Ghani Cancels Controversial Project with Kabul Bank Criminal

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Friday visited Logar province, about 50 kilometers south of Kabul, to review the security situation in the province, said a state- ment from President Palace (ARG).

Accompanied by the Interior Minister Nomul- huq Olom, Ghani held a meeting with security officials where he was briefed on the situation, Ghani event- ually decided the cancellation of the contract signed with a bankrupt debtor of Kabul Bank.

Khalilullah Frozi – one of the big- gest convicts during the em- bassy of Kabul Bank's over $900 million USD - was freed from prison on Wednesday to in- augurate the “Smart City Township” project he signed with the Ministry of Urban Development. At the inaugural ceremony of the project worth $900 million USD, the government officials said the program was aimed at helping the debtors to become able to re- pay their obligations. However, other serious problems on the government, Ghani even-

Ghani Visits Logar, Meets Officials over Security Situation

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Accompanied by the Interior Minister Nomul- huq Olom, Ghani held a meeting with security officials where he was briefed on the situation, and also new measures were discussed to im- prove the security of eastern Logar, the state- ment added. During the meeting, the Interior Chief of Logar demanded the president to increase the number of security forces in the insurgent-beset province. The Army officials also asked for additional mili- tary equipment and re-inforcement troops, the statement noted. Meanwhile, Ghani praised the sacrifices of the forces and en- phasized that the forces should be commended on their courage and sac- rifices. (More on Pg.52)

Turkmenistan Starts Work on $10bn Gas Pipeline

ASHGABAT - Energy-rich Turk- menistan's leader has ordered the start of construction on a pipeline carrying gas from the former Soviet state to India, Pak- istan and Afghanistan, their government said on Saturday.

“Turkmenistan’s President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov or- dered state companies Turkmen- gaz and Turkmengazneft to begin building the isolated republic’s section of the pipeline, state media said.

Overall, the pipeline will stretch 1,800 kilometres and is likely to cost more than $10 billion. The Turkmenistan official news- paper also said the government expects the gas link, with an annual capacity of 33 billion cubic metres, to be fully operational by 2021. The report also said the government intends to export the gas to India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan- Pakistan-China (TAPI) project, a $7.5 billion project to build a pipeline carrying gas from Turkmenistan to China, has been stuck amid delays and land acquisition problems. (More on Pg.48)

India to Provide Lethal Weapons to Afghanistan

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Hamid Karzai Foundation Launched

KABUL - A welfare foundation under the name of the former presi- dent of Hamid Karzai has been in- troduced in Kabul on Saturday. Karzai said in the inaugu- ration ceremony that the af- ferent world countries. He said that Hamid Kar- zai Foundation will keep up with the achievements accomplished during the past 13 years in education sector and assist youth to improve in providing them more educational opportunities to the coun- try and abroad. He added that Hamid Karzai Foundation will also work for cultural de- velopment and introduce Afghan culture, promi-

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Quote of the Day
A drop of wisdom is better than a sea of gold
Greek Proverb

Policy Round up 167 Suspects in Kabul

KABUL - Kabul police have registered 73 crimi- nal cases including terror- ism, kidnapping and robery in last two weeks. Kabul police chief said Saturday.

Kabul police chief said in a press conference that 167 suspects have been rounded up from differ- ent parts of the city in connection with these crimes.

Major General Abdul Rahim Baloti told re- porters that among the arrested suspects some are members of the group that recently kidnapped a child and demanded money from his family. He said the child was re- covered and handed over to his family without ful- filling demands of the kidnappers. The arrested suspects also include people who were transporting weapons and using illegal trans- missions.

This comes as terrorist groups including Talibran and Haqqani Network are trying to create more security challenges for se- curity forces. (KP)