

**(1) Taliban...**

with the Taliban in which the two sides finalized an agreement in principle which would have paved the ground for a gradual withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

**(2) Afghanistan...**

Afghan goods and reduce costs for transportation of freights and terms of supply.

The Afghan President in his speech praised Uzbekistan's merits in development of cargo transit, transport and communication routes in the region and separately thanked the leadership of the country for facilitating the transit of Afghanistan goods to China. (AKIPRESS)

**(3) Afghan Govt Firmly ...**

of the peace negotiations and the group is still continuing its violence in Afghanistan.

"We believe that the key to the legitimacy of peace is in holding the [presidential] election and peace cannot be held without legitimacy," he added.

According to Mr. Sediqqi, the Taliban's attempts to visit Moscow and other countries show the group has "politically failed" in the peace efforts.

"The Taliban has lost the main venue for peace," he said.

Pakistan has not made any "clear attempt" against terrorists so far, Mr. Sediqqi said

Pakistan's counterterrorism policy is not in favor of the region, he says.

Meanwhile, President Ghani at a campaign rally in Kandahar province on Saturday said peace will be prioritized after the election is held.

He called on the Taliban to embrace peace. He added that he is ready to hold talks with the Taliban in any corner of Afghanistan.

This comes as a delegation of Taliban held talks with Russian special envoy for Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, in Moscow to discuss recent developments around the Afghan peace process, Russia's TASS news agency reported.

"The delegation is here in Moscow. We have already met Z. Kabulov, Special Envoy for Afghanistan, to discuss with him the recent developments regarding the peace process in Afghanistan," a Taliban spokesman Sohail Shaheen, said as quoted by TASS on Friday.

This comes as the US President Donald Trump called off negotiations with the Taliban in which the two sides finalized an agreement in principle which would have paved the ground for a gradual withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. (Tolo news)

**(4) Pakistan...**

Previously, Torkham crossing remained operational for 12 hours only, which would cause night-long wait for the truckers on either sides of the frontier. Apart from truckers, patients from bordering Afghan provinces too had to suffer in case of an emergency due to border closure during the night.

The border has been operational round the clock for the last five days on probationary basis, the official said, adding that over 1,600 additional trucks have crossed into the border from both sides only at night during this period. Prime Minister Imran Khan together with senior Afghan officials, including governor of Nangarhar province, is expected to officially inaugurate the 24/7 service on Sept. 18 at Torkhan border, Wazir said. The premier, according to him,

would also break the ground of a 16 billion rupees (\$120 million) project for the extension of the Integrated Transit Trade Management System aimed at further improving the one-window facilitation transit trade system.

The project is scheduled to complete in 2022.

In addition, Pakistan has also established a state-of-the-art Pakistan-Afghanistan Friendship Hospital at Torkham border to provide medical facilities to the patients from Afghanistan.

**Declining Trade**

The two sides have agreed to open "several" other crossings -- including southwestern Chaman border -- round the clock in near future, according to local broadcaster Dunya News.

Escalating diplomatic tensions and frequent border closures have had a chilling effect on Pakistan-Afghanistan trade in recent years. Relations between the two neighbors have been rocky in recent years as both sides accuse each other of supporting and providing sanctuaries to the militants.

The latest move coincides with a nearly 50% reported decrease -- from \$2.7 billion to \$1.4 billion -- in bilateral trade between the two countries in the last two years.

The trade volume hit a record \$2.7 billion in 2015 and it could have touched \$5 billion easily if the trade had not been mixed up with politics, according to analysts.

Trade between the neighbors is conducted under the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement, a bilateral deal signed in 2010.

The current trade volume, according to the two chambers of commerce, is hugely weighted towards Pakistan, which is said to have an 80% share. (AA)

**(5) Afghan Artists ...**

but unfortunately, they are martyred inhumanly and we wanted to honor and remember them at least with one tulip," Mr. Sharifi said.

Afghanistan's ArtLords, a group of Afghan activists and artists in Kabul, was nominated for 2019 Freedom of Expression Awards.

