

(1) NATO Welcomes...

about the capabilities of Afghanistan's security forces. A US military strike in Kunduz that hit an Afghan hospital run by Doctors Without Borders, or Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), also generated international outcry and underscored the perils of leaving a fragile country too quickly. "I welcome the flexibility of NATO countries in keeping troops for a longer period. Afghanistan has still a challenging situation and needs support," Stoltenberg added. This comes as according to the recent decision of the White House, 5,500 US troops will remain in Afghanistan beyond 2016. (ATN)

(2) Russia Urges ...

Lavrov said. Lavrov made the statement while addressing the 38th United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conference, underway in the French capital of Paris. The strengthening of UNESCO actions in times of armed conflicts is on the conference's agenda this year, as the problem is gaining significance due to the demolition of Syria's Palmyra by Islamic State (IS) militants, who have seized vast areas in Syria and Iraq. The ancient Syrian city of Palmyra is a UNESCO World Heritage site. After the city was seized by IS in May, the group began systematically destroying multiple sites of historic architecture, including the ancient temples of Bel and Baalshamin.

In March, the Islamists attacked and destroyed the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud in northern Iraq.

In February, IS militants destroyed a collection of antiquities, including statues and sculptures, in the Iraqi city of Mosul. The act triggered widespread condemnation among archaeologists and heritage organizations. (Sputnik)

(3) US Believes ...

but those claiming to represent the group in Pakistan and Afghanistan did not have the command and control relationship with the main base (in the Middle East). He also said that the US was working very extensively with the government in Pakistan to fight terrorists. Captain Davis explained that while the Coalition Support Fund was aimed to enhance Pakistan's ability to fight militants including the Haqqani Network, it also helped develop other broader spectrum counter-terrorism capabilities. In Afghanistan, the US finished its combat operations last year and its role there now was simply to advise and assist the Afghan forces, he said.

The spokesperson said that the US also had unilateral role of being able to conduct counter-terrorism missions in Afghanistan primarily against the Al Qaeda group and its remnants. "But Islamic State would be fair game as well," he said. (Agencies)

(4) Younis Qanuni...

Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001, Qanuni served as chief negotiator for the Northern Alliance delegation to the Bonn conference on Afghanistan after the Taliban fell from power, Qanuni served as the Interior Minister in Afghanistan's Interim Administration headed by Chairman Hamid Karzai.

When Afghanistan's Transitional Government was formed in 2002, Hamid Karzai chose Qanuni to be his Education Minister, what he didn't accept. Qanooni was reelected as a Wolesi Jirga Member 2010 and then former vice president After Marshal Fahim's death. The Afghanistan High Peace Council (HPC) is a body of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program, appointed by former President Hamid Karzai to negotiate with elements of the Taliban. The HPC was established on 5 September 2010. (ATN)

(5) New Poll Reveals ...

US military presence in the region has been on the rise for a long time, and despite pledges to disentangle the country from more than a decade of war, it seems likely Obama will leave office with three ongoing military conflicts.

Criticism comes from both sides of the political aisle. Donald Hammond, a retired police officer and Republican from Brooklyn, Ohio said IS militants don't take Obama seriously. "ISIS is literally laughing at our president," Hammond said. He accused Obama of tying the military's hands out of concern about potential US casualties. "If we're going to be committed to the fight, he needs to commit seriously and stop playing patty-cake."

"I feel concerned that we're getting pulled into that quagmire that just seems to never end," said 54-year old Democrat Patty Watson from Portland, Oregon. She expressed fear that the US leader follows a strategy in which the US is "the sole force of that resolution," the Associated Press reported.

The AP-GFK poll was conducted prior to Obama's announcement last week to send nearly 50 US special operation forces to northern Syria. But, the AP reported, it coincides with more general fears, increased this year after Obama increased the number of troops in Iraq and reconsidered his approach to fighting IS, including an unpopular decision to train "moderate" Syrian rebels, an attempt that failed miserably.

Two thirds of poll respondents were united in their opinion that the IS threat is of a very or extremely important.

