

It is a true saying that "One falsehood leads easily to another".

Cicero

European Officials Stress Cooperation with Asia in Tackling Global Challenges

LUXEMBOURG CITY - European leaders attending the foreign ministers' meeting within the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) have on many occasions stressed the importance of cooperation between Europe and Asia in tackling shared global challenges. The aim of the two-day meeting on Nov. 5-6 was to review the commitments made during the ASEM Summit in Milan in October 2014 and prepare for the 20th anniversary of ASEM, which will be celebrated at the next ASEM Summit in Mongolia in July 2016. The items on the agenda for the first session on Thursday were climate change, the Sustainable Development Program for 2030 and the management and reduc-



tion of disaster risks; the second session focuses on connectivity and the future of ASEM. The ministers discussed international and regional affairs Friday morning and the meeting was scheduled to conclude at noon Friday. Grand Duke Henri, royal head of state of Luxembourg, highlighted in his opening speech on Thursday the fact that Asia and Europe were "key players in global geopolitics". "ASEM has 53 partners; 11 of them are G20 members. Together, our two continents bring together about half of the world's GDP, about 60 percent of its population and almost 60 percent of its trade. These figures speak for themselves," he said. (Xinhua)

NATO Welcomes United Countries Presence Plan in Afghanistan

KABUL - NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg praised the presence plan of NATO's country members in Afghanistan. "I welcome united countries decision to extend the period where foreign forces will remain in Afghanistan beyond 2016," Stoltenberg said. Unlike the United States, NATO has never set an end date to its "Resolute Support" training mission in Afghanistan, currently a 6,000-strong force that also includes troops from some 40 countries, including NATO members, the United States and their allies. A formal decision is ex-



pected to come at NATO's next meeting of its foreign ministers in Brussels in early December, an official said. Although Afghan forces have recaptured the strategic northern city of Kunduz, its brief fall to the Taliban last month underscored concerns ... (More on P4)...(1)

Russia Urges UNESCO to Examine Damage to Cultural Heritage by

PARIS - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov hopes that UNESCO, in line with its mandate, will send an expert group to Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq in order to assess damage done to cultural heritage sites. Russia hopes UNESCO will send a mission to Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq after they are freed and safe from terrorists in order to assess damage done to cultural herit-

age sites, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Friday. "I'm sure that UNESCO, in line with its mandate, will send an expert group there once the situation in regard to safety and once these barbarians are thrown out of there in order to assess the amount of damage and to understand what needs to be done to restore the invaluable human heritage," ... (More on P4)...(2)

US Believes IS Has No Institutional Presence in Pakistan, Afghanistan

WASHINGTON - The US Department of Defence has said that it's no longer conducting counter-terrorism operations against the Taliban in Afghanistan because it views the group as an important partner in its efforts for restoring peace in the country. "What we're not doing is counter-terrorism operations against Taliban," Pentagon spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis told a news briefing. "We actually view Taliban as being an important partner in



a peaceful Afghan-led reconciliation process. We are not actively targeting Taliban," he said. However, the briefing, focused on

US efforts to defeat the Middle East-based Islamic State militia. In Pakistan and Afghanistan, some 'lone wolves' were using the Islamic State brand to raise their stature, Captain Davis said, adding that the Middle Eastern militia did not have an institutional presence in the region. - Command and control system - He said that the Islamic State had a pretty good command and control system in Iraq and Syria ... (More on P4)...(3)

Younis Qanuni Appointed as New Chief of HPC



KABUL - Former chairman of Wolosi Jirga and former Vice-president, Muhammad Younis Qanuni appointed as the new Chairman of Afghanistan High Peace Council (HPC). A source close to the National Unity Government (NUG) said that the measure was taken in National Security Council chaired by President Ashraf Ghani. Mohammad Yunis Qanuni was born in 1957 in the Panjshir Valley. He is from the Panjshir Valley's town of Rokha. During the 1992-96 government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, Qanooni was deputy defense minister, then interior minister. Following ... (More on P4)...(4)

Kabul Serena Hotel Repair and Maintenance Support to Shamsa Children Village

KABUL SERENA HOTEL

KABUL - Kabul Serena Hotel under its SEED (Social Environmental and Educational Development) Programme provided repair, paint and maintenance support to Shamsa Children Village. During the month of October 2015, Serena Gardner and Engineering team visited Shamsa Children Village and supported them in landscaping, painting, plumbing, repairing and maintenance of a residence building. The Shamsa Children's Vil-



lage in Kabul was established at 2013 and aims to protect and care for orphaned and abandoned children and vulnerable women in a permanent family environ-

ment. The village aims to give children as normal a home life as possible and currently has over 100 children cared for by

a staff of 12 caregivers. Each child becomes part of a permanent family unit with an adoptive mother and up to eight brothers and sisters of varying ages. Each "family" has a private home in the village designed to shelter and support the family and children. Many of the children have experienced mental or physical trauma. www.shamsachildrevillage.com Keeping its tradition of giving back to the community Kabul Serena Hotel will continue to support the needy children of Shamsa Village under its SEED Programme. (PR)

New Poll Reveals US Public Pessimism on Obama's ISIL, Afghanistan Policies



KABUL - Americans are none too pleased with the way their president is dealing with combating the self-proclaimed Islamic State terror group and the prolonged conflict in Afghanistan, an Associated Press-GfK poll recently revealed. US citizens feel their president is incapable of finding ways out of foreign policy quagmires in which the country is embroiled, after series of failures in the country's approach to IS and following Obama's announcement that thousands of troops will stay in Afghanistan after his presidency ends in 2017. More than 60% of those polled expressed concern over Obama's handling of the threat posed by IS in Syria and Iraq. Fewer people now support the president in this than when the US-led coalition to fight IS was launched in late 2014. Since January, disapproval over White House policies in Syria has increased by 8% over last September, when Americans were roughly split on the issue. More broadly, only 40% of Americans approve of Obama's general foreign policy approach, according to the poll, which questioned just over 1000 people. The numbers, disappointing for the White House, come as Obama struggles to demonstrate progress pushing US interests in the Middle East; ... (More on P4)...(5)

Kabul Women Seek Justice for Rokhshana Stoned to Death



KABUL - Dozens of civil society activists gathered in capital Kabul to seek justice for 19-year-old Rokhshana who was stoned to death by the Taliban in western Ghor province. The activists, mainly women, strongly denounced the public execution of a woman and called it an un-Islamic and inhumane act. Forced to marry against her will, the young Rokhshana was stoned to death by the Taliban last week after she was caught eloping with another man. The act saw global condemnation after footages of the stoning, which went viral on social media on Monday, showed her in a hole in the ground as scores of violent men casually hurl stones at her. President Ashraf Ghani and CEO Abdullah both in separate statements condemned the incident and assured to bring the perpetrators ... (More on P4)...(6)

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