

(1) NATO Pledges...

troops, the rest will be US troops. "We will maintain, sustain our force levels in Afghanistan, and also we will have a presence not only in Kabul, but a regional presence."

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to NATO Douglas E. Lute said Afghanistan has a special importance for NATO countries.

"I think that for NATO, Afghanistan remains unfinished business. And despite these competing challenges closer to home we have to follow through on those commitments. It's going to require a long-term effort, but the good news is today we have a much more willing and a much more capable Afghan partner than we had in the past. That's session number one," Lute said.

Stoltenberg also pledged to help increase the capacity of the Afghan Air Force.

Meanwhile the ministry of interior's spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said NATO's assistance to the Afghan Air Force is critical in eliminating insurgents.

"One of the main elements of our victory against terrorism will be through increased capacity of Afghan Air Forces."

Simin Barikzai, an MP, welcomed the move and said: "We welcome their assistance. The Afghan Air Forces have to be equipped and the international community has to fulfill its commitments." (Tolonews)

(2) Obama Urges...

Obama told Erdogan that the Islamic State militant group, also known as ISIL, was the entity that all sides needed to pursue, echoing a message he delivered to Russian President Vladimir Putin in Paris on Monday.

"We all have a common enemy, and that is ISIL, and I want to make sure that we focus on that threat," Obama said.

Tensions between Russia and Turkey have complicated U.S. efforts to prod Moscow into steering its military might towards Islamic State rather than the moderate Syrian opposition. Putin supports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, while Obama and Erdogan want him to go. (Reuters)

(3) Afghan, ...

to Muslims by the Prophet 14 centuries ago. This was the message of the Prophet for real Muslims who want to live in harmony with all people."

Meanwhile the Indonesian Ambassador to Kabul Anshory Tadjudin said that Islam and modernization go hand-in-hand in Indonesia and that is why his country is improving.

He said: "Our people live together alongside followers of other religions and as I said during my speech Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and Hindus all live in an accepted environment in our country."

"This is the way we obey the issue of human rights in Indonesia. We respect each other," he said.

Minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs Faiz Mohammad Osmani said it is important for religious scholars to take a stance against insurgent activities in the country. He said: "We need to be more active than we were in the past. We should not stay calm. In such sensitive situations where innocent children are being killed under the flag with the Tawhid, and our religious scholars are being beheaded, we should stand up against this." (Tolonews)

(4) 1800 HIV ...

other countries. "More than 1800 HIV- cases recorded during a national program on controlling AIDS disease that 80 percent of them are men," said Ferozuddin Feroz, minister of health.

According to Feroz, 80 percent of the recorded cases were from drug users, gay men and joint injection syringes.

Afghanistan, the biggest opium and heroin-producing country in the world, has nearly one million drug users, according to UN estimates.

"Serious attention needed toward illicit drugs to prevent the spread of AIDS in the country." added Feruzuddin Feruz.

Meanwhile, The World Health Organization said that HIV prevalence in Afghanistan is at a low level.

The ministry of Hajj affairs and Afghan religious scholars have also pledged to aware people.

"The international community

have not cooperated with Afghan government in terms of counter-narcotics and the ministry itself has lots of shortcomings," said Muhammad Eyaz Niazi, religious scholar.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a spectrum of conditions caused by infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). (ATN)

(5) Sinha Calls ...

New Delhi is investigating the Afghan government's demands list. Sinha believes that Pakistan's statements for providing peace and stability will not extinguish the flames of war in Afghanistan.

"If the Pakistan takes action, peace will soon be provided in this country. We expect from Pakistan to take practical and serious steps," said Indian ambassador to Kabul, Amar Sinha.

However, President Ghani's political adviser said that there won't be any news about peace negotiations as long as the disputes between Afghanistan and Pakistan not resolved.

"First, our problem should be solved with Pakistan. This war is controlled by Pakistan not the Taliban," said Akram Kheplwak, president's political adviser.

Pakistan is seen as the key player to bring Taliban on negotiation table. However, the Taliban claims their militancy in Afghanistan is completely independent of Pakistan. (ATN)

(6) Europe must...

as citizens, the campaigners said late on Monday.

They urged European governments to introduce procedures for identifying stateless people so they can be protected in the same way as refugees and given a chance to rebuild their lives.

There are an estimated 10 million stateless people worldwide. With no nationality, they are denied basic rights most people take for granted, including access to education, healthcare and jobs. Many live in destitution and risk detention and exploitation.

Francois Crepeau, U.N. special rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, said the immigration detention of stateless people was "one of the silent tragedies of our globalized world".

