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Kabul Times (February 15, 1966, vol. 4, no. 268)

Bakhtar News Agency

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WEATHER FORECAST

Tomorrow's Temperature
Max. +11°C. Minimum -2°C.
Sun sets tomorrow at 5:36 p.m.
Sun rises tomorrow at 6:37 a.m.
Tomorrow's Outlook: Cloudy

KABUL TIMES

NEWS STALLS

Kabul Times is available at:
Zarnegar in Malik Azghar;
Khyber Restaurant; Kabul
Hotel; Share-e-Nau near Park
Cinema; Kabul International
Airport.

VOL. IV, NO. 268.

KABUL, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1966, (DALV 26, 1344, S.H.)

PRICE Af. 2

Wilson Decides To Purchase American Bombers; Navy's Planned Programme Shelved

LONDON, February 15, (Reuter).—

THE Wilson's cabinet met Monday in a bid to settle a fierce navy-air force row here over which service is to carry Britain's major strike-power in the coming decade.

According to BBC Wilson succeeded in solving the problem last night. No threat of ministerial resignations exist now. The country will buy American bombers.

At stake was a vital decision on whether the government should buy United States swing-wing F-111 bombers—at the cost of scrapping the navy's planned aircraft carrier programme.

The cabinet, trying to trim British defence costs to within 2,000 million sterling a year, had to choose between the rival claims of the two services. The air force won.

Its defence committee held a preparatory meeting Sunday night amid wide—though unconfirmed

reports—that Navy Minister Christopher Mayhew had threatened to resign if the cabinet decides against building a 70-million sterling aircraft carrier.

Reports also said he was backed by admiral Sir David Luce, first sea lord who heads the 85 admirals controlling the navy's 143 warships on active commission.

Sohail Appointed Envoy To Peking



KABUL, Feb. 15.—Dr. Mohammad Asif Sohail has been appointed Afghan ambassador in Peking.

The Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry said Monday they have received the agreement of the government of the People's Republic of China to Dr. Sohail's appointment.

The new Ambassador to Peking was born 47 years ago and received his medical degree in 1947 from the College of Medicine, Kabul University.

From 1945 to 1954 Dr. Sohail served in various capacities in the Ministry of Public Health.

From 1954 to 1960 he served as elected mayor of Kabul.

From 1960 to 1963 he was President of the Press Department in the cabinet.

Dr. Sohail has been honorary president of various welfare and health institutions.

He has traveled widely in Europe and Asia and speaks English, and some German and Arabic.

He is also the recipient of a gold, Mina Paal medal.

State Judicial Council Meets Under Maiwandwal

KABUL, Feb. 15.—The State Judicial Council, which in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution has been appointed by His Majesty the King, met yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohammad Hashim Maiwandwal.

Members of the Council are: Dr. Abdul Hakim Tabibi, Minister of Justice; Mohammad Osman Siddiqi, Minister of Information and Culture; and Mohammad Qadeer Taraki, President of the Court of Cassations.

The Council's duty is to discharge administrative duties of the supreme court. Its resolutions will be published after going through legal procedures.

Eng. Masa Becomes Governor Of Balkh

KABUL, Feb. 15.—The Ministry of Interior announced yesterday that Eng. Mohammad Hussain Masa, advisor to the Prime Ministry, has been appointed Governor of Balkh. The former Governor of Balkh, Aziz Mohammad Alekozai, is being considered for a new assignment.

Eng. Masa is a graduate of Habibia high school. After high school he went to the United States for further studies and received diplomas in mining and petroleum engineering.

For a number of years he served as a member, and then as head of the Petroleum Prospecting Department of the Ministry of Mines.

From 1963 to late 1965 he held the posts of Minister of Communication, Minister of Mines and Industries and Minister of Interior.

He was appointed the Prime Minister's advisor last October.

ECAFE Committee Ends Yearly Session, Urges Action Towards Industrialisation

BANGKOK, February 15, (DPA).—

THE committee on industry and natural resources of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) ended its annual session in Bangkok Monday with a call to Asian countries to undertake "more positive action" towards the industrialisation of their economies.

The committee also unanimously supported the proposals for the establishment of an Asian Industrial Development Council, and the institutionalisation of the recently convened Asian Conference on Industrialisation.

The meeting, which began on Feb. 4, was attended by about 110 delegates from 26 Asian and non-Asian countries, United Nations' agencies, intergovernmental and

non-governmental organisations.

The final report, agreed upon by delegates on the last day of the session, described the convening of ECAFE's Asian conference on industrialisation in Manila last December as a "break-through" in the efforts to accelerate industrialisation in the region. It was stated, however, that the need hereafter was for more positive action.

The secretariat of ECAFE was asked to undertake, as soon as possible, an intensive study of industrial schemes offering the possibility of joint action by various countries. These schemes should make it possible to share markets and pool raw material, chiefly iron and steel, fertilisers, aluminium, paper, machines and transport equipment, and petrochemicals.

New Governor

Arrives In Farah

FARAH, Feb. 15.—Dr. Mohammad Nasir Keshawarz, the new governor of Farah, arrived at his post Sunday afternoon and was welcomed by the provincial officials, students and the people.

After conveying the best wishes of His Majesty to the people, the governor said in a speech: "I'm here to serve you and get something done. I have strong hopes that with His Majesty's guidance and with your cooperation we will succeed in the tasks which we will undertake."

An amicable and cooperative relationship between the government and the people will help us fulfill our hopes sooner and more effectively, said the governor.

