China to Form SCO Contact Group for Afghan Peace

China’s foreign minister says the decision is aimed at speeding up political settlement in Afghanistan.

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Pakistan Moves to Cut India’s Exports to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD - In a tit-for-tat response, Pakistan has decided to curtail India’s exports to landlocked Afghanistan under transit trade agreement.

Pakistan Commerce Ministry took the step after India withdrew the most favored nation (MFN) status to Pakistan and halted bilateral trade in the wake of the Taliban attack.

As many as 19 Indian items have been put on the negative list. cutting India’s export to Afghanistan by $500-600 million. The news international reported on Thursday.

Indian items worth $600 million being exported to Afghanistan under transit trade agreement could be banned in the garb of import of goods.

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Hekmatyar Says Election Commissioners Dismissed ‘Illegally’

KABUL - Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has on Thursday said the conflict in Afghanistan continued because of the foreign forces’ presence and the lack of an impartial government.

The HIA chief also called for the dismissal of election commissioners’ members without any investigations.

Taking a press conference here, the presidential hopeful said foreign forces should have Afghanistan under a rational timetable and a government which was acceptable to all Afghans should be established.

Hekmatyar said if the government dismissed election commissioners before identifying it could be fair. He added the government should have ap-pointed an independent team to probe into fraud and fail-ures, calling it unfair.

He also complicit in the first place. the election commissioners were also complicit in the investigation.

In an investigation by the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AIS) shows water in the Hari Rud River has decreased by 50 percent and improper use of the natural source by Iran has significantly affected the river basin’s ground water.

The study comes as a book shows water in the Harirud River Basin’s ground water.

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