

(1) Officials

case was canceled by the President, though Ferozi was released from the jail based on the documents signed by the President Ghani. (ATN)

(2) Foreign Plots....

sides of the Durand Line, calling them one nation.

Several Afghan politicians also attended the gathering.

"I believe that regional countries face a common threat, but conspiracy can not create division. I want to call upon you [Pakistani politicians] to use your energy for peace in the region," Karzai said.

The Pakistani politicians however also announced that Afghanistan and Pakistan were facing a common challenge and that both nations must work together to overcome the issue of terrorism and extremism.

"We have faith that the border cannot divide us and we will continue staying together as a united nation," Pakistani politician Saleem Khan said.

"Terrorism is a common threat, we must cooperate to combat the enemy collectively. Some have sacrificed their lives and families have lost loved ones in Afghanistan. They are in fact our brothers and members of our family and we feel their pain," head of Pakistan's Awami National Party (ANP) Asfandyar Wali Khan said.

The statement comes at a time that many in Afghanistan have criticized Pakistan for its controversial role in the war against terrorism and insurgency.

"Pakistan must realize the fact that using terrorism as a tool cannot support the interests of Pakistan and the continuation of this situation will not have positive consequence ahead," Afghan writer Sulaiman Laiq said.

"Security can be restored in the region if countries work together honestly and fight terrorism, cooperation of Pakistan is a key element to combat terrorism," Afghan Minister of Borders and Tribal Affairs, Gulab Mangal said. (Tolonews)

(3) Russia to ...

officials have rejected rumors of directly fighting Daesh in Afghanistan, adding that they will extend assistance to Afghan government for eliminating any opponent armed group.

Moscow has assured of staying with Kabul in its fight against terrorism which not only threatens Afghanistan but the entire region.

Kabul is in contact with Moscow for receiving more weapons and gunship helicopters. (KP)

(4) Afghanistan...

and at the end of the 2015 the memberships will be granted by the WTO..

The memberships will allow Afghanistan to export its domestic goods with low taxes to the world business markets.

MoCI Officials also stated that membership will also impact on problems of business and transit of Pakistan-Afghanistan and to pave way for smooth business.

Ministry of commerce and industry Spokesman Musafir Quqandi said, "we will have the memberships of world trade organization by the end of 2015, and it will have its positive impact on business process."

But officials in chamber of commerce and industry in Afghanistan have explained that the following membership will not be the benefits of Afghanistan. (ATN)

(5) Afghanistan...

duly signed by Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Afghan Minister Akleel Hakim after the 10th session of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) recently held in Islamabad, Afghanistan's technical team raised the issue of renegotiation on bilateral transit agreement and argued that the

existing arrangement allowed concerned parties to seek renegotiation on it after a lapse of five years. They stated that the last APTTA was signed between the two sides in 2010.

The APTTA agreement states, "It shall remain in force for five years from the date it comes into force."

The APTTA illustrates that this agreement shall automatically be renewed for a further period of five years thereafter subject to such modification as may be agreed upon unless terminated by either contracting party.

Pakistani officials took the stance that the next APTTCA meeting going to be held in March 2016 would be the appropriate forum for raising this issue. After a lot of debate, it was decided that this issue would be discussed in the next meeting in Kabul.

The implementation on trilateral transit agreement also became a bone of contention as Kabul authorities demanded access of trucks up to India through the Wagah border.

The Pakistani side argued that they signed the trilateral transit agreement with the understanding that they would not allow access up to India through the Wagah border.

The JEC minutes state that the Pakistani side asked Kabul to identify the place for establishing the Free Economic Zone which would be established in Afghanistan.

The Afghan authorities replied that the site identified for the Free Economic Zone had unfortunately fallen into the hands of the Taliban so the next site would be identified before holding of joint business forum before March 2016 at Kabul.

Pakistan desires inclusion of Tajikistan in the APTTA plus after lapse of this existing agreement but Afghanistan seemed reluctant.

