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OIC, US, China and Iran Praise Poppy Ban in Afghanistan



The Organization for Islamic Cooperation, Iran and US Charge d'Affairs Ian McCarry recently welcomed the Islamic Emirate's ban on poppy cultivation across Afghanistan.

OIC Secretary-General H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha praised the Islamic Emirate's

decision to ban poppy cultivation and said the cultivation of alternative crops, and rehabilitation programs for drug addicts, should be a part of the international community's assistance to Afghanistan.

McCarry said on Twitter that outlawing the production of narcotics in...Cont P#4

Officials: Major Canal's First Phase Will Be Complete in One Year



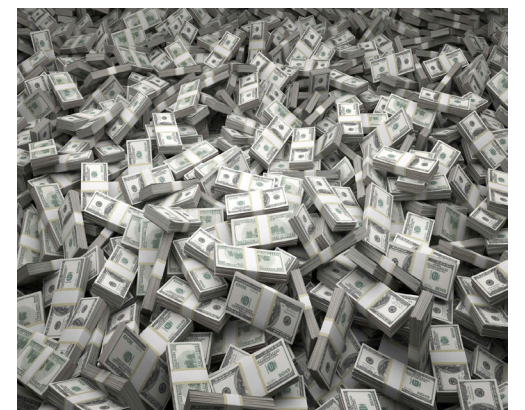
The first phase of Qosh Tapa, a major water canal project in Afghanistan, will be completed and inaugurated in a year, officials from the National Development Corporation (NDC) said.

NDC's operational deputy, Reyazuddin Sharifi, said the first portion of the canal will be 46km long and its budget will be paid by IEA.

"The work on this project will start in different areas and more technical employees and engineers will be involved as the project goes ahead," he said.

Qosh Tapa canal is 280km long and 100 meters wide. It will begin...Cont P#4

\$2.44 Billion Pledges by Donors to Overcome Economic Challenges in Afghanistan



The UN held a high-level virtual pledging event in cooperation with the United Kingdom, Germany and Qatar on Afghanistan, where a total of amount of \$2.44 billion had been promised.

The event was attended by 41 representatives of countries and aid organizations.

The UN earlier said it was seeking \$4.4 billion to overcome the economic challenges in Afghanistan.

The European Union announced 113 million euro for vulnerable people in Afghanistan as well as Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan...Cont P#4

Passport Processing Resumes in Kabul



The General Directorate of Passports restarted the online passport registration process for citizens in Kabul.

Shafiullah Tassal, spokesman of the directorate of passports, said that 2,000 applications would be accepted daily, and the number may increase to 3,000 after the month of Ramadan.

Passport applicants welcome the move and stressed on further simplification of the process.

However, officials at the passport directorate said that the process of distributing passports in the provinces will begin after the month of Ramadan. #

Deputy PM Inaugurates Qashqari Oil Wells in Sar-e-Pul



Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate, inaugurated the Qashqari oil wells in Sar-e-Pul province.

Mullah Baradar said that 200 tons of oil will be extracted daily from the Qashqari wells, and the income generated through this will be spent on the reconstruction and renovation of various parts of the country.

The Deputy Prime Minister added that the Islamic Emirate is making efforts to use the country's mines.

According to the ministry, the Qashqari Block has ten oil wells, and the amount of oil extracted from it will reach up to two hundred tons per day. There are currently 9 oil wells operating here.

"We have not signed a contract yet. The Islamic Emirate is extracting the oil itself," said Shahabuddin Delavar, acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum.

By extracting oil from Qashqari wells, the Islamic Emirate will reportedly earn up to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars a day...Cont P#4

1.5M Electronic IDs Distributed in Past 8 Months



The National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) said that in the past eight months, 1.5 million electronic identity cards have been distributed across the country.

Mohammad Halim Rapi, spokesman of the NSIA, said there are 73 electronic ID card distribution centers in Kabul and provinces, and that 1,000 people apply to these centers daily to obtain electronic identity cards. #

Implementation of TAPI Project to Begin Soon

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedov in a meeting...Cont P#4

Khairkwha Shopping Complex to Rebuild



Khairkwha complex, a major market of electronic devices, was destroyed after catching fire in 2018, but is set to be rebuilt by several companies in cooperation with the government.

The construction of the complex will cost \$33 million.

According to the private sector officials, the construction of the complex will provide jobs to at least 12,000 people in the country.

"The complex will belong to us for a period of 30 years and after that it belongs to the government and the government will receive all of the income from it," said Mukhtar Sharifi...Cont P#4

Kabul Appreciates Growing Ties with Russia

The caretaker government of Afghanistan a day after the handover of the Afghan embassy in Moscow to the Islamic Emirate's envoy, said the move will strengthen diplomatic relations between the countries...Cont P#4

OIC, US, China and Iran Praise Poppy...



Afghanistan is a positive step.

“Having a healthy and licit agricultural sector will help Afghanistan’s economy and ultimately the Afghan people,” said Ian McCarry.

In the meantime, Iranian officials said that Iran welcomes any reduction in the cultivation of poppies and the production of narcotics in Afghanistan.

