

### (1) SCO Can Play...

"China, for instance, has a huge demand for marble. Afghanistan has over 40 varieties of marble," Ghani said, noting an increase in people-to-people contacts between the neighbors. (Pajhwok)

### (2) Iran, Afghanistan...

Masoud Karbasian, Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohammad Nahavandian, and Governor of Central Bank of Iran Valiollah Seif. (Agencies)

### (3) ACCI Concerned...

the moment, the Afghan government, particularly the Ministry of Internal Affairs, will provide any kind of services that the private sector wants. And we are trying to provide them with the necessary means to secure the lives of traders and investors," said Najib Danish, a spokesman for the ministry of interior.

In addition, the Chamber of Commerce and Industries said that it has established a committee to help resolve problems businessmen and investors are facing. (Tolo news)

### (4) Ghani Fires...

Mohammad Humayun Qayumi, one of the president's advisors. The sources also said that Ghani stopped meeting with Osmani and that all affairs of the ministry were being run by his adviser - Qayumi.

Last month, Ghani inaugurated an electricity power substation in Khulm district and a power network in Marmul district in Balkh, while Osmani's absence was noticeable.

Instead, the president was accompanied by Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak - whose ministry was attacked by a number of armed insurgents on the same day. (Tolo news)

### (5) Prices of Essential...

African black tea 300afs -- same prices as last week's.

Ahmad WaliPanjsheri, who owns a grocery store in Dahn-i-Bagh area of Kabul, sold a 50-kg sack of Kazakhstani flour for 1,170afs, a 49-kg bag of sugar for 1,720afs, 24-kg of Pakistani rice 2,200afs a 16-litre tin of ghee for 1,100afs, one-kg of Indonesian green tea for 300afs and the same amount of black African tea for 350afs - higher than wholesale rates.

Haji Fawad Ahmad Salehzada, a jeweler in the Timor Shahi area of Kabul, said one gram of Arabian gold was sold at 2,400afs and the same quantity of Russian variety at 1,850afs, registering no change in their prices.

According to Sadaqat Money Exchange Services, one US dollar accounted for 71.35afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees 598afs against last week's 71.25afs and 597afs. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Afghan Taliban...

and wounding several, Jelani Farhad, spokesman for the provincial governor, said.

It was not clear exactly when the ceasefire would begin, as Eid starts when the moon is first sighted, but Afghan calendars mark Friday June 15 as the end of Ramadan.

Eid is the biggest festival in the Muslim calendar when families visit each other's homes, enjoy feasting and in Afghanistan tend graves of fallen loved ones. The Taliban, seeking to reimpose strict Islamic law after their 2001 ouster at the hands of U.S.-led troops, have launched attacks during Eid in the past.

"In three days, maybe the unity of Taliban insurgents will be put to test," a European diplomat

told Reuters. "If different factions don't accept the ceasefire, then attacks will continue."

### POLITICAL PROCESS

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced an unconditional ceasefire with the Taliban on Thursday, until June 20, but excluding other militant groups, such as Islamic State.

Ghani's decision came after a meeting of Islamic clerics declared a fatwa, or ruling, against suicide bombings, one of which, claimed by Islamic State, killed 14 people at the entrance to the clerics' peace tent in Kabul.

The clerics also recommended a ceasefire with the Taliban and Ghani endorsed the recommendation.

Ghani in February offered recognition of the Taliban as a legitimate political group in a proposed political process that he said could lead to talks to end more than 16 years of war.

Ghani proposed a ceasefire and a release of prisoners among options including new elections involving the militants and a constitutional review in a pact with the Taliban to end a conflict that last year alone killed or wounded more than 10,000 civilians.

In August, U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled a more hawkish military approach to Afghanistan, including a surge in air strikes, aimed at forcing the Taliban to the negotiating table.

Afghan security forces say the impact has been significant, but the Taliban roam huge swaths of the country and, with foreign troop levels of about 15,600, down from 140,000 in 2014, there appears little hope of outright victory.

The Taliban's announcement comes as Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are due to sit down to a summit in Singapore on Tuesday, something few people would have predicted just months ago when threats between the two sides were at their most bellicose.

