

(1) Kabul and ...

which Ghani said is a "vital step towards strengthening the bilateral relations."

Ghani urged that Afghanistan needed a strong support from China to make the country a trade and transit hub.

On his turn, the Chinese VP expressed his president and premier's condolences to the families of victims of recent deadly earthquake in Afghanistan.

He promised an assistance of \$1 Million USD to the quake-affected families, in addition to helping Afghanistan 1.5 billion Chinese Yuan for the next three years.

He appreciated Ghani and Abdullah for forming the National Unity Government.

Li Yuanhao said Ghani and Abdullah are committed to a "bright future for the people of Afghanistan."

Based on the agreements signed earlier in the day, China will build four security gates at the entrances of Kabul city.

Besides providing 1,500 new scholarships for the Afghan students, China will also construct 10,000 residential units for the families of victims of Afghan Army and Police. (Tolonews)

(2) Russia Says...

strikes at Islamic State fighters in Syria at Assad's request.

Earlier on Tuesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov told Russian news agencies that Moscow is aiming to host a round of talks between Syrian officials and opposition leaders next week.

Bogdanov said the Syrian government has agreed to participate, but that it is unclear which opposition groups might come. He did not give a specific date for the proposed talks. (AP)

(3) Russia Ready ...

coalition forces, the country is still not secure.

Touching on Russian air strikes against Daesh in Syria, Mantyskiy said Moscow has caused extensive damage to the extremist group, which has also emerged in Afghanistan.

He expressed that Russia wants a political solution to the ongoing crises in Syria.

His statements came after the Afghan government reportedly requested Russia for military help - a move recently criticized by a number of Afghan senators. (Tolonews)

(4) Kerry Talks...

region, Tajikistan is presented with some "very real security challenges," Kerry said after the talks.

"I emphasised the United States' commitment to continue to work with Tajikistan and other countries in the region to strengthen border security," he said before embarking on the next leg of the trip to gas-rich Turkmenistan.

Tajikistan has already endured a devastating civil war since its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and is deeply concerned about violence along the 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) southern border it shares with conflict-torn Afghanistan.

Those fears have grown as the United States shrinks its troop footprint in Afghanistan and after the Taliban stormed and briefly held the strategic northern city of Kunduz last month.

Autocratic ruler Rakhmon, who came to power in 1992, has also been accused of playing up the threat of Islamist extremism to crack down on his domestic opposition.

While offering Washington's ongoing commitment to helping Tajikistan secure its border, a task Russia has historically helped with, Kerry said fighting terrorism should be done "in a way that balances human rights, religious freedom" and political participation.

"Let me assure you that the United States remains committed to a Tajikistan that re-

mains sovereign, secure and prosperous," Kerry said ahead of closed-door talks.

"I think it's fair to say that we have as much... security cooperation with Tajikistan as with any other country in the region," Kerry added.

"We're both deeply concerned about security in Afghanistan and on the border, about counter-narcotics and terrorism."

After the talks in Tajikistan, Kerry flew to isolated Turkmenistan, an energy-rich state that borders Afghanistan, to meet its leader Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov at the ornate gold-domed presidential palace.

He thanked Berdimukhamedov for setting an agenda that included issues of "economic cooperation, human rights, security and stability" as the two greeted each other warmly. (AFP)

(5) Senate Summons ...

has appointed his son as deputy with the salary of \$ 4,000 and by raise of complaints he appointed his nephew for the position," Senator Nesar Haris said.

But the minister of counter narcotics who has not attended the Tuesday's session denied all allegations against him.

"I have announced all posts to be competitive in the ministry," Salamat Azimi, minister of counter-narcotics said.

Opium trade has been one of the sole sources of funds for Taliban during the last ten years. Despite spending billions of dollars in Afghanistan, International Community could not manage the funds properly. The chances of reemergence for poppy cultivation among the Afghan farmers are highly considerable.

The minister of counter-narcotics announced a 19 percent decrease in drugs in the current year; the ministry has collected nearly 10,000 drug addicts in several categories from all across the city.

