

(1) Values of

Sayyaf's speech at a ceremony marking the 26th anniversary of the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Sayyaf strongly criticized the NUG over what he believed was the isolation of mujahideen from political talks and negotiations, exclaiming that "they were mujahideen who defended the country."

Nearly a month has passed since Parliament approved eight members of the cabinet out of the 25 introduced by President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah. (Tolonews)

(2) Ghani Meets

reviving the stalled peace process.

A statement from the Presidential Palace said Ghani also talked to Jordan's King Malik Abdullah II over the phone and stressed cooperation against terrorism.

Ghani said it was necessary for Islamic countries to step up efforts at fighting terrorism, saying it was the duty of Islamic scholars to portray a positive image of Islam.

The president extended his condolences on behalf of the people of Afghanistan to King Abdullah over the brutal killing of a Jordanian pilot by the Islamic State militants.

"Our pains are common. Afghanistan has suffered more than any other country at the hands of terrorists. It is our duty to join forces against the menace."

The two leaders agreed to work further on gathering Islamic scholars around one table to condemn terrorism in all its forms in one voice, the statement said. (Pajhwok)

(3) China Committed

conversations and instructions from Nov. 15, 2012 to June 13, 2014. It also includes 45 photos of Xi.

President Xi's new ideas and assessments in the book have answered both theoretical and practical questions about China's development in this new phase of the country's history, the ambassador said.

The book represents the collective wisdom of the Chinese leadership to deal with domestic and external issues, which serves as an important window for the world to look at and understand the contemporary China and its development, the ambassador said.

Deng added "I sincerely hope that this book can help Afghan friends from all walks of life to know and understand China in a better way".

The book has been published in at least nine languages, namely Chinese, English, French, Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Japanese. (Xinhua)

(4) "TAPI- A Pipeline

India were "on the same page" regarding the TAPI project and said that the politics between India and Pakistan would have no negative impact on the project.

Dr. Saba represented Afghanistan in the TAPI steering committee meeting in Islamabad last week.

"During the meeting, I noticed that Pakistani and Indian officials were very close to each other... Pakistan, Afghanistan and India had a similar approach on the project. The three countries have common interests," The Express Tribune quotes Dr. Saba.

With regards to the security for the project, Dr. Saba said Afghan government is determined to deal with this challenge.

He said the route of the pipeline going along the Heart-Kandahar Highway lies in a secure and peaceful area and added that Afghan government has undertaken security plans for major projects in the country including the TAPI project.

The 21st Summit of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline will be hosted in Afghanistan's capital city, Kabul, within two months.

The officials of the concerned nations will finalize the inception date of the project during the upcoming meeting.

The pipeline will be operational in 2017. It has the capacity to carry 90mn standard cubic meters a

day gas for a 30-year period, of which India and Pakistan would get 38 mmscmd each, and Afghanistan would get the remaining 14 mmscmd.

The 1735km gas pipeline is expected to stretch from the largest gas field in Turkmenistan, Galkynysh, through Afghanistan's provinces of Herat and Kandahar to Fazilka, area located between India and Pakistan.

The four nations' president signed the intergovernmental agreement of the TAPI project in 2010 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The project has been a topic of discussion from 1990 onwards.

The Transaction Advisory Services Agreement (TASA) on the project was signed in November 2013.

The pipeline will bring USD 450mn in revenue to Afghanistan and generate employment opportunities for thousands of youths. (Wadsam)

(5) TSK Hands

transferred with \$3 million equipment in it.

He also said that in the last 13 years, 250,000 Afghan nationals had been treated at the barrack's hospital, expressing his gratitude to the Turkish soldiers who had served in the barracks since 2002. (Agencies)

(6) New Draft

government officials would be discussed tomorrow (Tuesday)," he told reporters flanked by several colleagues.

Kandahar PC member Syed Mohammad Selab, also a member of the coordination commission, said the new agreement reinstated their right to supervise the performance of local departments.

But he said they had decided not to reopen their offices until the new agreement was approved. The agreement would be sent to the parliament for approval.

Selab asked lawmakers to approve the new draft so that PC members could help the government prevent corruption in local departments.

A Wolesi Jirga member Mirdad Khan Najrabi said that PC members should have the right to oversee local government performance. (Pajhwok)

(7) Abdullah Concerned

Earlier, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in its report had said that more than 30,000 Afghans had returned home from Pakistan since the start of the year after coming under intense scrutiny following a Taliban massacre at the Army Public School Peshawar in December.

