

### (1) Trump Marks...

center's twin towers and hit the Pentagon. The fourth plane, Flight 93, crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where Vice President Mike Pence traveled for the day. (AFP)

### (2) Mirziyoyev Discusses ...

on the situation in Myanmar amid the fresh wave of violence against the minority group and issued a statement. Leaders of 14 countries and about 80 delegations of the OIC summit gathered at the summit. (AKI-PRESS)

### (3) Ghani Calls ...

we have to be prepared to pay a huge price." Lesson should be learnt from the current situation, he said.

The first lesson was that Muslim countries, consumers in the past three revolutions, never tried to be producers. Thus Muslims had been novice in the science and technology sphere and should strive to become familiar with it.

Ghani said the third lesson was that science and technology could not be tactical and there was a need for a strategic approach; there should be a clear understanding of the barriers in the way of utilising science and technology.

"We should devise a proper plan to learn from each other and move forward. We should improve our cultural, social and educational systems," Ghani remarked.

Afghanistan was building a wide range of optical fiber in the region, which would be joined by Central and South Asian countries, the president concluded. (Pajhwok)

### (4) Afghanistan will

but let us also remember how this must end, with Afghanistan never again serving as an ungoverned space, sanctuary or base for those who are bent on attacking us and our allies," ambassador Hugo Llorens told a crowd of soldiers at the NATO coalition's headquarters in Kabul.

The United states would also "completely annihilate" Islamic State militants in the region, Llorens said.

The Taliban on Monday claimed responsibility for a suicide car bombing that wounded several NATO troops and Afghan civilians in a province north Kabul. (Reuters)

### (5) Railway Route...

But the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MoCI) has expressed hope that with the signing of trade and transit agreements with Uzbekistan, Afghanistan will be able to remove obstacles in the way of its commercial relations with China regarding the railway line.

"Over the past three months we received no imported goods. When we consulted the companies, they pointed out the issues around transit facilities and the lack of infrastructure for loading and unloading and a subsidy issue," said Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO of ACCI.

According to the ACCI, the lack of infrastructure at Hairatan Port was cited as one of the key reasons for the Chinese company suspending its operations.

But the ACCI said there was adequate capacity in place to load the wagons at the port.

Initially the Chinese government said it would subsidize a company to take responsibility of transporting goods to Afghanistan by rail. However, the company reportedly stopped its operations after the Chinese government suspended its subsidy.

"The work has been done on the draft package from Afghanistan's side, the draft has been sent to Uzbekistan, the agreement will be signed in the near future; maybe during the tour of the president to Uzbekistan or the trip of high level officials from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan. The transit agreement with Uzbekistan will help us to get connected to Kazakhstan and onward to China," said Musafir Qoqandi, spokesman for the ministry of commerce and industries.

ACCI says that by road, goods take two months to get between China and Afghanistan but with the railway route the time is cut to only twelve days.

The ACCI has meanwhile called on government to step in and take steps to resolve the issue.

Last year the first Chinese cargo train arrived in the northern Afghan port city of Hairatan on the border with Uzbekistan. The move was part of an initiative Afghan officials in Kabul hoped would boost the national economy. (Tolonews)

### (6) Afghan Issues ..

highlighted, Pakistan's efforts for regional peace and stability, including support for the Afghan peace and reconciliation process."

The statement said President Erdogan reiterated Turkey's readiness to continue to help reinforce the process of peace and development in Afghanistan.

"The Turkish President appreciated Pakistan for wholeheartedly supporting the first OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Astana and hoped that the Summit would be an important milestone in promoting science and technology in the Muslim Ummah. He praised Pakistan's key contributions as the Chair of the COMSTECH," the statement added.

This comes as President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani during a meeting with his Turkish

counterpart said Afghanistan is ready for comprehensive talks with Islamabad.

