HERAT CITY - President Ashraf Ghani on Saturday opened a $7 million cotton-processing plant in Herat City.

Ghani, who arrived in the provincial capital in the afternoon to participate in an Independence Day function, also visited the industrial park.

Haider Hamed, a representative of the plant White Afghan Gold, told the opening ceremony. "We purchase 20 tonnes of cotton from growers on a daily basis. Our daily production, qualitatively comparable cotton is produced by regional countries, is six tonnes," Hamed said.

Before the event, Mangal and other provincial officials visited the mausoleum of Ghazi Amanullah Khan. They also placed floral wreaths on his grave.

As an Afghan Air Force planes air-strode Independence Day messages, participants of the events held national flags. Some of them had the color painted on their faces.

Mangal told the participants this year’s independence anniversary was being celebrated in eastern Nangarhar province.

Speaking on the occasion, Ghani thanked the president for helping promote industrial development in Afghanistan, particularly Herat. He acknowledged Ghani’s economic initiatives had led to the establishment of 31 new factories in the Herat industrial park. The new units would play a key role in the country’s economic development, he hoped.

Governor Mohammad Aliyev exclaimed the province had been set a target for opening new factories in industrial parks.

"If our national hero Ghazi Amanullah Khan has won us political liberty, we will have to work for economic freedom," he remarked. He contributed commendations from friends of the people to the struggle for independence under the leadership of Waizy Mohammad Khan Alkozai and Ghazi Amanullah Khan.

U.S. supports Afghans’ efforts for peace

KABUL - License. It’s an honor for me and my wife Lisette to congratulate the Afghans as you celebrate your country’s 98th year of independence.

The United States Special Chargé d’Affaires Hage Aguirre conveyed a message on Afghanistan’s 98th Independence Day, said his country supports Afghan efforts for achieving peace and a prosperous nation.

"You should be rightly proud of your achievements in education, economic growth, infrastructure, and health care. The United States believes in you and in your country’s future. We will continue to stand with you and support..." (More on P4.12)

Pakistan to have enhanced cooperation with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan today levelled civil and military initiatives during a meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC) have resolved to work with the Afghan government for the resolution of issues like cross-border firing and support network for terrorist operations in Pakistan, state media reported.

National Security Committee (NSC) - (More on P4.12)

Melbourne Music Students’ Five-Year Project to Raise Funds for Afghan Youth Orchestra

MELBOURNE - A five-year effort by a group of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music students to raise funds for the Afghan Youth Orchestra will reach the peak of its crescendo this weekend.

The event from The Con to Kabul concert, to be held in the Victorian city of Geelong, will showcase both student and semi-professional performers.

The proceeds of all 10 concerts will be sent to Afghanistan, having inspired a similar project to raise funds for the Palestinian orchestra.

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