

Quote of the Day

Force is all-conquering, but its victories are short-lived

Abraham Lincoln

16th president of US (1809 - 1865)

US Must Address Waste, Fraud in Afghan Aid

KABUL - With Washington set to send billions of dollars in fresh aid to Afghanistan despite the military drawdown, the U.S. official in charge of auditing assistance programs said that "it's not too late" to address the fraud and mismanagement that has bedeviled the 14-year effort to rebuild the country.

The military intervention launched after the Sept. 11 attacks has cost the United States \$1 trillion, including some \$110 billion in aid aimed at rebuilding one of the poorest, most violent



and most corrupt countries on earth. To this day Afghanistan relies on foreign aid as it battles an increasingly potent Taliban insurgency.

But John Sopko, who has spent more than three years probing U.S.-funded projects as the special investigator general for Afghanistan reconstruction (SIGAR), said the U.S. government is partly to blame for the misused funds.

"What I'm identifying are not just Afghan or Afghan-related problems, ... (More on P4)...(1)

\$13m Projects were 'Unsuccessful': Baghlan Peace Council



KABUL - Baghlan high peace council has spent more than \$13 million as part of government's peace initiatives since the peace council officially started its activities in the province, but they have confirmed that the projects were "unsuccessful", officials said on

Thursday. Meanwhile, a number of civil society activists in Baghlan have said that if the money had been spent in the right way, there would be no more violence in the province. "\$13 million USD was spent on various projects in ... (More on P4)...(2)

Erdogan-Putin Meeting in Paris Possible: Turkish Presidency

ANKARA - A meeting between Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the coming climate summit in Paris on later this month is possible, but no time has been set for a bilateral meeting at the moment, said Turkish presidential sources on Friday. Erdogan had requested a meet-



ing with his Russian counterpart Putin in Paris, Russia said on Friday.

"A proposal from the Turkish side about a ... (More on P4)...(3)

Russia Increases Focus on Afghan-Central Asia Borders

MOSCOW - As insecurity increases in northern Afghanistan, Russian forces have beefed up forces along the bordering areas between Afghanistan and Cen-

tral Asian countries. According to reports, Russian and Tajik security forces have closed the cross-border between Afghanistan ... (More on P4)...(4)

Selecting Committee Ready to Announce New Commissioners

KABUL - A member of the Selecting Committee of Electoral Commissions declared that the committee is technically ready to begin work but waits for the presidential decree.

Naeem Ayoub Zada, member of selecting committee noted that all the members of electoral commissions will be dismissed and new commissioners will be introduced. ... (More on P4)...(5)

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