

ASEAN Adopts Declaration on Community Building to 2025

KUALA LUMPUR - Leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Sunday adopted a declaration on the bloc's growth to 2025, mapping out a plan for further regional integration and community building efforts. The declaration, entitled "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together," is one of the key documents issued at the end of a two-day summit, which has drawn leaders from ASEAN's member states and their dialogue partners - China, South Korea, Japan, India, New Zealand, Australia, the United States and Russia. ASEAN leaders welcomed the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community, agreeing that this declaration as well as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, consti-



2025, the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, constitute the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, said the declaration. The leaders decided that ASEAN member states

and ASEAN organs and bodies shall implement the ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together in a timely and effective manner, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter. ASEAN ministers, ASEAN secretary-general and other ASEAN organs and bodies are tasked to mobilize resources needed to implement ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together, said the declaration. The secretary-general of ASEAN is directed to monitor and report the progress of implementation to the ASEAN summit annually, it added. (Xinhua)

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Nieghbor News

Khamenei meets with Turkmen President



TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has met with visiting Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow. The meeting took place in the Iranian capital Tehran on Sunday. The Turkmen head of state had last met with Ayatollah Khamenei during a 2012 visit to the Islamic Republic. Gurbanguly arrived in Tehran earlier in the day on a visit aimed at boosting the bilateral ties. So far during the visit, Iran and Turkmeni-

stan have signed nine memorandums of understanding for the expansion of cooperation in different fields, including the health and medical sector, media, power transfer, sports, transportation, and housing. During his stay, the Turkmen president is also to attend the third Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) summit, which is to be held in the Iranian capital on Monday, with nine heads of states, including Russia's President Vladimir Putin in attendance. (PressTV)

World Leaders must Defy Terrorism Fear at Paris Climate Change talks: Obama

KUALA LUMPUR - Acts of terrorism will not stop the world from taking urgent action on global climate change at talks in Paris next month, U.S. President Barack Obama said Sunday. The United States and its coalition allies would ultimately destroy the Islamic State (IS), but the world should not show fear of terrorism, Obama said at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur at a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). "I think it is absolutely vital for every country, every leader to send a signal that the viciousness of a handful

of killers isn't going to stop the world from doing vital business and that Paris -- one of the most beautiful, enticing cities in the world -- is not going to be cowed by the violent, demented actions of a few," said Obama. "We do not succumb to fear -- that's the primary power these terrorists have over us. They cannot strike a mortal blow against the United States or against France or against a country like Malaysia, but they can make people fearful and that's understandable," he said. "We fight them ... (More on P4)...(17)

Relevant Countries welcome Substantial Progress in RCEP Negotiations

KUALA LUMPUR - Relevant countries welcome the substantial progress made in the negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), according to a joint declaration of the leaders published on Sunday. The document urged efforts to conclude the negotiations in 2016.

The RCEP is a significant path toward economic integration of the region, it said, noting it bears great significance in improving people's living conditions and stimulating economic development in the region. The partnership is also conducive to promoting the fair devel-

opment of economy and strengthening economic ties among would-be signatories of the RCEP, it said. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, who is present at the releasing ceremony of the document, pledged that his country is ready to join efforts with other relevant parties to conclude the negotiations in 2016. China is convinced that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the RCEP and other regional free trade arrangements can reinforce one another, so as to make positive contributions to realizing the joint goal of the free trade zone of the Asia-Pacific region. Li said addressing the 18th Asso-



ciation of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China, Japan and South Korea leaders' meeting held here Saturday. At the 18th China-ASEAN leaders' meeting, another event of the series of

East Asia leaders' meetings, Li said the RCEP laid a foundation for the construction of a sound free trade system in the region, to realize the target of regional economic integration. (Xinhua)

Kenyan Security Experts Call for Global Alliance to Combat Terrorism

NAIROBI - The formation of a global alliance to strengthen military and political response to terrorism is an imperative as the threat mutates rapidly, Kenyan security experts said on Saturday. During separate interviews with Xinhua, the security experts said recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Mali were a wake-up call to the global community to join hands and combat this menace with singular determination. Terrorists from the Islamic State (IS) last week killed 127 people in separate locations in Par-

is while those from the rival Al-Qaeda group on Friday attacked a luxury hotel in the Malian capital, Bamako, where 27 people died. Experts said the attacks were motivated by a quest for global supremacy by the two militant groups. "The world's most dominant terror networks, Al-Qaeda and IS, have become more lethal as they compete for supremacy. They have become more technologically savvy as they recruit new fighters. Sadly, we might witness the same from Somalia ... (More on P4)...(18)

India Slams Kerry for Remarks over Paris Climate meet

NEW DELHI - India Sunday slammed U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry for his reported remarks that New Delhi could be a "challenge" at the upcoming crucial Paris climate meeting. "It is in a way unfair to say that India will be a challenge. It is actually not doing justice with India," Environment Minister Prakash Javdekar told the media in the national capital. He added: "The U.S. is our great friend and strategic partner. His



comments are unwarranted and unfair. The attitude of some of the developed countries is

the challenge for the Paris conclusion. "The minister, however, made it clear that India would not compromise on issues it had raised. "Neither there is no pressure from the developed world on India nor the country is in the habit of taking any pressure from anybody," he said. Kerry had recently said in an interview that India could be a "challenge" at the Paris meeting, which is slated to take place from the end of this month. (Xinhua)