Obama announced in October that Washington will keep 9,800 troops in Afghanistan throughout most of 2016, and will maintain 5,500 troops in the country after 2016, rather than fully withdrawing all US forces from the country by next year, as originally planned. Jamie Atkins, 40, a Democrat from Easley, South Carolina, said he doubts Obama's overall approach to foreign affairs. But on Afghanistan, the president's failures were clear. (Sputnik News)

(6) Kabul Women ...

to justice. However the activists on Friday accused the government of being silent on what they called a "barbaric" killing of a woman in public.

They released a resolution in which they asked the government to identify what they said the Taliban and the religious scholars who decreed the stoning.

In the statement, they also demanded the government to interrogate the Police Chief of Ghor and the local officials over the incident.

The activists called upon all the people of Afghanistan to stand united against the tragic incident which they warned if neglected, "the women of the country would no longer be safe."

This is not the first case a woman stoned to death in public. A number of similar cases have occurred in the past during the Taliban regime, ousted in 2001. (ToloneWS)

(7) Afghanistan ...

helicopters to Afghanistan with the top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan, General John Campbell.

The supply of the assault helicopters would reportedly be the first offensive weapons provided by India to Afghanistan since the two countries signed a strategic partnership agreement in 2011. (RFE/RL)

(8) Chinese Special...

peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan and commended Pakistan's concerted efforts and huge sacrifices, in the fight against terrorism. He reassured China's continued support to Pakistan to address the common challenges faced by the region.

The two sides also discussed the forthcoming Ministerial Meeting of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, which will be held

in Islamabad next month, and reaffirmed their commitment to work closely for its success. (PR)

(9) Criticisms Spark...

during his inaugural last year that he will finalize the Kabul Bank case and recover the stolen money.

But the analysts warned the recent move to make criminals partner to government projects will result in the failure of government in its fight against corruption.

"This is one of the biggest mistakes of the National Unity Government," said Rashid Behroz, a member of an anti-corruption body. "This will badly hit the government's relative credibility."

Meanwhile, Ghani's deputy spokesman, Sayed Zafar Hashemi, said the government is committed to recovering the embezzled money of the crisis-hit bank.

Kabul Bank, once the country's largest financial institution, was badly shaken and collapsed in 2010 in one of the largest banking schemes in the country's history.

The former chairman of Kabul Bank, Sherkhan Farnood, and CEO Ferozi were sacked from their positions and arrested over the embezzlement of more than \$900 million USD in cash and assets.

Ferozi and Farnood were sentenced each to 15 years in jail in a court verdict last November after they were found guilty in the collapse of Kabul Bank, now run by the government. (ToloneWS)

(10) 8th Anniversary...

Abdullah encouraged people a determination to eliminate the disbelievers and said, "Sayed Mustafa Kazimi along with other martyrs have not hesitated of anything that was useful for the country and they themselves went toward the testimony."

On November 7, 2007, a suicide bomber plunged at a delegation of lawmakers who were visiting a small town in northern Baghlan province. At least 26 people were killed in the attack, which included Mr. Kazemi, a group of parliamentarians and school children.

Mr. Kazemi was among the five members of Parliament killed in that attack. More than 50 others were wounded in the attack.

The lawmakers killed in the incident included Abdul Mateen from Helmand, Qudrutallah Zaki from Takhar, Said Rahman Hehmat, from Kunar and Muhammad Arif Zarif from Kabul.

The attack took place outside a sugar factory in Pul-i-Kumri area of Baghlan, where the bomber detonated his explosives, leading to carnage. (ATN)

(11) Pakistan Fearful ...

to stop the country's interference into Afghanistan's affairs. "We believe that that the US by pressurizing Pakistan through economic and military channels can persuade it to stop interfering into Afghanistan's internal affairs," said Mirdad Nijrabi, head of Parliamentary commission on internal security. (ToloneWS)

(12) Planes May...

this action is illegal in the laws of war," Stokes said. "There are still many unanswered questions, including who took the final decision, who gave the targeting instructions for the hospital."

Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said MSF shared the report in advance with the U.S. Defence Department.

