

### (1) Joint Efforts ...

of investors and businessmen to Kabul during his next visit. The delegation reached Kabul on Thursday and had held meetings with Afghan officials in which several issues came under discussion. (Pajhwok)

### (2) India, U.S., to ...

New Delhi this week, Acting Administrator Lenhardt said, "The strategic partnership among the U.S., Indian, and Afghan governments is a significant contribution to regional stability and prosperity.

The empowerment of women and girls is essential for sustained peace and progress. By partnering with such an immensely talented and committed organization as SEWA, our three governments are helping thousands of Afghan women lead healthy and productive lives."

U.S. Ambassador to India Richard R. Verma added, "A key goal of U.S. collaboration with India is to harness the strengths and capabilities of both countries to tackle development challenges around the world. Our partnership with SEWA to benefit Afghan women is a great example of the expanding India-U.S. global partnership."

This new partnership builds on an earlier effort in which SEWA, USAID, and the Indian and Afghan governments collaborated to improve the economic and social condition of 150 Afghan women and their families. The initiative helped triple the average monthly income of the participants. (ANI)

### (3) Interim Govt...

Maulvi Shehzada Shahid also represented HIA during the talks. Several other ministers, officials and Dr. Abdul Qayyum Kochi, President Ashraf Ghani's uncle, Dr. Farooq Azam, Sayed Ishaq Gilani, Haji Rohullah, Wahidullah Shehrani, Anwar-ul-Haq Ahadi participated in the conference, he added.

Saeed said that representatives from UNAMA also attended the conference. He added that 44 members attended the closed door conference.

"Pugwash organized the round table conference with the consent of Taliban," he said, adding that Sher Mohammad Abbas, Taliban's leader of the delegation, was given enough time during the discussions.

Saeed said: "We always strive for peace and stability in the country and we always ask the government officials and international community for peaceful solution to the problem. War is imposed on us by others and fighting is not solution to the problem."

He said that most of Taliban's demands were same as that of HIA and they had the opportunity for one-to-one meeting in friendly environment. Taliban acknowledged that they attended the meetings with approval of Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Taliban demanded withdrawal of foreign troops, interim government setup in Afghanistan, removal of key Taliban leaders from UN blacklist, release of Taliban captives, opening of political office for Taliban, provision of women rights according to Quran, stop human rights violation in Afghanistan, changes in constitution, cooperation from neighboring countries for their support in peace process and several other issues were discussed during the course of meeting.

Saeed said Taliban criticized the existing corrupt political system in Afghanistan.

All the representatives emphasized on holding such gatherings in future. Taliban delegation opposed the presence of Afghan government officials and HIA suggested government should not create hurdles if they could not facilitate such dialogues. (Pajhwok)

### (4) \$200mln Indian ...

to Pakistan by India. "The Chabahar port offers India the nearest route to access Central Asian countries compared to Pakistan's Gawadar and Karachi ports," MoCI Transit Department head Syed Yahya Akhlaqi said. "Undoubtedly, this route also benefits Afghanistan by getting access to Indian markets."

Independent economists have urged the Afghan government to leverage India and Pakistan's mutual eagerness for access to Central Asian markets as an op-

portunity to develop Afghanistan's infrastructure.

Many of Afghanistan's highways require urgent repair and better security, as deficiencies in both have impeded economic growth and made everyday life many Afghans more difficult.

"Afghanistan's basic infrastructure and highways must be developed so that the country gains an advantage as Iran and India are," Transit and Transportation Union head Abbas Ayeen told TOLONews. (Tolonews)

### (5) President Pushes...

dependent on individuals. He also said the current structure of the Mines Ministry could not meet contemporary needs.

A survey conducted in 2010 puts the value of untapped mineral deposits in 28 areas of Afghanistan at \$3 trillion.

But some reports say so far 1440 mineral deposits have been registered in Afghanistan and besides these, 4500 more mineral sites exist in the country, with the collective worth reaching nearly \$500 trillion.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) members and industrialists called on President Ghani at the Presidential Palace.

The president said his government was striving to work out an agreed formula for the development of private sector.

The president said the private sector should jointly work with the public sector for the country's economic development.

International relations director at the ACCI, Azarkhash Hafizi, told the meeting that the private sector planned to present its 100-day plan like the public sector.

He explained the plan would be about alternatives to imported products, competitive products, reliance on electricity produced in Afghanistan and the establishment of steel melting factories. The president said farmers should be rescued from bankruptcy by finding market for their products and introducing the concept of value chain.

A value chain is a set of activities that a firm operating in a specific industry performs in order to deliver a valuable product or service for the market.