On behalf of the people present there Senator Mohammad Husain expressed appreciation for His Majesty's good wishes and pledged every kind of cooperation for implementing the plans drawn up by the government for the development of their province.

Indian Airlines Jet

Crash Lands; All

81 Aboard Escaped

NEW DELHI, Feb. 15, (Reuter).

—An Indian Airlines jet airliner carrying 81 people crashed and burned out on landing at Palam airport here Monday—but all aboard escaped.

The 74 passengers and seven crew jumped from the blazing Caravelle as flames spread from the tail.

Four passengers suffering from burns were taken to hospital.

This was the third accident to an Indian passenger plane in a month. An Air India Boeing crashed on Mont Blanc in the Swiss Alps and an Indian Airlines Fockker friendship crashed in Kashmir last week.

Kushkaki Leaves For Prague To Sign Protocol

KABUL, Feb. 15.—Sabahuddin Kushkaki, the President of Bakhtar News Agency left Kabul today for Prague to sign a protocol of cooperation between Bakhtar News Agency and Ceteca News Agency of Czechoslovakia.

Kushkaki will also visit various press and publicity agencies in Britain and then will visit Moscow at the invitation of Tass News Agency to hold talks on the expansion of cooperation between Bakhtar News Agency and Tass.

56 Die In Traffic Accidents During Last 11 Months

KABUL, Feb. 15.—During the last 11 months 131 traffic accidents have occurred in Kabul, says Mohammad Mir, Traffic Department Director.

Fifty-six people lost their lives in these accidents and 75 have been injured.

Likewise, during the last 11 months 18,428 drivers and vehicle owners have been fined for minor traffic offences.

Giving statistics on the vehicles on the roads of Kabul, Mir said there were 2,850 trucks, 850 buses, 5734 cars, 1,251 motorcycles and about 40,000 bicycles registered with the Traffic Department.

The traffic director expressed the hope that the new drivers' course which every licence-seeker is required to take will result in a decrease in accidents.

He also said that the Traffic Department is working on setting up a workshop where vehicles damaged in accidents can speedily be hauled in and repaired.

Smuggled Goods Seized

HERAT, Feb. 15.—Nine hundred and sixty metres of cotton and rayon smuggled into the country was seized by the police from the home of Abdul Karim, Sak Sulaiman village, Angil Woleswali.

The smuggled goods were submitted to the custom's house. The case is under interrogation.

Pak, India Meet To Solve Rann Dispute

GENEVA, Feb. 15, (Reuter).—India and Pakistan will begin talks here Monday on their rival claims over a desolate frontier marshland in a room where the United States won damages for the depredation of a British-built warship nearly 100 years ago.

A three-man arbitration tribunal to settle a dispute over the Rann of Kutch, which led to fighting between India and Pakistan last April, will hold its first session in the "Alabama" room of one of the 16th century town halls.

The room takes its name from the southern conference cruiser, Alabama, which captured about 68 vessels during the American civil war and caused immense loss to the commerce of the northern federal states.

A five-member arbitration tribunal, sitting in Geneva in 1871, found Britain legally responsible for the destruction caused by the Alabama and two other British-built cruisers and awarded the U.S. \$15,500,000 damages in gold.

The Rann of Kutch tribunal is

expected to hold only its first session in the Alabama room, moving later to the Palais des Nations, headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva.

India and Pakistan agreed to submit their claims to it after signing a ceasefire at the end of last June.

Its chairman is Judge Gunnar Lagergren of Sweden, nominated by the UN General Secretary, U Thant. The other members are Ales Bebler, of Yugoslavia, nominated by India, and Nasrollah Eentezam, Iran, nominated by Pakistan.

The tribunal will sit in private and its proceedings are likely to stretch over about six months to a year. Its decision is binding on both countries.

Today's session is expected to deal only with rules of procedure, financial matters and other formalities, sources close to the tribunal said. At later sessions teams of lawyers from both sides put to Hague their respective claims producing maps and documents dating back to British occupation.

Each country has sent its Attor-

ney General to plead its case—C.K. Daphtary, of India, and R. Sharif Uddin Pirzada, from Pakistan.

Other members of the Indian team are N.C. Chatterjee, a member of Parliament and advocate of the Supreme Court of India, and B. N. Lokur, of the Indian law ministry, who will be the Indian government agent.

The Pakistani team includes Manzoor Qadir, a former foreign minister, and the government agent is I. U. Khan, a land commissioner and member of the board of revenue.

The Rann of Kutch is an 8,400 square miles waste of mud and salt marshes on India's northwest border with West Pakistan. The alignment of the border and sovereignty over 3,500 square miles is in dispute.

India maintains that there is no territorial dispute, arguing that the border, though not demarcated, is well-known and traditional and runs along the northern limit of the Rann.

Humphrey Arrives In Karachi After Short Visit To Laos

KARACHI, Feb. 15.—The U.S. Vice President Hubert Humphrey, now on a visit to some Asian countries, arrived here Tuesday.

On arrival in Karachi, Humphrey in a statement said that the Pakistan government has signed an historical declaration.

"It is an act that holds the promise not only of repairing the ravages of war, but also of ushering in a new era in the relations of two great countries in Asia. Once more, national energies and resources can be concentrated on the common crusade to which we are both committed—the war against want, hun-

ger and disease", he said.

"The world owes President Ayub a debt of gratitude, who had the courage and the foresight to choose the path of peace in the subcontinent."

