Rouhani Wins Iran’s Presidential Election

TEHRAN - Iran’s incumbent President Hassan Rouhani won the country’s presidential election, Iran’s Interior Minister, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, announced here on Saturday.

Out of 41,220,131 counted votes, which accounts for 99.7 percent of the total votes cast on Friday election, Rouhani secured 23,549,616 votes or 57 percent of the ballots, Rahmani Fazli said.

His nearest challenger Ebrahim Raisi got 15,786,449 votes, amounting to 38.5 percent of the ballots, he said.

According to the law, the candidates have three days to file their complaints about the results of the election with Iran’s Guardian Council of...

Survey, Mapping of TAPI Project to be Completed within Coming Months

KABUL – Survey and mapping of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Pipeline Project is to be completed within next four months, officials said Saturday.

The TAPI project has been launched by Turkmenistan since the 1990s. But starting work on the pipeline has been delayed reportedly because of the problem of crossing Afghanistan. Its construction work re-begun by Turkmenistan.

Dostum Departs for Turkey

KABUL – First Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum has left for Turkey, officials said Saturday, in what could be another long exile for the former warlord following allegations that he raped and tortured a political rival.

Dostum departed late Friday in the middle of a criminal investigation...

NATO Renews Support for Afghanistan’s Security

KABUL – NATO allies and partners have underscored the importance to continue backing the Afghan forces through training, advising and assistance as part of the Resolute Support mission. At their meeting in Brussels...

Afghanistan Policy Review to Complete Soon: Mattis

WASHINGTON - US defense secretary James Mattis has denied making any recommendations to President Donald Trump on the number of troops in Afghanistan, but hoped the ongoing review would be completed soon.

“On the number of troops, no, I have not made a recommendation yet,” Mattis told reporters at a joint Pentagon-Room conference with Gen Joseph...

Ghani to Attend Arab Islamic American Summit in Riyadh

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani flew out of Kabul on Saturday afternoon for Saudi Arabia, where he will join leaders from 20 other Muslim-majority nations – a trip that coincides with U.S. President Donald Trump’s visit to Riyadh.

In a press release issued on Saturday afternoon, the Presidential Palace said Ghani would be in Riyadh for two days and will meet with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Saudi royals as well as leaders from other countries.

The president is accompanied by Finance Minister Eklil Hakimi, the head of his administrative affairs department Abdul Salam Rahimi, presidential adviser Moham...