

(1) Terrorism an ...

security, not just to Afghanistan, stressing the need for unified global action to eliminate the scourge.

Addressing the 7th Ministerial Conference – Security and Economic Connectivity towards a Strengthened Heart of Asia Region – in Baku, the president underlined the need for concerted efforts to defeat terrorists.

“We are trying to check the expansion of the Islamic State (Daesh) in Afghanistan. Nine provinces have been cleared of the group’s occupation,” the president claimed.

Backed by the United States in the fight against extremism, Ghani said his administration was trying to making Afghanistan Asia’s heart and transform it into a regional economic hub. He maintained the Taliban had no future

His government planned to double the size of the Afghan Special Forces and triple the Afghan Air Force, he announced, hoping the move would help to defeat terrorists and further secure Afghan civilian.

Ghani said Daesh had failed in building a base for their so-called caliphate in Afghanistan. Daesh was on the run in Nangarhar, Kunar and other provinces, he insisted, saying the insurgent outfit would wiped out. (Pajhwok)

(2) Terrorism as State ..

policy to ensure peace in Afghanistan and in the wider region. Though Abdullah did not name Pakistan, it was clear he was pointing a finger at the country.

“The neighbours should change the policy of using terrorism as an instrument of state policy,” he said, responding to a question on how “Pakistan’s mind” can be changed to fight terrorism in the region.

Pakistan is believed to be supporting the Taliban which is seen as the main insurgent group in Afghanistan, controlling a sizeable part of Afghan territory despite a -16year-long war against the group by US-led international forces. Both India and Afghanistan accuse Pakistan of using its territory to train and arm terrorists.

Of late, the international community, including the US and Russia, have expressed concern that the Islamic State (IS) could be establishing a base in Afghanistan, with the Taliban seen as the lesser of the two challenges.

“Any kind of differentiation between good and bad terrorists, failure to look at linkages between terrorists and extremist outfits, state-sponsored violence and proxy war can have catastrophic consequences,” he said, urging for an increase in cooperation to fight terrorism. In August, US President Donald Trump had unveiled his South Asia policy which reiterated US support for the continuation of the military effort in war-torn Afghanistan and also outlined concerns over IS finding a foothold there.

According to Abdullah, the “full impact (of Trump’s policy) is yet to be seen. There’s no doubt the Taliban is under pressure and that’s why they are targeting cities. The real impact will show itself when the neighbouring countries, where the (terror) sanctuaries are, act.”

In his speech, Abdullah also commended the role played by India in stabilizing Afghanistan – in building infrastructure and supporting Afghanistan economically since 2001, when New Delhi pledged more than 3\$ billion for reconstruction in Afghanistan. He said his country was thankful for India’s “soft power generosity” in building infrastructure, opening trade routes and providing quality education.

“This is why India is a rising world power and not just an emerging regional economy,” Abdullah said, adding: “The foundation for our bilateral relations is not accidental, nor is it a temporary phenomenon. Regardless of evolving politics or shifting interests by governments.”

India has committed 3\$ billion for various projects in Afghanistan, where it has built schools, roads and a new parliament building.

The two countries recently started an air freight service connecting New Delhi and Kabul, which transports fruits and dry fruits to India.

There is also talk of another air service link between Kabul and Amritsar. India has also organized several trade fairs and exhibitions to promote Afghan products and goods in the country. (Monitoring Desk)

(3) Iran Warns Against....

reporters on the sidelines of an international conference focusing on Afghanistan in the Azeri capital of Baku on Friday.

“The summit is an effort to create common interests and cooperation, specially among regional countries, towards security and

economic development of Afghanistan,” the Iranian foreign minister added.

The conference was launched in 2011 to provide a platform for discussion of regional issues, particularly encouraging security, political, and economic cooperation among Afghanistan and its neighbors.

This year’s edition gathered 250 representatives from 40 countries and international organizations.

Zarif further said the Afghan conflict does not have a military solution, adding that if there are no comprehensive strategies in the area, the achievement of lasting peace would be impossible.

“Afghanistan has made positive achievements in various areas, but it has also faced foreign invasion and the threat of Daesh,” the Iranian foreign minister said.