Before arriving here Humphrey paid a short visit to Vientiane where he reaffirmed the United States determination to work with the Laos government in the economic of the nation and in the Mekong river valley.

Humphrey flew to Vientiane from Thailand. En route he saw from the plane Mekong river projects, including sites for power and irrigation dams that will serve Laos and Thailand.

During a three-hour luncheon meeting with Prime Minister Prince Souvanna Phouma the Vice President and American officials accompanying him discussed the aid programme in Laos and plans for development of the Mekong and Nam Ngum rivers.

Bridge To Link Alingar Woleswali With Laghman

MEETERLAM, Feb. 15.—Work on the construction of a bridge which will link Alingar Woleswali with Laghman started Monday.

Laghman's governor A. Khogiani laid the foundation stone. The bridge will be 45 metres long, and three metres wide. It will be built on two pillars.

The bridge is being constructed by the provincial department of public works with cooperation from the USAID.

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Rhodesia's Neighbours

The attitude of the government of South Africa toward its counterpart racist government of Rhodesia is becoming clearer. While most of the rest of the nations in the world have imposed economic sanctions on the Smith regime, South Africa seems to be moving toward an unholy alliance with the illegal Rhodesian government.

Hundreds of white Rhodesians turned out Monday in Bulawayo to welcome a gift of petrol from the people of the South African town of Stellenbosch. Press reports say that more trucks carrying petrol will arrive in Rhodesia from South Africa soon.

When sanctions were imposed, the United Nations Security Council and the General Assembly and the Organisation for African unity expressed concern at the continuing commercial links between South Africa and Rhodesia.

In this context the granting of independence to the Protectorate of Bechuanaland by the British government acquires special significance. This country, which is almost the size of France but has a population of just over 500,000, is situated between South Africa and Rhodesia. A constitutional conference is being held in London today to determine the nature of the new nation's government.

The world in general, and the African nations especially, hope that Bechuanaland will cut its relations entirely with Rhodesia and South Africa as soon as it gets its independence and strengthen the economic embargo against Rhodesia.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kaunda of Zambia declared today that his government still thinks that force will have to be used to break the Smith regime. He says the question cannot wait until the next Commonwealth meeting in July.

Apparently the country will receive its independence at the end of September. Like Zambia this country, too, will have its problems which are interlocked with the economic sanctions imposed upon Rhodesia. Bechuanaland is already confronted with a famine. The problems may become more acute after she becomes independent.

With these new developments, the situation in Rhodesia becomes more uncertain.

U.S. Bombers Strike N. Vietnam Highways; General Taylor Defends Role Of Air Power

United States bombers have been striking hard at North Vietnam's main coastal highway to nullify repairs made during the recent 37 days of halt in the air offensive, a U.S. spokesman said Sunday.

The highway allegedly gives access ultimately to infiltration routes into South Vietnam. Major repairs are reported to have been made to it recently after heavy damage inflicted last year.

Navy and air force planes launched 33 raids against North Vietnam Sunday, most of them in the southern provinces and concentrating in particular on the southern stretches of the highway.

Pilots hit rail and road bridges, trucks, barracks and warehouses as well as vital segments of the highway and other roads, the spokesman said.

Navy aircraft from the seventh fleet carriers Ticonderoga and Enterprise claimed a bridge destroyed, two barracks buildings destroyed and a road segment cratered.

Air force pilots said they had damaged a truck depot and cut six roads.

There were also strikes against gun and radar installations, without results being reported.

On the ground, the war continued at a moderate level, with major infantry sweeps against the Viet Cong being pushed forward in the central coastal provinces of South Vietnam and around Saigon.

The first U.S. air cavalry division, deployed in the lush in Lao valley more than 300 miles north of Saigon with Vietnamese forces in support, claimed 34 more Viet Cong killed and four captured.

One anti-aircraft gun was seized as well as nearly 7,000 rounds of ammunition.

North of the first air cavalry, marines in multi-brigade strength, who are providing a block for the northward-driving cavalymen, said they recorded 266 Viet Cong killed and 15 captured since their operation began last month.

Contact and casualties involving the marines were currently light.

General Maxwell Taylor, former U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam and now a special advisor to the

President, said Sunday U.S. air power puts a ceiling on the number of troops communists can support in action there.

Taylor would not estimate what that ceiling might be but said "it is fairly low, I might suggest".

Speaking on the national television radio programme (CBC "face the nation") he said that, "the logistic problems are fairly simple from our point of view...we can lay a logistical base there".

In an article in the current issue of U.S. News and World Report magazine, Taylor discounts the possibility of massive intervention in Vietnam.

"Our air power has been belittled for its performance in Korea because it didn't stop the war", he said. "It didn't stop the war but it put a ceiling on the war".

Taylor, who also is former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, is to be the first witness when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee resumes its inquiry Thursday into U.S. policy in Vietnam.

(Reuter and AP)

Soviet Marshal Stresses Civil Defence

"While soberly assessing, without any minimisation, the probable consequences of rocket-nuclear war, we, Soviet people, communists, are firmly convinced that if the hotheads from the western camp do after all unleash a destructive war, contrary to the peaceful aspirations of the masses, they will be defeated. What is more, the war will lead to the final collapse of capitalism as a socio-economic formation and the victory of the new, progressive socialist system", Marshal Vasily Chuikov said in an interview with a correspondent of Sovetskaya Rossiya.

