

### (1) ANSF Stronger ...

own a war aircraft up to the next two months and the process of transferring these bombers would continue up to the next three years. (ATN)

### (2) Southern...

are not involved behind the incidents and ill-fated plans but the spy agency of our southern neighbor is having a critical role in bloodshed and violence in the country."

Gen. Dostum warned that the terrorist groups will not suffice by having a grip in Afghanistan only and insisted that they are looking to expand in Central Asia, Russia, China, Turkey and even in Europe. In the meantime, Gen. Dostum said the recently emergence of Islamic State terror group was likely involved in the growing violence across the country, calling the emergence of the terror group as a sophisticated and a major game. He also thanked President Barack Obama for extending the military presence of United States in Afghanistan and urged that the American forces should continue military operations in the country in a solemn and precise way in a bid to eliminate terrorism from the country.

Gen. Dostum also added that latest rally by the Afghan people demonstrates their frustration and hatred against terrorism and horrible acts by them including stoning to death, beheadings, suicide attacks and explosions. (KP)

### (3) Protest Organizers...

Darai, said that "no civil action can be interpreted as an irresponsible move. There should be respect for social understanding and those who oppose this perception must bring reform on their ideas."

The protesters insist on their civil rights and firmly believe such action can be a blow to the so-called fifth pillar within government and to those who ideologically support the Taliban's perception.

However one protester claimed that the representatives who met with Ghani and CEO Abdullah Abdullah were not authorized to speak on their behalf.

Another protestor Jawad Sultan said: "Those who met at the Presidential Palace on behalf of the demonstrators actually had no links with this protest. They had been appointed by certain political forces and the list of demands was prepared by the CEO's deputy and vice president." (Tolonews)

### (4) Abdullah...

was carried out in a safe environment and said he admires the people for having raised their voices, calling for government to be accountable.

"It was a good demonstration of their civil rights. Yesterday's demonstration also demonstrated the unity of all ethnic groups in the country," he said.

Abdullah said that Wednesday's protest showed how Afghans are connected to each other.

"Yesterday's demonstration was against extremism and terror. Protesters answered terrorists and extremists with unity and in a peaceful way," he continued.

On the issue of security forces having opened fire on a group of demonstrators who tried to breach the gates of the Presidential Palace, Abdullah said: "Some people were wounded and I wish them a swift recovery. We will take measures to avoid similar incidents in future."

He said demonstrations and protests are the civil rights of people and that government showed its commitment to providing these rights during Wednesday's protest. "Our security forces worked hard to avoid enemy to use this public demonstration," Abdullah stated.

Referring to meetings with representatives of demonstrators, the CEO said: "We had two meetings with representatives of protesters and their suggestions were answered within the limits of the government's capacity."

About their demands, Abdullah said: "We are committed to protecting our people and punishing those behind this brutal incident in Zabul. I am thankful to Afghan people for showing their support and sympathies to the victims and denouncing terror and extremism." "We together can achieve our ultimate goals. Unity can help with that and we all should ensure the implementation of the law. We will pay more attention to public protection with the focus on rule of law in the country," he said.

According to him, government is working for peace and it will not allow achievements made over the

past few years, the Constitution nor the rights of citizens to be compromised in the process.

"We want a dignified peace where those fighting against us will not contact terrorist groups and will stop killing people," he stressed.

When asked about the Daesh threat in the country, he said Daesh is an international threat but not as severe in Afghanistan as in other countries.

"Any group that threatens our national security and the people is considered our enemy. Raising Daesh flags can never be tolerated. We will take action," Abdullah concluded. (Tolonews)

### (5) Taliban not ...

representatives along with representatives of the Afghan government, China and US. The decision is now up to you [Afghanistan] whether you want to come up with war with Taliban or peace with them," he added.

He also said: "If you [Afghans] want peace you should come to the table of negotiations with the [Afghan] Taliban."

Hussain Syed praised China's efforts for regional peace - especially for peace in Afghanistan, and said: "Terrorist activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan affects China's situation - particularly in Xinjiang province."

"China has a vital role in regional peace therefore it has proved that it wants peace in Afghanistan," he said.

Afghan analysts meanwhile said they do not believe Pakistan's promises of supporting peace in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan has not fulfilled its commitments so far. We do not trust Pakistan's promises which it has made or makes towards Afghanistan," said Omar Sharifi, an Afghan analyst in political affairs.

He said Pakistan should take practical steps in this aspect. "We want Pakistan to take practical steps," he added.

Another analyst referred to Kabul's comments about security in the country. "Kabul believes that insecurity in Afghanistan affects regional countries, and peace in Afghanistan means peace in regional countries," he added.

"We want Pakistan to kick start joint combat with Afghanistan against terrorism as it would be effective for security in both neighboring countries," he said.

