

**(1) 40,000 Adults...**

get the opportunity to learn," Nargis Sajadi, a teacher said. "Due to some issues I was not able to go to school. Following my marriage, I came to Mazar-e-Sharif city and my husband allowed me to learn," Amina, a student said.

"I learned to read and write and anywhere I go I can read billboards and can find my way," Naz Gul, another student said. Zainab, 26, is from Sancharak district in Sar-e-Pul and went to Mazar-e-Sharif city to learn to read and write.

Zainab said her family did not allow her to go to school as a child, but after getting married, her husband allowed her to attend the literacy course in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Now she can read and write. "We were not allowed by our elders to go to school and we were unable to read," said Zainab.

According to the literacy department of Balkh education directorate, a shortage of professional teachers and the lack of classrooms were the main challenges for the ministry. (Tolo news)

**(2) 100,000 Herat...**

various reasons, including financial issues or other reasons and our efforts in the campaigns are to solve the problem as well as encourage (children to go to school)," Herat education department chairman Abdul Razaq Ahmadi said.

Ahmadi expressed concern over the increase in students dropping out and over at least 3,000 other children who are of school-going age but are not getting an education.

"All of our teachers, directors, school councils, influential people, tribal elders and Ulemas (religious scholars) must take part in efforts to encourage our children to go to school," Ahmadi added. Herat officials meanwhile said they will seriously assess why students are dropping out.

"One of the priorities of the provincial governor's office of Herat province is to support education, pay attention to education and increase the quality of education in schools," the governor's spokesman Jailani Farhad said.

Herat's education department's statistics show that currently nearly one million students are enrolled at schools in the province.

However, the number of students leaving schools has been on the rise in the past year, said officials. (Tolo news)

**(3) Kabul-Kandahar...**

On Saturday, hundreds of people blocked the Kabul-Kandahar roadway demanding on the authorities to hold to account those responsible for the attack. Local authorities promised to find the attackers as soon as possible but the protesters erected a tent on the road on late Saturday showing their intentions to continue making obstacles for the traffic.

According to Ismatullah Jamradwal, a member of the provincial council from the Qarabagh district, the attack may have been caused by a long-lasting conflict between residents of the Nikhtai and Shirabad areas.

Afghanistan has long been suffering from political, social, and security-related instability due to the simmering insurgency, including that of the Taliban radical movement, but also more because of the actions of the Daesh terror group. (Sputnik)

**(4) Pakistan's Market...**

in 2017 from \$1.437bn in 2016. Exports in the first quarter of 2017-18 stood at \$319 million, he continued.

Thousands of Afghans, who used to visit Peshawar for medical treatment, now prefer travelling India. "Medical tourism of Peshawar, which was mainly due to Afghans, is now at zero level. Hospitals in Hayatabad are empty."

Of the 200 flour mills in Peshawar, about 100 have been closed down due to a significant decline in exports to Afghanistan, said the PAJCCI chairman, who also

noted a fall in containers' traffic from Pakistan to Afghanistan. Motiwala recalled 70,000 goods containers used to travel between the two countries. But the number has now slumped to 7,000.

Pakistan was the biggest supplier of shalwar-qameez suits to Kabul but that too has changed since both India and China are now supplying readymade suits -- traditional Pakistani products. Imports from the neighbouring country surged to \$68m in 2017 from \$40m a year ago, reveals data from the State Bank of Pakistan. (Pajhwok)

**(5) Corruption...**

symposium said. "The success obtained on the battlefield is threatened by corruption. It is truly the enemy within."

"Corruption drains resources and undermines combat effectiveness. It erodes not only the military pressure that we are creating against the enemy, but it also erodes the diplomatic and social pressures as well."

This symposium was the second event organized by Italian forces in Herat. Italian Gen. B. Gianluca Carai, commander, TAAC-W, initiated the symposiums as "a way of exchanging ideas and experiences across borders." (Pajhwok)

**(6) NATO Supportive...**

for police personnel, the statement said.

Both Marquez and Nicholson supported reforms in police ranks and assured the minister of continued their operation in close coordination of Afghan forces. The meeting also discussed launching clearing operation in western Farah province. (Pajhwok)

**(7) 202 Civilians...**

"It was the second night raid on our village. This time they martyred two member of our family -- my son and nephew shot dead by security personnel and police arrested three more family members. They damaged civilian homes and set alight to motorcycles and zaranj vehicles."

The Band Taimour incident happened on January 31, but the CPAG registered the event in February.

"The CPAG wants the government to take necessary steps for the protection of civilians and individual involved in the Band Taimour incident should be identified and dealt according to the law."