Zarif reiterated that prevention of this threat is possible through common endeavors by all the regional countries.

The terrorist outfit, which has become notorious for its brutality, began establishing a notable presence in Afghanistan almost a year after making sweeping land grabs in Iraq and Syria in 2014.

It has mostly been populating the eastern province of Nangarhar, from where it has carried out high-profile brutal attacks against major population centers in Afghanistan.

In relevant remarks last month, former Afghan president Hamid Karzai said that the United States – which has been maintaining military presence in Afghanistan since 2001 – was colluding with ISIL there and allowing the Takfiri group to flourish in the war-stricken country. (FNA)

(4) Azerbaijan, ...

and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on economic and trade cooperation”.

Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Shahin Mustafayev and Minister of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Eklil Ahmad Hakimi signed “The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments”.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadarov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani signed “The Agreement between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Higher Education of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on cooperation in the sphere of education”.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadarov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani signed “The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the field of security and law enforcement activity”.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadarov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani signed “The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan concerning air services”. (Trend)

(5) Afghanistan Centre for....

While acknowledging the active role CBM lead-countries had played to implement projects, he hailed the addition of the CBM on agriculture as relevant. Afghanistan and the Heart of Asia region had traditionally enjoyed a productive agricultural sector, he said.

Regional cooperation had become an imperative to address common challenges, bolster security and advance the region’s socio-economic development, the CEO added.

The HoA was reflective of Afghanistan’s strong commitment to being a centre for cooperation, not confrontation, the foreign minister remarked. He welcomed support for Afghanistan’s efforts to use its central location to enhance wider regional economic cooperation.

Connectivity through Afghanistan would spur trade, transit and investment, ensuring economic growth throughout the region, the CEO hoped.

“In turn, this will help stabilise Afghanistan and the Heart of Asia region against such major common security threats as terrorism, radicalism, and criminality, which hinder our shared prosperity towards economic integration.”

He also commended steps taken for the implementation of: TAPI, CASA1000-, TAP

500 transmission line, the five-nation railroad and the air-cargo between Afghanistan and India.

Also, the Chabahar trade and transit corridor is increasingly operational, according to the minister, who also cited the signing of the Lapis Lazuli Trade and Transit Agreement. (Pajhwok)

(6) Turkmenistan Starts ...

that this section will be rebuilt completely with Turkmenistan’s own funds.

All this will allow increasing the capacity of the Turgundy station and will strengthen its importance for the trade turnover of Afghanistan, which has no access to the sea. It is assumed that the railway lines and motorways will connect the city of Turgundy in the Afghan province of Herat with Ashgabat, then with the port of Turkmenbashi on the shore of the Caspian Sea. Further, the corridor will continue through the Caspian Sea to Baku, and then through Tbilisi to Ankara and Istanbul. (Trend)

(7) Effective...

countries.

Turkey is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan in priority areas, said Cavusoglu, adding. “We see Afghanistan as a country that is ready for cooperation with its neighbors. We remain committed to support Afghanistan.” (APA)

(8) Abdullah Discusses ...

Sochi City in Russia on Friday.

Uzbekistan Prime Minister Abulla Aripov said in his meeting with Abdullah Abdullah that this country is ready to provide the ground for trade and transit, electricity transition, railway construction, communication and internet services, medical services and scholarships for Afghan students, a press release sent by chief executive’s office said.

He said they are committed to strengthening their trade and transit ties with Afghanistan. He added that they will increase the wheat export to Afghanistan to 500 tons.

Aripov said the resuming of the direct flights between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan after 20 years is an important happening for Afghanistan.

“We are ready to establish a training center for Afghan students in railway construction and Uzbek language training in Termez City (in Uzbekistan). We assure that good relations will improve between the two countries,” he added.

Meanwhile, Abdullah said relations between the two countries have a great importance for Afghanistan.

He praised the resuming of the Kabul-Tashkent direct flights, saying that it will improve relations between the two countries. Abdullah said people of the two countries have common enemies and that the security cooperation should increase between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan.

