Nearly 300 Attorneys Protest Ghani’s Tests

KARUL - Roughly 300 attorneys were called to Afghanistan’s Palace to be tested on their knowledge of the law on President Ashraf Ghani’s decree, which has been determined as a way for the president to bring stability to the judicial institutions. The attorneys protested before the Presidential Palace on Wednesday refusing to agree for the tests, saying it was disrespectful to them as claimed to have practiced. (More on Pg 6)

Afghan Govt., Taliban Paced to Hold Direct Talks: Report

KARUL - The Afghan government and the Taliban are reportedly preparing to hold face-to-face talks in the next few days as a result of efforts by Pakistan and other stakeholders. Pakistani media reported on Wednesday that the Express Tribune reported the two sides had been in contact but it was the first time that they would sit across the negotiating table to discuss the future of Afghanistan. It reported that Daniel Fedlin, the US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, congratulated the Taliban and Pakistan Army chief Gen. Nishat Staniz on Thursday for the news. The US did not include the Taliban in the upcoming talks but it fully backed the fresh moves for the political solution, said the report. The report added that efforts were being made in arranging the talks in Kabul as an effort to show that the process in Afghanistan and the US would not be part of the upcoming talks but it has fully backed the fresh moves for the political solution, said the report. The report added that efforts were being made in arranging the talks in Kabul as an effort to show that the process in Afghanistan and the US would not be part of the upcoming talks but it has fully backed the fresh moves for the political solution, said the report.

Russia Ready to Invest in Transport, Housing Sectors

KARUL - Russia’s Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Zamir Kabaev, on Wednesday said entrepreneurs from his country were eager to invest in Afghanistan’s transportation and housing sectors. The Russian diplomat expressed these views during a meeting with President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani in Kabul, a statement from the Presidential Palace said. Ghani said: “We have formulated our foreign policy.” (More on Pg 6)

HPC Says it’s Unaware of Fresh Reconciliation Initiative

KARUL - The High Peace Council (HPC) on Wednesday clarified matters related to the panel, saying it had never been acknowledged by the president personally and it was being kept unaware about the fresh developments. Masoud Arefi Bahadur, director general of the HPC, told Pajhwok Afghan News on Wednesday that the HPC had never been aware of the initiative and was not aware of the meeting that government representatives, President Ashraf Ghani himself was in charge of the initiative that reportedly involved Pakistan and some other Muslim countries, the officials added. He said the president had decided to restructure the peace council. (More on Pg 5)

President Orders Release of Photographer Held in 2006

KARUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday signed orders for the release of Afghan photographer Najibullah Musadeq, the presidential spokesman said.

UAE Urged to Help Resolve Sheffield Zayed University Problems

SHOFIT CITY - Mohammad Rashed Al-muwaihi, the chancellor of Sheffield Zayed University (SZU) in southeastern Afghanistan, reportedly says the institution is making progress but needs donor assistance for further fast-track implementation. In an exclusive interview with HPC, the president added that the government would be entitled to exclusive interviews with the president. HPC, the president added that the government would be entitled to exclusive interviews with the president.