While stressing increased production of construction materials, the president said the production of cement was the government's main priority. (Pajhwok)

### (6) EU Ambassador ...

Franz-Michael Mellbin. On Europe Day, the EU in Kabul will host various sport matches between Afghans and teams made up of players from the EU Member States. There will be tournaments in volleyball, badminton and football, while Afghan boxers and taekwondo fighters will perform demonstrations. "I hope all Afghan parents will encourage and inspire their sons and daughters to play sports and to respect and support their dreams to become the future Afghan sport heroes", says Ambassador Mellbin. (PR)

### (7) President Briefed...

Advisor and other high ranking security officials and police and military commanders.

The president said he was proud of the Afghan security forces as the commander-in-chief and thanked them for their sacrifices on behalf of the Afghans as their representative.

Addressing the security forces, the president said: "You have proven that you have the ability and courage to defend the national honour and the motherland."

The president was presented their reports by military commanders, officials of the air force, the Bagram prison, police chiefs of Ghazni, Baghlan, Samangan and Badkhsan and the public order police commanders of Kunduz, the Badkhsan acting governor and intelligence chief.

After listening to their reports, the president issued them necessary directives for improvement in the security, the statement said.

The video conference took place at the president's information and coordination office, which was renamed as Tawhid Centre during the conference, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

### (8) PPP Fully Backs ...

stressed for enhanced economic cooperation between the two countries. They agreed to discourage elements who were out

to scuttle cordial relations between Kabul and Islamabad.

Abdullah and Zardari briefly talked on the ongoing peace process. Zardari announced his party would fully back the reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

Rahimi said Pakistan's incumbent military and civilian leadership had pledged to take tangible steps for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

He said Afghan government was looking forward to Pakistan's cooperation to make the peace process result-oriented. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Female Afghan ...

in the fall of the Taliban.

according to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) there are eight million Afghan children enrolled in schools; 2.5 million of them are girls. (KP)

### (10) Baghlan Facing...

security officials said they repulsed militants from the bases and check-posts tactically to secure the control of security posts. Provincial Council Member Mohammad Zarif Zarif told Pajhwok Afghan News during a meeting on Wednesday security officials decided not to conduct operation in areas that had recently been captured by rebels.

He said Pul-i-Khumri, the provincial capital, would soon fall to rebels if security officials failed to workout stringent security measures.

Provincial Council Head Safdar Mohsani said the residents wanted fierce anti-rebels offensive. He warned if security forces did not launch operations Taliban would be encouraged to control more areas. (Pajhwok)

### (11) ANSF Control...

support of the people, the Afghan forces reached their goal without any casualties," Akbarzada said Friday. "The insurgents planted 200 mines, but earlier today the Afghan forces took control of Nawa after nine years."

Once the National Security Council (NSC) and tribal elders have been consulted with, the governing structure for the district is expected to be put in place.

The Fatha operation was launched in Ghazni as well as southern Zabul province, which borders Ghazni. according to officials, some 270 insurgents have been killed, including many foreigners, and 250 mines have been flagged by the Afghan forces.

"The operation was aimed to clear Nawa district and in this operation more than 200 insurgents were killed, which are massive casualties, and now the people are walking freely in the bazaars," Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said.

Nawa has been one of the most consistently insecure districts in Afghanistan over the past decade. The retaking of it by government forces marks a major achievement, and a promising sign as military launches a coordinated offensive around the country in hopes of curtailing gains made by militants in recent months. (Tolonews)

### (12) Crop Yields on ...

Mohammad, told Pajhwok Afghan News he used to purchase medicines from neighbouring Kunar or Nangarhar provinces for plant diseases.

"The agriculture department neither gives us improved quality seeds nor medicines. We are compelled to grow poppy crops like in other provinces."

Nuristan is a poppy-free province, but its soil and atmosphere is said to be suitable for growing the banned plant.

Meanwhile, acting Nuristan governor Hafiz Abdul Qayum told Pajhwok Afghan News that many opportunities were available to develop the agriculture and livestock sector of the province, but the opportunities were overlooked.

He said fruits like grapes, almond, apple and others were produced in Nuristan and the Ministry of Agriculture should work to develop fruit orchards in the province.

Besides other crops, the land in Nuristan is suitable for growing beans and the Agriculture Ministry should provide improved quality seeds of beans to farmers, the governor says.

