Turkish Foundation Aims to Boost Afghanistan Education
KABUL - Turkey’s Maarif Foundation plans to provide free education to orphans and poor children after taking over schools belonging to_Faithful Target Organization (FETO) in Afghanis_tan, according to the body’s senior official.

Maarif Foundation Afghanistan Country Director Mustafa Uludag told Addis说 the schools were handed over to the body after 16 months of negotiations with Afghan officials.

An agreement on this issue is the biggest education deal between the two countries that will provide many advantages to Afghani_tan and the Afghan people, Uludag said.

According to the agreement, the foundation will also double the number of schools the foundation takes over in Afghanistan, he said.

"Previously, only elites were benefitting from these schools. We will do something new and provide free education to orphans and poor children who are successful in their studies," he said. Uludag said the foundation will also open vocational schools.

He also said the current standards of schools in Afghanistan were below world standards.

"In order to raise these schools to world standards and to modernize them, a fund worth 50 million will be transferred with the support of our President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkish people." (More on P4, 2)

Parents Concerned About Attacks on Voting Centers
KABUL - Parents of Kabul school children on Tuesday said they were unable to support their children from going to school due to security issues as voter registration centers are at many schools in the city.

Meanwhile, a school principal in the western part of Kabul, which was where Sunday’s deadly suicide bombing took place, said the presence of a voter registration center inside his school has led to the absence of about 40 percent of students.

"Today ten parents consulted the school and requested me to either announce a holiday or not mark their children as ab-sent," (More on P4, 2)

Corruption Main Factor behind Afghan Conflict: Spoko
US Inspector General John Spoko has said the fight against terrorism remains a priority, but the fight against corruption in Afghanistan should not be dealt with as a second priority.

Credible Elections will be Strong Response to Senseless Violence: US
WASHINGTON - Restoring its support to the people and government of Afghanistan, the United State Tuesday asserted that credible elections would demonstrate the country’s commitment to democracy and would be a strong response to the senseless violence being perpetrated by terrorist outfits.

"Credible and parliamentary and presidential elections in 2018 and 2019 will demonstrate the Afghan government’s commitment to democracy and peace in the face of senseless acts of violence like the attack in Kabul that killed civilians registering to vote," a State Department spokesperson told Pajhwok Afghan News.

"In the wake of Sunday’s vicious attack that targeted innocent civilians exercising their fundamental democratic freedoms, (More on P4, 4)

Half a Million Afghan Children Affected by Drought: UN
KABUL - A half a million Afghan children have been affected by a looming drought in the country, a UN agency said on Tuesday, briefing newsmen in improvised Afghanistan.

"At least 10 of the country’s 34 districts were worst hit while 20 to 30 percent of water sources are going dry," saving months. "These areas have pre-existing high rate of malnutrition. Without adequate nutritious food and safe water for drink ing, children’s health will only worsen," the UNICEF appealed for $10 million to help children and their families in..." (More on P6, 2)

Turkmenistan May Become Venue for Inter-Afghan Talks under Auspices of UN
BAKU - Turkmenistan can become the venue of the Afghan national dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations, said the statement of the Turkmen government.

The president of Turkmenistan is on a state visit to Uzbekistan on April 23-24, 2018, Turkmenistan, as a neutral state, is ready to provide political space for the organization of a nationwide Afghan dialogue under the auspices and with the leading role of the UN, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov said, speaking to media representatives.

It was also said that Turkmenistan and Uzbekista_n share similar views on trends in regional and international development, speak with one or close positions on key issues on the global agenda, such as the maintenance of peace and stability, countering the threats of international terrorism, extremism, disarmament issues, and settlement of the situation in Afghanistan.

During the talks in Tashkent, the parties sepa-rately focused on the situation in Afghanistan, reiterating their mutual firm commitment to peaceful, political means of resolving the situ-ation in that country and the need to integrate it into international economic processes.

In this context, the importance of the Turk menistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-China (TAP) gas pipeline, the started laying of the power line and the fiber-optic communication line along the route of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) was emphasized. The construction of the railway along the Serhetabat (Turkmenistan) – Tur gundi (Afghanistan) route was emphasized. (Trend)

Afghanistan to Benefit from CPEC: PM Abbasi
KABUL - Afghanistan and Central Asian countries are among the major beneficiaries of a multimillion dollars trade route called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said Islamabd.

Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, addres sing the inaugural ceremony of the CPEC Summit and Expo 2018 in Karachi, assured neighbouring countries, including Afghanista_n, of the project’s success.

"CPEC projects are being built on two basic principles: economic viability and environment sustainability and we would never compromise on these principles," he said.

"I’d like to assure our neighbours, including some countries, including Afghanistan about CPEC. (Pajhwok)