There are an estimated three million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan either officially or unofficially, most of whom left their country to escape conflict in the 1980s and 1990s.

According to the government of Pakistan, 1.6 million Afghan have been living in there legally and as many without legal documents. In addition, Iran is hosting 2.4 million Afghan refugees, including 1.4 undocumented.

The council of ministers also discussed the country's security situation at the meeting.

Abdullah said the unity government was committed to ensuring peace and stability in the country with the help of masses. The interior and defence ministers briefed the council about the security situation. (Pajhwok)

(8) Iran Ready

international cooperation. Referring to producing over 6,400 tons of narcotics in Afghanistan, Rahmani Fazli said a decade of efforts to replace poppy with alternatives have failed because there has been no cooperation.

We are seeking international legal and technical support as well as equipment, he added.

While Iran is an influential country in fighting against narcotics, we are under sanctions for narcotics detection equipment, said the DCH secretary general.

"We hope to receive more confidential and complete information and also be supported financially in prevention and treatment fields."

Iran takes the issue of fighting narcotics seriously and has had good success in it but more inter-

national help is needed.

We try to strengthen regional cooperation, especially between Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and we recently held a meeting of 11 regional countries to follow up the issue, said Rahmani Fazli. (FNA)

(9) India Refuses

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to Teheran last week.

New Delhi is worried that situation in Afghanistan is unfavorable for continuing the project after the pullout of U.S.-led NATO troops taking into account a sharp escalation in fighting across Afghanistan, said the report.

India also fears a 10 billion U.S. dollar project being invested by India in an iron-ore and steel project in Hajigak of Afghanistan would be scuttled.

Relations with Kabul have seen renewed strains following a dropping of requests by the Afghan government for Indian arms. India considers this as an apparent effort by Kabul to soothe the feeling of Pakistan, said the newspaper.

In 2003, a trilateral agreement was signed by India, Iran and Afghanistan to build a highway from Chabahar, a port city of Iran, up to Afghanistan border.

India financed 100 million U.S. dollars for the construction of a 200 km road between Delaram to Zaranj in Afghanistan up to the Iranian border by 2008. (Xinhua)

(10) Rabbani Meets

and economic issues of Afghanistan and efforts of National Unity Government towards reconciliation and other bilateral issues. Australian Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan while pointing out to cooperation of his country with Afghanistan in various development and security sectors, said that his country was committed to continued cooperation with Afghanistan not only in security sector but also in other key and development fields. He said Australia would spare no cooperation in sectors which were significant and effective for Afghanistan. (BNA)

(11) Deeper Kabul,

Ambassador Janan Mosazai met with Siraj ul Haq at the JI headquarters at Mansoura in Lahore, the Punjab province, and both sides exchanged views on the broad spectrum of bilateral relations and ongoing cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan, a statement said.

Mosazai briefed Haq on the Afghan government's vision for peace, security and development in Afghanistan as well as the top priority that the Afghan government attaches to deeper and closer political and economic regional cooperation with all of Afghanistan's neighbours, especially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The present critical juncture in both the countries, Mosazai said peace in Kabul and Islamabad was crucial for the people of both countries. He said that all concerned in the two countries and the region must join hands to ensure this noble goal.

The two sides reaffirmed the unparalleled commonalities between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Mosazai reiterated the Afghan government's commitment to stronger and closer people to people ties between the two countries.

On behalf of President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, the ambassador extended an invitation to Siraj ul Haq to visit Kabul. Haq appreciated and accepted the invitation. (Pajhwok)

(12) Germany Building

struction, plumbing, electricity (electricians), road construction and masonry.

The foundation stone of this college was laid to gather by Thomas Silberhorn, the Parliamentary State Secretary in Germany's Ministry Economic Cooperation and Development and Mohammad Zahir Wahdat, the Deputy Governor of Balkh Province during a ceremony on Sunday.

While laying the foundation stone of the college, Thomas Silberhorn talked about the importance of this project

vocational training, which is directed towards the needs of the labour market and the needs of the people are the best basis for future generations to contribute to a sustainable development of the country and to generate income for their families."

Mohammad Zahir Wahdat while thanking Germany for the continued assistance said "An investment in education is an investment in Afghanistan's future. This will help us achieve the greatest goal we can reach: our self-sufficiency."

