

### (1) U.S. Special...

sustainable peace and a unified, sovereign Afghanistan that does not threaten the United States, its allies, or any other country," he said in a Twitter post.

The talks have progressed against a backdrop of relentless violence.

The Taliban staged attacks in northern Afghanistan over the weekend, killing members of the Afghan security forces and civilians.

Air strikes conducted by Afghan forces in response have led to civilian casualties. Dozens of militants have also been killed, Afghan officials said.

The United States has some 14,000 troops in Afghanistan.

The United States invaded in 2001 and ousted its Taliban leaders after they refused to hand over members of the al Qaeda militant group behind the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon.

U.S. President Donald Trump has long called for an end to U.S. involvement in Afghanistan, writing on Twitter seven years ago that the war was "a complete waste" and six years ago that "we should leave Afghanistan immediately".

Since becoming president in January 2017, he has repeatedly said he could end the Afghanistan war quickly if he didn't mind killing millions of people, a claim he repeated in the interview with Fox News radio.

But there are concerns among Afghan officials and U.S. national security aides about a U.S. withdrawal, with fears Afghanistan could be plunged into a new civil war that could herald a return of Taliban rule and allow international militants, including Islamic State, to find a refuge. (Reuters)

### (2) Karzai: Outsiders ...

conspiracy that only wanted continuation of war in the war-torn country. As result of yesterday Kunduz attack, 27 military personnel and civilians were killed and another 114 wounded. (Pajhwok)

### (3) Iranian, Afghan ...

cooperative sector.

Furthermore, the commercial counselor of Afghanistan Embassy provided a report on investment opportunities and capabilities of Afghanistan.

According to this report, economic operators suggested the establishment of a joint cooperation committee between the two countries due to investment concerns in Afghanistan.

In this meeting, the commercial counselor of Afghanistan said, "Afghanistan's imports from Iran is between \$2.5 million and \$2.8 million and Iran's share of the Afghanistan import market is 17 percent which this issue has resulted in locating Iran at the top of Afghanistan suppliers."

He pointed out the common issues of the two countries in different areas and said that sometimes, it was so difficult to separate Iranians from Afghans and now it's time to take advantage of these capacities for business development.

Mr. Sadat said that a growing trend began in Afghanistan after the end of the war in 2001 and the economic system of Afghanistan was introduced according to the constitution of the market economic system.

"Now, Chabahar port [in Southeastern Iran] is the main transit route of this country to the free water and we will apply the amount of zero percent tariff for goods coming through this route to Afghanistan. Afghanistan's imports from Iran is \$2.5 million to \$2.8 million in a year and Iran's share of the import market is 17 percent, which this issue has resulted in locating Iran at the top of Afghanistan suppliers and China and Pakistan have the next ranking after Iran," he added. "Afghanistan has a lot of water and its main exports are fruits and nuts which we would like to increase our exports by using Iranian technology in packaging and processing industries. Also, we are ready to cooperate with Iran about trans-boundary plantation," he highlighted.

Director-General of Afghanistan Economic Desk at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Jahanbakhsh said, "We have considered proper facilities for

the presence of Afghan Businessmen in Iran. So far, 259 Afghan micro investors have been approved by the Foreign Investment Organization."

He pointed to some of raised problems from the side of Afghans in the meeting of business opportunities identification of Iran and Afghanistan and said: "The talk of building markets is the result of a mutual agreement. Now, if the Afghan side does not benefit from this situation, then it won't be a correct comment that any commodity from these markets is considered as a smuggling good."

"The philosophy of creating markets is to develop business interactions between the two countries' private sector so that goods can be provided for the public at the lowest cost. According to the information I have, now it's the time to form a market in Sistan and Baluchistan province at the expense of Iran," he noted.

"Wherever Iranian companies have requested investment with Afghanistan, we have immediately issued a letter of introduction to various provinces in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but the quality and other issues are as the responsibility of the economic counselor and Trade Promotion Organization," he stressed.

Establishment of a joint cooperation committee of both countries was proposed in this meeting.

Last month, Kish Airlines resumed flights between Iran's Northeastern city of Mashhad and Afghanistan's Northwestern city of Herat, as Afghans are demanding more for air travel to the Iranian destination.

Director General of Khorasan Razavi Airports Company Mohammad Baqer Qassemzadeh announced on August 23 the launch of Mashhad-Herat flight route by Kish Airlines.

The air route between Iran's Mashhad and Afghanistan's Herat was resumed by Kish Air due to the cultural, political, religious and economic commonalities of people of cities in Mashhad and Herat as well as in the wake of the growing demand of air travel via this route.

The direct flight is scheduled for every Friday from Mashhad to Herat and vice versa, Ghasemzadeh added.

Presently, international flights at Shahid Hasheminejad Intl. Airport of Mashhad are operating between the cities of Istanbul, Kuwait, Muscat, Doha, Dubai, Sharjah, Baghdad, Nasiriyah, Basra, Najaf, Kabul, Mazari Sharif, Dushanbe, Herat and Kandahar.