However, the deputy minister of public health says that the drug addicts again face addiction after treatment.

"Our treatments have a high and great quality, but lack of employment and easy access to drugs causes they become addicted again," deputy minister of health, Najiya Tareq said.

Afghanistan, being the leading producer of poppy hosts twice the global average of drug consumers.

Experts say that the alarming trend is not being addressed by the Afghan government and its international partners, even though most officials acknowledge that the drug scourge threatens lasting stability in Afghanistan. (ATN)

(6) Manpreet Vohra...

of Taliban regime in 2001.

Vohra has served as the Deputy High Commissioner at Indian High Commission in Pakistan besides having worked in Disarmament and International Security Affairs Division of the External Affairs Ministry. Prior to this, he served as India's Ambassador to Peru.

Afghanistan and India have friendly relations and are strategic partners.

India has played a crucial role by participating in the rebuilding of Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001.

Since 2002, the Government of India has committed USD 2 billion dollars to the socio-economic rebuilding of the Afghan state and society in accordance with the development priorities of the Government and the people of Afghanistan.

India is also building the Salma dam in western Herat province which will incur a cost of around \$300 million by the time of its completion.

Afghan government recently renamed the dam to "Afghan-India Friendship Dam". (KP)

(7) Pakistan ...

two years. But at the end of that period they will all be out of here (Pakistan)," he said, adding that the plan ensures Afghan refugees return to country with "dignity" in an organized manner.

However, the news agency quotes a senior U.N. official who has talked on condition of anonymity that the expiration of the December 31st deadline will not change the refugee status of Afghans under international laws and obligations Pakistan adheres to.

Indrika Ratwatte, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in September that Pakistan has agreed to extend the validity of Proof of Registration (PoR) cards till Dec 31, 2017. (KP)

(8) Tika Lends...

were also present while distributing the packages.

Last October, Tika provided 600 families affected by the conflict in Takhar province with food assistance, as well as providing healthcare to refugees living at Haji Camp located in Mazar-i Sharif.

Kunduz city and Faryab have frequently been the scene of intense fighting between Taliban insurgents and government forces, backed by international air strikes. (Agencies)

(9) Austria Tightens ...

to Afghanistan, Norwegian police said.

The Austrian law, which is due to come into force from mid-November, would apply to those granted "subsidiary protection", which mainly applies to Afghans, rather than those granted full political asylum, which is the case for most Syrians.

Austria has been a critic of building fences to keep refugees and migrants out of the country, but it has changed tack by announcing plans to erect barriers along parts of its border with Slovenia, on the grounds of controlling the flow of people entering the country. Slovenia, the main entry point into Austria, has also said it was ready to build a fence.

Germany, which expects 1.5m refugees by the end of the year, plans to tighten its refugee policy. Berlin says it is not acceptable that many refugees coming to the country are from Afghanistan and not Syria. The German interior minister, Thomas de Maizière, said last week that of the thousands of refugees and migrants arriving every day, the second highest number came from Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan is on the second place for the number of cases being handled. That is not acceptable," he said after a cabinet meeting.

Afghans make up 16% of asylum seekers arriving in Turkey and Europe, surpassed only by Syrians. According to the UN, 122,080 Afghans applied for asylum in 44 countries between January and August, more than twice the number last year. The vast majority were young men. (Agencies)

(10) WU Supports ...

both Afghanistan and Pakistan to respond to the earthquake that shook the region Monday. These units will provide primary health care and psychological first aid, distribute urgently-needed supplies, and meet needs for water, sanitation and hygiene. In addition, the Western Union Foundation will provide a dollar-for-dollar match of qualifying contributions from Western Union Agents and other business partners; and 2:1 match for employee donations to NGOs providing disaster relief.