The comments come as the Taliban group has divided into two clusters amid a growing presence of Daesh in Afghanistan. The analysts say such changes can hamper the peace process in war-hit Afghanistan. (Tolonews)

### (6) Khak-e-Afghan...

three women. The barbaric act meanwhile sparked countrywide outrage which resulted in tens of thousands of people taking to the streets of various cities around the country in protest over the incident.

Meanwhile, Zabul provincial council officials criticized government over not being able to take action against Daesh militants and not monitoring border regions with Pakistan. They said the open border enables Daesh and Taliban militants to come and go freely between the two countries.

Located along the Kabul-Kandahar highway, Zabul has always been a dangerous area for travelers.

Residents in Khak-e-Afghan district say they are tired of Daesh in their area and many families have fled their homes in the past few days due to Daesh activity.

Residents claim Daesh militants commit all manner of brutality and suppression against them and that many of them have had their homes seized by Daesh militants. A resident said: "They (Daesh) have seized homes by force and have said they bought the properties."

Eight months have passed since Daesh started its activities in the district, there are some rumors that nearly 800 families associated with Daesh live in Khak-e-Afghan district, said officials.

Attallah Haqparast, a member of the Zabul provincial council said: "Uzbek and Chechen along with Arab militants are fighting (in the area). They are supported by Pakistan's spy agency ISI and receive resources through Pakistan."

Meanwhile, President Ashraf Ghani said: "During this period the place of holding hostages was changed 56 times. In order to keep them from the security forces and from military operation rescue attempts. As a result of these operations we managed to free 19 of the 31 hostages on one occasion and a

further eight during another operation."

Zabul police chief Ghulan Jailani Farahi said: "Until now we have not fought Daesh face-to-face and they have never come out to fight with us directly."

Zabul security officials have confirmed that Taliban and Daesh fighters have fought each other on a number of occasions in Khak-e-Afghan district and neighboring areas in recent months. (Tolonews)

### (7) Zabul Seven ...

incident trembled the nation, as well as Afghans from around the world, who took to social media to express their outrage, their sympathy and their condolences with the people of Afghanistan.

Many used the opportunity to call for more security from government but also to voice their solidarity as Afghans - no matter their ethnicity. One Facebook user said: "Long live the nation. We will have a brighter future only when we stand together as one nation, we have passed the darkness Inshallah."

Another user said: "The nation of Afghanistan must be united, must work together, should abandon prejudice forever, and must work together for the rebuild of a prosperous, free and democratic Afghanistan with all honesty, integrity and selflessness."

Yet another said: "The enemy should know that we are all parts of one body."

"Long live to the unity of all people of our beloved country Afghanistan," said another.

"We must be united. Taliban, Daesh or even the power of the world cannot challenge united people," said another Facebook user.

This comes after Wednesday's massive demonstration that saw over 20,000 people, representing all ethnic groups, march through the streets of Kabul carrying the coffins of the seven victims. Chanting slogans and carrying banners with anti-Taliban and anti-Daesh messages, people from all walks of life walked side-by-side and expressed their outrage over the incident. (Tolonews)

### (8) Bodies of ...

Presidential Palace, where they not only handed over a list of demands but also accused government of not having done enough to secure the safe return of the victims after they were kidnapped.

Hundreds of citizens in other parts of the country also rallied in support of the victims - a move that showed unity among all ethnic groups. (Tolonews)

### (9) IS to Benefit...

commander Mullah Omar was declared dead in July.

Farahi's claim could not be verified due to the heavy fighting between the rival Taliban factions in the Zabul province.

A picture made available on 01 August 2015 shows an unidentified child from a militant of Islamic State (IS) playing with an AK-47 rifle as the text on the wall reads in Arabic 'Islamic State - Khurasan Chapter' at an undisclosed location in Kunar province, Afghanistan, 30 July 2015

"When the other bodyguards were not paying attention, this Mansoor man opened fire on Dadullah and killed him," the Taliban commander told the AP on condition of anonymity.

But the Rasool faction was quick to deny the claims: "He (Dadullah) is safe and sound. We know Mullah Mansoor and his men are now spreading rumors about his killing as they suffered heavy losses at the hands of Dadullah and his fighters in Zabul," Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi, the faction spokesman, said. Siegfried O. Wolf, Director of research at the Brussels-based South Asia Democratic Forum (SADF), said the killing of Dadullah might strengthen the position of Mullah Mansoor. "But this would be only a temporary advantage," he told DW.

Intense clashes The clashes in southern Afghanistan killed about 60 of Rasool's followers and 20 militants associated with Mansoor during the weekend, according to Farahi.

The opponents of the widely-recognized Taliban head, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, elected Rasool "supreme leader" earlier this week.

