peace and Solidarity (APAPP) as it wanted a joint meeting of religious scholars in support of peace in Afghanistan. Kabul had long been asking Islamabad to issue a “cost-free” declaration similar to the one issued by nearly 30 Pakistani clerics last year against suicide bombings. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani’s call for Prime Minister Imran Khan on May 5 played a key role in normalization of relations. President Ghani had accepted Imran Khan’s invitation to visit Islamab to hold high-level security talks in Islamabad next week.

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ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Afghanistan are set to hold high-level security talks in Islamabad next week. Pakistan and Afghanistan have not held any bilateral meeting since November when officials of both countries met in Islamabad. Afghanistan had stepped meetings with Pakistan under the Afghanistan Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPP) as it wanted a joint meeting of religious scholars in support of peace in Afghanistan.

KABUL - The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said it interviewed 13 detainees from a group of 53 recently rescued from the Taliban. Mainly members of Afghan forces but also civilians and government officials captured by the insurgents. The group was freed on April 25 when Afghan troops raided a Taliban detention facility in the Xiao Uzgen district in southern Uruzgan province. Most of the captives were held since 2018, with those since 2016, the UNAMA statement said, adding they were kept in poor conditions and subjected to forced labor. It cites the detainees as saying that the Taliban killed some of their captives “I am gravely concerned about these serious allegations of ill-treatment, torture and unlawful killing of civilians and security personnel, as well as the deplorable conditions of detention,” said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the head of UNAMA. The detainees were shackled while in captivity and almost all of them were deprived of their liberty and conditions.

Main components of the project are engineering survey, design and construction; these include topographic and geotechnical surveys, determination of the final alignment, detailed design, construction of flood protection works and associated structures. The project is financed by the German Development Bank KfW, in the scope of the German Development Cooperation with Afghanistan and will be implemented through the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RDF), conditional to actual budget allocation.

UN: Afghan captives held by Taliban subjected to abuse

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Afghan refugees living in tough situation in Iran: Returnees

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