

(1) Ghani Orders...

Nava'i commemoration ceremony, President Ghani said he was a leading culturist and political figure of the 15th century, who always raised his voice for justice, brotherhood and unity of the nation.

A culturist from Turkey, Dr. Abdul Rahman Kundal said Nav'i was a huge academic asset and he did unforgettable services for Turkic language in addition to other services and he had been trying to awaken the entire Islamic Ummah.

Professor at Punjab University of Pakistan, Dr. Ali Kamil Qazalbash, praised the cultural and political endeavors of Nava'i and of Mohammad Iqbal, saying both the poets were political and cultural actors of their periods.

"Nava'i and Iqbal had a common way of thinking, bravery, affection and political efforts," he said. Professor at the Persian department of Delhi University (DU), Dr. Sharif Husain Qasimi, said "we proudly teach Diwan (collection of poems) of Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi and the books of Nava'i. To be honest, Nava'i delivered unforgettable services."

A guest from Uzbekistan, Dr. Abdullah Azam, said "Amir Ali Shir Nava'i was the governor of Khoresan at once. He was close to Allah and was a humble person."

The books and articles of Nava'i have been kept in the museum of Uzbekistan, he said.

Likewise, a guest from Tajikistan, Dr. Anwar Mohammad Adeeb Hamnawai said that Nava'i was a complete pir (spiritual leader) of Naqshbandi school of thought. He said 'Nava'i was not only a cultural figure, but was also a strong politician and religious scholar who always struggled for the unity of Islamic Ummah.' Meanwhile, first Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostam thanked President Ghani for ordering to the creation of a new government medal to be named after Amir Ali Shir Nava'i. (Pajhwok)

(2) Crippled Economy...

from the northern zone of the country in an effort to make it big in Europe and other countries.

He slammed international organisations for not doing effective work in Afghanistan to improve living conditions for the people. He feared a humanitarian crisis if the government did not take steps to control the situation.

Khat-i-Naw, a research organisation in Balkh, alleged hundreds of human smugglers had been trying to convince youths in different districts of the province into migrating to European countries, but the government had done nothing to stop them. (Pajhwok)

(3) Abdullah Surprised ...

Speaking at a joint news conference with President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul, Kerry dismissed assumptions that the unity government's tenure would end in September this year. (Pajhwok)

(4) Kabul, Islamabad...

The ambassador thanked the people of Pakistan for hosting three million refugees for over three decades. He agreed cooperation in the field of education would play a key role in bringing the governments and peoples of the two countries closer.

Both sides agreed to work on a joint mechanism to be finalised with approval of both countries. The HEC chairman also offered help to Afghanistan in improving the quality of higher education, curriculum development and teacher training.

Dr. Ahmed noted Afghanistan and Pakistan had a number of commonalities in their society and culture and had always enjoyed a brotherly relationship. Education is the biggest tool of strengthening the bonds, he added. (Pajhwok)

(5) Daesh Expands ...

education in northern provinces. "The war reached the north. You know what I am saying," he added.

He criticized the National Unity Government (NUG) for not implementing its commitments - from not holding the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) or for bringing reforms to the electoral system.

"The security is bad, the economy is fragile and the gap between government and the people has increased," he said.

As his last words, he urged government to take steps to overcome

the current problems otherwise the country's situation will deteriorate. (Tolonews)

(6) Chabahar Port...

township and a shipyard. The Chabahar Free Trade Industrial Zone was set up in 1992 to use global expertise (mostly from South East Asia) as a tool for the development of the country. (Pajhwok)

(7) Kabul Event ...

"We must continue to build a sustainable, effective and affordable ANDSF [Afghan National Defense and Security Forces] through training and resourcing in order to achieve mutually supporting and simultaneous employment of the following lines of effort," said Ostrowski before highlighting the systems and processes required for success in the fight against IEDs.

Ostrowski stated there are four necessary steps: continue to attack the network, defeat the device, prepare the force and enable a holistic government approach. He also highlighted the Coalition's equipment contributions to counter-IED efforts in Afghanistan, noting more than 455 mine rollers were issued in support of route clearance operations since 2011, along with 90,000 mounted and dismounted counter-IED radio controlled electronic warfare devices. He said there were 64 EOD items delivered to the ANDSF, including critical equipment such as medium tactical vehicles, IED jammers, bomb suits, hand-held detectors and robots.

"Finally, we have established two state of the art Ministry of the Interior exploitation labs in both Kabul and Herat, designed to gain further intelligence about the devices that are being used against us," said Ostrowski as he summarized the materiel support provided to ANDSF counter-IED efforts. He added that while equipment is important, personnel and training are paramount.