President Ghani further added that the announcement of the new US strategy has opened new doors of opportunities and necessary steps should be taken regionally for the proper use of the provided opportunity. He said Afghanistan wants good relations with its neighbors and the country is prepared for comprehensive talks with Islamabad, insisting that the current situation should change in the region and opportunities should be properly utilized.

The Afghan President also called terrorism as a menace threatening both the region and the world and emphasized on joint efforts for its eradication. (KP)

### (7) NUG Leaders...

Abdullah have been severely criticized for their failure to fill the posts.

"My personal view is that voting should be conducted for these ministers and we should cast our votes, the government should also make sure the other posts are filled," said MP Sahib Khan.

Lawmakers argue that the caretaker trend has had a significant impact on service delivery in certain sectors and on good governance.

"At least for once they must remove the caretaker issue in cabinet and introduce the ministers," said MP Sayed Nadir Shah Bahr.

"The government has decided to introduce ministers for all those ministries which have no ministers," said deputy presidential spokesman Dawa Khan Menapal.

Recently government announced it had introduced at least eight candidates for the post of ministry of defense, ministry of interior, ministry of transport and civil aviation, ministry of communication and information technology, ministry of economy, ministry of public work, ministry of higher education and ministry of borders and tribal affairs.

However no decision was taken regarding the ministry of foreign affairs, ministry of education and ministry of information and culture. (Tolonews)

### (8) Terror War ...

in New York and the Pentagon on 9/11/2001, an international military alliance led by the US and NATO was formed to overthrow the Taliban regime who sheltered the mastermind of the attack, Osama Bin Laden.

So far 3,480 foreign forces, including 2,346 Americans, have been killed in Afghanistan in the fight against terrorism since 2001. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Noted Pashto Poet, ...

contemporary poet. I consider it a major loss to Pashto literature."

Rafiullah Stanikzai wrote: "Saaduddin Shpoon is dead. May Allah bless him with a place in paradise. His voice had been known to most of people since their childhood.

"His interviews were unique and gripping and his discussions on radio so sweet. Pashto literature will feel the vacuum created by Shpoon's passing."

Afghanistan Academy of Sciences member and researcher Rafiullah Niazzai said: "Prof. Shpoon has died. May Allah shower His eternal blessings on him." (Pajhwok)

### (10) Fierce Clash ...

Afghan News that some more than 300 militants, including foreigners, launched the coordinated assault on the district headquarters at about 5am Monday morning. He alleged a Pakistani army major, Yousaf, who was spearheading two groups comprised of 20 members each, was engaged in the clashes with security forces.

The police chief said so far 13 militants had been killed and two policemen injured during the clash. He said the clash was ongoing and more details would be shared with the media later.

"They are above 300," the police chief said of the number of the attackers.

Nuristan Governor Hafiz Abdul Qayum said additional troops and the air forces had reached the Barg-i-Matal district and hoped the attackers would be crushed soon.

The governor said the rebels had surrounded the Barg-i-Matal district centre for the past several days and security forces were well-prepared to face them. "That's why today we have an upper hand in the clash." Head of the provincial council (PC), Sadullah Paindazoy, said he feared the district would collapse because of the huge number of the attackers.

He said if the rebels captured Barg-i-Matal district, they would be able to find a secure passage to northern provinces.

No report about civilian casualties in the ongoing clashes could be ascertained. However, security officials said civilians were safe. The Taliban said they attacked the district on Monday morning and captured many areas from the Afghan security forces.

Their spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, in a message said so far three security posts and large swaths of land had been captured by the fighters.

However, his claims were rejected by local officials. (Pajhwok)

### (11) India to Provide...

attacks in the last few months and the proposed reconciliation and peace process is yet to make any progress.

Asserting that its relationship with Afghanistan is an "article of faith" for India, she said

New Delhi would continue to work with Afghan people in their efforts to build a secure, stable, peaceful, prosperous, united and inclusive Afghanistan.