Marshal Chuikov, hero of the Stalingrad battle and the storming of Berlin and now chief of Soviet civil defence, pointed out that "confidence alone is not enough. We also need complete, comprehensive preparedness for the attainment of victory."

"This is why civil defence has acquired an extremely great importance in the present conditions and has become the cause of the entire state, the entire people. Victory now can be achieved only given a close and carefully thought out coordination of all defensive measures of the state, permanent cooperation between the armed forces and civil defence, and skilful utilisation of economic resources."

"We must always remember that virtually the entire people,

in the full sense of the word, will have to participate in rocket-nuclear war, should it come about", Marshal Chuikov stressed. "This is because in addition to missile bases and other military objectives the enemy may attack large cities, railway junctions, ports, civilian airports, and even individual industrial establishments. Nor should it be forgotten that nuclear explosions would result

in destruction and manpower losses in areas beyond the attack places."

"The events of the past years, and especially the provocative military activities of Americans have made it imperative for the Soviet people and the state to strengthen the country's defences. Our party, our government are taking the necessary measures."

(Tass)

Soviet Master Spy Claims He Outwitted American FBI

MOSCOW, February 15, (Reuter).—

USSR master-spy Rudolf Abel in his first autobiographical appearance in the Soviet Union's press Sunday claimed U.S. security men were so careless when they arrested him that he managed to get rid of a tape recording and vital equipment.

Abel, now 63, was jailed in the United States in 1957 after a long spying career in the west. He was released five years later in exchange for American U-2 pilot Gary Powers.

The youth newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets Sunday published an extract from a longer account Abel gave of his career to the monthly journal Molodoi Kommunist which has not yet been published.

Abel said that the night before his early morning arrest in a New York hotel by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

in June 1957 he had been in radio contact with Moscow. His decoding device and other equipment were still in the room.

He said he hid the decoder in his hand and dropped it into the toilet while a careless F.B.I. man was supposed to be watching him.

On his way to the immigration service headquarters after his arrest, he managed to get rid of a tiny piece of film which would have been invaluable to U.S. intelligence, Abel added.

Throughout the four years and eight months of his detention in the U.S. Abel kept rigid silence on his activities. During this period, he wrote, he was sustained by the conviction that eventually he would be freed.

An article in another Soviet magazine about the spy earlier this year said he was now living in a big Moscow apartment block in honourable retirement.

POPE PAUL PLEADED AT AID FOR INDIA

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 15, (Reuter).—Pope Paul said Sunday the response to appeals for aid to the hungry is "one of the most beautiful things" happening in the world today.

The pontiff said that since his appeal he has received many letters including several from children.

He read one of these which said:

"Dear holy father, Daddy told us about the poor condition of the Indians and that you explained that we cannot be good Christians if we do not help our poor brothers."

"So we decided that we children will send you our saving boxes and daddy and mummy will pretend they have four children instead of three... we send you a kiss".

It was signed "Emilio and Lucia".

found in a shallow grave near Badajoz, a Spanish town near the Portuguese border, last April.

Dr. Bisogno and Senmor De Carvalho were among the ten and warrants have been issued for the two men's arrest.

Bechuanaland Independence Discussed At London Meeting

LONDON, February 15, (AP).—

THE well-oiled machinery for dismantling the British empire planned smoothly into gear again Monday. This time to bring independence to the 550,000 hungry Africans of Bechuanaland.

The constitutional conference opening at Marlborough House was expected to be one of the quietest as well as one of the last of its kind.

Barring accidents, by September 30 the Bechuanaland protectorate will become the independent republic of Botswana, with Seretse Khama, now its Prime Minister, as its first president.

Most of the conference will be taken up with discussion of future financial arrangements for Botswana, which is likely to depend heavily on British aid for many years.

The territory is presently suffering severely from drought. British relief organisations estimate that 100,000 people—roughly a fifth of the population—are destitute.

Another topic will be Botswana's future relationship with South Africa, its powerful neighbour and the main outlet for its cattle exports.

Bechuanaland became a British protectorate in 1885.

Seretse Khama, once banished from the territory because of his

marriage to an English girl, relinquished his hereditary rights as a chief and took the political path to power instead.

He founded the Bechuanaland Democratic party in 1961 and last year won 28 of the 31 seats in the Legislative Assembly in the territory's first elections with full adult suffrage.

2 Men Deny Complicity In Delgado Murder

ROME, Feb. 15, (Reuter).—Two men accused of complicity in the killing of Portuguese opposition leader General Humberto Delgado Sunday denied they had any connection with the crime.

Dr. Ernesto Mario Bisogno and Mario De Carvalho, a Portuguese citizen living in Italy, protected their innocence in interviews quoted by the Rome newspaper Il Tempo.

Spanish authorities investigating the murder of General Delgado Saturday named ten persons allegedly involved in the killing.

The decomposed bodies of Delgado and his woman secretary were

PRESS At a Glance

Monday's Islah noted the rapid growth of the government's health insurance programme for its employees and urged measures be taken to improve its service to members.

The editorial noted that only 200 families registered for health insurance when the programme was established in 1955. Officials soon realised the advantages of health insurance, however, and now over 7,000 families including 35,000 people are covered by the government's health insurance programme.

Registered officials do pay a small per cent of their salaries to help cover the cost but this totals only a very small amount of what it costs to run the programme. The gap is made up by grants from friendly countries and funds from the government.

The organisation has made great efforts to supply enough medicine and adequate medical care for members of the plan but, Islah suggested, the Ministries of Finance and Public Health should cooperate in seeing that better service is rendered to the government officials covered by health insurance.

