

(1) Kabul, Delhi ...

The decision came at the second meeting of the Indo-Afghan strategic partnership council, attended by Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj.

The two sides inked three more documents of cooperation in the areas of medicine, satellite and New Development Partnership, the Indian minister was quoted as saying.

New Delhi promised helping Kabul in setting up a dam, a drinking water supply project in Kabul, a low-cost housing scheme for returning refugees, a water supply network in Charikar and a polyclinic in Mazar-i-Sharif.

India would also set up a gypsum board-manufacturing plant in Kabul to promote value-added industry and a slew of other projects planned in Afghanistan.

Swaraj told reporters after the meeting her country would continue to focus on building governance and democratic institutions, human resource capacity and skill development, including in the areas of education, health, agriculture, energy, administration, application of remote sensing in resource management and space technology in governance.

A trade and investment show in New Delhi at the end of the current month will provide opportunity to bring together businesses of the two countries.

India, which has extended \$3 billion in aid to Afghanistan since 2001, has liberalised the visa regime for Afghan businessmen. The two sides will identify products to enhance bilateral trade, including direct trade in gemstones, pharmaceuticals and agro products.

"We are expediting the development of Chahbahar port in trilateral cooperation with Iran. We will begin supply of wheat (170,000 metric tons) to Afghanistan in coming weeks through Chahbahar port," Swaraj said.

The two countries also signed the Motors Vehicle Agreement, paving the way for overland transit. India hoped to join the regional trade and transit agreements that are Afghan-centric.

"We will extend all possible assistance and begin implementation of the new 500 scholarships programme for next of kin of the martyrs of Afghan Forces from 2018," she added. (Pajhwok)

(2) More Effort ...

glaciers are located in the narrow eastern Wakhan Corridor in Badakhshan province, wedged between Pakistan, China, and Tajikistan and drain southwestward via a system of streams, providing surface water.

"Climate change would have a serious impact on agriculture, forests, grasslands, energy, water resources and other areas; there is a need for extended coordination to address the problem," said environmental expert Azim Dosti.

Meanwhile, Abdul Wali Madaqiq, deputy head of the National Environment Protection Agency has stressed the need for extended cooperation between all institutions to protect the environment.

Based on statistics, Afghanistan is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. (Tolonews)

(3) MUDH and Kabul ...

demands and needs of the two sides.

Mr. Naderi further added that the agreement will pave the way to respond to the needs of the ministry and Kabul polytechnic university and will sideline their existing challenges.

He said the main objectives of the agreement include bilateral cooperation and linking of the ministry and the university that will eventually pave the way for practical utilization of the higher education, skill building of the employees of the ministry specifically the engineers, research opportunities for the university lecturers and students, curriculum development of the university, skill building of the university graduates.

He said the agreement will cover a period of at least three years and can be extended based on mutual agreements and considering the needs.

Providing a brief summary of the agreement, Mr. Naderi said the agreement will be implemented in six phases which includes the practical phase for the students, research cooperation, development of the education journal, education and skill building phase for the ministry staff, the internship phase, and curriculum development phase.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Urban Development and Housing Syed Sadat Mansoor Naderi and Chairman of Kabul polytechnic university Eng. Mohammad Sayed Kakar. (KP)

(4) ALP to Expand...

prevent such incidents in future. "Unfortunately we also have heard of such things, but we also have worked a lot to prevent such actions," said Gharnai.

Meanwhile, a number of ALP personnel complained about the shortage of ammunition and equipment. The challenge within the ALP is not only a lack of ammunition, but poor management, illiteracy and troops not getting professional training, said ALP personnel.

"Except for Kalashnikovs we do not have anything. We need rockets and heavy weapons," Jan Agha, an ALP soldier said.

Despite the challenges they face, a number of military analysts have said if management of the ALP improves, these troops could play a vital role in ensuring security.

"First it should be told to the people that ALP work for the people and that they should cooperate with them, and second they should be organized in a better way and should receive the necessary training," military analyst Abdul Moqadam Amin said.

