

Quote of the Day

War is a cowardly escape from the problems of peace.

Thomas Mann

German writer (1875 - 1955)

Turkey Downs Russian Warplane, Putin Warns of 'Serious Consequences'

MOSCOW - Turkey shot down a Russian warplane near the Syrian border on Tuesday, saying the jet had violated its air space, in one of the most serious publicly acknowledged clashes between a NATO member country and Russia for half a century. Russian President Vladimir Putin said the plane had been attacked when it was 1 km (0.62 mile) inside Syria and warned of "serious consequences" for what he termed a stab in the back administered by "the accomplices of terrorists". "We will never tolerate such crimes like the one committed today," Putin said, as Russian and Turkish shares fell on fears of an escalation between the for-



mer Cold War enemies.

In a letter to the U.N. Security Council, Turkey said it had shot down the jet while in Turkish air space. Along with a second plane, the aircraft had flown more than a mile into Turkey for 17 seconds, despite being warned 10 times in five minutes while approaching to change direction, the letter said.

"Nobody should doubt that we made our best efforts to avoid this latest incident. But everyone should respect the right of Turkey to defend its borders," Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said in a speech in Ankara.

In condemnation of Russian air strikes in Syria, during which Turkish air ... (More on P4)...(1)

Leaders Agree on Need to Reduce Turkey-Russia Tension



ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and US President Barack Obama on Tuesday agreed on the need to reduce tensions and prevent a repeat of similar incidents after Turkish forces shot down a Russian plane on the Syrian border for allegedly violating Turkish air space, the presidency said.

"They were in accord on the importance of de-escalating tensions and making arrangements to prevent a repeat of such incidents," the Turkish presidency said in a statement following telephone talks between the two leaders.

The statement said that Obama had emphasised in ... (More on P4)...(2)

Elimination of Violence Against Women Day Marked



KABUL - The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was marked in Kabul on Wednesday where officials expressed their commitment to stamp out the problem in the country.

The event was attended by officials, the first lady Rula Ghani, civil society activists and other concerned parties.

Addressing delegates, Ahmad Zia Massoud, the special envoy to President Ashraf Ghani on reform and good governance, said violence against women was a serious problem in Afghanistan and that obstacles in securing women's rights must be removed. Massoud said the culture of fighting the issue needs to be encouraged as it would be an important step in decreasing violence against women in the country.

"All of us should remove obstacles to secure women's right. Groups that want to use violence as a tool for their personal interest are perverted groups," said Massoud, Ghani's envoy.

Malalai Shinwari, a presidential adviser, read the president's message: "The recent incidents of a woman being stoned to death and the incident of a Ghor woman being lashed to death indicates that we must fight violence against women."

But delegates argued that instead of just issuing statements, government must take practical steps.

However, they also said there had been some improvement in the country during the tenure of the past government and the current government but that the problem was serious and often made headline news.

"War often leads society towards violence and this violence is in violation of human dignity. These are women that have raised generations therefore they should be provided with a safe environment in which to live," said Rula Ghani.

"Currently there are cases of violence registered in Kabul and our provincial representatives have registered big violations in provinces but despite this there are lots of women who seek justice for those who are victims of this violence," said Dilbar Nazari Minister of Women's Affairs.

Meanwhile a number of participants expressed their displeasure at statements having been read out at the event.

"What was the point of just reading out statements? We are here to talk. Because of this I do not understand what the program is for," said Nargis a civil society activist.

But others disagreed. "What is important today is our officials showed their commitment to the fight against violence against women, which is hopefully decreasing in the country," said Sara one of the program participants.

But in conclusion, delegates argued that the National Unity Government (NUG) needs to support women during this period in the name of peace and put an end to the problem. (Tolonews)

TAPI Project to be Started in one Month

KABUL - The presidential office on Wednesday in a statement announced that work on Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) project will be started in one month according to agreement of President Ashraf Ghani with authorities of member countries of TAPI project in a meeting.

TAPI is one of the biggest economic projects in the region.



At the same time the authorities of Turkmenistan said that they have signed document on implementation of TAPI project. In his recent utterances on TAPI, Turkmenistan president, Qurban Ali Berdi Mohammadov, has ordered government companies to start this project. President Mohammadov has told the media that it was a historical document and implementation ... (More on P4)...(3)

190 Cases of Women's Murder Registered in 6 Months

KABUL - Around one hundred and ninety cases of women's murder from all across the country have been filed with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) during the first six months of the current year.

AIHRC officials on Wednesday called the latest statistics as "shocking" and expressed concerns that majority of similar cases have not been recorded due to strict traditional sensitivities.

The commission declared that among them nearly 101 cases of them were honor killings.

According to AIHRC findings, nearly 2580 cases of violence were committed against Afghan women in the first six months of the current year.

