State Bank Announces $200m Loan Scheme for Industrialists

KABUL - In an attempt to support investment in Afghanistan, the state-owned bank, Bank-e-Millie Afghanistan, has pledged to provide about $200 million in loans to Afghan industrialists. Officials from Afghanistan's Industrial, Mining and Trade Ministry (IMTM) signed the agreement with the bank on Saturday. The IMTM said it would give the idea of supporting industrialists in Afghanistan through the initiative. (More on P4-1)

Future Scope of RSM to Dominate Defence Ministerial Meeting

KARUL - As defence ministerial meeting in Brussels will take place on Monday, the ministers are expected to agree to talk the military authorities to start planning for the future scope and size of the Coalition Support Mission (CSM) as Afghanistan. Christopher Cribb, civilian representative (CRI) to Afghanistan, told Takht-e-Millie News that acting Minister of Defence, Masoom Stanekzai would represent Afghanistan at the ministerial meeting. Stanekzai said that the defence ministers from 14 countries would also call on government to take steps to prevent Afghan forces from re-nurturing new status in future. "Defence associates further practically operate in 15 districts of Nangarhar province," Senate Lashkar-i-Deen Bahzada said. "Expansion of Afghan forces must be careful, otherwise the consequence will be catastrophic," another senator Farhad Sahib warned. On the issue of the government's anti-terror policy, the senators asked the leaders of the Security Council (SUC) to also tackle the security issues posed by Daesh in the Khost-Pesh-Abad highway. "We need to come with a comprehensive plan and look closely with the US and Pakistan about the issue. Because we face threats from two sides including Daesh and the Taliban. I don't understand what is really happening," senator Zakaria Zazbali said on Sunday. Another senator from Khost Province, Hazif Malikzad, called on the Afghan National Security Forces (More on P-1)

Salamad Azimi

Poppy Cultivation Linked to Increased Insecurity

KARUL - The Minister of Counter Narcotics Salamad Azimi on Sunday said that insecurity is mostly increased in districts where poppy crops are cultivated. Speaking at a function - attended by a number of dignitaries - high of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on June 26, Azimi said on the international community to help fight the problem. He said: "Terrorism, drug trafficking, narcotics and insecurity are phenomena that put forces and military budgets to write pages of the history of our era. On the international community to help fight this scourge; we also hope for the same. It is not just the 5% of the population, 11% of the population use drugs. We hope that when the international community get another contribution (More on P-1)

Operation Overway to Retake Chahar Dara

KUNDUZ - Security forces have launched a joint operation to retake Chahar Dara district of northern Kunduz, which fell into the hands of the Taliban on Tuesday evening, officials said. Dozens of armed insurgents stormed the district on Saturday, killing 12 soldiers and wounding 16 others, according to initial reports by provincial council members. About 70 other soldiers were surrounded by (More on P-6)

Alarm as Taliban Advance on Key Northern City

KUNDUZ - Taliban insurgents advancing on the capital of northern Kunduz province have captured a key adjoining district officials said Sunday, sparking renewed alarm among residents who fear the fall of the besieged city. The Taliban launched their major offensive in late April with a beachhead in Kunduz province, drawing close to overrunning the provincial capital and sending civilian authorities into an untried district. The capture of the eastern-hued Chahar Dara district - at the edge of Kunduz city - on Saturday surprised remaining over their annual summer offensive. "The district has fallen to Tal- ban after hours of fierce fighting," Tweeted Afghan forces have lost their lives and 17 others have been wounded," Chahar Dara district govt sources to Yousafy told AFP. The military gave as close to three kilometers to Kunduz city, complaining that by the insurgency, with speaking to the situation...