"It is a tragedy that is completely preventable, but due to a lack of will and attention, continues to harm thousands of lives all around the world every year," he said in a foreword to new guidelines on protecting stateless people from detention.

Chris Nash, director of the European Network on Statelessness (ENS), which produced the guidance, said the detention of stateless people for long periods was an "extremely disturbing trend."

"Across Europe a failure by states to put in place effective systems to identify stateless persons leaves thousands exposed to repeated and lengthy detention," he added. Campaigners say there are likely to be stateless people among the hundreds of thousands arriving in Europe, as many of the countries they are fleeing, including Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, have significant stateless populations. (Reuters)

(7) Taliban, Daesh

Tuesday which saw security forces destroy 19,000 kgs of drugs along with a large amount of alcohol, Ulomi said drugs are one of the main revenue sources for insurgents.

Ulomi said: "Taliban and Daesh fighters as always are being trained in Pakistan. They are equipped and financed there and are then sent to Afghanistan. They [insurgents] are being given hope while in Pakistan of achieving their goals in Afghanistan."

He went on to say: "Drugs are one of the main sources of income for insurgents in the region. They continue their attacks and are recruiting our youth through drugs."

Meanwhile the Counter-Narcotics Minister Salam Azimi said the problem of drugs is a major challenge for Afghanistan.

He said: "The drug problem is a serious challenge for Afghanistan and the international community."

"In order to overcome the problem, we need the joint cooperation of the international community."

The counter-narcotics department under Mol recently announced its achievements in fighting the scourge. Since January they have seized over 100 tons of drugs in 1,135 operations.

They also said the department

had seized over 400 vehicles, 240 weapons and 244 mobile phones from drug dealers and smugglers. The seizure of drugs increased by 16 percent this year and alcohol by 36 percent.

Security force members from the unit meanwhile arrested a total of 1,876 people – including 20 policemen, 29 soldiers, 26 women and two foreigners – for dealing and smuggling drugs.

Of the total, 227 were king-pin drug smugglers, 49 were middlemen and 1,600 were dealers. (Tolonews)

(8) Int'l Community...

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Given the growing number of terrorist attacks across the world and its ongoing activity in Afghanistan, Mukerji said India is of the view that there is a "strong case for the international community to take a fresh look at the manner in which the drawdown of the international military presence in Afghanistan is happening.

The US has planned since last year to reduce US troops in Afghanistan from the current force of 10,000 to 1,000 or less by the time President Barack Obama leaves office.

"The patterns of violence in Afghanistan are mutating and terrorists are not only attempting to grab territory, but also injecting sectarianism in an already complex situation," Mukerji said.

He said India has taken note of the various steps taken by the Afghan government under the leadership of President Ashraf Ghani to launch a peace process in Afghanistan, adding that Ghani has also called for effective and verifiable action against the Haqqani network.

With Afghanistan facing huge development challenges, Mukerji said it is important for the country to have a supportive, stable political environment for growth and development.

Pakistan's UN envoy Maleeha Lodhi said said recent military developments in Kunduz had illustrated the vulnerabilities of the Afghan Security Forces and their continued reliance on the international military presence.

She said while Pakistan remained ready to assist in reviving an Afghan-led and owned peace process, it would do so only once requested by the Afghan Government.

She further stressed that it would be important for the anti-Pakistan rhetoric from Kabul to cease. (Monitoring Desk)

(9) Afghan, Indian...

internal administration of the Afghan government, although the Emir refused to declare open support, and ultimately, under British pressure it was forced to withdraw from Afghanistan in 1919. Meanwhile, delegates at Tuesday's event said Afghanistan's neighbors can help bring peace and security to this country.

They called for Pakistan's support in bringing peace to Afghanistan. Afghan Minister of Information and Culture Abdul Bari Jahani said: "We request our partners and neighboring countries to support us in order for Afghanistan to secure peace, even if peace incurs losses for them."

The Indian Ambassador to Kabul Amar Sinha said his country tries to maintain good relations with its neighbors especially Afghanistan. He said: "So today, as a debt to the help that was given to these people at that point in time, I guess we owe it to both India and Pakistan to come to the assistance of Afghanistan,"

Pakistan's Ambassador to Kabul Syed Abrar Hussain said his country has always tried to have a good relationship with Afghanistan and has tried to help their neighbor overcome challenges.

He said: "Not only are our borders shared but so are our problems. Threats as well as our op-

portunities are shared so let's come together against political, security and economical threats." (Tolonews)

(10) After Leaders'...

emerging countries are to develop without relying heavily on fossil fuels.