"Violence against women had a remarkable increase in the past six months and statistics show that 2579 cases of violence against women have



been registered which is separated from suicide and self-immolation," said Qadira Yazdan Parast, commissioner of AIHRC.

The Human Rights Commission voiced concern over lack of the implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women, citing most of government officials ignore such cases to address. "The issue of public indifference to the implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women

should seriously be considered," Yazdan Parast noted. According to the registered statistics of the last six months: 2579 cases of violence committed all across the country which among them, 190 cases were women's murder, 731 cases shows physical violence. 900 cases registered on verbal and psychological violence against women and 550 cases of economic violence were recorded.

Close to 183 cases were sexual violence ... (More on P4)...(4)

20,500 Girls out of School Due to Conflict in 2015

KABUL - United Nations (UN) said that the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan continues to severely restrict access to education for women and girls. Overall, for the first nine months (1 January to 30 September) of 2015, approximately 210 schools closed due to conflict, affecting access to education to more than 20,500 girls.

Direct threats by armed opposition groups against schooling for girls affected access to education for approximately 17,000 female students. Eastern region remains the most acutely affected, whereby at least 13,000 girls no longer go to school due to threats, closures and direct attacks.

"Across the world, violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent, yet one of the most silenced realities," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and acting head of UNAMA. "This year Afghanistan has witnessed some horrific incidents of violence against women, and we have



also witnessed unprecedented collective action as women and men from different walks of life have come forward in solidarity to demand justice for the victims of violence against women and girls. Justice and accountability must be upheld."

UN Women Country Representative in Afghanistan says to prevent violence against women and girls and provide opportunities for them to develop, the government of Afghanistan, its people and international community needs to work together.

"For violence against women

and girls to be put behind us, it is essential that the government and people of Afghanistan, in partnership with the international community, work together in support of each other to live up to the guarantees in the Constitution," said Elzira Sagynbaeva, UN Women Country Representative in Afghanistan. "There needs to be effective implementation of the laws that protect all citizens, especially women and girls. Critically, an environment needs to be created where women and girls feel safe and are provided with ... (More on P4)...(5)

Kabul Invites Russian Resource, Infrastructure Investment in Afghanistan

MOSCOW - Kabul has invited Russian business to invest in geological exploration and infrastructure projects in Afghanistan, the speaker of the upper house of the Afghan parliament, Fazal Hadi Muslimyar, said Wednesday. We know that Russia has big experience and technical capabilities for construction of



roads, bridges, irrigation networks, railroads, big, medium, and small hydroelectric power stations. In addition, Russia has big experience in geological exploration. We invite Russian companies to invest in these and other spheres," he said addressing Russia's upper house, the Federation Council. Muslimyar recalled that the Soviet Union built numerous portions of the Afghan infrastructure, most of which is currently in need of maintenance and repair.

"We would sincerely welcome your help and cooperation and for this purpose we are ready to create all necessary conditions," he said. The Soviet Union built some 142 infrastructure-related facilities in Afghanistan between 1952 and 1988, including the Puli Khumri hydro-power plant on the Kunduz River, the Naglu Dam on the Kabul River, as well as highways and gas pipeline networks, according to Valery Ivanov, an economic adviser for the former Soviet Union who was stationed in Kabul. (Sputnik news)

Danish Afghanistan, NATO Relations Strategic



KABUL - Second Vice-President Sarwar Danish in a meeting with civilian representative of NATO to Afghanistan described the relations between Afghanistan and NATO as strategic and very important.

Sarwar Danish said International community's enduring support need to defeat menace of terrorism in Afghanistan. The NATO-member states should pressurize countries that are supporting terrorism in the region, the Vice-President added.

NATO's envoy assured that the alliance would continue its presence in Afghanistan and 13,000 strong NATO-led Resolute Support mission would continue to help Afghan National Security Forces. The official, besides expressing concern over abducting civilians also offered condolence to the National Unity Government over brutal murder of seven innocent civilians in Zabul recently. (BNA)

UNESCO Assures Support in Preserving Historical Sites

KABUL - UNESCO chief Paulo Fantani in meeting with Afghan minister of Information, Abdul Bari Jahani, the minister for information and culture said that UNESCO would continue to support Afghanistan in preserving the historical sites and monuments.

Presenting UNESCO's report on the work for historical park in Herat, museum alongside Ghulghula city in Bamyan and preserving minarets, the official added that 86 historical sites in Afghanistan are registered with the cultural branch of UNESCO.

Speaking in the meeting, Masinori the head of cultural branch of UNESCO said that the entity would brief the ministry for information and culture after completion its research on historical sites.

UNESCO would continue to cooperate with Afghan government regarding historical sites before extraction of mines, the official added. (BNA)