(Reuters)

### (7) Australian Commandos...

safety practices, poor audit results and wasteful practices in resource management," the report claimed.

Abuse of drugs, alcohol and domestic were also alleged in the report, which spoke of a cover-up culture that protected people. Former Special Operations Commander Maj. Gen. Jeff Sengelman commissioned the inquiry in 2016. It was carried out by a defence department consultant named Samantha Cromptvoets.

The Australian soldiers were blamed for concealing the 2012 killing and cover-up of an Afghan boy named Khan. A commando reportedly killed an Afghan businessman and planted a weapon on his body. (Pajhwok)

### (8) ID Cards...

from the other side of the border and they give them ID cards, they get Afghanistan identity cards," MP Wazhma Safi said.

"Unfortunately, the election commission is not managing the distribution of stickers properly and neither is ACCRA (managing) the distribution of ID cards," MP JafarMahdavi said.

Some other MPs meanwhile said the stickers for elections are being sold at some markets around the country. They also disputed the IEC's claims that over five million people have registered to vote.

"The voter registration number does not reach even three million, while they said it is five

up to five and half million. All people know that this figure is incorrect," MP Lalai Hamidzai said.

The president's spokesman Haroon Chakansuri however said on Saturday at a press conference that reports of people outside Afghanistan getting ID cards were just rumors and that government is monitoring the process carefully.

"The Afghan government and ACCRA transparently distributes Tazkera (ID cards). If there are any complaints, they (complainants) can register their complaints at legal and judicial centers," said Chakansuri.

Following the announcement of the voter registration process schedule, ACCRA announced that they are ready to distribute around 10 million ID cards to people who do not have a Tazkira.

The IEC has said that they have printed nearly 19 million stickers and have sent 15 million stickers to provinces for the voter registration process.

This huge number of stickers has sparked concern among MPs, Senators and various institutions who warn this could lead to election fraud.

The stickers are used to mark an ID card once a person has registered to vote. (Tolo news)

### (9) San Francisco...

the attorney claimed. As and when freed, Hamid's case will be tried by a federal immigration court in San Francisco. They boy may be released soon. (Pajhwok)

### Past 24 Hours Saw 55 Afghan Forces Falling Nationwide

KABUL - More than 55 police and military personnel have been killed, nine others wounded and four more captured alive by Taliban militants during the past 24 hours nationwide, officials said Saturday.

Kunduz provincial council member Aminullah Aiden told Pajhwok Afghan News that 24 Afghan local police personnel were killed after Taliban militants stormed their check-points in Kolokh Tapa locality of Qala-Zala district late on Friday night. He said the Taliban militants also took away security forces' weapons and ammunitions.

Separately, 17 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers were killed and one wounded as a result of a Taliban coordinately attacked their check-points in western Herat province, the governor's spokesman JilaniFarhad said. The attack took place in Aziz Abad locality of Zawal district, he added.

In northwestern Badghis province, nine border police personnel were killed and seven others wounded after Taliban attacked their posts in Moryachaq locality of Bala Murghab district late on Saturday night.

Five border police have been killed and a fifth injured and four others arrested alive by Taliban insurgents in Sararoza district of southeastern Paktika province on Friday night. (Pajhwok)

### 3 Illegal Gunmen Killed, 9 Wounded in Faizabad Clash

FAIZABAD - Three illegal armed men have been killed and nine others wounded during a clash in the capital of northeastern Badakhshan province, an official said on Saturday.

Police spokesman Sanullah Rohani told Pajhwok Afghan News

the clash among unauthorized gunmen broke out in Faizabad on Friday.

He said the police chief had ordered an investigation into the incident and one individual had been arrested in connection with the clash.

Without going into details, the police spokesman said two people were killed in the firefight. However, an intelligence source said three individuals were killed and nine others injured in the clash. A girl and two policemen were among the injured, he added. (Pajhwok)

### 9 Border Police, 4 Taliban Killed in Badghis Clash

QALA-I-NAW - Nine border police and four Taliban insurgents have been killed during a clash in the Bala Murghab district of northwestern Badghis province, an official said on Saturday.