Currently 30,000 local police force members are employed in 201 districts across the country to maintain security and fight on the battlefields. (Tolonews)

(5) New US Strategy...

the current situation, but what worries us is the continuation of fighting and little attention to the reconciliation process."

Talking about 'positive points' in the strategy, the lawmaker said the US new Afghan policy helped define Pakistan "a country supporting terrorism" but these efforts were not enough, suggesting more restrictions on Pakistan.

Najiba Hussaini, another lawmaker, said there was nothing about reconciliation process in Afghanistan in the new US strategy. He said the US announced its new policy to ensure the conflict continued in Afghanistan.

She said the Afghan conflict could only be resolved through political efforts which she said should go together with force.

Daud Ghafari, another lawmaker, said: "No decisive action has so far been taken to vanquish the militants and the new strategy shows the conflict would continue at a time when all Afghans want peace and stability."

Senate chairman Fazl Hadi Muslimyar welcomed the new US strategy and said isolation of Pakistan and putting more pressure on the Afghan Taliban were positive points of the strategy.

He said the Taliban might not accept to join peace process until the group was militarily suppressed. Earlier in the day, deputy presidential spokesman Syed Hussain Murtazavi termed the new US strategy as an opportunity for Afghanistan and said the Afghan government should get maximum advantage of the new strategy. (Pajhwok)

(6) President Accepts ...

society as well as the private sector. Trade and economic relations will be one of the new features of this engagement.

Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon praised the resilience of the people of Afghanistan. The EU's ultimate goal, the new Ambassador asserted, is to contribute to building peace and stability for the wellbeing of Afghan society. (PR)

(7) Afghanistan's...

widely welcomed by the Afghan political leadership, CEO Abdullah Abdullah said on Monday that some parts of the strategy must be explained to the people.

"The views of Afghanistan have been included in the strategy and this strategy guarantees the common interests of Afghanistan and the United States," Murtazawi said.

But critics say that the Afghan people do not know about the details of the strategy - recently announced by US President Donald Trump.

"Consultations were not carried out with Afghanistan regarding the strategy or they (US) did not accept its suggestions," said former governor of Herat Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi.

"Perhaps his excellency the CEO wants some parts of the strategy to be explained to the people, but I think consultations were held with Afghanistan on the new strategy," said political analyst Habibullah

Janibdar.

In addition, Murtazawi said that government will soon finalize the anti-corruption strategy.

"This strategy will be finalized this week, we had documents and institutions which are working towards combating corruption, but the document which is being drawn up is a comprehensive document," said Murtazawi.

The US's new strategy sparked some concern among regional countries including Pakistan. But at a meeting with Ghani in Kazakhstan, the Turkish President Rajab Recep Erdogan defended the new strategy. (Tolonews)

(8) Dupree Paid ...

ceremony, said Dupree was one of major supporters of Afghanistan culture and was interested in awareness of the Afghan youth in this regard.

"Dupree was a specialist and researcher of Afghanistan history, arts and culture, she broke the borders and introduced Afghanistan to the world," he said.

Ms. Dupree arrived in Kabul in 1962. For the next 15 years, she and her late husband, Louis Dupree, a renowned archaeologist and scholar of Afghanistan's culture and history, traveled throughout Afghanistan, conducting archaeological excavations.

Following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Duprees moved with Afghan refugees to Peshawar, Pakistan where they continued their work.

Ms. Dupree wrote many scholarly and more popular articles, in particular on the challenges facing Afghan women, reports and a number of guidebooks to Afghanistan (one of which became the inspiration for Tony Kushner's play Homebody/Kabul).

Her writings covered all major archaeological and historic sites, as well as a well-known guide to the National Museum, which was the de facto illustrated catalogue of its rare and priceless collection.

Aside from the books, articles, photographs and recordings she leaves behind, Ms. Dupree's lasting legacy to the country she loved and called home is the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University (ACKU), which she founded in 2006 and where she was director from 2006-2011.

ACKU grew out of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development's (ACBAR) Resource and Information Center, which Ms. Dupree founded and directed with Louis Dupree in Peshawar, Pakistan in 1989.