Beijing said it appreciated the recent decision of the Islamic Emirate to decree a nationwide ban on poppy cultivation and said it is ready to “further deepen” counter-narcotics cooperation with Afghanistan as well as with regional countries.

“China appreciates the measures taken by the Afghan interim government,” China Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a Press Conference.

Afghan officials said the government will make efforts to provide an alternative harvest for farmers and as well as new jobs for the people. “The government will attempt to bring alternative harvests and to provide employment opportunities and to start projects,” said Bilal Karimi, Deputy spokesman of the Islamic Emirate.

Earlier, the supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate, Sheikh Mawlawi Hebatullah Akhundzada, in a decree banned the cultivation of poppy and other narcotics across the country. #

Implementation of TAPI Project to...



in Ashgabat discussed Afghanistan, regional joint projects, connectivity and stability among other matters in the interest of both countries, according to reports by Indian media outlets.

“Cooperation in energy was one of the key areas of our discussions today. On the TAPI pipeline, I suggested that issues related to security of the pipeline and key ... principles maybe addressed in expert and technical level meetings,” Kovind said. Meanwhile, the Islamic Emirate says that security is maintained for TAPI project and that the project’s implementation will start soon.

Burhan Afghan, spokesman of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum said that there are some issues, such as land acquisition, tax and other technical issues and a team from four relevant ministries is working on them. #

Deputy PM Inaugurates Qashqari Oil...



Economists say that the use of the country’s oil fields will have an important role in the economy and self-sufficiency of the country.

“Undoubtedly, the launch of such well-known projects, which can contribute to the Afghan economy between \$100,000 and \$150,000 a day and also produce 200 tons or more of oil per day, will create great hope for the people of Afghanistan,” said Hamidullah Yalani, an economist. #

\$2.44 Billion Pledges by Donors...

However, the Islamic Emirate said it will monitor the distribution of aid provided by the international community.

“We monitor the procedures of its implementation. All the actions taken inside the country are under the supervision of the Islamic Emirate,” said Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesman for the Islamic Emirate. #

Officials: Major Canal's First Phase Will Be...



in Kaldar district of Balkh province; crossing through Jawzjan and Faryab provinces.

The project is intended to irrigate 580,000 acres of land which have been deprived of water for years due to drought.

“Millions of people will benefit; their lands will be irrigated. When you have water, you have everything,” Mohammad, a Balkh resident said.

“The people were waiting for the construction of this canal for years and now it is being turned into reality,” said Wahidullah Afghanzoy, another resident of Balkh.

Islamic Emirate spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said wheat production will increase drastically in the north of the country once the canal is operational.

“By achieving the goals set for this project, Afghanistan will become self-sufficient in terms of wheat,” he said. #

China's National Petroleum Corporation Mulls Investing in Afghanistan

During a visit to Kabul, officials from a Chinese company said they are interested in investing in Afghanistan. The head of the corporation (CNPCI), said in a meeting with Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime Minister, that the company wants to invest in Afghanistan.

During the meeting, Abdul Salam Hanafi welcomed the company’s interest and said that now, with the provision of security, the grounds for domestic and foreign investments in Afghanistan has been prepared.

Hanafi has stated that the Islamic

Emirate is cooperating with foreign businessmen and investors in providing security and facilitating the investment process.

CNPCI is China’s state-owned oil and gas company, which is China’s largest energy company.

China, meanwhile, recently hosted a meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan’s neighbors.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Amir Khan Muttaqi, who attended the meeting asked international companies to invest in Afghanistan. #

US Pledges \$204M in Humanitarian Aid for Afghans

The United States pledged to provide nearly \$204 million in humanitarian assistance to help the people of Afghanistan. The pledge was made at the high-level “Pledging Event on Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan.”

The US Department of State said that this new funding includes nearly \$134 million from the Department of State and more than \$70 million from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), continuing America’s commitment to the Afghan people.

This assistance from the United States will support the scaled-up humanitarian response in Afghanistan and neighboring countries through independent humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), by funding the efforts and activities outlined in both the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Afghanistan and 2022 Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan. #

Kabul Appreciates Growing Ties...

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Afghan embassy in Moscow was handed over to the Islamic Emirate’s diplomat, adding that the Islamic Emirate thank the Russian Federation for accrediting its representative.

Officials of the Islamic Emirate assert they have the right to lead Afghan embassies to interact with world accountably.

“The government’s envoy received credentials from Moscow. We thank Russia for this move and hope to provide consular services for our compatriots in that country,” said Inamullah Samangani, deputy spokesman of the Islamic Emirate.

According to officials, Afghan diplomats have started missions in various countries including China, Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and some Gulf and African countries. #

Khairkwha Shopping Complex...



a member of the private sector. “Of course, during this 30 years, 70 percent of the profits belongs to us and 30 percent of the profits go to the government budget.”

The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) urged the government to provide facilities to the traders and investors inside the country.

“The traders bring money and invest it—make factories and produce materials. The

people should also use their domestic products,” said Khanjan Alokozai, an ACCI member.

The Kabul municipality said that it has planned several economic projects in capital Kabul.

More than 1,000 shops of electronic devices were burned after the Khairkwha complex caught fire—in which hundreds of people suffered huge financial losses. #