister of Finance for Cus- toms and Revenue was also present at the meeting. They discussed collection of revenue in a transparent way and completion of the target set. (More on P6)...(8)

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513 Cadets Complete Studies, Training at National Military Academy KABUL - Over 300 cadets from the National Military Academy of Afghanistan graduated on Tues- day, earning a bachelor’s degree and a commission in the Afghan military forces as a second lieu- tenant, according to a statement.

The National Military Academy of Afghanistan, part of the Mar- shal Fahim National Defense Uni- versity, is a four-year institution that combines academics with military training, providing both a four-year college education to its cadets, as well as preparing them to be leaders in the Afghan National Army (ANA) or Air Force. “NMA is producing the life blood of the Afghan National Army, both junior leaders now and the staff officers and senior commanders of the future Army”, said British Army Colonel Jer- emy Hague-Morgan, Director of the Army International Advisory Team, part of the Force Develop- ment Branch at the NATO Resolute Support mission.”The quality of the education and leadership...”(More on P6)...(12)

Meaningful Progress Made in Doha Talks: US

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