The two sides also inked four pacts, including one on vehicular movement to boost overland transit and another on fresh batch of development projects by India in Afghanistan.

"We support national peace and reconciliation in an atmosphere free from violence and within the framework of Afghanistan's Constitution," Swaraj said, reiterating that India would continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Afghanistan in realising their dreams.

Both Swaraj and Rabbani were clear in their references about terrorism emanating from Pakistan though they did not name the country.

Thanking India for its unflinching support for peace and stability in Afghanistan, Rabbani said both countries agreed to strengthen security cooperation. "India has further agreed to provide assistance for Afghan national defence forces." India has already invested over USD 2 billion in reconstruction of Afghanistan in the last 15 years but has been adopting a cautious approach in supplying military hardware.

India has given four military helicopters to Afghanistan and imparted training to hundreds of Afghan security personnel.

Rabbani said the current regional situation brings Afghanistan and India closer to protect and achieve their socio-economic goal and protect citizens.

"The enabling environment for terrorism is directly linked to continued support they receive

The Afghan foreign minister said the countries have been the target of terrorism and violent extremism which is threatening the stability of the region.

He referred to "terrorists groups like LeT and JeM which have been launching attacks against India and indiscriminately killing civilians in this country and engaging in similar terrorist activities along with Taliban Al-Qaeda and Daesh in Afghanistan".

He said Afghanistan's friendship with India or any other country does not mean hostility with others in the neighbourhood. "Unlike others, Afghanistan has hardly sought security in the insecurity of others." Afghanistan, Rabbani added, is a landlocked country and its peace and prosperity is dependent on "those of our neighbours near and extended".

"That is why we reject zero sum approaches that undermine our collective security today and years to come." In her remarks, Swaraj said India was "indebted" to Afghan security forces for ensuring safety of Indians working in Afghanistan.

Discussing connectivity projects, Swaraj said the development of Chahbahar Port in trilateral cooperation with Iran was being expedited. The supply of wheat to Afghanistan through the Chahbahar port would begin in the coming weeks.

She also announced 500 new scholarships programmes for next of kin of the martyrs of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces from academic year 2018.

Rabbani said Afghanistan strongly supports India's membership of the UN Security Council and other groupings and hoped that it would back Kabul's entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The two sides also discussed easing of visas. Swaraj said India would assist in development projects like the Shatoot dam and drinking water supply project for Kabul, low cost housing for returning refugees, water supply network for Charikar city and a polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif.

"Focus will continue on building governance and democratic institutions, human resource capacity and skill development, including in the areas of education, health, agriculture, energy, application of remote sensing in resource management and space technology in governance," she said. (DNA)

### (12) Iran Stands...

roots of terrorism should be targeted, and Afghanistan expects Iran to fight the roots alongside Afghans.

"Terrorism is not an Afghan innovation, it originates outside Afghanistan," Seyqal said, adding that Taleban, Daesh, al-Qaeda, etc. are all of foreign origins; they are all schooled out of Afghanistan and supported from outside.

Seyqal also confirmed that poverty and unemployment has a role in some ignorant Afghans' entering the terrorist groups, but he reiterated, "The main problem is the person that orchestrates the plans to destabilize Afghanistan."

He also said "We think that global combat against terrorism has not taken shape yet." Commenting about drugs, he said, "The mother of all the problems in Afghanistan is lack of security. The other issue is the relationship between terrorism and narcotics." Terrorism needs money; therefore, for example, Taleban takes control of an area, cultivate narcotic plant, harvests them, then evacuates the area, he said. (IRNA)

### (13) Red Cross Health ...

The ICRC also said in a statement "a Spanish physiotherapist working in our ortho centre in Mazar has been shot and killed. "We are shocked and devastated," it added. The humanitarian organization had announced last Tuesday that two ICRC staff

members, who were abducted in February in neighboring Jawzjan province, had been released.

"We are relieved and grateful that our colleagues are now back with us unharmed," said the ICRC head of delegation in Afghanistan, Monica Zanarelli.