"Our thoughts are with the people of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Tajikistan and the diasporacommunity around the world, during this time of need," said Western Union Foundation President, Patrick Gaston. "The Western Union Foundation, in coop-

eration with the International Medical Corps, is responding with immediate relief efforts, including programs that provide primary healthcare and urgently needed supplies to families and children most affected." (PR)

(11) Tajik-Afghan ...

climate change, management of frequent and severe floods, provision of security for staff responsible for hydrological monitoring of the border between the two countries and protection of shared vulnerable ecosystems. Meeting participants noted that, in the face of these and other challenges, important steps have been taken to intensify cooperation. Work plans on joint hydrological monitoring and exchange of information, as well as on environmental cooperation, were approved. Planned cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization, which also participated in the meeting, will strengthen the technical aspects of the joint hydrology work.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Chairperson of the Tajik Committee for Environmental Protection, Oihon Sharipova. The Afghan Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as well as water and environmental authorities in Kabul, participated from the Afghan side. The meeting was organized by UNECE in cooperation with the Committee for Environmental Protection of Tajikistan, Zoi Environment Network and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The bilateral cooperation between the two countries has been fostered through the UNECE-led project, Strengthening Cooperation on Hydrology and Environment between Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the Upper Amu Darya River Basin, which supports Afghanistan and Tajikistan in the development of hydrology and environment cooperation in the basin. The Ministry for Water and Energy and the National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan and the Committee for Environmental Protection of Tajikistan and Tajik Hydromet are project partners. The Russian Federation and UNECE provide funding for the project.

The Amu Darya River, shared by Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, is one of the main rivers in Central Asia. It runs from the Pamir Mountains to the Aral Sea. The Panj, an upstream tributary of the river, delineates the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. (Aisa Plus)

(12) Taliban Stone ...

take actions against the brutal killing as soon as possible.

According to her, the presence of more than 10,000 irresponsible armed men in Ghor has caused violation of women's rights.

Meanwhile, civil society and women's rights activists strongly condemned the stoning and called it an "unacceptable and unforgivable act."

This is not the first case a woman stoned to death in public. A number of similar cases have occurred in the past during the Taliban regime, ousted in 2001. (Tolonews)

(13) Pakistan Fears ...

Prime minister, Nawaz Sharif in his recent speeches at the White House renewed commitments for supporting Afghan Peace Talks.

"Pakistan find itself in danger, because it seems that the combat against terrorism become globally," Tahir Hashemi, Afghan teacher said.

Meanwhile, some are said to consider Pakistan is in an economic, social and political deadlock.

"Currently, Pakistan is in a political, economic and social deadlock which has no military problem, but the Pakistani people are tired of its conditions," Aziz Rafi, civil

activist said.

Senator Faisal Sami said, "Pakistan has never been honest in its policies against Afghanistan."

Reports suggest that Kabul will not attend any Peace Talks with Taliban group because the key is in Pakistan's hands. (ATN)

(14) Residents...

According to experts, another reason for the increase of oil price in Afghanistan markets is the rise of oil demands in the winter season.

The government has repeatedly committed to make efforts for preventing oil price increase; promises which has not seen to be fulfilled. (ATN)

(15) Russia Steps...

the Syrian opposition, Moscow's foreign ministry said.

At international peace talks in Vienna on Friday, where Russia was the leading player, Moscow said it wanted opposition groups to participate in future discussions on the Syria crisis and exchanged a list of 38 names with Saudi Arabia.

The list included mostly former and current members of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (SNC), Syria's Western-backed political opposition block, Kommersant newspaper reported on Tuesday. (Reuters)

(16) New Zealand ...

cussions will focus on climate change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, disaster risk management and the future of ASEM as it looks to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2016."

ASEM members include 53 European and Asian nations and represent almost 60 percent of the world's GDP and around 60 percent of its population. ASEM was formed in 1996 to deepen the relations between Asia and Europe. (Xinhua)

(17) All of Europe...

benefits." Cameron has yet to lay out concrete proposals for negotiations. But Osborne - a fiscal conservative who is the favorite to lead the Conservative Party when Cameron steps down before the 2020 election - firmed up Britain's economic demands. (AP)

U.S. Rate Hike not to Cause Foreign Capital Exodus from S. Korea

SEOUL - The expected interest rate hike in the United States will unlikely cause a massive exodus of foreign capital out of South Korea, thanks to the larger size of the economy, improved financial conditions and financial safety net, Seoul's central bank data showed on Tuesday.