In the wake of signing the APTTA between Afghanistan and Pakistan in the last five years, the commercial trade (transit and bilateral trade) and non-commercial (Nato related trade) showed fluctuating trends as in the fiscal year 2009-10 the total trade stood at \$3.332 billion with the share of commercial trade of \$2.157 billion and non-commercial trade \$1.165 billion.

In the fiscal year 2010-11, the commercial trade stood at \$1.871 billion and non-commercial trade just at \$11.65 million.

The commercial trade stood at \$1.256 billion in 2011-12 and non-commercial trade \$525 million; \$1.319 billion commercial trade and non-commercial \$564 million in 2012-13 and \$2.202 billion commercial trade and \$688 million non-commercial trade in 2013-14. (Agencies)

(6) NATO Seeking...

Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove. An accompanying statement from Breedlove's office said the figure of 31 deaths came from "early reporting" by Doctors Without Borders and that the charity's own internal review put the number at 30.

"We are continuing to work with MSF to identify the injured and the families of those killed and reconcile" the death totals reported at various times since the attack, the statement said.

The full report by the NATO-Afghan group, which was obtained by The Associated Press but has not been publicly released, said "it is difficult to reconcile" the casualty figures received by various sources.

"However, the CCAT has determined that there is credible evidence of the death of at least 31 civilians and injuries to a further 26, as a direct result of the airstrike," the report said, adding that it was "unable to determine conclusively" the exact number.

"It is highly likely that other civilians were killed or injured as a result of the airstrike,"

the report added, "although the details of the number and identity of those killed or injured cannot yet be determined."

When the CCAT investigators visited the hospital compound five days after the bombing, they reported eight bodies remaining at the site, the full report said. "The CCAT was not able to positively identify the individuals nor determine whether they were civilians or INS (insurgents), owing to the condition of the bodies," the report said.

The report also said its investigators found no evidence that Taliban members were killed or injured other than those who may have been patients at the hospital at the time of the attack. (AP)

(7) Tajikistan Closes...

shopping. But these resident have called on government to talk with Tajik officials to reopen the border saying otherwise they will be faced with major problems.

"When insecurity increases in any part of Badakhshan it mostly affects us because we live near the border with Tajikistan. Our problems have increased since the day the border was closed for us," said Ahmadullah a resident of Maimay district.

The district chief of Maimay Dawlat Mohammad meanwhile said that Tajikistan has also stopped issuing visas to Afghan villagers who live near its border.

"Tajikistan has closed its borders and stopped issuing visas to Afghans. Also prices in shops have risen steeply now as we live in snowy weather for seven months every year," he said.

Meanwhile, military analysts from Tajikistan say increasing insecurity has pushed Tajik officials to close the border in order to beef up its own security and also security of other Central Asian countries.

"After increasing insecurity in northern Afghanistan, Tajikistan has enforced strict rules in order to prevent militants from entering the country," said Ismail Rahmatzoda, a military analyst from Tajikistan. Darwaz has the longest border with Tajikistan. For local residents in Badakhshan a trip to the provincial capital Faizabad can take up to 18 days but to get across the border to shop is much quicker, said locals. (Tolonews)

(8) NDS Discovers ...

highway and have arrested three terrorists," NDS statement released stated.

According to the statement the terrorist hideout was used for trainings and terroristic plots such as planting roadside bombs, attacks on passengers, and destruction of bridges in the highway.

ANSF has seized a large amount of explosive devices, remote controller bombs, anti-personnel mines and a number of manuals for making IED's. (ATN)

(9) Herat to...

said that holding seminars on economies of both countries and commercial potentials of their activists are among the peripheral programs of the Iranian exhibition in Herat. Statistics has it that Khorasan Razavi province has the most exchanges with Afghanistan as 40 percent of Iran's \$5.2 billion exports to the country pertained to Khorasan Razavi province. (IRNA)

(10) Bandits Threaten ...

for government officials. "Checkpoints are far away from each other, we want the highway to be focused on so that we can protect the safety of the civilians and Afghanistan's institutions," MP Bashir Ahmad Tayanj said.

Afghan officials have meanwhile also asked government to deploy more troops and establish more check points along the highway so that the security can return to normal.