The group has painted a series of murals on Kabul walls, highlighting social problems, supporting Afghan forces, defending freedom of expression and women's rights. Index on Censorship's Freedom of Expression Awards exists to celebrate individuals or groups who have had a significant impact fighting censorship anywhere in the world.

ArtLords is a grassroots movement of artists and volunteers in Afghanistan who encourage ordinary citizens, especially women and children, to paint murals on issues which concern them. ArtLords completed over 400 murals in 16 provinces of the country. In March 2018, for International Women's Day, ArtLords painted a tribute to Professor Hamida Barmaki, a human rights defender killed in a terrorist attack six years ago. (Tolo news)

**(6) Militant Fire...**

hundreds of informal crossings that were encouraging terrorist infiltration in both directions.

Military officials expect the massive border project will be in place by end of next year, addressing to a large extent mutual concerns of illegal crossings of both militants and drug traffickers.

Pakistan has complained that anti-state militants linked to the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, have taken refuge in "ungov-

erned" Afghan border areas after fleeing Pakistani security operations and orchestrate attacks from those sanctuaries.

Earlier this week, the United States designated TTP chief Qari Wali Noor Mehsud a global terrorist for directing deadly attacks against Pakistan.

Mehsud's whereabouts are not known but his predecessor, Mullah Fazlullah, was killed in June of 2018 along with several key TTP commanders in an American drone strike in an eastern border region of Afghanistan.

For their part, officials in Kabul allege that leaders and fighters of the Afghan Taliban use sanctuaries on Pakistani soil to direct insurgent attacks against local and international forces. (VoA)

**(7) Fighting in ...**

Taliban militants have launched widespread attacks over Pol-e-Khomri City of Baghlan since two weeks.

In 2016, Taliban militants destroyed an electricity pylon in Dand-i-Shahabuddin area of Baghlan province and left Kabul in blackout for more than a month. (ATN)

**(8) Trump Says...**

to \$1 million for information on his whereabouts.

According to media reports, Hamza was born to the daughter of another senior Al-Qaeda member, Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, known under his alias Abu Muhammad al Masri. The man is wanted for his alleged role in the 1998 embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. (RT)

**(9) Drone Strikes...**

spondent.

Saudi officials have not commented on who they think is behind the attacks. Saudi Aramco did not immediately respond to questions from the AP.

The oil facility processes sour crude oil into sweet crude, then later transports onto transshipment points on the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. Estimates suggest it can process up to 7 million barrels of crude oil a day.

The Khurais oil field is believed to produce over 1 million barrels of crude oil a day. It has estimated reserves of over 20 billion barrels of oil, according to Aramco.

The plant has been targeted in the past by militants. Al Qaeda claimed suicide bombers tried but failed to attack the oil complex in February 2006.

The Saudi-led coalition has been battling the rebels since March 2015. The Iranian-backed Houthis hold Yemen's capital, Sanaa, and other territory in the Arab world's poorest country.

The war has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The violence has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine and killed more than 90,000 people since 2015, according to the U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, or ACLED, which tracks the conflict. (Fox News)

**(10) In Push for...**

would have seen it joining the International Criminal Court.

Mahathir has also had to repeatedly state that the government would not extradite Indian Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, despite an ongoing police investigation for alleged stoking of racial sentiments.

"We have seen several government policies that have made us Muslims feel threatened... the government now is just pressing

down on the Malays and Islam," university student Mohamad Iman Hakim said at the charter signing event.

Mohamad Iman, 21, said the UMNO-PAS union is necessary to push for greater Malay-Muslim representation in positions of power, particularly in government and parliament.

"We see this as a union of the faithful that will be a platform to help the Malays and Muslims to get their voices out." (Reuters)

**(11) Ivanka Trump...**

siblings "the importance of positive values and a strong ethical compass."

Commenting on this development, the media outlet claimed that Ivanka's appearance at the event signalled an effort by Trump and his allies to woo campaign donors "by sharing intimate, colourful details about this atypical White House". (Sputnik)

**(12) Ex-SNB...**

and Roche Holding AG, rose to a record high this week and is up 19% this year, outperforming the Euro Stoxx 50 Index.