The Bank of Korea (BOK) said in a biannual monetary policy report submitted to the National Assembly that it has a low possibility for the U.S. Federal Reserve's rate hike to cause an abrupt foreign capital outflow from the nation and greatly expand financial instability.

The report said emerging markets, including South Korea, strengthened a capability for responding to foreign funds outflow given the bigger size of emerging economies, the improved financial soundness and the financial safety nets, such as currency swaps with many partners.

South Korea's foreign currency reserves kept rising and its economic fundamentals were improved sharply relative to other emerging economies, the report said.

The ratio of the country's foreign reserves to foreign debts continued to increase from 26.3 percent to 28.3 percent in 1990s to 79.7 percent during the 2009-2013 period.

The Fed is widely expected to raise its policy rate as early as December this year, for the first time since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Foreign ownership of local securities, including stocks and

bonds, reached 728.7 billion U.S. dollars as of the end of 2014, nearly tripling 254.3 billion dollars tallied in June 2004. The BOK said in the report that it will keep an accommodative monetary policy stance amid external uncertainties like the alteration in the U.S. monetary policy and economic slowdown in emerging economies. (Xinhua)

No Proof that Plane Broke up in Mid-Air: Egyptian Authorities

CAIRO - Egypt's civil aviation ministry said on Tuesday there were no facts to substantiate assertions by Russian officials that the Russian airliner that crashed in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Saturday broke up in mid-air.

But spokesman Mohamed Rahmi confirmed that no distress call had been received before the crash, which left wreckage from the Metrojet Airbus 321, carrying Russian holidaymakers back to St Petersburg from the Sinai Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, strewn over more than 3 km (2 miles) of desert.

"No communication from the pilot was recorded at the navigation centers requesting anything," he told Reuters.

Rahmi said the investigating team, led by Egypt and aided by experts from Russia, Airbus and Ireland, where the plane is registered, had returned to the crash site on Tuesday morning.

Once investigations at the site were completed, probably later in the day, they would focus on analyzing the contents of the black box flight recorders, Rahmi said.

Sources on the investigation committee have said the recorders are in good condition and should yield clues.

Rahmi said there was no proof yet that the plane had broken up in flight. "This could be a long process and we can't talk about the results as we go along," he said.

However, the fact that no distress call was received, and the wreckage was scattered widely, has suggested a sudden breakup to many experts. Theories floated so far range from a missile attack, or a bomb on board, to a structural failure.

A Sinai-based Egyptian militant group allied to Islamic State claimed on Saturday to have shot down the plane in response to Russia's military intervention in Syria in support of President Bashar al-Assad against rebels including Islamic State.

However, the militants are not believed to have missiles capable of hitting a plane at 30,000 feet. A source in the committee analyzing the flight recorders told Reuters on Monday that the plane had not been struck from the outside. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday it was inappropriate to link the crash to Russia's military strategy in Syria. (Reuters)

Turkish Jets Strike Kurdish Rebel Targets in Northern Iraq

ANKARA - Turkish jets carried out new raids on suspected Kurdish rebel targets across the border in northern Iraq, the military said Tuesday as the ruling party pressed ahead with anti-rebel operations after winning a resounding victory in Sunday's election. The Turkish airstrikes hit shelters, underground bunkers and weapon emplacements belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, in six locations Monday in northern Iraq, including the Qandil mountains where the rebel leadership is based, the military said in a statement. Inside Turkey, authorities declared a curfew in certain parts of the mainly Kurdish town of Silvan, where security forces clashed with PKK rebels. At least two militants were killed, the local governor's office said.

The military has been striking at PKK bases and hideouts since July, when renewed fighting between the rebels and Turkish security forces shattered a fragile peace process that had begun in 2012.

Monday's airstrikes were the first attack on PKK targets in Iraq since Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AKP party captured more than 49 percent of the vote Sunday, regaining a parliamentary majority it lost in June. (AP)