"The CPAG also wants the Taliban increase monitoring from the landmines which claimed the lives of civilians, including women and children and did not allow its fighters to use the tool in the conflict." (Pajhwok)

**(8) Ministry Moves...**

a visit to Canada last week to discuss a number of issues, including that of Hajigak with the Canadian firm, Kilo Goldmines Company.

"We are trying through diplomatic channels to implement the projects and now the acting minister is in Canada to get the views of the Canadian company in this regard," Waliullah Zadran, acting director of legal services of the Ministry of Mines, said.

An expert said Afghanistan would have been able to afford a big part of the raw materials required for Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project if iron ore was being mined at Hajigak.

"There is a high demand for steel in the country. Indian companies also suggested establishing a steel factory in the country. It should have been implemented," Zaman Hashimi, a mining expert said.

The ministry said in a statement on Saturday that Nehan will present Afghanistan's Strategy for the Extractives Sector at PDAC 2018 on Wednesday.

According to the ministry: Afghanistan is estimated to have 2.2 billion tons of iron ore, 1.3 billion tons of marble, almost 30 million tons of copper, 1.4 million tons of rare-earth minerals, and 2,700 kg of gold.

The Afghan Government's first and second priority for the extractive sector is to develop sub-sectors related to construction

materials and industrial metals, including talc, marble, gemstones, chromite, coal and cement.

Work on the regional railway network and energy trans-mega regional energy and gas pipelines are the other areas of priority. (Tolo news)

**(9) Afghanistan to...**

of Afghanistan's regular captain Asghar Stanikzai, who recently had emergency surgery to remove his appendix.

The 19-year-old, will become the youngest captain in the history of international cricket, and is one of the players to watch in this tournament.

In the meantime, Phill Simmons, Afghanistan's coach has said that his team is in Zimbabwe to win. One day to go before a very important tournament for Afghanistan. Are you and the team excited or nervous, or nervously excited?

Simmons told ESPN that: "We are more nervously excited because of how important the tournament is, and because of where we want to be as a team. The nervousness comes from that. The excitement comes from just being in this competition."

He admitted that the Afghanistan team is still a work in progress, even if the numbers tag them as a favourite to qualify for the main event in 2019.

"To correct one thing, we are not the favourites. The West Indies have to be the favourites because they are the big team. As I keep saying, there are other teams involved: you don't take Netherlands lightly, you don't take Ireland lightly, you don't take Zimbabwe lightly," he said, adding that "You go far as down as not taking Nepal lightly. Having said that, the numbers are there. It is brilliant for players to have all those numbers. The numbers don't do much when we get to competition day."

In a response to a question as to whether Rashid be the leader for the rest of the tournament and any update on the ill Asghar Stanikzai, Simmons said: "Stanikzai is a lot better, but we are not going to make a decision on him till Tuesday for the rest of the tournament. Rashid will lead in the first match."

Afghanistan open their campaign against Scotland in Bulawayo on Sunday, ahead of further Group B matches with Nepal, Hong Kong and Zimbabwe. (Tolo news)

**(10) Draft Law on...**

information, public participation in governance and promoting anti-corruption steps.

After a prolonged discussion, the cabinet approved the proposed law, a statement from the Palace said.

Ghani tasked the second vice-president with forming a commission with a three years mandate at the center and committees in provinces, if needed, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance to finalise the law. (Pajhwok)

**(11) Afghanistan...**

remarks, National Security Advisor Mohammad Hanif Atmar said Daesh did not come from Syria and Iraq but the rebel group was comprised of the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban.

He, however, said the group received some assistance from the Syria and Iraq.

About the battle against Daesh, Atmar said that four leaders of the insurgent group were killed and currently it had no any leader so far. It also lost most of areas in the eastern zone.

"We can show you the areas cleared of this militant group from close," he said.

About presence of Daesh in northern parts of Afghanistan, he said that some Taliban fighters and members of Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan were joined the rebel group in northern provinces.

Taliban in the past were somehow supporting these groups which gradually emerged in some parts of Badakhshan, Sar-I-Pul, Jawzjan and Faryab provinces, he said. He thanked the Afghan and US forces for taking decisive steps against Daesh fighters.

Atmar also thanked India for offering fighter aircrafts to Afghans forces he said were very effective in fighting against militants.

About Russia and Iran concerns, he said that Afghan forces arrested 80 Daesh insurgents of foreign nationals who were then extradited to their original countries while 70 other members of the group were still in Afghanistan jails.

He suggested Russia and Iran to send their intelligence authorities to Afghanistan for investigating from the militants arrested in Afghanistan and find from where they came and who supported them. (Pajhwok)

**(12) Kunduzis Uneasy...**

suspension of telecom services has a huge negative impact on businesses"

A member of the Afghanistan Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Board verified the nighttime suspension was forced by insurgents in insecure areas.