"One of the lessons relearned is the value of training; training must accompany innovation," said Ostrowski. "Our best counter-IED weapon will always be a well-trained soldier or policeman." Gen. Mohammad Anwar Paigham, Director of the Ministry of the Interior Engineering, praised the joint event and emphasized that "the goal is to have better coordination between the security elements, the Ministries of Defense and the Interior and National Directorate of Security, especially in the area of counter-IED."

The Ministry of the Interior Deputy Minister for Administration Lt. Gen. Akramuddin Yawar echoed the importance of communication between the agencies, and said creation of a reoccurring joint event was a good medium for inter-agency operations.

"This conference will give us a chance to exchange ideas, thoughts and learning from each other's experience," said Yawar, addressing the audience. "You can all implement what you learn here in your units."

"So many of our casualties are due to IEDs," continued Yawar. "We need to let the people of Afghanistan know that we put our lives on the line to save the lives of civilians."

"It is a great honor to the people of Afghanistan that you each would put your lives at risk to save the population of our country," echoed Paigham.

Paigham thanked his advisers and coalition partners for making the event and training possible and concluded his remarks by recognizing all of the soldiers and police in the audience.

"Thank you to the counter-IED and EOD operators, who without you, there would have been countless lives lost in Afghanistan." (KP)

(8) Afghan Forces ...

increase in U.S troops' cooperation [with Afghan forces]," Sediqqi said. Meanwhile, according to the MoD, troops in Helmand, one of the main battlefields, now have access to drones to suppress militants.

"U.S has provided a number of drones to the 205 Maiwand Corps commandants and now they are under our forces' control," said Esmatullah Dawlatzai, commander of 505 Zone in Bost.

However, despite these remarks by high-ranking security officials,

Wolesi Jirga's (Lower House of Parliament) internal security commission, said the fact the MoD and NDS are being led by caretakers is a key problem for the country's security.

He also said Afghan security forces should change their style of fighting against militants.

"We should come out of the defensive status; we should be offensive. The pathology of the last year should be recognized and the armored equipment of the security forces should increase," he said.

The remarks by senior security officials come after a number of military affairs commentators said there are still some loopholes in the management of security forces. (Tolonews)

(9) Hindus, Sikhs...

which is for your worshipping." Hindus and Sikhs have lived in Afghanistan for generations but the various wars have forced many to leave the country and settle elsewhere. (Tolonews)

(10) Holding ...

within two years of the September 2014 election, allowing Abdullah to take the post of prime minister.

One political commentator Farooq Bashar, a lecturer at the Kabul University, told Pajhwok Afghan News differences between government leaders had led to non-implementation of some key provisions of the power-sharing pact.

Wolesi Jirga and district council elections had been elusive over the past two years because of sharp disagreements between the coalition partners. There was no sign yet of the electoral reform programme being implemented, Bashar pointed out.

But he said there was no alternative but to hold the elections and put an end to the illegal government. "The US understands amending the constitution is not possible under the current circumstances. It, therefore, has extended the government tenure to five years."

Sediqqi Patman, another political analyst, said: "Kerry's his remarks that the proposed Loya Jirga cannot shorten the government's tenure amount to direct interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The government, by holding the Loya Jirga, cannot earn legality." He claimed Kerry's trip to Kabul was not meant to clarify the agreement; it was aimed to strike a patch-up between the two leaders. The accord on creating the CEO slot and the agreement for a period of five years were already known, he said.

"Our people have no option but to suffer three more years of misery due to the inefficiency of government leaders," Patman observed, blaming the coalition leaders for their inability to deal with major problems facing the country.

The Afghanistan Protection and Stability Council (APSC) spokesman, Sangar Amirzada, also slammed the current government as illegitimate. He insisted resolution of differences between Afghan leaders by the US was also illegal.

"Foreigners making decision on the future of an independent country is an absolute no-no; we will never accept foreign dictates. The government leaders should talk out their rifts and spend the remaining three years forging better coordination and cooperation," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(11) Charikar ...

province. We have launched an identification and rehabilitation effort in the district centres," he said.

There are nearly 100 addicts in the provincial capital, which has only one 20-bed rehabilitation centre in the city. Thus the addicts were hospitalised turn by turn, the director explained said.

Dr. Niamatullah Rashid of the centre said: "As many as 27 addicts have been brought to the hospital, which has no capacity to accommodate more than 20 people at a time. We have to treat the rest of seven at their homes."