Monday's Anis editorialised on the importance of sound criticism. In a democracy, said the paper, freedom of thought and speech are respected within the framework of the law. Oral or written criticism, not based on personal prejudice, but aimed instead at improvement of the society is accepted as valuable. Criticism not contrary to the interests of the progress of the country or national sovereignty, we consider sound, said Anis.

We should make use of the right to criticise current affairs in the country granted to us by law. This freedom should not be used to attack others for personal purposes, though, the paper concluded.

Monday's Anis front-paged a picture showing a scene at the reception held at the residence of the Pakistani Ambassador in Kabul on Sunday evening to mark Pakistan's Military Day.

Dr. Delawar Sahari discussed the living conditions in Nooristan in an article in Monday's Islah. All provinces, he wrote, need to be studied to find out what is needed by the people so that they may progress. Some areas deserve particular attention, however. One of these is Nooristan in Kunar province. Due to the high mountains there is little land available for cultivation. Most of the people make their living by chopping trees or herding cattle.

The people of Nooristan could be helped most effectively by encouraging local industries such as carpentry, tanning hides, weaving, and stone cutting, the writer suggested.

Kabul newspapers have been publishing articles on the question of levelling custom duties on imported books and other reading material.

One reaction to editorials on the subject in Anis and Islah appeared in Monday's Islah in an article by Sarshar Shamali. The writer stressed the great value of books in raising the standard of education of the people. He suggested that priority should be given to the import of educational books such as texts, reference works, and those for foreign language instruction.

Books of this nature, said Shamali, should not be liable to duty and efforts should be made to increase the import of these books and sell them cheaply to the people who are eager to use them to expand their knowledge.

Contribution To National Fund CHAGHCHARAN, Feb. 15.

The people of Chaghcharan, capital of Ghor province, and the officials working there, have contributed Af. 20,000 to the National Welfare Fund.

TAKHAR PRODUCES TWO THIRDS SALT CONSUMED ANNUALLY IN AFGHANISTAN

Although the province of Takhar has much productive land, its population, according to a 1956 estimate, is only about 200,000.

The province is located about 400 kilometres north of Kabul and is one of the best agricultural areas in Afghanistan. The eastern and southern sections of the province which include Farkhar, Ishkamesh, and Khosto Freng Woleswalis, are mountainous but a good water supply makes the land productive. All kinds of crops and many varieties of fruit are raised.

CENTRAL PLAINS

The middle section of the province is flat and consists of a series of plains. The two main ones are the Taloqan plain which extends from the centre of Taloqan to the Oxus River and Archi and the Torghi Tapa plain which stretches from Sari Pul, on the bank of Kokcha river, to Yangi Kala Woleswali.

The northern parts of the province including Khwaja Ghar, Rostaq, Chah Aab and Yangi Kala have a similar climate to the rest of the province. However, Farkhar and Khosto Freng hold a special position in the north since they lie at a higher altitude. The summer is milder in these two northern sections, and the winters colder.

HIGH MOUNTAINS

The higher mountains in the province include Anbar Koh, Takch Khana, Kalafgan. The Warsaj and Takhar branches of the Hindu Kush stretch into the province.

As most of the mountains are partly clay, dry farming occupies a large section of the Takhar population.

However there is plenty of irrigated land and each villager has

his own irrigated plot of land as well as mountain and hill land on which he dry farms.

Wheat, rice, barley, corn, and millet have been the traditional crops raised in the province but in the recent years, as in various other northern provinces, more people are turning to cotton raising.

The Spinzar Company of Kunduz established a branch in Taloqan which buys the cotton raised in the area and sells or distributes cotton seed to the people. The company has also set up a ginning plant there. Oil is extracted from cotton seeds and sesame by hand-operated tools locally made.

SALT MINES

The Takcha Khana mountains located in south-eastern parts of the province contain large mountains of salt. This salt is hardened and it is quarried in blocks weighing up to 100 to 120 pounds.

Salt is produced in the Kalafgan mountains as well. Two-thirds of the salt consumed in the country comes from Takhar. Although the deposits are not properly surveyed they are believed to be very large.

Two of the largest rivers in the country, Amu and Kokcha, both pass through Takhar.

The Amu irrigates Simiti Alaka Dari, Chah Aab woleswali, Yangi Kala Woleswali, and Warqa Alaka Dari.

The Kokcha River before it joins the Amu in Ali Khanum area irrigates Khwaja Ghar, Kalai Dashiti and parts of Yangi Kala.

The Taloqan River, which has its source in the Warsaj Mountains, flows through Taloqan and Farkhar and then on to Kunduz. In Askalan, located in Kunduz Province the Taloqan River joins the

Bighian and eventually in the Kalai Zaal area joins the Amu River.

Several canals take the Taloqan River water to the farms in Taloqan and Farkhar.

YANGI RIVER

The Yangi River which flows down from Khosto Freng mountains in Ishkamesh woleswali joins the Taloqan River in Puli Sher Khan. The farms in Khosto Freng and Yangi are irrigated by this river.

Takhar got the status of a province only two years ago and hence everything is just starting. Taloqan which was chosen as the province's capital, looks much more like a city or a town now than it did two years ago.

It is expanding according to plans made for it by the Ministry of Public Works. During the past years many new and modern houses have been built there and many more are under construction.

There are no high schools yet in the province. But the two intermediate schools will soon become high schools.

SCHOOLS, COURSES

A student body of 9,395 attend 15 primary schools and 44 village schools. There are also two adult literacy courses.