Government of Germany is funding this project through its Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) Development Bank. (KP)

(13) Nuristan Police

determine the whereabouts of the weapons.

Qayyum hoped the Interior Ministry would respond to his request and would carry out a serious probe into the issue. After the proposed investigation, those responsible should be referred to the judicial organs, he opined.

Nuristan provincial council member Omar Farooq Qanuni also confirmed hundreds of weapons belonging to the police had been stolen and called for an investigation into the matter.

"We are aware of this issue and we have started our investigation to know who have taken them, why and how much."

Provincial police chief Brig. Gen. Abdul Baqi Nuristani confirmed a number of police officers had taken home their official guns after their salaries had been delayed.

He said the guns missing were less than hundreds, but an exact number was unknown. "I assumed office as the police chief nine months ago and during my time, no weapon has disappeared. Our investigation shows some police officers in the past had taken home their guns due to non-payment of salaries."

The police chief said there was no need of sending a delegation by the Ministry of Interior to investigate the issue because they could investigate it themselves to determine the whereabouts of the guns.

"We will talk to the police heads concerned to retrieve the guns and bring to justice those responsible. The missing weapons are here, they have not been taken out of the province."

The Ministry of Interior has so far said nothing about the issue of missing guns in Nuristan, but President Ashraf Ghani, who recently held a video conference with the governors of eastern provinces, asked the Ministry of Interior to send delegations to these provinces to investigate problems there.

Nuristan officials say they would take up the issue of the missing weapons with the Interior Ministry's delegation that is expected to arrive in the near future. (Pajhwok)

(14) Commentators

Pakistan with Afghanistan and Afghanistan with Pakistan must be have good relations because it's in favor of both countries," Kunar MP Shazada Shahid told TOLONews.

Recently the Afghan government sent six senior military officers to be trained by the Pakistani army and helped arrest individuals reportedly behind last December's bloody massacre at a Peshawar school.

Dr. Akram Arefi, a university professor and political analyst, has said that closer relations with Pakistan will concern India, but not as much as closer relations with India would concern Pakistan. "Considering the sensitivity of the Pakistanis when it comes to India, improvement of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan will impact relations with India, but not to an extent that will completely jeopardize relations between Afghanistan and India," he said.

Nevertheless, some are more critical of a rapprochement with Pakistan. Wile speaking at a Loya Jirga tent on the 26th anniversary of the Soviet Union withdrawal from Afghanistan, Abdul Rab Rasool Sayaf, the leader of the Dawat Islami political party, criticized the government's change

in policy.

"The change of strategy of Afghanistan with its neighbors without seeking advice from the nation is forbidden and Haram," Sayaf, also a religious scholar, said. "These decisions are imposed and we will not accept it." Under the Hamid Karzai administration, India became one of the top five donor countries for aid in Afghanistan. It is said New Delhi has provided close to three billion USD to Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

(15) Security Forces

provincial capital, and Nari district.

It was almost impossible for commuters to travel on the road, he recalled. In addition, the residents of Kamdish and Bargimatal districts in neighboring Nuristan province faced with immense problems because of blockades of the road.

A total of 17 landmines had been defused, with insurgents planted 25 landmines on one kilometres area, he informed. (Pajhwok)

(16) A Group of Gunmen

a delegation had been sent to the village, about 50 kilometres from Firozkoh, the provincial capital, to investigate the incident.

But Qaderi said no delegation had so far arrived in the district. Local officials say 4500 gunmen associated with nearly 100 groups and 2400 insurgents are operating in Ghor, harassing residents and creating insecurity. (Pajhwok)

(17) 435 Development

the local councils, he said.

He said the schemes were implemented in Aliabad, Imam Sahib, Dasht-I-Archi, Qala Zal, Khanabad and Chahardara districts and in the capital of Kunduz province.

Masoom, a resident of the locality where a development project had been completed, said that they now got graveled roads, clinics, schools and culverts. He said the projects implemented were the long standing demand of the people of his area. (Pajhwok)

(18) Suicide Bombing

personnel of the National Directorate of Security have also arrested two would-be suicide attackers in Kandahar Province.

The would-be suicide attackers are named as Lala Jan alias Toor Jan and Asmatullah who had received assignments from a Taliban commander Hafiz to carry out suicide attacks in Kandahar Province, the statement said.