The Taliban militants showing Mullah Muhammad Akhtar Mansoor, the newly appointed leader of Afghan Taliban after the death of Mullah Muhammad Omar Mullah Mansoor succeeded Mullah Omar as leader of the main Taliban group in July

Among the dead militants who

were fighting for the breakaway group are "foreign fighters from Uzbekistan," Farahi said, adding that another 30 people were wounded.

The battle in Zabul is the first instance of rivalry between Taliban leaders bursting into the open. (DW)

### (10) Afghanistan ...

with many problems and challenges. He also offered to facilitate the Afghan dialogue, provided all stakeholders agreed.

Xijun reiterated that a peaceful Afghanistan will ensure stability in China's restive border region of Xinjiang and allow enhanced Chinese economic investment in Afghan reconstruction projects.

Speaking in Kabul on Wednesday, the U.S. commander of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, General John Campbell, called for coordinated regional efforts for ending the violence. He acknowledged that continued insurgent attacks and reports of divisions among the Taliban could pose challenges.

"I think Pakistan, I think Afghanistan, I think China, I think the United States, I think many countries can continue to encourage them (the Taliban) to come to the peace table and if they are divided it will be a little bit tougher and may take a little bit longer. But again, I think reconciliation, I think the peace process is where this has to end up at some point in time," said Campbell.

In his bid to end violence in Afghanistan, President Ashraf Ghani set aside past differences with Pakistan and requested it use its influence with the Taliban to help in facilitate peace talks with the insurgent group.

The move led to the groundbreaking face-to-face talks between the Afghan government and Taliban officials in July, the first such interaction in 14 years.

Ghani, however, was criticized by political opponents and members within his own national unity government, blaming Pakistan for Afghan's instability. General Campbell defended Ghani's peace moves.

"So, here he is trying to reach out to drive them (the Taliban) to the peace process and he is being very careful about it and people are criticizing him on that, which did not help matters at all. Again, all it did, it helped the Taliban, it did not help the national unity government," said Campbell.

The Pakistan-backed Afghan peace process was halted just days after the preliminary first round when it was revealed that longtime Taliban leader Mullah Omar had died two years ago. Taliban insurgents have since intensified their hostilities and had briefly overrun the key northern city of Kunduz in late September. (VoA)

### (11) Germany ...

over much of the responsibility of fighting militants in the country. Germany, which had as many as 5,350 troops stationed in Afghanistan during the war's peak, had planned to withdraw its forces completely by the end of 2016. (AFP)

### (12) Int'l Court...

commanders have faced trial. Overall, the report estimates that anti-government forces have been responsible for the deaths of some 37,000 civilians since 2007, and more than 5,000 prisoners have undergone "gruesome" treatment by pro-government forces.

Investigators have yet to determine the gravity and scale of all violations committed in Afghanistan, according to the ICC.

More than 13,000 foreign troops - mostly American - are still deployed in Afghanistan despite US President Barack Obama's announcement at the end of 2014 that the US-led combat mission was over. They remain there within the framework of what Washington calls a support mission. (sputniknews)

### (13) 18 Migrants...

September in images that shocked the world, pressuring European leaders to step up their response to the crisis.

Turkey, which is hosting 2.2 million refugees from the conflict in neighbouring Syria, has become the main transit point for people fleeing war and misery for a better life in Europe.

Dogan news agency said seven children were among those who died on the boat that sank off Canakkale while 27 people were rescued, among them a pregnant

woman. Survivors were taken to a nearby medical centre and were said to be in good condition.

Coastguard workers backed by helicopters were continuing a search for one person still believed to be missing.

Television footage showed the listing white-painted motor boat in a local port, its stern mangled and several windows shattered.

"The boat probably sank after hitting rocks. It was severely damaged and apparently started to take in water but they decided to go ahead anyway," Canakkale governor Hamza Erkal told Anatolia news agency.

"They apparently turned back after the boat took in more water but it sank before reaching the shore."

There was no immediate information on the nationalities of those on board.

The coastguard said fisherman rescued another 22 from the boat off Izmir, while the hunt was going on for two missing.

- 'Humanitarian support' -

The latest tragedy came as European leaders were due to meet African counterparts in Malta to discuss the migration crisis.

There has been a sharp spike in the numbers of migrants and refugees setting out from Turkey for the European Union.

An EU report on Turkey released Tuesday was highly critical about the state of the rule of law and freedom of expression but praised its "humanitarian support" for the refugees and said the EU had to step up its cooperation with Ankara to tackle the crisis.

Last month, the EU announced a refugee cooperation deal with Turkey including a possible three billion euros (\$3.3 billion) in aid.

The UN refugee agency UNHCR said last week up to 600,000 migrants and refugees were expected to cross from Turkey to Greece and onwards over the next four months despite the onset of winter.

