

Ashgabat, Tokyo Hold Political Consultations

ASHGABAT - The Turkmen Foreign Ministry hosted political consultations with the delegation of Japan led by Director of the Central Asia and the Caucasus Division of the Japanese Foreign Ministry Tomiyama Mikito, Trend reports with reference to the Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

"Noting the priority and effectiveness of visits at different levels between the two countries in recent years, issues of further development of bilateral relations were also discussed," the ministry said.

The parties touched upon issues of political, trade, economic and humanitarian interaction.

Eight documents were signed by the governmental delegation of Turkmenistan during the working visit to Japan in October last year, con-



cerning the realization of new joint projects, including the construction of ammonia and urea production plants, natural gas processing and gasoline production, a workshop for phosphate fertilizer production, along with partnership with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and supply of the earthmoving machinery of Komatsu company and Toyota cars to Turkmenistan.

Japan has already realized a number of major projects in Turkmenistan. They include construction of ammonia and urea plants in the city of Mary, industrial complexes in the Balkan Region for polyethylene production at the Turkmenbashi Complex of Oil Refineries, urea fertilizers in Garabogaz city, and polyethylene and polypropylene in Kiyarly settlement. (Trend)

US Governor to Visit Uzbekistan for First Time in April



TASHKENT - Governor of Mississippi Phil Bryant will visit Uzbekistan in the first half of April, becoming the first American governor to visit Uzbekistan since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries, Trend reports with reference to the Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Affairs. An Uzbek delegation headed by the First Deputy Chairman of Uzbek Parliament Sadyka Safayeva arrived on February 11 in the capital of Mississippi, Jackson, where she met the governor on the same day.

Phil Bryant noted that there are many similarities between Uzbekistan and the State of Mississippi - a developed agriculture, an advanced textile and cotton industry, a convenient geographical location and hardworking people. The parties agreed at the meeting that the American delegation will include representatives of leading Mississippi companies interested in building partnerships with Uzbekistan in agriculture, industry, petrochemistry and mechanical engineering. (Trend)

(1) Ghani, Stoltenberg...

of Afghanistan will discuss peace in details.

According to Presidential Palace, Ghani met with other leaders and high-ranking officials of different countries on the sidelines of Munich Security Conference.

The president last week called for a consultative Jirga on the peace process. The move by him was appreciated by a number of politicians including former President Hamid Karzai.

In an interview with TOLONews on Feb. 14, the NATO chief said Stoltenberg said the alliance and the United States' presence in Afghanistan over the past 18 years has not only helped fight terrorist groups but it has also provided security in order to support Afghans to create the conditions for social and economic development.

Stoltenberg said NATO's presence in Afghanistan has paved the ground for Afghanistan to never again become a safe haven or breeding ground for international terrorism.

He said NATO's presence and the presence of the United States has been key in the fight against terrorist groups, such as Daesh and Al Qaeda. (Tolo news)

(2) We Are Not...

freedom, sovereignty and values they stood for, he explained.

"We will continue that as long as a single Afghan and Afghanistan exist," he promised, stressing the Afghans took their sovereignty seriously,

Some of Afghanistan's neighbours have forgotten about their history, according to Mohib, who insisted: "We are not a nation of surrender." (Pajhwok)

(3) US May Pull ...

accomplish the mission here.

"I think the strategy that the president has allowed to get put in place here, the South Asia strategy, focused on reconciliation, has been a good one," he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(4) Mogherini Reiterates...

also added "Federica Mogherini - who discussed the recent developments in Afghanistan also with the US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo this morning in Brussels - held with President Ghani an exchange of views on the need for the creation of an inclusive Afghan negotiation platform, representing Afghanistan's diverse social and political spectrum."

Federica Mogherini and Presi-

dent Ghani confirmed that they would continue working together on all these points. (KP)

(5) Suicide Attempts...

Herat Women's Affairs Directorate Sumayya Taheri said women prefer to commit suicide "instead of suffering domestic violence".

"The graph of suicide attempts and self-immolation cases is high in Herat and most of such cases are not registered," Taheri said. "The statistics of the Public Health Directorate show an increase in suicide attempts and self-immolation cases in Herat which is concerning for us." (Tolo news)

(6) Kandahar...

afghans to 12000 afghans.

A number of others traders expressed similar views and were satisfied with the fig market this year.

Eng. Abdul Baqi Bena, deputy head of the Kandahar Chamber of Commerce and Industries told Pajhwok, about 30000 tons of figs worth millions of dollars were annually exported abroad from Kandahar.

He said during the past six months so far 6000 tons of the dried fruit had been exported to India, Pakistan and other countries.

Bena said the dried fruit could not be exported in huge quantity because traders feared losses as they had previously incurred in dried apricot.

Thousands of tons of pomegranates, grapes and other fruits are exported from Kandahar to foreign countries amid problems in transit trade and lack of alternate routes to reach international markets, he concluded. (Pajhwok)

(7) Germany's Merkel...

claiming that Russia was violating it. But Washington is also concerned that the treaty restricts U.S. weaponry in Asia, but does not limit those of China. Merkel noted that the INF Treaty was negotiated "essentially for Europe" and that without it, Europe would have to push for future disarmament agreements to ensure its own security.

"Disarmament is something that concerns us all and where we would, of course, be glad if such talks were held not just between the United States, Europe, and Russia, but also with China," she said.