However, these MPs have paid homage to the efforts of security forces that work around the clock to remove threats.

"There must be coordination between national army, national directorate of security and national police, this will help them to maintain security and secure the passengers," MP Hashim said.

Meanwhile, newly appointed governor of Faryab province, Sayed Anwar Sadaat, said Saturday that his administration was determined to work on new programs aimed at curbing threats and providing satisfactory security to the residents and motorists and passengers.

"I promise to work for implementation of justice, rule of law, justice, reconstruction, renovation and development projects and we will work honestly," Faryab governor Sayed Anwar Sadaat said. Faryab-Balkh highway is an important and strategic route that connects Faryab to Aqina and Hairatan ports that border Tajikistan. Any disruption in traffic can have a major impact on Afghanistan's economy, said analysts. (Tolonews)

(11)Former Taliban...

ister of Communications. After the fall of Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Mullah Tabeeb was still with Taliban when Pakistan arrested and put him in jail for seven years. Upon his release from the prison, Mullah Tabeeb suffered greatly from stomach pains and was later diagnosed by doctors with cancer, the statement adds. (KP)

(12)Child Suicide ...

Mullah Qayoum operates there. Six more children are also in Taliban custody who were recruited by force from their parents. The Taliban is providing them with training and plan to use them for suicide attacks," Faryab police chief Sayed AqaAndarabi said. The child bomber confirmed there were still six other children in the Taliban camp - and all were being groomed to become suicide bombers.

"Six other children were also there, but I escaped and surrendered to the police in ChaharShanbe bazar in Qaisar district of Faryab," he said. (Tolonews)

(13)Japan to ...

new task force will receive orders directly from the prime minister.

Following the killing of two Japanese hostages by the Islamic State militant group earlier this year, the government decided the new task force was necessary to collect information in a consolidated manner, with the new entity also designed to be an intelligence hub for other countries in the exchange of information.

Initially, the new task force was going to be launched in April 2016, but the date was brought forward due to the Paris attacks and on increased concerns here as Japan will be hosting a number of high profile international events in the coming years. (Xinhua)

(14)French PM...

other Gulf states have remained closed to them, while Europe struggles to adopt a common policy towards the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are arriving at its borders.

Unless the borders of the EU are properly controlled "we are going to see a humanitarian disaster in the Balkans this winter and Europe is going to close up again," Valls warned. And while the prime minister rejected any link between genuine refugees and terrorism, he also highlighted the danger of terrorists being allowed into the EU alongside those fleeing war -- as seems to have been the case with some of those responsible for the Paris attacks. (AFP)

(15)Migrants ...

the police, screaming and flailing. Saturday's violence broke

out after one migrant, believed to be a Moroccan, was electrocuted and badly burned when he climbed on top of a train wagon.

An angry crowd surged towards lines of Macedonian police and began throwing stones, a Reuters photographer at the scene said.

The police responded with tear gas and stun grenades, driving the crowd back, a Reuters photographer at the scene said. Some officers threw stones. (Reuters)

(16)Turkmenistan ...

entered into force in Turkmenistan. This law regulates relations arising during the issuance and circulation of securities in Turkmenistan and is aimed at ensuring effective functioning of the securities market, development of the country's market economy. (Agencies)

(17)Iran Unveils...

ergy sector if sanctions could be lifted in early 2016 as the result of the landmarks deal reached between Iran and the world powers on July 14.

Also, Iranian experts will work with foreign investment companies in order to become familiar with the latest technologies in the world. (Xinhua)

DPRK Fails in Test-Launch of Ballistic Missile from Submarine: Yonhap

SEOUL - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) failed in its test-launch of a ballistic missile from submarine after announcing the successful launch of such a missile in May, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported Saturday citing an unidentified official.

Yonhap's English edition quoted the official as saying that the test-firing of a KN-11 missile from a submarine was conducted in the East Sea roughly between 2:20 p.m. and 2:40 p.m. local time (0540 GMT).

The submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), however, failed to soar from the waters, the official was quoted as saying, noting that debris from the missile found on the ocean surface proved the apparent failure. If the report is true, it would mark the first test-firing of the SLBM by the DPRK since May when Pyongyang made an official announcement of its successful test-launch of a ballistic missile, overseen by top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un.

At the time, South Korea expressed deep worries about the test-firing, with President Park Geun-hye describing it as a "serious challenge" to national security and regional stability.

The DPRK reportedly imposed a no-navigation zone in eastern waters off the coastal city of Wonsan from Nov. 11 to Dec. 7. The report came after Seoul and Pyongyang agreed Friday to hold a vice ministerial-level meeting on Dec. 11 at the factory park in the DPRK's border city of Kaesong. (Xinhua)

Maldives Gov't Says Opposition Protest Largely Peaceful

COLOMBO - The Maldives government Saturday said a protest staged by the Maldives opposition overnight was largely peaceful and that there were no arrests.

The protest organised by the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) was held at the Artificial Beach of Male.

The protesters called for the release of Former President Mohamed Nasheed and other detainees, among other demands. Maldives Home Affairs Ministry said that throughout the largely peaceful protest the Maldives Police Service had ensured the security of the gathered protesters.

"The MDP had agreed with the Maldives Police Service and the Elections Commission, prior to the protest, to convene the protests in the most peaceful and lawful manner," the Maldives

Home Affairs Ministry said.

On Wednesday, the minister of home affairs had also informed the MDP that the protest should be contained within the Artificial Beach area and must end at 12 midnight, citing the law regulating freedom of assembly and protests. However, the Maldives Home Affairs Ministry said that participants went on the streets of Male and the police, as informed earlier, dispersed the crowd. Pepper spray was used after cautioning the crowd to disperse. The Maldives government called upon the protesters to abide by the rule of law and stop violent demonstrations. (Xinhua)

Top Kurdish Lawyer Killed in Southeast Turkey, Protests Expected

DIYARBAKIR - An unidentified gunman killed a prominent Kurdish lawyer and rights activist on Saturday in what the pro-Kurdish HDP Party called a "planned assassination", urging people to take to the streets in protest.

Witnesses said Tahir Elci was shot in the head after making a statement to media in Diyarbakir, the largest city in Turkey's troubled, mainly Kurdish southeast where he was president of the local bar association. A policeman was also killed in an ensuing exchange of fire.

Elci had been criticized in Turkey for saying the banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) was not a terrorist organization, though he had denounced PKK violence.

He was facing trial over his comments which had infuriated state prosecutors.

Hundreds of people have been killed since a ceasefire between the PKK and Turkish security forces collapsed in July, reigniting a conflict in which some 40,000 people have died since it began in 1984. The Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) called a protest in Istanbul and condemned Elci's killing which it described as an "planned assassination" in a written statement. "In the place left by Tahir Elci, thousands more Tahir Elcis will carry on the work in the struggle for law and justice," it said.

The HDP said Elci had been targeted by the ruling AK party and its media and it called for political parties, civil society and professional groups to "raise their voices" in protest. (Reuters)

Macedonia Starts Erecting Fence on Greek Border

SKOPJE - The latest on the mass movement of asylum-seekers and others seeking refuge in Europe. All times local:

A government spokesman says Macedonia has started to erect a fence on its southern border with neighboring Greece in order to prevent illegal crossings and to channel the flow of migrants through the official checkpoint.

Aleksandar Gjorgjiev told The Associated Press that Macedonia has begun "all technical operations for channeling the migrant flow to official checkpoints in order to ensure humane treatment and to register the migrants."

Gjorgjiev said "the border will remain open and all migrants from the war-affected zones will be allowed to enter."

He added that "the dynamic and the structure of the migrants flow has been determined in accordance with EU demands and (those of) the countries of the Balkan route."

Tensions between migrants stranded on the Greek side of the Greek-Macedonian border and Macedonian police have subsided.

Tension flared earlier Saturday after a migrant suffered severe burns when he touched a high-voltage cable.

The Moroccan man, one of those who have been banned from entering Macedonia, climbed on top of a stationary train carriage and touched a power cable overhead. (AP)