More than 650,000 migrants and refugees, mostly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, have reached the Greek islands so far in 2015 using the eastern Mediterranean route, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Tuesday. (AFP)

### (14) Obama Awards ...

"It looked like my muscles were melting in front of me" in his leg. Four people in the group were killed in the attack that day: Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin J. Griffin, Maj. Thomas E. Kennedy, Air Force Maj. Walter D. Gray and Ragaie Abdelfattah, a foreign service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"I would give anything to have all these guys back, anything," he told Martin before the ceremony. "This medal that I will be receiving - I'd turn it right back in, right now, say, 'No, thank you. Bring my guys back right here.' But it's combat. It's Afghanistan. We understand, when we raise our right hand...we are volunteering to defend our nation. And we will go where they send us."

Groberg said the experience of receiving the medal is "overwhelming, confusing, not exciting." But he appreciates that it gives him the opportunity to talk about his four colleagues that lost their lives that day. During the ceremony, the president asked their families to stand and accept thanks from the audience.

"I'm just a lucky man to have had the opportunity to stand next to these men. And they're the true heroes in this," Groberg said. "I am just a courier. 'Cause that medal doesn't belong to me. It belongs to them, to the true heroes. It belongs to their families."

Mr. Obama first met Groberg three years ago when he was visiting Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

"We talked. It turns out he liked Chicago bears, so I liked him right away," the president said. (Agencies)

### (15) US Precision ...

killing at least 30 people, including 13 staff members and ten patients. "The Kunduz bombing and attack appears to me to be a precisely planned targeted killing with a 'spare-no-one' approach," Hakim said on Thursday. Over 500,000 Sign MSF Petition for Independent Probe Into US Bombing of Kunduz Hospital

The hospital had lost its protection status, Hakim added, because of the ugly prerogatives of war to kill intended targets, especially high level targets, "at all costs."

On Monday, more than 514,000 people backed an MSF petition calling for President Barack Obama to launch an independent investigation into the US forces' deadly bombing of the Kunduz hospital. (Sputnik)

### (16) Refugee...

facilities at Moria and Kara Tape. According to the refugee agency, vulnerable people including women and children often have no choice but to sleep outside, using fires to fend off the cold. The lack of shelters is also compounding a situation which is favouring "the strongest" at the detriment of persons with specific needs. (Xinhua)

### (17) Kurdish Forces ...

town. The recapture of Sinjar from Islamic State came as evidence grew that the group had suffered another setback with the probable death in an air strike in northern Syria of Jihadi John, a Briton who had appeared in videos showing the beheadings of American and British hostages.

In the Sinjar area itself, the operation severed vital supply routes used by Islamic State to move fighters, weapons and oil and other illicit commodities that provide funding for its self-proclaimed caliphate.

Civilians appeared to have fled the town before the operation began. But it was still not clear if most Islamic State militants had carried out a tactical withdrawal. (Reuters)

### (18) DPRK Urges ...

since late September when Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong emphasized the urgent need to do so at the 70th U.N. General Assembly.

Pyeongyang said in early October that it had a message through an official channel to the United States to make the offer.

But the United States turned down the proposal as U.S. Special Representative for North Korea (DPRK) Policy Sung Kim has said the U.S. side for the moment has no interest in entering peace treaty discussions with the DPRK but regards the nuclear issue as a No.1 priority. (Xinhua)

### (19) UNHCR ...

as it has been hosting refugees for more than 20 years.

According to UNHCR, during the first half of October, 118 returnees were assisted to return by flight to Mogadishu.

"In total 5,444 Somali refugees returned home since December 8, 2014, when UNHCR started supporting voluntary return of Somali refugees in Kenya. 3,874 returned by road and 1,411 by flight," UNHCR said. (Xinhua)

### (20) Li to Attend...

(FTA) construction, connectivity and non-traditional security cooperation.

Next year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of China-ASEAN dialogue relations. Hong said China also hoped the upcoming meetings could map out a future plan for bilateral relations, push forward construction of the maritime silk road and strengthen their comprehensive cooperation under the 2+7 cooperation framework.

The 2+7 cooperation framework was proposed by Li during his attendance to the ASEAN Summit in Brunei Darussalam in 2013. The framework, which includes two consensus and seven cooperation points, serves as a momentum for the cooperation between China and ASEAN. (Xinhua)

### (21) Pakistan...

Business Council would strengthen their trade. A meeting on the sidelines of the visit would help the two business sectors interact and enter into joint ventures, he added. (Agencies)

### (22) Iran will ...

ceed to end the conflict. Zarif is not expected to be present in Vienna for the weekend talks as he will be accompanying President Hassan Rouhani to Italy and France on November 14-17.

Jaberi Ansari said there are red lines which should not be crossed, namely any attempt by "foreign players" to make decisions "on behalf of the Syrian nation".

Washington and its Arab allies want Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step aside as part of a solution while Tehran and Syria's other ally Moscow insist that his fate is a matter for his own electorate. (AFP)