"Beans produced in Nuristan is famous and can be supplied to other provinces and exported abroad if the yield is increased." To a question, the acting gover-

nor said he had shared his recommendations about development of the agriculture sector of Nuristan with the ministry concerned and the National Security Council, but there had been no response as yet. (Pajhwok)

### (13) 184 Graduate ...

become pilots and others to train in engineering sectors - with a number of them being selected to train further in the United States and in the United Arab Emirates. Ministry of Defense officials attending the ceremony emphasized that the air force in general played a key role in the protection of the country. They said with air support, army troops and police on the ground are assured of solid support.

Officials said that currently the Afghanistan Air Force has numerous helicopters that are key in overcoming logistical problems especially in transporting equipment and troops in insecure areas. They say that this alone is an indication of just how important it is to have a professional air force.

Abdul Wahab Wardak, Commander of the Afghanistan Air Force called on the graduates to "stay strong and [for those who will become pilots] to strictly defend the air space of your country".

A number of people in attendance at the ceremony reminisced about the days when Afghanistan, under the Soviet Union, was one of the best equipped air force's in the region. But looking ahead they said they hoped the United States would help equip today's air force.

Faisal Sami, a member of the Internal Security Committee in the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of Parliament) has called US efforts to date unsatisfactory.

"Despite the fact that the United States considers itself to be the global power, Soviets had strongly equipped the Afghan Air Force. If you [U.S.] cannot equip us as much as they did, you should at least provide us with 50% of the amount they [Soviets] had," added Sami.

Meanwhile, the new graduates say they are committed to their new careers and to their country and have an optimistic about their futures.

"It might not be a false statement if we say that we will be great officers in future. There might be the question that we are recent graduates, but there are two things to consider. Firstly, we have learned from the best, secondly, we have learned from the difficult situations. Difficult conditions have taught us how to rise up and help people who have suffered," says Muhammad Samir, an air force officer.

"We are ready to protect the air space of our country under any condition and defend the blue skies of Afghanistan," says Daud, another graduate.

Afghanistan Air Force University was dissolved under the Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program in 2003. In 2013, the University was reestablished with the help of foreign trainers.

Afghanistan Air Force was established in 1924 during the government of King Amanullah. In the 1970s, the institution was reconstructed and boasted about 100 aircraft. In the 1980s, the Soviet Union beefed up the air force and had a total 7,000 personnel, 5,000 foreign advisers, 240 fighter jets, 150 assault helicopters and 40 military transportation aircrafts - right before the fall of Najibullah's government.

However, Afghanistan's domestic wars resulted in a sharp decrease in the capacity of Afghanistan Air Force, with only a few aircraft remaining during the time of Taliban rule. (Tolonews)

### (14) Afghan Polytechnic...

could move with the help of electricity energy obtained from the solar panels planted on the roof of the bike. The design of the motorbike was made by the young man Mustafa and the bike could run at a speed of 40 kilometers per hour.

In the meantime, another young graduate of polytechnic institute in northern Jawzjan province of Afghanistan is busy to build an indigenous helicopter.

Ghulam Sediq who was graduated from the polytechnic institute of Jawzjan province is busy with the project to build the helicopter. According to Sediq the work on

the technical aspect of the helicopter has been completed and he is ready to build the helicopter.

On the other hand, an Afghan engineer has taken an initiative to build unmanned aerial vehicle - drone and aircraft flown by pilots. Engineer Zmarai Helali has made drones and aircraft which are operated with fuel and electricity energy, and have been made by ordinary elements such as wood, clothes and electrical devices.

A teenager Afghan boy has also developed a small robotic excavator in a similar innovation which was demonstrated in ARG presidential palace in the presence of former President Hamid Karzai. (KP)

### (15) AI, Human...

Raffullah Bedar, a spokesman for AIHRC, said charges should not have been dropped against some of the acquitted, who he maintained were involved in the brutal mob attack. "In this case, all the perpetrators of the case should have been punished, even those who had charges dropped - they should have been sentenced for violence against women," Mr. Bedar said. "These kinds of decisions will open the door to other crimes." (Tolonews)

### (16) 35 Taliban ...

Shah Joy district. There is no report on civilian casualties. Taliban has yet to comment on the operation. (Tolonews)

### (17) 2 Killed, 30 Taken...

The ground is a kilometer away from the district centre.

The Taliban have so far said nothing about the incident that came hours after provincial council members and civil society activists said the security situation in some districts of the province had deteriorated. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Iran's Interference...

domination would leave far-reaching negative impact on Afghanistan.

Shafi Azam, an organizer of the rally, told Pajhwok Afghan News Iran had been trying to fuel ethnic and linguistic differences among Afghans. He said the purpose of the protest was to draw the attention of government and people to tackle Iran's nefarious designs.