A border police commander, who declined to be named, said the militants stormed police check-posts in Morichaq area of the district on Friday midnight. Nine border policemen were killed and seven others wounded and four rebels were also eliminated and seven others injured in the ensuing clash, he said.

The Taliban claimed killing 12 security forces and injuring seven others in the midnight attack. The group denied casualties to its fighters in the last night clash. (Pajhwok)

### 17 Afghan Soldiers Killed in Taliban's Coordinated Attack

HERAT CITY - At least 17 Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers have been killed in a Taliban attack in the Zawal district of western Herat province, an official said on Saturday.

Jilani Farhad, the governor's spokesman, told Pajhwok Afghan News the militants staged a coordinated attack on an ANA check-post in Azizabad area of the district late on Friday night. Seventeen soldiers were killed and at least one wounded, he said, adding eight rebels were also eliminated and 13 others injured in the ensuing clash. The attack was repulsed.

Taliban confirmed the attack, without going into details. On Friday, unidentified gunmen opened fire at worshippers after they entered a mosque in the Shindand district of the province. (Pajhwok)

### Putin Underlines Strategic Partnership between Russia, Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon plan to discuss regional security issues and the situation around the Tajik-Afghan border, TASS reports.

"We have a lot of issues related to maintaining security, I mean the difficult situation along your southern borders, in Afghanistan. We will talk about all that today," Putin said at a meeting with Rahmon.

The Russian leader also noted that the two leaders will have also have an opportunity to discuss various issues at the CIS summit in Dushanbe scheduled for September. "We will have an opportunity to see each other again in Dushanbe in September. I am glad to meet you today and to have an opportunity to continue our work in the future," Putin said.

For his part, Tajikistan's president noted that he would like to

discuss regional security issues with Putin, including the situation at the Tajik-Afghan border.

Putin stressed that Russia and Tajikistan are developing their strategic partnership. Russia continues to be the main trading and economic partner of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) member-states followed by Kazakhstan and China. "The trade turnover grew more than 18% in the first quarter of this year, so vigorous efforts are underway," the Russian president said. According to Putin, Russian companies have invested nearly \$2bln in Tajikistan's economy. "We are modernizing the armed forces and train military personnel. As many as 500 military servicemen from your country are being trained at the Russian Defense Ministry's institutions of higher learning," the head of state said.

Rahmon noted that this is the two leaders' first meeting since Putin's re-election. "I am glad to have another meeting with you," he said, adding that he would like to discuss certain aspects of strategic partnership between the two countries with the Russian president. (Trend)

### Pm's Interest Free Loan Scheme to Facilitate 1, 48,800 Beneficiaries in 2018-19

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister's Interest Free Loan Scheme will facilitate around 1, 48,800 beneficiaries in the year 2018-19 with the allocated budget of Rs3.500 billion.

According to an official source, Prime Minister's Youth Business Loan Scheme will benefit 3800 youth with an allocation of Rs3.700 billion in the same year. While Prime Minister's Youth Training Program will benefit 50,000 youth, Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme 150,000 and Prime Minister's Program for Provision of Laptops 1,00,000 youth with allocations of Rs12.170 billion, Rs1.116 billion and Rs. 5.287 billion respectively.

Prime Minister's Fee Reimbursement Scheme for Less Developed Areas will facilitate 66,785 beneficiaries through allocation of Rs3.700 billion. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran Says OPEC Won't Follow US Instructions on Oil Output Hike

TEHRAN - Iran has lashed out at the United States for asking Saudi Arabia to pump more oil to cover a drop in Iranian exports, saying the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would dismiss the appeal.

"It's crazy and astonishing to see instruction coming from Washington to Saudi to act and replace a shortfall of Iran's export due to their illegal sanctions on Iran and Venezuela," Iran's OPEC governor, Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, told Reuters on Friday.

Kazempour Ardebili made the comments in response to reports that the US government had quietly asked Saudi Arabia and some other OPEC producers to increase oil production by about one million barrels a day. The rare request came after US President Donald Trump publicly complained about OPEC policy and rising oil prices on Twitter. It also follows Washington's decision to re-impose sanctions on Iran's crude exports that had previously displaced about one million barrels a day, or just over one percent of global production. (Press TV)