There are no sizable industrial establishments in the province. But the cotton industry is rapidly growing and it will not be long before ginning and pressing plants and oil extracting machinery are installed and put into operation there.

Almost two years ago courses were begun for the prisoners in Takhar to teach them carpet weaving and carpentry and good progress has been made in this short time. Some of the products made by these prisoners were displayed in the exhibition at this year's Jeshan.

TAKHAR



Since Taloqan is growing rapidly there is already a need for more transportation in the city. There are so far no taxi cabs there but horsedrawn buggies can be found although most people love their horses too much to sell a good one to a buggy owner. As a result of this the buggies in Taloqan do not trot at a breath-taking pace.

Marco Polo Finds

Castle And Huge Corn Market After A Twelve-Day Journey

The thirteenth-century Venetian traveler, Marco Polo, arrived in Taloqan after a 12-day trip through a country "destitute of every sign of habitation" except bandits and lions from the "large and magnificent city of Balkh."

Today the journey from Mazar in Balkh province to Taloqan takes only a day by car and the emptiness is broken by the thriving industrial town of Kunduz and the growing town of Khanabad. Along the dusty road are wheat fields as well as plenty of melon patches from which to quench one's thirst.

Arriving in Taloqan on the first day of Jeshan in 1965, visitors found the capital of the two-year-old province packed with celebrators in town to watch the festivities. Most were fathers and sons who had come by horseback in the pouring rain. But girls from the province's schools joined the usual groups of students, units of police and soldiers, the leaders of Takhar, and new settlers in the opening parade.

Salt and pistachios and almonds are still major products of the area and Taloqan is still the market centre for the province as Marco Polo observed as he traveled through Afghanistan on his way to China. But the followers of his trail in 1966 will find new marvels to wonder at when they reach the province of Takhar 695 years later for changes are being made. Still, Polo's observations have stood the test of time as the following excerpts from his Description of the World show.

After those twelve days' journey you reach a castle named Thalkan (Talikan), where a great market for corn is held, it being located in a fine and fruitful country. The hills that lie to the south of it are large and lofty. They all consist of white salt, extremely hard, with which the people, to a distance of thirty days' journey round, come to provide themselves, for it is esteemed

the purest that is found in the world; but it is at the same time so hard that it cannot be detached by anything but iron picks. The quantity is so great that all the countries of the earth might be supplied by it. Other hills produce almonds and pistachio nuts, in which products the natives carry on a considerable trade.

"Leaving Thalkan and traveling three days, still in a northeast direction, you pass through a well-inhabited country, very beautiful and abounding in fruit, corn and vines.

"During a journey of three days there are cities and many castles, and at the end of that distance you reach a town named Scasem (Ishkashim), governed by a

(Contd. on page 4)

Five Days Work Two For Picnics

Women in Takhar, like their sisters in other northern provinces, make important contributions to the family budget by weaving carpets and sewing clothes for the whole family.

But the women have a five-day working week. They take Wednesdays and Fridays off.

On these two days they prepare cold meals for lunch and start for the cemeteries in the morning.

They spend a good part of the day there, saying prayers for the souls of their loved ones, and talking to friends who are still among them.

They also have another tradition and that is a thorough cleaning of the house on the new year's day (March 21) since they feel they must change the place of almost every object in the house and shake all the rugs; the men have no choice but to leave the house, if they don't want to get on the nerves of their wives or vice versa. Instead they celebrate the New Year in the fields and return to a reorganised house in the evening.



Wrestling is a popular pastime among the people in Takhar but some of them take it too seriously. Takhari wrestlers have made a name for themselves in northern Afghanistan. Every year some of the outstanding ones go to contests Balkh, Jouzjan, and Badakhshan.



A view of the independence celebrations in Taloqan, provincial capital of Takhar. Students, officials, wrestlers, horsemen and farmers took part in the parades along with the military garrison.

Izvestia Writes On Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty

MOSCOW, Feb. 15. (Tass).— "The Soviet men and women are confident that the difficulties will be overcome, that our countries and peoples will be united and, having closely rallied, will advance in communist construction, in struggle against the forces of reaction and war," V. Ryazantsev said Monday in an article in Izvestia, devoted to the 16th anniversary of the Soviet-Chinese treaty of friendship, alliance and mutual assistance.

Marking the anniversary of the treaty, the author of the article says, "our party and government, the Soviet people are thus expressing their respect for the Chinese communists, the fraternal Chinese people and their revolutionary services, the friendly sentiments and good neighbourly attitude of the land of the Soviets towards the People's Republic of China."

"The Soviet people believe that China, too, can not but make a worthy contribution to this joint struggle of socialist countries and their collective efforts to strengthen the world anti-imperialist front."

The author of the article points out that the establishment of allied relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of China improved the conditions for consolidation of peace in the far east, made a highly important contribution to the development of the young Chinese People's Republic. He emphasises that the government of the USSR has always most scrupulously fulfilled the commitments recorded in the treaty.

The Soviet government, the article says, highly appreciating the importance of the treaty, is doing its utmost to make it "an effective lever in the struggle for peace, in the development of friendly contacts between the peoples of the two countries. Our party and government have done very much in this respect in the past year."

Marco Polo Finds

(Contd. from page 3)

chief whose title is equivalent to that of our barons or counts; and among the mountains he possesses other towns and strong places. Through the middle of this town runs a river of tolerable size.