Meanwhile, Abdullah met with Kazakhstan Prime Minister Bakytzhan Sagintayev and Kyrgyzstan prime minister where they discussed the improvement of security cooperation, awarding scholarships to Afghan students in technology and boosting trade and transit relations between Afghanistan and the Central Asian nations. (Tolonews)

(9) EU-Afghan ...

into a new phase of our cooperation. Our new agreement will allow the EU to better support Afghanistan and the Afghan people.”

She added the agreement complemented the new strategy on Afghanistan that the EU had just adopted. The policy looks at peace, security and development of the country as shared priorities. “It is a partnership agreement by name and by nature; it shows the EU will continue to stand by Afghanistan and Afghan people.”

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica recalled: “At the October 2016 Brussels Conference, the EU as a whole made the largest pledge of 5€ billion to support Afghanistan’s development agenda up to 2020.

“Today we confirm our engagement to be a strong partner of Afghanistan in its reform efforts. Our new agreement will give further impetus to our cooperation in a range of key areas such as development, gender equality, trade and investment and regional cooperation.”

Mimica pledged the European Union would continue its support for a peaceful and prospering Afghanistan and to the benefit of the Afghan people. (Pajhwok)

(10) MTN Afghanistan ...

qualified for free education programs i.e. 500 students for one year Diploma in Information Technology (DIT), Diploma in

English Language (DEL) and Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) and (100) students found way to semi high education for 2 years program in BCS and BBA. This education program will be carried out in one of the famous institutes of the Kabul city so called Shaheen Institute that duly licensed by Ministry of Education and AISA Holding brand, rich experiences and qualified lecturer located at 8th District of Kabul Afghanistan.

Mr. Hidayatullah Zahid the General Manager for Corporate Affairs in the inauguration ceremony of the program delivered keynote on behalf of Chief Executive Officer of MTN Afghanistan Mr. Hassan Jabber and said: “MTN Afghanistan management recognized value and importance of the knowledge and development of the Afghan youth in such sensitive circumstances that is why we choose and prefer the free education project, he added: MTN is using incredible efforts to work hard for the best interest of the Afghan youths.

Mr. Kamal Sadat deputy minister of youth affairs praised this educational program and said that MTN Afghanistan is helping the youth generation to secure a better future in the years after and can be the next generation leaders of our country.

This is not the first time MTN is running such education program, as previously MTN provided such free education program for 500 Afghan eligible male and female students in the same institute which have had very fruitful result.

Worth mentioning that MTN Foundation is constituted under MTN Afghanistan Telecommunication Company, that working for the enhancement of the community in different areas such as empowering Afghan youth by providing free education opportunity and creating well-equipped and modern Computer labs for orphans and School Teachers, coloring and renovation of the schools and universities, providing the School students with the free lesson material and stationaries and conducting free basic computer training across the Kabul, MTN Foundation also assists the needy and underprivileged people such as: Blood Donation for Thalassemia and kango affected patients, distributing blankets to internal displaced and war affected families, warm cloths and other necessary items in Baghlan province and deploying its medical crew along with Mobile Clinic of such Foundation to Nangarhar Province for the urgent medical treatment and to help the people. MTN foundation also takes active part in assisting for the renovation and expansion of the Islamic Education Centers, Schools and universities under the 21 days of Y’ello Care seasonal campaign that taking place every year starting from first day of June and ends for 21 days in all 21 countries that MTN operated in. (PR)

(11) Governor’s Plane ...

governor said they waited for one and a half hours inside the plane but were not allowed to take off.

“Accompanied by respected figures from different parts of Afghanistan, we wanted to fly to Kandahar and decide about holding a gathering but unfortunately the government leadership did not allow our plane to take off from Balkh Airport to Kandahar,” Noor said. “This is an illegal, inhuman and immoral act.”

He said the act was not in favor of the country and the people.

“This act weakens government’s bases... After one and a half hours of waiting, we walked out of the plane,” he added.

Meanwhile, Bashir Ahmad Tahyanj, a spokesman for Junbish-e-Milli party, National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, blamed the Presidential Palace for stopping Noor’s flight in Balkh airport.