Another participant Nazir Samon said Iran wanted to get its goals in Afghanistan by spreading ethnic tension among Afghans. He said Iran provided money to some individuals in parliament and others government institution to spread its agenda.

At the end, the protesters adopted a resolution demanding the government to summon Iranian ambassador and keep the embassy officials under strict observation. (Pajhwok)

### (19) Gang Plotting...

remote controls and six Kalashnikov magazines.

Sedeqi said a 10-member Taliban group was eliminated on Thursday during a clash with Afghan security forces in the Hazar Bagh area of northern Takhar province.

Taliban's newly-appointed shadow governor for Takhar province was more likely injured in the clash, he said.

He said uprisings against insurgents in Ghazni, Kunar, Helmand, Jawzjan, Faryab and other provinces showed residents did not want Taliban and terrorists. (Pajhwok)

### (20) Insecurity Grips...

the zone and post him elsewhere. Another pc member, Dr. Al-amir Zazi, said ANA troops were reluctant to take action against insurgents in remote parts of Paktia and only protected their bases and posts.

Civil society activist, Syed Jamal Asifkhel, held similar views. He accused Yaftali and other ANA officials of mistreating local residents and forcing them to join the rebels.

He said Paktia served as centre of the southeastern zone, where thousands of ANA troops were stationed and dispatched to other parts when needed.

Pajhwok tried to seek comments from the ANA commander, but it was told he was in southern Ghazni province as part of a military operation.

But the corps deputy spokesman, Col. Fazl Khuda, rejected the claims of the provincial council members, saying the issue of no coordination had never occurred. He said the views expressed by the public representatives were their personal. "We send troops

to all districts when needed, we have established posts and our troops patrol the highway. The army and police are not biased toward anyone." (Pajhwok)

### (21) Foreign Forces ...

said the foreign forces were on a patrol when they signaled the driver to stop, but he continued approaching the troops. The incident was being investigated, he said.

The incident comes hours after foreign troops shot and injured a 25-year-old man in Charikar, the provincial council.

The man was first taken to the civil hospital in Charikar, the provincial capital, and then shifted to a Kabul hospital.

The coalition confirmed the latest incident in a statement, saying a vehicle travelling at high speed towards the security forces on patrol failed to slow down and ignored warnings to stop.

Security forces followed escalation of force procedures as required to prevent the vehicle from striking the forces, the statement said.

The driver was injured and immediately taken to the Bagram airfield for medical attention, it said. (Pajhwok)

### (22) US Idea...

block attempts to take action on the conflict, now in its fifth year. Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, who walked into Thursday's meeting telling reporters he had a "very good feeling" but no instructions yet from Moscow, walked out early and told The Associated Press that while his country was prepared to work on the plan, the effort has to be objective. (AP)

### (23) Kerry Meets...

architecture which allows us to cooperate more effectively."

Washington, however, is mindful that additional defense obligations could carry the risk of the United States being drawn into new Middle East conflicts.

The United States has supported the Saudi-led coalition, which began strikes against the Houthis and forces loyal to ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh on March 26 with the aim of restoring the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Riyadh fears the Houthis, who are allied to its foe Iran, will dominate Yemen, and that the advance of Shi'ite Houthi fighters into Sunni areas will provoke sectarian fighting that al Qaeda can exploit. Iran has denied Saudi and Yemeni government charges it arms and trains the Houthis. (Reuters)

### (24) Saudi Arabia...

military equipment and troops in addition to medical evacuation," KACST said in a statement seen on Thursday.

It did not disclose the value of the project, where the planes would be built or when the project would start. (Reuters)

### (25) Ukraine's ...

its fundamental principles." Europe and the United States have slapped the toughest sanctions since the Cold War on Moscow over allegations that it is behind the separatist rebellion in eastern Ukraine.

The country's warring parties tried to shore up a faltering truce deal Wednesday after Kiev said five soldiers were killed in clashes in the war-torn east.

The move came as US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter told lawmakers in Washington on Wednesday that pro-Russian separatists appeared to be making preparations for a fresh offensive. (AFP)

### (26) Military Parade...

States and other principal Allied nations) on May 8, 1945.

In Russia and other countries of former Soviet Union, the day of Victory over Nazi Germany was celebrated on May 9, because when the German Instrument of Surrender actually entered into force (May 8, 1945 at 23:01 CET), it was already May 9 by Moscow Time. Post-Soviet countries have continued the tradition.

More than 300,000 residents of Tajikistan took part in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 and 92,000 of them died in battle. 54 of residents of Tajikistan were given the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Besides, 15 other Tajikistan's residents were Full Holders of the Order of Glory. (AP)