Mashhad-Herat direct flight used to be in operation by Ariana Afghan Airlines and Iran's KAM Airlines, but it was halted for a few months, he added.

In January, Head of Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization of Iran Abdulhassem Hassannia said that Tehran will reduce or remove motorway tolling between Iran and Afghanistan to increase bilateral trade, adding that improving shared roads and transportation corridors between the two countries should be top on the agenda. (FNA)

### (4) Parliamentarians ...

new opportunities for children to realize their rights. That is why we are content to be working with parliamentarians from all over South Asia to ensure that we speed up positive actions for children to ensure a healthy and educated young generation across the region', said Jean Gough. (PR)

### (5) Civilian Casualties up...

compounds as strongholds and planting roadsides bomb which resulted in civilians casualties in the province. However, the Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, has rejected the governor's spokesman allegations whether they are using civilians' homes as bunkers. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Freight Flow...

Abbas (Iran) through the territory of Afghanistan will be approximately 2,540 km, taking into account the estimated length of 984 km of the Hairaton - Mazari-Sharif - Herat - Iranian border railway route," the official stated.

The representative also noted the construction of a new railway line "Uz-

bekistan - Kyrgyzstan - China".

The official of the Ministry of Transport said that the railway line will create a new transport corridor China - Central Asia - Europe, the potential volume of traffic through which can reach up to 10-15 million tons per year. (Trend)

### (7) Torkham Crossing ...

initiated on the directions of Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Normally, the Torkham gate is opened for Afghan investors and travelers from 8 am to 8 pm - for 12 hours a day. Torkham is the main crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan through which thousands of Afghans are traveling on a daily basis.

Under the project, the new decision, Torkham crossing will remain open during day and night.

Pakistan's MENAFN news agency reported that the Pakistani prime minister will inaugurate the project.

On January 29, the Pakistani prime minister directed relevant authorities to make arrangements for keeping Torkham crossing open 24/7 within six months.

"I have tasked the relevant government stakeholders to make the necessary arrangements for the Torkham border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan to remain open 24/7 within the next six months," the premier had said in a tweet in January. (Tolo news)

### (8) Highways ...

them back to Cement Khana area of Baghlan which is far from the center of the city.

"At least 21 Taliban were killed and 13 others were wounded while eight others were arrested in Baghlan clashes," the statement said.

Baghlan hospital officials said eight people including four civilians were killed in the clashes and 40 others, including 28 civilians, were wounded.

TOLONews reporter says some Baghlan residents have also taken arms to fight against the Taliban. (Tolo news)

### (9) 14 Security...

Noori said the militants attacked security personnel patrol and the rebels also suffered casualties but the exact figure was yet to be ascertained.

Taliban confirmed the attack. The group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that Taliban capture a security post in Khonyan area.

He said 10 local policemen, including Commander Noor Mohammad, were killed the overnight attack.

In Nangarhar, four children were injured when mortar shell exploded in the Rodat district.

Attaullah Khogyani, the governor's spokesman, said the incident took place in Hashar Shahi area of the district when the children were playing there.

He said the children were evacuated to hospital and they were in stable condition. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Tehran Will...

U.N. agency also said Iran continues to enrich uranium up to 4.5%, above the 3.67% allowed.

Enriched uranium at the 3.67% level is enough for peaceful pursuits and is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%. At the 4.5% level, the uranium can help power Iran's Bushehr reactor, the country's only nuclear power plant.

It remains unclear what further step Iran will take, though it could involve restarting advanced centrifuges prohibited by the deal or further bumping up its enrichment of uranium. Iran insists the steps it has taken so far are easily reversible.

"We will announce implementation of the third step in a letter to the Europeans if the Europeans do not impale necessary measures by Thursday," said Zarif in a Sunday interview with Iran's parliament news agency, ICANA.

The nuclear deal is meant to keep Tehran from building atomic weapons in exchange for economic relief. It has been complicated by the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the deal and Washington's increased sanctions on Tehran, which have been taking a toll on the Iranian economy. That has left the other signatories -- Germany, Britain, France, Russia and

China -- struggling to come up with enough incentives to keep Iran in the deal.

Meanwhile Monday, an Iranian oil tanker pursued by the U.S. that has been traveling across the Mediterranean Sea is now off the coast of Tripoli in northern Lebanon. The ship-tracking website MarineTraffic.com showed the Adrian Darya 1 moving slowly just outside the Lebanese territorial waters, after it had stood off the coast of Syria a day earlier.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has alleged the ship is bound for a refinery in Syria, which was the reason that authorities had seized the vessel off the coast of Gibraltar in July. The U.S. has warned countries not to accept the Adrian Darya, which carries 2.1 million barrels of Iranian crude oil worth some \$130 million. (AP)

### (11) US, Poland...

During a visit to Sweden last week, Morawiecki said decisions were being taken that would make Swedish networking and telecommunications company Ericsson invest in 5G development in Poland.

The U.S. has been lobbying allies to ban Huawei from 5G networks over concerns China's government could force the company to give it access to data for cyberespionage. Huawei has denied the allegation.