An addict, Ahmad Fawad, 32, said: "I have been consuming drugs over the past four years. I was feeling guilty, when admitted to the rehabilitation centre. However, now I am happy to have recovered." (Pajhwok)

(12) Kunduz...

information about it last week and they would soon act against the madrasa," he said. He said around 300 students at the

madrasa were receiving training under the watchful eyes of Mauavi Jannat Gul, a notorious member of the Haqqani Network.

A week earlier, four children, allegedly planning to carry out suicide attacks in Kunduz, were arrested by Afghan sources. (Pajhwok)

(13) Suicide...

ripped through a bus carrying Education Ministry employees to work.

Interior Ministry Spokesman Sediqqi Sediqqi said five people were wounded in the blast, caused by a magnetic bomb attached to the bus.

Rahim Gul, the assistant bus driver, gave a higher death toll, telling The Associated Press that two employees were killed.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for that attack. The Taliban frequently use roadside and so-called sticky bombs, as well as suicide attacks against Afghan security forces and government employees across the country.

Such bombings regularly take place in Kabul, though the Afghan capital has not seen a major attack in several months. (AP)

(14) Education ...

doon Obaidi, said that only four education officials were injured in the incident. He said police were investigating about the attack.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the incident. (Pajhwok)

(15) Air Strikes...

security forces also organized air strikes against militants in Gor Tiba area outside Kunduz provincial capital the Kunduz city, Monday morning, killing four armed Taliban and injuring two others. The security forces backed by NATO-led Resolute Support troops also captured 10 Taliban fighters including group commander Mullah Dad Gul in Kunduz on Monday, the official added.

Taliban militants who have been fighting the government forces are yet to make comment. Dasht-e-Archi and the neighboring Chardara and Imam Sahib districts have been regarded as Taliban hotbed in the northern Kunduz province.

Similarly the government forces, according to the state-run Bakhtar News Agency (BNA), conducted air sorties against militants loyal to the Islamic State outfit in Achin district of the eastern Nangarhar province on Sunday, killing 11 fighters.

IS group, which is active in Achin and neighboring Kot and Chaparhar districts have yet to make comment.

Afghan forces have intensified use of aircraft particularly helicopter gunships in the war against militants over the past couple of months which has proved effective in helping ground forces to inflict casualties on militants and made inroad in militants' territories. (Xinhua)

(16) Drive to...

attorney's office, the Afghan National Army's fourth brigade and police headquarters, the advisor to Chief Executive Officer, the National Directorate of Security office and several others were inspected and removed.

Khogyani said all these roads were cleared and opened for public and the remaining barriers would be removed and the roads cleared on Monday.

The Nangarhar police chief, the ANA's fourth brigade commander, the public order police commander for the eastern zone, the eastern zone border police commander, the provincial NDS chief, deputy mayor and several other military and civil officials took part in the campaign.

After supervising the campaign, Governor Kunduzi thanked all the security officials for clearing roads and facilitating common people.

He also called on political leaders to clear roads of barricades in their respective areas. He assured the people that the campaign would continue until all roads were cleared.

Jalalabad citizens welcomed the operation and said all roads closed by powerful individuals should be cleared and reopened.

A resident of the third police district, Zabihullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News that besides government departments, a number of powerful individuals had placed barricades in front of their resi-

dences, creating great inconvenience for local residents.

Another resident, Imranullah, said all roads should be cleared of barricades and no one should enjoy impunity. (Pajhwok)

(17) King Pin ...

Interior for Counter Narcotics. Ahmad Khalid Moahid, spokesman for the CNJC, said Watan will be publicly prosecuted.

Meanwhile, Agha Mohammad, son of Hajji Lal Jan, another drug trafficker, was also arrested in eastern Nangarhar province recently, officials said. Agha Mohammad, who is believed to have moved three tons of drugs abroad over the past few years, has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment.

Agha Mohammad's father, Hajji Lal Jan, who was reportedly financing the war against Afghan forces, was arrested in 2012 in southern Helmand province and was mysteriously freed in May 2014.

According to security sources, Hajji Lal Jan is now living in Quetta city in Pakistan and he occasionally visits volatile areas of southern Afghanistan.

"We tried to convince the Afghan government not to release drug traffickers, accused persons and inmates, the way Hajji Lal Jan was released," said Ahmadi.

According to counter narcotics organizations, 434 drug smugglers were arrested and 14 drug factories have been destroyed over the last solar year. (Tolonews)

(18) 12 Militants ...

Shuja said. All the former militants also handed over their weapons to police, he added.

