

Jalalabad Chance of Rain 20°C 10°C	Ghazni Clear 3°C -8°C	Kandahar Clear 16°C 7°C	Mazar Clear 22°C 11°C	Herat Cloudy 19°C 9°C	Bamiyan Clear -3°C -7°C	Kabul Chance of Rain 9°C 1°C
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India Receives First Shipment from Afghanistan Via Iran's Chabahar Port

The 570 tonnes of goods were originally shipped from Zaranj, in western Nimroz province of Afghanistan on 24 February. Flagging off the shipment, President Ashraf Ghani expressed hope that with the opening of the Chabahar route, the country's exports to India would increase to 25 billion in the next one year.



NEW DELHI - The first shipment from landlocked Afghanistan through the Iranian Chabahar port has arrived in India, marking a new beginning of trade ties between the two countries, bypassing Pakistan. The cargo arrived at the Mumbai and Mundra

port Wednesday morning under the TIR ("Transports Internationaux Routiers") Convention that enables shipments to pass through countries without being opened at borders. "TIR will play a pivotal role in improving ease of doing business

and pave the way for smoother and safer transport of goods across international borders and will help boost trade between India, Central Asia, Europe and Russia. It will act as a strong catalyst for moving goods using the ... (More on P4)...(8)

Ghani Leaves for Azerbaijan to Attend Global Baku Forum

KABUL - At the head of a high-level delegation, President Ashraf Ghani on Wednesday left Kabul for Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, to attend the 7th Global Baku Forum.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said President Ghani would attend the Global Baku Forum and would also receive the Nizami Ganjavi International Award.

The statement said the president would also meet with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev to discuss bilateral cooperation and regional issues. Afghanistan and Azerbaijan would also sign an agreement of cooperation in areas of in-



formation technology, culture and railway during Ghani's visit to the country. The 7th Global Baku Forum, organized by the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, will take place on March 14-16.

As many as 450 guests from more than 70 countries are expected to attend the forum. The theme of the forum this year will be "New Global Foreign Policy". The panel meetings entitled "Role of big ... (More on P4)...(7)

Customs Revenue Target Realization Discussed in Kabul



KABUL - Acting Finance Minister and Chief Advisor on Infrastructure to the President on Wednesday held a meeting with provincial customs authorities on realizing the revenue target. A statement from the Minis-

try of Finance said Deputy Minister of Finance for Customs and Revenue was also present at the meeting. They discussed collection of revenue in a transparent way and completion of the target set ... (More on P4)...(9)

513 Cadets Complete Studies, Training at National Military Academy

KABUL - Over 500 cadets from the National Military Academy of Afghanistan graduated on Tuesday, earning a bachelor's degree and a commission in the Afghan military forces as a second lieutenant, according to a statement.



The National Military Academy of Afghanistan, part of the Marshal Fahim National Defense University, is a four-year institution that combines academics with military training, providing both a four-year college education to its cadets, as well as preparing them to be leaders in the Afghan National Army (ANA) or Air Force.

"NMAA is producing the life blood of the Afghan National Army, both junior leaders now and the staff officers and senior commanders of the future Army", said British Army Colonel Jeremy Pughe-Morgan, Director of the Army Institutional Advisory Team, part of the Force Development Branch of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

"The quality of the education and leadership ... (More on P4)...(12)

Meaningful Progress Made in Doha Talks: US



WASHINGTON - The State Department has hailed the just-concluded negotiations between the United States and Taliban as the most substantive talks to date. "We've received reports back from Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad that they've had meaningful

progress," the department's deputy spokesman said on Tuesday.

Robert Palladino told a news conference in Washington the Taliban had agreed that peace would require both sides to fully address four core issues: counterterrorism assurances, troop withdrawal, intra-Afghan dialogue and a ceasefire. He added "In this round of talks, we were able to move to agreement in draft on the first two principles, counterterrorism assurances and troop withdrawal."

Once the draft agreement was finalized, he said, the Taliban and an inclusive Afghan negotiating team, including the government, would initiate intra-Afghan negotiations on a political settlement and a ceasefire.

... (More on P4)...(10)

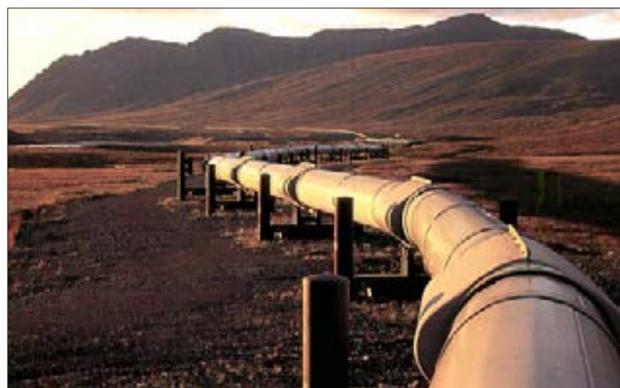
TAPI Pipeline: Pakistan, Turkmenistan Ink Host Govt Agreement

KABUL - Pakistan and Turkmenistan have signed an agreement on implementation of the \$8 billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.

The two sides also agreed on establishing a working group to finalise an agreement on a transmission line of up to 1,000MW electricity.

The deal will let Pakistan's Interstate Gas Company enter a formal technical implementation agreement for the ground-breaking ceremony for the section of the pipeline in Pakistan within two to three months.

Similar ceremonies for the construction of about a 200km pipeline in Turkmenistan and about 800km in Afghanistan have already taken place and



project implementation has started. The agreement was signed by Pakistan's Petroleum Secretary Mian Asad Hayatuddin and TAPI Pipeline Company Limited CEO Amanov. Pakistan's Minister for Petroleum

Ghulam Sarwar Khan, Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov and Energy Minister Döwrän Rejepow attended the signing ceremony. Meredov said his country was working on ... (More on P4)...(11)

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