Many delegates said the large turnout at the U.N. climate summit in Paris, weeks after attacks by Islamic State militants killed 130 people, was a sign of hope after the last summit collapsed in failure in 2009 in Copenhagen amid rancor between rich and poor nations.

French President Francois Hollande said he was encouraged by the start of talks that are planned to run until Dec. 11.

"It's set off well but it has to arrive too," he told reporters. He said there were "two reefs. Either we overload the vessel and it sinks or we empty it and it goes nowhere." The technical talks repeated little of Monday's grand language. Countries restated their negotiating positions with few hints of likely compromise. (Reuters)

(11) Concerns Raised...

government to stop them."

Meanwhile Ghor police chief Ghulam Mustafa Mohseni said the allegations are baseless and that the woman was taken by a security force member and police are still trying to find her.

He said: "We are trying to find the woman. We will return her to her family where ever she is."

However a number of tribal elders said the Taliban's decision to stone her to death is confirmed and if government does not step in and stop this from happening she will be stoned in the same area where 19-year-old Rokhshana suffered the same fate.

Rokhshana was stoned to death last month after having been found guilty by the Taliban of eloping with a man.

One tribal elder Haji Nek Mohammad said: "They say they are going to stone the woman to death. Her uncles went to get her but they were not successful." (Tolonews)

(12) US Downplays ...

capable Afghan Air Force (AAF) would take a while. The AAF has an emerging capability, mostly helicopter-based, without enough close air support.

The envoy added the coalition had taken certain steps over the years toward providing indirect fire support and armored vehicles with direct fire support. "I think the US admits that and I think certainly the Afghans admit that (delay)."

Lute said supply lines in and out of Afghanistan were currently much less dependent on one route or another because number of foreign forces had decreased considerably -- to less than one-tenth of NATO's peak strength.

At peak strength, there were about 140,000 troops in Afghanistan, requiring a great deal of overland transport. But now that number has come down to 14,000.

The ambassador spoke ahead of the meeting in Resolute Support format. As many as 42 countries of the NATO-led coalition joined Foreign Minister Rabbani, who provided an update on political progress after a tough year on the security front.

The participants discussed sustaining the current NATO mission through 2016. NATO successfully generated the forces it needs to continue that mission in Afghanistan.

A decision might be taken at the Warsaw meeting on sustaining the substantial international funding of the Afghan National Army and police, Lute indicated.

At the Chicago summit in 2012, he recalled, the international fraternity had committed \$4 billion annually from 2015 to 2017. "We want to add an additional three years onto that international commitment. So that will be \$4 billion for 2018, 2019 and 2020."

For NATO, the envoy said Afghanistan remained an unfinished business. "The good news is today we have a much more willing and a much more capable Afghan partner than we had in the past. That's session number one." (Pajhwok)

(13) MSF Hospital

The two buildings – I've seen detailed pictures and, of course, I've seen the hospital in my previous visits, I didn't visit it during this visit – they're literally about 200-300 metres apart." "There are no

markers on the hospital," he added.

FRANCE 24 also asked about reports that MSF had called in to warn US forces they were under fire.

"Everything is recorded. The inquiry has been very thorough, people are being sanctioned, people are being pushed to the next step of the legal process and that's what due process is about."

Ghani went on to say that Afghanistan appreciates the work of MSF. "I want to make very clear that the people of Afghanistan and the government of Afghanistan are highly appreciative of the services of MSF...it was a tragic incident."

Asked about the recent battle against the Taliban for control of Kunduz, Ghani called it "a failure of leadership, particularly at the local level".

Ultimately, there was a communication and intelligence breakdown, he said. "We had sufficient security forces ... but there was an intelligence failure. And one reason that I fired, at the recommendation of the director general of our intelligence service, all the officials at the local level is because they misrepresented the facts, and they had not brought sufficient warning to the centre on the basis of which the right decisions could have been made."

But Kunduz is now secure, Ghani said.

"The city is secure, [although] the province still faces threats. And we're carrying out a comprehensive set of operations to make sure that the threat does not reoccur." (Monitoring Desk)

(14) Follow-up ...

torture, access to justice, freedom of expression and the rights of socially vulnerable and persons with disabilities. The EU welcomed some significant steps taken by the government in 2015, including the launch of the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security and the National Action Plan to Combat Torture, the statement stated.

It further said that the Government of Afghanistan committed to implement its national and international obligations. This commitment is evident at the national level in the provisions of the democratically adopted Constitution of the country and in the various laws, policies and plans that have been enacted in accordance with the Constitution and the/those international obligations.