"Their abduction and the killings of our six colleagues were emotional agony for all of us, especially for their families and friends," she said referring to the Feb. 7 incident when pro-Daesh militants in the restive Jawzjan province attacked an ICRC convoy in the Qosh Tapa area, killing six aid workers and abducting two others.

Abduction and kidnapping of foreigners in particular is a recurring phenomenon in Afghanistan involving both the militant factions as well as criminal syndicates. The February attack on the ICRC convoy in Jawzjan was followed by another deadly incident in May when armed individuals killed a German woman and her Afghan guard, and kidnapped a Finnish woman from an international guesthouse in Kabul run by the Swedish-based charity, Operation Mercy.

Following the incident, the British government warned its citizens about "a very high and constant threat" to Westerners of kidnapping in Afghanistan, with over 100 people kidnapped since 2001. (AA)

### (14) MPs Furious ...

superimposed on its side, fleeing from a lion.

Following the drop of leaflets, a senior US commander apologized to the nation and said the images were deemed highly offensive.

The MPs said such moves will legitimize the Taliban war and warned if such incidents happen again, they will fight the foreign troops.

"The drop of leaflets by the US army containing offensive images has insulted Islam and Muslims values and it will provoke and damage Afghans feelings," MP Saleh Mohammad Saljoqi said.

A number of MPs said such moves will benefit the insurgents and will distance the nation from the US troops.

"If such a move is repeated again, then we will take up arms and stand against them (US army) and we will see the Taliban war as a legitimate war," MP Allah Gul Mujahid said.

Some parliament members meanwhile criticized government and said the National Unity Government in addition to being unable to safeguard peoples properties and lives cannot defend their values.

"Government cannot safeguard peoples lives and religion. Government leaders must respond; why are they silent over such moves, regardless of who has done it," Abdul Sattar Khawasi, an MP said.

The leaflets were dropped in parts of Parwan, Kapisa and Kabul's Kohdaman district.

The US army later on Tuesday apologized to the Afghans over the drop of the leaflets. A high ranking US commander said such an incident will never happen again. (Tolonews)

### (15) Farmers' Well...

and our produce have no gainful market," he complained. While other crops need frequent irrigation, poppy requires less water and fetches more money.

He added in the past there were 360 karez wells in Maiwand but all of them had gone dry. Farmers have to dig deep wells and extract water at a high cost.

Jan said an individual could easily get loans for the cultivation of the poppy crop. Farmers do not need to search buyers for the opium as customers themselves approach them.

He said the lack of water and market for other agriculture produce was the main reason behind the increasing cultivation of poppy. Government officials

Counter-Narcotics Director Gul Mohammad Shakran said there was need for drastic changes in farmers' lives to control the cultivation of the illicit crop.

He told Pajhwok Afghan News one major problem of farmers was the non-availability of water resources. He explained most of the poppy crop was cultivated in insecure areas, far from Kandahar City where the irrigation system was non-existent. He added mafia groups exploited the farmers' economic vulnerability. It was hard for government to eliminate the cultivation of poppy and provide an alternative to growers, he admitted. Assistance from international community was vital to the elimination of poppies, stressed the director, who stressed the need for joint efforts to halt poppy cultivation, production and smuggling.

Agriculture Director Syed Hafizullah Syedi suggested the same strategy to halt poppy cultivation. He said the introduction and support of saffron, pistachio, olive and almond crops offered an alternative to poppies.

Syedi added the Agriculture Ministry had launched a three-year project of 250 pistachios, as many saffron and tens of raisins farms in nine districts of Kandahar some weeks back.

The project is being implemented in Zherai, Panjwai, Maiwand, Daman, Dand, Takhta Pul, Spin Boldak, Maroof and Arghistan districts.

The project, financially supported by the

United Nations and European Union, may help control poppy cultivation in the province.