Mali Hotel Attack Aimed at Peace talks: Separatists

BAMAKO - The assault on a luxury hotel in Mali's capital that killed 19 people was a clear attempt to derail a fragile peace process meant to stabilize the country's volatile north, a representative of northern separatist groups said Sunday. A peace accord between the Bamako-based government and separatist groups was signed in June, and local agreements in the north were signed in October. But Islamic extremist groups such as Ansar Dine had spoken out against the accord, accusing separatists who'd signed it of betraying the local population. Friday's assault



on the Radisson Blu hotel came as the hotel was preparing to host the latest meeting of a committee working toward the accord's implementation. It was claimed by Al-Mourabitoun (The Sentinels), an extremist group formed by notorious Algerian militant Moktar Belmoktar with links to al-Qaida and Ansar Dine.

"The attack was targeting the peace agreement," said Sidi Brahimi Ould Sidati, a representative of the Coordination of Azawad Movements, known by its French acronym CMA. The CMA is a coalition of groups seeking autonomy in northern Mali including ethnic Arabs and Tuaregs. (AP)

Egyptians Vote again to Elect new Parliament

CAIRO - Egyptians voted Sunday across 13 of the country's 27 provinces in the second phase of parliamentary elections after a low turnout marred the first stage in the absence of any opposition. The election is expected to elect lawmakers who firmly back President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who has crushed all forms of dissent since ousting his Islamist predecessor Mohamed Morsi in July 2013. Polling for the two-day second phase opened at 9:00 am (0700 GMT) across 13 provinces, including in Cairo, with few voters seen trickling in to cast their ballots. Only a dozen people waited at three polling stations in the capital's central district of Shubra when voting got underway. The first round of the election was held across 14 of the country's 27 provinces on October 18 and 19, when turnout was 26.6 percent. A run-off held days later produced an even lower turnout of 21.7 percent. If necessary, the second phase will also have a run-off on December 1 and 2. A run-off is held after the initial voting fails to produce a winner with a clear majority. Analysts expect voting to be low in the latest phase too, given the apathy among voters who expect the new 596-member parliament to simply rubber-stamp Sisi's decisions. (AFP)

Syrian Troops Advancing thanks to Russian Airstrikes: Assad

BEIRUT - Syria's president Bashar Al Assad said that his forces are advancing on "almost" all fronts thanks to Russian airstrikes that began nearly two months ago. Bashar Assad told China's Phoenix Television that the Russians depend on Syrian ground forces and "cooperate with us." Russia, which has conducted an air campaign in Syria since Sept. 30, sharply raised its intensity in recent days on President Vladimir Putin's orders after Moscow said it had confirmed that a bomb brought down a Russian plane over Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, killing all 224 people on board. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack. Assad said the Russian airstrikes are more effective than those of the U.S.-led coalition because "you cannot fight terrorism with airstrikes alone." Assad's comments were carried by Syrian state media on Sunday. (AP)

Russian PM Starts Visit to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH - Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev arrived in Cambodia on Sunday for a three-day visit, the state-run Agence Kampuchea Press (AKP) reported. Medvedev was greeted at the Siem Reap International Airport in northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province by Cambodian Minister of Industry and Handicraft Cham Prasidh and other senior government officials, the AKP said. According to the schedule, Medvedev will visit the famed Angkor ... (More on P4)...(20)

Pakistan Deeply Disturbed by Bangladesh Executions: FO

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is deeply disturbed by the executions of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader and Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general who were both charged with 1971 war crimes, the Pakistani Foreign Office said Sunday. Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury and Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid were "hanged together,

at the same time" at 12:55 am (local time) at Dhaka Central Jail in the nation's capital, Senior Jail Superintendent Mohammad Jahangir Kabir told The Associated Press. Chowdhury had been convicted on charges of torture, rape and genocide during the country's independence war, while Mujahid was found guilty on charges of genocide, conspiracy in killing intellectuals, torture and abduction. (Agencies)

Big Projects go on Despite Bleak Future: Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - The economic crisis is hitting Central Asia hard now. Turkmenistan has not been immune; if anything, the country's dependence on natural gas exports has made it more vulnerable than its Central Asian neighbors. But one would never know it looking at the number of costly and arguably fruitless projects into which Turkmenistan's government is pouring money. According to the Turkmen government this is still "Altyn Asyr," the Golden Age, a time of prosper-

ity for Turkmenistan domestically and growing importance for the country internationally. How bad is the economic situation inside Turkmenistan? Why does the government there continue to talk about spending billions of dollars on projects that seem to lead to a dead end? What sort of pressure might Turkmen authorities be facing due to this economic downturn? RFE/RL's Turkmen Service, known locally as Azatlyk, assembled a panel to delve into these matters. (Agencies)

Turkish Warplanes Pound Kurdish Militant Targets

ANKARA - Turkish warplanes struck Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant targets on Saturday, part of an air and ground offensive against the group in southeast Turkey, where some areas have been under curfew for as long as ten days. The Turkish army said it hit PKK shelters and supply points in the mountainous Semdinli district of Hakkari

province, north of Turkey's borders with Iraq and Iran. A round-the-clock curfew in Mardin's Nusaybin district entered its tenth day on Sunday, during which ten PKK militants and two civilians had been killed, according to a statement by local governor's office. Seven districts of Diyarbakir had a three-day curfew lifted on Sunday ... (More on P4)...(19)