"Here are found porcupines, which roll themselves up when the hunters set their dogs at them, and with great fury shoot out the quills or spines with which their skins are furnished, wounding both men and dogs."

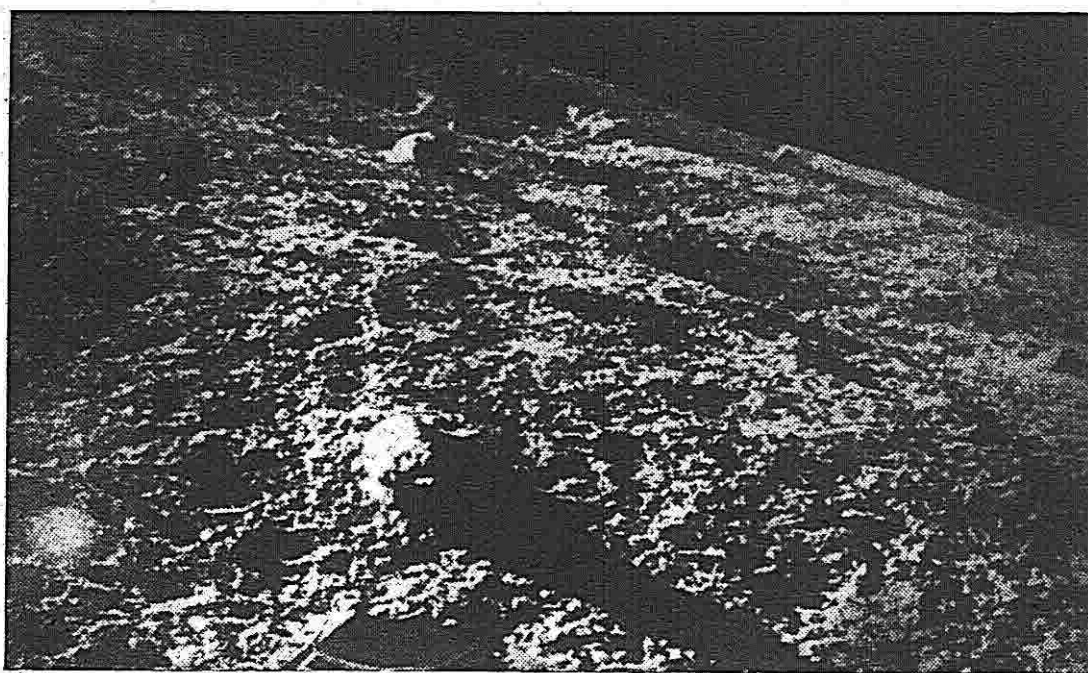
"The people of this country have their own peculiar language. The herdsmen who attend the cattle live among the hills in caverns they form for themselves; nor is this difficult, the hills consisting not of stone, but only of clay."

"Upon departing from this place you travel for three days without seeing any kind of building, or meeting with any of the necessities required by a traveler, excepting water; but for the horses there is sufficient pasture. You are therefore obliged to carry with you every article which you may need on the road. At the end of the third day you arrive at the province of Balashan."

Free Exchange Rates At D'Afghanistan Bank

KABUL, Feb. 15.—The following are the exchange rates at D'Afghanistan Bank expressed in Afghani.

| Buying | Selling |
|--|---------|
| Af. 75.00 (per one U.S. dollar) | 75.50 |
| Af. 210.00 (per one Pound Sterling) | 211.40 |
| Af. 1875.00 (per hundred German Mark) | 1887.50 |
| Af. 1518.21 (per hundred French Franc) | 1528.35 |
| Af. 1746.21 (per hundred Swiss Franc) | 1757.86 |



Landscape of Moon as seen from station LUNA-9. Part of the station is seen below.

Plane In Search Of Lost U.S. H-Bomb Missing With Eight Americans On Board

PALOMARES BEACH, Spain, February 15, (AP).—THE search for the U.S. nuclear bomb missing off the coast of Spain is believed to have cost an air force Globemaster and the lives of eight Americans on board.

The giant C-124, based in Sevilien Air Force base, Georgia, has been missing since it left Sevilien Saturday night carrying two buses for use by bomb searchers here on the southern coast.

Spanish civil guardsmen and civilian volunteers resumed the search for the plane early Monday after camping out in the snowy Sierra Nevada mountains. A day-long search Sunday by ground and air teams, hampered by a bitter winter storm, failed to turn up any definite clues.

"It would be miracle if anyone emerged alive from this one," said a Spanish air force officer who had scanned the jagged mountain range without spotting any trace of wreckage.

Villagers reported they had

N. Vietnam Protests U.S. Feb. 9 Bombing Of School

HANOI, Feb. 15, (Hsinhua).—The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in a statement strongly protested the bombing by U.S. aircraft on Feb. 9 of a school in Ha Tinh province. Allegedly 57 pupils below the age of 15 were killed or wounded together with eight villagers.

The bombing by U.S. aircraft of the "Huong Phuc junior high school in Huong Khe district was not an isolated act, the statement said. For more than a year now, U.S. planes had attacked many densely populated areas and even bombed hospitals, schools, markets and dams in many localities of North Vietnam it alleges. U.S. pilots had dropped bombs on more than 120 schools, killing many students and teachers it says.

Japan To Enter Contract With Pak On Steel Plant

TOKYO, Feb. 15, (Reuters).—The Ishikawashima-Harima heavy industries limited expects a contract to supply a \$12-million special steel plant to West Pakistan late this month or early next month, the company said Monday.