Public Health Director Dr. Ahmadullah Faizi said 120,000 people in Kandahar were addicted to drugs -- a threat to society that needs to be addressed urgently.

He said the most dangerous news was that due to drug addiction 102 people had been diagnosed with AIDS in Kandahar. In addition, there is no proper facility for the rehabilitation of addicts.

Mohammad Nabi, who treats drug addicts, said more people had become addicted to drugs. Most of the addict hail from far-flung areas and are illiterate.

In some cases, the junkies have also made their wives addicts. Nabi added of 120,000 drug addicts, 10 percent were women.

Residents & civil society activists Ahmad Shah Sayar, a civil society activist, said according to statistics from the Counter-Narcotics Department, 50 percent of Afghanistan's poppy was cultivated in Helmand, Uruzgan, Kandahar and Farah.

He called widespread poppy cultivation a threat to Afghanistan and the wider region. Sayar said if the number of three million addicts in the country was true, each one spent \$1 on buying drugs. It is a big loss to the economy.

Residents said the cultivation of poppy and use of opium represented a knotty problem for the Afghan society, which was already facing a whole host of other issues.

Taj Mohammad, a resident of Kandahar City, said his brother had been addicted to drugs. Despite repeated rehabilitation, he could not quit narcotics.

Mohammad said his brother initially started using hashish with friends. In the next step, he started to consume other drugs. The number of rehabilitation centres in Kandahar City is insufficient.

Taj added there was need for slandered drug rehabilitation centres in Kandahar at the zonal level. He called for introducing new techniques to prevent rehabilitated individuals from relapsing into addiction.

Security Officials:

Col. Muhsenullah, in charge of counter-narcotics police, in Kandahar said efforts had been stepped up to prevent smuggling of drugs and more security arrangements had been made in airports and dry ports of the country.

He said 53 big and small smugglers had been arrested and referred to the attorney office for investigation this year.

The poppy eradication drive this year could not be completed while the illicit crop was grown on 40,000 hectares of land. The counter-narcotic department could flatten only 72.5 acres crop of poppy.

Ten percent increase noticed in the growing of poppy in the county this year. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Afghanistan's

league and said the aim of the team is to put on show the latest developments and technical achievements in the cricket field to the fans of the sport.

He also called on the supporters and fans of the cricket in the country for their support to Shpageeza cricket league.

The first match as part of the Shpageeza cricket league has kicked off in Kabul today and is being played between Boost Guardians and Kabul Falcons. (KP)

### (17) Suicide Bomber...

The attack came on the 16th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, which triggered the U.S.-led military operation that toppled the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. (Reuters)

### (18) Mastermind ...

killed, the statement read.

The attack took place in April last year, killing 28 people and wounding over 300.

According to the Mol's statement the attack had been planned by Haqqani network.

"At least three other key commanders of Haqqani network, Abdul Rahman identified as Omari, who provided equipment for the insurgents in Logar, Qari Ershad and Mullah Hebatullah were also killed during the operation," the statement continued.

The group was involved in other major attacks in Logar, officials said.

The forces also seized weapons and explosive devices during their raid. (Tolonews)

### (19) Iranian Police...

held in Zahedan and the number raised to between 2,500 to 3,000. Fifty five buses were full of refugees," said Qadir.

Qadir said he is extremely worried about his family and does not know what will happen to them. "I was in detention for four days. My family had come to the detention center and were outside for days and nights. My children were crying," Qadir added.

"Such treatment is illegal, unethical, irrational and inhuman. If they deport refugees, they should deport them with their families," said Daud Kalakani, an MP.

The refugees and repatriation ministry however said they are trying to resolve these challenges through legal channels.

"They lack official documents, but it does not mean that a country (Iran) should ill-treat them," MoRR spokesperson, Islamuddin Jurat said.

According to the ministry, in the first seven months of this year 350,000 refugees returned from Iran and Pakistan and the numbers continue to rise. (Tolonews)