Chinese Politburo member Yang Jiechi told the Munich Conference shortly after Merkel's

speech that the INF Treaty should be saved, but that China would not sign it.

"China develops its capabilities strictly in accordance to its defensive needs and doesn't pose a threat to anybody else," Yang said. "So we are opposed to the multilateralization of the INF." (Monitoring Desk)

(8) Address Pakhtun...

Arman Luni is effective and transparent," Brad Adams, the HRW Asia Director, said in an article published on the HRW website on Feb. 15.

Many protests were held in Afghanistan to condemn the killing of the PTM member. In a recent movement, a group of young activists from Bamiyan province, the center of Afghanistan, gathered in front of the Buddhas of Bamiyan and called their support to the PTM members.

One of the demands of the PTM is finding the individuals who have gone missing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan over the past several years.

According to PTM members, almost 30,000 people from the two provinces - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan - have gone missing over the past 10 years and Pakistan's army and ISI, the Pakistani intelligence agency, appear to be behind the disappearances.

However, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has said that the number of missing individuals is 1,532. (Tolo news)

(9) Gold Price up...

one-kg of Indonesian green tea for 300afs and the same amount of black African tea for 350afs - higher than wholesale rates.

According to Haji Mir Hussain Sadaqat Money Exchange Service in Sara-I-Shahzada, one US dollar accounted for 74.45afs and 1,000 Pakistani rupees 535afs against last week's 75.60afs and 532afs. (Pajhwok)

(10) No Movement...

"There were no new signals from the Russian side," Stoltenberg said after talks with Lavrov at the Munich Security Conference. NATO has begun planning for the collapse of the treaty, but insists it will not "mirror" Russia, and Germany's Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen said there should be no "tit for tat". (AFP)

(11) French to...

One of the torched vehicles belonged to Sentinelle, an anti-terrorism unit. Interior Minister Christophe Castaner expressed his "indignation and disgust" in

a tweet.

Some 550 shops have been damaged by protesters in the capital since mid November.

Thousands of protesters also turned out in the southern cities of Marseille, Montpellier, Bordeaux and Toulouse -- strongholds of the movement -- as well as several cities in the north and west of France.

The "yellow vest" movement started as a protest against rising fuel taxes, but it has become one of opposition to President Emmanuel Macron's policies.

Speaking at a meeting with local mayors on Thursday, Macron said it was time for a "return to reason", adding that authorities would act with "greater firmness" against violent demonstrators. (AFP)

(12) Trump Claims...

Trump said early exchanges with Kim were filled with "fire and fury," but that the two have established a good relationship since their first meeting last year in Singapore. He said claimed Abe nominated him because he was worried about North Korea conducting missile tests over Japan.

Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009, his first year in office, for laying out the U.S. commitment to "seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."

Trump complained Friday that Obama was there "for about 15 seconds" before he was awarded the prize. (AP)

(13) Movies from...

become intricately intertwined across 30 years of dramatic change in their country.

"The story itself can be read as a scathing critique of the country's one-child policy, recently scrapped. There are also powerful scenes illustrating the painful fallout from China's manic lurch towards capitalism in the 1980s and early 1990s," the South China Morning Post said.

"But they never distract from Wang's goal, which is to show how ordinary people grapple with grief and moral dilemmas." It faces strong competition from "Synonyms" by Nadav Lapid. The absurdist, broadly autobiographical movie tells the story of an Israeli who moves to Paris to flee the fraught political situation in his own country.

The picture is centred "around the volatile performance of newcomer Tom Mercier, who delivers a raw, disconcerting and altogether unpredictable turn that

recalls the work of a young Tom Hardy (this includes his ability to act without any clothes on)," the Hollywood Reporter wrote. (AFP)

(14) Mexican President...

With a population of 32,000, Badiraguato is one of the poorest municipalities in the state of Sinaloa and the country, according to Mexican statistics agency Inegi.

Lopez Obrador, who has spoken of the need to fight poverty across Mexico, announced a development plan for Badiraguato that included a new highway, a public university and a program to plant trees.

"Until now, I've never seen a president come here," said Javier de la Rocha, a 41-year-old farmer.

El Chapo is not the only drug lord who calls it home - Rafael Caro Quintero and Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo, both former leaders of the Guadalajara cartel, were also born nearby. (Reuters)

(15) U.S. Adviser...

"They resolved to hold Pakistan to account for its obligations under U.N. resolutions." (Reuters)

(16) Turkey to...

Washington said previously that the purchase of the Russian system would jeopardize Turkey's purchase of F-35 fighter jets and possibly result in sanctions imposed by the United States.

However, the Turkish leader said that his country was open to buy the U.S. Patriot systems as long as the deal served Turkey's interests.

"We continue our work based on the promise of the S-400 deliveries in July," Erdogan added. (Xinhua)

(17) Pence Chastises...

powers withdraw from the deal. "The Iranian regime openly advocates another Holocaust and it seeks the means to achieve it," Pence, who also visited the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz, told delegates.

"The time has come for our European partners to withdraw from the disastrous Iran nuclear deal and join with us as we bring the economic and diplomatic pressure," Pence said. Pence, who used his trip to Europe to push Trump's policy of favoring sovereign states as opposed to alliances and blocs, took aim at the European Union as a whole, saying "once more the Old World can take a strong stand in support of freedom in the New World" in Venezuela. (Reuters)