Negotiations with Balibai Kamrudin (Sind) Ltd. of Pakistan have recently resulted in an agreement on the plant export deal, Ishikawashima-Harima said. Details are now being negotiated.

The West Pakistani company is to build a special steel plant with an annual capacity of 20,000 tons including 9,000 tons of special steel products, and 6,000 tons of stainless steel.

The contract price, including technical know-how, will be financed by a Yen credit to be extended to Pakistan by the Japanese government, the Japanese firm said.

Australia Changes From £ To Dollars

CANBERRA, Feb. 15, (DPA).—Australia today changed from pounds, shillings and pence to dollars and cents to enter the decimal era.

For days, heavily guarded convoys have been bringing the new currency, including five hundred tons of coins, from the mints to banks all over the continent.

All police leave has been cancelled. It was the huge sums in bank vaults everywhere that will attract gangsters.

A gang of forgers is expected to try and use the confusion to unload the last of a flood of false ten pound notes which have been turning up on and off since 1961.

Both the old and new currencies will be legal tender for the next two years, but the old banknotes will gradually be withdrawn from circulation.

As not enough decimal coins have yet been minted, the old coins are expected to survive much longer.

Two new Australian dollars are equal in value to one old Australian pound. Each dollar is divided into one hundred cents.

Britain and New Zealand are now among the few countries in the world still using the clumsy system. One pound equals twenty shillings or 240 pence.

Queen Elizabeth Winds Up One-Day Visit In Kingstown

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Feb. 15, (Reuters).—Steel bands thrummed out a calypso farewell to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip as the royal yacht Britannia steamed from this tiny windward island port, bound for Barbados.

The Queen wound up her one-day visit here Sunday at a reception in the fairyland atmosphere of Kingstown's botanical gardens, oldest in the western hemisphere.

Skirts Win Eye Attraction Race

NEW YORK, February 15, (AP).—A British doctor tells girls to wear ski pants to work in winter instead of short-skirts. Some American women hold no brief for the idea.

One declared "they (skirts) might be a menace to health but ski pants won't attract as many eyes."

Apparently the "eyes" have it for a host of ladies who readily acknowledge that they dress to please men not the weather, an Associated Press sampling of women's views reveals.

Dr. Geoffrey Taylor, an expert on illnesses caused by low temperatures, said Sunday at his laboratory in Cricket Malherbie, England, that "these skirts, four inches above the knee, are ridiculous as protection against the British winter," adding:

"Girls would be more efficient employees if they wore ski pants and men would work better if they wore long underpants."

A Californian house wife said "I just don't see what difference it would make, you can get just as sick being overheated in ski pants as you can getting frozen in short skirts."

A cocktail waitress in the Los Angeles area comments: "sure they're a menace, but what's so special about winter? There are men around all year."

AT THE CINEMA

ARYANA CINEMA

At 2, 4:30, 7 and 9 p.m. American colour film Beach Party.

PARK CINEMA

At 2, 4:30, 7 and 9 American colour film.

THIRTY YEARS OF FUN

ZAINAB CINEMA

At 1:30, 4, 6:30 Indian black and white film Chouty Nawab.

Four Leave To Study Teaching, Hotel Management

KABUL, Feb. 15.—Mohammad Karim and Ghani Noor, teachers at the Teacher's Training Academy, left yesterday for New Zealand on nine-month UNESCO fellowships. Karim will study education and Noor mathematics. Ten teachers from the Academy are now on UNESCO fellowships in England, Norway, Denmark, and New Zealand.

Two members of the first class to graduate from the School for Hotel Management here in Kabul left last week for Salzburg. Atiqulla Taymoree of Kabul and Faiz Mohammad Yaktai of Paghman will spend a year studying hotel management on Austrian government scholarships.

Fifteen On Trial For Plot Against Pres. De Gaulle

PARIS, Feb. 15, (Reuters).—Fifteen men went on trial at the State Security Court here Monday for an abortive plan to assassinate General de Gaulle in August 1964.

The man alleged to have been the brains behind the plot, Jean-Jacques Susini, one of the leaders of the secret army organisation (OAS) which used terrorist methods to fight Algerian independence, is among those tried in absence.

Believed to be resident in Italy, Susini is also alleged to have led the most violent activities of the OAS in Algeria.

Susini is also wanted in Spain as a witness in connection with the murder of Portuguese opposition leader General Humberto Delgado.

Another alleged leader of the plot, Gilles Buscia, was present in court today. He was captured in April, 1965, when he was carrying a list of people involved in the plot giving the first indication that the attempt to blow up General de Gaulle was a well-organised conspiracy.

U.S. Expedites Grain Shipments To Indian Ports

BALTIMORE, Feb. 15, (Reuters).—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has ordered a crash programme to expedite the shipment of three million tons of grain to famine-stricken India before the start of the monsoon season.

Every modern technique, including special grain trains, is being used to speed up the shipment of the grain from the granaries in the mid-Western states to the seaports.

The target is to move one million tons a month during February, March and April. Much of it will be shipped through this Atlantic coast port.

Specially-designed hopper railway trucks, with a capacity of 33,000 bushels compared with the traditional truck's 2,000 bushels, are being used. The grain trains have top priority on the long journey to the port of embarkation.

American grain shipments to India this year are expected to double 1965's total of 6,000,000,000 tons.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

Dance to live music

Thursday, Feb. 17, and Saturday Feb. 19 at

International Club

Accompanied guests: 50 Afs.