According to the statement, two homemade bombs, 60 kilograms of explosives and other terrorist materials were seized from the possession of the arrested would-be suicide bombers.

National Directorate of Security statements usually do not contain information about the exact location and date of the event but their statements are issued after recent activities. (KP)

(19) Nimroz Spring P

grew due to water scarcity.

Nimroz is known as a sandy desert with tropical weather and the province receives little rainfall.

Mohammad Anwar, a senior citizen, said the government should chose sapling that suits the weather of the province. (Pajhwok)

(20) First Czech

ieve that in cooperation with the Croatian and Hungarian colleagues we will be able to resolve all problems," Sajban said.

The Czech Republic has a 150-strong unit in Afghanistan where it guards the Bagram air base. More than 100 other Czech soldiers train Afghan pilots, are in charge of logistics for the Czechs and guard the Czech embassy. A surgical team also operates in the country. (Agencies)

(21) 64 Insurgents

killed, another injured and five arrested in police operations in past 24 hours.

As per the statement, the operations were conducted in Nangarhar, Uruzgan, Paktika, Ghazni, Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Kunduz, Takhar and Sar-e-Pul provinces with the assistance from the Afghan National Army

and personnel of the National Directorate of Security (NDS).

Four IEDs were also defused by ANSF in Kunar and Khost provinces, the statement adds. (KP)

(22) Thousands Rally

demonstrating for their rights.

"People haven't gathered here for their own interests. They represent four million inhabitants of this province. People are poor and unable to feed their families, but look at the bills. What this government has done to us," he added.

"The president has promised us two loaves of bread, but now he is taking away from us the only loaf."

Other protesters sought government's action to correct the billing and warned of continuing their protests if their calls fell on deaf ears.

"In Kabul the price of one unit is 1.5 afs, but 5.20 afs are charged for the same in Herat," said Behzad Yosufi, a civil society activist.

Officials blamed the hike in electricity tariff on problems in the imported electricity system.

Wahid Kamrani, the energy department's acting director, said they had to deal with problems plaguing lines carrying electricity from Iran.

According to Kamrani, 85 percent of the electricity was imported from Iran and the rest from Turkmenistan. (Pajhwok)

Egypt Bombs Islamic State Targets in Libya after 21 Egyptians Beheaded

CAIRO - Egyptian jets bombed Islamic State targets in Libya on Monday, a day after the group there released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians, drawing Cairo directly into the conflict across its border.

Egypt said the pre-dawn strike hit militant camps, training sites and weapons storage areas in neighboring Libya, where civil conflict has plunged the country into near anarchy and created havens for armed factions.

While Cairo is believed to have provided clandestine support to a Libyan general fighting a rogue government in Tripoli, the mass killings pushed President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi into open action, expanding his battle against Islamist militancy.

"And let those near and far know that the Egyptians have a shield that protects and preserves the security of the country, and a sword that eradicates terrorism," the military said.

Egyptian state television aired footage of fighter planes leaving a hangar with "Long live Egypt" emblazoned on the tails, followed by night-vision aerial footage showing bomb explosions and the aircraft returning in early daylight.

Libya's air force also participated in Monday's attack, which targeted Derna, an eastern coastal city seen as a base for Islamic State fighters in the oil-rich nation.

"There are casualties among individuals, ammunition and the (Islamic State) communication centers," Libyan air force commander Saqer al-Jorushi told Egyptian state television, adding that dozens were killed.

Jorushi, who is loyal to Libya's internationally recognized government that set up camp in the city of Tobruk after losing control of Tripoli, said there would be more strikes on Tuesday.

The rival Tripoli-based parliament, which is supported by some Islamist groups, said the strike was an assault on the country's sovereignty. Omar al-Hassi, the premier of the self-declared Tripoli government, said three children, two elderly men and a 21-year-old woman were killed in the attack.

It was not possible to confirm either factions' accounts of the number or nature of the casualties.

Cairo called on the U.S.-led coalition fighting Islamic State in Iraq and Syria to broaden the scope of their operations to include Libya, highlighting how the militant group has expanded its reach around the Arab world.

Since the fall of strongman Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, a number of Islamist movements have taken hold in Libya. Recently, some have declared ties to Islamic State and claimed high-profile attacks in what appears to be an intensifying campaign. (Reuters)