"Since this tragic incident, we have worked closely with MSF to determine the facts surrounding it," he said in a statement, which did not address the report's specifics. "We are committed to conducting investigations that are thorough and transparent."

The White House said U.S. President Barack Obama had been briefed on the MSF report. Several Afghan officials have suggested Taliban fighters

were using the hospital as a base, a claim that MSF firmly rejects. It says the facility was under its control at all times and there were no armed fighters present either before or during the attack.

The hospital was treating wounded combatants from both sides as well as civilians, but the group says it always maintained a strict policy of neutrality between the two sides.

"Treating wounded combatants is not a crime," Stokes said.

MSF says the site's location had been clearly communicated to both Afghan forces and the Taliban and it was clearly identifiable as a hospital.

"That night, it was one of the few buildings with electrical power, it was fully lit up," Stokes said.

He also said that inspections of the area around the hospital since the Taliban withdrew from Kunduz last month did not reveal signs of heavy fighting.

MSF, called Doctors Without Borders in English, has revised the original casualty figure upwards and now says 30 people, including 13 staff members and three children, were killed during repeated attacks by the U.S. gunship.

The U.S. investigation is headed by a U.S. general and two brigadier generals. (Reuters)

(13) Pakistan Bans...

72 local groups covered by the directive.

Lashkar-e-Taiba was set up with the aid of Pakistani intelligence to fight in the disputed region of Kashmir. The government has officially banned the group but has done little to crack down on it.

The charities have played a major role in the response to natural disasters, including last week's earthquake in neighboring Afghanistan, which killed nearly 400 people, including more than 270 in Pakistan.

But the charities are also seen as a militant front. One of the founding members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, now heads both charities linked to the group. The U.S. has offered a \$10 million reward for his capture, but he lives in the open in Pakistan and often appears in TV interviews. (ToloneWS)

(14) Indian...

country, Nazes has tried to show how Afghans live their daily life through his photographs.

Most of the images displayed in the hall are of women and children. People have one dimensional image that Afghanistan is reeling under conflict but at the same time life is going on and that is what these images are trying to express.

There are images of families enjoying a picnic, children going about the street, children having ice creams; there is an image of a pop corn vending machine. We get to see different facets of the war-ravaged nation.

What sets these images apart is the normal life of Afghans in spite of the daily bombings and sense of insecurity.

"I have seen the city of Kabul totally devastated. There were neighbourhoods where there was not a single roof there, and the entire neighbourhood was destroyed. It was not because of the war, American war on Afghanistan, but it was before the civil war period between 1992 and 1996. I saw the entire transformation and I have been taking photographs," said NazesAfroz, Journalist and Photographer.

Visitors at the exhibition are effusive in their praises of the works of Afroz.

"All that we get to hear and know about the Afghanistan is the war that we hear about it. We get to see there is a country continuously broken and re-broken due to war and other such things. We hardly get to know things behind wars. The name itself feel me that what I will get to know from this exhibition," said Proma, a visitor.

Earlier this year, Afroz held his

first photography exhibition, 'From Kabul to Kolkata, with his colleague in BBC, MoskaNajib, in four cities across South Asia.

Although Afghanistan is under spate of attacks due to conflict but the people of the country is grinning with positive aspect to live life behind war. (ANI)

(15) Canada's...

They also suggest police went into cells in the middle of the night with weapons, pressed detainees against the wall and floor and applied armlocks -- a grappling manoeuvre used to restrain an adversary.

Champ says the U.S. military has been known to use the same tactic and he is "quite surprised" to learn Canadians may have adopted it.

Although it doesn't rise to the level of violence and torture of which Afghans were accused, Champ said he wonders whether such measures were condoned at a time when the Harper government was mopping up the political fallout of the initial controversy.

The complainant also raised concerns about the military's own investigations into the incidents, including the fact that no charges were laid and no court martial convened.

"The allegation that the military police may have been involved in covering up misconduct ... is a very grave one that goes to the heart of the MPCC's mandate to ensure accountability for the MP and to foster public confidence in the availability of a suitable independent mechanism to investigate alleged misconduct," dismissed chairwoman Hilary McCormack said in a statement.