The U.S. has called for an outright ban on Huawei, but European allies have balked at that.

A senior Trump administration official told reporters during a briefing ahead of the trip that the agreement would help ensure secure supply chains and networks and protect against unauthorized access or interference by telecommunications suppliers, some of which are controlled by "adversarial governments." (AP)

### (12) Get Rid of...

"A vote of no confidence is very much there on the table, it's not an either or, both options are absolutely there."

With the future of Britain's 2016 decision to leave the EU more unclear than ever, both the governing Conservative Party and Labour have been preparing for a possible early election to try to overcome deep Brexit divisions in parliament.

Johnson, who became prime minister last month, upped the ante when he moved to reduce the amount of time lawmakers will have to try to prevent a no-deal Brexit.

His threat to kick out anti-no deal Conservative lawmakers who vote against his government has only heightened the tensions and increased the possibility of an election.

"We say this is an attack on democracy which will be resisted ... The people will not allow a phony populist cabal in Downing Street in hock to the vested interests of the richest to deny them their democratic voice," Corbyn said.

"In that election, Labour will give people the chance to take back control and have the final say in a public vote with credible options on both sides including the option to remain." (Reuters)

### (13) Macron's Reform...

violence on French streets.

The talks on Thursday and Friday with uneasy union leaders and Prime Minister Philippe Edouard kick off wide-ranging consultations with various professions like teachers and nurses on what could be a defining reform of Macron's presidency.

"The government and myself are totally determined," Philippe told reporters on Friday. "We've got a few months to make it happen, to come up with and draft this project."

Unions have criticized Macron for turning a deaf ear to him as he lost little time early in his presidency pushing through a labor law reform and easing taxes for investors. They are also furious that he ignored their input for a much delayed unemployment insurance reform presented in June.

Pension reforms by conservative former presidents Nicolas Sarkozy in 2010 and Jacques Chirac in 1995 ignited street protests and failed to plug repeated deficits, which Macron's government wants to wipe out by 2025. In France private pensions schemes are rare, which means that nearly

everyone pays into a public system, albeit through 42 different contribution and benefit schemes that Macron wants to replace with a single points-based scheme.

An Ipop poll for weekend newspaper JDD found that two-thirds of those surveyed did not have confidence in Macron's government to overhaul the pension system.

"After the difficult times earlier in 2019, the symbolic importance of this (pension overhaul) will be whether the government and the president can keep reforming France," said Bruno Jeanbart, head of political studies at pollster OpinionWay. (Reuters)

### (14) Irish PM Awaits...

this week and we're going to have to see how they pan out. I could very easily make an initiative today and find out in 48 hours that it is totally out of date, so I think we have to allow things develop in Westminster." (Reuters)

### (15) Dorian Slams ...

the record for the most powerful Atlantic hurricane to ever make landfall. That equaled the Labor Day hurricane of 1935, before storms were named. The only recorded storm that was more powerful was Hurricane Allen in 1980, with 190 mph (305 kph) winds, though it did not make landfall at that strength.

Forecasters said Dorian was most likely to begin pulling away from the Bahamas early Tuesday and curving to the northeast parallel to the U.S. Southeast seaboard. Still, the potent storm was expected to stay close to shore and hammer the coast with dangerous winds and heavy surf, while authorities cautioned that it could still make landfall.

According to a Monday morning advisory from the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami, the storm was virtually parked over Grand Bahama island, which was in for a "prolonged period of catastrophic winds and storm surge" though the night. It also said Florida's east-central coast may see a brief tornado sometime between Monday afternoon and Monday night. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster issued an order Sunday for the mandatory evacuation of his state's entire coast. The order, which covers about 830,000 people, was to take effect at noon Monday, at which point state troopers were to make all lanes on major coastal highways one-way heading inland.

"We can't make everybody happy, but we believe we can keep everyone alive," McMaster said.

A few hours later, Georgia's governor, Brian Kemp, ordered mandatory evacuations for that state's Atlantic coast, also starting at midday Monday.

Authorities in Florida ordered mandatory evacuations in some vulnerable coastal areas. North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper warned his state that it could see heavy rain, winds and floods later in the week.

Dorian first came ashore Sunday at Elbow Cay in Abaco island at 12:40 p.m., then made a second landfall near Marsh Harbour at 2 p.m. (AP)

### (16) UK Government...

recruit the brightest and the best into teaching."

The teacher unions have welcomed the news, saying that it would help to make teaching a more appealing career choice, but they added that the government also need to improve pay for all teachers.

During recent years UK schools are facing a severe shortage of teachers due to the unresolved problems of teacher recruitment, according to the study conducted by the Education Policy Institute.

The independent think tank warned that a lack of staff has already meant a worsening teacher-pupil ratio and there were particular problems for getting specialist teachers for maths and science.

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced last Friday that he would invest over 14 billion pounds (17 billion U.S. dollars) in primary and secondary education between now and 2022/23. The investment will ensure that pay can be increased for all teachers, said DfE. (Xinhua)