The SNB has been using negative rates plus a pledge to intervene in currency markets since early 2015 to stem appreciation pressure on the franc.

Schiltknecht, who was chief economist at the SNB in the 1980s before a career in commercial banking, has long opposed negative central bank rates, arguing that they create asset price bubbles and that the resulting excess liquidity isn't feeding through to price or wage growth.

"Inflation defined as a broad increase in prices is dead in industrialized nations," Schiltknecht said. "Those who haven't noticed that include central banks and many economists. They unwaveringly keep building models in which inflation, inflation expectations, and real interest rates take center stage." (Bloomberg)

**(13) Ukrainian State...**

Facebook page that the searches of the SBI are connected to the withdrawal of the "340 kg of laundered offshore dollars" by Poroshenko in May-June 2019."

On Friday, September 13, it became known that the former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko came for questioning to the Ukrainian State Bureau of Investigation. However, SBI's press service didn't specify, within what criminal case the investigative actions are carried out.

The shipbuilding plant, Kuznya na Rybalskomu, belonged to Petro Poroshenko until 2018, and Poroshenko left the post of President of Ukraine in May 2019. At the end of May, the SBI opened cases on money laundering and tax evasion at the plant. According to investigators, Poroshenko legalized \$300 million of income through offshore companies.

The former President of Ukraine is currently involved in 13 criminal cases in Ukraine. They all relate to the possible legitimization of illicit profits and interference in the work of judges. In all of them, Poroshenko participates as a witness. (uawire)

**(14) Italy 'Puts...**

charity rescue boats from entering Italy's waters and disembarking migrants on the country's shores. But earlier this month, Mr Salvini lost power after he pulled out of a coalition with the Five Star Movement in the hope of triggering an early election he felt confident his

party could win. (Independent)

**(15) Kazakhstan Exports...**

markets," he said.

Furthermore, Askaruly talked in detail on benefits offered by the roadmap for promotion of non-commodity good and services export for exporters. He also noted the changes in this area.

"With an idea of coordination of measures of state support, we have created Single Window for support of exporters on the base of The Center for the Development of Trade Policy, which has been named Qaz-Trade," he concluded. (Trend)

**(16) Nuclear War's...**

PM Khan outlined that Pakistan has ensured religious freedom for followers of all religions and termed ill-treatment towards minorities "violation of the Constitution."

He further compared religious freedom in Pakistan with under Modi regime in India, and stated: "India has been following the ideology of RSS."

On Thursday, the premier, in a tweet, welcomed the European Union's call for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute, in line with the UNSC resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements.

He had also thanked the rest of the world for its support for Kashmir.

"I commend 58 countries that joined Pakistan at the UN Human Rights Council on September 10, reinforcing demands of international community for India to stop the use of force, lift the siege, remove other restrictions, respect and protect Kashmir's rights, and resolve Kashmir dispute through the UNSC resolutions." (Agencies)

**(17) Iran Plans...**

available to domestic companies in a near future.

"In the past, we used to face bottlenecks in supplying some pressing needs of the country's production process," Rahmani said, adding, "Today, domestic potentials have emerged concurrent with the implementation of foreign restrictions."

Iran has reported increased industrial activity, especially in the manufacturing sector, since it began to feel the impacts of the American sanctions in November.

Output of steel, aluminum and other metals that face high demand in the industry have surged, according to official reports, while companies that supply equipment to the oil industry, the main target of sanctions, have reported lower imports since last year. (Press TV)

**(18) EBRD and SECO...**

environment.

The investment was supported by grants from the EBRD and SECO, collectively worth \$1.4 million.

Since 2004, Switzerland has committed over \$90 million to water, wastewater and solid waste projects across Tajikistan. Over this period, more than half a million people gained access to affordable and safe drinking water in the rural and urban areas of the country.

To date, the EBRD has invested almost 691 million euro (\$761 million) through 128 projects in various sectors of Tajikistan's economy. (Trend)

**(19) Turkmenistan...**

EU member states.

Turkmenistan shares land borders with Kazakhstan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and sea borders with Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Iran.

The BOMCA program began its activities in Central Asia in 2003. (Trend)