The Afghan government reiterated its commitment to improve the human rights situation in Afghanistan and to launch the necessary judicial reforms. State report to UNCAT was finalized and adopted by the Steering Committee.

The EU emphasised its commitment to help strengthen human rights and the rule of law in Afghanistan, and encouraged the Government of Afghanistan to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. The EU reiterated the importance of the Human Rights Dialogue in view of the upcoming conferences in Warsaw and Brussels, it said.

The next human rights dialogue between Afghanistan and the European Union is planned to be held in Kabul in the beginning of June 2016, the statement from EU stated. (PR)

(15) Al-Qaeda ...

Saud rulers." Okaznewsppaer which has close links with the Saudi Interior Ministry recently reported that Saudi government is going to execute 55 men convicted of terrorism offences, among those, reportedly some members of al-Qaeda.

The mass beheadings are believed to take place in a single day in several cities across the kingdom, most likely after Friday prayers. Amnesty International, an organization which focuses on human rights has expressed alarm over the report saying that given the spike in executions this year, it has no option but to take the reports very seriously.

According to Amnesty International, Saudi Arabia has executed at least 151 people this year while last year a total of 90 people were executed. (Reuters)

(16) 26kg Narcotics...

turn to Afghan territory," Mohammad Ulughkhoyayev, a spokesman for the Main Border Guard Directorate, told Asia-Plus in an interview.

According to him, 20 kilograms of raw opium and 6 kilograms of hashish as well as an assault rifle Kalashnikov were found on the

spot. (Asia-Plus)

(17) NATO Allies ...

key's borders and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he expected a decisions on a package "within weeks".

NATO deployed its Patriot missiles along the border in January 2013, to shoot down any missiles from Syria's conflict fired into Turkish territory. Ankara had appealed to the alliance to maintain the defenses even before the flare-up of tensions with Russia over airspace violations. (Reuters)

(18) 888 People ...

lence after having fled their homes due to exposure to the elements, lack of water, food, medicine and health care.

According to the statement, Iraqi capital of Baghdad was the worst affected province with 1,110 civilian casualties, including 325 killed and 785 injured, while the provinces of Nineveh, Kirkuk, Salahudin and Diyala followed in the list.

"The Iraqi people continue to suffer from this vicious circle of violence, which has affected all walks of life in this country," the statement said, quoting UN envoy for Iraq and UNAMI chief Jan Kubis as saying. (Xinhua)

(19) Britain's ...

to shoulder with our allies in Europe. The security of Britain is inextricably linked to staying in Europe.

Britons will be asked whether they want to "Remain" in the bloc or "Leave" after the electoral commission ruled that a "Yes" or "No" question could favour those who want Britain to stay in the EU.

Labour has been a solid supporter of the EU since the premiership of Tony Blair, but that was thrown into doubt with the election of veteran leftist Jeremy Corbyn as party leader in September.

He had previously opposed the bloc's free-market rules, but threw his weight behind the "Remain" campaign shortly after being elected.

Johnson also said that British workers, businesses, universities and scientists will all be "damaged and diminished" in the event of a "Brexit".

"There is nothing patriotic about condemning this country to isolation," he added.

Prime Minister David Cameron has pledged to campaign to stay in, but only if he secures EU reforms on issues such as welfare payments for migrants and the balance of power between Brussels and national parliaments. (AFP)

(20) Agreement ...

the northern province of Idlib. "The evacuation of the rebels will be on batches, the first is for radicals who refuse the truce with the government. Those, whose number reaches 700, will be taken to Idlib or northern Hama, while the rest, who are less extreme, are going to be evacuated later," the source said. (Xinhua)

(21) UNRWA ...

UNRWA commissioner General Pierre Krähenbühl said in a press statement the Palestinian refugees "are lacking hope and many of them don't have appropriate homes," adding that "they struggle to get the minimum needs of food."

"This fact has become unbearable as they (refugees) are preparing themselves for a tough winter," said Krähenbühl, who called on the international community to show more solidarity with the Palestinian refugees. (Xinhua)

(22) France Pledges...

"We believe that Africa has considerable development capabilities. A very substantial part of our effort will benefit Africa, including the electrification of the continent, without waiting for 2020," Hollande told a gathering of African leaders and world's lenders.

Works of 21st U.N. climate conference started on Monday in Paris where negotiators from 195 participating countries will hammer out an accord to trim global warming by 2 degrees Celsius. (1 euro = 1.062 U.S. dollar) (Xinhua)

(23) Chinese, Russian...

ing parties' cooperation played an important role for bilateral ties including promoting solutions of major issues between the two countries and coordinating their stance on regional and international affairs. (Xinhua)