With these people's joining in the peace process, security would be further stabilized in Baghlan province, the official said.

Jandullah, a small extremist group fighting the government alongside Taliban outfit, hasn't commented. (Xinhua)

(19) G7 FMs ...

international community. The communique also addressed the issues of Iraq, Syria, Libya as well as climate change, anti-corruption, counter-narcotics, global health, among others.

Along with the communique, the G7 foreign ministers also issued two statements calling for nuclear disarmament and no-proliferation, one of which is also called the Hiroshima Declaration. (Xinhua)

(20) Next Phase...

The fate of President Bashar al-Assad is a major sticking point, however.

While the opposition insists Assad can play no role in a future transitional government, the regime says voters should decide his fate. (AFP)

(21) Suicide Attack...

clear, he added. There was no immediate information on the identities of the bombers. "There are only fragments of flesh over there," said Karamyshev. (AFP)

(22) Germany ...

to the foreign ministry in Ankara last month to hear a protest over that song.

While the German government defended the song as legitimate free speech, it has strongly distanced itself from the poem. Seibert has said that Merkel and Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu agreed the poem was "deliberately offensive."

Germany's criminal code provides for up to three years in prison or a fine for insulting a foreign head of state. However, it stipulates that such offenses are only prosecuted if the country in question seeks prosecution and the German government allows it.

Seibert told reporters Monday that officials would take several days to decide whether to allow prosecutors to proceed in the case, but stressed that Merkel holds free speech in high regard. It is "negotiable neither at home nor abroad," he said. (AP)

(23) UN, AU ...

Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

"Humanitarians and military don't always understand each other and there may not always be the kind of patience on both sides to cooperate," Peter de Clercq, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (DSRSG) for Somalia said in the

statement.

A group of civil-military coordination officers from AMISOM and participants representing various sectors, including police and military officers from troop and police contributing countries of Djibouti, Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, Nigeria and Ghana have taken part in the training.

"I hope that this workshop will increase the mutual understanding between military and humanitarian players and improve cooperation," De Clercq, who is also the UN Humanitarian Resident Coordinator said.

The AU Special Representative for Somalia Ambassador Francisco Madeira noted humanitarian challenges in Somalia call for increased coordination and dialogue between AMISOM and humanitarian actors operating in the country. (Xinhua)

(24) Russia Begins...

district is one of the four operational strategic commands of the Russian military. Established in 2010 and headquartered in the eastern Khabarovsk region, the district covers the territories of the former Far East military district and part of the former Siberian military district. (Xinhua)

(25) Ukraine ...

accept Yatsenyuk's resignation Tuesday at what is expected to be a marathon session that might also include a vote on Groysman's candidacy.

Yatsenyuk's party member Anton Gerashchenko wrote on Facebook that there were "more than enough votes" needed to accept the premier's resignation. (AFP)

(26) Saudi King ...

"The other mission that we should work on together is the fight against extremism and the fight against terrorism," King Salman said on Sunday in an address to the Egyptian parliament.

On Monday, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Cairo University.

He later flew to Turkey where he was met by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. (AFP)

Russia Expects Ukraine to Uphold Minsk Agreements Despite Gov't Changes

MOSCOW - Russia on Monday expressed the hope that Ukraine will fulfill its obligations under the Minsk agreements despite changes in the Ukrainian government.

"Certainly, we believe that a change of government and the head of government should not further impede what in fact has stalled for more than a year," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"The most important thing for us is that the Minsk agreements were signed by Ukraine's head of state (Petro Poroshenko), and we remain hopeful that Kiev will fulfill the commitments it has undertaken," RIA Novosti news agency quoted Peskov as saying.

According to the spokesman, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who announced his resignation on Sunday, did not make "any contribution to settling the Ukrainian crisis" or the normalization of Russia-Ukraine relations. Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged the West, particularly the United States, which according to him has decisive influence on the formation of Ukraine's new government, to make sure that Kiev fully implements the Minsk agreements. (Xinhua)

US, Allies Stage 18 Strikes in Iraq, Syria Against IS: U.S. Military

WASHINGTON - The United States and its allies conducted 18 strikes against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria on Sunday, the coalition leading the operations said. In a statement released on Monday, the Combined Joint Task Force said five strikes in Syria, four of them near Mar'a, hit tactical units and destroyed fighting positions, vehicles and a house-borne explosive device. In Iraq, 13 strikes near six cities denied access to terrain and destroyed assembly areas, supply caches and a rocket rail, among other targets, the statement said. (Reuters)