Acting higher education minister, Abdul Latif Roshan, said Dupree left behind around a hundred historic, artistic and cultural monuments of Afghanistan and she was like a mother to the Afghans.

He suggested the Ministry of Information and Culture should name the ACKU after Nancy Hatch Dupree.

Hasina Shir Jan, an officer of ACKU, who had worked with Dupree since 1996, said Dupree was a self-reliant person and would not ask people for help. "If there was no Dupree, there would have been no ACKU", Jan said. (Pajhwok)

(9) 67km of Rural ...

At the contracts-signing ceremony, Durrani said asphaltting 37 kilometers and graveling and repairing more than 30 kilometers of roads as well as building 167 meters bridges were part of the project.

The total cost of the project was 522 million afghanis paid by the World Bank (WB) and the MRRD, he said.

Durrani said work on the project would begin in next few days in Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Samangan, Faryab, Nangarhar, Ghor, Kandahar and Jawzjan provinces and its implementation would take six months to one year.

"Besides creating job opportunities for 265,000 people, the project would improve economy of people and connect 221 villages," he said. He asked the contractors to observe all standards and time frame in implementation of the project. (Pajhwok)

(10) Graft Alleged...

Muslim, the organisation's head, claimed having evidence of the education director taking bribes from applicants, who were made to pay 40,000 to 100,000 afghanis to education officials for jobs.

Muslim also assailed the Population Census Department of brazen graft. "Getting the national identity card (tazkera) is the right of every Afghan, but an individual from Europe could easily get it for 7,000 afghanis to \$1,000..."

He asked the government to pay immediate attention to the issue and resolve it on priority.

Some people who had been asked for bribes by education department officials also spoke at the press conference.

Faiz Mohammad, a youth who appeared in test for the fifth-grade teacher at the education department, charged he was asked to pay a bribe for appointment to the position.

"Members of the monitoring board at the education department demanded 100,000 afghanis or \$1,000 for my appointment," the applicant claimed.

Sher Agha, another young job seeker, said: "We were five guys who appeared in the test, including four bachelor degree-holders. But a 12th class graduate with the right links was appointed."

But Education Director Rustam Ahmadi rejected the allegations of Muslim as groundless. He said appointments to the education department were fair and transparent.

He added: "I totally reject the claims of the organisation. They is a small group trying to fuel ethnic differences and bring bad name to the education department."

Rohullah Quraishi, head of the Population Census Department, also spurned the allegations. He said no one without the required documents and proofs had been issued tazkera. (Pajhwok)

(11) Nangarhar Police ...

smuggling, including 43 persons accused of selling drugs and others transporting and smuggling.

Counternarcotics department officials said the number of drug addicts in Nangarhar had increased due to easy access to drugs and unemployment.

Idris Safi, counternarcotics department director, said the number of drug addicts in Nangarhar had reached 100,000.

"However, this survey is not complete; the population of drug addicts is estimated at more than 100,000 people."

Idris also said they had constructed a 300-bed hospital where 400 drug addicts were being treated. "But this hospital is not enough." A member of the provincial council, Zabihullah Zmaray, said the menace of drugs could not be done away with until some security officials remained involved in the drug trade.

"We have shared with the police many times the issue of open selling of the drugs in the city, but they paid no attention," Zamaray said.

But the police spokesman said the force was doing its level best to prevent drug smuggling and selling.

Mashriqiwal said police had largely prevented drug trafficking, cultivation and business and people should report to the police wherever they saw drugs.

The number of drug addicts nationwide has reached three million people mostly those returning from neighboring Iran. (Pajhwok)

(12) Kabul's Metro

to the residents," said Habibzai. He added that around 111 kilometers of the city will be covered with metro bus service in the next phases which will include Dar-ul-Aman, Karte-e-Naw, and Dasht-e-Barchi in the west. (Wadsam)

(13) Work on Govt. ...

including the governor, and residents and listened to problems existing in Nuristan.

According to Momand, Nuristan Governor Hafez Abdul Qayum briefed the minister about ongoing development activities in the province and thanked Naderi for allotting several projects to Nuristan this year.

