WASHINGTON - The US Secretary of State, during a meeting with Australian Defense Minister Linda Reynolds in Syd- ney reiterated that the US Presi- dent (Donald) Trump is seeking a political solution which will pave the ground for troop reduction in Afghanistan. (US) President (Donald) Trump has made very clear that his desire to reduce the resources that are located in the country, while simultane- ously mentioning that Afghanistan never again becomes a platform (from) where terror can strike the United States of America,” Pompeo said. His remarks come as the eighth round of US-Afghan talks which seem to be the last round of the nego- tiations are underway in Doha where troop withdrawal is one of the major issues under debate. The Australian Defense Minister meanwhile said the Afghan war has a political solution and that his country’s stance on Afghan-istan is dependent on the results of the peace process and presidential election. “It was very clear to me that there was a negotiated settlement in the only way forward for peace in Afghan-istan” she said. “Our position is under constant review, as you would expect, and we are now waiting to see what happens with the 20 September elections and also...” (More on P6-7)

Afghanistan’s Fruit Exports Increase by 30 Percent

KABUL - Afghanistan has exported 255 tons of fresh fruit so far this year to India, Europe and some Arab na- tions, making 30 percent in- crease compared to the same period in 2018, a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Samir Rasai, said on Saturday. “India is checking all our goods in all their ports and they unload all the goods and tear the packages. This damages our goods,” the ACI acting chief, Kharajui Alokozay, said. Fresh fruit exporters said Afgh- an investors need clear routes for sending their goods besides sending them through the newly-es- tablished air corridors. “We urge the government to establish air corridor with Moscow and Kazakhstan,” she said. “We want that a large number of people will attend the festival in the coming eight days.” She said that 300 films will be dis- played during the festival. The festival was warmly wel- comed by members of the Afghan film industry and the people. “The festival is a good hopes for all artists and filmmakers,” an Af- ghan filmmaker and actor Aziz Dildar said, adding that this is the first time that a festival is held in the country. (Tolo news)

Taliban’s Shadow Deputy Governor for Panjsher Killed: MoI

CHARAK - Taliban’s shadow deputy governor for central Panjsher province has been killed along with five associ- ates in an airstrike, Minis- try of Interior (MoI) said on Sunday. MoI said in a statement that Afghan Air Forces carried out an airstrike in an airstrike in central Kapisa prov- inces late on Saturday night. The airstrike killed deput- y shadow governor Ab- dul Ahad, also known as Zulfiqar, along with five other militiamen, the state- ment said. The source added: “Zulfiqar was involved in terrorist and destructive activities in Ka- pisa and neighboring prov- incies.” The source also added that Kapisa police spokesman Abdul Shafiq Shahrani con- firmed the killing of Zulfiqar along with five militiamen in an airstrike on Saturday night. Without giving exact figures, he claimed, several insurgents were suffered casualties in the overnight raid. Taliban have not yet commented on the air- strike. Two days back, A Taliban’s shadow governor for western Farah province was killed in an airstrike. (Tolw news)