“The president (Ashraf Ghani) is directly involved in this matter... Junbish (party) believes that ARG (Presidential Palace) is responsible for this act,” Tahyanj told reporters on Friday.

Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority in a statement released on Friday morning said Atta Mohammad Noor’s flight was cancelled “due to lack of facilities for night flights in Kandahar Airport and requirement for further coordination with NATO troops in the airport.

Presidential Palace has not commented on Noor’s remarks so far. (Tolonews)

(12) Taliban-Daesh...

a stable, prosperous and independent Afghanistan.

According to the statement, Medvedev said Russia is ready to cooperate in infrastructure projects in Afghanistan, including rehabilitation of power generating firms, distributing electricity in Kabul city, railway projects and supporting the CASA1000- and

TAPI projects.

Medvedev said Russia supports the Afghan peace process and will cooperate with Kabul based on the pre-established mechanisms.

Meanwhile, Abdullah said Taliban has provided the chance for Daesh and other insurgent groups’ presence in Afghanistan and that Afghan government is fighting against all these groups which are a common enemy to the two countries, said the statement.

“Insecurity is a challenge and our main concern and we are fighting against the insurgent groups,” said Abdullah. (Tolonews)

(13) Differences with ...

upcoming visit is part of the ongoing engagement between Pakistan and the US following the announcement of the Trump administration’s new policy on South Asia.

He said: “Pakistan doesn’t agree with the US policy on South Asia which was announced in August this year. There was a difference in understanding and perceptions on both sides. Thereafter, a dialogue began.” (Pajhwok)

(14) Sayyaf Stresses ...

move they want to make and anything they say, they should prefer the national interests than anything else,” said Sayyaf.

He said the Constitutional Loya Jirga, the Grand Assembly, should be held.

“(Government) should provide the context for holding the Constitutional Loya Jirga where people’s representatives and the elders will come together and talk and make decisions about Afghanistan’s future,” Sayyaf added. (Tolonews)

(15) Women and ...

the individuals belonged to with the provincial government saying an investigatio is still underway from the detained individuals.

This comes as reports emerged earlier suggesting that the militants affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are attempting to migrate from the eastern Nangarhar to Logar province.

The reports emerge amid ongoing violence in Nangarhar province mainly due to the infighting with the Taliban insurgents. (KP)

(16) Govt. Reduces ...

are committed to implementing the decision,” the head of Fuel Importers Union Azrakhsh Hafizi said.

Currently, the price for one liter of petrol is up to 46 AFs, diesel for at least 45 AFs and the price for one liter of liquid gas is nearly 58 AFs in Kabul markets. (Tolonews)

(17) Afghan Taliban

claimed responsibility for numerous deadly attacks in major Afghan cities, including attacks on mosques in the capital, Kabul.

IS’s Khorasan province was formed by Hafiz Saeed Khan, a former Pakistani Taliban commander in the southern districts of Nangarhar. Khan appeared in a video in January 2015, along with 10 militant commanders – each representing a subregion within the Afghan-Pak region – pledging allegiance to IS.

Caliphate in Afghanistan General John Nicholson, commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, said Tuesday that IS’s initial plan was to establish a caliphate in Afghanistan.

“Daesh has been unable to establish a caliphate in Afghanistan. This was their ambition two years ago,” Nicholson told reporters at the Pentagon via teleconference from Afghanistan. He used an Arabic acronym for IS. (VoA)

(18) Azerbaijani FM...

and courses to develop capacities of Afghan civil, military and security agencies.

He added that Azerbaijan will continue its support to that end.

The minister also informed his interlocutor that Azerbaijan will increase its military personnel in Afghanistan for further contribution to peace, security and stability as stated by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev at the recent meeting with Jens Stoltenberg, NATO Secretary General.

In his turn, Zimmerman highly appreciated Azerbaijan’s contributions to the Afghanistan Special Fund for Rehabilitation and Afghanistan National Army Fund. (Trend)

(19) Photo Exhibition in ...

because they are facing with numerous problems,” Sarah said.

Five photos taken by Sarah were displayed in the exhibition, including a number of paintings from Ghulam Mohammad Maimanagi’s Art Academy. (Tolonews)