Ghani Launches G7+ Summit in Kabul

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday said 600 Afghan students would be sent to Pakistan for higher studies under the Prime Minister Scholarship for Afghan Students this year. Speaking at a ceremony marking Pakistan Day (March 23) at the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul, Syed Abrar Hussain said almost 2,200 Afghan students had already been sent to Pakistan for higher studies in the programme during the last four years. The Pakistan Day ceremony started with national anthem and hoisting of Pakistani flag by Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain, a statement from the Pakistani Embassy said. Representatives of Pakistani community in Afghanistan and embassy officials attended the ceremony.

Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain, in his brief address, highlighted the historical significance of the Day and paid tributes to... (More on P4)...(1)

600 Afghan Students to Get Scholarship this Year: Pakistani Envoy

Lawmakers Seek End to Culture of Acting Officials

KABUL - Some Wolesi Jirga members on Wednesday said the most important task for the government was to improve the security situation, calling for an end to the culture of acting officials. The lower house last year approved the law on acting officials, banning officials from performing duty for more than two months in acting capacity. The law in one chapter and three articles demands the government introduce a new law to the parliament for a vote of confidence within 30 days of rejecting the earlier norms by the house. But against the law, Masoom Stanekzai has been serving as acting defence minister for one year after he was rejected by lawmakers. Masoud Andarabi has been appointed as acting head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) five months back and Gen. Taj Mohammad Jhalwal was recently promoted as acting Interior Minister. Speaking at today’s session, lawmaker Obaidullah Barakzi said the president had failed to complete his Cabinet since the unity government was formed two years ago. “Currently clashes are underway in most parts of the country, some provinces are being threatened by the enemy due to irresponsible behavior of officials.” The situation may not return to normal unless responsible individuals are hired at key posts.” Another MP Mir Dad Najrabi welcomed... (More on P4)...(2)

Rights Group Calls for End to Military Use of Schools

KABUL - The military use of schools discourages student enrollment and increases teacher absences, an international rights group said on Wednesday. Civil society and Afghan Ashraf Ghani rang in the new academic year. Girl students often bore the brunt of disruptions because parents were wary of sending daughters to schools occupied by armed men, the Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement. Afghanistan needed... (More on P4)...(3)

Taliban Show Readiness for Prisoner Swap

KABUL - Talibans on Wednesday said they are willing to start the process of swapping prisoners with government. A statement released by the group, unsigned by one of its spokesmen Qari Mohammad Yousef Ahmadali, stated that they have prepared a mechanism which could be applied through a commission in an environment of confidence. The statement further states that Taliban have also talked to a number of neutral organizations and informed them about their readiness for the prisoners swap. According... (More on P4)...(4)

Japan Pledges Over $63m to Afghanistan for Irrigation, Roads and Fiscal Support

KABUL - The Government of Japan has contributed over USD 63.04 million to Afghan Government to support improvement of irrigation systems and rural access in Afghanistan. The funding, contributed through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), administered by the World Bank, will support the following two on-going projects, which are essential to meet the country’s needs to improve the lives of the people of Afghanistan, and the recurrent cost expenditures of the Afghan government. (More on P4)...(5)

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