Momand quoted Minister Naderi as assuring the Nuristan officials and resident of sharing their plights with the Cabinet for solutions. The projects--- a two-storey building for the governor's house costing 50 million afghanis, a two-storey building for the provincial guest house costing 40 million afghanis and a two-floors building worth 44 million afghanis for the provincial attorney office --- would take two years to complete. (Pajhwok)

(14) Police Commander ...

forcibly married her. The woman sought prompt justice from the provincial authorities.

Meanwhile, the provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Ikramuddin Sarey, said a manhunt had been launched for the commander. The police chief promised the accused would be arrested soon. (Pajhwok)

(15) Taliban Loses ...

related incidents in Lalpur and other districts of the province, the statement added.

The anti-government armed militant groups have not commented regarding the report so far.

Nangarhar is among the relatively calm provinces in eastern Afghanistan but the anti-government armed militant groups have recently increased their insurgency activities in some parts of the province during the recent years.

Both the Afghan and US forces conduct regular operations and airstrikes against the militants operating in this province, specifically the ISIS terrorist group which attempts expand their foothold in the restive and remote districts of Nangarhar. (KP)

(16) A Day after...

ensured for ICRC staff the source said, refusing to give further details regarding the decision that might affect many war victims.

Sher Jan Durani, the provincial police spokesman, said the ARCS had not formally complained about security threats to its office. "It is our responsibility to ensure security for all foreign and domestic organisations."

With seven rehabilitation centers in Afghanistan, ICRC manufactures more than 19,000 artificial limbs annually and treat hundreds of thousands of patients across the country. (Pajhwok)

(17) Offensive Leaflets...

blocked the Kabul-Qarabagh highway for traffic. The highway remained blocked as 11am.

Malak Abdul Aziz, an influential figure from Qarabagh, speaking on behalf of the protestors, called the leaflets an insult to Islam. "We don't insult anyone's religion, so why do foreigners insult ours. We will sacrifice our lives but won't this affront."

A military commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan has already apologised for the airdropping of the leaflets. "The design of the leaflets mistakenly contained an image highly offensive to both Muslims and the religion of Islam," he said.

Mass killing of Muslims in Burma According to media reports, more than 2,000 Muslims in Burma have been killed and over 300,000 others forcibly displaced from homes by rampaging Buddhist extremists.

Rohingya Muslims currently live in temporary tents and are under close surveillance of police. They are restricted from moving out of their areas.

The Qarabagh protestors denounced the killing of the Muslims in Myanmar and expressed solidarity with them.

Malak Abdul Aziz said Muslims were suffering in Myanmar and it was the responsibility of their brothers in faith to stand against that brutality. He said Qarabagh residents were ready to go to Burma for defending the Muslims there.

A day earlier, Wolesi Jirga -- lower house of the parliament -- also condemned the leaflets and the killing of Muslims in Burma. Lawmakers asked the government to investigate the leaflet issue. (Pajhwok)

(18) 12 Security ...

three directions. Syed Momand, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News 33 Taliban fighters were killed and 35 others wounded after they assaulted Barg-i-Matal district.

He said one child was killed and three other civilians were wounded in Taliban's gunfire. Two mosques and eight civilian houses were also destroyed, the spokesman alleged. Clashes have ended and Afghan forces are fully prepared to deal with another possible assault from the rebels on the district centre, according to Momand.

Aqa Faqiri, spokesman for 201st Silab Military Corps, said 35 militants including a commander were killed and nine others wounded during ground and air offensives in the district.

Meanwhile, provincial police chief, Brig. Gen. Ghulam Mohiuddin Sarwari, said 40 militants were killed and 30 others wounded in retaliatory attacks. Only two Afghan soldiers were wounded, he added. Acting administrative chief for Barg-i-Matal Shah Wali said a child was killed and three others were wounded. Three Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and a policeman were also killed and three soldiers and five policemen wounded.

On the other hand, Taliban claimed inflicting casualties to 20 Afghan soldiers and capturing seven security posts. (Pajhwok)