illegal mining poses security challenge to afghanistan: eu

EU and Afghan officials met on Wednesday to discuss challenges facing the mining sector, which is also impacting the country’s economy.

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani’s Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish on Wednesday said illegal mining poses serious threats to Afghanistan’s national security and stability. European Union Head of Delegation Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon said illegal mining in the country has been rising dangerously and that the EU was committed to helping Afghanistan curb the problem.

On Wednesday, the European Union Delegation in Afghanistan and Parliament of Afghanistan held a joint high level conference on “Challenges to the Extractive Industries and Impact of Illegal Mining on Security and Stability in Afghanistan.”

Delegates discussed challenges and opportunities facing the mining sector in the country. “Illegal mining is not related to a remote conflict in a distant time! Illegal mining is happening in Afghanistan, literally on our gate, and it is happening now. This creates for all of us an obligation to address it,” Mayaudon said.

In addition, the natural resources committee of parliament has said that Dashti is trying to take control of a number of mines in the country to fuel its war machine.

At the conference, participants said illegal mining by militant groups and local leaders was playing a significant role in the deteriorating security situation in the country.

“We unfortunately have not managed to use our natural resources to ensure a prosperous and comfortable life for the residents of this country,” said Danish.

“Regretting the... (More on P4)...(11)

Afghanistan’s First ‘Election Museum’ Opens in Bamyan

BAMYAN CITY - A list of six-its-kind ‘Election Museum’ that chronicles Afghanistan’s electoral journey with photographs, documents and technical items was inaugurated in central Bamyan province on Tuesday.

The museum was officially inaugurated by chief of electoral bodies and members from Afghanistan and South Asia with the presence of Najibullah Zazi, vice president of Bamyan City, the provincial capital.

Photos of electoral proceedings, ballot papers, election calendars and technical items such as satellite telephones, cameras, hand torches, colors and ballot boxes - have been put on display at the election museum, the live of its kind in Afghanistan.

Abdul Razzaq Sarasi, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) spokesman, said the museum’s inauguration ceremony that participation of electoral authorities from seven Asian countries in the museum’s inauguration meant those countries supported democracy in Afghanistan.

He said next year’s parliamentary and district council elections would be held in a ‘transparent and just’ manner and all eligible voters would be given new voter cards as the previous cards had been destroyed and wouldn’t be used in the elections.

Ali Shah Misbah, IEC head for Bamyan, said Bamyan people had always... (More on P4)...(8)

Taliban Impede Anti-Polio Vaccination Campaign in Paktika

SHARANA - The Taliban militants impede antipolio vaccination campaign in the district and capital of southeastern Paktika province, health official said on Wednesday.

Wali Gul Kabriri, provincial public health director, said Taliban militants were not allowing an anti-polio drive prepared for launch in the province.

“Taliban banned the drive for unknown reasons for a very long time,” he said, adding they would talk with local tribal elders to mediate and help the problem resolved.

Khalid Daul, a resident of the area said, militants had warned the team not to make their children vaccinated.

He requested the Taliban to allow the vaccination campaign for the sake of their children’s health.

However... (More on P4)...(9)

Indo-Afghan Trade Show Opens in New Delhi

NEW DELHI — India’s trade ties with Afghanistan, along with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), opened the first “Passage to Prosperity: India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show” here on Wednesday.

The event brings together more than 200 representatives from India and more than 800 Indian participants to forge new business connections and discuss potential investment opportunities, USAID said in a statement.

It said the trade and investment show was designed for Afghan companies to showcase the best of... (More on P4)...(12)

Afghans Can’t Claim Responsibility for Afghanistan’s Peace And Security

KABUL - The foreign minister of Pakistan Khawaja Asaf has claimed that Pakistan cannot take responsibility for the peace and security of Afghanistan as he lashed out against accusations against Afghanistan and India for supporting terrorists.

Asaf made the remarks during a seminar in New York and also slammed the United States for the military approach to end the Afghan war, saying Washington cannot succeed in Afghanistan by wage war. He rejected that Pakistan provided safe havens to the terror groups and said it was Afghanistan and India that supports terrorism, claiming that those groups exist in India and that the country uses the Afghan soil for the attacks in Pakistan.

The remarks by Asaf came as Islamabad is scrambling to avoid pressure since the United States announced its new policy for Afghanistan and South Asia with... (More on P4)...(13)

Mol Warns of Explosions in Kabul Overnight

KABUL - The ministry of interior said it had recovered a large cache of weapons and explosive devices including a mortar, an RPG and suicide vests among others.

Four Taliban attackers who launched an hours-long rocket attack on the civilian and military airport in Kabul city have been killed but eyewitnesses report heavy clashes are still ongoing in the area.

Mol officials say however that a large cache of weapons and explosive devices was found in a house insurgents were using.

The officials said of the four attackers - two attackers detonated suicide... (More on P4)...(10)

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