He said: "We cannot force the telecom companies to brave the security threat and be operational."

A number of other residents held similar views and urged the government to resolve the issue.

On the other hand, Abdul Jabbar Naemi, who recently took over as the provincial governor, said he had spoken about the issue with telecommunication officials.

"I promise all Kunduz residents that there would be 24 hours telecom services".

However, Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, admitted they forced telecom companies into switching off their antennas at night.

He said security forces used SIM cards during nighttime operations and therefore the Taliban had ordered telecom services to be suspended at night.

A number of areas in Kunduz province face the same problem. (Pajhwok)

**(13) Nangarhar...**

work done for supporting businesswomen. She underlined the need for more effective measures to strengthen women's role in business.

Imrani announced establishing a marketplace for women in the Bibi Saira Park to boost women's businesses in Jalalabad the provincial capital. The project will be inaugurated soon.

"We are pleased, but not fully satisfied, with recent changes in the political and socio-economic fields for women. But we are determined to get women involved in factories as well," she remarked.

Some women had boosted their own incomes besides paving the ground for others to find work by setting small businesses in the province, the director explained. Sharifa Ahmazai, who established a carpet-weaving facility some years back, claimed offering jobs to about 3,000 women.

She sought more facilities for women to bolster their businesses in a province where there were limited opportunities for females.

"When I was starting my business, I had no money. But I borrowed 200,000 Pakistani rupees from Ariana and now I have a good business, with branches in Maidan Wardak and Kandahar," Nangarhar Chamber of Commerce and Industry head, Sher Alam Amlawal said there were same facilities for men and women within the government framework. Women could invest in different fields.

A few days ago, a special department was inaugurated to promote the businesses run by women. (Pajhwok)

### Be Expert in Modern Sciences to Exploit Cpec Potential

SIBI-President Mamnoon Hussain Sunday urged the youngsters of Balochistan province to achieve excellence in modern sciences to fully exploit the imminent development opportunities under China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of Sibi Festival here, the

president advised the Balochistan government to formulate a comprehensive policy to train the youngsters in the fields of sailing, its allied professions, modern banking, business techniques as well as the hospitality of the foreign tourists.

The ceremony was attended by Governor Balochistan Muhammad Khan Achakzai, Provincial Livestock Minister Agha Syed Muhammad Raza, Local Government Minister Ghulam Dastgir Badini, besides huge number of industrialists, businessmen and hundreds of youngsters.

Sibi Festival is a centuries-old event held to welcome the spring season. The event features the folk cultural performances, setting up stalls, display of handicrafts and a cattle shows.

Addressing the ceremony, the president said the event had become popular across the country as it brought joys and smiles to people.

He said Pakistan, particularly Balochistan, had faced many years of ordeal due to poor law and order situation but the brave people of Balochistan remained steadfast and optimistic.

But now, the sacrifices of the Baloch people had come to fruition as peace had restored and the forces of peace were getting strength. He urged the people to get united for peace and development of the province so that they could leave behind a safe and prosperous Pakistan for the generations to come.

He said the Baloch people had a major responsibility to make CPEC a success and urged them to be ready to exploit the numerous opportunities to be brought by the CPEC.

President Mamnoon said the dream of converting CPEC into a reality demanded the national unity by putting aside the petty differences. He also ruled out the rumours of any changes in the CPEC route and assured the people the project was being executed as per the basic design. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran Confirms Discovery of Black Boxes of Crashed Passenger Plane

TEHRAN - Iranian Aviation Organization on Sunday confirmed the discovery of black boxes of crashed passenger plane which crashed last month with all 66 on board killed.

Reza Jafarzadeh, the manager of public relation of the organization, told reporters on Sunday that the black boxes were found on Saturday by Iran's rescue operators on the heights of Dena Mountain.

The boxes were ascended and «its authenticity is officially confirmed», Jafarzadeh said.

FDR and CDR boxes were delivered to the judiciary officials and, after legal processes, they will be availed to the Iranian Aviation Organization for decoding their data, he added.

Bahram Parsaee, a senior Iranian lawmaker, on Saturday said that the representative of the Iranian Majlis (parliament) would monitor the data decoding in the box.

On Feb. 18, an ATR 72 turboprop aircraft belonging to Iran Aseman Airlines took off from the capital Tehran to Yasuj city in central Iran at 5:00 a.m. (0130 GMT), and later crashed near Bideh village of the central city of Semirom. (Xinhua)

### Uzbekistan, US to Conduct Joint Research on Central Asia

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan and the United States will conduct a joint research on Central Asia.

The joint research project is envisaged by the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan and the Central Asia Program of International Relations Department of the George Washington University. (Trend)