National Defence issued a statement saying it welcomes the investigation. Spokeswoman Ashley Lemire would only add that "(National Defence) and the (Canadian Armed Forces) will not speculate on possible outcomes."

The commission said the person who sent in the complaint went to great lengths to conceal their identity, mailing a one-page, typewritten letter from the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at Pearson International Airport. It included the names of five people listed as references for information about the incident and internal investigations and the commission contacted them before deciding to launch a review.

McCormack said the information obtained suggests there was a perception on the part of people deployed in Kandahar that some of the decisions made about the investigations were the result of orders coming from "Ottawa" or because of concerns about the military's reputation in light of the attention that issues involving detainees can generate.

The fact the complaint was made anonymously is also important, McCormack said.

"Both the nature of the allegations and the manner in which the complaint was made tend to imply a lack of confidence on the complainant's part in the independence of the military police when investigating alleged misconduct by CAF members and in the ability of the military police to investigate themselves impartially," she wrote.

"Under the specific circumstances of this case, only an independent investigation could provide sufficient reassurance to the complainant and to others, so that in the future individuals are not dissuaded from stepping forward to voice their concerns or complaints due to fear of reprisals or lack of confidence in the mechanisms available to investigate such complaints." (cnews)

(16) Prominent...

major activities in Ghazni province includes establishment of a formal religious school and a radio station which was mainly covering religious topics regarding Islam. (KP)

(17) UNEP Report ...

including those taken before the Paris agreement and full implementation of the INDCs,

could cut up to 11 GtCO₂e from projected emissions in 2030.

"The current INDCs, combined with policies over the last few years, present a real increase in ambition levels and demonstrate an unprecedented commitment and engagement by member states in tackling this major global challenge," UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said.

However, even all INDCs are fully implemented, the 2030 emissions gap would still be 12 GtCO₂e, putting the world on track to a temperature rise of around three degree Celsius by 2100, and bringing significant climate impacts. (Xinhua)

(18) Russia's Putin...

suspend all passenger flights to Egypt until it knew exactly what caused the crash.

"The head of state agreed with these recommendations," Dmitry Peskov, Putin's spokesman, was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

"V. Putin has tasked the government with working out a mechanism to realize the recommendations of the National Anti-Terrorism Committee and to ensure the return of Russian citizens to the motherland." Putin had also ordered the government to open talks with Egyptian authorities to guarantee the safety of flights, said Peskov.

A Sinai-based group affiliated with Islamic State, the militants who have seized swathes of Iraq and Syria, has claimed responsibility for the crash, which, if confirmed, would make it the jihadist organization's first attack on civil aviation.

But before Friday afternoon, the Kremlin had firmly said it was too early to say what caused the crash and that all theories, including the possibility of technical failure, should be examined by the official investigation.

Britain and Ireland have already suspended regular flights to Sharm al-Sheikh amid growing concerns over what caused the plane crash and the level of security at the resort's airport. (Reuters)

(19) India must ...

every rupee spent, the maximum penetration in technology across the masses. My government wants economic transformation through technological growth."

He also said that the government has started the process of empowering the unorganized sector and laid the foundation for 12 million jobs in India. (Xinhua)

(20) Syrian Rebels...

to dig out survivors from under rubble. Some of the dead appeared to be young boys and teenagers. The AP could not immediately independently verify the video. Boukamal is located on the Syria-Iraq border. The Islamic State group controls both sides of the frontier. (AP)

(21) Moscow...

on the same day that there was a "possibility" that the crashed Russian plane was caused by a bomb aboard.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said at a press briefing that the U.S. cannot rule out the possibility of "terrorist involvement" in the downing of the Russia jet.

In London, British Prime Minister David Cameron told reporters when he hosted Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi that it was "more likely than not that it was a terrorist bomb" which caused the crash. (Xinhua)

(22) Belarusian PM...

try statement said. There have been high level exchanges between the two countries in recent months.

The prime minister of Pakistan visited Belarus in August 2015.

Earlier, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko had paid a state visit to Pakistan in May that was the first ever visit by a Belarusian president to the country. (Xinhua)